

**Alaska Board of Fisheries**  
**January 15-19, 2019 | Anchorage, Alaska**  
**Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Proposals**

**PROPOSAL 63**

**5 AAC 01.244. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.**

Expand waters closed to subsistence harvest of northern pike in the Chatanika River drainage downstream of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area boundary, adopt a maximum size limit, and reduce the bag limit, as follows:

We would like to see the board reinstate the 3-mile closure that you put in place during the last in-cycle meeting. We would like to see the board instate a bag limit of 5, of which only one can be over 30". We would also like to see no catch and release, but we realize that this might be difficult if there was a size restriction.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Minto Nenana AC is concerned that the northern pike that overwinter in the Chatanika do not have enough protection from overfishing through the ice. We believe that the large female spawners cannot take this pressure. We are concerned that the few individuals that utilize this fishery could jeopardize the health of the population that others also depend on.

**PROPOSED BY:** Minto Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-056)  
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**PROPOSAL 64**

**5 AAC 01.244. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.**

Expand waters closed to subsistence harvest of northern pike in the Chatanika River drainage downstream of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area boundary, adopt a maximum size limit, and reduce the bag limit, as follows:

Set the ice fishing closure area at two miles and all fish over 30" are returned unharmed with a bag limit of 5 fish. This is not more restrictive than sport fish limits because this is just one small area of the subsistence fishery - the rest of the area is open year round with no limits on size or take.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In the overwintering area of the Chatanika River, the existing 1 mile restriction is not acceptable as this area is a critical overwintering spot for female Northern Pike that are capable of spawning. This is a state subsistence fishery area and not a traditional use area. This area has only been subsistence since the mid 90's.

**PROPOSED BY:** Evan Wheeler (EF-F18-077)  
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**PROPOSAL 65**

**5 AAC 01.244. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.**

Expand waters closed to subsistence harvest of northern pike in the Chatanika River drainage downstream of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area boundary, adopt a maximum size limit, and reduce the bag limit, as follows:

Increase the closure to the first two miles upstream of the Chatanika/Goldstream confluence, with a seasonal bag and possession limit of the first ten fish caught with only two of those over 30". This will don't adversely affect the subsistence fishery since this will adversely affect the Chatanika River Harvest Area - the rest of the Chatanika upstream 10 miles, 28 miles downstream, Goldstream Creek, Minto Flats, and the Tatalina and Tolovana Rivers are still open to subsistence fishing year-round.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Alaska Board of Fisheries recently changed the regulations from a 3 mile closure in the Chatanika River Harvest Area to a 1 mile closure due to an ACR initiated by the Fairbanks Advisory Committee. This is causing an excessive number of the large spawning fertile females in this area to be harvested.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Morack

(EF-F18-079)

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**PROPOSAL 66**

**5 AAC 01.244. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.**

Expand waters closed to subsistence harvest of northern pike in the Chatanika River drainage downstream of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area boundary, as follows:

In order to save approximately 50% of these spawner females, the closed area needs to be extended back to three miles. This still leaves 9 miles upstream, 28 miles downstream, all of Goldstream Creek and almost all of Minto Flats, including the Tolovana and Tatalina Rivers, open to subsistence fishing year round. There is no limitation on the number of fish taken, or their size, in these other areas.

If adopted, the new regulations would include 3 miles instead of 1 mile: 5 AAC 01.244(b)(2)(F) (modified by ACR01) "in the Chatanika River drainage, from the confluence of the Chatanika River and Goldstream Creek to an ADF&G regulatory marker approximately three river miles upstream of the confluence, subsistence fishing through the ice is closed;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Large (over 30"), mature, female spawner pike that concentrate in an overwintering area in the Chatanika River upstream from the confluence of Goldstream Creek and the Chatanika River (known as the Chatanika River Harvest Area) are being overharvested. It is very important to maintain these large fish. The 2017-2018 regulations closed the first three miles to fishing through the ice in order to save approximately 50% of these spawner females, but that closure was reduced by ACR01 to one mile, where almost no fish overwinter per the last study conducted by Fish and Game.

**PROPOSED BY:** Marvin Hassebroek

(EF-F18-074)

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**PROPOSAL 67**

**5 AAC 01.244. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.**

Expand waters closed to subsistence harvest of northern pike in the Chatanika River drainage downstream of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area boundary, as follows:

In order to protect, restore, and promote the long term health of the pike fishery and habitat, and to prevent overfishing and rebuild the stock, several years of 3 mile protection will be required; therefore I propose that we reinstate the three mile restriction.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why**The Board of Fisheries just reduced the new three mile closure in the overwintering area of the Chatanika River Harvest Area adopted in 2017 to one mile. Fish and Game records reflect that there are almost no pike that overwinter in that first mile, and they estimate that approximately 50% of those local fish are upstream between miles 1 and 3. The majority of the fish that are caught through the ice are the large pre-spawning egg-bearing females that need to be protected. It takes 15 to 20 years to grow a 40" pike, and all pike over 30" are female. It seems prudent to return the three mile restriction so that 50% of the stock of large females are protected. It will take several more years for the beneficial effects of the closure to be observed in the affected population. A reasonable opportunity for subsistence fishing is available year-round in the rest of the Tolovana River drainage- this is only a three mile protected overwintering area for the Minto Lakes drainage.

**PROPOSED BY:** James Dieringer

(EF-F18-084)

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**PROPOSAL 68**

**5 AAC 01.244. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.**

Open the Chatanika River drainage downstream of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area boundary to subsistence fishing through the ice for northern pike, as follows:

Open all of the Chatanika SHA for subsistence ice fishing. Close the fishery when the ADFG quota for pike has been met. The daily bag limit of 10 northern pike per day, with 20 in possession should remain the same.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** A portion of the Chatanika River is closed to subsistence ice fishing for pike in the Chatanika SHA. The closed portion is from the confluence of the Chatanika River and Goldstream Creek to the regulatory marker about one mile upstream on the Chatanika River. This diminishes the fishable area and ability to harvest pike for subsistence use.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Moody

(EF-F18-025)

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**PROPOSAL 69**

**5 AAC 01.244. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.**

Reduce the northern pike harvest trigger in the Chatanika River drainage from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game marker to the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area boundary, as follows:

Decrease the emergency closure in 5 AAC 01.244(b)(2)(G)(ii) from 1,500 to the number that will maintain an exploitation rate for fish larger than 30" below 10% of the existing population of these large fish.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The emergency closure limit is unreasonably high for this small fishery for Northern Pike in the Chatanika River Harvest Area. Records show that the majority of the harvest in the winter from this area is large, egg-bearing female pike who spawn in the spring. All pike over 30" are female. Because of this, the number of these large 30"+ female pike are in decline. These large pike are extremely important to the fishery. This is not overly restrictive on the subsistence fishery because, outside this small Chatanika River Harvest Area, subsistence users can fish year round through the ice and in the summer with gillnets, and there are no limits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Denis and Andree Porchet

(EF-F18-078)

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**PROPOSAL 70**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Modify the size limit in Fielding Lake to allow retention of lake trout less than 28 inches, as follows:

**5 AAC 74.010 (C)(9)(B)**

Modify the special regulations, for Fielding Lake as follows:

Lake trout may be taken only from October 1 through August 31, with a bag and possession limit of one fish, which must be less than 28 inches in length; all lake trout caught that are greater than 28 inches in length must be released immediately;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Since 2007 a 26-inch length limit was instituted for Fielding Lake, concurrent with a bait restriction. This was based on an allowable yield of 78 fish including a 10% hooking mortality. When you look at the 5-year harvest average and include a 10% hooking mortality of the 5-year catch, the yield has been near the allowable threshold. Without a length limit allowable harvest increases to approximately 200 fish.

The current minimum 26-inch limit concentrates the fishing pressure on the oldest and largest fish which are also the most fecund or fertile, producing the most offspring. Foul hooked fish that are less than 26 inches must be released. If a fisherman is looking for a lake trout to eat, finding one under 26 inches will be more probable.

Regulations in Yukon, Canada have gone to a possession limit under 26 inches, releasing anything longer – or including a protected slot limit.

Removing the 26-inch limit would ensure that harvest/mortality do not exceed prescribed yield targets. Limiting fish harvested to a maximum size limit of 28 inches would protect native brood stock and create a high-quality special management water. Unlike Paxson, Summit and Louise, Fielding is a smaller lake with limited spawning areas, susceptible to over fishing of the larger lake trout.

The benefits are several:

The allowable yield will be substantially higher than the current 78 per year increasing to approximately 275;

the larger more fecund fish important to spawning will be protected and thrive;

The smaller more prevalent caught fish can be kept, if desired for eating;

A high quality “special management water” would be created;

Fishing opportunity for larger fish would be protected.

**Other options considered:**

Keeping current regulations intact: Several nearby lakes have gone to a 1 fish any size limit and stayed well within allowable yield limits. The difference between Louise, Paxson and Summit lakes is they have much larger populations of lake Trout. Fielding Lake has a significantly smaller acreage and sustainable yield. Preserving the larger spawning fish is important to maintaining a high-quality sport fishery. The existing regulations indicate that we have stayed near the current allowable yield – a concerning issue for maintaining a healthy population of large fish.

Catch and release only. While many fishermen have moved to catch and release, this would deny fishing opportunity and unnecessary.

Revising the regulation to allow harvest for 1 fish with a bag and possession limit of 1 fish. This significantly increases allowable harvest, increases the chance for fishermen to catch and keep a fish and would allow foul hooked fish to be kept. However, this will allow the most fecund fish to be caught. If fishing pressure increases due to the higher allowable harvest, this very well could impact the number of large fish available to catch in this lake. Releasing fish under 28 inches would ensure a high-quality special management water for the lake trout fishery.

A modified maximum size limit: this is where anglers are permitted to harvest only one fish over the designated size. Essentially a protected slot limit where no fish can be retained. This is more common in lake trout management and may be more acceptable to the angling public. I am not opposed to this option. I think a 32” minimum size (as a starting point) for allowable harvest would be acceptable to me – though not my favorite option. My reasoning here is you don’t need to keep a 30 inch plus lake trout to eat. If you wish to have it mounted it is now quite common to take a couple measurements and a picture for a trophy mount.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ethan Birkholz

(EF-F18-024)

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**PROPOSAL 71**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Remove the size limit on lake trout for Fielding Lake, as follows:

**5 AAC 74.010 (c)(9)(B)**

Modify the special regulations, for Fielding Lake as follows:

Lake trout may be taken only from October 1 through August 31, with a bag and possession limit of one fish.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Since 2007 a 26-inch length limit was instituted for Fielding Lake, concurrent with a bait restriction. This was based on an allowable yield of 78 fish including a 10% hooking mortality.

When you look at the 5-year harvest average and include a 10% hooking mortality of the 5-year catch, the yield has been near the allowable threshold. Without a length limit allowable harvest increases to approximately 200 fish.

The current minimum 26-inch limit concentrates the fishing pressure on the oldest and largest fish which are also the most fecund or fertile, producing the most offspring. Foul hooked fish that are less than 26 inches must be released. If a fisherman is looking for a lake trout to eat, finding one under 26 inches will be more probable.

Length limits were removed for several lakes such as Paxson, Summit, Louise, Crosswind and Susitna. The 5-year averages for these lakes indicate that this did not result in a noticeable increase in harvest.

Removing the 26-inch limit would ensure that harvest/mortality do not exceed prescribed yield targets. Regulations would be simplified and prevent possible further restrictions such as catch and release only, denying fishing opportunity.

**Other options considered:**

Keeping current regulations intact: Several nearby lakes have gone to a 1 fish any size limit and stayed well within allowable yield limits. The existing regulations indicate that we have stayed near the current allowable yield – a concerning issue for maintaining a healthy population of large fish.

Catch and release only. While many fishermen have moved to catch and release, this would deny fishing opportunity and unnecessary.

Revising the regulation to allow harvest under a 28” limit. This is my personal preference (see my other proposal) This would allow the most fecund fish to survive, significantly increase the allowable harvest of the most commonly caught fish and ensure a healthy population of high quality fish.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ethan Birkholz

(EF-F18-023)

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**PROPOSAL 72**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Allow catch-and-release fishing only for Arctic grayling on the Chatanika River, as follows:

The last assessment of the Arctic grayling population in the Chatanika River occurred during 2007. If a new Arctic Grayling population assessment can be done now or in the near future and the results show a decline please consider making the Upper Chatanika River strictly catch and release year round for Arctic Grayling - like the Chena River.

This also includes Lower Chatanika River at the Elliot Highway bridge camping area. That area is "fished out" It would very beneficial to consider making that area strictly catch and release for Arctic Grayling also. Try it for 15-20 years and see what happens to the population and sizes of the larger older grayling.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Arctic Grayling population in the Upper Chatanika River between 38 mile and 58 mile (approximate) on the Steese Highway seem to be in a steady decline for the last 10-15 years.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Marks

(EF-F18-060)

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**PROPOSAL 73**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Allow retention of Arctic grayling in the Chena River drainage, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(3)(B)

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This proposal would allow a limited harvest of Arctic grayling less than 12 inches from June 1 to July 15 from a marker placed by the department 500 yards downstream of the Nordale Road Bridge to the confluence with the Tanana River including Piledriver Slough. From June 1 – July 15 the Chena River would remain closed to grayling retention above the Nordale Bridge. From July 16 to May 31 the entire Chena River would be closed to all grayling retention. The normal gear restrictions would apply. This regulation will sunset after three years.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area.

Retention of grayling in a portion of the Chena River drainage. The Chena River has been catch and release for Arctic grayling since 1991 (by EO and then regulation). The department has conducted virtually no studies on the population of Arctic grayling since 2005. The last stock assessments and abundance estimates are now 10 years old. The department has no funding for

new work. The fishery is touted as one of the best “large” grayling streams on the road system and users report large congregations of fish on several stretches of the river.

The Fairbanks AC has supported the restriction to catch and release but it was with the expectancy that the department would keep track of this population so that some harvest of grayling could be allowed without harm to the population. Anglers now concentrate the catch and release fishing at access points. The estimated mortality for the c & r fishery is 5% to 7%. Because a large number of anglers on the lower river are children, visitors and new sports fishermen, some of the fish are treated pretty roughly in the c&r fishery.

Our proposal would allow a very limited harvest. The limits would be both by season, size and bag limit and a sunset to the harvest regulation. The AC would like the department to have some information on the harvest because it has been so long since harvest was allowed, there is no data on the impact of limited harvest to the population A three year “trial” would give the managers some information to work with. If this waterway is so popular it can be advertised in numerous “fish alaska” type publications it should be studied for the potential for a return to some harvest. There is absolutely no need for the entire Chena River to catch and release forever. For example, the new Fairbanks hatchery can add fish to the system if the population starts to drop again.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-082)  
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**PROPOSAL 74**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana Area.**

Allow harvest of Arctic grayling in the Delta Clearwater River, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(5) is amended to read:

(5) in the Delta Clearwater River drainage, including the Clearwater Lake drainage, [ARCTIC GRAYLING MAY BE TAKEN BY CATCH-AND-RELEASE FISHING ONLY, EXCEPT THAT FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A PERSON MAY RETAIN ARCTIC GRAYLING, WITH A] **the** bag and possession limit **for Arctic grayling is** [OF ]one fish, 12 inches or less in length; all Arctic grayling caught that are greater than 12 inches in length must be released immediately;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The intent of the current 12-inch maximum size limit was to afford anglers the opportunity to harvest an Arctic grayling while maintaining the attributes of this fishery. Per the *Tanana River Area Wild Arctic Grayling Management Plan*, the Delta Clearwater River is managed under a special management approach that provides for high catch rates of large fish and a reasonable opportunity to catch a trophy sized Arctic grayling (i.e. 18 inches). The harvest level of fish <12 inches has been minimal with annual harvests averaging ~100 fish since implementation of this regulation in 2001. Arctic grayling are present in the Delta Clearwater River by April and anglers are not provided harvest opportunities until June. Additional harvest of Arctic grayling <12 inches resulting from this proposal is expected to be sustainable. Removal of the seasonal closure would also simplify regulations.



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**PROPOSAL 75**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Repeal the bag limit for northern pike in the Chisana River drainage upstream of the Northway Bridge, as follows:

~~5 AAC 74.010 (c)

[(4) IN THE CHISANA RIVER DRAINAGE UPSTREAM OF THE NORTHWAY BRIDGE, (A) IN ALL LAKES, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR NORTHERN PIKE IS TWO FISH, OF WHICH ONLY ONE FISH MAY BE 30 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; (B) IN ALL FLOWING WATERS, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR NORTHERN PIKE IS TWO FISH, OF WHICH ONLY ONE FISH MAY BE 30 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Chisana River drainage is in the upper headwaters of the Tanana River drainage. Most sport fishing can occur only along the Alaska Highway after Northway Junction and before crossing the border to Canada.

The most road accessible northern pike fishing locations are Scottie and Desper Creek that cross the highway, Deadman Lake in the Tetlin NWR, and the Chisana river accessible from Northway village. This regulation seems unnecessary as all other pike fishing in the Tanana River drainage, more accessible to the public, has a bag and possession limit of 5 northern pike. Removing this regulation will simplify the regulations for the northern pike sport fishing in the Tanana drainage and provide additional harvest opportunity. Very few pike are harvested in the drainage and this change should not affect sustainability.

**PROPOSED BY:** Upper Tanana Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-044)

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**PROPOSAL 76**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Allow a year-round season for northern pike in Volkmar Lake, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(28) in Volkmar Lake, Northern Pike may be taken year round with a bag and possession limit of two fish, of which only one fish may be 30 inches or greater in length.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Repeal: April 20 - June 1 Volkmar Lake closure to allow some opportunity over Memorial week.

Issues: The current April 20 - June 1 closure unnecessarily restricts fishing opportunities for anglers, particularly for the memorial weekend, and unnecessarily complicates the regulations.

During the closed period, anglers/cabin owners cannot access the lake until the lake is ice free, which typically occurs during the 3rd and 4th weeks of May after spawning is done. Open water access is by floatplane only, and no one can access the lake between April 20 and when the lake is ice-free. Harvests in Volkmar Lake are very low. In the last ten years (2007-2016), the average harvest was -28 fish, and the average catch was -192 fish. The last abundance estimate was 4,017 Pike > 18 inches. This would result in little or no additional harvest.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-103)  
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**PROPOSAL 77**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Allow sport fishing for northern pike in Little Harding Lake, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(15) is amended to read:

(15) **repealed** / / . [IN LITTLE HARDING LAKE, SPORT FISHING FOR NORTHERN PIKE IS CLOSED;]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 2013, stocking of rainbow trout was terminated in Little Harding Lake and fishing for northern pike was closed. The intent of these actions were 1) to protect the newly established northern pike population, which was first documented in 2010, and 2) the department believed that a satisfactory rainbow trout fishery could not coexist with a northern pike population. Sampling in 2016 demonstrated that a population of very large-sized rainbow trout was present with an average size exceeding 24 inches. The sampling also identified very good recruitment of northern pike based on observations and catch sampling. Allowing sport fishing for northern pike in Little Harding Lake would provide a new opportunity for roadside anglers looking to catch or retain northern pike, and the harvest of northern pike would help to alleviate predation on stocked rainbow trout. There are other stocked lakes in the Tanana Area (Cushman Lake and Bathing Beauty Pond) where northern pike and rainbow trout coexist and support high-use fisheries for both species.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-032)  
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**PROPOSAL 78**

**5 AAC 74.044. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.**

Modify gear specifications for the Minto Flats northern pike sport fishery, as follows:

A more sportsman and humane solution would be to use single hooks only for sport fishing in the Minto area. Casting baits can be easily modified to a single hook.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Northern Pike in Minto Flats are being caught with large baits, many containing multiple treble hooks, thereby causing serious

damage to the fish's mouth during hook retrieval, usually using a pliers. Therefore, the fish cannot feed and will probably end in their demise.

**PROPOSED BY:** Candace Tucker (EF-F18-072)  
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**PROPOSAL 79**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Increase the bag and possession limit of stocked species in Dune Lake, as follows:

Amend: 5 AAC 74.010 (c)(29)

In stocked waters, the bag, possession, and size limit for Rainbow Trout, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, landlocked Salmon, and Arctic Grayling is 10 Salmon, and 5 other fish, of all stocked species combined, of which no more than one fish may be 18 inches or greater in length.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In Dune Lake, the bag and possession limit for Rainbow Trout, landlocked Salmon, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, and Arctic Grayling, combined, is five fish, of which only one fish may be 18 inches or greater in length. This restrictive harvest was based on a desire for Dune to grow bigger fish. As harvests have declined and stocking numbers are up, fish are not growing as big and the vast majority of the stocked fish die within a couple of years without being utilized. All Silvers die the summer after reaching 12-16 inches. Managing Dune similar to other stocked lakes will simplify the regulations and likely produce more trophy fish while increasing harvest opportunity.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-100)  
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**PROPOSAL 80**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Increase the bag and possession limit of stocked species in Koole Lake, as follows:

Amend: 5 AAC 74.010 (c)(29)

In stocked waters, the bag, possession, and size limit for Rainbow Trout, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, landlocked Salmon, and Arctic Grayling is 10 of all stocked species combined, of which no more than one fish may be 18 inches or greater in length.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In Koole Lake, the bag and possession limit for Rainbow Trout, landlocked Salmon, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, and Arctic Grayling, combined, is five fish, of which only one fish may be 18 inches or greater in length. This restrictive harvest was based on a desire for Koole to grow bigger fish. As harvests have declined and stocking numbers are up, fish are not growing as big and the vast majority of the stocked fish die within a couple of years without being utilized. Managing Koole the same as other stocked

lakes will simplify the regulations and likely produce more trophy fish while increasing harvest opportunity.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-104)  
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**PROPOSAL 81**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Increase the bag and possession limit of salmon, other than king salmon, in the Tanana River Area, as follows:

Allow the harvest of 3 of each species of "other Salmon" instead of a combined limit of 3.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently if one is fishing in an area with both Silvers and Chum, the combined limit is 3 fish. If it is biologically sound to take 3 Silvers and 3 Chum, an Angler should not have a combined limit and should be able to take 3 of each species if they desire.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-106)  
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**PROPOSAL 82**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana Area.**

Allow sport fishing for nonsalmon species in the Toklat River drainage year-round, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(25) is amended to read:

(25) the Toklat River **mainstem** [DRAINAGE] is closed to sport fishing from August 15 through May 15 **between a point one mile upstream from the mouth of Sushana River at 64° 08.45' N. lat., 149° 59.69' W. long., and from a point at 64° 10.81' N. lat., 150° 01.03 W. long., two miles downstream from the mouth of Sushana Creek.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 1993, the Toklat River Fall Chum Salmon Rebuilding Plan (5 AAC 01.249) was implemented to help rebuild the stock. In 2004, Toklat River Fall chum salmon were removed as a management concern, and a BEG of 15,000 – 33,000 was established. By 2007, the Board of Fisheries determined that Yukon River chum salmon (which incorporated Toklat River fall chum salmon) no longer met the criteria of a yield concern, and in 2010 the Toklat River chum salmon BEG was removed from the *Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan*. Since 2003, returns of Yukon River fall chum salmon have exceeded the lower bound of the escapement goal (300,000 fish) every year, and exceeded the upper bound (600,000) 10 out of 14 years. Currently, the closed period (August 15 – May 15) to sport fishing of all nonsalmon species within the Toklat River drainage is no longer necessary. The intent of the closure was to protect spawning habitat from motorized and foot traffic where the RS2477 Kobi-

McGrath trail crosses the Toklat River, and where the greatest concentration of spawning fall chum salmon occurs within the Toklat River drainage. This area will remain protected under the proposed new regulations. The current regulation precludes sport fishing opportunity for resident species such as northern pike and Arctic grayling. The level of sport fishing effort is minimal and would present no sustainability concerns for salmon or nonsalmon species.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-035)  
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**PROPOSAL 83**

**5 AAC 01.249. Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan.**

Allow sport and subsistence fishing for nonsalmon species in the Toklat River drainage year-round, as follows:

5 AAC 01.249(6)(A) is amended to read:

(A) from August 15 through May 15, the Toklat River mainstem [DRAINAGE] is closed to sport and subsistence fishing for salmon between a point one mile upstream from the mouth of Sushana Creek at 64° 08.45' N. lat., 149° 59.69' W. long., and from a point at 64° 10.81' N. lat., 150° 01.03' W. long., two miles downstream from the mouth of Sushana Creek;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 1993, the Toklat River Fall Chum Salmon Rebuilding Plan (5 AAC 01.249) was implemented to help rebuild the stock. In 2004, Toklat River Fall chum salmon were removed as a management concern, and a BEG of 15,000 – 33,000 was established. By 2007, the Board of Fisheries determined that Yukon River chum salmon (which incorporated Toklat fall chum salmon) no longer met the criteria of a yield concern, and in 2010 the Toklat River chum salmon BEG was eliminated from the *Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan*. Since 2003, returns of Yukon River fall chum salmon have exceeded the lower bound of the escapement goal (300,000 fish) every year, and exceeded the upper bound (600,000) 10 out of 14 years. Currently, the closed period (August 15 – May 15) to sport and subsistence fishing of all nonsalmon species within the Toklat River drainage is no longer necessary. The intent of the closure was to protect spawning habitat from motorized and foot traffic where the RS2477 Kobi-McGrath trail crosses the Toklat River, and where the greatest concentration of spawning fall chum salmon occurs within the Toklat River drainage. This area will remain protected under the proposed new regulations. The current regulation precludes subsistence and sport fishing opportunity for resident species such as northern pike and Arctic grayling. The level of fishing effort is minimal and would present no sustainability concerns for salmon or nonsalmon species.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-036)  
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**PROPOSAL 84**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana Area.**

Repeal the Tanana River Area wild rainbow trout regulation, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(b)(5) is amended to read:

(5) **repealed / / /** [RAINBOW TROUT: THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT IS 10 FISH, WITH NO SIZE LIMIT];

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current sport fishing regulations for the Tanana River drainage include a general bag and possession limit for wild rainbow trout. Many anglers, particularly those new to Alaska, are unaware that rainbow trout are not native to the Tanana River drainage. The department regularly stocks nonnative rainbow trout into lakes which are under the stocked waters regulations. In stocked waters, the background regulation is 10 fish in combination – only one of which may be 18 inches or longer. Repealing the wild rainbow trout regulation would reduce confusion for anglers who inadvertently believe rainbow trout in lakes are native, and eliminate anglers confusing wild rainbow trout bag, possession, and size limits with stocked waters regulations. In 2017, 92 lakes within the Tanana River drainage were stocked, and 86 of these were stocked exclusively with rainbow trout.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-034)

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### **PROPOSAL 85**

#### **5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Update the Tanana River Area stocked waters regulations, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(29) is amended to read:

(29) in stocked waters, the bag, possession, and size limit for rainbow trout, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, landlocked salmon, and Arctic grayling is 10 of all stocked species combined, of which no more than one fish may be 18 inches or greater in length; for the purposes of this paragraph, "stocked waters" include Backdown Lake, Ballaine Lake, Bathing Beauty Pond, Bear Lake (Eielson Air Force Base), Big "D" Pond, Birch Lake, Bluff Cabin Lake, Bolio Lake, Brodie Lake, Bullwinkle Lake, **Cather's Lake**, Chena Lake, Chet Lake, CHSR 25.0 Mile Pit, CHSR 30.0 Mile Pit, CHSR 45.5 Mile Pit, CHSR 47.9 Mile Pit, **CHSR 56.0 Mile Pit**, Coal Mine Road #5, Craig Lake, Cushman Lake, Dick's Pond, Doc Lake, Donna Lake, Donnelly Lake, Forrest Lake, Four Mile Lake, Fourteen Mile Lake, Geskakmina Lake, Ghost Lake, Grayling Lake (Eielson Air Force Base), Hidden Lake (Eielson Air Force Base), Hidden Lake (Tetlin NWR), "J" Lake, Jan Lake, Johnson Pit #2, Ken's Pond, **Kenna Lake, Kimberly Lake**, [KIDS FISHING POND,] Last Lake, Lisa Lake, Little Donna Lake, **Little Harding Lake**, Little Lost Lake, Lost Lake, Lundgren Pond, Manchu Lake, Mark Lake, Monte Lake, Monterey Lake, Moose Lake (Eielson Air Force Base), Mosquito Creek Lake, Mullins Pit, Nenana City Pond, Nickel Lake, Nordale #2, North Chena Pond, North Pole Pond, North Twin Lake, Olnes Pond, Otto Lake, Parks 261 Pond, Paul's Pond, Polaris Lake, Quartz Lake, Rangeview Lake, Rapids Lake, Richardson Hwy. 28 Mile Pit, Richardson Hwy. 31 Mile Pit, Richardson Hwy. 81 Mile Pit, Shaw Pond, Sheefish Lake, Sirlin Drive Pond, South Twin Lake, Steese Hwy. 28.8 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 29.5 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 31.6 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 33.5 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 34.6 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 35.8 Mile Pit,

Steese Hwy. 36.6 Mile Pit, Stringer Rd. Pond, Triangle Lake, Wainwright #6, Weasel Lake, West Iksqiza Lake, Z Pit (Chena Floodway);

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In conjunction with the Board of Fisheries cycle, the department reviews the stocked waters in each management area. Stocked waters are removed from the stocking plan and corresponding regulations due to a loss of public access, poor fish growth or survival, or insufficient fishing effort. As new waters are identified and included in the stocking plan they are added to the regulations. The proposed language will update the Tanana River Area stocked waters regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-033)

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**PROPOSAL 86**

**5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**

Allow subsistence fishing for non-salmon fish with hook and line gear in District 4 of the Yukon Area, as follows:

Allow hook and line gear to be used to catch subsistence non-salmonid fish in the Kaltag, Nulato, and Old Village (or Rodo) River year-round.

We were told that in the regulation book that the winter subsistence exception for hook and line is for all of District 4 but we did not want to speak for the entire district, and these three rivers are important to us and the ones that the people of this area fish with this gear.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Middle Yukon AC had thought that due to actions on a proposal that they had submitted a long time ago, that it was legal to fish with hook and line for subsistence year round for non-salmonid species in the Kaltag, Nulato and Old Village (or Rodo) Rivers. The people of this area commonly subsistence fish for trout, sheefish, and dollys year-round with gear that they have on hand, including hook and line, and are unaware that this is restricted gear between May 15- September 21. We do not consider this activity sports fishing and find it odd that it would be considered subsistence in the winter but sport in the summer.

**PROPOSED BY:** Middle Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-105)

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**PROPOSAL 87**

**5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**

Allow subsistence fishing for salmon with drift gillnets in the entire Yukon River, as follows:

Allow subsistence driftnet fishing in those areas of the Yukon River currently not allowed. All districts allowed to subsistence driftnet. ADF&G management claims to be able to effectively manage for the current situation where approx. 90% of the commercial and about 50% of the subsistence king salmon are harvested using drift gillnets on a non-restricted year. If that is so it

should be reasonable to manage for a small amount of driftnet fishing more. Many fishermen on the Yukon have long standing set net or fishwheel sites and this would probably only be used by fishermen with poor sites or no sites and younger, new fishermen.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Drift Gillnetting: Drift gillnetting is a fishing method that does not need ownership of a set net eddy or fish wheel site. Each Board of Fisheries cycle some District or sub district applies for this right basing their need on a number of reasons mostly related to crowding and/or gas costs to travel far from home areas. Over the years some are chosen and some are denied. Currently because of the piecemeal and political nature of much of the allocation of this right to driftnet for so long we have arrived at a place where the majority of it is allowed in the heaviest areas of commercial fishing (for commercial and subsistence fishing) and in districts with the easiest ability to catch fish already, due to an earlier crack at catching the migrating fish. Ironically, you have most of the best areas to catch Chinook and chum having been given the right to driftnet and most of the poorest areas to catch them being denied the right. An extreme example of this is the lower districts of the Yukon versus the Koyukuk River drainage or the Yukon Flats district. A decent set net spot in the Koyukuk drainage might produce say six Chinook for the entire season or even less according to Huslia fishermen at a past YRDFFA meeting. Koyukuk River fishermen and the Yukon Flats fishermen (Ft Yukon Area) are not allowed to drift net. Presently management of our allowable fishing gear types has no rhyme or reason to it. When one hour of fishing a season in one of these driftnet districts can produce more and bigger fish than a non-driftnet district can get if allowed to fish seven days a week all season then we have a situation that is totally unfair and impossible to insure any degree of equable distribution of fish to meet subsistence needs, especially in years of poor runs. Lastly subsistence gear use abilities should take priority over commercial. This is clearly not taking place.

Note: At the last BOF cycle TRM AC submitted a fishing gear fairness proposal similar to this one. We felt we had gained a fair degree of Board member support for it then. During deliberation a sympathetic board member asked ADF&G managers if he voted for this how much of an impact it would have on fisher's harvest. The reply from an ADF&G manager was that there were 150+ commercial fishing permits in District 5 alone. Our AC had to sit there not being able to speak up while the board member and others clearly felt that was way too much impact and then voted the proposal down. All this knowing that even in the heyday of our best commercial fishing in the past only a tiny fraction of those permits were ever fished and knowing that this was a subsistence proposal not a commercial one. We bring this up in case this happens again.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tanana Rampart Manley and Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committees  
(EF-F18-047)

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**PROPOSAL 88**

**5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**

Require fish wheels to be closely attended during times of conservation for any species, as follows:



Fishwheels must be manned at all times when any catch and release of King salmon or other species is required in an executed fishery. There is to be no livebox holding and release of restricted species required to be not kept, river wide. Restricted species are defined as ones for which a biological concern exists in an area for them and no harvest is allowed. (Recent example would be the King Salmon and area being Yukon River.) (Note: This was written as to not interfere with more sound fish wheel release practices being considered and/or used at present by management such as live chute releasing of King salmon which does not use any live box holding methods.) The Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (TRM) supported this proposal submission unanimously.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Fishwheel Liveboxes: TRM is concerned about present regulations allowing and further attempts to increase fish wheels as a legal means of targeting one species (such as chum salmon) while releasing another species (such as King salmon). Many of the methods of holding, release and equipment used are being portrayed as non-harmful ways of dealing with bycatch. TRM members come from an area of high fish wheel use and many are very familiar with the number of studies (mostly USFWS in this area) done on fish wheel live box holding and general fish wheel operation and how it affects caught and released fish. We feel these issues have been sufficiently neglected in management and BOF actions in the past, despite the literature presented to them and concerns voiced to management, and at YRDFA and BOF meetings, that a regulation against it needs to be clearly on the books.

Note: This exact proposal was submitted at the last BOF cycle. It had what seemed to be much board support especially when the studies associated with liveboxes were discussed. The night before deliberation ADF&G changed the wording of the discussed proposal to essentially allow for what we were proposing against and the BOF passed their changed proposal – I believe not realizing what had been done. We had to sit there and accept it unable to speak.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-048)  
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## **PROPOSAL 89**

### **5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**

Allow retention of king salmon for subsistence purposes, by emergency order, during times of king salmon conservation in the Yukon Area, as follows:

The below changes to the 5 AAC 01.220 (n) (2), (3) and (4) will provide the department with a tool that would allow a relatively small harvest of king salmon when selective harvest commercial and subsistence fisheries are prosecuted. Current regulations stipulate that ALL king salmon must be released to the water alive when using these selective harvest gear types. However, the below changes to the regulation will provide the department the emergency order authority to allow some king salmon harvest, when warranted. Note that this EO authority can be implemented on a period by period basis.

### **5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications**

(n) Notwithstanding the provisions of (d), (e)(2), and (f)(2) of this section, during times when the commissioner determines that it is necessary for the conservation of king salmon, the

commissioner may, by emergency order, close the fishing season in the Yukon Area and immediately reopen the season in that area during which one or more of the following gear limitations may be implemented:

(2) for fish wheels:

(A) **unless altered by emergency order**, a fish wheel used to take fish must be equipped with a livebox that is constructed so that it contains no less than 45 cubic feet of water volume while it is in operation; the operator must closely attend the fish wheel while it is in operation, and all king salmon must be immediately released to the water alive from the livebox **unless retention of king salmon for subsistence purposes is allowed by emergency order**;

(B) repealed 5/22/2016;

(C) **unless altered by emergency order**, a person may operate a fish wheel without a livebox only if

(i) the fish wheel is equipped with a chute that returns fish captured by the fish wheel to the water alive;

(ii) the person closely attends the fish wheel while it is in operation; and

(iii) the person returns all king salmon caught to the water alive **unless retention of king salmon for subsistence purposes is allowed by emergency order**;

(3) dip nets may be used; however, all king salmon caught with a dip net must be released to the water alive **unless retention of king salmon for subsistence purposes is allowed by emergency order**;

(4) a beach seine may be used; however, all king salmon caught with a beach seine must be released to the water alive **unless retention of king salmon for subsistence purposes is allowed by emergency order**.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently, during times when the commissioner determines that it is necessary for the conservation of king salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the fishing season in the Yukon Area and immediately reopen the season in that area during which fish wheels, dipnets and beach seines may be used to harvest salmon. However, the regulation also currently stipulates that all king salmon caught must be released to the water alive. We believe that when king salmon runs are large enough to provide for a limited or full subsistence harvests and the selective gear types are still being used, king salmon caught in fishwheel, dipnet, and beach seine fisheries under this regulation, 5 AAC 01.220 (n) (2), (3), and (4) be allowed to be retained for subsistence purposes. We also believe that the retention of king salmon in these fisheries could be surgically regulated by emergency order authority, in other words, the department may or may not allow the retention of king salmon for subsistence purposes on a period by period basis within each district or subdistrict fishery.

While we believe that the current regulation is necessary when the king salmon stocks are critically low, such that every king salmon in the run is needed to spawn, we also believe that when king salmon runs are large enough to provide for some or a full subsistence harvest, the retention of king salmon for subsistence purposes from the selective gear types fisheries maybe warranted and, if necessary, would provide a much slower-paced harvest of king salmon used for subsistence purposes. King salmon runs have recently recovered so that king salmon can be and are being taken for subsistence purposes. However, replacing the selective harvest fisheries with gillnet fisheries may not be appropriate at this time because of the relatively large number of king salmon

that may be incidentally harvested in some gillnet fisheries, especially in the Lower Yukon Area. King salmon caught in gillnets can always be retained. However, because of the relatively small catch and the intrinsic inefficiency of catching king salmon in the selective harvest fisheries, we believe that the retention of king salmon for subsistence purposes in these fisheries will not substantially affect the overall run size, subsistence fisheries farther upriver, and the escapement on the spawning grounds. Because the retention of king salmon in these fisheries would only be allowed through emergency order, it would provide the department with a tool to allow some king salmon harvest commensurate with the run size and the targeted king salmon subsistence harvest.

Because of the current king salmon run sizes returning to the Yukon River, there is currently no reason why king salmon should not be retained from the dipnet and beach seine fisheries for subsistence purposes if there are surplus fish in excess of spawning requirements. This would give the department a surgical tool to allow retention of king salmon in these selective harvest fisheries period by period.

Note that the interim king salmon escapement goal (IMEG) for the Yukon River in Canada is 42,500 to 55,000 king salmon. The upper end of the IMEG has been exceeded every year since 2013. The recorded escapement has been: 63,327 in 2014; 82,674 in 2015; 68,798 in 2016; and ~69,000 in 2017. Escapements to the Alaskan portion of the drainage have also been good. These escapements indicate that there are surplus king salmon in far excess of escapement requirements. Subsistence fishers should have the opportunity to harvest some of these excess fish and commercial fishers should have the opportunity to retain these caught salmon for subsistence purposes.

We believe that the subsistence fishers of the Yukon River drainage need not be restricted as they were during critically low king salmon runs. One method to allow subsistence fishers to have the opportunity to take what they need is to allow the retention of king salmon caught in selective harvest fisheries.

Releasing salmon back into the river has been difficult for the people of the Yukon because people living along the river depend on the river for food. Releasing king salmon that have been caught is contrary to their culture. When the runs were critically low, fishers had to be convinced that their efforts were needed to help in king salmon conservation. They were told that every king salmon was needed on the spawning grounds. Now, it may be extremely more difficult for fishers to live release the king salmon back into the river knowing that the runs can provide for a limited, if not a full, subsistence fishery. If this proposal is not adopted, fishers on the Yukon will continue to release king salmon alive back into the water, but the rationale for live releasing these fish back into the river is no longer valid.

**PROPOSED BY:** John A. Lamont (HQ-F18-045)

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**PROPOSAL 90**

**5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods.**

Reduce the amount of time prior to opening of the commercial fishing season in Districts 1-3 and Subdistrict 4-A of the Yukon Area when subsistence fishing for salmon is prohibited, as follows:

**5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods**

(e) In Districts 1, 2, and 3, excluding the Innoko River drainage, **and Subdistrict 4A, excluding the Koyukuk River drainage**, salmon may not be taken for subsistence during the **24 SIX** hours immediately before the opening of the commercial salmon fishing season.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** These closures do not prevent people from selling into the commercial fishery Chinook Salmon that they take in the subsistence fishery because only a few Yukon subsistence fishermen do this. There are always going to be a few bad actors, we know who they are, they have been fined before, and this regulation has not stopped them. This regulation is burdensome on subsistence fishermen without any benefit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alissa Nadine Rogers

(HQ-F18-060)

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**PROPOSAL 91**

**5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods.**

Reduce the amount of time prior to opening of each commercial fishing period in Districts 1-3 of the Yukon Area when subsistence fishing for salmon is prohibited, as follows:

Delete the regulation.

**5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods**

(e)(1) in Districts 1, 2, and 3,

(A) after the opening of the commercial salmon fishing season through July 15, salmon may not be taken for subsistence for [18] **six** hours immediately before, during, and for [12] **six** hours after each commercial salmon fishing period;

(B) after July 15, salmon may not be taken for subsistence for [12] **six** hours immediately before, during, and for [12] **six** hours after each commercial salmon fishing period;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** If the Board does not get rid of these regulations as requested in my proposal 90 I'm asking the Board to consider this proposal, which reduces closures before and after commercial fishing periods. These closures do not prevent people from selling into the commercial fishery Chinook Salmon that they take in the subsistence fishery because only a few Yukon subsistence fishermen do this. There are always going to be a few bad actors, we know who they are, they have been fined before, and this regulation has not stopped them. This regulation is burdensome on subsistence fishermen without any benefit.

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**PROPOSAL 92**

**5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications; and 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

Restrict gillnet mesh size to a maximum of 6 inches in Districts 4, 5, and 6 subsistence and commercial salmon fisheries, as follows:

Restrict gillnet mesh to a maximum of 6 inches in Districts 4, 5 and 6 for subsistence and commercial.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why**~~~6” mesh maximum: Large mesh net fishing has had a detrimental effect on the stock composition and quality of escapements for Yukon River Chinook salmon and targets the larger and female Chinook salmon. There continues to be poor returns of Yukon River salmon since 1998. This has led to conservation concerns on the spawning grounds. Many of these returns have not allowed subsistence users a reasonable opportunity to meet their subsistence salmon needs. The use of the larger gillnets has changed, and will continue to change the composition of the Chinook stocks harvested. Fishermen in Canada and the U.S. Yukon River have repeatedly noted that the returning Chinook salmon are getting smaller and conservation measures are needed to protect the larger fish that in turn protects the genetic variability and loss of the older age classes of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks. Despite some better numbers of Chinook salmon in the last few years there is little data at all able to indicate scientifically where our decline in the older age classes of Chinook has been heading. Ocean abundance of juvenile king salmon has been proving to be one of our best indicators and that is predicting lower runs for 2019 and 2020. The use of the current 7 ½” gillnets is targeting the largest Chinook left in any significant number in the Yukon River. These are the fish with the best potential to bring back the larger fish with the most eggs and therefore the run sizes of past years. 6” nets still catch some large fish but does not target them near to the same extent as 7 ½” does. The differences in catches in the two net sizes are readily apparent for all to see.

Some lower river District 1, 2 and 3 representatives have not expressed support for this proposal for themselves but have stated they would back the upper districts in getting this passed for themselves. Our AC has gotten support from most representatives of Districts 4, 5, and 6 talked to so far. Having it apply to all districts was rejected due to lack of support. Nets in the 7” range were considered in past Board cycles however a number of reasons were discovered why they were not suitable.

1. A USFWS study (An Investigation of the Potential Effects of Selective Exploitation on the Demography and Productivity of Yukon River Chinook Salmon, Bromaghin, Nielson, and Hard) showed 7.5” mesh to be ineffective at reversing declining size trends and can actually contribute to the problem.

2. Current ongoing mesh size studies by ADF&G and anecdotal info from fishermen river wide show nets of the 7” range actually catching more fish and more lbs of Chinook than the more

normally used 8-9” nets and the smaller 6” range nets. Fishermen in the upper river commonly are reporting most Chinook going through the larger nets. This is clearly because of the lack of the larger fish at present. Targeting the next available largest Chinook age class with 7” range nets will only further damage the run.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tanana Rampart Manley and Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committees  
(EF-F18-045)

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**PROPOSAL 93**

**5 AAC 01.240. Marking and use of subsistence-taken salmon.**

Repeal the requirement to remove the tips of the tail fin of subsistence-taken salmon in Districts 1 – 3 of the Yukon Area, as follows:

Delete the regulation

~~5 AAC 01.240. Marking and use of subsistence taken salmon~~

~~(c) In Districts 1 – 3, from June 1 through July 15, a person may not possess king salmon taken for subsistence uses unless both tips (lobes) of the tail fin have been removed before the person conceals the salmon from plain view or transfers the salmon from the fishing site. A person may not sell or purchase salmon from which both tips (lobes) of the tail fin have been removed.~~

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Fin-clipping does not prevent people from selling into the commercial fishery Chinook Salmon that they take in the subsistence fishery because only a few Yukon subsistence fishermen do this. There are always going to be a few bad actors, we know who they are, they have been fined before, and this regulation has not stopped them. This regulation is burdensome on subsistence fishermen without any benefit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alissa Nadine Rogers (HQ-F18-059)

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**PROPOSAL 94**

**5 AAC 01.2XX. New section.**

Allow the taking of the first king salmon entering the Yukon River for religious and ceremonial use, as follows:

Allow the taking of the first king salmon entering Yukon River for religious and ceremonial use.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** To all Yukon Yupik people an exemption to harvest first king salmon entering Yukon River for religious and ceremonial use. Currently it is a violation to do so during times of conservation or protecting first or second king salmon pulses. These closures often impose criminal or other penalties that pressure, compel, or even eliminate the religious practice.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stanley Pete

(HQ-F18-075)

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**PROPOSAL 95**

**5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**

In the Yukon River between the marker at Waldron Creek and Hess Creek, require a minimum distance of 300 feet between units of set gillnet gear and limit the amount of net gear that may be deployed in an eddy to 350 feet, as follows:

Between Waldron Creek marker and Hess Creek, all set net gear should be 300 feet apart, and there should be no more than 350 feet of net allowed in an eddy.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Increased public participation and access to the Yukon River at the Haul Rd Bridge. Changing the current regulation will help eliminate user conflict due to easy public access. Especially in times of conservation, the current regulations do not fit the area due to the easy public access and increased pressure on this fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Randy Mayo

(EF-F18-019)

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**PROPOSAL 96**

**5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods.**

Allow subsistence fishing for fall chum salmon in District 5 without time restrictions if commercial fishing for fall chum salmon is open in other Yukon River districts, as follows:

5 AAC 01.210(d)(2)

...

In District 5 once the fall chum run is determined healthy enough to have commercial openings on it in other districts then no subsistence restrictions on days open should be placed on it. It is to be open 7 days a week unless a biological concern arises at which time fishing will be restricted or stop.

Issues of subsistence and commercial opening conflicts have never been a problem in this area but sometimes are a problem for other districts so for that reason we ask for this in District 5 only and will let others propose as they choose. Also we are only trying to increase opportunity in situations where it would not be detrimental to any species, so any concerns that the BOF or management would have over this proposal, TRM would be happy to adjust the proposal wording to meet those concerns.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** 7 Day Fall Chum Fishing: Fall chum salmon fishing in this area comes late in summer. The weather is cooling and often the rains start making drying of fish difficult if not impossible on many days. Over the years we have tried to point out to management that the current reduced subsistence schedules of 4 days or 5 days a week that we find ourselves in, often do not coincide with days able to put up fish. This is especially true at the beginning of the run where the best people quality fish are found. For example we have

documented times where fishers have waited almost an entire open period of fishing only to have the sun come out on the closed days. Fall season is too short and lately because of the king crisis it has become too important to lose opportunity.

TRM has repeatedly been told by some at ADF&G that while the proposal has merit and they try to open the season as soon as possible to 7 days they want to maintain the flexibility to open and close as they wish. At the last BOF meeting the State's own lawyer had to contradict ADF&G management by stating that no matter what, they always have the ability to shut down fishing if necessary. We are simply trying to get it into regulation so we are not at the mercy of different managers with different opinions on when we should be allowed to go to 7 day a week fishing once the run is being fished on commercially.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tanana Rampart Manley and Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committees  
(EF-F18-046)

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**PROPOSAL 97**

**5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts.**

Divide District 2 of the Yukon Area into two subdistricts, as follows:

We believe the only solution for the fish buyer to consistently buy good quality summer chum salmon during the summer fishing season from District 2 is to divide District 2 into two subdistricts that can be opened separately or combined.

**5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts**

(b) District 2 consists of that portion of the Yukon River drainage from the northern edge of the mouth of the Anuk River upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at Toklik, and includes the Anuk River drainage.

**(1) Subdistrict 2A consists of that portion of the Yukon River drainage from the northern edge of the mouth of the Anuk River upstream to the upriver boundary of Statistical Area 334-22. This subdistrict includes Statistical Areas 334-21 and 334-22.**

**(2) Subdistrict 2B consists of that portion of the Yukon River drainage that includes Statistical Areas 334-23, 334-24, and 334-25. The lower boundary of this subdistrict is the boundary line between Statistical areas 334-22 and 334-23. The upriver boundary of this subdistrict is the regulatory marker located at Tokik or the upstream boundary of District 2.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Divide District 2 into two subdistricts, 2A and 2B.

The Yukon River commercial fisheries consist of a gauntlet type fishery from the Yukon River delta up along the mainstem to the U.S./Canada border and within the Tanana River. Two races of chum salmon occur in the Yukon River drainage, summer chum and fall chum salmon. Summer chum salmon are distinguished by rapid maturation in freshwater, and smaller body size. Average weight is approximately 6 to 7 pounds. Summer chum salmon spawn primarily in run-off streams in the lower 700 miles of the drainage and in the Tanana River drainage. Although summer chum salmon are harvested for subsistence throughout the Alaskan portion of the Yukon River drainage,



with minimal harvests within District 5B, 5C, and 5D, commercial fisheries have recently been confined to District 1, 2, and 6, the Tanana River, and sporadically in subdistrict 4A. The District 1 and 2 commercial fisheries for summer chum salmon are a flesh-based fishery, with a premium price paid for silver bright summer chum salmon with good flesh color and quality. The summer chum salmon market for District 1 and 2 demands silver bright summer chum salmon with good flesh quality and color. However, because summer chum salmon rapidly mature in fresh water, the color of the fish along with the quality and color of the flesh deteriorates rapidly as they migrate up the Yukon River. By the time these salmon migrate into the upper statistical areas of District 2, starting with Statistical Area 334-23, these fish become obviously water marked with degraded pale color flesh and poor overall quality. Processors in District 1 and 2 that buy summer chum salmon from fishers must purchase the best quality summer chum salmon to remain competitive. However, because Yukon Area commercial salmon fisheries are prosecuted on a district-wide basis in the lower Yukon, it is difficult for the processors to purchase only good quality summer chum salmon from the entire District 2 fishery.

If nothing is changed, processors may refuse to purchase any District 2 harvests that appear to contain water-marked salmon or may not purchase summer chum salmon harvested in District 2.

We also considered not buying color-marked salmon, but we believe that this would lead to wanton waste and it is difficult to determine the portion of fish that are water-marked in that specific harvest. We also considered limiting fishers to the lower portion of District 2 or by Statistical Area, but this is problematic because fishers may fish in one statistical area and report their catch from another statistical area. We believe the only solution is to divide District 2 into two subdistricts that can be opened to commercial fishing by the department separately or combined.

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**PROPOSED BY:** Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (HQ-F18-080)

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## **PROPOSAL 98**

### **5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

Decrease gillnet depth in Districts 4–6 of the Yukon Area, as follows:

**5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** (f) In District 4 - 6, gillnets with (1) greater than six-inch mesh may not be more than 45 meshes in depth; (2) six-inch or smaller mesh may not be more than 50 meshes in depth.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Yukon River is quite wide at all mouths (south, middle and north) and salmon are quite spread out (Yukon District Y-1), as salmon travel up the Yukon River there is less area for them to swim where the Yukon River

narrows (Yukon Districts Y-2 through Y-6); therefore, gillnet depth restrictions should be more restrictive not less as they currently are as salmon travel up the Yukon.

**PROPOSED BY:** John H. Lamont (EF-F18-061)  
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**PROPOSAL 99**

**5 AAC 05.330. Gear.**

Allow use of beach seine gear to harvest salmon during open commercial fishing periods in Districts 1 – 3 of the Yukon Area, as follows:

5 AAC 05.330. Gear. (a) In Districts 1 - 3, **beach seine gear, set gillnets, and drift gillnets** [SET GILLNETS AND DRIFT GILLNETS] only may be operated, except that in District 1 after July 15 set gillnets only may be operated in the following locations:

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Management Plan (k)(1)(B)(2) allows the use of beach seine (and dip net) gear only during the Yukon River Summer Chum commercial fishing opportunities in Districts 1 - 3 in effort to conserve the Yukon River Chinook salmon stock.

Since being introduced to this regulation, and adapting to a new style of fishing, we have found that the use of beach seine gear greatly increases the quality of fish being caught by eliminating net marks and bruising in comparison to those being caught in gillnet gear.

I propose that the use of beach seine gear be allowed as optional gear during **all** Yukon River District 1-3 salmon commercial fishing opportunities, including Fall Chum and Coho, which are currently limited to the use of gill net gear only. Chinook salmon caught in beach seine gear (during fall commercial openings) may be kept for personal use or may be released alive.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jaylene Fitka (HQ-F18-042)  
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**PROPOSAL 100**

**5 AAC 05.333. Fish wheel specifications and operations.**

Adopt maximum size and depth restrictions for fish wheel baskets, as follows:

5 AAC 05.333 Fish wheel specifications and operations.

(a) (1) fish wheel baskets may not be larger than 5' X 8' or 40 square foot total area and cannot dip deeper than six feet into the river.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Implementing fish wheel basket size and depth limitations during times of Chinook Salmon conservation on the Yukon River. Fish wheels are self propelled large dipping baskets and paddles that dip salmon and other fish species out of the river that are lead into the baskets by way of leads, leads lead salmon from the shore (shallow water) directly out to the baskets where they are captured and dumped automatically into holding bins without human exertion.

If nothing is done, commercial fishers in districts 4 - 6 using fish wheels will continue to commercially harvest large numbers of summer chum salmon with little or no physical effort. I don't think it is equitable for commercial fishers from districts 1 - 3 to have to manually dip baskets into the river with only a 5' diameter hoop and basket to try and commercially harvest surplus summer chum salmon while allowing chinook salmon to pass up the river to spawning grounds.

**PROPOSED BY:** John H. Lamont (EF-F18-062)

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**PROPOSAL 101**

**5 AAC 05.310. Fishing seasons, and 5 AAC 05.369. Yukon River Coho Salmon Management Plan.**

Open and close the commercial fishery for fall chum and coho salmon in the Yukon Area by emergency order, as follows:

**5 AAC 05.310. Fishing seasons**

Except as provided in 5 AAC 05.320 - 5 AAC 05.380, salmon may be taken only as follows:

(1) in Districts 1, 2, and 3, the commissioner shall open **and close** the season by emergency order [AND CLOSE THE SEASON ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1 AT 12:01 A.M. BY EMERGENCY ORDER];

(2) in District 4: except as specified in 5 AAC 05.369, in Subdistricts 4-A, 4-B, and 4-C, the commissioner shall open **and close** the season by emergency order [AND CLOSE THE SEASON ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 AT 12:01 A.M. BY EMERGENCY ORDER];

(3) in District 5, in all subdistricts, the commissioner shall open **and close** the season by emergency order [AND CLOSE THE SEASON ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 AT 12:01 A.M. BY EMERGENCY ORDER];

**5 AAC 05.369. Yukon River Coho Salmon Management Plan**

(e) In a year when a directed commercial coho salmon fishery is opened under this section in

(1) Districts 1, 2, and 3, the commissioner shall close [,BY EMERGENCY ORDER] the coho salmon fall season **by emergency order** [NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 10];

(2) Subdistrict 5-A, and Districts 4 and 6, the commissioner shall close [BY EMERGENCY ORDER,] the coho salmon fall season **by emergency order** [NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 5];

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Remove the set dates for closing the fall chum salmon and coho salmon fall season fisheries in all districts and subdistricts within the Yukon Area: Climate change is most likely responsible for alterations in environmental conditions and salmon migrations in many Alaskan rivers, including the Yukon River. In recent years, there has been a desire to fish later in the fall fishing season in some sections of the Yukon Area because of later running fall season salmon and also because of delayed ice formation on the river. However, both the fall chum and coho salmon fall season fisheries throughout the Yukon Area close by a set date in regulation, unless closed earlier by emergency order. Because salmon migrations, as well as environmental conditions, have been altered by climate change, we seek to remove all set closure dates for the fall season fisheries and recommend that the closures occur through emergency order.

Note that an emergency petition was accepted by the BOF and a proposal was generated for deliberation at the March 2018 statewide meeting that removed the October 1 closure date for the District 6 fall season fishery, **5 AAC 05.310 (4)**. This proposal was passed unanimously by the BOF at this meeting. The basic rationale for removing the set dates for the all other Yukon fall seasons fisheries is similar. This proposal, with the suggested language, replaces the set closure date for all fall season fisheries throughout the Yukon Area with a closure specified by emergency order. If nothing is done, an emergency regulation may be requested in several years to extend the fisheries beyond the closure date in several districts and/or subdistrict fall season fisheries. The removal of the set date in lieu of closing the seasons by emergency order is not anticipated to have any negative effects on the commercial or the subsistence fisheries. Additionally, it would allow the department more control of the termination of the fall season fisheries within the Alaskan portion of the Yukon River Drainage. This would benefit the commercial fishers of the Yukon Area by allowing them to fish longer and possibly harvest more fish during the fall season fisheries.

**PROPOSED BY:** Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (HQ-F18-079)  
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**PROPOSAL 102**

**5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts.**

Include the Pastolik and Pastoliak Rivers in District 1 of the Yukon Area, as follows:

5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts (a) District 1 consists of that portion of the Yukon River drainage from the latitude of Point Romanof extending south and west along the coast of the delta to the terminus of Black River upstream to the northern edge of the mouth of the Anuk River and all waters of the Black, **Pastolik and Pastoliak Rivers**.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like the Board to include the Pastolik and Pastoliak Rivers in the Lower Yukon District Y-1. These two rivers are similar in nature to the Black River (located in the southern boundary of Lower Yukon District Y-1) and should be included in the Lower Yukon District Y-1.

**PROPOSED BY:** John H. Lamont (EF-F18-055)  
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**PROPOSAL 103**

**5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters.**

Repeal closed waters within 500 yards of the mouth of the Pastolik River and the Pastoliak River, as follows:

**5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters**

**(11) repeal**

**It would just repeal the language in 5 AAC 05.350 Closed waters (11)**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Repeal (11) the waters within 500 yards of the mouth of Pastolik River and Pastoliak River, as specified in 5 AAC 39.290 (a)(2);

So that the Yukon River District Y-1 commercial fishers can commercially fish within these two rivers located within Yukon District Y-1.

**PROPOSED BY:** John H. Lamont (EF-F18-059)

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**PROPOSAL 104**

**5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters.**

Repeal closed waters in the lower three miles of the Pastolik and Pastoliak rivers, as follows:

Repeal 5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters (11)

5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters

Salmon may not be taken in the following waters:

(11) the waters [WITHIN 500 YARDS OF THE MOUTH] of the Pastolik River and Pastoliak River upstream from a point located 3 miles up each river [AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 39.290(a)(2);]

Allow commercial fishing in both river drainages like the Black River, stat area 334-11.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Replace the current regulation that closes the waters within 500 yards of the mouth and all the waters of the Pastolik and Pastoliak Rivers with a regulation that closes the upstream waters of the Pastolik and Pastoliak Rivers from a point located 3 miles upstream in each river.

Changing this regulation would allow commercial and subsistence fishing in the lower 3 miles of each river. Extremely shallow water and the presence of numerous, persistent sandbars outside the mouth of these rivers preclude any fishing outside the mouths of these rivers.

We believe that fish originating in the Yukon River, mill in these rivers before continuing their migration to and up the Yukon River. Fishers catch the salmon as they are exiting the Pastolik and Pastoliak Rivers after milling in them. This is the same rationale for allowing commercial and subsistence fishing within the Black River, statistical Area 334-11, of the Yukon Area. [http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/fishing/PDFs/commercial/yukon/yukon\\_district1.pdf](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/fishing/PDFs/commercial/yukon/yukon_district1.pdf)

If nothing is done, fishers who have traditionally fished within these rivers will continue to be disenfranchised from the commercial and subsistence fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cyril Okitkun (HQ-F18-037)

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**PROPOSAL 105**

**5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and gear specifications and operation.**

Allow use of set gillnets with 7 1/2" mesh to harvest salmon other than king salmon and other non-salmon fish species on the Kuskokwim River for subsistence purposes during times of king salmon conservation, as follows:

A gillnet mesh size may not exceed 7 1/2 inches, 60 feet in length and may only be operated as a set gillnet; the gillnet operators may anchor their gillnets using commercial metal or aluminum anchors or make shift anchors out of wood regardless of where the high water mark is at the location of the individuals traditional set net site.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The use of 4" gillnet during times of Chinook Salmon Conservation is inadvertently causing whitefish species to decline and in order for subsistence users to get a taste of other Salmon species, this particular proposal needs to be repealed and replaced.

People along the Kuskokwim River drainages have fished for white fish and chee fish right after the river ice breaks up. They only target those species until chinook and other salmon species migrate up the Kuskokwim River and river drainages to their spawning ground. We all know that other salmon species, i. e. chum and sockeye salmon migrate along with chinooks to their spawning grounds and those two salmon can be targeted with the 7 1/2 inch mesh gill nets as outlined in 5 AAC 01.270 (m) (1) (A). This will ensure that we do not over fish all species of white fish and decimate the next generation of chinook salmon that migrate up the Kuskokwim River and its drainages. (See 5 AAC 01.270 (m) (1) for specifics on chum salmon in the 2016-2017 Subsistence and Personal Use Statewide Fisheries Regulations.)

People will over fish white fish and other small fish that come up the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries which in the future will cause us not to fish for those species if this regulation is not changed and may do more harm to the next generation of Chinook that migrate up to their spawning grounds. People along the Kuskokwim River drainages will have to look elsewhere to set their gill nets where they do not generally set their nets.

**PROPOSED BY:** Organized Village of Kwethluk (HQ-F18-082)

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**PROPOSAL 106**

**5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and gear specifications and operation.**

Allow set gillnets to be operated for subsistence purposes within 50 feet of each other in that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage from the north end of Eek Island upstream to the mouth of the Kolmakoff River, as follows:

In that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage from the north end of Eek Island upstream to the mouth of the Kolmakoff River, no part of the set gillnet located within a tributary to the Kuskokwim River may be set or operated within 50 feet of any part of another set gillnet.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** All throughout the Kuskokwim River drainage there are a few eddies to set gillnets during spring to fall and under ice set nets during winter months where we see nets set less than the current regulation. People along the Kuskokwim River drainages have set gillnets in eddies in spring to fall and under ice gear in winter which are usually less than 150 feet in length. In order to correct this, the department must adopt a revised regulation that meets the needs of set netters throughout the year.

**PROPOSED BY:** Organized Village of Kwethluk (HQ-F18-086)  
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**PROPOSAL 107**

**5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and gear specifications and operation.**

Allow the use of dipnets in the Kuskokwim River drainage subsistence salmon fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and specifications and operation. (a) Salmon may be taken only by gillnet, beach seine, a hook and line attached to a rod or pole, handline, **dip net**, or fish wheel subject to the restrictions set out in this section and 5 AAC 01.275, except that salmon may also be taken by spear in the Holitna River drainage, Kanektok River drainage, Arolik River drainage, and the drainage of Goodnews Bay.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why** Add the gear type dip nets to the list of gear that can be used to catch salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage. Currently dip nets can only be used during times of king salmon conservation. There is a history of dip net use in various locations of the Kuskokwim.

If we wish to encourage dip net use during this time of conservation it makes sense to allow dip net use during other times when the density of other types of salmon is greater and provides a better opportunity to be successful with the use of dip nets. although we know there has been use of dip net in the past, dip nets are a method that has long been out of use, so successful use needs to be relearned. Being able to dip net when there are higher concentrations of salmon in the river, such as sockeye and chums, would be a more successful experience for the new dip netter and would encourage use of this method during times of king salmon conservation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stony Holitna Advisory Committee (EF-F18-031)  
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**PROPOSAL 108**

**5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and gear specifications and operations.**

Add dipnets as legal gear for subsistence fishing in the Kuskokwim Area, as follows:

Allow subsistence dipnetting during gillnet opening: to ensure that people who don't have gillnets have the opportunity to get fish.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Allow dipnetting during subsistence gillnetting because some people don't own gillnet and don't want too much fish caught.

**PROPOSED BY:** Iqurmiut Tribal Council (HQ-F18-002)

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**PROPOSAL 109**

**5 AAC 01.275. Waters closed to subsistence fishing.**

Close marine waters immediately adjacent to the mouth of the Kuskokwim River to subsistence fishing during times of king salmon conservation, as follows:

During times of Chinook salmon conservation, the Bethel Fish and Game Advisory Committee would like the Commissioner to extend the current regulatory boundary line located at the south end of Eek Island and just below the west point called Kookaq in the Kuskokwim River mouth 10 miles out, or as far out as the ADF&G authority, including marine waters in order to extend Chinook salmon conservation authority.

Suggested regulatory language: 5 AAC 01.275 (e)

**During times of subsistence Chinook salmon closures, the commissioner shall close marine waters immediately adjacent to the mouth of the Kuskokwim River.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal is to address the conservation of Chinook salmon in times of conservation. The purpose of this proposal is to keep fisherman out of the milling areas during times of conservation. This proposal is to add new regulation, during times of conservation to continue setting conservation consistent throughout the drainage.

The issue is that there have been known Chinook salmon that mill in the brackish areas near the ADF&G regulatory markers at the Kuskokwim River mouth. Fishermen from many Kuskokwim River villages have been known to travel to the mouth of the Kuskokwim River to harvest Chinook Salmon. There have been reports of Chinook Salmon being caught at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River in quantities of 80 fish per day. It is felt that there is not an equal opportunity for harvest of these Chinook Salmon when they are caught in this area while there are conservation restrictions in the river main stem. Therefore it is suggested there be a closure on these bodies of water that serve as milling areas for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Bethel Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-091)

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**PROPOSAL 110**

**5 AAC 01.275. Waters closed to subsistence fishing; 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim — Goodnews Area.**

Close all fishing in non-salmon spawning rivers of the Kuskokwim River within five miles of the confluence during times of king salmon conservation, as follows:



The Commissioner shall close non-salmon spawning rivers (Tagayanaq, Ishkowiik, Tuntutuliak, Kialiq, Johnson, Kwiik and all other unnamed creeks, sloughs and rivers) in times of chinook salmon conservation as follows with the following restrictions: Non salmon spawning rivers shall be closed starting from the mouth to five miles upstream. Set nets and drifting with any size gear are prohibited in times of chinook salmon conservation within the 5 mile buffer.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There is no current regulation on non-salmon spawning rivers in times of Chinook salmon conservation on the Kuskokwim River. For the residents of the Kuskokwim River to truly conserve chinook salmon for the future generations, the non-salmon spawning rivers must be closed five miles upstream from the mouth of these rivers.

**PROPOSED BY:** Organized Village of Kwethluk (HQ-F18-083)  
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**PROPOSAL 111**

**5 AAC 07.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

Increase maximum gillnet mesh size to 8 inches in both subsistence and commercial salmon fisheries, as follows:

Increase net sizes to 8 inches for salmon fishing either for subsistence or commercial fishing.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Net sizes, commercial openings. Find a fish buyer for commercial fishing. Only income fishermen get because jobs are scarce in the villages.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kasigluk Traditional Council (HQ-F18-003)  
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**PROPOSAL 112**

**5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.**

Allow subsistence fishing with dipnet gear during times of king or coho salmon conservation, as follows:

Dipnetting will be an allowable year round fishery method on the Kuskokwim River, even in times of an Emergency Order.

5 AAC 07.365(c)(2)

...

(A) the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and subsistence king salmon fisheries, and after June 11, to the extent practicable, the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, at least one fishing period per week for a directed subsistence king salmon fishery, **the commissioner shall keep open, even during an emergency order, dipnetting as an allowable method,** to provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement needs;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Dipnetters of the Kuskokwim River are requesting to keep dipnetting an open fishery year round in the regulation book. They specifically would like to emphasize that dipnetting will be allowed even during an Emergency Order (EO).

Dipnetting is not dangerous to any fishery. Therefore, not dangerous or harmful to Chinook Salmon. Dipnetters will be able to catch other species of salmon, while still conserving for Chinook to let go any accidental caught Chinook go, unharmed.

Allowing for a open ended dipnetting harvest method, even during an EO to close the fishery, will validate the opportunity for harvest. While still allowing conservation implementation to continue in preservation of rebuilding Chinook Salmon abundance.

This is an ineffective method for catching large quantities of salmon at once, provides opportunity for fresh salmon other than Chinook Salmon to be caught. Families of the Kuskokwim River, where dipnetting is effective, would have the opportunity to catch freshly caught salmon for dinner, some drying, and storing.

This method would greatly help out the Kuskokwim River communities. Even though dipnetting is not a custom traditional practice of the Kuskokwim River. Families can learn to use this method of fishing effectively. This method has been practiced by a few folks from the Bethel area and have reported to improving their skills at catching salmon. It takes practice, patience, and planning.

Many dipnetters reported were targeting whitefish and reds, letting go chums when they caught enough. One dipnetter reported that they were also trying to target silver (Coho) salmon and found dipnetting effective was also effective way of harvesting Coho.

The request is to also have dipnets open as a fishing method even during gillnet only restrictions on Coho season. Dipnetters wanted to emphasize that if they are needing more chums during the silver salmon run, they would have the opportunity to target chums and not Coho. This would allow for specific salmon target of a species than swamping a gillnet with unnecessary amounts of Coho. Therefore, families would still be able to catch Chum for dryfish. Chum is preferred salmon for dryfish during the rainy season, because they dry faster than other salmon species.

Due to the Chinook Salmon conservation restrictions, subsistence harvesters had to change their methods of gathering, processing, and harvesting of subsistence caught salmon. They were forced into these changes by Emergency Orders, Special Actions Requests, and Federal Management take over. Over the past 8 years of method change. It is time to change regulations that best work to the benefit of the people and the resource.

Dipnetting helps control how much salmon you need and what kind of fish you want to keep.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alissa Nadine Rogers (EF-F18-028)

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## **PROPOSAL 113**

### **5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.**

Close king salmon fisheries on the Kuskokwim River by emergency order on June 1, as follows:

#### 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan

(c) In the king salmon fishery,

(1) when the projected escapement of king salmon is below the drainagewide escapement goal range, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and subsistence king salmon fisheries **on June 1**;

(2) when the projected escapement of king salmon is within the drainagewide escapement goal range, the commissioner shall open and close fishing periods, by emergency order, as follows:

(A) the commissioner shall close **on June 1**, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and subsistence king salmon fisheries, and after June 11, to the extent practicable, the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, at least one fishing period per week for a directed subsistence king salmon fishery to provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement needs,

(B) after June 11, fishing may be opened for commercial and sport fisheries to provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement and subsistence needs;

(C) notwithstanding (c)(2)(A) of this section, before June 12 the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, at least one subsistence fishing period per week with four-inch or smaller mesh gillnets; the gillnet may only be operated as a set gillnet and no part of the set gillnet may be more than 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark;

(3) when the projected escapement of king salmon exceeds the drainagewide escapement goal range,

(A) the commissioner shall close **on June 1**, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and subsistence king salmon fisheries, and after June 11, the directed subsistence king salmon fishery will be open seven days per week; and

(B) after June 11, the commercial and sport fisheries will be managed to provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement and subsistence needs.

(C) notwithstanding (c)(3)(A) of this section, before June 12 the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, at least one subsistence fishing period per week with four-inch or smaller mesh gillnets; the gillnet may only be operated as a set gillnet and no part of the set gillnet may be more than 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** ADF&G's Kuskokwim Salmon Management Plan requires the State to close king salmon fisheries in the Kuskokwim River drainage through June 11. This closure is achieved by implementing a closure to the use of gillnets. In 2017, the closure to the use of gillnets began on May 20. Few Chinook Salmon pass the mouth of Kuskokwim before June 1, and local people customarily and traditionally harvest other species of fish with gillnets, especially whitefishes and the larger Sheefish that are harvested with 6 inch mesh size gillnets. The Management Plan should have a June 1 beginning date for the closure so that people can continue to harvest fish other than Chinook Salmon in gillnets.

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**PROPOSAL 114**

**5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.**

Allow subsistence fishing for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River prior to June 11, as follows:

5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan

(c) In the king salmon fishery,

(1) when the projected escapement of king salmon is below the drainagewide escapement goal range, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and subsistence king salmon fisheries;

(2) when the projected escapement of king salmon is within the drainagewide escapement goal range, the commissioner shall open and close fishing periods, by emergency order, as follows:

(A) the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial **and** sport [AND SUBSISTENCE] king salmon fisheries, and **in the subsistence king fishery from June 1 through June 25 the use of 6-inch or less mesh size gillnets will only be restricted, if necessary, during rolling closures implemented sequentially up the river in a step-wise progression consistent with Chinook Salmon run timing** [AFTER JUNE 11, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL OPEN, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, AT LEAST ONE FISHING PERIOD PER WEEK FOR A DIRECTED SUBSISTENCE KING SALMON FISHERY TO PROVIDE HARVEST OPPORTUNITY ON SURPLUS KING SALMON IN EXCESS OF ESCAPEMENT NEEDS,]

(B) after June 11, fishing may be opened for commercial and sport fisheries to provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement and subsistence needs;

[(C) NOTWITHSTANDING (C)(2)(A) OF THIS SECTION, BEFORE JUNE 12 THE COMMISSIONER SHALL OPEN, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, AT LEAST ONE SUBSISTENCE FISHING PERIOD PER WEEK WITH FOUR-INCH OR SMALLER MESH GILLNETS; THE GILLNET MAY ONLY BE OPERATED AS A SET GILLNET AND NO PART OF THE SET GILLNET MAY BE MORE THAN 100 FEET FROM THE ORDINARY HIGH WATER MARK;]

(3) when the projected escapement of king salmon exceeds the drainagewide escapement goal range,

(A) the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial **and** sport [AND SUBSISTENCE] king salmon fisheries, and **in the subsistence king fishery from June 1 through June 11 the use of 6-inch or less mesh size gillnets will only be restricted, if necessary, during rolling closures implemented sequentially up the river in a step-wise progression consistent with Chinook Salmon run timing, and** after June 11, the directed subsistence king salmon fishery will be open seven days per week; and

(B) after June 11, the commercial and sport fisheries will be managed to provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement and subsistence needs.



harvest of fish. Since these rivers are non-spawning tributaries, local residents would like to see its subsistence fishing protected in regulation, as stated in ANILCA.

**PROPOSED BY:** Qinarmut Corporation (HQ-F18-058)

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**PROPOSAL 116**

**5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.**

Maintain open subsistence salmon fishing periods around the mouths of the Johnson, Kialiq, Kinak, Tagyaraq and Pailleq Rivers, as follows:

We are requesting to keep the mouths of Johnson River, Kialiq River, Kinak River, Tagyaraq River and Pailleq River open for subsistence fishing.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The chinook fish do not go up these rivers to spawn and other surrounding villages come and fish for their subsistence needs in these rivers. When subsistence fishing, people do not over-catch but stop when they reach their own limits and it all depends on how big their family members are. In the past, Kalskag had made a resolution to close the mouths of these rivers, but we are requesting to keep them open as before.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tuntutuliak Traditional Council (HQ-F18-025)

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**PROPOSAL 117**

**5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.**

Allow subsistence fishing for non-salmon fish species in Pailleq Slough when the subsistence fishery for salmon is closed, as follows:

5 AAC 07.365 **(d) (5)**

**During subsistence salmon fishing closures, that portion of Pailleq Slough upstream from a line 100 yards upstream from its confluence with the Kuskokwim River, shall remain open to subsistence fishing with gillnets.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Kuskokwim River has experienced main stem and tributary subsistence fishing closures in recent years in order to conserve Chinook salmon. The community of Eek is located on the Eek River, which is a salmon spawning tributary of the Kuskokwim River. Pailleq Slough is located up river from Eek Island off of the mainstem of the Kuskokwim River and flows into Eenayarak River. During Chinook salmon conservation subsistence fishing closures, Pailleq has also been closed even though salmon do not typically migrate up these waters. Residents would like to keep Pailleq open to fishing even in times of Chinook salmon conservation.

Traditionally, residents near the Kuskokwim River mouth and Bering Sea coast, including the community of Eek, have maintained subsistence camps on or near Pailleq Slough and have practiced subsistence activities such as fishing and berry picking while living at these camps throughout the summer season. Residents harvest whitefish, Sheefish, pike and other nonsalmon

species from this location. Today, the Pailleq Slough remains important due to its proximity to the community of Eek, its historical relevance, and its subsistence opportunities. People rely on this slough during the summer fishing season because it is much closer to Eek than having to travel south to the Quinhagak area, which requires more boat fuel and expenses, in order to fish. Residents depend on Pailleq Sough to meet their physical needs and to sustain their subsistence way of life and culture. They typically use driftnets in this location since setnets cannot be used due to the strong tidal action. Keeping Pailleq Slough open even in times of conservation would also relax pressure on subsistence users when the Kuskokwim River mainstem is closed by allowing users to easily harvest other fish species nearby.

**PROPOSED BY:** William Charlie Brown (HQ-F18-078)

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**PROPOSAL 118**

**5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan, and 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim — Goodnews Area.**

Close sport fishing for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage when other Kuskokwim River fisheries are closed to the taking of king salmon, as follows:

Kuskokwim River Drainage: (Downstream of a point located ¼ mile upstream of the confluence of the Kuskokwim River with the Holitna River, and all waters draining in to the Kuskokwim River Bay south of the Kuskokwim River): (include with current language)

King Salmon: During times of Chinook Salmon conservation, all waters draining into the Kuskokwim River will be closed to taking of Chinook Salmon unless the Chinook Salmon Conservation has been lifted for all rivers that drain into the Kuskokwim River.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** During times of Chinook Salmon conservation, there is no regulation where sport fishing is prohibited all throughout the Kuskokwim River as outlined in the Special Regulations for the Kuskokwim – Goodnews Drainages. If one set of users are prohibited from taking Chinook salmon, all other users must also be prohibited.

**PROPOSED BY:** Organized Village of Kwethluk (HQ-F18-085)

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**PROPOSAL 119**

**5 AAC 01.295. Aniak River bag and possession limits; 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim — Goodnews Area.**

Close fishing for king salmon on Doestock Creek when other Kuskokwim River fisheries are closed to the taking of king salmon, as follows:

(1) The bag and possession limit is as specified by species in 5 AAC 70.010, except that the bag and possession limit is for King salmon is two fish, with no size and annual limits; Chinook Salmon: During times of Chinook Salmon conservation taking of Chinook Salmon upstream from

Doestock Creek on the Aniak River is prohibited unless the Chinook Salmon Conservation has been lifted for all rivers that drain into the Kuskokwim River.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** During times of Chinook Salmon conservation, if the remainder of the Kuskokwim river drainages are closed to subsistence, Doestock Creek on the upstream from Aniak river should also be closed. If one set of users are prohibited from taking Chinook salmon, all other users must also be prohibited.

**PROPOSED BY:** Organized Village of Kwethluk (HQ-F18-084)

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**PROPOSAL 120**

**5 AAC 71.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.**

Close sport fishing and rafting on the Kwethluk, Kasigluk, and Kisaralik Rivers from May 1 to October 31 in times of conservation for any species of salmon, as follows:

Closure of sports fishing and rafting at prime salmon spawning tributaries of the Kuskokwim River, namely the Kwethluk, Kasigluk and Kisaralik Rivers that flow into the Kuskokuak Slough and Kuskokwim River starting May 1 to October 31st of each year conservation of salmon species (Chinook, Chum, Sockeye and Coho) is warranted.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Rafting and sports fishing in times of salmon conservation (Chinook, Chum, Sockeye and Coho) on the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries. Rafters and Sports Fishers will contaminate the headwaters and lakes where all salmon species spawn in the tributaries of the Kuskokwim River.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chariton Epchook (EF-F18-030)

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**PROPOSAL 121**

**5 AAC 71.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.**

Limit the number of days per week sport fishing guide services can be provided in the Aniak River drainage, as follows:

**5 AAC 71.010(c)(3).**

The following regulations applies to fishing from guided boats in the Aniak River Drainage: From June 12th to September 20th fishing is not allowed beginning 5:00 PM Friday until 5:00 PM Sunday.

Guide Boats may not carry more than 4 persons at one time. This includes guides, clients and other passengers.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Over the last decade, Guided Sport Fish opportunities on the Aniak River drainage have increased dramatically and as such, user conflicts have multiplied along with concerns over the impact of such use on both the salmon spawning grounds and non-salmon subsistence fishing. The Central Kuskokwim community



members along with the Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee have identified and discussed this increased conflict, which can be found in the meeting notes, over the last 5 years. Subsistence fishing has been negatively impacted by overcrowding and noise pollution on several of the identified traditional, historical and cultural fishing spots up the Aniak River. This user conflict continues throughout the summer disrupting the main source of subsistence fishing taking place up the Aniak drainage for non-salmon species. There is also a deep concern that this over use is impacting critical salmon spawning grounds as several guided boats utilize these areas.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lisa Feyereisen (EF-F18-098)

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**PROPOSAL 122**

**5 AAC 71.030. Methods, means, and general provisions — Finfish.**

Require parts of sport-caught salmon in the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area to be retained or disposed of away from shore, as follows:

Add new regulation

**5 AAC 71.030 Sport Fishing and Personal Use Fishery**

**Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area**

**Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish**

**(d) In the State sport salmon fishery in the Kuskokwim River drainage, salmon heads and back bones shall be retained and Chinook Salmon heads, eggs, stomachs, tails, and backbones shall be retained. Nonedible parts shall be offered to local dog mushers and garden groups and only then discarded midriver away from shore or buried away from any community.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** At many communities, sport fishermen discard fish parts all over the beach where kids go swimming. Local residents observe fish parts on beaches in tributary streams also, especially the Kwethluk, Kasigluk, and Kisaralik river drainages where sport fishing pressure is high.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alissa Nadine Rogers (HQ-F18-063)

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**PROPOSAL 123**

**5 AAC 01.182. Tier II subsistence chum salmon fishery.**

Repeal the Tier II subsistence chum salmon fishery, as follows:

**5 AAC 01.182**

...  
Repealed.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We propose eliminating 5 AAC 01.182 altogether. The department has not implemented Tier II regulations since 2004. In

2005, the department waived Tier II restrictions early in the season, gave all applicants a Tier I harvest permit, and eventually waived subsistence harvest limits on chum salmon. Since 2005, harvestable surpluses above chum salmon escapement needs have occurred in all years except 2009 rendering Tier II regulations moot.

There is widespread consensus amongst stakeholders area managers that the implementation of Tier II restrictions was onerous, divisive, and ultimately unnecessary. It is more effective to implement restrictions in fishing time, area, and gear in season, including the use of closures to conserve chum salmon for escapement needs, such as in 2009. Additionally, subsistence harvest pressure by Nome residents has shifted predominantly toward sockeye salmon on the Pilgrim River, and coho and pink salmon in Nome Subdistrict subsistence fisheries. The likelihood that Tier II restrictions will ever be implemented again is remote.

**PROPOSED BY:** Northern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-014)  
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**PROPOSAL 124**

**5 AAC 01.190. Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District Chum Salmon Management Plan.**

Repeal the Subdistrict 1 of the *Norton Sound District Chum Salmon Management Plan* from Title 5, Chapter 1 of the Alaska Administrative Code and readopt in Title 5, Chapter 4, as follows:

**5 AAC 04.XXX. Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District Salmon Management Plan.**

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide the department with management guidelines for the sustained yield of salmon stocks in Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District. The department shall manage, to the extent practicable, the subsistence, sport, and commercial fisheries in Subdistrict 1 to achieve escapement goals.

(1) in the subsistence fishery,

(A) subsistence salmon fishing will be opened and closed by emergency order on a stream-by-stream basis, to be determined by the department, when salmon stocks are abundant enough to achieve escapement goals and provide a harvestable surplus;

(b) Commercial chum, coho, pink salmon fisheries may be opened in the waters east or west of Cape Nome, or both, by emergency order, only after the department projects escapement goals or needs will be achieved and harvestable surpluses of Nome Subdistrict salmon stocks will adequately provide for subsistence uses.

(1) In the commercial fishery from June 20–July 31,

(A) If chum salmon escapement is projected to be exceed the lower bound of the escapement goal range, the department may allow up to 48 hours of commercial fishing per week;

(B) If chum salmon escapement is projected to exceed the midpoint of the escapement goal range, the department may allow up to 96 hours of commercial fishing per week;

(C) If chum salmon escapement is projected to exceed the upper bound of the escapement goal range, the department may allow up to 144 hours of commercial fishing per week;

(D) If chum salmon subsistence fishing is restricted, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close a commercial fishery and immediately reopen a commercial pink salmon fishery during which chum salmon may be retained, but not sold;

(2) In the commercial fishery from August 1-September 7,

(A) If coho salmon escapement is projected to fall below the long-term average escapement and/or subsistence fishing time is reduced in season, commercial fishing will be closed.

(B) If coho salmon escapement is projected to approximate the long-term average escapement, the department may allow up to 96 hours of commercial fishing per week.

(C) If coho salmon escapement is projected to be above the average escapement, the department may allow up to 120 hours of commercial fishing per week.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** It is recommended that the Nome Subdistrict chum salmon management plan be amended to provide guidance for management of commercial and subsistence fisheries and placed under commercial sections of regulation like all other Norton Sound Subdistrict management plans. Re-draft the Nome Subdistrict salmon management plan as follows:

If adopted, this proposal would provide the department with guidance and flexibility to adjust commercial fishing time based on observed escapements and projected run abundance from June 20 to September 7. The existing regulations were developed during a time when chum salmon were declared stocks of concern and the local subsistence fishery was closed or managed under Tier II regulation. Stocks have recovered, monitoring of salmon escapements is much improved, and escapement goals have been refined. In other words, regulatory management needs to catch-up with management in practice.

Currently regulations do not allow for commercial salmon fishing in the Nome Subdistrict prior to July 2 irrespective of chum salmon abundance and limited fishing effort in the Nome Subdistrict. Under the current management plan, fishing periods are restricted to no more than two 24-hour periods per week.

Estimates of chum salmon run abundance to the Nome Subdistrict since 2010 have ranged from well above average to record setting. Escapements of chum salmon at most Nome Subdistrict streams have exceeded the upper bound of escapement goal ranges leading to underutilized harvest surpluses. The proposed changes would allow the department to continue managing for a subsistence priority while providing more flexibility to commercially harvest surpluses in times of abundance.

**PROPOSED BY:** Northern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-010)

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**PROPOSAL 125**

**5 AAC 04.310. Fishing Seasons.**

Lengthen the commercial salmon fishing season in the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area, as follows:

5 AAC 04.320

...

Except as provided in 5 AAC 01.190 and 5 AAC 04.320 – 5 AAC 04.390, salmon may be taken only follows:

- (1) In Subdistrict 1, from a date established by emergency order after July 1 through August 31
- (2) In Subdistricts 2 and 3, from a date established by emergency order between June 8 to June 20 through August 31
- (3) In Subdistricts 4–6, from a date established by emergency order between June 8 to June 20, through September 7;
- (4) In the Port Clarence District, during fishing periods established by emergency order from July 1 through July 31.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** It is recommended that season dates in northern Norton Sound, including Subdistrict 1, be amended to reflect recent management practices of prosecuting salmon fisheries beyond the existing regulatory closure date of August 31. Since the early 2000s, the overall trend toward increased coho salmon abundance in northern Norton Sound has led to commercial fishing opportunities being extended into September via Emergency Order. This is particularly evident in low water years with delayed coho salmon migration and in years of above average coho salmon runs that often have late pulses of fish near the tail end of the run.

Additionally, in warm years with earlier than average chum salmon run timing, there is no reason to delay the onset of Nome Subdistrict commercial chum salmon fishery in years of sufficient abundance. In years of lower abundance or later salmon run timing, the department retains the discretion to delay openings until escapement goals are achieved and subsistence uses of chum salmon are not jeopardized. However, in years of high abundance, an earlier start would provide the department with early indices of run strength and provide commercial users with additional opportunity.

Therefore, we propose that the potential opening of a commercial fishery in the Nome Subdistrict occur via a date established by Emergency Order on or after June 20. This would result in an alignment of season dates for all northern Norton Sound Subdistricts. We propose amending 5 AAC 04.310.

**PROPOSED BY:** Northern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-012)

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**PROPOSAL 126**

**5 AAC 04.320. Fishing Periods.**

Remove restriction on the length of commercial salmon fishing periods in Norton Sound Subdistrict 1, as follows:

**5 AAC 04.320**

...

In the Norton-Sound Port Clarence Area, salmon may be taken only during periods established by emergency order. In subdistrict 1, salmon may be taken during no more than two 24-hour fishing periods per week established under this section.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We propose to amend 5 AAC 04.320 so that fishing periods are established by Emergency Order throughout the Norton Sound District and Port Clarence District, including the Nome Subdistrict (Subdistrict 1). The department has incrementally increased the length of fishing periods from 24-hours to as much as 72-hours in certain instances in response to strong salmon runs. Nome Subdistrict chum salmon stocks have been re-built and are no longer designated as stocks of concern. Additionally, coho salmon runs to Nome Subdistrict rivers have supported record subsistence and commercial harvests in recent years. Substantial ground-based escapement monitoring infrastructure with several years of data have been established in the years following the adoption of severe restrictions to Nome Subdistrict fisheries. Commercial fishing effort is limited to a handful of permit holders and is expected to remain so. Removing the restriction on fishing period length in the Nome Subdistrict will ensure regulations are consistent with current management practices and give managers flexibility to set fishing periods that take run abundance and anticipated fishing effort into account.

**PROPOSED BY:** Northern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-011)  
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**PROPOSAL 127**

**5 AAC 04.362. Guideline harvest range for Port Clarence District.**

Repeal the Guideline Harvest Range for the Port Clarence District and replace with the *Port Clarence District and Pilgrim River Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

**5 AAC 04.362. Port Clarence District Salmon and the Pilgrim River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.**

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide the department with management guidelines for the sustained yield of sockeye salmon stocks in Port Clarence District and in the Pilgrim River from July 1 through August 15.

(1) In the subsistence fishery,

(A) If the average sockeye salmon escapement from the previous two years is below the lower bound of the Pilgrim River sockeye salmon escapement goal range, the subsistence harvest limit for sockeye salmon will be no greater than 25 sockeye salmon per household;

- (B) If the average sockeye salmon escapement from the previous two years is between the lower bound and midpoint of the Pilgrim River sockeye salmon escapement goal range, the subsistence harvest limit for sockeye salmon will be no greater than 50 sockeye salmon per household;
  - (C) If the average sockeye salmon escapement from the previous two years is between the midpoint and upper bound of the Pilgrim River sockeye salmon escapement goal range, the subsistence harvest limit for sockeye salmon will be no greater than 100 sockeye salmon per household;
- (2) If the Pilgrim River sockeye salmon escapement goal is projected to be achieved, a commercial fishery may be opened by emergency order in the Port Clarence District consisting of not more than
- (A) two 24-hour periods per week if the average sockeye salmon escapement from the previous two years is above the midpoint of the Pilgrim River sockeye salmon escapement goal range,
  - (B) two 48-hour periods per week if the average sockeye salmon escapement from the previous two years is above the upper bound of the Pilgrim River sockeye escapement goal range.
- (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of (a), emergency orders may allow additional inseason adjustments to fishing time, area, and gear, including waiving subsistence limits and implementation of fishery closures, to achieve escapement goals and ensure optimal utilization of salmon harvestable surpluses.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** 5 AAC 04.362 was promulgated in 2007 when there were only four years of weir counts and an incomplete limited understanding of the adverse impacts of large sockeye salmon escapements on the health of Salmon Lake. Beginning in 2009, the stock underwent a collapse due to successive large escapements ranging from 35,000–85,000 sockeye salmon from 2003–2007 that most likely exceeded the carrying capacity of the lake. Beginning in 2014, runs to Salmon Lake began to increase dramatically again resulting in record-setting subsistence harvest levels in the Pilgrim River and Port Clarence District. Recent limnological, smolt outmigration, and adult age, sex and size composition data indicate that another dramatic decline in runs is likely in the coming years.

At the time 5 AAC 04.362 was adopted, an arbitrary threshold level of inriver abundance was put forward as a trigger point to allow commercial fishing. This was largely due to incomplete knowledge regarding the level of subsistence need on the Pilgrim River, as well as an absence of a ground-based escapement goal for sockeye salmon. Since this regulation was adopted, several more years of high quality escapement, age, and subsistence harvest data have been collected.

These data have led directly to the department proposing a weir-based goal of 6,800–30,000 sockeye salmon, and more reliable estimates of subsistence harvests needs in high abundance years (10,000–15,000 fish). If the new proposed escapement goal range is adopted, subsistence and commercial fishery management should be predicated on escapements evaluated in the context of

the goal, cumulative impacts of recent year escapements on the capacity of Salmon Lake to support rearing sockeye salmon, and anticipated subsistence harvest needs. Specifically, we recommend amending 5 AAC 04.362 to an escapement-based management plan and harvest policy that takes into account impacts to Salmon Lake of recent year escapements, current year escapement observations and projections and subsistence harvest needs.

**PROPOSED BY:** Northern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-013)  
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## **PROPOSAL 176**

### **5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.**

Align regulations within the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan with the provisions of the new 2019-2028 Pacific Salmon Treaty annex, as follows:

**5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.** (a) The commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, the king salmon sport fish bag and possession limits and all other necessary management measures based on the **Southeast Alaska Winter Troll CPUE**. [THE PRESEASON KING SALMON ABUNDANCE INDEX DETERMINED BY THE CHINOOK TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION.] The bag and possession limits and other management measures established by the commissioner will remain in effect until **January 31 of the following year**. [DECEMBER 31]. [FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR, UNTIL THAT YEAR'S PRESEASON ABUNDANCE INDEX BECOMES AVAILABLE, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS AND OTHER MANAGEMENT MEASURES WILL BE BASED ON THE PRIOR YEAR'S PRESEASON ABUNDANCE INDEX.] If the new **Southeast Alaska Winter Troll CPUE** [PRESEASON KING SALMON ABUNDANCE INDEX] is not available by **February** [MAY] 1, the bag and possession limits and other management measures for the remainder of the year will be based on the prior year's **Southeast Alaska Winter Troll CPUE** [PRESEASON ABUNDANCE INDEX], unless superseded by emergency order.

(b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to

- (1) manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest of 20 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;
- (2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the sport fishery harvest ceiling;
- (3) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; and
- (4) provide stability to the sport fishery by eliminating inseason regulatory changes, except those necessary for conservation purposes.

(c) **When the Southeast Alaska Winter Troll CPUE is equal to or greater than 20.5, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index greater than 2.2, the sport fishery harvest limit will be set at 69,000 treaty king salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:**

**(1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;**

**(2) a nonresident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, in May and one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, for the remainder of the year; a nonresident annual limit of five king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length.**

**(3) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon;**

[WHEN THE KING SALMON ABUNDANCE INDEX IS GREATER THAN 2.0, THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

- (1) FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, A SPORT FISH ANGLER MAY USE TWO RODS WHEN FISHING FOR KING SALMON; A PERSON USING TWO RODS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY ONLY RETAIN SALMON;



(2) A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(3) A NONRESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON IN MAY AND JUNE AND ONE KING SALMON FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR; A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL LIMIT OF SIX KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH.]

**(d) When the Southeast Alaska Winter Troll CPUE is less than 20.5 to 8.7, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of 2.2 to greater than 1.8, the sport fishery harvest limit will be set at 61,900 treaty king salmon and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:**

**(1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;**

**(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon; a nonresident annual limit of four king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;**

**(3) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon;**

[WHEN THE KING SALMON ABUNDANCE INDEX IS 1.76 TO 2.0, THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

(1) FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, A SPORT FISH ANGLER MAY USE TWO RODS WHEN FISHING FOR KING SALMON; A PERSON USING TWO RODS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY ONLY RETAIN SALMON;

(2) A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON;

(3) A NONRESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON IN MAY AND ONE KING SALMON FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR; A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL LIMIT OF FIVE TO SIX KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH, ESTABLISHED BY EMERGENCY ORDER. ]

**(e) When the Southeast Alaska Winter Troll CPUE is less than 8.7 to 6.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of 1.8 to greater than 1.5, the sport fishery harvest limit will be set at 49,300 treaty king salmon and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:**

**(1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;**

**(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon; a nonresident annual limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;**

**(3) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.**

[WHEN THE KING SALMON ABUNDANCE INDEX IS 1.51 TO 1.75, THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

(1) FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, A SPORT FISH ANGLER MAY USE TWO RODS WHEN FISHING FOR KING SALMON; A PERSON USING TWO RODS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY ONLY RETAIN SALMON;

(2) A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON;

(3) A NONRESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON IN MAY AND ONE KING SALMON FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR; A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL LIMIT OF FOUR TO FIVE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH, ESTABLISHED BY EMERGENCY ORDER.]

**(f) When the Southeast Alaska Winter Troll CPUE is less than 6.0 to 3.8, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of 1.5 to greater than 1.2, the sport fishery harvest limit will be set at 37,900 treaty king salmon and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:**

**(1) a bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;**

**(2) from January 1 through June 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit is three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, and any king salmon 28 inches or greater in length harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 15 will apply towards the three fish annual limit;**

**(3) from June 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit is one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, and any king salmon 28 inches or greater in length harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 15 will apply towards the one fish annual limit;**

**(4) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon;**

[WHEN THE KING SALMON ABUNDANCE INDEX IS GREATER THAN 1.2 AND LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 1.5, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

(1) A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON;

(2) A NONRESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON;

(3) A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(4) FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, A RESIDENT SPORT FISH ANGLER MAY USE TWO RODS WHEN FISHING FOR KING SALMON; A PERSON USING TWO RODS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY ONLY RETAIN SALMON.]

**(g) When the Southeast Alaska Winter Troll CPUE is less than 3.8 to 2.6, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of 1.2 to greater than 1.0, the sport fishery harvest limit will be set at 25,800 treaty king salmon and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:**

**(1) a resident bag limit of one king salmon except from July 1 through July 31 resident anglers may not retain king salmon.**

**(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon except from July 1 through July 31 nonresident anglers may not retain king salmon.**

**(3) from January 1 through June 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit is three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, and any king salmon 28 inches or greater in length;**

**(4) from June 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit is one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, and any king salmon 28 inches or greater in length harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 15 will apply towards the one fish annual limit;**

[WHEN THE KING SALMON ABUNDANCE INDEX IS LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 1.2, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

- (1) A BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON;
- (2) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT'S HARVEST LIMIT IS THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;
- (3) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT'S HARVEST LIMIT IS TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH, AND ANY KING SALMON 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH HARVESTED BY THE NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARD THE TWO FISH HARVEST LIMIT;
- (4) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT'S HARVEST LIMIT IS ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH, AND ANY KING SALMON 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH HARVESTED BY THE NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARD THE ONE FISH HARVEST LIMIT;
- (5) FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, A RESIDENT SPORT FISH ANGLER MAY USE TWO RODS WHEN FISHING FOR KING SALMON; A PERSON USING TWO RODS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY ONLY RETAIN SALMON;]

**(h) When the Southeast Alaska Winter Troll CPUE is less than 2.6 to 2.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of 1.0 to 0.875, the sport fishery harvest limit will be set at 20,600 treaty king salmon and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:**

- (1) a resident bag limit of one king salmon except from July 1 through August 15 resident anglers may not retain king salmon.**
- (2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon except from July 1 through August 15 nonresident anglers may not retain king salmon.**
- (3) from January 1 through June 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit is two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;**
- (4) from June 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit is one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, and any king salmon 28 inches or greater in length harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 15 will apply towards the one fish annual limit;**

[IN ADDITION TO THE PROVISIONS OF (G) OF THIS SECTION, WHEN THE KING SALMON ABUNDANCE INDEX IS LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 1.1, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

- (1) A RESIDENT BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;
- (2) FROM MAY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT IS THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH, AND ANY KING SALMON 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE THREE FISH ANNUAL LIMIT;

(3) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT IS ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH, AND ANY KING SALMON 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL LIMIT;

(4) FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, A RESIDENT SPORT FISH ANGLER MAY USE TWO RODS WHEN FISHING FOR KING SALMON; A PERSON USING TWO RODS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY ONLY RETAIN SALMON;]

(i) In addition the provisions specified in (g) and (h) of this section, when **the Southeast Alaska Winter Troll CPUE is less than 2.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than 0.875, the all gear catch limit will be set at the commissions determination,** [KING SALMON ABUNDANCE INDEX IS LESS THAN 1.0,] the commissioner may, by emergency order, [SPECIFY FISHING TIMES DURING WHICH THE RETENTION OF KING SALMON LESS THAN 48 INCHES IN LENGTH IS PROHIBITED BY NONRESIDENT ANGLERS. THE COMMISSIONER MAY ALSO INDEPENDENTLY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER,] implement nonretention periods or other restrictions for resident anglers to obtain 20 percent of the harvest reduction from resident anglers and 80 percent from nonresident anglers. [FISHING TIMES OF NONRETENTION WILL BE ESTABLISHED ON A REGULAR BASIS BETWEEN JULY 16 AND JULY 31, AS NEEDED, AND WILL BE ESTABLISHED ON NONCONSECUTIVE DAYS WHEN POSSIBLE. IF THE ENTIRE PERIOD OF JULY 16 THROUGH JULY 31 IS ESTABLISHED AS A FISHING TIME OF NONRETENTION AND ADDITIONAL CLOSURES ARE NECESSARY, ADDITIONAL FISHING TIMES OF NONRETENTION WILL BE SIMILARLY ESTABLISHED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND JULY 15.]

(j) The commissioner may adopt regulations that establish reporting requirements necessary to obtain the information required to implement the management plan under this section.

(k) The commissioner may, by emergency order, establish that the nonresident harvest and annual limits for king salmon under this section do not apply in a hatchery terminal harvest area.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* (SEAKKSMP; 5 AAC 47.055) triggers sport fishery management actions to maintain harvest within the sport fishery harvest limit allocation. In August 2018, the Pacific Salmon Commission reached agreement to renew various fishery arrangements under the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) for the next ten years (2019-2028). One significant change is the creation of seven harvest limit tiers that replace the existing harvest limit ranges and result in a one to seven percent reduction in the existing harvest limit of king salmon in the Southeast Alaska fisheries. Since the renewed 2019-2028 PST agreement reduces the harvest limit at specified abundance indices, managing the sport fishery under the current plan would likely cause the sport fishery to exceed its allocation more often and by a greater amount.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Formerly ACR #9)

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## **PROPOSAL 178**

### **5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specification.**

Allow chum salmon to be taken by drift gillnets after August 2 in Yukon River Subdistrict 4-A downstream from the mouth of Stink Creek, as follows:

5 AAC 01.220(e)(2) is amended to read:

...

(2) in Subdistricts 4-A downstream from the mouth of Stink Creek,

(A) king salmon may be taken by drift gillnets from June 10 through July 14, unless closed by emergency order;

(B) from June 10 through August 2, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, fishing periods during which chum salmon may be taken by drift gillnets; **and**

**(C) chum salmon may be taken by drift gillnets after August 2.**

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Though drift gillnets have not been legal gear in the upper Yukon River Area since 1976, they have historically been an important gear type for subsistence salmon fishing. Fishermen report having to travel downriver to District 3 to subsistence fish for salmon with drift gillnet gear. Though they can harvest salmon with drift gillnet gear much more efficiently than with set gillnet gear, traveling long distances to do so can be cost prohibitive for some. Subsistence fishermen from many communities have informed the department about the loss of suitable set gillnet fishing sites due to bank erosion causing changes to the efficacy or loss of the eddies where fish congregate. This has led to increased competition in Subdistrict 4-A for viable set gillnet sites.

King salmon returns on the Yukon River have been low the past 5 years and fishermen have been supplementing reduced subsistence king salmon harvests with other species of salmon that are more abundant and having a harvestable surplus. This regulation change would allow subsistence fishermen to harvest a biologically allowable surplus of fall chum salmon moving through Subdistrict 4-A below Stink Creek after August 2 and would align subsistence drift gillnet regulations within Yukon River District 4.

Regulatory changes at the Statewide Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting in March of 2018 allowed the department to open subsistence salmon fishing with drift gillnets, by emergency order, in Yukon River Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C so subsistence fishermen could more effectively harvest abundant summer and fall chum salmon in order to supplement low king salmon harvests. The board's decision was based on limited stationary gear fishing locations in this area of the river, and that drift gillnets would allow fishermen to capitalize on the surplus of summer and fall chum salmon better than set gillnets. Limiting salmon fishing to stationary gear alone has resulted in fishermen not having reasonable opportunity to meet their subsistence salmon needs.

Also, at the recent Alaska Board of Fisheries Emergency Petition Meeting held in Anchorage on July 17, 2018, on a vote of 7-0, the board found an emergency based on the Native Villages of Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, and Holy Cross's petition to allow subsistence harvest of chum salmon with drift gillnets after August 2 in Subdistrict 4-A below Stink Creek on the Yukon River.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Board of Fisheries

(BGP)

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**Proposal 177**

**5 AAC 33.380. District 13: Crawfish Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan.**

Add purse seine and drift gillnet as allowed gear types in the Crawfish Inlet Terminal Harvest Area (THA), as follows:

5 AAC 33.380. District 13: Crawfish Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan is amended to read:

(a) This management plan provides for the harvest of hatchery-produced king and chum salmon in the Crawfish Inlet Terminal Harvest Area by the troll, **purse seine, and drift gillnet fisheries** [FLEET].

(b) The department, in consultation with the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), shall, by emergency order, open and close the Crawfish Inlet Terminal Harvest Area to provide for the harvest of hatchery-produced king and chum salmon by troll, **purse seine, and drift gillnet** gear.

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** At the January 2018 Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting in Sitka, Alaska the board adopted a proposal to create a new enhanced salmon fishery Terminal Harvest Area (THA) in Crawfish Inlet. The Crawfish Inlet THA management plan only provides common property fishing opportunities for king and chum salmon to vessels using troll gear. In 2018, the chum salmon return to Crawfish Inlet was over five times greater than expected and it became necessary to open the THA for common property fisheries to vessels using purse seine gear to harvest the surplus; drift gillnet gear was not allowed during these openings because Crawfish Inlet is not a traditional drift gillnet area. The 2019 chum salmon return to Crawfish Inlet is expected to be larger than in 2018 and this has generated interest from Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association and drift gillnet permit holders in modifying the Crawfish Inlet THA management plan specifically allowing both drift gillnet and purse seine gear types as well as troll gear to participate in common property fisheries within the THA.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Board of Fisheries

(BGP)

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