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On Time Public Comment List

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SRC) PC115



Mission: To promote cooperative economic development that preserves the essence of the community while enhancing the quality of life.

September 1, 2011

Attached please find a copy of the comment the Homer Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center is submitting on the proposed Halibut Catch Sharing Plan.

As mentioned in the last paragraph of the comment we have not taken this step lightly nor without a serious vetting process and sincerely hope that you will recognize the weight of our concerns.

Thank you for your service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monte Davis". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Monte Davis
Executive Director

RECEIVED
SEP 06 2011
BOARDS



Mission: To promote cooperative economic development that preserves the essence of the community while enhancing the quality of life.

August 31, 2011

Glenn Merrill, Attn: Ellen Sebastian
NOAA Fisheries' National Marine Fisheries Service
PO Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

Re: RIN 0648-BA3

Dear Mr. Merrill,

The Homer Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, with over 500 member businesses throughout the Greater Kachemak Bay area in Southcentral Alaska submits the following comments on the proposed Catch Sharing Plan.

1. **We request that the comment period be extended by 60 days** so that the people most affected by the proposed rule will have a true opportunity to express their comments. The timing of the publication of the rule coincided with the busiest time of the year for all concerned with this issue, including commercial and charter captains as well as entire communities in the visitor industry. Most of their seasons run through Labor Day. If the intention is to have comments from all affected parties for consideration, extending the comment period will fulfill that intention.
2. **That an economic impact analysis be completed using current data** as required by Executive Order 12866. The allocation of this renewable resource affects the livelihoods of a significant percentage of our membership and our community. We (and you) need the most recent economic data to help provide a clear understanding of the economic impact of the entire 3A fishery, as it appears to us to pose a substantial risk to our community that may be irreversible.
3. **That the Catch Sharing Plan allocation be changed so that it closely approximates the current Guideline Harvest Level (GHL).** Halibut charters harvested within the Guideline Harvest Level every year since its inception except one, and that stayed in the allowable over/under percentage. In 2009, the GHL was converted to an allocation and the Courts affirmed that it was fair and equitable.

We sincerely request that you appreciate the weight of these comments as we have gone through a diligent vetting process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monte Davis", written over a horizontal line.

Monte Davis
Executive Director

201 Sterling Hwy., Homer, AK 99603

907.235.7740 fax: 907.235.8766 info@homerak.org www.homerak.org

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
Board Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and GAME
NP.O.BOX 115 5526
JENEAU, AK 99811-5526

9-4-11

Proposal 51== We do not Support Under commets please see PROPASL 54 " WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE " We support these comments

PROPOSAL #54 We support as per cformments in this proposal.

PROPOSAL 55 We Support Under Comments Please use The same as in ISSUE Of this proposal

Proposal 72, 73, 74 & 75 we support . as per comments

Proposal 76 we do not support The dept. has the right open or keep the season or keep it closed from June 1 to June 10 but must open the season by June 11 this gives the Dept enough Time . To close it till June 15 is not sopports by Chitina Dipnetters..

Proposal 116 We Support as per comments in the proposal.

Byron W. Haley Pres. CDA
1002 Pioneer Rd..
Fairbanks, AK 99701-2818
Phone 1-907-456-4426
E-Mail < bwhaley4@gci.net >

David Blake
PO Box 374
Marysville, WA 98270

October 28, 2011

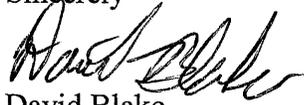
Boards Support Section
AK Dept of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RECEIVED
OCT 31 2011
BOARDS

BOF Comments:

Enclosed are written comments for the BOF meet scheduled for December 2011 in Valdez

Sincerely



David Blake

Written Comments for Board of Fisheries meeting for PWS / Copper River December 2011
This written comment is submitted by David Blake who is an owner/operator of a gilnet boat out of Cordova for the last 28 years.

Proposal #54 & 55. I strongly oppose this proposal. This is a recurring proposal that is submitted every board cycle. This is an allocative proposal even though the submitted states it is not. This would put dip net fishers above other users and not have those dip net fishers share in the burden in times of low abundance. It would allocate more of the required escapement on other users in the fishery and therefore allocate fish from one group to another.

Proposal # 56: I support this proposal submitted by ADF&G. This gives the department guidance and direction in management of escapement. Currently all escapement concerns are levered on only two of the four user groups in this fishery. When it comes to protection of the resource ALL users need to share equally in the sustainability of the resource.

Proposals 72, 73, 74, 75, & 117: I strongly oppose these allocative proposals. ADF&G in September of 2011 stated that there are NO concerns for the King Salmon stocks effected by these proposals. All of these proposals are allocative proposals. This fishery is already a fully allocated and changing management would be taking fish from one user group in benefit of another user group. The Department already has in place the tools necessary to manage the stock and have used those tools each year to manage the fishery. The department has been successful in their mandated role in protection of the resource. All of these proposals are an attempt to allocate King salmon from one user group to another in a fully allocated fishery. One though to consider: "A guide business is commercial use of the fishery" this is not how guides like to be thought of but in fact the guide makes money from the fishery and in fact they are a "commercial user of the resource:".

Proposal #78: I oppose this proposal. On the surface it seems like it would be an enforcement nightmare for the officers on the water. Another burden for the officers to contend with in different allowable gears in the same seine area and fishery.

Proposal #79: I support this proposal. This would relieve the temptation of leaving the deep gear on the boat when changing areas and also make enforcement's job easier in that before deep gear is allowed (the first Monday of July by regulation) only 60 mesh gear would be allowed in Area E. Proposals of different cork line marking for deep and shallow gear is burdensome and could create hardship for some fishermen who would be required to purchase new lines or corks when changing web on lines.

Proposal #80. I support this proposal. However I believe that there is already on the books that the red buoy is required. However it does clarify for enforcement that no power skiff is allowed on both ends of a deployed gilnet.

Proposal #81: I oppose this proposal. I believe that it is poorly written to try and achieve a clarification of a rock down problem that occurs. The way it is worded a gilnet fisher could be in violation for towing a hook in the end of his/her gear. A fisher could be in violation in the case of towing the gilnet in the face of adverse weather or tide conditions. It could be interpreted a violation in towing on the end of the net to keep the fisher's boat and gear in a safety situation. Many times in multiple fisheries in the State the gilnet lays on the bottom in shallow water and is not attached but does lay on the bottom. I do agree that there needs to be clarification for the problem of intentionally rocking down and intentionally snagging the end of the net to avoid drifting. However this proposal could be interpreted as to a gilnet could not be towed on in any way and could not be touching the bottom in any way even if it is drifting and not attached to the bottom. The proposed language "may not use mechanical power to hold in substantially the same location" could be interpreted as to you can not tow on a gilnet in any way. I believe that this should be rejected with instructions to resubmit with appropriate language.

Proposal # 88 & 89 : I strongly oppose these proposals. This is an allocative proposal submitted by seine fisherman trying to grab more of the resource from the gilnet fleet. The hidden agenda is for the seine fleet to access enhanced fish bound for the gilnet fleet. The department already has the tools in place and use them successfully to protect these stocks that are mentioned in the proposal.

Proposal #90: I support this proposal with the following amendments. Amend Proposal 90 to add more Latitude and Longitude points to better follow the historical boundary of the Eshamy district. Historically the Eshamy district has been defined as extending one nautical mile off the main land shore. The Lot. LAN. Points need to be close enough together as to insure that the ~~district does not shrink or enlarge but follow the historical lines as close as possible.~~ This can be accomplished by adding additional points to the proposal.

Proposal #92: I strongly oppose this proposal. This is a smokescreen proposal to reallocate enhanced fish from the gilnet fleet to the seine fleet.

Proposal #93. I oppose this proposal. The department already has in place the tools necessary to close or open areas for stock conservation. Further regulatory requirements would tie the departments hands in total overall management of the resource.

Proposal #98: I strongly oppose this proposal. ADF&G has always in the past been able to achieve hatchery cost recovery and brood stock escapement with the areas and boundaries already in place. Further restriction of area by the department could effectively tie their hands in management and harvest of both wild and hatchery stocks. I see a great possibility of a decline

in quality of product by over closing area for harvest when there has not been an issue in the past for cost recovery or brood stock.

Proposal #99: I oppose this proposal. This would expand the Terminal area. The seine fleet is already harvesting Red salmon in this area bound for the gilnet designated hatchery in Main Bay. These Red salmon are enhanced for the benefit of the gilnet fleet. Expanding the area will only increase the interception of more fish bound for both set and drift gilnet area at Main Bay Hatchery.

Proposal #101: I STRONGLY OPPOSE this proposal. This is nothing more than the big winners wanting a larger share of the pie. The division of value in PWS enhanced fish as reported by ADF&G in the fall of 2011 show as follows: Seine 60.9% of the value of enhanced fish. Gilnet 39.1% of the value of enhanced fish. What this proposal does is move that % up for the seine fleet and down for the gilnet fleet. The current management plan was amended and adopted at the Valdez BOF meeting of 2005 at request and pressure of the Seine fleet. Now they have 60+% of the value of enhanced fish and want to take more from the gilnet fleet. Nothing more than greed on the part of a FEW seine fishermen. It would be a good question to have answered as to WHO are the "Northwest Alaska Seiner Assn". There is no justification for increasing time and area for harvest of enhanced salmon in PWS.

Proposal #'s 104, 105, & 106. I STRONGLY OPPOSE all three of these proposals. Each and every one of these proposals attempt to change and effect the PWS Allocation plan for Enhanced fish. All would be as the detriment of the gilnet fleet and to the benefit of the seine fleet. The seine fleet by ADF&G report in the fall of 2011 report the value as follows: 60.1 % to the seine fleet and 39.9% of the gilnet fleet. There is no justification for any increase in time, area or opportunity for the seine fleet for the harvest of enhanced PWS salmon.

Proposals: #108 and 110: I oppose these proposals: These two proposals are in conflict with the agreed upon PWS Allocation plan. Both are allocative in nature. I urge the board to review the report issued by ADF&G on value by gear group released in September of 2011. This report shows that the seine fleet to be at 60.1% of value of enhanced fish in PWS. This is well and above the agreed upon 50% amount that is in the allocation plan. These two proposals attempt to go around and eliminate the allocation plan that is in place and needs to be left alone and given a chance over the long run to work out. Every three years we go through this grab for another gear groups fish to benefit the income on another group. In this case it is the one's with the more want even more from the one's with less.

October 30, 2011

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
FAX: (907) 465-6094

RECEIVED
NOV 07 2011
BOARDS

SUBJECT: BOF Proposals 72-75, 117 & 118 – 2011/2012 PWS & Upper Copper River/Susitna River Finfish Meeting

TO: Board-of-Fisheries Comments

PROPOSALS 72-75, and 117 – OPPOSED:

Copper River sockeye and king salmon have been a traditional part of the commercial harvest and are a fully utilized and allocated resource. ADF&G's memorandum of September 20, 2011 states there are no stocks of concern and did not reference the need to adjust the current king salmon management SEG of 24,000 or more, as stated under 5 AAC 24.361.

Data also shows that ADF&G has successfully exceeded the traditional SEG of 300K to 500K for Upper Copper River sockeye salmon. This recent memorandum calls for increasing the UCR sockeye salmon SEG to a range of 360K to 750K. All user groups should share in this escapement accountability.

In 2006, ADF&G implemented the mandatory inside closures as part of the Copper River king salmon management plan (as revised at the '05 Valdez BOF mtg.), and has the authority to close commercial fishing by emergency order as necessary. Personal Use is the second largest user group and if ADF&G limits commercial fishing time there should be corresponding limits on the Personal Use harvest. Until up-river fishing data is submitted in a timely manner to keep management strategies current, further restricting the drift gillnet user group is not a valid solution nor is it justified.

PROPOSAL 118 – OPPOSED:

ADF&G already has emergency order authority to create additional inside closures when concerns about king salmon escapement arise. Mandatory inside closures until June 15th will restrict ADF&G from achieving their commercial fishing management goal - which is to maximize commercial fishing opportunity. Proposal 118 is an allocation issue on a fully allocated resource.

In addition to the reasons outlined above for rejecting proposals 72-75, 117 & 118 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council recently voted to establish the first ever limit

on king salmon by-catch in the Gulf-of-Alaska pollock fishery. Getting the king salmon by-catch by this fishery under control will help the Upper Copper River dip netters achieve their goal of an increased recreational harvest without the need for re-allocations which will destroy the Copper River commercial king salmon fishery.

Please place working people, family incomes and the economy of the Prince William Sound region before the Chitina recreational dip net fishery and reject BOF Proposals 72-75, 117 & 118.

Sincerely,



Kurt Goetzinger
F/V Janda II
Cordova, AK. 99574

October 20, 2011

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
FAX: (907) 465-6094

RECEIVED
OCT 31 2011
BOARDS

SUBJECT: BOF Proposals 117 & 118 – 2011/2012 PWS & Upper Copper River/Susitna River Finfish Meeting

To: Board-of-Fisheries Comments

This letter is in opposition to BOF Proposals 117 & 118 both of which intend to change how the commercial king salmon fishery on the Copper River is managed. These two proposals would essentially destroy the commercial fishery for king salmon at the mouth of the Copper River negatively impacting the incomes of those 500 Area E permit holders who rely on this fishery to support themselves and their families.

In addition, acceptance of these proposals would result in the management of this fishery being removed from the ADF&G Cordova office and placed in the hands of an urban “advisory committee”. Both of the proposals submitted by this advisory committee appear to seek elimination of the Copper River commercial king salmon fishery to benefit a recreational dip net fishery on the upper river. These proposals would destroy traditional Alaskan commercial fishery livelihoods in favor of a recreational activity.

Please place working people, family incomes and the economy of the Prince William Sound region before the Chitina recreational dip net fishery and reject BOF Proposals 117 & 118.

Sincerely,

Kurt Goetzinger
F/V Janda II
Cordova, AK. 99574

October 17, 2011

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OCT 31 2011
BOARDS

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
FAX: (907) 465-6094

SUBJECT: BOF Proposals 117 & 118 – 2011/2012 PWS & Upper Copper River/Susitna River Finfish Meeting

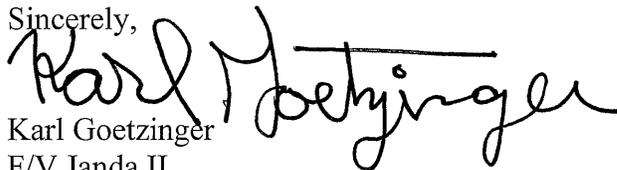
To: Board-of-Fisheries Comments

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Please place working people, family incomes and the economy of the Prince William Sound region before the Chitina recreational dip net fishery and reject BOF Proposals 117 & 118.

Sincerely,



Karl Goetzinger
F/V Janda II
Cordova, AK. 99574

October 26, 2011

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
FAX: (907) 465-6094

RECEIVED
OCT 31 2011
BOARDS

SUBJECT: BOF Proposals 72-75, 117 & 118 – 2011/2012 PWS & Upper Copper River/Susitna River Finfish Meeting

TO: Board-of-Fisheries Comments

PROPOSALS 72-75, and 117 – OPPOSED:

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Data also shows that ADF&G has successfully exceeded the traditional SEG of 300K to 500K for Upper Copper River sockeye salmon. This recent memorandum calls for increasing the UCR sockeye salmon SEG to a range of 360K to 750K. All user groups should share in this escapement accountability.

In 2006, ADF&G implemented the mandatory inside closures as part of the Copper River king salmon management plan (as revised at the '05 Valdez BOF mtg.), and has the authority to close commercial fishing by emergency order as necessary. Personal Use is the second largest user group and if ADF&G limits commercial fishing time there should be corresponding limits on the Personal Use harvest. Until up-river fishing data is submitted in a timely manner to keep management strategies current, further restricting the drift gillnet user group is not a valid solution nor is it justified.

PROPOSAL 118 – OPPOSED:

ADF&G already has emergency order authority to create additional inside closures when concerns about king salmon escapement arise. Mandatory inside closures until June 15th will restrict ADF&G from achieving their commercial fishing management goal - which is to maximize commercial fishing opportunity. Proposal 118 is an allocation issue on a fully allocated resource.

In addition to the reasons outlined above for rejecting proposals 72-75, 117 & 118 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council recently voted to establish the first ever limit

on king salmon by-catch in the Gulf-of-Alaska pollock fishery. Getting the king salmon by-catch by this fishery under control will help the Upper Copper River dip netters achieve their goal of an increased recreational harvest without the need for re-allocations which will destroy the Copper River commercial king salmon fishery.

Please place working people, family incomes and the economy of the Prince William Sound region before the Chitina recreational dip net fishery and reject BOF Proposals 72-75, 117 & 118.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karl Goetzing". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "K" and "G".

Karl Goetzing
F/V Janda II
Cordova, AK. 99574

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NOV 02 2011

BOARDS

November 1, 2011

Reference: Regulation 5ACC01.625 Proposals 57 – 65

It was good to see so many people concerned about the netting of fish. It is hard to figure out the Department of Fish and Game in Glennallen. After they have seen over 100 lake trout heads on October 17, 2010 and that these fish hadn't finished spawning then Mr. Summerville stopped netting until November 15, 2010. In 2011 he was asked when netting would be open his response was that it would depend on the ice. Then on October 1, 2011 the season was opened. Three boats came on October 1 to set their nets and left the lakes three days later. No fish and game personnel came to check. These same boats had come to the lakes earlier to set GPS locates of the spawning reefs.

Under the new regulations any lake trout caught in the nets are to be returned to the water. Some are injured too badly to live. With the early opening (October 1) for netting we have lost healthy spawning fish.

With netting of white fish, which is a primary food for lake trout, their food source is being depleted. An example of food-change interruption is found in Lake Huron. With the taking and depletion of alewives, it stunted and depleted lake trout and salmon there.

We have seen the data sheet put out by the Department of Fish and Game on anglers' fish count caught from 1984 – 2008. We wonder where they get their information. We have fished these lakes for over 30 years and have talked to at least 20 people who have fished there also. No fish and game personnel had ever

asked them or us concerning fish caught. We think there were not over 50 lake trout taken on these lakes in the summer of 2011. We have no hatchery for lake trout. Why can't the subsistence fishermen get salmon? We have hatcheries and can produce and abundance of salmon. Leave sport fishing and fishing gear alone. The last three years our fish count has down. We had fished successfully before the netting.

Lake Louise Concerned Citizen Group


Gene Moe

**Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone: (907) 786-3888, Fax: (907) 786-3898
Toll Free: 1-800-478-1456**

OCT 31 2011

RAC SC008.km

Mr. Karl Johnstone, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Attention: BOF COMMENTS
Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Post Office Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Mr. Johnstone:

The Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council represents Federal subsistence users in Southcentral Alaska, and understands the importance of fish resources to all the residents of our region. At its public meeting in Cantwell on October 3 and 4, 2011, the Council reviewed and acted upon the State Proposal 55 – reclassifying the Chitina dipnet fishery as a State of Alaska subsistence fishery. The Council's action was to oppose this proposal. The Council supports the current personal use classification for the Chitina dipnet fishery. They believe the current fishery meets the needs of those utilizing the resource and does not consider reclassification necessary.

If you have questions regarding this letter please contact Tom Jennings at the Office of Subsistence Management at 907-786-3364.

Sincerely,

SON for Thomas Carpenter

Thomas Carpenter, Vice Chair

cc: Monica Wellard, Executive Director, Board of Fisheries
Sherry Wright, Regional Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Jenifer Yuhas, Federal Subsistence Liaison Team Leader
Southcentral Alaska Regional Council members
Peter J. Probasaco, Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management

Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone: (907) 786-3888, Fax: (907) 786-3898
Toll Free: 1-800-478-1456

NOV 01 2011

RAC EI009.KM

Mr. Karl Johnstone, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Attention: BOF COMMENTS
Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Post Office Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Mr. Johnstone:

During the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council's public meeting on October 11-13, 2011, the Council reviewed and acted upon two pending State fisheries proposals for Prince William Sound and Upper Copper River Finfish. These proposals will be addressed by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in Valdez in December of 2011. Below are the recommendations passed by the Council.

PROPOSAL 55 – 5 AAC 01.616. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amount necessary for subsistence uses. Reclassify the Chitina Dipnet Fishery as State of Alaska subsistence fishery.

COUNCIL ACTION:

The Council supported adoption of this proposal to confirm that subsistence use does have priority over commercial use. In times of shortage, subsistence use would have priority over all other uses, requiring that fisheries managers ensure the amount necessary for subsistence use is met. By adding a State subsistence designation, both Federal and State subsistence users would have priority over the commercial fishery.

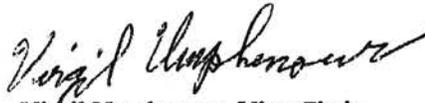
PROPOSAL 114 -- 5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan. Reduce hatchery production to 24 percent of the year 2000 production.

COUNCIL ACTION:

The Council supported the passage of this proposal as written. The Council has been on record in a letter to the Commissioner in 2007, strongly urging him to not allow overproduction of hatchery fish and to reduce hatchery chum production. If there was no overproduction there would be no need for roe stripping and the waste of fish flesh. The Council also agrees that action is needed now to reduce hatchery chum production to reduce the unfair competition Alaska's wild salmon stocks and Alaskan residents have with hatchery fish. Fisheries that have a long history in Alaska, subsistence, commercial, and sport would benefit from the passage of this proposal. Protection of wild salmon stocks are the key to future of subsistence uses of the region.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of these proposals. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Tom Jennings at the Office of Subsistence Management at 907-786-3364.

Sincerely,



Virgil Umphenour, Vice-Chair

cc: Monica Wellard, Executive Director, Board of Fisheries
Sherry Wright, Regional Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Jenifer Yuhus, Federal Subsistence Liaison Team Leader
Eastern Interior Alaska Regional Council members
Peter J. Probasaco, Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management

**Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence
Regional Advisory Council
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101 12th Avenue, Room 110
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: 1-(907)-456-0277 or 1-800-267-3997
Fax: 1-(907)-456-0208
E-mail: Vince_Mathews@FWS.GOV**

January 16, 2007

Denby Lloyd, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Subject: Proposal 247 – Create new regulation regarding hatchery salmon use authorization

Dear Commissioner Lloyd:

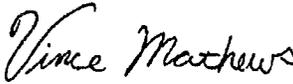
The Eastern Interior Alaska Regional Advisory Council (Council) during its recent public meeting on October 17 – 18, 2007 in Delta Junction reviewed Proposal 247 which would give you, as Commissioner, the emergency order authority to allow salmon hatcheries to recover roe without further utilization of the salmon carcass, where such use is consistent with the maximum and wise use of the resource. The Council strongly does not support the current level of hatchery production because of the irresponsible action of the hatcheries that have resulted in wild salmon stocks returning at an older age and smaller in weight. Hatchery salmon production is ~~overgrazing the ocean resources further stressing the already stressed wild salmon stocks of the Yukon River.~~ The Council's preference is that there be no overproduction of hatchery fish, and holding the hatcheries to the promise they made in January 2001 to the Governor of Alaska and to the Alaska Board of Fisheries to reduce chum production. If there was no overproduction there would be no need for roe stripping.

Due to the present situation with hatchery overproduction, the Council would prefer option two of proposal 247 with modification. We support Option Two, because hatcheries should not have an incentive to overproduce and should not be allowed to make a profit from that overproduction. If they overproduce, they should be penalized and should carry any of the costs of selling the roe with the proceeds from the sales going directly to the Alaska Fish and Game Fund for scientific research for better management of the depressed fish stocks of Western Alaska (modified proposal text is underlined). Whenever there is a sale of roe in these situations, the hatcheries would bare the cost of harvesting the fish, removing the roe, and any other cost associated with dealing with overproduction returns.

The Council debated at length their concern that hatchery overproduction needs to be penalized and not rewarded, and that the State of Alaska should not be rewarded from the overproduction. There may be less of an incentive for the State to eliminate overproduction if the State receives revenue from the sale of roe. Also, the discussion included that the hatcheries would be only foregoing making a profit but they would still benefit from the relationship with roe buyers, which could mean more money for them down the line. Hence, the reasoning behind the Council's proposal modification or amendment to have funds go directly to the Alaska Fish and Game Fund and provide research funding for the depressed fish stocks of Western Alaska.

Thank you for soliciting public input on this wasteful situation. We look forward toward hatchery management/oversight that is nonwasteful and minimizes the impacts on wild stocks that Western and Interior Alaska depend on for their subsistence and commercial needs. If you have any questions, please contact our Subsistence Regional Council Coordinator, Vince Mathews. His contact information can be found in the letter.

Sincerely,

 for

Gerald Nicholia, Chair

cc: Mel Morris, Chair, Alaska Board of Fisheries
Eastern Interior Regional Council members
Pete Probasco, ARD, Office of Subsistence Management
Don Rivard, Interior Regions Division Chief, Office Subsistence Management
Rod Campbell, Fisheries Liaison, Office of Subsistence Management
Russ Holder, Federal Fisheries Inseason Manager



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



NOV 04 2011

FWS/OSM11091.SF

Mr. Karl Johnstone, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone:

The Alaska Board of Fisheries will deliberate 2011/2012 regulatory proposals that address Prince William Sound and Upper Copper River/Upper Susitna River commercial, sport, personal use and subsistence finfish fisheries beginning December 2, 2011. We understand that the Board will be considering approximately 96 proposals at this meeting.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, working with other Federal agencies, has reviewed these proposals and developed the enclosed preliminary comments on six (6) proposals that may have an effect on Federal subsistence users and fisheries in this area. We may wish to comment on other proposals, if issues arise during the meeting, that may have an effect on Federal subsistence users and fisheries.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on these important regulatory matters and look forward to working with your Board and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on these



Mr. Karl Johnstone

2

issues. Please contact Dave Nelson, Alaska Region Fishery Biologist for the National Park Service, at (907) 644-3529, with any questions you may have concerning this material.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Probasco
Assistant Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Cora Campbell, ADF&G
Tim Towarak, Chair FSB
Jeff Regnart, ADF&G, Anchorage
Hazel Nelson, ADF&G, Anchorage
Charles Swanton, ADF&G, Juneau
Jennifer Yuhas, ADF&G, Anchorage
Don Roach, ADF&G, Fairbanks
James Hasbrouck, ADF&G, Anchorage
George Pappas, ADF&G, Anchorage
Lisa Olson, ADF&G, Anchorage
Monica Wellard, ADF&G, Juneau
Interagency Staff Committee

**FEDERAL STAFF COMMENTS ON
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES PROPOSALS**

For The

**PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND and UPPER COPPER/UPPER
SUSITNA MANAGEMENT AREAS**

**State of Alaska
Board of Fisheries Meeting
December 2-7, 2011
Convention and Civic Center
Valdez, Alaska**

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Federal Comments

The following comments address these proposals only as they affect Federally qualified subsistence users and resource conservation.

Proposal 56 requests the Copper River King Salmon Management Plan be amended to reflect recent management actions to conserve king salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery. The amendment would incorporate into the Management Plan a seasonal limit of one king salmon as currently provided for in 5 AAC 77.59 and would allow managers to prohibit the retention of king salmon to achieve the escapement goal. If actions in the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery are not sufficient to achieve the escapement goal, the Department would be given additional justification (the authority currently exists in AS 16.05.020, 16.05.050, and 16.05.060) to restrict the retention of king salmon or modify methods and means to reduce the king salmon harvest in the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery.

Existing State Regulation

5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan. *(a) The department shall manage the Copper River commercial and sport fisheries to achieve a sustainable escapement goal of 24,000 or more for king salmon. For the purposes of managing these fisheries the department shall consider the best available information regarding harvest, age composition, and escapement, including escapement information obtained from mark-recapture studies, aerial surveys, or by other means.*

(b) In the commercial fishery, during the statistical weeks of 20 and 21, the commissioner may open no more than one fishing period per statistical week within the inside closure area of the Copper River District described in 5 AAC 24.350(1)(B)(c). In the sport fishery,

(1) in the upper Copper River drainage, the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is four fish;

(2) if the commissioner determines additional conservation measures are necessary to achieve the escapement goals, the commissioner may, by emergency order use the following management measures in the following priority order:

- (A) reduce the annual limit for king salmon;
- (B) modify other methods and means not specified in this paragraph;
- (C) designate the fishery as a catch and release fishery only;
- (D) close specific waters to sport fishing for king salmon

Existing Federal Regulation

§____.27(e)(11) Prince William Sound Area

(x) The total annual harvest limit for subsistence salmon fishing permits in combination for the Glennallen Subdistrict and the Chitina Subdistrict is as follows:

- (A) For a household with 1 person, 30 salmon, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel;
- (B) For a household with 2 persons, 60 salmon, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel, plus 10 salmon for each additional person in a household over 2 persons, except that the household's limit for Chinook salmon taken by dip net or rod and reel does not increase;
- (C) Upon request, permits for additional salmon will be issued for no more than a total of 200 salmon for a permit issued to a household with 1 person, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel, or no more than a total of 500 salmon for a permit issued to a household with 2 or more persons, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Impact to Federal subsistence users/fisheries: None likely. Adoption of this proposal would likely have little impact to Federally qualified subsistence users or fisheries. Federally qualified subsistence users in the Chitina Subdistrict only harvest 7 to 33 king salmon annually. In comparison, the 2000 -2009 average total harvest in the State personal use fishery has been 2,232 king salmon. State managers have taken inseason action in the last three years to prohibit the harvest of king salmon in this Subdistrict due to conservation concerns. Federal managers have not followed the actions of State managers due to the very low annual king salmon harvest in the Federal subsistence fishery. Given this small annual harvest, it is unlikely inseason restrictions to the annual

king salmon harvest limit in the Chitina Subdistrict Federal subsistence fishery in future years would be needed.

Both a Federal and State subsistence fishery occur in the Glennallen Subdistrict. Fish wheels are the primary harvest method, but dip nets are also legal gear in both fisheries. The harvest by Federally qualified users has ranged from 300 – 705 king salmon annually. The average annual total harvest by State subsistence users from 2000 – 2009 is 3,109 king salmon. Conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife and continuation of subsistence fishing opportunities for rural Alaskans is the highest priority of ANILCA and the Federal management program. King salmon conservation in the Glennallen Subdistrict Federal subsistence fishery would become an issue only after all other user groups had been restricted. Should this occur, Federal managers could also take actions to conserve king salmon in this Subdistrict.

Federal position/recommended action: Support. Weak king salmon runs in recent years have required State managers to prohibit retention of king salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery. Adoption of this proposal would clearly articulate actions the department may take in both the Chitina and Glennallen Subdistricts for resource conservation to provide for the spawning escapement. While a similar issue has not been addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board, the annual harvest of king salmon in the Federal subsistence fishery has been small, and Federal managers have the authority to restrict subsistence fishing, if needed, to conserve king salmon.

Proposal 73 requests the annual limit for king salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District personal use fishery be increased to five per family and one for individuals.

Existing State Regulation: 5 AAC 77.591 Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan

(e) The annual limit for a personal use salmon fishing permit is 15 salmon for a household of one person and 30 salmon for a household of two or more persons, of which no more than one may be a king salmon. However, when the department determines that a weekly harvestable surplus of 50,000 or more salmon will be present in the Chitina Subdistrict, the commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, weekly periods during which the department shall issue a supplemental permit for 10 additional sockeye salmon to a permit applicant who has met the annual limit. King salmon may not be taken under the authority of a supplemental permit. A supplemental permit will be valid from Monday to the following Sunday of the week in which the surplus salmon are expected to be present in the Chitina Subdistrict. The department may specify other conditions in a supplemental permit. The department may issue an additional supplemental permit to a permittee who has met the limits of a previously issued supplemental permit.

Existing Federal Regulation

§____.27(e)(11) Prince William Sound Area

(x) The total annual harvest limit for subsistence salmon fishing permits in combination for the Glennallen Subdistrict and the Chitina Subdistrict is as follows:

- (A) For a household with 1 person, 30 salmon, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel;*
- (B) For a household with 2 persons, 60 salmon, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel, plus 10 salmon for each additional person in a household over 2 persons, except that the household's limit for Chinook salmon taken by dip net or rod and reel does not increase;*
- (C) Upon request, permits for additional salmon will be issued for no more than a total of 200 salmon for a permit issued to a household with 1 person, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel, or no more than a total of 500 salmon for a permit issued to a household with 2 or more persons, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel.*

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Impact to Federal subsistence users/fisheries: Yes. An increased personal use fishery harvest of king salmon, especially given the poor runs in recent years, could impact Federally qualified users and fisheries as well as the ability to achieve the sustainable escapement goal of not less than 24,000 as provided in 5 AAC.361. A Federal subsistence fishery occurs in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District and also in the adjacent upstream Glennallen Subdistrict. An increase in the harvest of king salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery would result in fewer king salmon being available to Federally qualified subsistence users in both the Chitina and Glennallen Subdistricts and could result in management restrictions to these fisheries if insufficient numbers of king salmon are available to achieve the escapement goal.

Federal position/recommended action: Oppose. King salmon runs to the Copper River have been weak in recent years and this proposal would increase the allowable harvest in the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery. This would decrease the number of king salmon available to Federally qualified users in the Chitina Subdistrict as well as both Federally qualified and State subsistence users in the Glennallen Subdistrict. Adoption of this proposal could also lead to restrictions in subsistence fishing opportunities if the increased harvest precluded achieving the escapement goal.

Proposal 74 requests that personal use fishers be allowed to retain king salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict 2-3 days per week at the discretion of the State fishery manager. Retention would be allowed as long as retention was permitted in the State commercial and sport fisheries.

Existing State Regulation: 5 AAC 77.591 Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan

(e) The annual limit for a personal use salmon fishing permit is 15 salmon for a household of one person and 30 salmon for a household of two or more persons, of which no more than one may be a king salmon. However, when the department determines that a weekly harvestable surplus of 50,000 or more salmon will be present in the Chitina Subdistrict, the commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, weekly periods during which the department shall issue a supplemental permit for 10 additional sockeye salmon to a permit applicant who has met the annual limit. King salmon may not be taken under the authority of a supplemental permit. A supplemental permit will be valid from Monday to the following Sunday of the week in which the surplus salmon are expected to be present in the Chitina Subdistrict. The department may specify other conditions in a supplemental permit. The department may issue an additional supplemental permit to a permittee who has met the limits of a previously issued supplemental permit.

Existing Federal Regulation

§____.27(e)(11) Prince William Sound Area

(x) The total annual harvest limit for subsistence salmon fishing permits in combination for the Glennallen Subdistrict and the Chitina Subdistrict is as follows:

- (A) For a household with 1 person, 30 salmon, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel;*
- (B) For a household with 2 persons, 60 salmon, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel, plus 10 salmon for each additional person in a household over 2 persons, except that the household's limit for Chinook salmon taken by dip net or rod and reel does not increase;*
- (C) Upon request, permits for additional salmon will be issued for no more than a total of 200 salmon for a permit issued to a household with 1 person, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel, or no more than a total of 500 salmon for a permit issued to a household with 2 or more persons, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel.*

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Impact to Federal subsistence users/fisheries: Yes. An increased personal use fishery harvest of king salmon, especially given the poor runs in recent years, could impact Federally qualified users and fisheries as well as the ability to achieve the sustainable escapement goal of not less than 24,000 as provided in 5 AAC.361. A Federal subsistence fishery occurs in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District and also in the adjacent upstream Glennallen Subdistrict. An increase in the harvest of king salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery would result in fewer king salmon being available to Federally qualified subsistence users in both the Chitina and Glennallen Subdistricts and could result in management restrictions to the fisheries if insufficient numbers of king salmon are available to achieve the escapement goal. Adoption of this proposal would impact both Federal and State subsistence fisheries which is the priority consumptive use of this resource.

Federal position/recommended action: Oppose. King salmon runs to the Copper River have been weak in recent years and this proposal would make it more difficult to achieve the escapement goal, would decrease the number of king salmon available to Federally qualified users in the Chitina Subdistrict as well as to both Federally qualified and State subsistence users in the Glennallen Subdistrict and could also lead to restrictions in subsistence fishing opportunities.

Proposal 75 would increase the number of sockeye salmon that could be harvested by a permit holder in the Chitina personal use fishery only if retention of king salmon was prohibited: The increase would be based on the number of persons in the household:

- 1 person household: 20 sockeye
- 2 person household: 35 sockeye
- 3 person household: 45 sockeye
- 4 person household: 60 sockeye
- 5 or more person household: 75 sockeye

Existing State Regulation: 5 AAC 77.591 Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan

(e) The annual limit for a personal use salmon fishing permit is 15 salmon for a household of one person and 30 salmon for a household of two or more persons, of which no more than one may be a king salmon. However, when the department determines that a weekly harvestable surplus of 50,000 or more salmon will be present in the Chitina Subdistrict, the commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, weekly periods during which the department shall issue a supplemental permit for 10 additional sockeye salmon to a permit applicant who has met the annual limit. King salmon may not be taken under

the authority of a supplemental permit. A supplemental permit will be valid from Monday to the following Sunday of the week in which the surplus salmon are expected to be present in the Chitina Subdistrict. The department may specify other conditions in a supplemental permit. The department may issue an additional supplemental permit to a permittee who has met the limits of a previously issued supplemental permit.

Existing Federal Regulation

§____.27(e)(11) Prince William Sound Area

(x) The total annual harvest limit for subsistence salmon fishing permits in combination for the Glennallen Subdistrict and the Chitina Subdistrict is as follows:

- (A) For a household with 1 person, 30 salmon, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel;*
- (B) For a household with 2 persons, 60 salmon, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel, plus 10 salmon for each additional person in a household over 2 persons, except that the household's limit for Chinook salmon taken by dip net or rod and reel does not increase;*
- (C) Upon request, permits for additional salmon will be issued for no more than a total of 200 salmon for a permit issued to a household with 1 person, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel, or no more than a total of 500 salmon for a permit issued to a household with 2 or more persons, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel.*

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Impact to Federal subsistence users/fisheries: Yes. Copper River sockeye salmon are a fully allocated resource. An increase in the harvest of sockeye salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery could reduce the number of salmon available for Federally qualified subsistence users in both the Chitina and Glennallen Subdistricts, and could result in management restrictions to the fisheries if insufficient numbers of sockeye salmon are available to achieve the escapement goal.

Federal position/recommended action: Oppose. If this proposal is adopted, the allowable harvest of sockeye salmon in the personal use fishery would increase whenever king salmon retention was prohibited. Since Copper River sockeye salmon are a fully allocated resource, this increased harvest could affect the ability of managers to achieve

the sockeye salmon spawning escapement goal and would decrease the number of sockeye salmon available to Federally qualified subsistence users in both the Chitina and Glennallen Subdistricts. This could make it more difficult for Federally qualified subsistence users, who have the priority consumptive use of this resource, to harvest the salmon they need. Rather than adopting a regulation that bases sockeye salmon harvest limits in the personal use fishery on king salmon abundance, such a decision should be based on whether there is a surplus of sockeye salmon that could be harvested in this fishery.

Proposal 76 would delay the opening of the Chitina Subdistrict personal use dip net fishery until June 15. The current management strategy is to open this fishery by emergency order based on projected sonar estimates as measured by Miles Lake. This usually occurs during the first week of June. Regulation provides for the opening to occur no later than June 11.

Existing State Regulation:

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

(b) Salmon may be taken from June 1 through September 30. The commissioner shall establish a preseason schedule, including fishing times, for the period June 1 through August 31 based on daily projected sonar counts at the sonar counter located near Miles Lake. This abundance-based preseason schedule will distribute the harvest throughout the season. The commissioner may close, by an emergency order effective June 1, the Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishing season and shall reopen the season, by emergency order, on or before June 11, depending on the run strength and timing of the sockeye salmon run. Adjustments shall be made to the preseason schedule based on actual sonar counts compared to projected counts. If the actual sonar count at Miles Lake is more than the projected sonar count, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the season and immediately reopen it during which additional fishing times will be allowed. If the actual sonar count at Miles Lake is less than the projected sonar count, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the season and immediately reopen it during which fishing times will be reduced by a corresponding amount of time.

Existing Federal Regulation:

§____.27(e)(11) Prince William Sound Area

(ix) You may take salmon in the Upper Copper River District from May 15 through September 30 only.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Impact to Federal subsistence users/fisheries: Yes. Adoption of this regulation could either positively or negatively impact Federal subsistence users. By regulation, the Federal subsistence fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict opens May 15, while under the Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan (5 AAC77.591), fishing occurs from June 1 through September 30 during periods established by Emergency Order. In past years the Federal subsistence fishery has been opened by Special Action at the same time and date the State opened the personal use fishery by Emergency Order. This has usually occurred the first week of June. If this proposal is adopted, the State personal use fishery could not be opened until June 15 while the Federal subsistence fishery may be opened earlier in the season rather than in concert with the State personal use fishery. This could result in increased early season harvest by Federal subsistence users as they would not be competing with State personal use fishers, as well as decreased harvests later in the season if personal use fishers were given more open periods to compensate for foregoing the early season harvest.

Federal position/recommended action: Oppose. This proposal's justification is to allow a greater number of early arriving sockeye salmon, which the proponent correctly states, are Native (wild) fish, to reach the spawning grounds in the upper Copper River. However, no conservation concern for these early arriving fish has been identified. Setting a later opening date for the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery could make it more difficult for State managers to "distribute the harvest throughout the season" as required by **5 AAC 77.591 Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan (b)**. It would also likely decouple the opening dates of the Federal subsistence fishery and State personal use fishery, resulting in unknown impacts to both user groups. For example, Federally qualified users may experience better catches earlier in the season, if they can fish when the personal use fishery is closed, but may find it more difficult to harvest salmon later in the season, if personal use fishers focus more effort during this time period due to their late start in harvesting salmon.

Proposal 117 requests the optimum escapement goal for Chinook salmon in the Copper River be increased from 24,000 to 30,000.

Existing State Regulation:

5 AAC 24.361 Copper River King Salmon Management Plan

(a) The department shall manage the Copper River commercial and sport fisheries to achieve a sustainable escapement goal of 24,000 or more for king salmon. For the purposes of managing these fisheries, the department shall consider the best available

information regarding harvest, age composition, and escapement, including escapement information from mark-recapture studies, aerial surveys, or by other means.

Existing Federal Regulation

No comparable Federal regulation.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Impact to Federal subsistence users/fisheries: King salmon are harvested by Federally qualified subsistence users in both the Chitina and Glennallen Subdistricts. Over the near term, changing the goal used in the Copper River King Salmon Management Plan from a sustainable escapement goal of 24,000 to an optimal goal of 30,000 would decrease the number of king salmon available for harvest by all users, particularly if runs remain poor. However, if changing the escapement goal resulted in increased runs over the long term the number of king salmon available for harvest would eventually increase.

Federal position/recommended action: Defer. Evaluation of data to determine the Copper River Chinook salmon sustainable escapement goal is the purview of the Department of Fish and Game. Setting an optimal escapement goal for this resource is the purview of the Alaska Board of Fisheries. A sustainable goal is based on biological factors and is set at a level known to provide for sustained yields over a five to 10 year period. An optimal goal considers allocative as well as biological factors, and can be set at a level below or above a sustainable goal. However, it must be set at a level capable of maintaining a salmon stock at a sustainable level. The Federal management program supports the State's salmon escapement goal process, and entered into a joint Memorandum of Understanding on the "Review and Development of Scientifically-Based Salmon Escapement Goals" in 2005 to promote Federal-State cooperation and coordination and avoid duplicative research. Until we see results of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's escapement goal evaluation for Copper River king salmon, we are unable to determine whether an optimal escapement goal of 30,000 would maintain the health of this stock and must defer a recommendation.

End

Mike Adams
F/V Redpack
PO Box 961 Cordova, AK 99574
(907) 424-5160

October 31, 2011

Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RECEIVED
NOV 07 2011
BOARDS

Attn: BOF Comments

To All Concerned,

I have been an Area E drift fisherman since 1991 and rely on the Copper River area fishery to sustain me and my family who reside 12 months of the year in Cordova. The income I make gillnetting in the spring will be adversely affected if the inside closures continue to be managed like this year. There are no reasons why we have to so drastically change our management system and allow only the 'outside' areas of the Copper River drainage to be commercially fished. In order to continue to pay bank and state loans I need area time allowed and a strong price. It is very important that we get to fish the Copper River in the spring starting May 15 for 2 12-24 hour periods a week. This is not only important for the fleet but also for the City of Cordova, a major fish processing community in the State of Alaska.

It's simple "give an inch take a foot" the allocation numbers are best left alone as the ex-vessel value numbers don't lie. My point; open the Copper River in May – all of it – for 24 hour periods unless catch numbers exceed management margins. And leave the allocation of salmon in Area E in its present form.

Thank you,


Mike Adams

Alaska Department of Fish & Game,
Boards Support Section

RECEIVED
NOV 07 2011
BOARDS

To Karl Johnstone, Chair & BOF members,

First of all thank you for the opportunity to present my views and thank you for reading my comments. I have been a commercial fisherman, based out of Cordova since 1976 and have owned a home there since 1980. I have participated in the PWS commercial ground fish, herring, and salmon fisheries. I currently have PWS drift and herring permits.

Copper River Proposals:

I OPPOSE BOF PROPOSALS #'s, 72, 73, 74, 75 and 117:

For over 100 years sockeye and king salmon have been a traditional part of the Copper River commercial harvest and are already a fully utilized and fully allocated resource. ADF&G's (the department) September memorandum states there are no stocks of concern and did not reference the need to adjust the current ~~King salmon SEG of 24K or more.~~ Data also shows that the department has successfully exceeded the traditional SEG of 300K to 500K for Upper Copper River sockeye salmon. This recent memorandum calls for increasing the UCR sockeye salmon SEG to a range of 360K to 750K. All user groups should share in this escapement accountability. During the '06 season, the department implemented the mandatory inside closures as part of the Copper River King salmon management plan (as revised at the '05 Valdez BOF mtg.), and has the authority to close commercial fishing by emergency order as necessary.

Personal Use is the second largest user group, if the department limits commercial fishing time, there should be corresponding limits on personal use fishing harvest. Until upriver fishing data is submitted in a timely manner to keep management strategies current, further restricting the drift gillnet user group is not a valid solution or justification.

I OPPOSE BOF PROPSAL # 118: The department already has all the tools needed to achieve the SEG on Copper River Chinook stocks. If needed, the department has the full authority to create additional inside closures, if there is a need for conservation.

I OPPOSE BOF PROPOSALS #'s, 51 and 55: A “subsistence way of life” means a way of life that is based on consistent, long-term reliance upon the fish and game resources for the basic necessities of life. I support this definition due to the fact it brings the BOF into compliance with the State of Alaska’s guidance by defining subsistence way of life, using an objective standard supported by law. I also support the validity of the DOS survey and C&T worksheet that already exists. This DOS survey was the most important information presented during the ‘03 BOF mtg. and subsequent 2010 BOF mtg. I also support the information contained within this survey, as it remains the newest most accurate data in this debate. The classification of fish stock does not violate Alaska’s equal protection clause. The fish stock in the Chitina Subdistrict has been classified as “Personal Use”, which is a correct classification and there is no justification for change. A question to consider is whether the Chitina fish stock

is taken for subsistence purposes? I refer you to the DOS survey, which states on page 21, “subsistence fishing in the Glennallen Subdistrict is integrated into the round of economic activities in the Copper River Basin, in contrast to the predominant pattern in the Chitina Subdistrict, where fishing is more likely to be a break from work activities (see Wolfe and Ellanna 1983:256)”. The Chitina PU fishery is definitely a recreational type fishery, which does not reflect the cultural, social, spiritual, and nutritional values embodied in subsistence laws. The fish stocks below the bridge, are not and never have been a “true” subsistence fish stock. If the Chitina PU fishery is re-classified, then this fishery will no longer share the conservation burden with sport and commercial fisheries. This “new” subsistence fishery will also occur before the well-established Glennallen subsistence fishery, therefore giving the Chitina users priority, due to their location on the Upper Copper River. In my view, there is not enough fish resource in the State of Alaska for every PU fishery to have its fish stock classified as “used for subsistence purposes”. When we quit using biology for the management of our fish resource and start managing for political access to this resource, we will then be on a road to the end of sustainability of our fishery resource. The only State in the Union that has sustainable fisheries is Alaska. Our job and duty is to ensure the State of Alaska continues to have “sustainable” fisheries in the near future.

I OPPOSE BOF PROPOSAL # 116:

The Copper River commercial fleet is required to report any salmon harvested, and when they are not sold commercially, are declared on the fish ticket, as “not sold/personal use”. The commercial fleet has the right to either sell their harvested fish or not; they have always fed their families and their communities from their catch.

PWS Fishing Districts and Allocation Proposals:

I OPPOSE BOF PROPSAL # 88:

The department already has full authority to restrict areas within the Coghill district, if there is a conservation issue. The department can and has, in the past, re-drawn lines within the Coghill district, in times of low escapement into Port Wells.

I OPPOSE BOF PROPOSALS #'s, 89 and 92:

Both of these proposals (specifically 92) would allow harvest of uncontrolled numbers of wild salmon in migration corridors far from their natal streams. The South West district, in particular, is a **major** migratory corridor into PWS. The original PWS management and salmon enhancement allocation plan specifically stated (1991), that the SW district will be closed to salmon fishing before July 18th of each year. On or after, July 18th, based on the strength of pink salmon stocks, purse seine fishing periods may be opened by emergency order. This was done for two reasons: Guarantee that the early run timing fish stocks would be harvested by the drift and set gillnet fleet and ensure that all PWS salmon index streams, would achieve their

optimum escapement levels. If approved, these proposals will provide more access by the seine fleet, on early run timing stocks, which will in turn further the gap in ex-vessel values, and cause the drift fleet to drop even lower on the 50-50% split.

I OPPOSE BOF PROPOSALS #'s, 96 and 100:

There is ample opportunity for all non-commercial user groups to harvest PWS salmon stocks, within the Eshamy district. There is no need for additional restrictions to the commercial fleet.

I OPPOSE BOF PROPOSAL # 103:

Further restrictions of the set gillnet fleet are not warranted or justified at this time.

I OPPOSE BOF PROPOSALS #'s 101, 104, 105, 106, and 110:

From 1990-2008 the PWS Purse Seine fleet ex-vessel value of PWSAC enhanced salmon was over \$33 million. During the same time period the PWS Gillnet fleet (includes both drift & set) harvested value was a little over \$21 million. Even though all three commercial salmon gear groups pay 2% of their gross revenues to PWSAC, the seine fleet is getting way more than their fair share. The price of pink salmon (close to 50 cents per lb in 2001) has risen dramatically in the last eight years and the value of the seine harvest has risen with it. Five years ago, the drift and seine were both close to the 50-50% split, though during the last three years the drift fleet is falling way behind. The department's "News Release" dated 10/13/11, shows the drift fleet at 39.1% and the seine fleet at 60.9%. This basically shows

that the revision to the PWS "allocation plan", approved at the Valdez '05 BOF mtg. and by all PWS salmon groups, appears to be working very well, for the PWS seine fleet. The PWS seine fleet has done a complete turnaround, from their low in 2002. Their fishery is now vibrant, with many latent permits being brought back into the fishery. The PWS seine fleet suffered setbacks during the '90's with low prices and small runs, though enhanced fish, still provided them with a decent gross revenues. On the other hand, the PWS drift fleet has seen their share of enhanced fish dropping, from 52.4% in 2007 to 39.1% today. This begs the question, why the authors of these many "allocation" proposals feel they are justified in requesting access to more of the "enhanced" stocks in PWS? In my view, it defies all speculation. If any of these allocation proposals are approved by the BOF at their December mtg., the PWS drift fleet will lose even more of their share of enhanced fish, and will further the disparity of the 50% split between the drift and seine fleets.

I OPPOSE BOF PROPOSALS #'s, 107, 109, and 112:

Even though I understand the frustration, that the author of these proposals, is experiencing, I do not believe this is the way to ~~rectify the ex vessel value percentage disparity between the drift and seine gear groups.~~

I OPPOSE BOF PROPOSALS #'s, 114 and 115:

There is no data to support the justification of either of these proposals.

I SUPPORT BOF PROPOSAL # 79:

If drift fleet continues to have access to the Port Chalmers, then illegal gear will continue to be used at Eshamy and Esther.

I SUPPORT BOF PROPOSAL # 102:

The set gillnet fleet is being unfairly restricted.

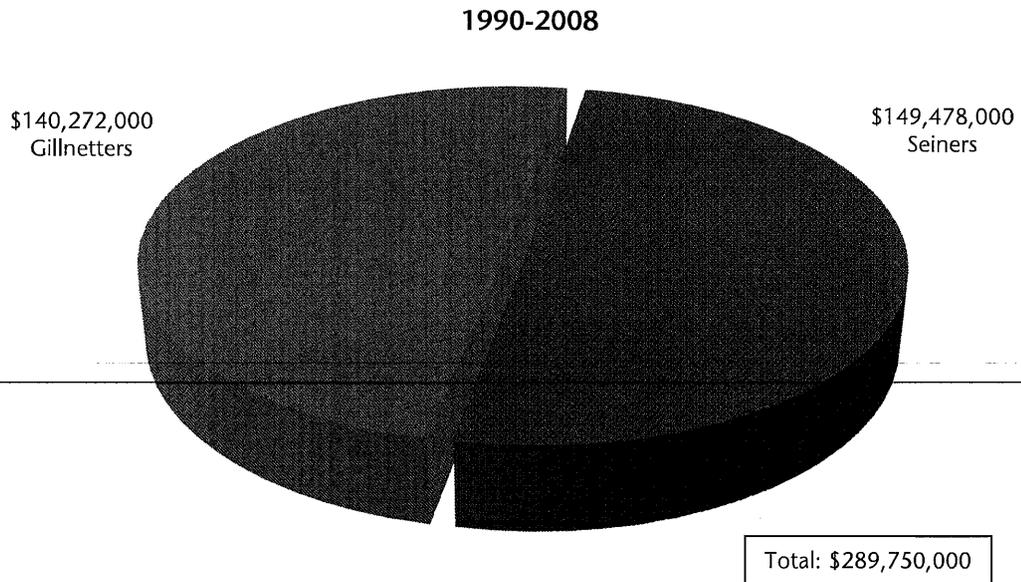
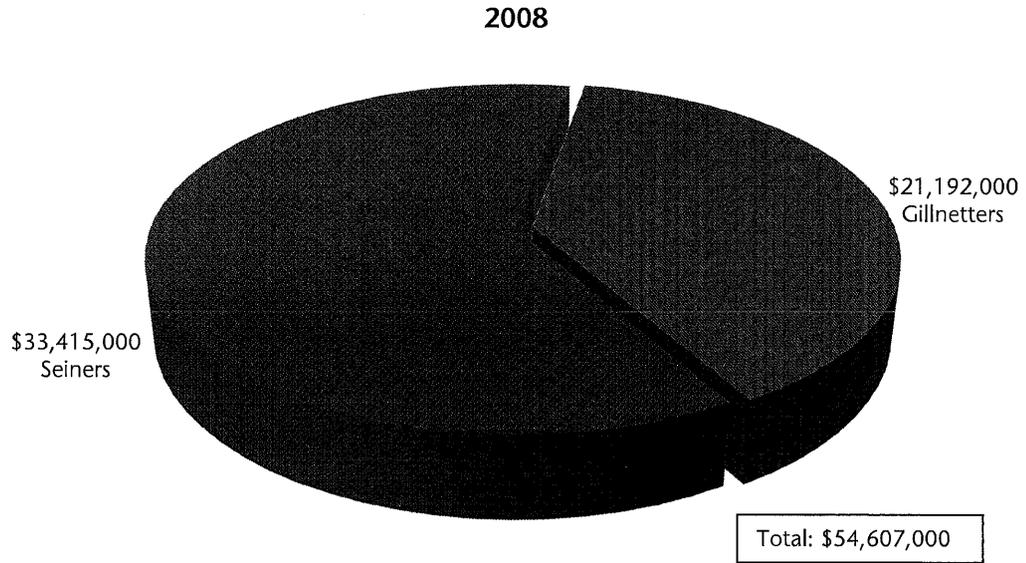
I SUPPORT BOF PROPOSAL #,s 108 & 111:

I support the theory and themes of these two proposals. It is a true fact, that over the last three seasons, the drift fleet has fallen 20% behind the seine fleet in ex-vessel harvested value. During the same time period, the seine fleet has been frustrated in losing access to the Port Chalmers fishery, which was established to help to diverse their dependence on pink salmon. A solution is to drop the "piggy bank" concept, and give exclusive access to Port Chalmers by the seine fleet, and exclusive access of the Coghill district (including both sub districts) by the drift fleet. In addition, keep in the July 21st seine access (to Coghill) date. Next step is being more aggressive in using proportional adjustments in hatchery cost recovery to bring the 50-50% split more in line.

Remember, we cannot allow this exclusive access, without ensuring the drift fleet will not fall further behind on the 50-50% split of PWSAC enhanced fish. Only drawback is that PWSAC is hesitant to depend solely on pink salmon cost recovery to make up the disparity, though using their contingency "emergency reserve" fund, in the event of a run failure, would help ease their fears.

James Mykland, PO Box 1241, 121 W Davis St
Cordova, AK 99574

Figure 3.3
Ex-Vessel Value of PWSAC Salmon
by Gear, 1990-2008 Total



Source: ADF&G and McDowell Group estimates. This data excludes fish used for cost recovery.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

McKie Campbell, Commissioner
Denby S. Lloyd, Director



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401 Railroad Avenue, PO Box 669
Cordova, AK 99574-0669
Date Issued: September 28, 2007
Time: 2:00 pm

Prince William Sound Salmon Allocation Plan, (5 AAC 24.370) News Release

The department calculated the exvessel value percentages for each gear group using the Commercial Operators Annual Report (COAR) area specific prices and weights (Table 1). The 2002-2006 five-year average value percentages for each gear type are **52.4%** drift gillnet, **47.6%** purse seine, and **6.0%** set gillnet (Table 2). **As a result, the drift gillnet gear group will have exclusive access to the Esther Subdistrict until July 21 in 2008 and the set gillnet gear group will be limited to no more than 36 hours per week beginning July 10.**

In December 2005, the Board of Fisheries modified the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation plan 5AAC 24.370. The modifications eliminate wild stocks and Valdez Fisheries Development Association enhanced fish from the plan and allocate only Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) enhanced fish. Additionally, a five-year average exvessel value is now used rather than annual value percentages. The set gillnet gear group allocation is now 4% of the five-year average value of PWSAC enhanced salmon stocks. If the set gillnet gear group exceeds 5% of the of the five-year average value of PWSAC enhanced stocks, they will be limited to no more than 36 hours of fishing time per week beginning July 10 in the following year. The drift gillnet and purse gear groups are each to receive 50% of the remaining value of PWSAC enhanced salmon stocks (excluding the set gillnet harvest). The trigger point that allows access to specific areas for corrections in allocation was changed from 40% to 45% making the plan more responsive to allocation shortfalls. Exvessel values are calculated using prices from the COAR, and ADF&G harvest estimates of PWSAC enhanced fish by species and gear type.

Table 1. The 2006 COAR prices by gear type, species, and area.

2006	Drift gillnet	Drift gillnet	Purse seine	Set gillnet
Species	Copper/Bering	Prince William Sound	Prince William Sound	Prince William Sound
Chinook	\$5.07	\$1.11	\$1.35	\$3.16
Chum	\$0.21	\$0.35	\$0.34	\$0.37
Coho	\$0.93	\$0.88	\$0.68	\$0.52
Pink	\$0.08	\$0.11	\$0.15	\$0.11
Sockeye	\$1.87	\$1.15	\$1.06	\$1.13

Table 2. Final calculation of values and percentages by gear type for Area E.

Year	Drift Gillnet		Purse Seine		Set Gillnet	
2002	\$8,838,690	65%	\$4,784,454	35%	\$1,171,600	8%
2003	\$7,751,522	47%	\$8,561,834	53%	\$1,073,780	6%
2004	\$4,000,848	71%	\$1,688,710	29%	\$417,428	7%
2005	\$3,966,720	35%	\$8,477,319	65%	\$425,065	3%
2006	\$7,014,718	55%	\$5,748,217	45%	\$781,037	6%
Total	\$31,961,988		\$29,004,240		\$3,868,915	
5-yr Average		52.4%		47.6%		6.0%

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

*Denby S. Lloyd, Commissioner
John R. Hilsinger, Director*



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Date Issued: September 3, 2008

Prince William Sound Salmon Allocation Plan (5 AAC 24.370) News Release

The department calculated the exvessel value percentages for each gear group using the Commercial Operators Annual Report (COAR) area specific prices and weights (Table 1). The 2003-2007 five-year average value percentages for each gear type are **42.9%** drift gillnet, **57.1%** purse seine, and **5.3%** set gillnet (Table 2). **As a result, the drift gillnet gear group will have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict from June 1 to July 30 in 2009 and the set gillnet gear group will be limited to no more than 36 hours per week beginning July 10.**

In December 2005, the Alaska Board of Fisheries modified the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation plan 5AAC 24.370. The modifications eliminate wild stocks and Valdez Fisheries Development Association enhanced fish from the plan and allocate only Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) enhanced fish. Additionally, a five-year average exvessel value is now used rather than annual value percentages. The set gillnet gear group allocation is now 4% of the five-year average value of PWSAC enhanced salmon stocks. If the set gillnet gear group exceeds 5% of the of the five-year average value of PWSAC enhanced stocks, they will be limited to no more than 36 hours of fishing time per week beginning July 10 in the following year. The drift gillnet and purse gear groups each receive 50% of the remaining value of PWSAC enhanced salmon stocks (excluding the set gillnet harvest). If the drift gillnet gear group harvest value is 45 percent or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the drift gillnet gear group shall have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 though July 30, during fishing periods established by emergency order. The trigger point that allows access to specific areas for corrections in allocation was changed from 40% to 45% making the plan more responsive to allocation shortfalls. Exvessel values are calculated using prices from the COAR, and ADF&G harvest estimates of PWSAC enhanced fish by species and gear type.

Table 1. The 2007 COAR price per pound by gear type, species, and area.

2007	Drift Gillnet		Purse Seine		Set Gillnet	
	Copper/Bering	Prince William Sound				
Chinook	\$4.62	\$1.36	\$0.78	\$2.88		
Chum	\$0.09	\$0.33	\$0.30	\$0.34		
Coho	\$0.95	\$0.87	\$0.60	\$0.27		
Pink	\$0.10	\$0.14	\$0.18	\$0.11		
Sockeye	\$1.88	\$1.06	\$0.85	\$1.03		

Table 2. Final calculation of values and percentages by gear type for Area E.

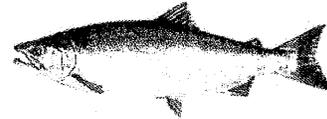
Year	Drift Gillnet		Purse Seine		Set Gillnet	
	Value	Percentage	Value	Percentage	Value	Percentage
2003	\$6,939,203	44%	\$8,719,618	56%	\$1,071,690	6%
2004	\$4,033,495	71%	\$1,646,086	29%	\$417,569	7%
2005	\$4,369,411	34%	\$8,312,855	66%	\$426,091	3%
2006	\$7,010,574	55%	\$5,851,983	45%	\$781,184	6%
2007	\$8,365,677	34%	\$16,394,816	66%	\$1,287,859	5%
Total	\$30,718,359		\$40,925,358		\$3,984,393	
5-yr Average		42.9%		57.1%		5.3%

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

Denby S. Lloyd, Commissioner
John R. Hilsinger, Director



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Date Issued: October 16, 2009
Time: 3:00 pm

Prince William Sound Salmon Allocation Plan (5 AAC 24.370) News Release

The department calculated the exvessel value percentages for each gear group using the Commercial Operators Annual Report (COAR) area specific prices and weights and ADF&G harvest estimates of PWSAC enhanced fish by species and gear type (Table 1). The trigger points for corrections in allocation are 45% for purse seine and drift gillnet gear groups and 5% for the set gillnet gear group. The 2004-2008 five-year average value percentages for each gear type are **37.9%** drift gillnet, **62.1%** purse seine, and **3.7%** set gillnet (Table 2). **As a result, the drift gillnet gear group will have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict from June 1 to July 30 in 2010 and the set gillnet gear group will not be limited to 36 hours per week beginning July 10, 2010.**

In December 2005, the Alaska Board of Fisheries modified the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation plan 5AAC 24.370. The modifications eliminate wild stocks and Valdez Fisheries Development Association enhanced fish from the plan and allocate only Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) enhanced fish. Additionally, a five-year average exvessel value is now used rather than annual value percentages. The set gillnet gear group allocation is now 4% of the five-year average value of PWSAC enhanced salmon stocks. The drift gillnet and purse seine gear groups each receive 50% of the remaining value of PWSAC enhanced salmon stocks. If the set gillnet gear group exceeds 5% of the of the five-year average value of PWSAC enhanced stocks, they will be limited to no more than 36 hours of fishing time per week beginning July 10 in the year following this calculation. If the drift gillnet gear group harvest value is 45% or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the drift gillnet gear group shall have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 though July 30, during fishing periods established by emergency order. If the purse seine gear group harvest value is 45% or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the purse seine gear group shall have exclusive access to the Esther Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 though July 20, during fishing periods established by emergency order.

Table 1. The 2008 COAR price per pound by gear type, species, and area.

2008	Drift Gillnet		Purse Seine		Set Gillnet	
	Copper/Bering	Prince William Sound				
Chinook	\$6.07	\$1.29	\$1.02	\$1.48		
Chum	\$0.20	\$0.58	\$0.56	\$0.55		
Coho	\$1.30	\$1.22	\$0.94	\$0.95		
Pink	\$0.31	\$0.33	\$0.36	\$0.24		
Sockeye	\$3.15	\$1.26	\$1.21	\$1.21		

Table 2. Final calculation of values and percentages by gear type for Area E.

Year	Drift Gillnet		Purse Seine		Set Gillnet	
	Value	Percentage	Value	Percentage	Value	Percentage
2004	\$4,033,495	71%	\$1,646,086	29%	\$417,569	7%
2005	\$4,369,411	34%	\$8,312,855	66%	\$426,091	3%
2006	\$7,010,574	55%	\$5,851,983	45%	\$781,184	6%
2007	\$8,365,677	34%	\$16,394,816	66%	\$1,287,859	5%
2008	\$18,059,466	33%	\$36,411,663	67%	\$1,300,085	2%
Total	\$41,838,623	-	\$68,617,403	-	\$4,212,788	-
5-yr Average	-	37.9%	-	62.1%	-	3.7%

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

Denby S. Lloyd, Commissioner
John R. Hilsinger, Director



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Date Issued: September 09, 2010
Time: 11:00 am

Prince William Sound Salmon Allocation Plan (5 AAC 24.370) News Release

The department calculated the exvessel value percentages for each gear group using the Commercial Operators Annual Report (COAR) area specific prices and weights and ADF&G harvest estimates of PWSAC enhanced fish by species and gear type (Table 1). The trigger points for corrections in allocation are 45% for purse seine and drift gillnet gear groups and 5% for the set gillnet gear group. The 2005-2009 five-year average value percentages for each gear type are **41.0%** drift gillnet, **59.0%** purse seine, and **4.0%** set gillnet (Table 2). **As a result, the drift gillnet gear group will have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict from June 1 to July 30 in 2011 and the set gillnet gear group will not be limited to 36 hours per week beginning July 10, 2011.**

In December 2005, the Alaska Board of Fisheries modified the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation plan 5AAC 24.370. The modifications eliminate wild stocks and Valdez Fisheries Development Association enhanced fish from the plan and allocate only Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) enhanced fish. Additionally, a five-year average exvessel value is now used rather than annual value percentages. The set gillnet gear group allocation is now 4% of the five-year average value of PWSAC enhanced salmon stocks. The drift gillnet and purse seine gear groups each receive 50% of the remaining value of PWSAC enhanced salmon stocks. If the set gillnet gear group exceeds 5% of the of the five-year average value of PWSAC enhanced stocks, they will be limited to no more than 36 hours of fishing time per week beginning July 10 in the year following this calculation. If the drift gillnet gear group harvest value is 45% or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the drift gillnet gear group shall have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 though July 30, during fishing periods established by emergency order. If the purse seine gear group harvest value is 45% or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the purse seine gear group shall have exclusive access to the Esther Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 though July 20, during fishing periods established by emergency order.

Table 1. The 2009 COAR price per pound by gear type, species, and area.

2009 Species	Drift Gillnet		Purse Seine		Set Gillnet	
	Copper/Bering	Prince William Sound				
Chinook	\$5.63	\$1.31	\$1.62	\$2.04		
Chum	\$0.24	\$0.54	\$0.54	\$0.52		
Coho	\$1.32	\$1.14	\$0.68	\$0.07		
Pink	\$0.22	\$0.27	\$0.26	\$0.18		
Sockeye	\$2.35	\$1.39	\$1.37	\$1.50		

Table 2. Final calculation of values and percentages by gear type for Area E.

Year	Drift Gillnet		Purse Seine		Set Gillnet	
2005	\$4,369,411	34.5%	\$8,312,855	65.5%	\$426,091	3.3%
2006	\$7,010,574	54.5%	\$5,851,983	45.5%	\$781,184	5.7%
2007	\$8,365,677	33.8%	\$16,394,816	66.2%	\$1,287,859	4.9%
2008	\$18,059,466	33.2%	\$36,411,663	66.8%	\$1,300,085	2.3%
2009	\$15,553,269	61.5%	\$9,722,045	38.5%	\$1,578,785	5.9%
Total	\$53,293,197		\$76,771,754		\$5,374,004	
5-yr Average		41.0%		59.0%		4.0%

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**



NEWS RELEASE

*Cora J. Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff R. Regnart, Director*



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Cordeva, AK 99574-0669

Date Issued: Thursday, October 13, 2011

Time: 2:00 pm

Prince William Sound Salmon Allocation Plan (5 AAC 24.370) News Release

The department calculated the exvessel value percentages for each gear group using the Commercial Operators Annual Report (COAR) area specific prices and weights and ADF&G harvest estimates of PWSAC enhanced fish by species and gear type (Table 1). The trigger points for corrections in allocation are 45% for purse seine and drift gillnet gear groups and 5% for the set gillnet gear group. The 2006-2010 five-year average value percentages for each gear type are **39.1%** drift gillnet, **60.9%** purse seine, and **3.7%** set gillnet (Table 2). **As a result, the drift gillnet gear group will have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict from June 1 to July 30 in 2012 and the set gillnet gear group will not be limited to 36 hours per week beginning July 10, 2012.**

In December 2005, the Alaska Board of Fisheries modified the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation plan 5AAC 24.370. The modifications eliminate wild stocks and Valdez Fisheries Development Association enhanced fish from the plan and allocate only Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) enhanced fish. Additionally, a five-year average exvessel value is now used rather than annual value percentages. The set gillnet gear group allocation is now 4% of the five-year average value of PWSAC enhanced salmon stocks. The drift gillnet and purse seine gear groups each receive 50% of the remaining value of PWSAC enhanced salmon stocks. If the set gillnet gear group exceeds 5% of the of the five-year average value of PWSAC enhanced stocks, they will be limited to no more than 36 hours of fishing time per week beginning July 10 in the year following this calculation. If the drift gillnet gear group harvest value is 45% or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the drift gillnet gear group shall have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 though July 30, during fishing periods established by emergency order. If the purse seine gear group harvest value is 45% or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the purse seine gear group shall have exclusive access to the Esther Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 though July 20, during fishing periods established by emergency order.

Table 1. The 2010 COAR price per pound by gear type, species, and area.

2010	Drift Gillnet		Purse Seine	Set Gillnet
Species	Copper/ Bering	Prince William Sound	Prince William Sound	Prince William Sound
Chinook	\$5.54	\$4.81	\$1.94	\$3.10
Chum	\$0.37	\$0.81	\$0.79	\$0.80
Coho	\$1.31	\$0.55	\$0.72	\$0.44
Pink	\$0.34	\$0.35	\$0.39	\$0.27
Sockeye	\$2.61	\$1.76	\$1.86	\$1.72

Table 2. Final calculation of values and percentages by gear type for Area E.

Year	Drift Gillnet		Purse Seine		Set Gillnet	
2006	\$7,010,574	54.5%	\$5,851,983	45.5%	\$781,184	5.7%
2007	\$8,365,677	33.8%	\$16,394,816	66.2%	\$1,287,859	4.9%
2008	\$18,059,466	33.2%	\$36,411,663	66.8%	\$1,300,085	2.3%
2009	\$15,553,269	61.5%	\$9,722,045	38.5%	\$1,578,785	5.9%
2010	\$36,546,803	36.0%	\$64,975,204	64.0%	\$3,408,733	3.2%
Total	\$85,535,789		\$133,355,711		\$8,356,646	
5-yr Average	39.1%		60.9%		3.7%	

Alaska Department of Fish & Game,
Boards Support Section

To Karl Johnstone, Chair & BOF members,

First of all thank you for the opportunity to present my views and thank you for reading my comments. I have been a commercial fisherman, based out of Cordova since 1976 and have owned a home there since 1980. I have participated in the PWS commercial ground fish, herring, and salmon fisheries. I currently have PWS drift and herring permits.

I OPPOSE BOF PROPOSAL # 54: A “subsistence way of life” means a way of life that is based on consistent, long-term reliance upon the fish and game resources for the basic necessities of life. I support this definition due to the fact it brings the BOF into compliance with the State of Alaska’s guidance by defining subsistence way of life, using an objective standard supported by law. I also support the validity of the DOS survey and C&T worksheet that already exists. This DOS survey was the most important information presented during the ‘03 BOF mtg. and subsequent 2010 BOF mtg. I also support the information contained within this survey, as it remains the newest most accurate data in this debate. The classification of fish stock does not violate Alaska’s equal protection clause. The fish stock in the Chitina Subdistrict has been classified as “Personal Use”,

which is a correct classification and there is no justification for change. A question to consider is whether the Chitina fish stock is taken for subsistence purposes? I refer you to the DOS survey, which states on page 21, “subsistence fishing in the Glennallen Subdistrict is integrated into the round of economic activities in the Copper River Basin, in contrast to the predominant pattern in the Chitina Subdistrict, where fishing is more likely to be a break from work activities (see Wolfe and Ellanna 1983:256)”. The Chitina PU fishery is definitely a recreational type fishery, which does not reflect the cultural, social, spiritual, and nutritional values embodied in subsistence laws. The fish stocks below the bridge, are not and never have been a “true” subsistence fish stock. There is no factual “new evidence” to make a positive C&T finding for this fishery.

If the Chitina PU fishery is re-classified, then this fishery will no longer share the conservation burden with sport and commercial fisheries. This “new” subsistence fishery will also occur before the well-established Glennallen subsistence fishery, therefore giving the Chitina users priority, due to their location on the Upper Copper River. In my view, there is not enough fish resource in the State of Alaska for every PU fishery to have its fish stock classified as “used for subsistence purposes”. When we quit using biology for the management of our fish resource and start managing for political access to this resource, we will then be on a road to the end of sustainability of our fishery

resource. The only State in the Union that has sustainable fisheries is Alaska. Our job and duty is to ensure the State of Alaska continues to have “sustainable” fisheries in the near future.

James Mykland, PO Box 1241, 121 W Davis St
Cordova, AK 99574

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS

1 Nov 11

Boards Support Section

ADFG

P. O. Box 115526

Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

907-465-6094

Comments:

I fully support the following Proposals:

Proposal 66 submitted by the Copper Basin Advisory Board

Proposal 68 submitted by John and Yvette Delaquito

Proposal 69 submitted by Wayne Simmons

The reported and documented abuse of by catch of lake trout in this fishery is unacceptable. This has happened year after year with little no or minimal action taken by ADFG and State Troopers. This is not the wild Alaska that we once knew where you take all you want. ADFG continues to put restrictions on lake trout for the rod and reel fishermen, but let the gill netters go wild on an unprotected limited resource of lake trout.

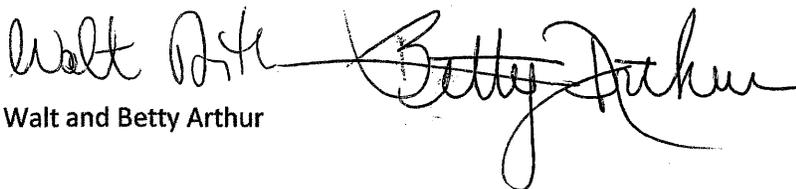
If this gillnet season for white fish continues, it should be:

After ice has formed on the lakes on entire lake system.

In designated areas away from lake trout spawning beds.

All fish other than white fish returned immediately to the water, dead or alive.

This would be a start on protecting the lake trout. We are concerned property owners who have been on the lake system since 1973 and have watched the lake trout resource be depleted due to abuse and mismanagement. Your help would be greatly appreciated.


Walt and Betty Arthur

ATTN: BOF Comments
Boards Support Section
ADFG
PO Box 115526
Juneau Ak 99811-5526

Nov 7 2011

From:
John Grocott
PO Box 59
Ilwaco Wa 98624
PO Box 2193
Cordova Ak 99574

Comments on Copper River Proposals

I am OPPOSED to Proposals 72,73,74,75, 117, ADF&G States no stocks of concern or the need to raise the King escapement goal. F&G is calling to increase the escapement goal upwards which should increase the king escapement anyway. These higher goals also need to be born by all users that would ultimately benefit (if it in fact does lead to larger runs)

I am OPPOSED to proposal 118 a mandatory closure is not needed and will hinder management. They already close the inside as needed. Escapement goals have been met.

Prince William Sound Proposals

Proposal 88 OPPOSED This area was already closed most of the season using current management tools. OPPOSE props 89,92,88 There is no justification to increase time and area for the seine fleet and will negatively impact the current allocation plan. SEE Next also

OPPOSE 101,104,105,106,108,110. These seek to increase Seine access with more time and area, The gillnetters are already falling behind in the allocation plan that was approved after the seine fleet argued they were not getting their share. Now they are ahead in catch and want more yet. As a seine permit holder I am appalled and embarrassed by the greed and selfishness these proposals represent. But instead of asking for more gillnet share I only ask you oppose these to not make the inequity even worse.

Thank you,



Lake Louise Lodge

HC01 Box 1716, Glennallen, Alaska 99588

(907) 822-3311

November 17, 2011

Mr. Karl Johnstone, Chair
Boards Support Section
Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Via Facsimile: (907) ~~456-5094~~

4185

Re: Prince William Sound, Upper Copper, Susitna Finfish

Proposal #68, Closure to all subsistence and sportfishing, year-round in the Lake Louise/Lake Susitna and Lake Susitna/Lake Tyone Channels

Dear Mr. Johnstone and Board Members:

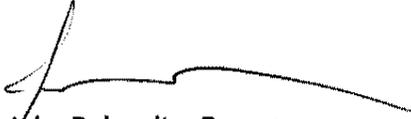
We are the authors of Proposal #68 and we wish to provide you with additional clarifying information on the proposal. We will be attending the meeting in Valdez along with additional supporting Alaskan residents.

At this time, we wish to make the following clarifying comments and recommendations:

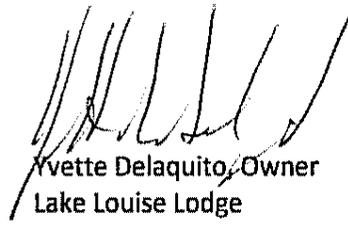
- 1) We wish to add the closure of Larsen Bay to the channel closures to protect spawning Lake Trout.
- 2) Several residents around Lake Louise and Lake Susitna have observed schooling of Lake Trout (prior to spawning) near the entrance of Susitna/Louise channel during the months of September through mid-October. I have enclosed affidavits from individuals who have observed these activities.
- 3) The opening of the subsistence season with regard to the completion of the lake trout spawning cycle per Mark Somerville with the Glennallen Fish & Game office indicated our lake is based on the cycles of fish spawning in Fielding Lake. We are concerned this data does not accurately reflect the completion of the spawning cycle of the lake trout in the tri-lake area here at Lake Louise due to the differences in elevation and water temperatures between Fielding Lake and Lake Louise area lakes. With the lack of data from our lake we take the position that this fishery is being depleted as the lake trout are unable to complete their spawning cycle. This is consistent with what has been observed over lake trout spawning beds, which is documented well into October. An opener for the subsistence fishery of November 15th annually would be of great benefit to this fishery.

We appreciate your consideration for changes to the current guidelines with regard to the subsistence fishery with the goal of preserving this fishery for future generations.

Sincerely,



John Delaquito, Owner
Lake Louise Lodge



Yvette Delaquito, Owner
Lake Louise Lodge

Enclosures

Lake Louise Lodge

HC01 Box 1716, Glennallen, Alaska 99588

(907) 822-3311

November 6, 2011

Mr. Karl Johnston, Chair
Boards Support Section
Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

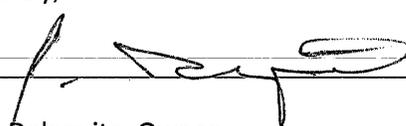
Re: Submissions for Prince William Sound, Upper Copper, Susitna Finfish
Supporting Petitions for Proposal, regarding closure of Lake Louise/Susitna Lake channel and the
Lake Susitna/Tyone Lake channel

Dear Mr. Johnstone and Board Members:

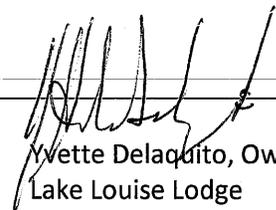
We are the authors of proposal #68, to close the above named channels in the Tyone River drainage system out of Lake Louise in the Copper River Basin. Since submitting the proposal on April 8, 2011, we have been gathering bonafide Alaska residents' supporting signatures, complete with mailing addresses and phone numbers to illustrate the widespread support for long term protection and enhancement measures to encourage the rebuilding of not only whitefish, but burbot and lake trout stocks in Lake Louise, Susitna Lake, and Tyone Lake system. At this time, we are submitting the original copies of the 295 signatories of knowledgeable residents of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Palmer, Wasilla, Glennallen, and Anchorage.

We will also be submitting additional technical comments in support of proposal #68.

Sincerely,



John Delaquito, Owner
Lake Louise Lodge



Yvette Delaquito, Owner
Lake Louise Lodge

Enclosures

I hereby support the attached proposal submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries by John & Yvette Delaquito on April 8, 2011.

Name	Address	Telephone #
Kelly Campbell	826 Overlook 99501	274-4207
Carl Thompson	720 W. St. #10 Anch. 99501	929 0388
Karl Moe	1810 Kodiak Anch 99501 907-	230-5235
GENE JOE	2629 KELSEY, AK Anch 99508 907	272 2135
Shane Ross	1816 E. 59TH HI Anch. 99507	214-4923
Karen Maurin	2450 Ingra St Anch AK 99508	244-5276
COLEEN LOYD	7155 W BULDERUN RD WASILLA 99684	891-8248
Ryan Nikell	HC 01 Box 2520 Glennallen, AK 99588	822-3727
Mel Matthews	P.O. Box 675 Glennallen AK 99588	822-4535
Jaime Matthews	P.O. Box 675 Glennallen, AK	822-4535
Ellen Lentz	5648 E Unalaska Dr. Wasilla, AK 99684	355-7843
BRENT CLARK	9220 GLENNHEAVEN DR AK	242-5157
Greg TRAVIS	P.O. Box 940263 HOUSTON AK 99514	892-4664
JAMES WALLACE	P.O. Box 940144 HOUSTON AK 99514	357-4568
Ray E. Lujan	1555 BIRCHWOOD ST. Anch. AK 99508	(907) 720-3811
ERIC KITTER	1649 W. Parks Hwy Wasilla AK	(907) 373-2424
Mischelle Kitter	551 Silver Fox Lane Wasilla, AK	(907) 373-2424
Tim Park	1649 Parks Hwy Wasilla AK	373-2424
Guy Samolholz	PO BOX 872255 Wasilla AK	232-0255
Alex Totmie	P.O. Box 10438 FBISAK	259-2826
James W. Weyen	Box 2497 Glennallen AK 99588	822-5912
Jeffery Johnson	PO Box 1703 GLENNALLEEN AK	360-1271
Bob Conroy	6951 Hyatt St Anch, AK 99507	440-7111
Dale Olson	HCI Box 2449 Glennallen AK 99588	440-2298
Diane Hillman	HCI Box 2449 Glennallen AK 99588	
KEI BLESER	P.O. BOX 77-1278 EAGLE RIVER AK	694-9184
Jim Rosin	PO Box 670490 CHUGIAK AK	244-4247
Rob Henneman	PO Box 672385 Chugiak AK	(907) 685-201
Shane Hertzig	PO Box 210435 Anchorage AK	99504

I hereby support the attached proposal submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries by John & Yvette Delaquito on April 8, 2011.

Name	Address	Telephone #
Brad Chesser	124 E 3 rd AVE # 211	222-1800
Steven L. Morris	PO Box 190342 Anch AK 99519	907-743-4868
Andrea Johnson	3304 CAMDEN LN Anch AK 99507	907-830-7070
Mindaugas Kuzmuskas	205 E. Dimond Blvd #151, Anchorage	907 907 2937808
CHARLES J. SEVCIK	1010 D KASLOF BLVD, ANCHORAGE	907 346-1124
JEL ADKINS	16302 Headlands Cir Anch. AK 99516	3323242
Sandy Dube	700 E Rail Road Ave #1 Wasilla, AK 99564	907-841-4157
Linda Alexander	3136 Tamworth Circle Anch. AK 99504	333-2950
MARK HOTCHKISS	14934C E OUTER SPRINGER PALMER	715-7107
Kirk Wilson	HC 01 Box 1960 Glenn	320-1016
Kristal Bengtson	PO Box 746 Glennallen AK 99588	320-0123
WATHANDEL BENGTSON	PO BOX 746 GLENNALL AK 99588	320-0181
Paul Crowther	5039 Vance Dr. Anchorage AK 99508	223-9826
Kevin Sweeney	PO Box 783 Palmer AK 99645	907 745-5903
Gregory J. J. J. J.	225 th Goldenwood ST WASILLA AK	907-396-7094
Paul J. J. J.	401 WASILLA ST. WASILLA AK	9073764084
Matt Wojnowski	19739 Eagle River Rd, Eagle River AK	907-694-3530
SHAWN M. HOLDRIDGE	8300 ROBERT DR ANCHORAGE AK 99516	907-344-1779
Kirk Decker	11845 S. Lewis Ip. Wasilla, AK 99654	907-357-5391
Eugene Decker	11845 S. Lewis Ip Wasilla AK 99654	907-357-5511
KRIG THOMETZ	731 WOODMAR PL. ANCH AK 99516	907 980-1006
DAN BAGERTON	731 WOODMAR PL. ANCH AK 99516	907-240-1239
DEAN DELORES	12800 AHEITON APO AK 99518	907-244-9291
Ben Lupton	HC 1 Box 1727 Glennallen AK 99588	907-320-0553
Marlanna Olson	2350 Meadow Lks dr Wasilla AK 99654	907-375-7212
PETE GERHARTZ	5475 E Aspen st wasilla	907 376 2934
PAUL GERHARTZ	14335 Teton Pl Anch AK 99516	907-345-4377
James Johnson	15149 Langban Dr. Anch. AK 99516	907-345-0168
MITE MEREDITH	35743 DAWA DR SOLDOTNA AK	907-260-5746
Harry V. Holt	1940 N. Finger Cove Dr, Palmer, AK 99645	907-745-5577

I hereby support the attached proposal submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries by John & Yvette Delaquito on April 8, 2011.

MA

Name Address Telephone #

Name	Address	Telephone #
Don't my	3004 W 29 th Ave Anch AK 99517	440-4658
Edward G. Bragg	801 Highview Dr Anch, AK 99515	345-4733
Helen Hunt	HC-D1 B. 1730-B Glennallen, AK	830-2958
Jason McFaren	HC 01 Box 1693 Glennallen AK	822-3988
Ronald J. Watson	HC 01 Box 1689 GLENNALLEN AK.	822-3311
MIKE FASSLER	POB 770937 E.R. AK 99577	227-9235
Cowin Matthews	HC1 Box 1684B Glennallen, AK 99588	250-2098
GARY HOWARD	HC1 Box 1736 GLENNALLEN AK 99588	250-6826
Beverly Matthews	HC01 Box 1684 B glennallen, AK	240-2098
Jody French	P.O. Box 875788 Wasilla, AK 99687	232-3306
GARY BAUMLER	9627 EAGLE RIVER LANE EAGLE RIVER AK 99577	696-2803
Bruce Deeringes	P.O. Box 772833 Eagle River 99577	696-2824
Wayne CHRISTIANSON	HC1 Box 1737 B Glennallen AK 99588	223-0969
Sharon Clark	240 Fireweed Anchorage, AK 99508	301-8178
Michael T Kump	P.O. Box 627 Sterling AK 99672	398-1894
ERROL AND DREW	44944 Carver Dr Kenai AK 99611	953-0414
SHARVE HRUBES	4511 CASSIN DR ANCH AK 99507	907-351-8238
Corey Grubbs	10127 Geneva S E.R. 99504	907-292944
Brian Wallon	5611 Whiggery Spruce Dr Anchorage AK	9956 522-4631
JOSEPH POLOWY SR	1196 WEATHER VANE CIR PALMER AK	907-746-4533
Philip Cole	189 E. Nelson PMB 139, Wasilla, AK 99654	907-357-9352
Autumn D Cole	189 E Nelson PMB 139, Wasilla AK 99654	(907) 841-2233
LINDA COLE	P.O. Box 872961 Wasilla, AK 99654	(907) 576-5766
RONALD COLE	" " " " " "	(907) 841-3180
Reynaldo Perez	3103 S. 1st St 6002 Citty sock Rd. 99802	(907) 982-9444
Thomas Joseph Garcia	92116 Mist Glenn Cir Anch 99577	(20) 559-3897
Michael C Fezatte	1140 W 79 Ave, Anchorage, AK 99518	344-9924
Anna Fezatte	1140 W 79 Ave, Anchorage, AK 99518	344-9924
Jason Hammis	19139 N. Parkview Terrace Lp Eagle River AK 99577	244-4520
Mandy Harte	18139 N. Parkview Terrace Lp Eagle River, AK 99577	
Oliver Newman	P.O. BOX 772 Glennallen, AK 99588	907-320-0267

I hereby support the attached proposal submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries by John & Yvette Delaquito on April 8, 2011.

Name	Address	Telephone #
KURT MARSHALL	1051 Northstetson Dr Anchorage	
(Nashe Stemmler)	5120 Currier, Anchorage, AK 99516	907-770-2575
Patrick Hawkins	2609 Lauren Creek Loop Anchorage AK 99507	907-748-1116
Daniel McQueen	5116 Lionheart Dr Anchorage, AK	907-353-5671
Mike Shea	3830 Birchview Dr Wasilla AK	373-0645
John DePriest	PO Box 2065 Palmer AK 99645	373-2302
Stacey DePriest	PO Box 2065 Palmer AK 99645	373-2302
Stephen Srebernak	950 Lochness Ct Wasilla	373-3365
Connie Srebernak	950 Loch Ness Ct Wasilla, 99654	373-3365
TOM D. ALEXANDER	3136 TAMWORTH CIR. ANCHORAGE AK 99504	333 2950
BRAD Ruhl	6943 Apollo Dr. Anch AK 99504	338-8482
Ryan Andrew	3501 Creekside Dr. Anchorage, AK 99504	338-3501
Bruce Ruhl	6414 Hampton Dr Anch AK 99804	338-5738
Lee Cloud	PO Box 110742 Anch, AK 99511	747-1636
James Cloud	P.O. Box 110742 Anchorage, AK 99511	395-9730
Diane Smith	7821 Whitefish Anch AK 99515	344-0023
John W Hill	14000 E Soapstone Rd, Palmer 99645	746-7862
Karen H Hill	14000 E. Soapstone Rd, Palmer, 99647	746-7862
Martin Hood	14000 E Soapstone Rd, Palmer 99645	746-7862
STEPHANIE A. LITTLETON	POB 125 GLENNALLEN, AK 99588	907 320 0237
Ancky Anger	1075 Red Ridge Rd Fairbanks	907 456-6091
D. Clyde Collette	9938 W. Dusk Lake Loop Wasilla	907 373-8085
Nancy Marty	PO Box 1357 Palmer AK 99645	746-3825
James Davis	PO Box 1357 Palmer, AK 99645	746-3825
John E. Morris HC-1	PO Box 1717 Glennallen AK 99588	907-301-3169
Don Keuler	PO Box 1720 B Glennallen 99588	373 8568
Dennis Eastman	HC1 Box 2429 Glennallen 99588	822-4201
Scott Hinson	PO Box 710723 Eagle River, AK 99577	696-3922
JAMES D. HALL	P.O. BOX 2404 Palmer AK 99645	745-2913
Eric Peterson	10220 Chain of Rock St Eagle River AK 99577	694-6437
TERRY CANNIFF	PO BOX 2275 PALMER AK 99645	745-2970

I hereby support the attached proposal submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries by John & Yvette Delaquito on April 8, 2011.

Name	Address	Telephone #
Bill Rice	HC-1 Box 1728 Glennallen AK	232-0780
HOWARD W. JAIDINGER	HC 1, BOX 1730 GLENNALLEN, AK	223-9370
Linda M. Allen	HC1, BOX 1730 Glennallen, AK	223-6291
DAN THOMAS	HC1 BOX 1718B Glennallen	590-4563
KIMMETH J. IRWIN	HC 1 BOX 1738 GLENNALLEN	320-8010
Doug Lappin	P.O. Box 872061 Wasilla AK.	360-8659
Barbara A Kelly	1004 W. 72 nd AVE ANCH AK	242-9024
Sam S. Hermon	HC1 Box 1714 Glennallen AK 99588	232-0620
Don Dickerson	Box 988, Valdez, AK 99686	835-4403
Lynn Dickerson	Box 988, Valdez, AK 99686	835-4403
Don Guthrie	P.O. Box 672525 Chugiak, AK 99567	903-6311
Tim Flynn	HC01 Box 1702 GLENNALLEY 4	99588 3554999
Naomi Margard	HC01 Box 1750 Glennallen AK	841 2783
Linda FAIRBANKS	HC 1 Box 1735 Glennallen, AK	351-2034
Naomi Fairbanks	HC 1 Box 1735 Glennallen, AK	351-2034
NICK Brest	13000 Badger Lane Anch AK	748-3816
Jim Ehnann	10464 East winterwood circle	745-7605
Johene NOKELBY	18841 Ervin Rd Anchorage AK 99516	345 0358
MIKE ANDERSEN	24149 PLATSEK DR. ANCH AK 99567	688 9418
Steve NOKELBY	13841 ERVIN RD ANCH AK 99516	240-8365
Garret Deschamps	9350 Autumn Ridge Anch AK 99507	348-8969
Jim JACKSON	PO Box 92301 Anch AK 99509	694-5890
ROBERT NEUMANN	1433 W. 13 th ANCH AK 99501	227-2180
Lyle Wilson	HC01 BOX 1960 Glennallen AK 99588	320-1164
Linda Jackson	PO Box 516 Glennallen AK 99588	259-4355
Glenn S. Miley	9810 N. RUNYON CIR. PALMER, AK 99645	320-1334
Jayne M. Miles	9818 N. Runyon Cir Palmer AK 99645	320-1334
JASON DEAMS	P.O. BOX 876625 WASHILLA AK	84-7608
Tom Davis	9451 Kylie Circle Anch AK 99507	248-7046
KENDALL SMITH	9821 WHITEFISH CIR ANCH AK 99505	344-0023
Linda Davis	9451 Kylie Circle Anch. AK 99507	248-7046

I hereby support the attached proposal submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries by John & Yvette Delaquito on April 8, 2011.

Name	Address	Telephone #
Ronald E Johnson	HC 38 Box 2443 Wasilla, AK 99654	232-3369
Royce Buel	7362 W Perks Hwy #658	242-3553
MARK L KRAMER	PO Box 20483 Big Lake AK 99652	232-4983
Marshall Carr	POB 877982 Wasilla AK 99657	237-3950
JIMMY GRIFFITH	6481 W BEVERLY LAKE - WASILLA, AK 99654	357-8096
Stanley James	13910 W JOYBA RD WASILLA AK 99654	841-1848
Rose Sdee Walker	POB 52045 BIG LAKE AK 99652	841-1848
Charles Merrill	P.O. Box 873 Willow AK 99688	495-4933
Laurie L Ketter	P.O. Box 940383 Houston AK 99694	892-8678
RUSSELL S. HARMON	PO BOX 298172 WASILLA, AK 99629	892-0938
Joseph Muellenbach	5541 Birch Harbor Dr Wasilla 99633	373-7889
GEORGE JENKINS	9945 W. HOLLYWOOD RD. WASILLA AK 99654	357-4052
CAROLYN R MAHONEY	2149 Ray St, Houston AK 99694	892-7119
David C. Stanbury	2401 N Lewis Wasilla AK 99654	376-6252
Rex HUNTER	P.O. Box 873472 WASILLA AK 99687	376-7427
Elizabeth Fife	P.O. Box 870557 wasilla 99687	315-5951
PETE HAMMOND	PO BOX 1876 PALMER 99645	355-6847
Will Marlett	4721 S Treasure Cove Dr Wasilla 99654	373-1252
Don Pottel	POB 298182 WASILLA AK	373-1478
Mike G McGinty	POB 874455 WASILLA AK	373-5102
Arli Pinsky	POB 8712863 Wasilla, AK 99687	892-6747
Henry	13068 Delroy Wasilla ALASKA 99654	892-4488
Mike Turkul	P.O. 298594 Wasilla AK 99629	775-3435
Cheryl Wright	P.O. Box 823114, Wasilla, AK 99687	373-1146
Carole Alcock	HC 38 PO Box 2699 Wasilla AK 99654	892-0400
Mike Hankin	PO Box 520722 Big Lake AK 99652	907-775-4505
Mike Schnader	PO Box 500722 Big Lake AK 99652	907-775-6367
Royce Buel	P.O. Box 298667, Wasilla, AK 99629	87 715-6350
Mike Edwards	9470 Grass Cir wasilla AK 99654	907-775-1485
Steve Carr	1486 W Crazy Pearsons Wasilla	376-2647
Jinda Wallace	PO. Box 940145 Houston, AK	3574568

I hereby support the attached proposal submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries by John & Yvette Delaquito on April 8, 2011.

Name	Address	Telephone #
John & Yvette Delaquito	3065 Arctic Fox Circle Wasilla AK	907-376-0759
Carole & Brian	P.O. Box 873181 Wasilla (907) 376-2079	
Micole Cook	HC 89 Pox 8519 Talkeetna	733-4756
Quint Hull	3940 Tambert Dr. Wasilla	373-1964
David Perala	3400 Tamarak Ave W	376-1451
Denise Perala	3400 Tamarak Ave Wasilla AK	376-1451
TED ANDERSON	P.O. Box 875763 WASILLA AK	354-2255
Mindy Losmer	732 SW Islandika Dr Wasilla AK	715-1114
Don Crandall JR.	7325 W Islandika Wasilla	715-7049
Robert A Ross	12280 W. MERLIN HOUSTON	892-2065
Dana Kush	655045 E Porcupine Ln	376-6958
Mike Huset	" " "	" "
Terry Tomaszewsky	1060 Van St • Wasilla, AK • 99654	982-0152(907)
John Hone	2861 MT CREST DR WASILLA AK 99654	907 755-0455
Jeffrey M LAUB	Hc 31 5215 FE	376-1617
Tony Nelson	P.O. Box 3023 Palmer	746-4933
Mike Benson	PO Box 870776 WASILLA	3542159
Phil Strick	P.O. Box 872004 WASILLA AK 99654	357-9305
Tony Salin	PO 520144 BIG LAKE AK	355-5376
Bernie Jess.	2461 N Hermitite Dr Wasilla	907 376 9823
Randy ayood	5030 E Aspen Wasilla	907-357-4710
Julie Ward	4010 S. Birch Cove Wasilla	357-1837
Randy S. Ward	4010 S. Birch Cove Wasilla	357-1837
William M. Weaver	15214 W Big Lake Lodge Rd. Big Lake	354-0070
SD Ford	851 Circle Side Dr WASILLA AK 99654	376 0172
Dore Lovell	" " "	" "
Isop A. Christie Finley	2531 E. Waramingo Dr. E. Wasilla AK 99654	907-376-7227
STEVEN KENISON	901 W Holiday Dr Wasilla AK 99654	907-357-9898
Karon Hovorksten	11000 Escotwood Dr Wasilla AK 99654	
Carlin Daly-Niemi	P.O. Box 874626 WASILLA AK 99687	3737222
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Amy H Sofia	7/14/11		315-4833
Holly Mitchell	7/14/11		982-3382
Jeff Kapelos	7/14/11	wasilla AK	715-4292

I hereby support the attached proposal submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries by John & Yvette Delaquito on April 8, 2011.

Name Address Telephone #

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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Alaska Region
240 West 5th Avenue, Room 114
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L30(AKRO-SUBS)

NOV 9 2011

Mr. Karl Johnstone, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries
ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Johnstone:

During your December 2011 meeting, you will be addressing proposed regulatory changes affecting the Prince William Sound and Upper Copper River/Upper Susitna River Management Areas. The National Park Service (NPS) is the land managing agency for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve located in the headwater area of the Copper River drainage. This conservation unit is partially within the State's Upper Copper River/Upper Susitna River Management Area.

We share with you the desire to implement a sound management strategy for the fishery resources of this management area. The enclosed comments address proposals 56, 73, 74, 75, 76, 117 and 136. These proposals, depending on action taken, could affect those living in the Park's 23 resident zone communities.

Conservation of the fishery resource is the primary objective of both State and Federal regulators and managers. We, therefore, offer the comments on these proposals in the spirit of cooperation with the State regulatory process. We believe through a cooperative State/Federal regulatory and management process that emphasizes fishery conservation that the fishery resources will be perpetuated for the use and enjoyment of all user groups for this and future generations.

Thank you for considering our comments. If you or your staff has questions, please contact Nancy Swanton, Subsistence Program Manager (644-3597) or Dave Nelson, Fishery Biologist (644-3529).

Sincerely,



Sue E. Masica
Regional Director

Enclosures (1)

cc:

Cora Campbell, Commissioner, ADF&G
Pat Pourchot, Special Assistant to the Secretary for Alaska
Tim Towarak, Chair, Federal Subsistence Board
Monica Wellard, Executive Director, Boards of Fish and Game
Jeff Regnart, Director, Commercial Fisheries Division, ADF&G
Charles Swanton, Director, Division of Sport Fish, ADF&G
Hazel Nelson, Director, Division of Subsistence, ADF&G
Debora Cooper, Associate Regional Director, NPS
Molly McCormick, Fishery Biologist, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
Rick Obernesser, Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
Nancy Swanton, Subsistence Program Manager, NPS
Dave Nelson, Fishery Biologist, NPS
Stephen Fried, Fisheries Division Chief for the Office of Subsistence Management

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS)
COMMENTS ON
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES PROPOSALS**

For The

**PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND and UPPER COPPER/UPPER SUSITNA
MANAGEMENT AREAS**

**State of Alaska
Board of Fisheries Meeting
December 2-7, 2011
Convention and Civic Center
Valdez, Alaska**



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Alaska Region
240 West 5th Avenue, Room 114
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

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The following comments address the aforementioned proposals as they affect National Park Service (NPS) fishery resources in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and Federally qualified subsistence users residing in this Park's resident zone communities. Resident zone communities are 23 communities and areas near or within this Park and Preserve that have customarily and traditionally engaged in subsistence uses within the National Park. These communities are: Chisana, Chistochina, Chitina, Copper Center, Dot Lake, Gakona, Gakona Junction, Glennallen, Gulkana, Healy Lake, Kenny Lake, Lower Tonsina, McCarthy, Mentasta Lake, Nabesna, Northway, Slana, Tazlina, Tanacross, Tetlin, Tok, Tonsina, and Yakutat.

Proposal 56 requests the **Copper River King Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 24.361)** be amended to reflect recent management actions to conserve king salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery. The amendment would incorporate into the Management Plan a seasonal limit of one king salmon as currently provided for in 5 AAC 77.59 and would allow managers to prohibit the retention of king salmon to achieve the escapement goal. If actions in the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery are not sufficient to achieve the escapement goal, the Department would be given additional justification (the authority currently exists in AS 16.05.020, 16.05.050, and 16.05.060) to restrict the retention of king salmon or modify methods and means to reduce the king salmon harvest in the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery.

Existing State Regulation

5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan. (a) *The department shall manage the Copper River commercial and sport fisheries to achieve a sustainable escapement goal of 24,000 or more for king salmon. For the purposes of managing these fisheries the department shall consider the best available information regarding harvest, age composition, and escapement, including escapement information obtained from mark-recapture studies, aerial surveys, or by other means.*

(b) In the commercial fishery, during the statistical weeks of 20 and 21, the commissioner may open no more than one fishing period per statistical week within the inside closure area of the Copper River District described in 5 AAC 24.350(1)(B)(c). In the sport fishery,

(1) in the upper Copper River drainage, the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is four fish;

(2) if the commissioner determines additional conservation measures are necessary to achieve the escapement goals, the commissioner may, by emergency order use the following management measures in the following priority order:

(A) reduce the annual limit for king salmon;

(B) modify other methods and means not specified in this paragraph;

(C) designate the fishery as a catch and release fishery only;

(D) close specific waters to sport fishing for king salmon

Existing Federal Regulation

§ __.27(e)(11) Prince William Sound Area

(x) The total annual harvest limit for subsistence salmon fishing permits in combination for the Glennallen Subdistrict and the Chitina Subdistrict is as follows:

(A) For a household with 1 person, 30 salmon, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel;

(B) For a household with 2 persons, 60 salmon, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel, plus 10 salmon for each additional person in a household over 2 persons, except that the household's limit for Chinook salmon taken by dip net or rod and reel does not increase;

(C) Upon request, permits for additional salmon will be issued for no more than a total of 200 salmon for a permit issued to a household with 1 person, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel, or no more than a total of 500 salmon for a permit issued to a household with 2 or more persons, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No.

Impact to NPS-qualified subsistence users/fisheries: None likely. Adoption of this proposal would likely have little impact on residents of resident zone communities and other Federally qualified subsistence users. Federally qualified subsistence users in the Chitina Subdistrict only harvest 7 to 33 king salmon annually. In comparison, the 2000 -

2009 average total annual harvest in the State personal use fishery has been 2,232 king salmon. State managers have taken inseason action in the last three years to prohibit the harvest of king salmon in this Subdistrict due to conservation concerns. Federal managers have not followed the actions of State managers due to the very low annual king salmon harvest in the Federal subsistence fishery. Given this small annual harvest, it is unlikely inseason restrictions to the annual king salmon harvest limit in the Chitina Subdistrict Federal subsistence fishery in future years would be needed.

Both a Federal and State subsistence fishery occur in the Glennallen Subdistrict. Fish wheels are the primary harvest method, but dip nets are also legal gear in both fisheries. The harvest by Federally qualified users has ranged from 300 – 705 king salmon annually. The average annual total harvest by State subsistence users from 2000 – 2009 is 3,109 king salmon. Conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife and continuation of subsistence fishing opportunities for rural Alaskans is the highest priority of ANILCA and the Federal management program. King salmon conservation in the Glennallen Subdistrict Federal subsistence fishery would become an issue for Federally qualified subsistence users only after all other user groups had been restricted. Should this occur, Federal managers could take restrictive actions to conserve king salmon in this Subdistricts' Federal subsistence fishery.

NPS position/recommended action: Support. Weak king salmon runs in recent years have required State managers to prohibit retention of king salmon in the State's Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery. Adoption of this proposal would clearly articulate actions the Department of Fish and Game may take in both the Chitina and Glennallen Subdistricts for resource conservation to provide for the spawning escapement.

Proposal 73 requests the annual limit for king salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District personal use fishery be increased to five per family and one for individuals.

Existing State Regulation: 5 AAC 77.591 Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan

(e) The annual limit for a personal use salmon fishing permit is 15 salmon for a household of one person and 30 salmon for a household of two or more persons, of which no more than one may be a king salmon. However, when the department determines that a weekly harvestable surplus of 50,000 or more salmon will be present in the Chitina Subdistrict, the commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, weekly periods during which the department shall issue a supplemental permit for 10 additional sockeye salmon to a permit applicant who has met the annual limit. King salmon may not be taken under the authority of a supplemental permit. A supplemental permit will be valid from Monday to the following Sunday of the week in which the surplus salmon are expected to

be present in the Chitina Subdistrict. The department may specify other conditions in a supplemental permit. The department may issue an additional supplemental permit to a permittee who has met the limits of a previously issued supplemental permit.

Existing Federal Regulation

§ __.27(e)(11) Prince William Sound Area

(x) *The total annual harvest limit for subsistence salmon fishing permits in combination for the Glennallen Subdistrict and the Chitina Subdistrict is as follows:*

- (A) *For a household with 1 person, 30 salmon, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel;*
- (B) *For a household with 2 persons, 60 salmon, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel, plus 10 salmon for each additional person in a household over 2 persons, except that the household's limit for Chinook salmon taken by dip net or rod and reel does not increase;*
- (C) *Upon request, permits for additional salmon will be issued for no more than a total of 200 salmon for a permit issued to a household with 1 person, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel, or no more than a total of 500 salmon for a permit issued to a household with 2 or more persons, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel.*

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No.

Impact to Federally qualified NPS resident zone subsistence users/fisheries: Yes. A Federal subsistence fishery occurs in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District and also in the adjacent upstream Glennallen Subdistrict. This proposal would increase the harvest of king salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery and would result in fewer king salmon being available to support the subsistence harvest of Federally qualified resident zone community member's in both the Chitina and Glennallen Subdistricts. An increased harvest in the State personal use fishery, especially given the poor runs in recent years, could result in harvest restrictions to the Federal subsistence fisheries in both Subdistricts and could increase the likelihood that too few king salmon would remain to achieve the sustainable escapement goal of not less than 24,000 as provided in 5 AAC.361.

NPS position/recommended action: Oppose. King salmon runs to the Copper River have been weak in recent years and this proposal would increase the allowable harvest in the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery. This would decrease the number of king salmon available to residents of resident zone communities and other Federally qualified users in the Chitina Subdistrict as well as both Federally qualified and State subsistence users in the Glennallen Subdistrict. Adoption of this proposal could also lead to restrictions in subsistence fishing opportunities if the increased harvest precluded achieving the escapement goal.

Proposal 74 requests that personal use fishers be allowed to retain king salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict 2-3 days per week at the discretion of the State fishery manager. Retention would be allowed as long as retention was permitted in the State commercial and sport fisheries.

Existing State Regulation: 5 AAC 77.591 Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan

(e) The annual limit for a personal use salmon fishing permit is 15 salmon for a household of one person and 30 salmon for a household of two or more persons, of which no more than one may be a king salmon. However, when the department determines that a weekly harvestable surplus of 50,000 or more salmon will be present in the Chitina Subdistrict, the commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, weekly periods during which the department shall issue a supplemental permit for 10 additional sockeye salmon to a permit applicant who has met the annual limit. King salmon may not be taken under the authority of a supplemental permit. A supplemental permit will be valid from Monday to the following Sunday of the week in which the surplus salmon are expected to be present in the Chitina Subdistrict. The department may specify other conditions in a supplemental permit. The department may issue an additional supplemental permit to a permittee who has met the limits of a previously issued supplemental permit.

Existing Federal Regulation

§ __.27(e)(11) Prince William Sound Area

(x) The total annual harvest limit for subsistence salmon fishing permits in combination for the Glennallen Subdistrict and the Chitina Subdistrict is as follows:

- (A) For a household with 1 person, 30 salmon, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel;*
- (B) For a household with 2 persons, 60 salmon, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod*

and reel, plus 10 salmon for each additional person in a household over 2 persons, except that the household's limit for Chinook salmon taken by dip net or rod and reel does not increase;

(C) Upon request, permits for additional salmon will be issued for no more than a total of 200 salmon for a permit issued to a household with 1 person, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel, or no more than a total of 500 salmon for a permit issued to a household with 2 or more persons, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No.

Impact to NPS-qualified subsistence users/fisheries: Yes. An increased harvest by any user group would alter the current allocation to benefit one user group at the expense of another and could also jeopardize achievement of escapement goals.

A Federal subsistence fishery occurs in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District and also in the adjacent upstream Glennallen Subdistrict. This proposal would increase the harvest of king salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery. There would then be fewer king salmon available to support the subsistence harvest of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park resident zone users and other Federally qualified subsistence users in both the Chitina and Glennallen Subdistricts. An increased harvest, especially given the poor runs in recent years, could also leave too few king salmon remaining to achieve the sustainable escapement goal of not less than 24,000 as provided in 5 AAC.361.

NPS position/recommended action: Oppose. King salmon runs to the Copper River have been weak in recent years and this proposal would increase the allowable harvest in the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery. This would decrease the number of king salmon available to residents of resident zone communities and other Federally qualified users in the Chitina Subdistrict as well as both Federally qualified and State subsistence users in the Glennallen Subdistrict. Adoption of this proposal could also lead to restrictions in subsistence fishing opportunities if the increased harvest precluded achieving the escapement goal.

Proposal 75 would increase the number of sockeye salmon that could be harvested by a permit holder in the Chitina personal use fishery if retention of king salmon was prohibited: The increase would be based on the number of persons in the household:

- 1 person household: 20 sockeye
- 2 person household: 35 sockeye

- 3 person household: 45 sockeye
- 4 person household: 60 sockeye
- 5 or more person household: 75 sockeye

Existing State Regulation: 5 AAC 77.591 Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan

(e) The annual limit for a personal use salmon fishing permit is 15 salmon for a household of one person and 30 salmon for a household of two or more persons, of which no more than one may be a king salmon. However, when the department determines that a weekly harvestable surplus of 50,000 or more salmon will be present in the Chitina Subdistrict, the commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, weekly periods during which the department shall issue a supplemental permit for 10 additional sockeye salmon to a permit applicant who has met the annual limit. King salmon may not be taken under the authority of a supplemental permit. A supplemental permit will be valid from Monday to the following Sunday of the week in which the surplus salmon are expected to be present in the Chitina Subdistrict. The department may specify other conditions in a supplemental permit. The department may issue an additional supplemental permit to a permittee who has met the limits of a previously issued supplemental permit.

Existing Federal Regulation

§ __.27(e)(11) Prince William Sound Area

(x) The total annual harvest limit for subsistence salmon fishing permits in combination for the Glennallen Subdistrict and the Chitina Subdistrict is as follows:

- (A) For a household with 1 person, 30 salmon, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel;*
- (B) For a household with 2 persons, 60 salmon, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel, plus 10 salmon for each additional person in a household over 2 persons, except that the household's limit for Chinook salmon taken by dip net or rod and reel does not increase;*
- (C) Upon request, permits for additional salmon will be issued for no more than a total of 200 salmon for a permit issued to a household with 1 person, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel, or no more than a total of 500 salmon for a permit issued to a household with 2 or more persons, of which no more than 5 may be Chinook salmon taken by dip net and no more than 5 Chinook taken by rod and reel.*

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No.

Impact to NPS-qualified subsistence users/fisheries: Yes. A significant increase in the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery could reduce the number of sockeye salmon available to Federally qualified residents of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park resident zone communities and other Federally qualified subsistence users in this Subdistrict and the adjacent upstream Glennallen Subdistrict. It could also result in management restrictions to the fisheries if insufficient numbers of sockeye salmon are available to achieve the escapement goal.

NPS position/recommended action: Oppose. The king salmon run to the Copper River has been weak in recent years. If this trend continues, State managers would likely conserve this resource by prohibiting the retention of king salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery. Prohibiting the retention of king salmon would automatically trigger an increase in the per permit allowable sockeye harvest. This increased harvest could reduce the sockeye salmon escapement below its goal. The numbers of sockeye salmon available to Federally qualified Wrangell-St. Elias National Park resident zone subsistence and other Federally qualified users in the Chitina and Glennallen Subdistricts would also be reduced. Rather than adopting a regulation that bases sockeye salmon harvest limits in the personal use fishery on king salmon abundance, such a decision should be based on whether there is a surplus of sockeye salmon that could be harvested in this fishery.

Proposal 76 would delay the opening of the Chitina Subdistrict personal use dip net fishery until June 15. The current management strategy is to open this fishery by emergency order based on projected sonar estimates as measured by Miles Lake. This usually occurs during the first week of June. Regulation provides for the opening to occur no later than June 11.

Existing State Regulation:

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

(b) Salmon may be taken from June 1 through September 30. The commissioner shall establish a preseason schedule, including fishing times, for the period June 1 through August 31 based on daily projected sonar counts at the sonar counter located near Miles Lake. This abundance-based preseason schedule will distribute the harvest throughout the season. The commissioner may close, by an emergency order effective June 1, the Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishing season and shall reopen the season, by emergency order, on or before June 11 depending on the run strength and timing of the sockeye salmon run. Adjustments shall be made to the preseason schedule based on actual sonar counts compared to projected counts. If the actual sonar count at Miles Lake is more than the projected sonar count, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the season and immediately reopen it during which additional fishing times will be

allowed. If the actual sonar count at Miles Lake is less than the projected sonar count, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the season and immediately reopen it during which fishing times will be reduced by a corresponding amount of time.

Existing Federal Regulation:

§ __.27(e)(11) Prince William Sound Area

(ix) You may take salmon in the Upper Copper River District from May 15 through September 30 only.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No.

Impact to NPS-qualified subsistence users/fisheries: Yes. This proposal could either positively or negatively impact residents of Wrangell-St. Elias resident zone communities and other Federally qualified subsistence users who fish in the Chitina Subdistrict. By regulation, the Federal subsistence fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict opens May 15, while under the **Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan (5 AAC 77.591)**, fishing occurs from June 1 through September 30 during periods established by Emergency Order. In past years the Federal subsistence fishery has been opened by Special Action at the same time and date the State opened the personal use fishery by Emergency Order. This has usually occurred the first week of June. If this proposal is adopted, the State personal use fishery could not be opened until June 15 while the Federal subsistence fishery may be opened earlier in the season rather than in concert with the State personal use fishery. This could result in increased early season harvest by Federal subsistence users as they would not be competing with State personal use fishers, as well as decreased harvests later in the season if personal use fishers were given more open periods to compensate for foregoing the early season harvest.

NPS position/recommended action: Oppose. This proposal's justification is to allow a greater number of early arriving sockeye salmon, which the proponent correctly states, are Native (wild) fish, to reach the spawning grounds in the upper Copper River. However, no conservation concern for these early arriving fish has been identified. Setting a later opening date for the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery could make it more difficult for State managers to "distribute the harvest throughout the season" as required by **5 AAC 77.591 Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan (b)**. It would also likely decouple the opening dates of the Federal subsistence fishery and State personal use fishery, resulting in possible impacts to both user groups. For example, Federally qualified users may experience better catches earlier in the season, if they can fish when the personal use fishery is closed, but may find it more difficult to harvest salmon later in the season, if personal use fishers focus more effort during this time period due to their late start in harvesting salmon.

Proposal 117 requests the optimum escapement goal for king salmon in the Copper River be increased from 24,000 to 30,000.

Existing State Regulation:

5 AAC 24.361 Copper River King Salmon Management Plan

(a) The department shall manage the Copper River commercial and sport fisheries to achieve a sustainable escapement goal of 24,000 or more for king salmon. For the purposes of managing these fisheries, the department shall consider the best available information regarding harvest, age composition, and escapement, including escapement information from mark-recapture studies, aerial surveys, or by other means.

Existing Federal Regulation

No comparable Federal regulation.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No.

Impact to NPS-qualified subsistence users/fisheries: Yes. King salmon are harvested by Wrangell-St. Elias National Park residents of resident zone communities and other Federally qualified subsistence users in both the Chitina and Glennallen Subdistricts. Over the near term, changing the goal used in the Copper River King Salmon Management Plan from a sustainable escapement goal of 24,000 to an optimal goal of 30,000 would decrease the number of king salmon available for harvest by these Federally qualified subsistence users, particularly if runs remain poor. However, if changing the escapement goal resulted in increased runs over the long term the number of king salmon available for harvest would eventually increase.

NPS position/recommended action: Defer. Evaluation of data to determine the Copper River Chinook salmon sustainable escapement goal is the purview of the Department of Fish and Game. Setting an optimal escapement goal for this resource is the purview of the Alaska Board of Fisheries. A sustainable goal is based on biological factors and is set at a level known to provide for sustained yields over a five to 10 year period. An optimal goal considers allocative as well as biological factors, and can be set at a level below or above a sustainable goal. However, it must be set at a level capable of maintaining a salmon stock at a sustainable level. Until we see the results of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's escapement goal evaluation for Copper River king salmon, we are unable to determine whether an optimal escapement goal of 30,000 would maintain this stock at a sustainable level and thus defer a recommendation.

Proposal 136 will modify the existing season and harvest limit for rainbow trout in Summit Lake within the Tebay River drainage. This proposal will repeal the June 1 – June 30 spawning closure and increase the maximum length of trout that may be retained from 12 to 14 inches. This proposal applies only to those fishing under the State’s sport fish regulations.

Existing State Regulation:

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

(23) in the Tebay River drainage,

(A) in Summit Lake

(i) sport fishing is allowed only from July 1 – May 31;

(ii) the bag and possession limit for rainbow/steelhead trout is 10 fish, which must be 12 inches or less in length;

Existing Federal Regulations:

§ __.27(e)(11) *Prince William Sound Area*

(i) You may take fish, other than rainbow/steelhead trout, in the Prince William Sound Area only under authority of a subsistence fishing permit, except that a permit is not required to take eulachon. You may not take rainbow/steelhead trout, except as otherwise provided for in paragraph (e)(11) of this section.

(iii) If you catch rainbow/steelhead trout incidentally in other subsistence net fisheries, you may retain them for subsistence purposes, unless restricted in this section.

(vi) Rainbow/steelhead trout and other freshwater fish caught incidentally to salmon by fish wheel in the Upper Copper River District may be retained.

(vii) Freshwater fish other than rainbow/steelhead trout caught incidentally to salmon by dip net in the Upper Copper River District may be retained. Rainbow/steelhead trout caught incidentally to salmon by dip net in the Upper Copper River District must be released unharmed to the water.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB)? No.

Impact to NPS-qualified subsistence users/fisheries: None. Federal subsistence regulations prohibit Federally qualified subsistence users residing in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park resident zone communities from harvesting rainbow/steelhead trout in the

Tebay River drainage. Any trout harvested here by these residents would be harvested under State sport fishing regulations.

NPS position/recommended action: Support. We support this proposal for resource conservation and to advance well reasoned management objectives. Rainbow/steelhead trout were introduced to Summit Lake in the 1950s-60s. By the mid-1980's the lake was known for producing exceptionally large trout. However, the population's age structure changed and by 1999 the population was dominated by stunted fish <10 inches in length. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game with the approval of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve, has removed trout from the lake for the past eight years. This now discontinued project created a bimodal size distribution of smaller and larger trout. An appropriate management strategy to increase the numbers of larger trout is to encourage anglers to remove trout <14 inches while conserving fish 14 inches and larger. Removing the spring spawning closure and increasing the minimum size at which trout may be retained from 12 inches to 14 inches should increase the numbers of larger trout in Summit Lake. This is an appropriate management objective for this lake.

End

Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

November 10, 2011

RECEIVED

NOV 10 2011

Prince William Sound/Upper Copper River Proposals BOARDS

Thank you to all the board members for your service and willingness to read my comments. I have been a commercial fisherman in Area E for over 25 years.

I urge the board to oppose proposals 51, 54 and 55, and leave the C&T findings as they are for the salmon stocks in the Chitina Subdistrict and the Copper River District. Previous boards have exhaustively reviewed the C&T finding for the Chitina Subdistrict stocks and have determined that they do **NOT** meet the 8 criteria necessary to establish a C&T finding, and do not fit the new definition of a stock used for a "subsistence way of life". Whereas, in the Copper River District there has been a long term reliance on this fish stock going back 5 generations. The participants, owing to the isolation of the community rely almost solely on the subsistence harvest of salmon, moose and deer to feed their families. The harvest is done close to the where the participants live and is very efficient and economical in terms of the effort and cost of the harvest.

I urge the board to oppose proposals 72,73,74,75, 117 and 118.

The Copper River king salmon stock is a fully utilized and allocated resource. Any increase in allowable take in the PU fishery would be a direct re-allocation of the resource. In 2005, when the board approved the regulation to restrict commercial fishing inside the barrier islands, they determined that the Chitina Personal Use fishery should share in the conservation burden and be restricted to one king salmon. Nothing has changed which would justify that regulation to be changed. As for, Prop. 117, ADFG completed its review of Escapement Goals and Stocks of Concern for the PWS Management Area. The Department recommended no change to the CR King salmon current escapement goal. There is no justification to change the SEG if the department does not have a concern. As for, Prop. 118, There is no justification to adopt further restrictions to fishing inside the barrier islands, the department already has the ability to restrict fishing when there is a concern by emergency order. If Proposal 118 is adopted and put into regulation, this would restrict the department's ability to manage the fishery in times of abundance and maximize the opportunity for commercial harvest.

Concerning Proposals 80 & 81, after discussions with Department of Public Safety officers, I am in support of these proposals if **section (g)** of Prop. 81 is deleted. There are many locations in PWS on district line sets, that the fishery proceeds in a fair and orderly manner, that involve towing on our nets for a certain length time in substantially the same geographic location.

"Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passion, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence".

John Adams.

I believe this quote is very apropos to all the proposals by PWS seiners to increase their share of enhanced salmon. The seiners are already harvesting a majority of enhanced salmon. **I strongly urge the board to not adopt any of the proposals 101, 104, 105, 106, 108, 110 and 112 that alter the PWS Management and Allocation Plan or proposals 88, 89 & 92 that increase time and area for the seine fleet.**

The fact is that Prince William Sound seine fleet is doing very well. They are harvesting the greatest share of PWSAC enhanced salmon by almost 20%. There is absolutely no justification to change the existing PWS Management and Allocation Plan, or give them more time and area. In 2005 the Board of Fisheries working with ADFG, the seine and gillnet fleets adopted major changes to the Allocation Plan to make a more equitable split of PWSAC enhanced salmon. It worked, the seine fleet has recovered. .

Comparing ADFG's 2010 and 2011 values calculated using the Commercial Operators Annual Reports (COAR) illustrates a growing disparity between the PWS Drift Gillnet fleet and PWS Purse Seine fleet. The current goal of the allocation plan is to maintain a 50% split of the total ex-vessel value between the gillnet and seine fleets, of PWSAC enhanced salmon. The 2010 report shows a disparity, with 41% of the value harvested by the drift gillnet fleet and 59% of the value harvested by the purse seine fleet. The 2011 report will show an even larger disparity with 39.1% of the value harvested by the drift gillnet fleet and 60.9% of the value harvested by the purse seine fleet. The purpose of the PSWAC allocation plan is to provide a fair and reasonable allocation among the gear groups and reduce conflicts among these users. Any change in favor of the seine fleet would only increase the disparity. Including wild stocks in the PWSAC allocation plan will contradict ADFG's concern for the harvest of wild salmon in migration corridors far from natal streams.



Thea Thomas
PO Box 1566
Cordova, Alaska 99574
thea@ctcak.net

RECEIVED

Nov 5, 2011

NOV 10 2011

BOARDS

Dear Board of Fisheries :

I have been a commercial fisherman for 30 years here in Alaska. The PWS Drift Gillnet fishery has been my main - and often my only - source of income since 1991, 20 years now. I have raised my 4 children in this lifestyle, and every one of them actively participates, and depends on the PWS Drift Gillnet Fishery for their Livelihoods (sp?)

This year there are numerous proposals that would have a seriously negative impact on this fishery, and on our livelihoods. I support Leaving Things Like They Are !!!

→ Proposals calling for more restrictions in Time and Area for the Early Copper River Season.

* These are un-necessary. ^(we) The Commercial Fleet has been highly restricted already, compared to historical openers. Also, every year the up-river escapement has been met OR Exceeded. Also, ADFG Already has additional means to direct fishing Openers to match the strength/weakness of the current year's salmon return.

→ Proposals to Increase Time / Area for the Seine Fleet

* I strongly Oppose - These are Totally Uncalled For !!

The PWS Allocation Plan calls for a 50% Split between Seiners and Gillnetters (Drift + Setnet) The Seine Fleet has caught Considerably more than their share the last few years.

They Don't Need Any More of Our Gillnetters' Share !!!

* Let us fish the way we have been, using the same methods, so I can continue to produce the income I need to support myself and my family. Commercial Fishing, and the PWS Drift Gillnet Fishery, is a Great Lifestyle, one I hope to pursue for many more years to come.

Thank You for your Time. I intend to be in Valdez for the BOF MTGS to show my Support.

Sincerely,
Karl E Backlund
F/v Navigator

Also Depending on this Fishery are more members of my Family :

Karl B Backlund (son)
F/V Big Sky

Koal Backlund (son)
F/V Bazerk

Tyrell + Tekla Seavey (son-in-law, Daughter)
F/V Tailwalker

Kaban Backlund (son)
F/V Navigator (#1 Crewmember)



Cordova District Fishermen United
PO Box 959 | 509 First Street | Cordova, AK 99574
phone: (907) 424 3447 | fax: (907) 424 3430
web: www.cdfu.org | email: cdfu@ak.net

November 4, 2011

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Johnstone,

RE: Support proposal 90 with amendments and
RE: Oppose proposals 72-75, 81, 88, 89 92, 101, 104, 105, 106, 108, 110, 117, and 118.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these proposals as part of the 2011 Board of Fisheries meeting.

Attached you will find written comments prepared by the Cordova District Fisherman United Gillnet Division which represents 41% of the drift gillnet fleet.

We trust that our comments will provide you with a clear rationale for our positions. If you require further clarification on any of the points we raise, we welcome questions either during the public testimony portion of the meeting or at any other time preceding deliberations.

Sincerely,

Eric Lian and Mike Mickelson
Gillnet Division



CDFU GILLNET DIVISION 2011/2012 BOARD OF FISHERIES POSITIONS & COMMENTS

Copper River Issues

Proposals 72-75: Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan

CDFU GILLNET DIVISION IS **OPPOSED**

These proposals restrict ADF&G's flexibility to effectively manage a fully allocated resource.

Current management tools are sufficient to manage for sustainable king salmon escapement and provide for early stocks. King salmon returns were sufficient this season for ADF&G to allow personal use fishers to retain 1 king salmon.

During low king salmon returns when ADF&G closes the inside waters of the Copper River Delta to drift gillnetting, personal users should also be restricted because they are the second largest user group.

In addition, personal use fishermen should not be allowed to increase their harvest of sockeye salmon in times of king salmon shortage, because by definition personal use is not a subsistence fishery.

The traditional sockeye salmon SEG of 300K to 500K for the Upper Copper River has been successfully exceeded, but ADF&G's *Prince William Sound Management Area (PWSMA) Escapement Goal Recommendations* memorandum of September 20, 2011 calls for increasing the UCR sockeye salmon SEG to a range of 360K to 750K. All user groups should share in this escapement accountability and until upriver fishing data is submitted in a timely manner to keep management strategies current, further restricting the drift gillnet user group is not a valid solution.

Proposal 117: Copper River King Salmon Management Plan

CDFU GILLNET DIVISION IS **OPPOSED**

King salmon are a fully utilized and allocated resource and for over 100 years have been a traditional part of the commercial harvest.

ADF&G's *PWSMA Escapement Goal Recommendations* memorandum of September 20, 2011 states there are **no stocks of concern** and did not reference the need to adjust the current king salmon management SEG of 24,000 or more, as stated under 5 AAC 24.361.

Please see attached:

ADF&G 2011 PWSMA Escapement Goal and Stock of Concern Recommendations (RC4)

Table 1 – Summary of current escapement goals and recommended escapement goals for salmon stocks in Prince William Sound Management Area

System	Current Escapement Goal			Recommended Escapement Goal		
	Goal	Type	Year Adopted	Range	Escapement Data	Action
King Salmon						
Copper River	>24,000	SEG	2002	> 24,000	Mark-Recapture	No Change
Coho Salmon						
Bering River	13,000 – 33,000	SEG	2002	13,000 – 33,000	Aerial Survey	No Change
Copper River Delta	32,000 – 67,000	SEG	2002	32,000 – 67,000	Aerial Survey	No Change
Sockeye Salmon						
Eshamy Lake	13,000 – 28,000	BEG	2002	13,000 – 28,000	Weir	No Change
Coghill Lake	20,000 – 40,000	SEG	2005	20,000 – 60,000	Weir	Change in Range
Bering River	20,000 – 35,000	SEG	2002	15,000 – 33,000	Aerial Survey	Change in Range
Copper River Delta	55,000 – 130,000	SEG	2002	55,000 – 130,000	Aerial Survey	No Change
Upper Copper River	300,000 – 500,000	SEG	2002	360,000 – 750,000	Sonar	Change in Range
Pink Salmon						
Even-Year Broodline (All Districts Combined)	1,250,000 – 2,750,000	SEG	2002	discontinued	Aerial Survey	Change to District Goals ^a
Odd-Year Broodline (All Districts Combined)	1,250,000 – 2,750,000	SEG	2002	discontinued	Aerial Survey	Change to District Goals ^b
Chum Salmon (by District)						
Coghill	> 8,000	SEG	2005	> 8,000	Aerial Survey	No Change
Eastern	> 50,000	SEG	2005	> 50,000	Aerial Survey	No Change
Northern/Unakwik	> 20,000	SEG	2005	> 20,000	Aerial Survey	No Change
Northwestern	> 5,000	SEG	2005	> 5,000	Aerial Survey	No Change
Southeastern	> 8,000	SEG	2005	> 8,000	Aerial Survey	No Change

^a Recommended district SEGs for even years: Eastern – 250,000 to 580,000; Northern – 140,000 to 210,000; Coghill – 60,000 to 150,000; Northwestern – 70,000 to 140,000; Eshamy – 3,000 to 11,000; Southwestern – 70,000 to 160,000; Montague – 50,000 to 140,000; Southeastern – 150,000 to 310,000.

^b Recommended district SEGs for odd years: Eastern – 310,000 to 640,000; Northern – 90,000 to 180,000; Coghill – 60,000 to 250,000; Northwestern – 50,000 to 110,000; Eshamy – 4,000 to 11,000; Southwestern – 70,000 to 190,000; Montague – 140,000 to 280,000; Southeastern – 270,000 to 620,000.



CDFU GILLNET DIVISION 2011/2012 BOARD OF FISHERIES POSITIONS & COMMENTS

Proposal 118: Closed Waters

CDFU GILLNET DIVISION IS **OPPOSED**

This is an allocation issue on an already fully allocated resource.

In 2006, ADF&G implemented the mandatory inside closures as part of the Copper River king salmon management plan (as revised at the '05 Valdez BOF mtg.), and has the authority to close commercial fishing by emergency order as necessary.

Mandatory inside closures until June 15th will restrict ADF&G from achieving their commercial fishing management goal, which is to maximize commercial fishing opportunity. In the 2011 season ADF&G illustrated their capacity to effectively use inside closures for conservation with a total of 5 inside closures rather than the mandated 2.

Proposal 81: Gillnet Specifications and Operations

CDFU GILLNET DIVISION IS **OPPOSED**

This proposal will significantly alter our historical fishing methods, which include fishing in shallow waters, fishing at the change of the tide where a drift gillnet can remain in substantially the same area and mechanical power is essential to keep the net in legal formation. Mechanical power is also necessary to avoid snagging down a net while drifting.

The language of proposal 81 prevents gillnetters from participating in Prince William Sound boundary line fisheries which are consistently conducted in a fair and equitable manner. Each gillnetter gets a 20-minute set on the line and often mechanical power is required to hold the net in legal formation. If the current isn't moving quickly, the vessel will remain in substantially the same location for the entirety of the set. Lineups of up to 30 boats sometimes form where participants generally honor the "gentlemen's agreement" of 20-minute sets on the boundary line. After a 20 minute "turn," the next vessel in the line up sets their net out either in front the vessel that has completed their set, or behind it as the 1st vessel picks up their net.

Proposal 90: Fishing districts, subdistricts and sections

CDFU Gillnet Division would **Support** proposal 90 *with these amendments*:

Add more latitude & longitude points to illustrate the historical fishing area of the Eshamy district. The Eshamy district has been defined as extending 1 nautical mile off shore, proposal 90 does not reflect the historical 1 nautical mile boundary in the northern most portion of the district. CDFU supports defining the Eshamy district boundary line, but **NOT** at the expense of losing legal fishing area in a key location where fish enter the district.



CDFU GILLNET DIVISION 2011/2012 BOARD OF FISHERIES POSITIONS & COMMENTS

Prince William Sound – Allocation and Time and Area

Proposals 88, 89: Fishing districts, subdistricts and sections

Proposal 92: Fishing Seasons

Proposal 104: Gear

Proposals 101, 105, 106, 108 and 110: PWS Management and Salmon Allocation Plan

CDFU GILLNET DIVISION is **OPPOSED** to all of the above proposals.

We strongly urge the BOF to **OPPOSE** proposals: **101, 104, 105, 106, 108, and 110**, they will alter the PWS Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan, that was revised and approved in 2005 by the BOF, at the request of all PWS salmon user groups.

We also ask the BOF to **OPPOSE** proposals **88, 89 & 92**, because they will have a direct negative impact on this current PWS allocation plan. There is no justification for increasing time and area for the seine fleet in PWS.

Comparing ADF&G's 2010 and 2011 ex-vessel harvest values calculated using the Commercial Operators Annual Reports (COAR) illustrates a growing disparity between the PWS Drift Gillnet fleet and Purse Seine fleet. The current goal of the allocation plan is to maintain a 50% split of the total ex-vessel harvested value between the drift gillnet and seine fleets, of PWSAC enhanced salmon.

The 2010 report shows a disparity, with 41% of the value harvested by the drift gillnet fleet and 59% of the value harvested by the purse seine fleet. The 2011 report has the disparity with 39.1% of the value harvested by the drift gillnet fleet and 60.9% of the value harvested by the purse seine fleet.

The purpose of the PWS allocation plan is to provide a fair and equitable allocation among the PWS salmon user groups and reduce conflicts among these fishers. Any change in favor of the seine fleet would only increase this disparity.

Including non-enhanced salmon in the PWS allocation plan will also contradict ADF&G's concern for the harvest of uncontrolled numbers of wild salmon in migratory corridors far from their natal streams.

Please see attached:

2010 ADF&G PWS Salmon Allocation Plan News Release

2011 ADF&G PWS Salmon Allocation Plan News Release

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

*Denby S. Lloyd, Commissioner
John R. Hilsinger, Director*



Contact:
Jeremy Botz, Seine Area Management Biologist
Glenn Hollowell, Gillnet Area Management Biologist
Tommy Sheridan, Assistant Area Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 424-3212 Fax: (907) 424-3235

Prince William Sound Area Office
401 Railroad Avenue, PO Box 669
Cordova, AK 99574-0669
Date Issued: September 09, 2010
Time: 11:00 am

Prince William Sound Salmon Allocation Plan (5 AAC 24.370) News Release

The department calculated the exvessel value percentages for each gear group using the Commercial Operators Annual Report (COAR) area specific prices and weights and ADF&G harvest estimates of PWSAC enhanced fish by species and gear type (Table 1). The trigger points for corrections in allocation are 45% for purse seine and drift gillnet gear groups and 5% for the set gillnet gear group. The 2005-2009 five-year average value percentages for each gear type are 41.0% drift gillnet, 59.0% purse seine, and 4.0% set gillnet (Table 2). As a result, the drift gillnet gear group will have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict from June 1 to July 30 in 2011 and the set gillnet gear group will not be limited to 36 hours per week beginning July 10, 2011.

In December 2005, the Alaska Board of Fisheries modified the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation plan 5AAC 24.370. The modifications eliminate wild stocks and Valdez Fisheries Development Association enhanced fish from the plan and allocate only Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) enhanced fish. Additionally, a five-year average exvessel value is now used rather than annual value percentages. The set gillnet gear group allocation is now 4% of the five-year average value of PWSAC enhanced salmon stocks. The drift gillnet and purse seine gear groups each receive 50% of the remaining value of PWSAC enhanced salmon stocks. If the set gillnet gear group exceeds 5% of the five-year average value of PWSAC enhanced stocks, they will be limited to no more than 36 hours of fishing time per week beginning July 10 in the year following this calculation. If the drift gillnet gear group harvest value is 45% or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the drift gillnet gear group shall have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 though July 30, during fishing periods established by emergency order. If the purse seine gear group harvest value is 45% or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the purse seine gear group shall have exclusive access to the Esther Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 though July 20, during fishing periods established by emergency order.

Table 1. The 2009 COAR price per pound by gear type, species, and area.

2009 Species	Drift Gillnet		Purse Seine	Set Gillnet
	Copper/Bering	Prince William Sound	Prince William Sound	Prince William Sound
Chinook	\$5.63	\$1.31	\$1.62	\$2.04
Chum	\$0.24	\$0.54	\$0.54	\$0.52
Coho	\$1.32	\$1.14	\$0.68	\$0.07
Pink	\$0.22	\$0.27	\$0.26	\$0.18
Sockeye	\$2.35	\$1.39	\$1.37	\$1.50

Table 2. Final calculation of values and percentages by gear type for Area E

Year	Drift Gillnet		Purse Seine		Set Gillnet	
	Value	Percentage	Value	Percentage	Value	Percentage
2005	\$4,369,411	34.5%	\$8,312,855	65.5%	\$426,091	3.3%
2006	\$7,010,574	54.5%	\$5,851,983	45.5%	\$781,184	5.7%
2007	\$8,365,677	33.8%	\$16,394,816	66.2%	\$1,287,859	4.9%
2008	\$18,059,466	33.2%	\$36,411,663	66.8%	\$1,300,085	2.3%
2009	\$15,553,269	61.5%	\$9,722,045	38.5%	\$1,578,785	5.9%
Total	\$53,293,197		\$76,771,754		\$5,374,004	
5-yr Average		41.0%		59.0%		4.0%

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

*Cora J. Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff R. Regnart, Director*



Contact:

Prince William Sound Area Office

Tommy Sheridan, Seine Area Management Biologist

401 Railroad Avenue, PO Box 669

Jeremy Botz, Gillnet Area Management Biologist

Cordova, AK 99574-0669

Phone: (907) 424-3212 Fax: (907) 424-3235

Date Issued: Thursday, October 13, 2011

Time: 2:00 pm

Prince William Sound Salmon Allocation Plan (5 AAC 24.370) News Release

The department calculated the exvessel value percentages for each gear group using the Commercial Operators Annual Report (COAR) area specific prices and weights and ADF&G harvest estimates of PWSAC enhanced fish by species and gear type (Table 1). The trigger points for corrections in allocation are 45% for purse seine and drift gillnet gear groups and 5% for the set gillnet gear group. The 2006-2010 five-year average value percentages for each gear type are **39.1%** drift gillnet, **60.9%** purse seine, and **3.7%** set gillnet (Table 2). **As a result, the drift gillnet gear group will have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict from June 1 to July 30 in 2012 and the set gillnet gear group will not be limited to 36 hours per week beginning July 10, 2012.**

In December 2005, the Alaska Board of Fisheries modified the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation plan 5AAC 24.370. The modifications eliminate wild stocks and Valdez Fisheries Development Association enhanced fish from the plan and allocate only Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) enhanced fish. Additionally, a five-year average exvessel value is now used rather than annual value percentages. The set gillnet gear group allocation is now 4% of the five-year average value of PWSAC enhanced salmon stocks. The drift gillnet and purse seine gear groups each receive 50% of the remaining value of PWSAC enhanced salmon stocks. If the set gillnet gear group exceeds 5% of the of the five-year average value of PWSAC enhanced stocks, they will be limited to no more than 36 hours of fishing time per week beginning July 10 in the year following this calculation. If the drift gillnet gear group harvest value is 45% or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the drift gillnet gear group shall have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 though July 30, during fishing periods established by emergency order. If the purse seine gear group harvest value is 45% or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the purse seine gear group shall have exclusive access to the Esther Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 though July 20, during fishing periods established by emergency order.

Table 1. The 2010 COAR price per pound by gear type, species, and area.

2010 Species	Drift Gillnet		Purse Seine	Set Gillnet
	Copper/ Bering	Prince William Sound	Prince William Sound	Prince William Sound
Chinook	\$5.54	\$4.81	\$1.94	\$3.10
Chum	\$0.37	\$0.81	\$0.79	\$0.80
Coho	\$1.31	\$0.55	\$0.72	\$0.44
Pink	\$0.34	\$0.35	\$0.39	\$0.27
Sockeye	\$2.61	\$1.76	\$1.86	\$1.72

Table 2. Final calculation of values and percentages by gear type for Area E.

Year	Drift Gillnet		Purse Seine		Set Gillnet	
2006	\$7,010,574	54.5%	\$5,851,983	45.5%	\$781,184	5.7%
2007	\$8,365,677	33.8%	\$16,394,816	66.2%	\$1,287,859	4.9%
2008	\$18,059,466	33.2%	\$36,411,663	66.8%	\$1,300,085	2.3%
2009	\$15,553,269	61.5%	\$9,722,045	38.5%	\$1,578,785	5.9%
2010	\$36,546,803	36.0%	\$64,975,204	64.0%	\$3,408,733	3.2%
Total	\$85,535,789		\$133,355,711		\$8,356,646	
5-yr Average	39.1%		60.9%		3.7%	

CDFU GILLNET DIVISION

BOARD OF FISHERIES POSITIONS

Cordova District Fishermen United | PO Box 939 | Cordova, AK 99574 | p. 907.424.3447 | f. 907.424.3430 | e. cdfu@ak.net

Copper River Issues

PROPOSALS 72-75, and 117 - CDFU GILLNET DIVISION IS *OPPOSED*

For over 100 years sockeye and king salmon have been a traditional part of the commercial harvest and are a fully utilized and allocated resource. ADF&G's memorandum of September 20, 2011 states there are no stocks of concern and did not reference the need to adjust the current King salmon management SEG of 24,000 or more, as stated under 5 AAC 24.361. Data also shows that ADF&G has successfully exceeded the traditional SEG of 300K to 500K for Upper Copper River sockeye salmon. This recent memorandum calls for increasing the UCR sockeye salmon SEG to a range of 360K to 750K. All user groups should share in this escapement accountability.

In 2006, ADF&G implemented the mandatory inside closures as part of the Copper River king salmon management plan (as revised at the '05 Valdez BOF mtg.), and has the authority to close commercial fishing by emergency order as necessary. Personal Use is the second largest user group, if ADF&G limits commercial fishing time, there should be corresponding limits on personal use fishing harvest. Until upriver fishing data is submitted in a timely manner to keep management strategies current, further restricting the drift gillnet user group is not a valid solution or justification.

PROPOSAL 118 - CDFU GILLNET DIVISION IS *OPPOSED*

The department already has the emergency order authority to create additional inside

closures
 necessary for concerns of conservation. Mandatory inside closures until June 15th will
 restrict
 ADF&G from achieving their commercial fishing management goal, which is to
 maximize
 commercial fishing opportunity. Proposal 118 is an allocation issue on a fully
 allocated resource.

Prince William Sound -- Allocation and Time and Area

PROPOSALS 88, 89, 92 101, 104-106, 108, and 110 - CDFU GILLNET DIVISION IS OPPOSED

We strongly urge the BOF to **OPPOSE** proposals: 101, 104, 105, 106, 108, and 110,
 due in fact,
 they will alter the PWS Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan, that
 was revised
 and approved in 2005 by the BOF, at the request of all PWS salmon user groups. We
 also ask the
 BOF to **OPPOSE** proposals 88, 89 & 92, because they will have a direct negative
 impact on this
 current PWS allocation plan. There is no justification for increasing time and area for
 the seine
 fleet in PWS. Comparing ADF&G's 2010 and 2011 ex-vessel harvest values
 calculated using the
 Commercial Operators Annual Reports (COAR) illustrates a growing disparity
 between the PWS
 Drift Gillnet fleet and Purse Seine fleet. The current goal of the allocation plan is to
 maintain a

CDFU GILLNET DIVISION

BOARD OF FISHERIES POSITIONS

Cordova District Fishermen United | PO Box 939 | Cordova, AK 99574 | p. 907.424.3447 | f. 907.424.3430 | e. cdfu@ak.net

50% split of the total ex-vessel harvested value between the drift gillnet and seine
 fleets, of
 PWSAC enhanced salmon. The 2010 report shows a disparity, with 41% of the value
 harvested

by the drift gillnet fleet and 59% of the value harvested by the purse seine fleet. The
 2011 report
 has the disparity with 39.1% of the value harvested by the drift gillnet fleet and 60.9%

of the value harvested by the purse seine fleet. The purpose of the PWS allocation plan is to provide a fair and equitable allocation among the PWS salmon user groups and reduce conflicts among these fishers. Any change in favor of the seine fleet would only increase this disparity. Including non-enhanced salmon in the PWS allocation plan will also contradict ADF&G's concern for the harvest of uncontrolled numbers of wild salmon in migratory corridors far from their natal streams.

PROPOSAL 81 - CDFU GILLNET DIVISION IS OPPOSED

This proposal will significantly alter our historical fishing methods which include fishing in shallow waters and fishing at the change of the tide where a drift gillnet can remain in substantially the same area, mechanical power is essential to keep the net in legal formation. Mechanical power is also necessary to avoid snagging down a net while drifting.

PROPOSAL 90 - CDFU GILLNET DIVISION SUGGESTS THESE AMENDMENTS

CDFU Gillnet Division suggests Proposal 90 be amended by adding more latitude & longitude points to better illustrate the historical area of the Eshamy district. Historically the Eshamy district has been defined as extending 1 nautical mile off shore. Proposal 90 does not reflect the historical 1 nautical mile boundary in the northern most portion of the district.

Chairman Johnstone and Board of Fisheries members

I am writing in support of proposal 85, I am the author of the proposal. This proposal if adopted would limit a salmon purse seine total length to 150 fathoms of salmon gear. There are several reasons to adopt this proposal.

Currently in PWS the minimum mesh size for leads is seven inch. Unknown to pretty much everyone is the fact the nylon used in lead web shrinks a little every year. Everyone who built leads used the standard seven inch mesh and now after a few years of use, the average mesh size has shrunk to less than seven inches average mesh size. It would be safe to say the vast majority of PWS seiners are using shrunk lead web. The board could amend the mesh size requirement and this would solve the shrinking lead web problem but there are more issues with leads in PWS.

In the early 1980s there was an active purse seine fleet of 274 vessels, this was a time before meaningful hatchery production returns. The average purse seine vessel was likely about 39 feet in length and carried about thirty thousand pounds of salmon, (dry). Fast forward to 2011, average purse seine vessel is likely about fifty plus feet in length and packs more than fifty thousand pounds in RSW. The point here is things have changed enormously, todays catching power in PWS far eclipses anything from the past. In the Valdez pink fishery for example, the inner bay clean up is over before noon on an opener. This forces most of the fleet to the outside line in the narrows and it is pure chaos. Nets everywhere, other vessel traffic like charter boats, the state ferry, sport fishermen and the ever frightening tanker trying to pick their way through our seine gear. It is time to recognize we purse seiners are over geared. Each vessel is packing 225 fathoms of net and setting it where ever they can squeeze in. We simply do not need 225 fathoms of gear, this is where reducing the salmon net length from 150 fathoms of salmon mesh and 75 fathoms of lead to simply 150 fathoms of salmon gear would effectively reduce the amount of gear on each vessel by 1/3. All the salmon would still get caught, the fleet would likely spend a bit more time in the inner bay and less congestion would occur at the narrows.

There are many examples of a reduction in gear has improved a fishery, Togiak herring and Kodiak herring both saw their gear reduced by 1/3 or more. Those fisheries are better off for it. Many crab and shrimp fisheries in Alaska have been changed to slow down the fishery by pot limit reductions and make it more manageable and no economic loss to the fishermen has occurred.

Commercial fishermen by nature always want to improve their ability to harvest product, this mean they want bigger vessels, longer deeper nets, more crab pots or whatever. Every year folks talk about eliminating the 32 foot size limit on drift gill net vessels in Bristol Bay, the same is true about the 58 foot limit for seine vessels in Alaska. Personally I do not think these fisheries would benefit the harvesters, we would simply continue on the course of even being more over capitalized for the fishery we are in.

This is where the Board of fisheries comes in, all user groups in PWS will benefit by reducing the net length from 225 fathoms to 150. The seiners will easily catch all the salmon, some fishermen will tell you we will burn more fuel if the nets are shorter, not true. We all drive around like we are possessed until the opener is over whether we are catching much or not. Other vessel traffic would benefit as there would be 1/3 less gear to try to navigate through.

To help make my point about fishermen always wanting more gear you have can simply look at most of the proposals dealing with purse seine gear and you will see many that want to eliminate the 7 inch requirement for leads and allow salmon mesh size in its place. I say adopt this proposal and all the others become moot.

In closing I would like to point out all user groups in Alaska share a responsibility in keeping their impact on other user groups to a reasonable level. With the PWS purse seine fleet continuing to increase from about 100 vessels in the mid-90s to close to 200 vessels today and growing towards the 264 allowed by regulation this would be a good time to take action. There is simply no down side to eliminating the 75 fathom leads in PWS.

Sincerely

Leroy L Cabana

Box 49

Homer, Alaska 99603

Phone 907-399-1287

Chairman Johnstone and Board of fisheries members

I am opposed to proposal 113

This proposal would change the current restriction of using aircraft during an open period from being illegal to legal. This proposal was submitted due to the frustration of observing spotter planes being used during open fishing periods. The rationale is, enforcement is impossible. Not true is what I say. There are several restrictions on using aircraft in Alaska for hunting and they are successful. The problem we face here is the folks whom use these aircraft have increased each year. The pilots of these aircraft completely know they are breaking the law. Look at the wing and tail identifying numbers. They have been reduced in size to make it more difficult to identify them. They also fly a bit off to the side and higher than usual. This has worked so far for them but last year I purchased a 10 power video cam recorder. I have encouraged some other fishermen to do likewise. My bet is we will get at least one citation against illegal pilots in the 2012 season. It did not take very many citations for same day flying and hunting where the violators got fined and lost their plane to stop folks from breaking the law. The same will occur in PWS very soon.

Currently anybody can use a spotter plane in areas that are not open. Nobody has any problem with someone using a spotter when we are not fishing. You can fly in non-open areas and until you go blind, no worries. What will happen if spotter planes are allowed in PWS is planes will focus on looking for boats that have good fishing around them and the spotter pilot will call his boats to that location. For those whom have not the experience of a pilot flying by, seeing a seiner catching a good catch and then calling in his boats to the area you are fishing I will try to give you a visual you can relate to. Imagine you are sport fishing either on a river bank or maybe in a boat and the fish are biting pretty good. You are not too crowded and life is good. Now along comes a spotter skiff, he is hired by several other sport fishermen to simply watch for anybody catching a fish, he radios in the info and in minutes you are crowded out of the very spot you were fishing. This is the entire intent of spotter planes during open periods. They have already spotted all the areas during the closed period, they sent their boats to the areas they believed would have the best fishing. In PWS there are boats pretty much everywhere that it is open, there is not much chance of finding a large number of fish from a plane where there are no boats. So spotter pilots focus on looking for fishermen whom are having good catches so they can send their boats to that area.

The PWS purse seine fishery will not benefit from allowing spotter planes during open periods. It would be a sad day when changing a law was justified simply because enforcement had not caught the violators. Trust me, there will be several different seine fishermen with video cameras next season. We will photo the lawbreakers and call enforcement. If the Troopers can charge and convict someone for flying and shooting a moose the same day they will be able to convict a spotter whom was filmed several times in the same day spotting salmon in PWS.

Leroy L Cabana

Homer Alaska phone 907-399-1287

State of Alaska

Sean Parnell, Governor

Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

8800 Glacier Hwy, #109

P.O. Box 110302

Juneau, AK 99811-0302

RECEIVED

MEMORANDUM

NOV 15 2011

 **To:** Monica Wellard, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Date: November 15, 2011 **BOARDS**

Phone: (907) 789-6160 VOICE
(907) 789-6170 FAX

From: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission
Bruce Twomley, Chairman
Peter Froehlich, Commissioner
Benjamin Brown, Commissioner

Subject: Restructuring Proposals:
2011/2012 Prince William Sound,
Upper Copper River/Upper Susitna
River Finfish.

This memorandum provides comments by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) on two regulatory proposals that the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) will consider at their December, 2011 meeting in Valdez.

The first proposal (Proposal 77) was identified by the Board's salmon industry restructuring panel as a possible restructuring proposal. The second proposal (Proposal 78) was not identified as a restructuring proposal, but appears to have some of the elements of one. As such, we respectfully submit comments on it as well.

In general, CFEC supports restructuring changes that will improve conditions in salmon fisheries and promote resource conservation. When reviewing Board proposals, we first consider whether there are possible conflicts or inconsistencies with CFEC statutes or regulations or the intended purposes of the Limited Entry Act. Absent such conflicts, we defer to the Departments of Fish and Game, Public Safety, and Law for their consideration of fishery management, enforcement, or legal issues.

Proposal 77

From the examples discussed in the proposal booklet, this proposal appears to try to loosen the requirements of (at least) 5 AAC 39.240 (a) and 5 AAC 39.107 in the Prince William Sound set gillnet Eshamy District to allow one or two permit holders working together to step in and perform the other's responsibilities (for example, operating gear and selling catch). Under the current regulations, when two permit holders work together, they may each deploy a full complement of gear. However, when one of the permit holders leaves the vicinity, his/her partner is prohibited from working the other's gear. Similarly, salmon may be sold only under the same permit that authorized the catch.¹

Proposal 77, if adopted as written, may conflict with statutes AS 16.43.140 (a) and (b), which state:

- (a) After January 1, 1974, a person may not operate gear in the commercial taking of fishery resources without a valid entry permit or a valid interim-use permit issued by the commission.
- (b) A permit is not required of a crewmember or other person assisting in the operation of a unit of gear engaged in the commercial taking of fishery resources as long as the holder of the entry permit or

¹ A permit holder may serve as crew for his/her partner, AS 16.05.480 (a), provided that the partner is present and supervising the operation of the gear.

interim-use permit for that particular unit of gear is at all times present and actively engaged in the operation of the gear. (emphasis added)

We also believe there may be a conflict with AS 16.05.680 (b), which provides in part:

A person may not sell salmon that was not harvested under the authority of the entry permit, interim-use permit, or landing permit under which the salmon is sold.

We note Proposal 77 does not reduce the overall amount of gear that could be fished in the set gillnet fishery. Rather, the perceived advantages are mainly in the conveniences it provides to groups of fishermen who work together. To the extent that these groups may share in harvesting costs and streamline efficiencies, there may be an overall net savings and cost advantage to the fleet. However, given the potential conflicts this proposal has with state law, we recommend that the Board of Fisheries consult with the Departments of Law and Public Safety on this proposal.

Proposal 78

Although this proposal is not identified as a salmon industry restructuring proposal, we note that it has elements in common with "dual permit" operations, which have been developed in other fisheries out of restructuring options. In a dual operation, two permit holders fish in tandem on one vessel. The vessel is then allowed to deploy more gear than a single-permit operation. Dual permit operations are currently allowed in the salmon drift gillnet fisheries in Bristol Bay and Cook Inlet, and in the Southeast roe herring gillnet fishery.²

Proposal 78 appears to allow a greater amount of fishable gear on Prince William Sound salmon seine vessels when there are two permit holders on board. Allowing smaller mesh on the 75-fathom seine net lead may increase the effective fishing power of a 150-fathom Prince William Sound seine net by approximately 50%.

This proposal does not appear to conflict with any current CFEC regulations or statutes. And in general, CFEC supports regulations that serve as a form of fleet consolidation, especially those that tend to be market-driven, voluntary, and fluid in nature. To the extent that this proposal may serve as a means to consolidate fishing operations and reduce harvesting costs, we support it. Moreover, there may be significant benefits to resource conservation by reducing the overall amount of gear that is deployed in the fishery. Dual permit operations, where two permit holders combine to fish less than two full complements of gear, may help achieve that. There are concerns that the second permit in a dual operation may come from a person who otherwise would not be present in the fishery (i.e.; a "latent" permit), but we note that the total sum of gear that could be fished in the fishery would be reduced by converting some operations to dual-permit status.

Nonetheless, despite our general support for the concept of dual permit options, we also cautiously defer to other concerns that the Departments of Fish and Game and Public Safety may have with regard to management or enforcement issues.

Thank you for accepting these comments. As always, we are ready to support the Board. We are interested in other comments submitted to these and other proposals, and will monitor them. We will also be reviewing the proposals for future Board meetings held in 2012, and we expect to submit comments for some of those as well.

² In the Bristol Bay and Cook Inlet salmon drift gillnet fisheries, single permit vessels are allowed to fish up to 150 fathoms of gillnet, whereas dual permit vessels may fish up to 200 fathoms. In the Southeast roe herring gillnet fishery, single permit vessels are allowed up to 50 fathoms of gillnet; dual permit vessels may fish up to 75 fathoms.

13 November 2011

Alaska Board of Fisheries Members:

Mr. Vince Webster

Mr. Karl Johnstone

Mr. Tom Kluberton

Mr. Mike Smith

Ms. Sue Jeffrey

Mr. John Jensen

Mr. Bill Brown

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Subject: Deep-sea Coral and The Unknown Depth of The Damage

Dear Madam, Gentlemen,

"In Alaskan waters alone, the National Marine Fisheries Service estimates over one million pounds of corals and sponges are removed from the seafloor every year by commercial fishing, roughly 90 percent by bottom trawlers." (NMFS, 2001) That is an alarming statistic that caught my attention.

An estimated 2/3 of known coral species live in the deep-sea. Understanding deep sea coral to the extent of its benefits is still in its infancy. What we do know is that these amazing animals help us understand the future based on clues to past climates. Some corals live to be 1,800 years old; deep-sea corals can serve as archives of climate conditions that are important to (our) understanding. Additionally, these rare corals are being used to develop new pharmaceutical, nutritional supplements, protects to fight cancer, Alzheimer's disease, asthma, pain and viral infections.

What we also know is that due to their longevity and slow growth, recovery can conceivably take anywhere from decades to centuries, *if* they recover.

These very deep-sea corals shelter and nourish a highly diverse ecosystem. Some animals grow on and hide within the protection of the coral framework. Others come in search of prey. A few return as adults to lay their eggs.

I make my appeal to you because I read on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game website that "the Board of Fisheries' main role is to conserve and develop the fishery resources of the state. This involves setting seasons, bag limits, methods and means for the state's subsistence, commercial, sport, guided sport, and personal use fisheries, and it also involves setting policy and direction for the management of the state's fishery resources. The board is charged with making allocative decisions, and the department is responsible for management based on those decisions."

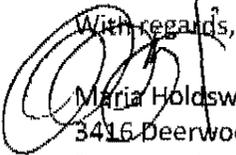
It is our responsibility to protect our planet's limited resources. Some deep-sea coral damage occurs as a result of erosion but many threats are primarily anthropogenic leading with bottom trawling and other similar forms of commercial fishing: dredging, gillnets, pots and traps, etc.

Ironically, there are suggestions that the existence of deep-sea coral is important to the fisheries industry; fishing around deep-sea coral habitat are good fishing grounds.

I have found that there are a many efforts being made on behalf of this cause, however, with this information and the data available, madam, gentlemen, there is only one feasible solution to eliminate the problems resulting from trawling: identifying the areas and making them inaccessible to destructive bottom-fishing gear. Because eliminating rather than reducing the problem is truly the goal.

I invite you to contact me with any questions or requests for additional data. I very much look forward to your reply.

With regards,



Maria Holdsworth
3416 Deerwood Terr. #112
Fremont CA 94536
mholdsworth@horizon.csueastbay.edu
510-825-5130

REFERENCE

NMFS. (2001, January). Draft Programmatic Groundfish Supplemental EIS. Tables 4.7-4 and 4.7-5.

BOF Comments ADF&G
Board Support Section
Box 115526
Juneau, Ak 99811

Dear Board Members,

These are my comments on the proposals for the Prince William Sound salmon fishery to be considered in Valdez in December, 2011.

I am OPPOSED to proposals 101, 102, 103, 105, 106, 107, 108, 111, and 112 which attempt to alter or dismantle the existing PWS management plan.

The management plan isn't perfect, but it is established. It has worked in the past and should be allowed time to work in the future.

I OPPOSE proposals 93, 96, and 109.

I SUPPORT proposals 92 and 110 which gives the seine fleet more area and would allow ADF & G to use the results of "test" openings to gauge run strength. Stream surveys are always lagging indicators that are often further set back by adverse weather conditions.

I submitted and SUPPORT proposal 113 as modified below.

Use of aircraft unlawful

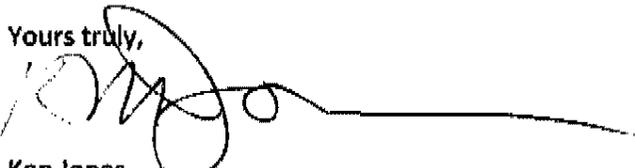
[During open commercial salmon periods] no person may use an aircraft to locate salmon for the commercial taking of those fish or to direct commercial fishing operations.

From May 20th to September 15th

This is an attempt to make the regulation easier to enforce by disallowing flying in areas of PWS that are not open.

I felt that opening the sound to unlimited flying would increase the efficiency of the seine fleet and possibly discourage ADF & G from using the seine fleet for "test" openings which I support.

Yours truly,



Ken Jones
Box 1044
Homer, Ak 99603
907 399 1323

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Board Of Fisheries Comments

#72 Oppose By changing the allocation allowed to the Personal Use Fishery you are undermining the effect of closures that the Commercial Gillnet Fleet endures trying to ensure sufficient escapement for all for the future. The Personal Use Fishery is reduced by 50% while the Commercial Fishery is taking a 100% reduction at this time of closure. To ensure future runs of fish all user groups should share equally in the escapement accountability. Everyone will suffer if we don't meet and maintain our escapement goals together. The burden should not be placed on the Commercial Fishery alone.

#73 Oppose There is a reason why the Chitna Dipnetters are only allowed 1 king salmon. The main reason in making sure we have a King Salmon Fishery and we ensure sufficient escapement for the future. As a commercial fisherman we accept the closures in time and area that ADF&G impose on us to make sure we meet our escapement goals. While all the commercial fish caught are written and tracked on our fish tickets where is the accountability to keep track of the personal and subsistence fish that are taken out of our rivers and streams. Everyone will suffer if more fish are taken and our escapement goals are not met or maintained. Again the burden will be placed on the Commercial fishing fleet.

#74 Oppose Again Chitna Dipnetters want more when there is only so much resource. I am assuming these limits on king salmon to Chitna Dipnettes is because they are fishing in an area that strongly affects the salmon that are close to spawning. If we don't protect the fish that we have allowed to reach their spawning grounds we will all suffer. And again the Commercial Fishing fleet will bear the burden to try and ensure sufficient escapement while the Dipnetters without accountability will harvest untold amounts of salmon.

#75 Oppose Again Chitna Dipnetters want more. I wish we could all have more but Mother Nature only provides us with so much. There are only so many fish in one system to be taken. Where is the accountability for these people? There are other river systems to get their fish from also. ADF&G already has the ability to increase

P-2

Dipnetter time and harvest if there are excess fish to harvest. And again the Commercial Fishing fleet will bear the burden to ensure there is sufficient escapement for this to happen.

#76 Support It does seem that someone is watching what is going on in the Subsistence and Personal Use fishery. The abuse and amount of people accessing this fishery is uncontrolled and monitored for the amount of fish available to be taken out of this system. Thank You Elmer V. Marshall.

#81 Oppose While I understand the intent of this proposal it does greatly restrict the Gillnet fleet from properly and efficiently working our gear legally. How we would enforce the issue of rocking down or holding gear in any illegal manner is a very hard job to enforce. While the majority of fishermen comply it only takes a few bad fisherman or greedy ones to create this situation and it seems to be the same people all the time.

#88,89,92,101,104,105,106,108,110 Oppose These proposals will all have a direct impact on the Gillnet Fleet as they pertain to a change in the Allocation Plan that was revised in 2005 and only in effect for five years. To try and achieve a 50/50% split in harvest value by both user groups how can the seine fleet keep asking for more when they already harvest 60% plus of the value and the Gillnet Fleet at only 40%. The Gillnet Fleet will never catch up or improve this ratio that we now have. As a gillnetter in PWS for 28years I guess its time for the Gillnet Fleet to put in a bunch of proposals that would benefit the Gillnet Fleet and place more burdens or responsibility on the seine fleet to try and achieve this goal. There is no guarantee with hatcheries and Mother Nature that we can achieve this goal but GREED and taking away from others is not the solution. In a perfect world it should be the Gillnet Fleet and the Seine Fleet Along with PWSAC to help formulate and change the plan together and not place this issue in the Board of Fisheries meeting until there a common solution by all and we need the BOF to help implement a plan. I find this type of process that is occurring very offensive and destructive to all involved.

#90 Amend Amend this proposal to better define the historical boundary of the Eshamy District. With more or different latitude and longitude marks a more realistic boundary line will better define the current boundary that has existed. Wish ADF&G allowed more input if any from the Gillnet Fleet to where these marks were chosen.

#115 Oppose Surprise, only the Gillnet Fleet will suffer and after having this fishery in place for numerous years and building it to where it is now. Maybe the State can't use the tax money generated from this resource and the people it employs to harvest and process this resource.

#116 Oppose This is a mute point as commercial caught salmon used as home pack are recorded on our fish tickets. Any fish taken and used for home pack, which could have been sold, is a dollar loss to the commercial fisherman, as he or she would have sold them otherwise. There is a fine involved if the fish are not declared on a fish ticket. Basically we paid for these fish by not selling them. Again where is the accountability for subsistence, personal use and the sport fleet on the fish that they harvest? A punch card system as in Oregon and Washington needs to be implemented.

#117 Oppose We already have the tools in place to achieve our escapement goals of 24,000 fish and ADF&G has expressed their views in a memorandum in September 2011. To impose more restrictions and limits that they may or can't achieve will hamper or restrict ADF&G's ability to manage a bigger fishery that is occurring at the same time. ADF&G has the tools and managing ability to ensure our escapement goals already. Lets not tie the hands of our managers so they can't manage properly overall.

#118 Oppose All user groups already have restrictions on early harvest closures. To put a huge area closure on the Gillnet Fleet with no ability for ADF&G to manage the resource is insane. ADF&G already has the tools and ability to close area and restrict time to protect for escapement. Again do not tie the hands of our managers to do their jobs. AGAIN the burden is placed on the Gillnet fleet with a potentially huge monetary loss if fishing was able to occur during this time frame. This would not be a short-term solution as stated. Over fishing or harvesting of any fish stocks by anyone is not in the best

P-4

interest of any user group. This is my living and being a third generation fisherman I am always concerned that I want fish for the future. We must all share in the burden of protecting our fish.

#123 Support I have watched the sport fishing scene at Ibec Creek for several years now. This year we saw 25-40 cars vehicles with several people in each come to pursue these Coho Salmon. This amount of vehicles are at the bridge all day long. With all this effort there is no one checking the amount of fish being taken from this creek. Also the number of repeat fisherman getting several limits a day has been going on for a long time out of this creek and then going to another creek or river in the area and doing the same. Along with closing Ibec Creek and other creeks and rivers along the Copper River Highway I would like to see a punch card system in place. You catch a fish you mark it down. You get caught for not marking and pay a stiff fine. You get the card with your license purchase and turn it in to ADF&G when you are done fishing. This would help in the over fishing by the sport fisherman and would give some accountability to ADF&G as to how many fish are being taken from these systems.

In a brief summary, most of these proposals are driven by GREED. I want more and more and it doesn't matter who it affects to get more for themselves at a great cost or detriment to others. I think this is very sad for it does nothing for helping our resources and gets a lot of people angry at each other. This intern costs a lot of people time and money, me included, as I will be present at the BOF meetings in Valdez coming from Oregon to participate at my expense.

Marty Budnick
F/V Ocean Fury
29 yrs fishing PWS Gillnetter
Third Generation Commercial Fisherman

Robert D. Mielke
PO Box 870988
Wasilla, AK 99687

Nov. 14, 2011

Attn: BOF Comments
Boards Support Section, ADF&G
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

Folks,

I would like to comment on some of the proposals. I am a lifelong Alaskan, having lived my entire life in the Matanuska Susitna Borough. I have been a commercial fisherman since 1983, and fishing is vital to my economic well being (dare I say, my "subsistence"?); I am sure all those people and businesses with whom I spend my fishing income in my community appreciate it also.

Proposals 54, 55. Oppose.

I generally oppose "subsistence" as it is tortuously applied in current public debate. I believe there can only be a handful of people in the entire state that truly live a subsistence lifestyle; the vast majority live in the modern world and enjoy all the modern conveniences, yet some try to sneak under cover of "subsistence" to give themselves a more favored position under the law. Do away with all this "subsistence" divisiveness foisted on us by the federal government and their toadies. The Alaska Legislature can nullify federal law in Alaska, and I believe "subsistence" is a prime candidate.

Proposals 72-75, 117. Oppose.

The Copper River commercial fishery has been in existence for over 100 years, and is fully allocated. ADF&G has successfully managed this run since the 2006 implementation of the 2005 BOF plan, and has identified no stocks of concern. Upriver users should also participate in any future management restrictions. There is no historical basis for them getting preferential treatment. In fact, accountability and

Proposal 76. Support.

This proposal shows anecdotal support for the fact that Chitina dipnetters are unduly impacting the early red/king runs on the Copper. Commercial fishers have been restricted early in recent seasons to outside waters on the flats to protect these runs, yet they are weak, especially compared to later summer runs that spawn in rivers below the

Robert D. Mielke
PO Box 870988
Wasilla, AK 99687

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Proposal 76. Support.

This proposal shows anecdotal support for the fact that Chitina dipnetters are unduly impacting the early red/king runs on the Copper. Commercial fishers have been restricted early in recent seasons to outside waters on the flats to protect these runs, yet they are weak, especially compared to later summer runs that spawn in rivers below the

dipnet area. The proposal writer shows the large impact the dipnetters have on upriver runs. They need to be held accountable with better enforcement.

Proposal 118. Oppose.

For the reasons stated in the above paragraph, I believe the Fairbanks AC is trying to shift blame for poor escapement from themselves.

Proposals 88, 89, 92, 101, 104-106, 108, 110. Oppose.

The seine fleet is way ahead in their allocation share as outlined in the 2005 BOF allocation plan, and they want more! Unbelievable. So in retaliation, I support the following:

Proposal 107. Support

This would be a good way to return the allocation to the 50-50 split as agreed in the previously cited allocation plan.

Thank you for allowing my input,



Robert D. Mielke

November 15, 2011

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS

Boards Support Section Alaska Department of Fish and Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Fax: 907-465-6094

Re: 2011/2012 Board of Fish Proposals

Dear Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2011/2012 Board of Fish proposals. I appreciate the time you are taking to review important issues concerning my occupation as a fisherman and the economic welfare of the town of Cordova as a community reliant on the Copper River and Prince William Sound commercial salmon fisheries.

I have read the proposals affecting the Copper River and Prince William Sound fisheries and request that you consider the following concerns. I oppose the following proposals:

COPPER RIVER ISSUES

- OPPOSE Proposal 51
- OPPOSE Proposal 54
- OPPOSE Proposal 55
- OPPOSE Proposal 72
- OPPOSE Proposal 73
- OPPOSE Proposal 74
- OPPOSE Proposal 75
- OPPOSE Proposal 117
- OPPOSE Proposal 118

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND ISSUES

- OPPOSE Proposal 88
- OPPOSE Proposal 89
- OPPOSE Proposal 92
- OPPOSE Proposal 101
- OPPOSE Proposal 104
- OPPOSE Proposal 105
- OPPOSE Proposal 106
- OPPOSE Proposal 108
- OPPOSE Proposal 110
- OPPOSE Proposal 81

I'd like to expand briefly upon each general category and explain why I oppose these proposals.

COPPER RIVER ISSUES

I urge the board to oppose proposals 51, 54 and 55, and leave the C&T findings as they are for the salmon stocks in the CHITINA SUBDISTRICT. Previous boards have exhaustively reviewed the C&T finding for the Chitina Subdistrict stocks and have determined that they do NOT meet the 8 criteria necessary to establish a C&T finding, and do NOT fit the new definition of a stock used for a "subsistence way of life".

The Copper River fishery is already a fully utilized and allocated resource. We've seen all of these same issues before the Board in the past. ADF&G already does a good job; let's not hamstring them with additional mandatory rules. They already have all the tools necessary to manage on short notice and under times of concern using their Emergency Order authority.

In regards to Proposal 118, making inside closures mandatory until June 15 would not have any affect on wise conservation of king salmon. ADF&G does a good job already and has tools to manage under Emergency Order for conservation.

Additionally, I agree with the basis for Proposal 76 to help ensure prosperous salmon spawning into native Copper River streams.

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND ISSUES

The proposals in question, which were submitted by a fractional and marginal group of Prince William Sound seiners are not well-supported in Cordova by the seine fishing fleet. As far as the PWS Enhanced allocation plan is concerned, we already agreed on allocation as two cooperative groups in 2005 and the allocation plan was revised and approved by Board of Fish. There is no justification for increasing time and area for the seine fleet in PWS Sound at this time. The current plan allows for a 50% split of total ex-vessel harvested value between the drift and seine fleets, the main goal being to provide a fair and equitable allocation and reduce conflict among groups. Any change in favor of the seine fleet would only increase disparity between these two groups. Currently the seine fleet is above their 50% allocation; being closer to 41%/59% in 2010 and 39%/61% in 2011. What these seiners want now, even though they agreed to the previous plan, is to change it, but they have no basis for their request.

In sum, I hope the Board of Fish is able to sift through the proposals and be able to make clear decisions on these important issues. Again, I appreciate the time you have taken to ensure fairness and longevity among user groups for our fisheries.

Sincerely,



Brent Davis

Cordova Resident
Area E Permit Holder, F/V Gizella

PO Box 1171
Cordova, AK 99574
907.429.7655

Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

November 15, 2011

Thank you to all the board members for your service and willingness to read my comments. I have been a commercial fisherman in Area E for over 45 years.

I urge the board to oppose proposals 51, 54 and 55, and leave the C&T findings as they are for the salmon stocks in the Chitina Subdistrict and the Copper River District. The C&T findings have been reviewed repeatedly for the Chitina Subdistrict stocks and it has been determined that they do **NOT** meet the 8 criteria necessary to establish a C&T finding, and do not fit the new definition of a stock used for a "subsistence way of life". Whereas, in the Copper River District there has been a long term reliance on this fish stock going back 4 generations.

I urge the board to oppose proposals 72,73,74,75, 117 and 118.

The Copper River king salmon stock is a fully utilized and allocated resource. Any increase in allowable take in the PU fishery would be a direct re-allocation of the resource. In 2005, when the board approved the regulation to restrict commercial fishing inside the barrier islands, they determined that the Chitina Personal Use fishery should share in the conservation burden and be restricted to one king salmon. Nothing has changed which would justify that regulation to be changed.

As for Prop. 117, ADFG completed its review of Escapement Goals and Stocks of Concern for the PWS Management Area. The Department recommended no change to the CR King salmon current escapement goal. There is no justification to change the SEG if the Department does not have a concern.

As for, Prop. 118, there is no justification to adopt further restrictions to fishing inside the barrier islands; if there is a concern, the Department already has the ability to restrict fishing by emergency order. If Proposal 118 is adopted and put into regulation, this would restrict the Department's ability to manage the fishery in times of abundance and maximize the opportunity for commercial harvest.

I strongly urge the board to not adopt any of the proposals 101, 104, 105, 106, 108, 110 and 112 that alter the PWS Management and Allocation Plan or proposals 88, 89 & 92 that increase time and area for the seine fleet.

The fact is that Prince William Sound seine fleet is doing very well. They are harvesting the greatest share of PWSAC enhanced salmon by almost 20%. There is absolutely no justification to change the existing PWS Management and Allocation Plan, or give them more time and area. In 2005 the Board of Fisheries working with ADFG, the seine and gillnet fleets adopted major changes to the Allocation Plan to make a more equitable split of PWSAC enhanced salmon. It worked, the seine fleet has recovered.

Thank you again for your time and consideration of my comments.



Henry M. Wiese
Cordova, AK

15 Nov 2011

Propose / # 54 + 55

I am against these proposals again this year they have been before the Board lately (2010) and were voted against by the Board unanimously. Asking again this soon is a waste of time, resources, and money

Norman H. Campbell
Norman H. Campbell
P.O. Box 873176
Wasilla, AK 99687

BOARD OF FISHERIES

VIA FAX 907-465-6094

Comment on BOF proposal #104 -- SUPPORT

This proposal would allow both seines and gillnets to be legal gear whenever a fishery is allowed north of Pakenham Point in the Coghill District of Prince William Sound. This is a wild stock sockeye, chum, and pink area which was traditionally fished by both gear types prior to the construction of the WHN hatchery on Esther Island. Seines are presently prohibited prior to July 21 when virtually all the sockeye and most of the wild chums destined to the Coghill River have entered the river. With the volume and value of Main Bay Hatchery sockeye and WHN hatchery chums being so high, very few gillnetters fish above Pakenham Point and large over-escapements of sockeye into Coghill Lake has become the norm. These fish should be harvested.

****An unintended consequence of the construction of the Main Bay and WHN hatcheries is that gillnet areas that were expanded into traditional seine areas to harvest the hatchery returns also began to take large numbers of wild stock fish that were passing through to the seine fishery. These fish represent a reallocation of wild fish from the seiners to the gillnetters. The PWS Allocation Policy was not intended to allocate wild fish.****

Seiners were removed from the Coghill District prior to July 21 to ensure that they did not impact chums returning to WHN hatchery. Allowing seiners to fish north of Pakenham Point would have no impact on hatchery chums and would allow seiners to fish one of their traditional areas for sockeye. Fish have been going to waste there for years since the gillnet fleet expends very little effort targeting these fish.

Beaver Nelson
FV Nuka Point
Box 130
Homer, Alaska 99603

PWS Seine Permit Holder

BOARD OF FISHERIES**VIA FAX 907-465-6094**

Testimony to the BOF on 5AAC24.370 Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Allocation Plan.

The PWS Management and Salmon Allocation Plan was formulated over several years and BOF cycles.

The PWS Enhancement Program is integral to the overall success of all users who harvest PWS salmon.

Historic methodology was used to determine user groups' fair and equitable allocation of enhanced salmon stocks.

The current allocation plan provides for fleet adjustments depending on economic values in allocating enhanced PWSAC salmon stocks.

It is imperative that any allocation plan provide for a variety of tools to bring parity to the user groups. We recognize that these tools do not bring immediate results as evidenced by the ex-vessel value of harvests between user groups.

There is no way of accurately predicting wild and enhanced salmon run strength or salmon prices prior to any given season. Therefore, it is unreasonable to seek specific short term remedies with potentially unforeseen results.

It is further recognized that ex-vessel value is the most reasonable guideline for allocating enhanced PWSAC salmon stocks among user groups.

On the basis of the above statement, we the undersigned request the Board of Fisheries reject Proposal #101.

Beaman Nilsen
F/V Nerka Point
Box 130
Homer, AK 99603

ATTN: BOARD OF FISH COMMENTS

BOARD SUPPORT SECTION

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

P. O. BOX 99811-5526

JUNEAU, AK. 99811 5526

FAX: 907-465-6094

SUBMITTED BY: WAYNE SIMMONS

640 EAST PRIMROSE CIRCLE

PALMER, AK. 99645

PH: 907-707-1683

PAGE 1 OF 3

I support PROPOSAL # 66 - RE: FISHING SEASONS and LAWFUL GEAR and SPECIFICATIONS.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Advisory Committee

WHY - I support. This PROPOSAL addresses some of the concerns of locals and users of the Lake Louise Waterway, NO NETS - in open water will eliminate the abuse of some user groups that target Lake Trout spawning areas in the fall of the year. Also, the adoption of this PROPOSAL would significantly contribute to the conservation and preservation of a slow growth resource - the LAKE TROUT - for this and future generations.

I support PROPOSAL # 67 - RE: SUBSISTENCE FISHING PERMITS.

PROPOSED BY: Paxson Fish & Game Advisory Committee

WHY - I support. This PROPOSAL reflects the concerns of PROPOSAL # 66 - NO NETS In open water will reduce the abuse of some users and protect the resource. New regulations will help maintain a sustainable yield.

I Support PROPOSAL # 68 - RE: WATERS CLOSED TO SUBSISTENCE FISHING.

PROPOSED BY: John & Yvette Delaquito

WHY - I support. This well written PROPOSAL highlights one of the concerns and focal points of USER ABUSE. With our residence being the closest cabin to the Lake Louise / Lake Susitna Channel I have witnessed on many occasions USER ABUSE of netting and spearing (at the same time). The Louise / Susitna and the Susitna / Tyone Channels represent a "bottle neck" for the natural movement of all fish. I have seen "Freshwater Fish Subsistence Permittees" set NETS across both ends of Channels and drive the fish to the net. With this "Poacher Practice" the gill net now becomes a seine net. With all species being vulnerable in these shallow waters, NEW regulations are warranted.

PAGE 2 OF 3

I support PROPOSAL # 69 - RE: WATERS CLOSED TO SUBSISTENCE FISHING.

PROPOSED BY: Wayne Simmons

WHY - I support. This PROPOSAL being similar to PROPOSAL # 69 points out the need for regulation change. The USER base has changed with time and the increase of demand has exceeded a sustainable yield of quantity and quality of Lake Trout. There has been a notable decline in recent years.

I support PROPOSAL # 71 - RE: WATERS CLOSED TO SUBSISTENCE FISHING; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE UPPER COPPER RIVER AND UPPER SUSITNA RIVER AREA.

PROPOSED BY : WAYNE SIMMONS

WHY - I support. One of the MOST important things the BOARD OF FISH could do in the interest of resource protection is highlighted in this PROPOSAL.

CLOSE Lake Trout fishing on the Lake Louise, Lake Susitna, Lake Tyone Waterway from September 1st to October 15th or until freeze-up.

This CLOSURE during the Lake Trout spawning season would allow the Lake Trout to spawn unmolested and without being targeted by some USER GROUPS.

I have witnessed "Sport" fisherman (anchored up) over spawning beds and snagging Lake Trout. Also, witnessed "Freshwater Fish Subsistence Permittees" use their gill nets as seines at spawning areas throughout the waterway.

A CLOSURE during the spawning season is warranted to protect and preserve a slow growth resource throughout the spawning season.

PAGE 3 OF 3

SECTION 5AAC01.625

Regarding Proposals 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66

Prohibit netting of any fish in Lake Louise, Lake Susitna, and Lake Tyone.

I support these proposals:

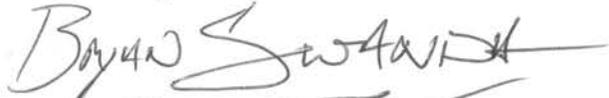
Print name

Sign name

Hans Weinmeister



BRYAN SWANDA



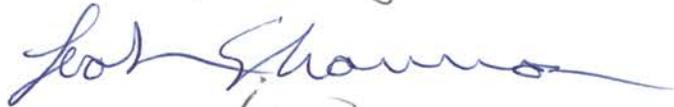
Brian Feucht



Kenneth J. Hardy



Leah Shannon



Xee Xiong



K. Fenman



Sean Taylor



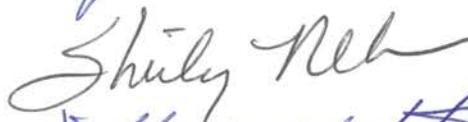
John Iretson



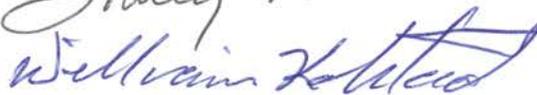
Troy Geest



Shirley Nelson



William Kolstad



Brandon C. Miller



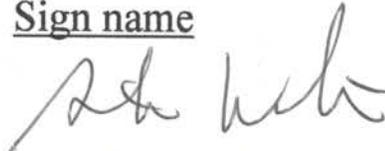
SECTION 5AAC01.625

Regarding Proposals 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66

Print name

Sign name

Steve Walker



MICHAEL LAWRENCE
DAN McCLUSKEY

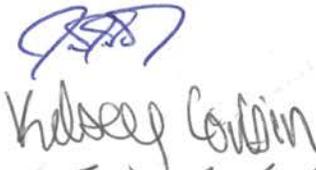
Nike Lawrence
Dan McCluskey

STEVE POPELKA



Nick Grant

JOE TAYLOR
Kelsey Corbin



JAMES HEASTER

Kelsey Corbin
James Heaster

Hunter Folkedahl



Ronald S Mitchell



Larry L. Ross



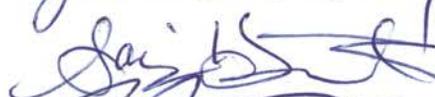
Jeff Brinkman



Jack Bowland

Jack Bowland

Sayuri Bowland



GEORGE GARRISON



October 19, 2010 Over 100 Lake Trout heads, result of melting at Lake Louise



November 15, 2011

I am in Opposition of The Following Proposals

Proposals 54 and 55- Opposed

These two proposals have already been discussed, analyzed, and ruled upon during our last cycle at Board of Fish. Why is it that some users of a group feel the need to be superior to others in that group. There allegations should be based upon facts and backed up with real data. In my opinion the Chitna Dip Net Fishery should be re-classified into two separate user groups. Those that live in communities within the geographical area should be subsistence and those that live outside the geographical area, (urban areas) be personal use.

Proposals 72-75 and 117- Opposed

As a CDFU gillnet member I agree with the written arguments against these proposals. There is no justification to change the regulations.

Proposal 118- Opposed

There are already management tools in place for any concerns of conservation. ADF&G has done well in using these management tools to achieve their goals.

Proposal 88-89, 92,101,104-106, 108,110- Opposed

The PWS allocation plan that is in effect is fair and equitable, There is no reason why the seine fleet should be given more area and time. This proposal is based on greed. The current allocation plan maintains and provides a fair and equitable allocation between the two user groups. As gill-netters we are restricted by both time and areas that are much smaller than that of the seine fleet. Any more time or area given to the seine fleet would create a larger split in the allocation between the two user groups.

Proposal 81- Opposed

This proposal essentially would keep the gillnet fleet from fishing any shorelines, mud flats or shallow areas. We would be reduced in area because we would have to fish out in deeper waters. Mechanical Power is necessary for towing on our gear because it keeps our nets straight and legal, it keeps our nets from becoming tangled with others who are fishing close to us, and it helps keep our nets from snagging on the bottom.

November 15, 2011

PWS Groundfish

I am in Opposition of this Proposal

Proposal 43- Oppose

The current regulation should be retained until there is further studies and evidence acquired to support this proposal. There has been no current data acquired to support such a theory. Before the influx of guided and non-guided sport fishermen there was an abundance of fish in these waters, however; with the biomass on the decline, and the increase of user groups on can determine the reason why there are fewer fish.

I am in Favor of These Proposals

Proposal 46- In Favor Of

Revision of the regulation should be applied to the Eastern Gulf and Prince William Sound areas.

Proposal 47- In Favor Of

The dates of the skate fishery in the Eastern Gulf and Prince William Sound should be amended. There is an abundance of this specie that could be utilized as a resource and should not be wasted. This could be a fishery that coincides with the specie spiny dogfish and retained under a different permit other than miscellaneous finfish.

Proposal 48- In Favor Of

Spiny Dogfish should be allowed to be retained as its own specie or coincide with the specie Skate. I agree that the specie Spiny Dogfish be utilized under its own permit. There is an abundance of this specie and it should be utilized as a resource instead of wasted.

November 15, 2011

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board Support Section
Board of Fish Members
Fax # 907-465-6094

RE: BOF Comments for Valdez Meeting
Submitted by Mark Buchner

Members of the BOF:

Thank you for your time and contributions dealing with these important issues, and thank you for letting me take part in this process by voicing my opinion – it is a privilege

My name is Mark Buchner and I have fished in Prince William Sound since 1978. I have crabbed, seined, owned and operated a charter fishing business, gillnet fished and halibut fished. I have had a boat and slip continuously in Valdez since 1980 and presently gillnet in Prince William Sound. The livelihood of me and my family is dependant on fishing Prince William Sound and the Copper River. I am passionate and grateful that I am able to fish for my living.

Proposals 54 & 55: OPPOSE

Here we go yet again. The Chitna Dipnet Fishery has been found, numerous times, to not meet the criteria for a positive customary and traditional finding. If a million people move to Fairbanks, should they all be classified as C&T users? These proposals demand of C&T belittles the rights of the resource to other users. This group has always been able to get fish. They will not starve without the C&T finding. If there are poor returns, I believe conservation demands that they share in the burden with all other users.

Proposal 56: SUPPORT

All fisheries and user groups need to be included in managing kings.

Proposals 72, 73, 74 & 75: OPPOSE

Previous dipnet proposals state that 10,000 families want fish, and that's fine if it is true. But now they want more? There are not more to get. They want 5 kings and 75 sockeyes – which equates to 50,000 kings and 750,000 sockeyes?? That's just not feasible. I have not caught 5 kings in the last two seasons. Again, all user groups should have a share in management goals and escapement objectives.

Proposal 77: OPPOSE

Too much set net gear concentrated in one spot.

Proposal 78: SUPPORT

Permit stacking has worked well in Bristol Bay. It could work as well in Prince William Sound.

Prince William Sound BOF Proposals
Comments – Mark Buchner
Page 2

Proposal 79: SUPPORT

I have personally observed, and reported to ADF&G, vessels using deep gear before it is legal. Timing of legal gear should be the same in all Districts.

Proposal 81: STRONGLY OPPOSE

If this proposal is adopted, it will take the near shore areas out of gillnetting. Most of the fish are in close proximity to the beach. Do we have to be in 28 feet of water to set our gear? If I snag up, which happens to everyone, will I get a citation? How can I work my net without mechanical power? Under the question of “who is likely to suffer,” the Proposal writer states “no one.” What?? I say everyone will suffer, including ADF&G. The department will not be able to even come close being fair in enforcing something like this. In all my years of fishing I have never had a citation for anything, but if this is adopted, at the start of the season you should just give a blanket ticket to the whole fleet. I don't understand – does ADF&G not want us to catch these fish? I have asked enforcement about the current regulation and have been told that if any of your gear is not floating “buoys, corks or web” we are going to be cited. Proposal 81 is draconian in its measures. The current regulations regarding these issues work well if you have enforcement. Trooper Beck should not be the only one out there enforcing these rules and regulations. Get more enforcement on the fishing grounds. This is a very poorly written and unenforceable proposal.

Proposals 88, 89, 92, 101, 104, 105, 106, 108 and 110: STRONGLY OPPOSE

These proposals will have a direct negative impact on all gillnetters and on the Prince William Sound Allocation Plan that was revised and approved by the BOF and all user groups in Prince William Sound. So now the gear group with the most money who already catch the most fish, who get to fish in the most areas of Prince William Sound, want to change the allocation yet again so they can be allowed to catch more than any other users. They already get more than everyone and they want more still? I say no. The disparity between the ex-vessel values are growing larger each year and will continue to grow larger in the future, yet the seine fleet wants more? I say no way. The seine fleet voted in favor of the current plan because they thought it would increase their harvested value, and guess what, they did – substantially. So now they pull out the squeaky wheel and want it greased with the gillnet harvest. I hope the BOF sees these proposals for what they are – a greedy power play by a gear group with the most money.

- Proposal 101 states that it is an economic impossibility to balance the harvest 50-50. Of course it is when the seine group catches more than their share and will not adhere to the catch plan they voted in favor of. This group of proposals has the seine fleet wanting the majority of the fish at the expense of other harvesters.
- Proposal 104 would result in an increase harvest of all wild stock fish which will require additional management actions by ADF&G.

Prince William Sound BOF Proposals
Comments – Mark Buchner
Page 3

- Proposal 108 would eliminate the Port Chalmers Enhanced Chum Fishery to the gillnet fleet. There would be no means for balancing the allocation when the gillnet fleet harvests less than 45% of the ex-vessel value of Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation fish. There is at present an allocation shortfall and Port Chalmers helps with this disparity but it is still not enough to even come close to a fair balance.
- Proposal 110 would start an intercept fishery for wild and enhanced stocks bound for other fisheries and gear groups. Multiple stocks of wild and enhanced pink, chum, sockeye and coho pass through this area and would be subject to, or vulnerable to, overharvest.

Proposals 111 & 112: SUPPORT

I support these proposals based on the current allocation plan.

Proposals 114 & 115: OPPOSE

PWSAC is a model program of success for enhanced fisheries. In fact, it is the best hatchery program in the world. Why would anyone want to dismantle something that provides opportunity and jobs to thousands of people? The original intentions of hatchery projects are being achieved at no loss to anyone; therefore, I believe that PWSAC should be allowed to produce more chums, pinks, sockeyes and cohos. If either of these proposals are adopted they will have a major economic impact on all gear groups and, because of cost recovery issues, on PWSAC as well.

Proposal 117: OPPOSE

ADF&G has NOT stated there is a need to adjust the current king salmon SEG of 24,000 or more as stated in the present regulations. This is yet another move to reallocate to a different user group a fully utilized and allocated resource.

Proposal 118: OPPOSE

ADF&G already has the power to close commercial fishing inside the barrier islands. If sockeye are pouring in across the bar, the gillnet fleet should have harvest opportunity available on the inside. If there is a problem with escapement, ADF&G has the power to close it and at times they do.

Proposal 127: SUPPORT

If commercial fishing is restricted then the commercial guided sports fishery needs to be restricted as well. All users need to support escapement goals and objectives.

Proposal 128: SUPPORT

This is long overdue although I'm not sure how you would be able to enforce this. At airports it would be plausible but for people driving out it would be far more difficult.

Comments on Proposal #51 before the Alaska Board of Fisheries at their Prince William Sound and Upper Copper River/Upper Susitna River Finfish meeting in Valdez, Alaska from December 2-7, 2011

By

Howard Delo, the proposer

RECEIVED

NOV 16 2011

BOARDS

Introduction

This proposal asks the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) to review the Copper River District salmon subsistence fishery, as defined in 5 AAC 01.616, using the definition of “subsistence way of life” as adopted by the BOF at their March, 2010 meeting. This definition was adopted to comply with a court order to develop such a definition and use it in evaluating whether the Chitina dipnet fishery should be either a personal use or a subsistence fishery.

Prior to the adoption of this definition: *“a subsistence way of life means a way of life that is consistent with the long-term reliance upon fish and game resources for the basic necessities of life,”* the BOF used the eight subsistence criteria contained in 5 AAC 99.010. Different boards, over time, had classified the Chitina dipnet fishery as personal use, then subsistence, and back to personal use based on their individual interpretations of those criteria. There was no standard or definition of “a subsistence way of life” as the phrase is used in subsistence criteria #8 against which board members could measure the suitability of a particular fishery to qualify as a subsistence fishery.

The Chitina Dipnetter’s Association and the Alaska Fish and Wildlife Conservation Fund filed a lawsuit against the State of Alaska, specifically the BOF, when the board reclassified the Chitina fishery from subsistence to personal use in 2003. On December 31, 2009, Judge Mike McDonald released a Decision and Order relating to this lawsuit. Judge McDonald directed the Board of Fisheries to revisit its 2003 decision reverting a previous subsistence finding back to personal use. With this reversal, the Judge tasked the board with clarifying the phrase “subsistence way of life” utilized in the eighth criterion for customary and traditional use before deciding whether dipnetting at Chitina qualified.

The judge based his decision partially on some of the 2003 BOF deliberation materials which clearly contained audio comments to the effect that some board members were not clear in their understanding of what a subsistence way of life entailed and how it related to the Chitna fishery and the eight criteria. Decisions were being made without a clear definition of what exactly was being discussed.

The BOF adopted a fairly strict definition, in my opinion, of the “subsistence way of life” at their March, 2010 meeting and went on to deliberate in great detail about whether the Chitina dipnet fishery met the necessary “higher bar” a subsistence fishery holds over a

personal use fishery. The BOF voted unanimously to keep the Chitina dipnet fishery as a personal use fishery for Alaskan residents.

As almost all BOF decisions are wont to do, this decision delighted the Cordova subsistence users and the Ahtna folks using the upriver Glennallen District subsistence fishwheel and dipnet fishery, while angering the Fairbanks and other area dipnet users of the Chitina fishery. The “fisheries politics” of various management scenarios involving the Copper River sockeye stocks were at play here. In overly simplified terms, one group wanted a guaranteed fishery regardless of stock return strength while another group didn’t want to risk losing a commercial sockeye fishery in a weak return year to provide for a substantial upriver subsistence fishery.

Why the proposal was submitted

I have been told by more than one individual that by introducing proposal #51, I am only “stirring the pot” on this issue. I see a fairness issue here – criteria used to establish one fishery should be applied the same way when evaluating another, similar fishery. The Chitina fishery was originally established and subsequently changed in its status without the benefit of the subsistence way of life definition. The BOF decision in March, 2010 incorporated the new definition and the Chitina Fishery remained a personal use fishery. My understanding is that the Copper River District subsistence fishery was also established without a subsistence way of life definition and depending on the observer, may no longer meet the recently adopted definition of a subsistence way of life.

Some of the deliberation comments from the March, 2010 meeting shed some light on the possible failure of a fishery to meet subsistence criteria. Quoting from a press release dated March 25, 2010, titled: Board of Fisheries 2010, by the Cordova District Fishermen United; “(Bill) Brown was first on the record, and provided a systematic breakdown of the Chitina fishery in relation to the eight criteria for customary and traditional use. Closing with a somewhat subjective statement relating to how subsistence is difficult to describe, but you know what it is when you see it, Brown later went back on the record to objectify this statement.”

“Next up to deliver his verdict was John Jensen. Jensen described the difference between personal use fisheries and subsistence fisheries as a ‘need to, want to situation.’ Jensen explained that in personal use fisheries, users make the decision to harvest fish, compared to just doing it in subsistence fisheries.”

“‘Reliance is the key word,’ Jensen said ‘There are several types of reliance. I rely on fish to some extent, but can live without it. This is the difference between personal use and subsistence’.”

“Following Jensen was former Anchorage Judge, Karl Johnstone, who went on the record to give a thorough analysis of the Chitina fishery. ‘It is important to look at the users in

evaluating reliance,' he said. Further to this opening remark, Johnstone analyzed the handing down of traditional subsistence knowledge. 'Fishing skills, using a dipnet etc. are taught by families to youth that live in an area,' he said. 'You are taught to respect the resource not to play with it....' Johnstone also spoke of long-term reliance, and articulated his points very carefully. 'Reliance directly and indirectly provides for the basic necessities of life. The ability to pass down history, skills and lore depends on the health of the resource,' he said. 'If you have enough fish, you don't have to buy those resources and can instead use [that income] to pay for the basic necessities such as gas, heat etc'."

Continuing with the press release; "Chairman of the Board, Vince Webster shared his viewpoints with the audience and explained that the eighth criteria for customary and traditional use is a way to apply the difference between personal use and subsistence. 'The cultural, social, spiritual, and nutritional values require the need to be tied to the basic necessities of life,' he said, 'and it is essential to distinguish between personal use and subsistence.' Webster explained that although the two categories look similar, a sliding scale can be used to determine the level of reliance on the resource. 'I'm looking at subsistence as a higher point on the scale than I would personal use,' he said. The final board member to share his position, Howard Delo, gave a thorough comparison of an Alaska 'outdoorsman' lifestyle as opposed to a 'subsistence lifestyle'."

General information about Cordova

According to Wikipedia for Cordova, Alaska, the population of the small city has fluctuated greatly over time:

<u>Historical Populations</u>		
<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>% change</u>
1910	1,152	--
1920	955	-17.1%
1930	980	+2.6%
1940	938	-4.3%
1950	1,165	+24.2%
1960	1,128	-3.2%
1970	1,164	+3.2%
1980	1,879	+61.4%
1990	2,110	+12.3%
2000	2,454	+16.3%
2008 (est.)	2,242	-8.6%

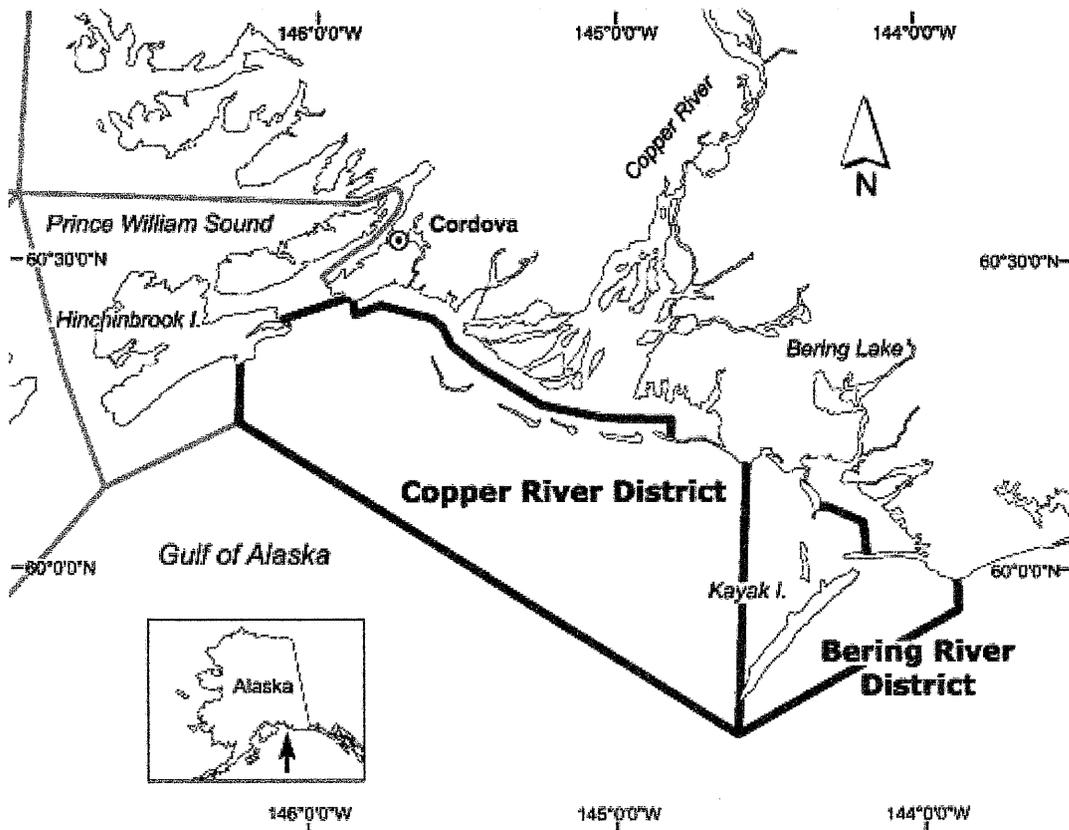
Cordova has a passenger jet-compatible airport and is located on the Alaska Maritime Highway system, which provides year-round service. In 2000, the median income for a family was \$65,625. Grocery stores, restaurants, diners and other food sales and "eating out" facilities are available. Commercial fishing is the main industry in Cordova and

approximately half of all households have at least one person involved in commercial fishing or processing. In 2009 there were 159 purse seine, 511 drift gillnet, and 27 set gillnet permits fished in the Prince William Sound and Copper River Delta area.

The city has one public elementary school with an enrollment of 206 students in 2008. Public secondary education is served by a single combined junior and senior high school with an enrollment of 205 students in 2008. The school district employed 26 teachers and the campus of the Prince William Sound Community College, a branch of the University of Alaska, Anchorage is located in Cordova.

My point in presenting this quick overview of Cordova is, simply, that the main user group for the Copper River District subsistence fishery (see Appendix F8) resides in a community situation much like the majority of “small towns” across Alaska located in both subsistence and non-subsistence designated areas. The chief difference between these communities is whether they are located on a road system tying them to the rest of the world.

Some thoughts on why the Copper River District may no longer meet the definition of a subsistence fishery



As you can see from this ADF&G website map, folks from the Cordova area have a ways to go to get to the mouth of the Copper River with further travel to access the delta islands areas to subsistence fish. Subsistence criteria #3 (5 AAC 99.010) states that one needs to consider: “(3) a pattern of taking or use consisting of methods and means of harvest that are characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost.”

Reliance on the salmon resource as a basic necessity of life was discussed at the BOF March, 2010 meeting and was incorporated in the definition adopted by the board. Let’s look at that aspect for a bit. According to Fisheries Management Report No. 10-55, titled: 2009 Prince William Sound Area Finfish Management Report, published December, 2010 by ADF&G, and written by J. Botz, et. al., the number of subsistence permits issued for the Copper River District and not fished is surprisingly high. I have attached Appendix Figure F1 from FMR 10-55 to illustrate this point.

Looking at the data in F1 from 2000 through 2009, the percentage range of Cooper River District subsistence permits which were returned and which did not fish went from a low of 26.8% to a high of 56.3%. The average of all Copper River District subsistence permits returned but not fished for this ten-year period was 38.7%. If there is such a reliance on the ability to harvest subsistence salmon in the Copper River District and the need to pass on traditional subsistence knowledge, why, over the period from 2000 to 2009, would an average of almost 39% of all district permit holders report that they did not fish? Three of those years (2005, 46.0%; 2008, 48.3%; and 2009, 56.3%) approached or surpassed seeing half or more of the subsistence permit holders reporting no fishing.

There are a couple of possible explanations for this. Appendix F6 of FMR 10-55 has a table of federal subsistence harvests of salmon. The sub-group of PWS/Chugach Subdistrict is the closest area I could imagine involving Copper River District state subsistence users. The number of issued permits and reported federal subsistence harvests for the PWS/Chugach Subdistrict is inconsequential compared to the levels of state subsistence harvest reported in Appendix F1.

The major explanation I see involves the ability of a large percentage of the Copper River District subsistence permit holders to obtain their needed fish through the “homepack” option (5 AAC 39.010) which states: “A person engaged in a commercial fishery may retain finfish from lawfully taken commercial catch for that person’s own use, including the use as bait in a commercial fishery. Finfish retained under this section may not be sold or bartered.” Appendix F7 of FMR 10-55 lists this data from 1994 through 2009.

The data for 2009 shows that 328 drift gillnet commercial permit holders reported retaining 6,528 sockeye salmon as homepack from the Copper River District. By comparison, Appendix F1 lists 128 state subsistence permits which were fished reported harvesting 1,764 sockeye salmon for their personal use from the Copper River District, an average of just under 14 fish per subsistence permit. Appendix F8 lists Area E

commercial homepack and subsistence harvests by permit holder community of residence for the year 2009. The bulk of all permits are based in Cordova.

Summary

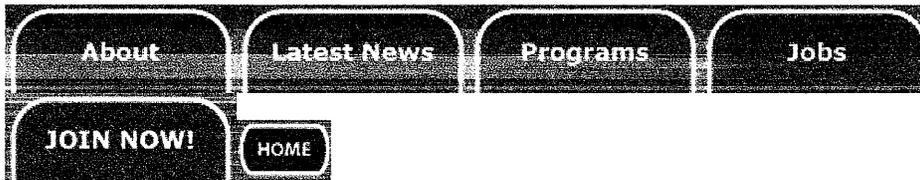
The users of the Copper River District salmon fishery obviously have a reliance on salmon in their day-to-day lives. This reliance has historically been met by allowing a subsistence fishery in that district. Over time, different options have developed which allow a large percentage of those users to obtain their needed fish through means other than a subsistence fishery. Do these alternate means offset the need to maintain a subsistence fishery and would a designation of this historical fishery to personal use with all the same seasons, methods and means, permit recording requirements, and bag limits be a better “fit” given the declining reliance on the current subsistence fishery to provide the basic necessities of life?

I see a lot of similarities between this Copper River District subsistence fishery and the Chitina personal use fishery. Proposal #51 is asking the BOF to look at the Copper River District subsistence fishery in the same light and using the same definitions as were used in the recent deliberations over the Chitina personal use fishery. If the board determines that the Copper River District subsistence fishery still meets the “higher bar” of a subsistence fishery, so be it. At least an effort was made to fairly address how the salmon resources of the Copper River drainage can be obtained by those users needing and wanting salmon for their personal home use, whether they be subsistence or personal use users.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Press Release dated March 25, 2010, Board of Fisheries 2010: Unanimous vote leads to Chitina fishery remaining for Personal Use, from the Cordova District Fishermen United, Cordova, Alaska.
- 2)** Appendix F1. Salmon harvest and effort in the Copper River District subsistence drift gillnet fishery 1961 to 2009.
- 3)** Appendix F6. Salmon harvest and effort in the PWS and Upper Copper River federal subsistence fisheries, 2002 to 2009.
- 4)** Appendix F7. Salmon retained from the commercial harvest for personal use (homepack) by district, species, and gear type, in Prince William Sound and the Copper River and Bering River districts, 1994 to 2009.
- 5)** Appendix F8. Area E commercial homepack and subsistence harvests by permit holder community of residence, 2009.

***** This information is contained in Fishery Management Report No. 10-55, 2009 Prince William Sound Area Finfish Management Report, by Jeremy Botz, Glenn Hollowell, Jenefer Bell, Rich Brenner, and Steve Moffitt. Published December, 2010 by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.***



Board of Fisheries 2010

**Cordova District Fishermen United
Cordova, Alaska**

PRESS RELEASE
March 25, 2010

Unanimous vote leads to Chitina fishery remaining for Personal Use

The Alaska Board of Fisheries at a meeting in Anchorage on March 20-21, voted unanimously against classifying the Chitina Subdistrict fishery as subsistence, which has a higher priority under state law than that of commercial, sport or personal-use fishing.

On December 31, 2009, Judge Mike McDonald released a Decision and Order relating to a lawsuit filed by the Chitina Dipnetter's Association and Alaska Fish and Wildlife Conservation Fund against the State of Alaska to reclassify Chitina dipnetting as a subsistence use. Judge McDonald directed the Board of Fisheries to revisit its 2003 decision reverting a previous subsistence finding back to personal-use. With this reversal, the Judge tasked the board with clarifying the phrase "subsistence way of life" utilized in the eighth criterion for customary and traditional use before deciding whether dipnetting at Chitina qualified. Consequently, two board-generated proposals were slated for the March Statewide Finfish Board of Fisheries meeting to tackle these two requirements.

Cordova District Fishermen United board members and staff spent considerable time reviewing the Judge's Decision and Order, and developing written comments relating to the two proposals. Executive Director, Rochelle van den Broek was very pleased with the amount of time invested by the CDFU Board on this topic. "I would estimate that several board members put in at least 100 hours each on these proposals," she said. "We'd start around lunch-time each day, and continue working until well after dinner time. It was a considerable investment of time." Those sitting around the table working on the comments included CDFU Board members, Curt Herschleb, John Renner and Andy Craig.

"In addition to the written comment preparation, a very important part of the process is physical attendance at the meeting. Over 100 fishermen made the journey to Anchorage for this meeting," van den Broek said. "I am very happy with the turn-out, it demonstrates just how important this fishery is to the livelihood of our commercial fleet." CDFU organized and facilitated the travel for 25 key representatives to attend. Many drove from Homer, and some traveled all the way from Seattle.

The Native Village of Eyak organized a special room at the Hilton Hotel where allies upriver and down met for a pre-meeting briefing on Friday night. Native Village of Eyak's Director of Environment and Natural Resources, Keith van den Broek wanted the room to be made available to all groups working together on this issue. "The space was intended for people to have access to CDFU and NVE resources, a photocopier, and a meeting space for strategizing and planning together," van den Broek said. The Native Village of Eyak sent seven representatives to the meeting.

During the pre-meeting briefing, CDFU representatives and members of the commercial fishing fleet, sat together with the Native Village of Eyak, and other tribes and representatives from upriver including Ahnta Corporation, Chitina Native Corporation, the Gulkana Tribe, and the Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium. Also present in the discussions were Trident President and Cordova Plant Manager John Garner and Rick Isaacson, ready to testify on the economic benefits of Cordova's commercial fleet, the number of jobs created through this fishery, and the number of Alaskan's that depend on commercially caught salmon.

Together, strategies were developed including a special tactic adopted by CDFU to streamline the public testimony process. CDFU President, Jerry McCune, commended the partnerships developed between the tribes and commercial fishing fleet. "It is not often that things come along like this where we can all set aside our differences and work together," McCune said, "and CDFU greatly appreciates the willingness shown by the upriver tribes to work together with us down here in Cordova to ensure that the Copper River resources are protected for those subsistence users that truly depend on them."

49 people signed up to testify before the Board of Fisheries, which commenced on Saturday, March 20 at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel shortly after staff reports were delivered by ADFG. With the room filled to capacity, all participants were anxious for the meeting to get underway. The majority of those in the room represented the interests of Cordova's commercial fishing fleet, and the upriver Glennallen Subsistence users. A very limited number were present supporting the views of the Chitina Dipnetter's Association and the Alaska Outdoor Council.

Sitting around a u-shaped table, facing the room, the Board of Fisheries were ready to hear from the public on whether the Chitina fishery should remain a personal use fishery or change to subsistence. John Jensen, a former commercial fisherman sat next to Bill Brown, a Professor of Economics. Karl Johnstone, a former Judge sat to the left of Chairman Vince Webster, a setnetter from King Salmon. Mel Morris sat to the Webster's right, a former ADFG biologist. Howard Delo sat next to Morris, an avid writer and owner of an outdoors store in Big Lake. Newest Board of Fisheries recruit, and Palin appointee Janet Woods, did not show up for the meeting.

The majority of public testimony urged the Board of Fisheries to adopt Proposal 200, and the clarified definition of "subsistence way of life" and to oppose the classification of the Chitina fishery as subsistence, leaving it as personal use.

Strong testimony was delivered from CDFU's key spokespeople, and the special tactic described during the pre-meeting briefing was unveiled. CDFU representatives approached the table, followed by 5-15 other fishermen who stood behind the person testifying to show their support. The representative spokesperson then read off all of the names of the people they were testifying on behalf of. Throughout the testimony, the fishermen standing behind the speaker faced the Board and did not speak.

Board of Fisheries Chairman, Vince Webster appreciated the streamlined testimony approach and the efforts shown by those that combined their testimony. "I really appreciate the fact that you saved us a lot of time, and prevented us from having to hear the same testimony over and over again," Webster said, "If all 15 of you had signed up to testify, we would have only been able to give each speaker two minutes instead of three minutes for each person". CDFU sent forth 5 key spokespeople that utilized this approach, and consequently all faces in the room were given an opportunity to stand up and be heard. Key CDFU and Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee spokespeople included Andy Craig, Jason Lee, James Burton, Eric Manzer, Mike Mahoney, John Renner, Tom Carpenter and Rochelle van den Broek. At least 15 other fishermen also testified before the board, in addition to 10-15 tribal representatives from upriver and down.

The streamlined testimony process allowed the board to commence deliberations ahead of schedule, on Saturday afternoon. The board voted first to define the term "subsistence way of life" as "a way of life that is consistent with the long-term reliance upon the fish and game resources for the basic necessities of life." The Chitina Dipnetters Association and several ADFG Advisory Committee's preferred the phrase to include the words "to supplement the basic necessities of life". Ahtna Corporation and CDFU both supported strengthening the definition to prevent subjective interpretation in the future. The Board voted in support of adopting the Board generated proposed definition, with no modification.

Breaking for the day, Chairman Webster announced that the Board would reconvene in the morning to take up Proposal 201 – the classification of the Chitina fishery.

Back on the record at 8am the following day, Chairman Webster decided to offer members of the public a unique opportunity to supplement the record in light of the new definition of "subsistence way of life". Opening up a public town-hall style panel, participants were invited to briefly discuss whether the Chitina Subdistrict met the new definition.

Chitina Dipnetter's Association President and co-owner of a commercial charter business operating in Chitina, Mark Hem, explained to the Board just how much the Chitina dipnetters depended on Copper River salmon stocks for their "basic necessities of life". Board of Fisheries member and economist, Bill Brown, challenged Hem's statement and asked "If you lived in Fairbanks, would you drive down for only 5 fish?", Brown was referring to a small run year. Hem responded, "Probably not." Brown was held up by the fact that the efficiency and economy of the fishery did not make sense.

Following this one hour discussion, the Board of Fisheries were ready to hear final staff reports from the Division of Subsistence before making their decision.

Brown was first on the record, and provided a systematic breakdown of the Chitina fishery in relation to the 8 criteria for customary and traditional use. Closing with a somewhat subjective statement relating to how subsistence is difficult to describe, but you know what it is when you see it, Brown later went back on the record to objectify this statement.

Next up to deliver his verdict was John Jensen. Jensen described the difference between personal use fisheries and subsistence fisheries as a "need to, want to situation." Jensen explained that in personal use fisheries, users make the decision to harvest fish, compared to just doing it in subsistence fisheries.

"Reliance is the key word," Jensen said "There are several types of reliance. I rely on fish to some extent, but can live without it. This is the difference between personal use and subsistence."

Following Jensen was former Anchorage Judge, Karl Johnstone, who went on the record to give a thorough analysis of the Chitina fishery. "It is important to look at the users in evaluating reliance," he said. Further to this opening remark, Johnstone analyzed the handing down of traditional subsistence knowledge. "Fishing skills, using a dipnet etc. are taught by families to youth that live in an area," he said. "You are taught to respect the resource not to play with it. I am sure that this level of love and respect for nature does not exist in the Chitina fishery." Johnstone also spoke of long-term reliance, and articulated his points very carefully. "Reliance directly and indirectly provides for the basic necessities of life. The ability to pass down history, skills and lore depends on the health of the resource," he said. "If you have enough fish, you don't have to buy those resources and can instead use [that income] to pay for the basic necessities such as gas, heat etc."

Board of Fisheries member, Mel Morris gave his comments next, and focused on the long-term pattern of reliance as demonstrated within the Chitina dipnet fishery. "Only 20% of users have used the resource for more than 20 years. This doesn't meet the long-term requirement of customary and traditional use," he said. Morris also described the economy of the fishery based on survey data presented by the Division of Subsistence. "The cost to access the fishery is considerably higher than the amount demonstrated in the surveys. The costs to use guides etc. does not

indicate an economy of effort, especially when the average harvest is 14 fish," he said. In closing, Morris spoke about the opportunity that personal use fisheries provide. "The Chitina dipnet fishery is a wonderful experience for families to participate in and share in the resources," he said, "But, if it were taken away from me, my basic necessities would not be in jeopardy."

Chairman of the Board, Vince Webster shared his viewpoints with the audience and explained that the eighth criteria for customary and traditional use is a way to apply the difference between personal use and subsistence. "The cultural, social, spiritual, and nutritional values requires the need to be tied to the basic necessities of life," he said, "and it is essential to distinguish between personal use and subsistence." Webster explained that although the two categories look similar, a sliding scale can be used to determine the level of reliance on the resource. "I'm looking at subsistence as a higher point on the scale than I would personal use," he said.

The final board member to share his position, Howard Delo, gave a thorough comparison of an Alaska "outdoorsman" lifestyle as opposed to a "subsistence lifestyle". In a statement that surprised most people in the room, Delo said on the record, "I am the only member on the board with Chitina dipnet experience, and I can relate to the Fairbanks crowd." Delo explained that he led an Alaskan outdoorsman lifestyle and appreciated the recreational aspects of the fishery. His closing remarks left the audience stunned. "Although I did this, I never considered myself a subsistence user," he said. "I'm probably going to upset a lot of people by saying this." Delo also made a lot of people happy with his remarks.

Upon hearing the board's deliberations, and once the Department of Law was confident a thorough, objective record had been created relating to their decision, Board of Fisheries Executive Director, Jim Marcotte took a role call vote. By a vote of 0-6, all 6 members of the Board failed to find a customary and traditional use of Chitina salmon stocks.

Following this outcome, commercial fishermen and tribes were very happy. CDFU Board member, John Renner was very pleased with CDFU's strategy during this meeting. "Our presentation and relationships with upriver and downriver tribes made all of CDFU's efforts worthwhile," he said.

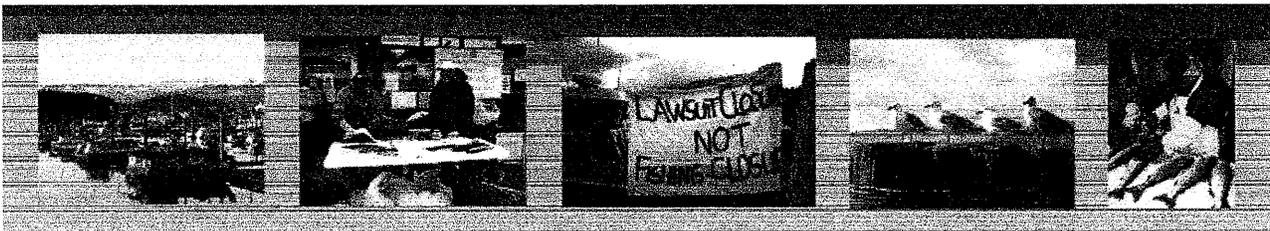
Copper River commercial fisherman, Shawn Gilman was also pleased with the outcome. "I would think that the majority of dipnetter's that visit Chitina every year would agree with the board's decision," he said. "This does not in any way affect their opportunity to harvest salmon for their households."

Also present at the meeting to testify on behalf of other fishermen, Mike Mahoney offered the following observations following the meeting. "I thought that CDFU did a great job. Making great testimony, having done very thorough researching and being well organized and professional paid off well," he said. "The cooperative relationships with the upriver tribes and with the Native Village of Eyak were extremely helpful. It's a solid foundation for CDFU to work from in the future. This was a huge issue for us and even though we had a unanimous decision, in no way was this ever a shoe-in. There was a lot at stake and CDFU was very well prepared."

CDFU Executive Director, Rochelle van den Broek said that this was the very best outcome CDFU could have hoped for, yet she was already looking to the future following this Board of Fisheries decision. "While I'm absolutely thrilled with this outcome, it's important to realize that this won't be the end of this issue. There is already talk of the Chitina Dipnetter's Association and AOC pursuing this further through the Alaska Supreme Court," van den Broek said. "It is our hope, by way of this unanimous Board of Fisheries vote, that the odds of a Judge taking this up are dramatically reduced."

CDFU President, Jerry McCune, said that this decision could have disrupted the balance between fisheries statewide. "It was a precedent setting decision, with potential long-reaching effects, and I am very happy that the Board of Fisheries set politics aside and continued to demonstrate their care and concern for Alaska's fishery resources," he said.

###END



Appendix F1.—Salmon harvest and effort in the Copper River District subsistence drift gillnet fishery 1961 to 2009.

Year	Permits				Reported Harvest ^b			
	Issued	Returned	Fished	Not fished ^a	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Total
1961	14	0	0	0	60	137	99	296
1962	14	0	0	0	44	135	3	182
1963	8	0	0	0	3	13	157	173
1964	5	0	0	2	14	0	0	14
1965	31	20	15	5	12	459	85	556
1966	45	31	21	10	47	175	0	222
1967	61	56	37	19	83	153	0	236
1968	17	15	7	8	11	36	0	47
1969	49	33	20	13	16	63	85	164
1970	32	27	24	3	66	179	0	245
1971	29	26	17	9	10	32	4	46
1972	104	80	75	5	149	569	53	771
1973	94	89	89	N/A	153	326	180	659
1974	9	5	3	2	5	4	2	11
1975	2	2	2	N/A	0	5	0	5
1976	27	14	14	N/A	1	10	0	11
1977	23	22	22	N/A	10	71	0	81
1978	34	28	9	19	37	18	12	67
1979	49	41	21	20	45	26	17	88
1980	39	35	18	17	19	27	17	63
1981	72	51	30	21	48	145	104	297
1982	108	90	48	42	60	634	106	800
1983	87	73	31	42	79	107	57	243
1984	118	104	57	47	68	324	135	527
1985	94	94	67	27	88	261	83	432
1986	88	85	57	28	86	348	47	481
1987	95	89	39	50	49	359	14	422
1988	114	97	57	40	59	226	42	327
1989	75	64	32	32	56	339	51	446
1990	88	76	40	39	60	469	82	611
1991	129	115	71	44	136	830	38	1,004
1992	126	114	67	47	142	785	42	969
1993	111	93	50	43	120	428	29	577
1994	101	97	60	37	164	474	67	705
1995	126	113	72	41	154	692	31	877
1996	176	158	101	57	276	969	47	1,292
1997	269	243	165	78	200	1,001	1,777	2,978
1998	245	231	144	87	295	850	680	1,825
1999	294	275	175	100	353	1,330	682	2,365
2000	416	400	293	107	689	4,360	44	5,093
2001	468	439	288	151	826	3,072	70	3,968
2002	355	331	199	132	549	3,067	28	3,644
2003	384	365	225	140	710	1,607	36	2,353
2004	511	482	321	161	1,106	1,822	46	2,974

-continued-

Appendix F1.—Page 2 of 2.

Year	Permits				Reported Harvest ^b			
	Issued	Returned	Fished	Not fished ^a	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Total
2005	237	224	121	103	260	830	15	1,105
2006	421	399	300	121	779	4,355	1	5,135
2007	469	440	295	145	1,145	6,148	15	7,308
2008	506	480	248	232	470	3,969	53	4,492
10-Year Average	406	384	247	139	689	3,056	99	3,844
2009	323	293	128	165	212	1,764	22	1,998

^a As reported on returned permits.

^b Reported harvest only.

Appendix F6.—Salmon harvest and effort in the PWS and upper Copper River Federal subsistence fisheries, 2002 to 2009.

Year	Permits				Reported Harvest ^b			
	Issued	Returned	Fished	Not fished ^a	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Total
Chitina Subdistrict								
2002	122	89	NA	NA	33	575	0	608
2003	100	82	NA	NA	18	717	70	805
2004	109	83	NA	NA	7	1,215	18	1,240
2005	76	64	NA	NA	22	1,265	0	1,287
2006	75	64	NA	NA	13	1,379	20	1,412
2007	98	87	75	12	26	929	40	995
2008	82	70	0	0	22	789	74	885
2009	68	62	27	35	8	817	11	836
Glennallen Subdistrict								
2002	201	162	NA	NA	564	7,950	81	8,595
2003	221	184	NA	NA	554	13,616	152	14,322
2004	262	206	NA	NA	636	17,704	152	18,492
2005	267	229	NA	NA	345	19,973	126	20,444
2006	254	222	NA	NA	430	16,711	28	17,169
2007	281	237	223	14	569	15,225	34	15,828
2008	270	219	0	0	705	11,347	156	12,208
2009	274	233	177	56	494	11,822	34	12,350
PWS/Chugach Subdistrict								
2005	46	45	22	23	0	109	141	250
2006	49	48	23	25	0	150	100	250
2007	33	33	17	16	0	36	68	104
2008	45	45	23	22	0	32	119	151
2009	39	38	22	16	0	46	185	231
Total federal subsistence harvests								
2002	323	251	NA	NA	597	8,525	81	9,203
2003	321	266	NA	NA	572	14,333	222	15,127
2004	371	289	NA	NA	643	18,919	170	19,732
2005	389	338	NA	NA	367	21,347	267	21,981
2006	378	334	NA	NA	443	18,240	148	18,831
2007	412	357	315	42	595	16,190	142	16,927
2008	397	334	23	22	727	12,168	349	13,244
2009	381	333	226	107	502	12,685	230	13,417

NA = data not available

^a As reported on returned permits.

^b Reported harvest only.

Appendix F7.—Salmon retained from the commercial harvest for personal use (homepack) by district, species, and gear type, in Prince William Sound and the Copper River and Bering River districts, 1994 to 2009.

Prince William Sound (drift gillnet, set gillnet and purse seine)															
Year	Chinook		Sockeye				Coho			Pink		Chum			
	Permits	Seine	Drift	Set											
			gillnet	gillnet											
1994	5	0	5	0	0	0	12	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	0
1995	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1996	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1997	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1998	14	0	18	0	19	28	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
1999	6	0	5	1	18	43	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2000	9	1	1	0	4	47	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	6	0
2001	11	1	6	1	0	46	18	0	20	0	0	0	0	2	0
2002	8	0	6	5	0	51	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003	14	0	24	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
2004	4	0	0	0	0	129	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
2005	5	0	1	0	0	60	0	0	107	0	0	0	0	20	0
2006	7	2	0	0	0	58	0	0	19	0	0	7	0	2	0
2007	9	1	7	0	0	63	1	0	13	0	0	7	0	1	0
2008	18	3	65	1	0	171	72	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-Year Average	9	1	12	1	2	69	10	1	19	0	0	1	0	3	0
2009	16	0	4	0	0	104	7	0	30	0	0	0	0	8	0

Copper River District (all drift gillnet)				
Year	Permits	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho
1994		192	947	21
1995		318	0	0
1996		345	0	0
1997		284	0	0
1998		309	1,435	14
1999		297	1,333	36
2000		245	651	0
2001		289	2,113	24
2002		247	1,138	187
2003		287	4,077	0
2004		174	525	2
2005		228	1,785	119
2006		264	1,539	137
2007		280	2,023	340
2008		223	2,172	423
10-Year Average		253	931	127
2009		328	6,528	717

-continued-

Appendix F7.--Page 2 of 2.

Year	Bering River District (all drift gillnet)			
	Permits	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho
1994	3	12	0	0
1995	5	11	0	0
1996	7	31	0	0
1997	1	3	0	0
1998	5	7	0	0
1999	2	2	20	102
2000	1	3	0	0
2001	2	2	0	0
2002	1	1	0	0
2003	6	6	52	0
2004	2	0	1	10
2005	2	2	0	0
2006	4	9	6	0
2007	0	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0	0
10-Year Average	2	5	10	11
2009	1	0	0	20

Appendix F8.—Area E commercial homepack and subsistence harvests by permit holder community of residence, 2009.

Community	Commercial Homepack ^a						Total
	Permits	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
Anchor Point	1	7	16	1	0	0	24
Anchorage	17	21	143	9	0	5	178
Big Lake	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Circle City	1	1	10	0	0	0	11
Cordova	195	634	3,950	314	4	31	4,933
Delta Junction	2	2	24	21	0	0	47
Eagle River	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Homer	22	15	273	215	0	5	508
Juneau	1	1	43	0	0	0	44
Kasilof	1	8	14	0	0	0	22
Kenai	1	0	12	0	0	0	12
Palmer	2	4	69	0	0	0	73
Seward	5	9	0	0	0	0	9
Sutton	1	0	10	0	0	0	10
Tatitlek	2	4	26	0	0	0	30
Valdez	3	15	58	0	0	3	76
Wasilla	6	2	35	1	0	0	38
Whittier	1	0	3	3	0	4	10
Willow	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
USA balance	71	152	1,840	203	57	19	2,271
Total	335	876	6,528	767	61	67	8,299

Community	Area E Subsistence ^b						Total
	Permits	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
Anchor Point	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anchorage	19	6	12	0	0	0	18
Chenega	4	2	168	26	5	84	285
Chugiak	3	0	1	0	0	0	1
Cordova	266	200	1,643	10	0	1	1,854
Eagle River	1	0	26	0	0	0	26
Fairbanks	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glennallen	1	4	3	0	0	0	7
Homer	8	0	0	12	0	0	12
Kasilof	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenai	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kodiak	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Pole	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Palmer	3	1	6	0	0	0	7
Seward	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Soldotna	2	0	50	0	0	0	50
Tatitlek	14	0	170	131	0	0	301
Valdez	6	1	20	0	0	0	21
Wasilla	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whittier	3	0	3	0	0	0	3
Total	340	214	2,102	179	5	85	2,585

^a Homepack fish are defined in 39.010 as finfish retained from lawfully taken commercial catch for that fisherman's own use.

^b Combined harvests from the Copper River District, Tatitlek, Chenega and PWS subsistence areas. Includes permit holders who reported not or unsuccessful fishing.

Outdoors in Alaska (11/18/11)

By
Howard Delo

If you hunt or fish in Alaska you are no doubt aware of the subsistence controversy. Both federal and state regulations exist in most subsistence hunts or fisheries and the rules, bag limits, and season dates don't always agree between the two regulating government entities. To my knowledge, we Alaskans are the only state "blessed" with this complicated scenario of controlling who can harvest what at any given time in any given location.

I want to narrow this discussion down to only the state level and only regarding subsistence fisheries. The upcoming Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) meeting in Valdez in December will address twenty-five proposals regarding the subsistence question, and this is just for the Prince William Sound and Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Rivers Finfish meeting! These proposals range from reclassifying the Chitina personal-use (PU) dipnet fishery to a subsistence fishery to eliminating subsistence whitefish netting in the Lake Louise system.

Exactly what constitutes a subsistence need in a fishery? If that definition existed in regulation, life for BOF members would become a whole lot easier! I was a member of the BOF in March, 2010, when the board addressed a court order to define the phrase "a subsistence way of life" as that phrase is used in the eighth criteria of what is commonly referred to as the eight criteria for subsistence. These criteria were developed and placed in regulation to help both boards (Fisheries and Game) in identifying fish and wildlife populations which are customarily and traditionally used by Alaska residents for subsistence.

Semantics is a funny thing! Your definition of a subsistence way of life might differ greatly from mine. That's why the BOF developed a specific definition for board members to use when addressing these subsistence proposals. That definition reads: "a subsistence way of life means a way of life that is consistent with the long-term reliance upon fish and game resources for the basic necessities of life." Even that wording could be subject to individual interpretation. I see it as a fairly strict definition. How so?

Virtually all of us who hunt and fish do so to bring home something to eat. Most of us also enjoy the experience of pitting our skills against those of the prey we seek. The vast majority of us could still survive if our hunting and fishing efforts were a total bust for any given season. Sure, it would cost more to buy the protein in the form of meat and fish we otherwise would have harvested in the field, but the overwhelming majority also have some sort of income flow which provides the funding to do so.

There are some folks who truly don't have the financial resources to buy all their needed or preferred foods. These people supplement their store-bought groceries with fish, game,

berries, gardening, and a wide range of other resources they invest the time and effort in procuring, usually with as minimal an outlay of cash as is possible. They have developed a culture and long-term reliance on these hunting, fishing and gathering practices and have passed these traditions on through the generations with a reverence for the natural resources. They have an intimate understanding of how important these resources are to their continued well-being. This reverence and understanding tends to lead to a stewardship of those resources such that the resource itself is not overharvested or wasted and generally remains in a healthy status.

While there are a few folks who fit this description living in our more urban areas, this description tends to fit more rural communities with limited connection to the rest of the world. Yet, by law, all Alaskans are eligible to participate in subsistence hunts or fisheries. Because of the very nature of a subsistence fishery – providing food – these subsistence activities also have preference in law. All other harvesting of that particular fishery (commercial and sport fishing and personal use) can be stopped and a subsistence harvest will continue. This makes for potential regulatory and management nightmares in certain fisheries or under certain fish run strengths!

Compounding the issue is the fact that most people from today's modern world, when given the opportunity to harvest a significant amount of fish or game under a subsistence permit, often tend to actually take more than they really need for their own use. In the true spirit of subsistence, this extra harvest would be shared with others who have none but how often does that really happen? Be honest! Almost all of us have some of "last year's fish" in our freezers, yet we have to go get more this next season. A true subsistence user wouldn't be hauling those old fish to the dump to make room for the next batch!

If we have a true reliance on those resources for the basic necessities of life, would we go get our subsistence harvest permit and then not even go fishing? I wouldn't think so, yet that very scenario is occurring in several subsistence classified fisheries around the state. In most of these areas, a subsistence fishery made sense at one time, but times have changed. The basic necessities of life are available through other options like grocery stores or the ability to keep some of your commercial fisheries catch for your own personal use (homepack). The ability to devote blocks of time toward securing food for our own personal use is not an option for many anymore – they have jobs and other obligations.

The classic example of Alaskan subsistence has all but disappeared from this modern age. Perhaps it's time to look at the subsistence practices around the state and reclassify those which have become more of a want than a true need.

November 14, 2011

Attention: Alaska Board of Fish

My name is Brian Lee. I am a commercial fishermen in PWS. I have fished in PWS for 25 years.

I strongly oppose proposals 51, 54, 55.

These C&T proposals were already taken up out of cycle lately. There were no positive findings for a reclassification of the Chitina dipnet fishery.

I oppose proposal 81. This proposal by the department would make it virtually impossible to fish many areas around Esther Is. This issue has gone to court in the past (nets being rocked down) and it has been determined that if a net is in the water it is a legal set. The proposal would make it extremely difficult to enforce.....if a net that is drifting hangs up on a rock 3 feet down or 20 feet down when would it become an illegal set? The chum fishery is a terminal fishery...we need the ability to fish in deep and shallow water.

I support proposal 84.

I feel that this is a sensible gear proposal.

Thank you for allowing public input on these issues.

Brian Lee
31250 W. Lee Drive
Sutton, Alaska 99674

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER SOUTHCENTRAL REGION LAND OFFICE

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

550 WEST 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 900C
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3577

PHONE: (907) 269-8503

FAX: (907) 269-8913

MEMORANDUM

TO: Through the Chairman, to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, ADF&G,
Monica Welland, (Director) ADF&G, Boards Support

CC: Jeremy Botz (Area Management Biologist) ADF&G, Div. Comm. Fish.

FROM: Raymond Keough (Natural Resource Manager) DNR Shore Fishery Leasing Unit

DATE: November 10, 2011

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL 90: Prince William Sound Finfish (proposed changes in regulation)

This memo provides the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) with agency comments regarding **Proposal 90** – 5 AAC 24.200. **Fishing Districts, subdistricts, and sections. Correct regulatory boundary descriptions in Eshamy District.**

Background: As manager of the state owned tide and submerged lands, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), issues Shore Fishery Leases for commercial setnet fishing development. Shore Fishery Leasing Regulations (11 AAC 64) direct the overall administration of the setnet leasing program, and this includes requirements for us to manage the program using the distances, gear and open fishing areas, as set forth in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Commercial Finfish Regulations (5 AAC 03 – 5 AAC 39). Therefore proposals forwarded to the Board that result in changes to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Finfish Regulations can have pronounced affects on the administration of our DNR setnet leasing program.

Of the 2200 plus, commercial setnet fishing permits (Limited Entry) that have been issued statewide, there are around 1050 setnet leases authorized by DNR, and specifically administered by the Shore Fishery Leasing Unit.

PROPOSAL 90: This proposal seeks to accurately define the Eshamy district boundary line as the current regulation (the line) is difficult for the drift gillnet fleet to identify using current GPS technology. While we (Shore Fishery Leasing Unit) do not have any objections regarding the concept or intent of the proposal, there is however a technical, (and in turn management issue) that we would like resolved regarding the new proposed latitude and longitude that describes the starting point being **“east of a line from the entrance to Port Nellie Juan at 60° 35.87’N. lat., 148° 06.11’W. long. to a point approximately...”**

The adoption of the coordinate as it exists in the current proposal (as above) would impact both the DNR Shore Fishery Leasing Unit and also a current shore fishery lessee whom maintains a valid

“Develop, Conserve, and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans.”

lease site in the immediate area and referenced as ADL 30791, (leased to Mr. James Pahl). If the coordinate as described in the proposal is adopted into regulation, then Mr. James Pahl's traditional fishing site and his existing Shore Fishery Lease would then be located in closed fishing waters. As a result, we would need to close his current lease, or amend it by moving his sites further to the east into open commercial fishing waters.

After consultation with both the area management biologist in Cordova and the current lessee **we would like to propose a new (adjusted) coordinate to be adopted being: "east of a line from the entrance to Port Nellie Juan at 60° 35.87'N. lat., 148° 06.13'W. long. to a point approximately..."**. Please also refer to the attached map. **Please note:** This is a minor adjustment to the west and is also consistent with the location of the regulatory marker that is currently in place.

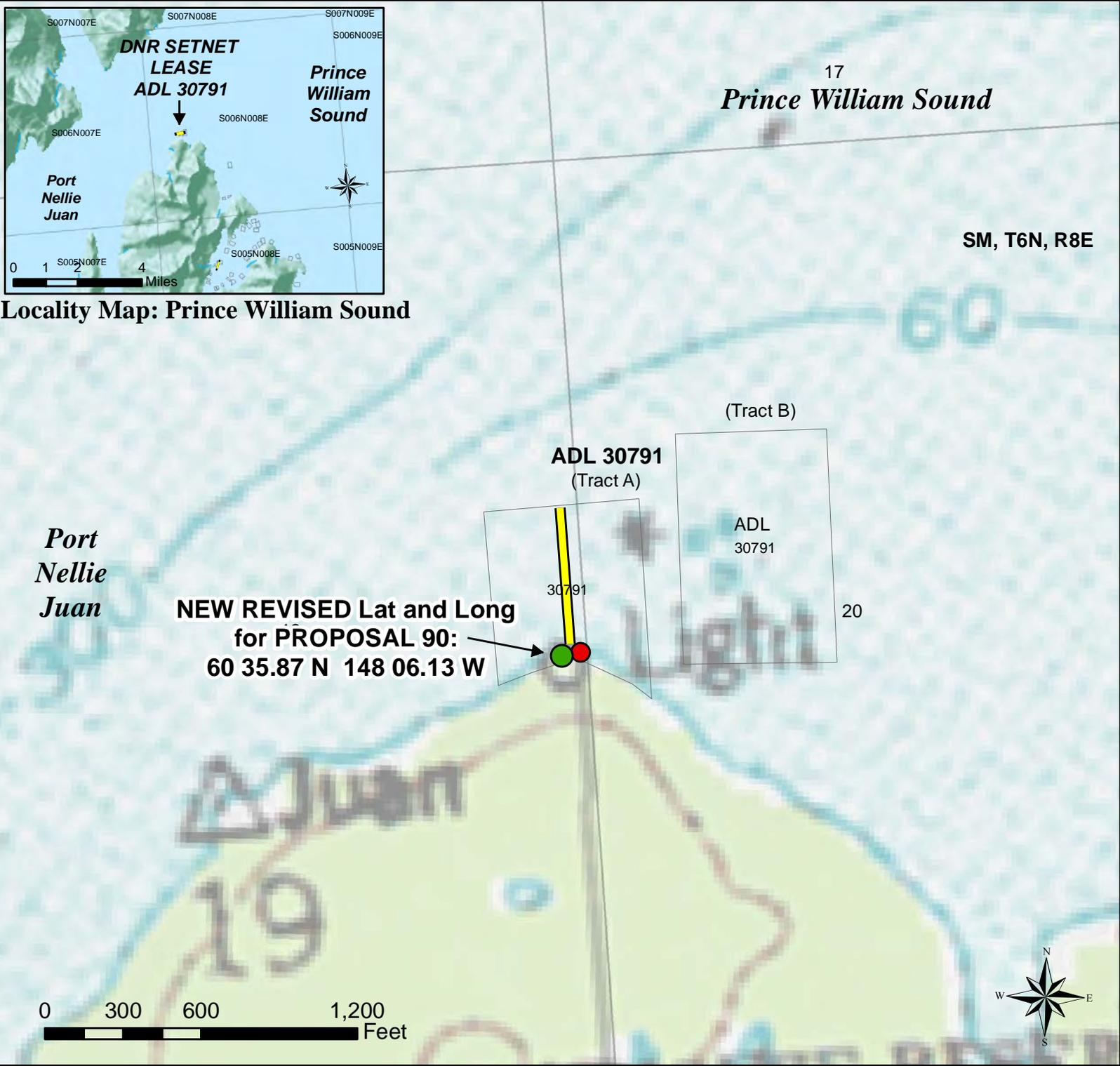
The adoption of the above revised coordinate would not impact and/or affect sustainable yield in the area or fishery. This is a minor technical/management adjustment, but never the less very important, that would allow a local fisherman to retain his traditional site, and allow DNR to maintain his current lease. FYI: Mr. Pahl has also requested an amendment to his existing setnet lease that would increase the net length of Tract A to 600 feet. This amendment would also be impacted if the Board does not adopt the revised coordinate as provided in the map and as outlined above.

SUMMARY: While we do not object to the concept of Proposal 90, we do however ask the Board to make a minor adjustment to the starting coordinate in Proposal 90, revising it to read: "east of a line from the entrance to Port Nellie Juan at 60° 35.87'N. lat., 148° 06.13'W. long. to a point approximately ...". See attached map.

To the Board and other ADF&G staff, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. Your very important decisions not only impact the actual fisheries, but also the surrounding state land and waters that are managed by the DNR. For more information, on Shore Fishery Leases please also visit our website at: <http://www.dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/shore/index.htm> .



Locality Map: Prince William Sound



**Proposed Changes to Regulations:
PWS Salmon
PROPOSAL 90
5 AAC 24.200.(h)**

NEW REVISED Lat and Long for PROPOSAL 90:
● 60 35.87 N 148 06.13 W

Proposed Lat and Long in Proposal 90:
● 60 35.87 N 148 06.11 W

DNR Existing Setnet Lease (ADL 30791)

Amending existing lease (Tract A)
 One net at 600 feet in length,
 within protracted Sections 19 & 20,
 T6N, R8E, SM.

- ▬ Amendment net (2011)
- Existing Shore Fishery Lease



Produced: Nov. 2011
 DNR, SCRO, Shore Fishery Unit
 Ray Keough

NOTE:
 This map provides a graphical representation of a proposed setnet lease(s) and adjacent lease sites. These are not exact locations of the new application or adjacent lease sites, and has only been provided as a general reference for noticing, before an approved survey/diagram is completed. (Source AKMapper)
 This map is not intended for navigational purposes.

Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
Board support section
BOARD OF FISH Members
FAX# (907) 465-6094

RECEIVED
NOV 16 2011
BOARDS

RE: REGULATION PROPOSAL #81

DEAR SIRs:

I am opposed to this proposal to change wording on existing regulation and adding two clauses to 5 AAC 24.331. I would like to have the Board consider its dismissal.

My reasons are:

1. The striking of the word "intentionally". With strict liability in place, this would deny a person any recourse to challenge the charge on conditions or mitigating factors.

2. Clause (f) would not allow fishermen's nets to touch the bottom as one would be liable for grounding without any recourse under "strict liability".

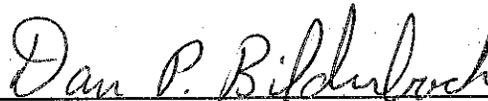
3. Clause (g) Towing on the net. This is the major way to fish a net. It is always collapsing and getting out of shape. A fisherman needs to tow on his net to get off snags and sometimes to hold the net in dangerous situations while retrieving. Nature isn't always accommodating with one's intentions.

STRICT LIABILITY COMMENT:

5 years ago I was ticketed and sentenced for fishing in closed waters. Why? Because Strict Liability means you are guilty regardless of any intent, circumstances or mitigating factors. The right to a trial by jury is denied. Enforcement to sentencing is one fluid movement. (Even a traffic ticket guarantees you a right of trial by jury.)

I was 3 minutes late on a 12 hour fishing period getting the last 15 feet of net out of the water. I was 2-3 miles out in the ocean. The helicopter went by as my end bouy came over the roller. I was fined \$3,000 with some suspended and had mandatory points assessed against me that could in the future deny me the permit to fish and earn a livelihood.

I am a lifelong fisherman and resident of the State of Alaska.
Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.



November 13, 2011

Dan P Bilderback
4623 Campus Circle
Anchorage, AK 99507 ph#(907) 632-0079

TO: Board of Fish Comments
Board Support Section
Ak Dept of Fish and Game
456-6094
A.67

Please adopt Proposals 43 and 55. Halibut fishing in Prince William Sound has been weak for years, even prior to the Exxon Valdez thing. I'd rather fish for my annual halibut supply in Prince William Sound than have to drive all the way to Anchor point (dragging a boat) each year.

Return the Copper River dip net fishery to a subsistence fishery, giving Alaskans priority over commercial fishing.

Please oppose proposal 51 which would make the Copper River dip net fishery a personal use fishery, not giving us priority over commercial fishing.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Grant L. Lewis

November 15, 2011

Boards Support Section

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

PO Box 115526

Juneau, AK. 99811-5526

FAX # (907)465-6094

Board of Fish Members:

I am a salmon seiner from P.W.S. who resides in Homer, Alaska. I have fished in P.W.S. since 1985 and salmon seined my own vessel since 1991. I have participated in many Board of Fish meetings through the years and thank all Board of Fish members for their service. The following are my comments on particular proposals before all of you.

PROPOSALS #82,83 and 84 These three proposals all attempt to accommodate new modern techniques used today in the construction of purse seines. These new techniques provide for efficiency and durability of the seines which translates in cutting costs for salmon seiners. The proposals if adopted would do little to change the ability of seines to catch fish any different from the seines we use now. I can see no reason why ADFG or others would have problems with these proposals. Personally I prefer Prop. 82 over 83 or 84 as it accommodates seiners needs the best.

PROPOSAL 86 and 87 I support these two proposals as I am the author of #87. The lead mesh seiners use in the construction of our seines in made of nylon. Nylon shrinks for several years after being put in use. Seiners comply with the 7 inch stretch measure requirement in current regulation when constructing their seines but find that as years go by their lead web becomes smaller than 7 inches. My proposal attempts to make current seines in use legal by reducing the stretch measure requirement in regulation to 6 inches. I believe that the best solution for the problem is to pass PROP. 86 as then seiners could choose smaller lead web with little effect on the fishery. This makes PWS seines comparable to what is being used around the State in other areas with no identified negative impacts.

PROPOSAL 88 I support this proposal

PROPOSAL 93 and 96 I oppose these proposals as they drastically close area and limit fishing time that historically has been fished commercially.

PROPOSAL 98 I support this proposal as it allows PWSAC to more efficiently harvest cost recovery salmon for their revenue needs.

PROPOSAL 99 I support this proposal as it provides for a more orderly fishery with no negative impacts.

PROPOSAL 101 I oppose this proposal for the following reasons:

The PWS Management and Salmon Allocation Plan was formulated over several years and BOF cycles.

The PWS Enhancement Program is integral to the overall success of all users who harvest PWS salmon.

Historic methodology was used to determine user groups' fair and equitable allocation of enhanced salmon stocks.

The current allocation plan provides for fleet adjustments depending on economic values in allocating enhanced PWSAC salmon stocks.

It is imperative that any allocation plan provide for a variety of tools to bring parity to the user groups. We recognize that these tools do not bring immediate results as evidenced by the ex-vessel value of harvests between user groups.

There is no way of accurately predicting wild and enhanced salmon run strength or salmon prices prior to any given season. Therefore, it is unreasonable to seek specific short term remedies with potentially unforeseen results.

It is further recognized that ex-vessel value is the most reasonable guideline for allocating enhanced PWSAC salmon stocks among user groups.

On the basis of the above statement, I request the Board of Fisheries reject Proposal #101.

PROPOSAL 102 I oppose this proposal for the same reasons as Prop. 101.

PROPOSAL 104 I support this proposal for the same reasons the author of the proposal has stated.

PROPOSAL 105 I do not support the proposal as written but do support solving the gear conflict problem. This occurs when the seiners and gillnetters fish simultaneous in the same area, Esther Subdistrict, during pink season. This proposal could be the vehicle in which the BOF could choose to come up with a solution with this gear conflict. The Committee process could definitely help to get the user groups together to solve this escalating problem.

PROPOSAL 107,108,109,111 and 112 I do not support these proposals for reasons stated under Proposal 101.

PROPOSAL 114 and 115 I oppose these proposals as the reasoning behind the author's proposals is unwarranted. Salmon markets are very healthy with markets fully utilizing all the salmon that are produced.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposals.

Respectfully,

Timothy J. Moore

PO Box 1646

Homer, Alaska 99603



Cordova District Fishermen United
PO Box 939 | 509 First Street | Cordova, AK 99574
phone:(907) 424 3447 | fax: (907) 424 3430
web: www.cdfu.org | e-mail: cdfu@ak.net

November 15, 2011

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS

Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907.465.6094

Members of the Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these proposals as part of the 2011 Board of Fisheries meeting.

Attached you will find written comments prepared by the Cordova District Fisherman United Seine Division.

We trust that our comments will provide you with a clear rationale for our positions. If you require further clarification on any of the points we raise, we welcome questions either during the public testimony portion of the meeting or at any other time preceding deliberations.

Sincerely,

Rich Collins + Victor E. Jones

Rich Collins & Victor Jones
CDFU Seine Division



**CDFU Seine Division
2011 Board of Fisheries Written Comments**

Prop	Position	Comments
43	NA	
44	NA	
45	NA	
46	NA	
47	NA	
48	NA	
49	NA	
50	NA	
51	NA	
52	NA	
53	NA	
54	NA	
55	NA	
56	NA	
57	NA	
58	NA	
59	NA	
60	NA	
61	NA	
62	NA	
63	NA	
64	NA	
65	NA	
66	NA	
67	NA	
68	NA	
69	NA	
70	NA	
71	NA	
72	NA	
73	NA	
74	NA	
75	NA	
76	NA	
77	NA	
78	OPPOSE	
79	NA	
80	NA	
81	NA	
82	SUPPORT	
83	NEUTRAL	
84	NEUTRAL	
85	OPPOSE	Economics of changing gear is too high.
86	OPPOSE	

NA-NO ACTION



CDFU Seine Division 2011 Board of Fisheries Written Comments

87	NEUTRAL	
88	NEUTRAL	SUPPORTING 104
89	NEUTRAL	
90	NEUTRAL	
91	NEUTRAL	
92	NEUTRAL	
93	OPPOSE	
94	OPPOSE	Please continue visual marker placement at the most commonly fished lines, they are necessary tools utilized by vessels during openers.
95	NEUTRAL	
96	NA	
97	NA	
98	SUPPORT	
99	SUPPORT	
100	NA	
101	OPPOSE	
102		DEFER TO CDFU GILLNET DIVISION POSITION.
103	NA	
104	SUPPORT	
105	OPPOSE	
106	OPPOSE	The CDFU Seine Division would support this proposal with some discussion of the opportunity for alternating gear access to the Esther sub-district during pink salmon harvest.
107	OPPOSE	
108	OPPOSE	
109	OPPOSE	
110	OPPOSE	We oppose this proposal as written, but recognize there are parts that do have merit and are worth discussion in committee.
111	OPPOSE	PWSAC already has the tools in place to manage cost-recovery.
112	OPPOSE	
113	NEUTRAL	
114	OPPOSE	
115	OPPOSE	
116	NA	
117	NA	
118	NA	
119	NA	
120	OPPOSE	
121	SUPPORT	
122	SUPPORT	
123	NA	
124	NA	
125	NA	
126	NA	
127	NA	

NA-NO ACTION



**CDFU Seine Division
2011 Board of Fisheries Written Comments**

128	NA	
129	NA	
130	NA	
131	NA	
132	NA	
133	NA	
134	NA	
135	NA	
136	NA	
137	NA	
138	NA	
139	NA	

NA-NO ACTION

Dear Board of Fish,

Nov. 10, 2011

As a 35 year veteran of Copper River/PWS salmon fishing, I thank the board for the time they spend on salmon fishing issues.

I am a resident of Washington State and was displaced to Alaska because of the inept handling of our resource. Granted Washington has different problems but direct user input such as this is not part of the solution here and for that I'm thankful for the board and its members.

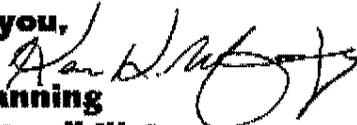
Proposals 72-75 and 117 concern upriver use of Copper River salmon. I am OPPOSED to these because the tools are already in place for ADF&G to make in season adjustments and closures if escapement goals are not met. Escapement goals have been exceeded in many of the previous years and upping the number would only deny access to fish the drift gillnet fleet needs. I feel that upriver data must be reported in a timelier manner before the personal use fishery can justify requesting any type of change.

Proposal 118 is an allocation proposal. ADF&G already has the authority to close the fishery. A mandatory closure to June 15th would only further restrict ADF&G's ability to do in season adjustments.

I strongly urge the board to OPPOSE 101,104,105,106, 108,110 as these would alter the PWS Management and Enhanced Salmon Allocation Plan. I also would ask the BOF to OPPOSE proposals 88, 89, 92. There is no justification for increasing time or area for the seine fleet. As the COAR report indicates the seine fleet has *out* harvested the drift gillnet fleet in both 2010 and 2011 by roughly 10%. The allocation plan (as agreed to by all area E permit holders) seeks an equitable split of enhanced fish. Any departure from this plan is nothing more than changing the rules after the game has started. Trying to change the PWS Management and Enhanced Salmon Allocation Plan through the BOF is a back door approach. Proposal submitters know it would never fly through the plan revision process.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

Thank you,


**Ken Manning
6325 Woodhill Dr.
Gig Harbor Way. 98332**

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
Board Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094

RE Proposal: #110

I **OPPOSE** this proposal

This proposal is similar to proposal #92 and is highly allocative

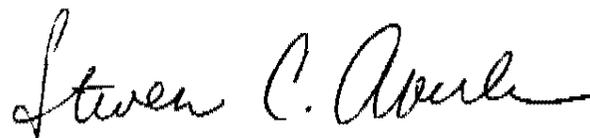
Allowing regular seine openings in the Southwest district during gillnet chum and salmon fisheries in the Eshamy and Coghill districts will ensure large amounts of interception of wild and enhanced chums and sockeye bound for gillnet districts.

The seine fleet already harvests significant numbers of enhanced sockeye bound for Eshamy and wild sockeye bound for Coghill while fishing in the terminal harvest area at AFK for chums. Expanding fishing area for seiners during the chum harvest at AFK will only increase this interception.

I find it ironic that the same sponsors of this proposal, the Northwest & Alaska Seiners Association, also sponsored proposal 89 seeking to severely limit gillnet districts in area to protect from wild stock interception while this proposal would expand time and area for the seine fleet to harvest both the wild stocks it seeks to protect and hatchery stocks bound for gillnet districts.

This proposal is allocative and the gear group that is far ahead in the 5 year rolling average (61% to 39%), the seine fleet, seeks more time, more area, and more fish at the expense of the gillnet fleet.

Please reject this proposal.



Steve Aberle
F/V Magic Moment
7041 Potter Heights Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
Board Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094

RE Proposal: #106

I **OPPOSE** this proposal

This proposal is poorly written and redefines the Coghill District boundaries and leaves much of the current Coghill district undefined.

ADF&G has EO authority in the proposed area and can open the area to seine fishermen before July 21 if the Department has concerns of over escapement of sockeyes, chums or pink salmon.

Testimony by ADF&G staff at previous BOF meetings pertaining to similar proposals pertaining to the same area has ascertained that previously when seine fishing had been allowed in June and early July in this area that effort had been minimal.

In 2005 an similar proposal for the proposed area was deliberated seriously by the full board. Previously in the day the Board had passed the Enhanced Salmon Allocation Plan. The seine fleet had gotten most of what they wanted in the new allocation plan and were very happy. The gillnet fleet on the other hand was not happy at all.

The seine fleet got the triggers that they were seeking in the new Allocation Plan; a new sub district was established, the Granite Bay Sub District, aimed to keep the gillnet fleet from intercepting chum salmon when the seine fleet has access to the Esther 'piggy bank'.

Another perk for the seine fleet-VFDA hatchery fish would not be counted in the 'enhanced fish equation,' All of this on top of the fact that the piggy bank that the seine fleet gets in times of shortage, the Esther Sub District, typically sees chum salmon returns two to four times the yearly return to the Port Chalmers Sub District, the piggy bank used by the gillnet fleet when the formula calls for gillnet relief..

In deliberating the Coghill proposal in 2005, despite the fact that the seine fleet was well behind the gillnet fleet in the new rolling average formula, The Board decided that they'd done enough to help the seine fleet for the time being and could address the subject again at future meetings if the income inequality continued to favor the gillnet fleet.

Six years later the tables have completely turned around and the gillnet fleet is significantly behind in the allocation equation..

If the 2005 BOF did not allow seine access to this area before July 21 when the seine fleet was behind in the allocation equation, why would this Board want to pass this proposal now when the seine fleet is significantly ahead in the allocation equation now?

Please reject this proposal.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Aberle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Steve Aberle
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RE Proposal: #105

I **OPPOSE** this proposal

Since the price of pink salmon has rebounded there has been a resurgence of interest by the gillnet fleet in catching pink salmon. The Coghill district and the Esther sub district within it are the only areas open to drift gillnet fishermen to fish for pinks.

I can understand some frustration by some members of the seine fleet at the congestion but the seine fleet always has numerous exclusive areas to fish for pink salmon where gillnet opportunity is not allowed. During the 2011 pink salmon season the seine fleet was allowed to fish in vast areas of PWS because of healthy wild stock populations but the Coghill district was kept closed for cost recovery severely reducing opportunity for the gillnet fleet to harvest pink salmon.

The gillnet fleet is far behind the seine fleet in the five year rolling average calculation of the PWS Enhanced Salmon Allocation Plan.. If prices remain strong for pink salmon restricting access to Esther pinks will only increase the disparity.

PWSAC just recently increased by fourfold its Coho production. These fish have a run timing from mid-August to mid-September. By restricting access to Esther for the gillnet fleet until after Labor Day the gillnet fleet will be denied substantial opportunity to harvest these coho and could fall even further behind in the allocation equation.

One solution could be to divide the fleets in the Esther sub district geographically during the shared season, perhaps east and west of a line from Hodgkins Point to the south. The separate fleets could swap areas on a period by period basis.



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RE Proposal: #104

I OPPOSE this proposal

This proposal or one similar has been presented at several previous BOF meetings. It has been rejected by the Board each time. This proposal is highly allocative and seeks to take enhanced and wild fish from the gillnet fleet.

ADF&G has EO authority in the proposed area and can open the area to seine fishermen before July 21 if the Department has concerns of over escapement of sockeyes, chums or pink salmon.

Testimony by ADF&G staff at previous BOF meetings pertaining to similar proposals has ascertained that previously when seine fishing had been allowed in June and early July in this area that effort had been minimal.

In 2005 an identical proposal was deliberated seriously by the full board. Previously in the day the Board had passed the Enhanced Salmon Allocation Plan. The seine fleet had gotten most of what they wanted in the new allocation plan and were very happy. The gillnet fleet on the other hand was not happy at all.

The seine fleet got the triggers that they were seeking in the new Allocation Plan; they got a new sub district established, the Granite Bay Sub District, aimed to keep the gillnet fleet from intercepting chum salmon when the seine fleet has access to the Esther 'piggy bank'.

Another perk for the seine fleet-VFDA hatchery fish would not be counted in the 'enhanced fish equation,' All of this on top of the fact that the piggy bank that the seine fleet gets in times of shortage, the Esther Sub District, typically sees chum salmon returns two to four times the yearly return to the Port Chalmers Sub District, the piggy bank used by the gillnet fleet when the formula calls for gillnet relief.

In deliberating the Coghill proposal in 2005, despite the fact that the seine fleet was well behind the gillnet fleet in the new rolling average formula, The Board decided that they'd done enough to help the seine fleet for the time being and could address the subject again at future meetings if the income inequality continued to favor the gillnet fleet.

Six years later the tables have completely turned around and the gillnet fleet is significantly behind in the allocation equation..

If the 2005 BOF did not allow seine access to this area before July 21 when the seine fleet was behind in the allocation equation, why would this Board want to pass this proposal now when the seine fleet is significantly ahead in the allocation equation now?

Please reject this proposal.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven C. Aberle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Steve Aberle
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**ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
Board Support Section
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PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
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RE Proposal: #101

I OPPOSE this proposal

Sponsors of this proposal are attempting to trash the PWS Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan. This plan took 3 BOF cycles to develop and evolve. There were at least six separate work sessions led by BOF members, particularly Mr. Mel Morris to develop an allocation plan with mechanisms to address inequalities.

The Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan was passed at the 2005 meeting here in Valdez. The seine fleet walked away from that BOF meeting with big smiles and a skip in their step. They got the triggers that they were seeking; they got a new sub district established, the Granite Bay Sub District, aimed to keep the gillnet fleet from intercepting chum salmon when the seine fleet has access to the Esther 'piggy bank'.

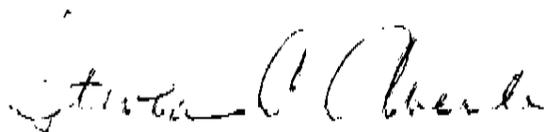
Another perk for the seine fleet-VFDA hatchery fish would not be counted in the 'enhanced fish equation,' All of this on top of the fact that the piggy bank that the seine fleet gets in times of shortage, the Esther Sub District, typically sees chum salmon returns two to four times the yearly return to the Port Chalmers Sub District, the piggy bank used by the gillnet fleet when the formula calls for gillnet relief.. The gillnet fleet slunk out of that 2005 BOF meeting with our tails between our legs.

Now six years later, with a dramatic increase in the ex-vessel price of all salmon, the seine fleet is far above their allocated value of PWSAC enhanced fish as calculated in the five year rolling average formula. The five year rolling average was championed by the seine fleet in negotiations while developing the plan.

So who is crying for more fish? The gillnet fleet, far below in the targeted value split? Guess again! **The seine fleet in numerous proposals to this Board proposes to scrap the plan they were so happy with in 2005. They want more fish, more fishing area and more fishing time all at the expense of the gillnet fleet.**

Please decisively reject this proposal!

Steve Aberle
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RE Proposal: #92

I OPPOSE this proposal.

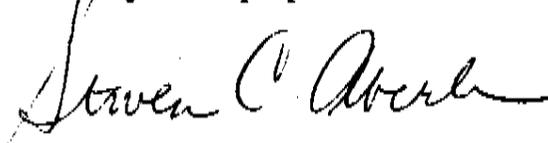
Allowing regular seine openings during gillnet chum and salmon fisheries will ensure large amounts of interception of chums and sockeye bound for gillnet districts.

I find it ironic that the same sponsors of this proposal, the Northwest & Alaska Seiners Association, also sponsored proposal 89 seeking to severely limit gillnet districts in area to protect from wild stock interception while this proposal would expand time and area for the seine fleet to harvest both the wild stocks t seeks to protect and hatchery stocks bound for gillnet districts.

I also find it ironic that of the five districts listed in 5 AAC 24.310 the sponsors of this proposal are fine with all gillnet districts being opened an closed by emergency order but seek to change only he section that pertains to seine districts.

This proposal is allocative and the gear group that is far ahead in the 5 year rolling average (61% to 39%), the seine fleet, seeks more time, more area, and more fish at the expense of the gillnet fleet.

Please reject this proposal.



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RE Proposal: 88

I **OPPOSE** this proposal

Creation of this sub district is unnecessary. ADF&G already manages an almost similar area by EO and closes this area during the chum season as needed. This area typically gets very little fishing effort by the gillnet fleet during the chum and sockeye runs. The tender fleet does not typically support west side fishermen and it logistically becomes too far to run to get tender service.



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RE Proposal: 89

I **OPPOSE** this proposal

This proposal is an allocation grab and nothing more. The sponsors of this proposal make a bold claim that there is excessive harvest of wild stocks during the Coghill and Eshamy gillnet fisheries. Apparently ADF&G does not share these concerns. The Department already has EO authority to limit fishing area within these districts when they feel it is justified and they do this often. Regularly the Department closes the west side of the Coghill district for chum and pink passage. Often a ½ mile offshore buffer exists by EO along the top of Culross Island during the chum and sockeye fishery to allow passage of wild stocks.

As the sockeye fishery winds down in the Eshamy district and wild pink salmon return the district is constrained in area by EO tighter and tighter as the pink season progresses until the gillnet fishery is a terminal fishery only.

Restricting severely the gillnet fisheries in the Eshamy and Coghill districts while at the same time opening and expanding the described seine districts will ensure the interception of a huge number of chums and sockeye that are returning to gillnet fisheries.

The seine fleet is far ahead in the 5 year rolling average allocation plan, 61% to 39%, as opposed to the ideal 50/50. This split has historical roots back to the late 1980's and the current plan and mechanisms has been hammered out over three BOF sessions, numerous work group sessions led by BOF members, most notably Mr. Mel Morris, and implemented at the 2005 BOF meeting.

The seine fleet is far ahead in the allocation plan and yet they are sponsoring almost ten proposals during this board session seeking more fish, more area, more time, all to the detriment of the gillnet fisheries.

Please reject this proposal!

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RE Proposal: 81

I **SUPPORT** sections C and F of this proposal
I **OPPOSE** section G of this proposal

I have no problem with removing the word 'intentionally' from the current regulation
My understanding has always been that Protection Officers use three criteria to determine whether a fisherman is rocked down:

1. Is the buoy ball floating or not?
2. Is web exposed above the waterline?
3. Are corks being pulled underwater by the tide, indicating a hangup?

I think those criteria are fair and adequate. However, that said, there are numerous places where I fish that usually have very little tidal movement allowing me to get very close to the beach without rocking down or securing my gear. When the current picks up, the end of my net drifts off the beach. I do not want to be penalized or disallowed to fish in these spots. by changing this reg.

When a buoy ball is not floating, web is exposed on a rock or reef, or if the current is pushing corks under water any place along the net then a person knows that he or she is hung up and should either pull their gear or clear the obstruction or hangup.

I strongly oppose section G of this proposal. We spend much of our time each opener towing on the ends of our gear trying to keep them in shape to be effective at catching fish. At times when the current is running hard no amount of towing will keep you in basically the same spot. At other times when the current is slack, if g) is adopted a fisherman could get a ticket for simply towing a hook in their gear. Adoption of g) would essentially force the fleet to be ineffective. Please strike this clause



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RE Proposal: #118

I OPPOSE this proposal

The Department has EO authority to limit fishing inside the barrier islands. It has used that authority often in the past few years. A commercial opener inside the barrier islands can give managers valuable information about run strength and timing. This proposal takes away that tool.

This proposal is highly allocative in a fully allocated resource and should be rejected.



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RE Proposal: #114, 115

I **OPPOSE** these proposals

These proposals use faulty and confusing math. Both proposals seek to limit hatchery chum production **to** 24% of the year 2000 production. In the 'Issue' section of their proposals they claim that hatchery managers promised to reduce production **by** 24% of the year 2000 production. The words 'to' and 'by' make quite a difference.

Hatchery production is closely monitored by ADF&G and a request to change permitted egg-take levels is a fully vetted and multi-level process.

The proposers make unsubstantiated claims that hatchery chum production is adversely affecting wild stock chum throughout the state.

Reducing hatchery production by either amount would have a huge negative economic impact on the region and beyond. 800 fishing families, a dozen processors and their crews, suppliers, transporters, city governments and more would be all be negatively impacted.

Please reject these proposals.



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RE Proposal: #96

I **OPPOSE** this proposal

I find the intent of this proposal is undefined. What does he want to shut down? The entire Eshamy district? All of Main Bay? The Terminal Harvest Area? Special Harvest Area?. For how long?

Even if only the SHA were to close it would affect a number of setnet fishermen who would be forced to move their gear if the rest of the district stayed open. If the whole district was forced to close it would affect up to 300 fishermen, the tender fleet and processors buying the fish.

The Department has EO authority to open and close fishing areas and restrict time and area. Adopting this proposal would take away that tool. **Please reject this proposal.**



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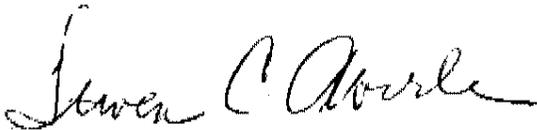
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RE Proposal: #79

I SUPPORT this proposal

Some fishermen have put deep gear on to fish at Port Chalmers before deep gear is legal in the Eshamy, Coghill, or Unakwik districts. then moved on to fish in those districts without changing back to shallow gear. It's hard to catch fish when the guy in front of you has a net that's twice as deep as yours!

This proposal would synchronize dates for deep gear so that each of the districts allows deep gear at the same time.



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Boards Support Section

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Fax 907-465-6094

Proposals 54 & 55 Against

Recently the board defined subsistence showing that the Chitina personal use fishery did not meet the standards for a subsistence group. The definition included the phrase "basic necessities of life". Obviously if you can prove that the Copper River salmon are a basic necessity of life you are already a subsistence user. Most if not all in this fishery do not meet this standard.

Nothing since this was last brought up has changed so reject this proposal.

114 and 115 Against

No biological reason for this proposal. There is no proof that hatchery chum interfere with wild stocks that reach the Eastern interior or the upper Copper River. This is a Copper River and PWS board meeting.

Proposal 116 Against

There is no biological reason for this proposal. This proposal is petty and spiteful and shows the true nature of the Fairbanks Advisory Committee

Proposal 117 Against

Without restrictions on harvest on the upper Copper streams it relies too heavily on the commercial fisheries to bear all the weight of conservation. The Fairbanks Advisory Committee should look to the incidental catch by the trawl fleet and the taking of kings in the spawning streams as another option to increase king returns.

Proposal 118 Against

This proposal is completely uncalled for as fish and game already has the power to close off the inside waters for conservation purposes.

Proposals 88, 89, 92, 101, 104-106, 108, 110 Against

Since the PWS allocation plan was put into effect in 2005 the seiners total income has jumped from \$5.8 million in 2004 to \$22.2 million in 2010. At the same time the gillnetters percentage of enhanced fish has gone down to 29.1%. The allocation plan has not hurt the seiners and should

not be changed to help them catch more enhanced fish. Further restriction of seiners time in the Southwest district and in the Coğ hill district may cut down on interception of enhanced stocks going to gillnet areas and help the gillnetters get more of their share of these stocks.

Proposal 81 Against

This proposal would change the way gillnetting is traditionally done in Area E . We tow our nets to prevent flagging down, to keep from drifting out of open waters, to keep the net from bunching up, to get off snags, etc. This law would could make all of this illegal if one part of the net wasn't drifting . The phrase "substantially the same geographical location" without further defining what that means is very confusing and could and will lead to many different interpretations by enforcement.

The "intent" language should be kept in the law. Without an "intent" provision a fisherman who accidentally "rocks" down or snags could be ticketed. A fisherman who is "repeatedly" rocking down on the same rock or towing his net and preventing other fisherman to freely drift could be ticketed by further defining intent with specific language targeted to obvious offenders.

Proposal 107 For

This would help the gillnet fleet get closer to their fair share of the allocation and further spread out the fleet.

Proposal 127 For

Proposal 128 For

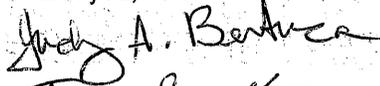
Submitted by

Phil Oman 35 year fisherman in Area E

November 8, 2011

Enclosed are our comments to proposals 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, for the BOF December 2, 2011 meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you,



Judy A. Bertuca

Tim Sutter

HC01 Box 1723, Glennallen, Ak 99588
(907)223-4230



November 8, 2011

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS, Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Ak 99811-5526

Greetings:

Scheduled for the December 2, 2011 BOF meeting, fourteen proposals concern the partial or full closure of subsistence whitefish gill netting in the Lake Louise area. Please consider our comments, concerns and explanations in your decisions on this issue. **We are totally opposed to proposals 57-65 and 70. While proposals 66-69 are less radical, we oppose some key issues mentioned in them as well.**

Because of the repetitive nature to most of these proposals, this letter fully addresses our **opposition to all of them**. Therefore, please attach this letter to all of the above mentioned proposals.

OUR COMMENTS OPPOSING THE ABOVE MENTIONED PROPOSALS:

My husband, Tim and I are writing in retaliation to the proposals attempting to abolish subsistence whitefish netting in the Lake Louise area. The uneducated demands for restrictions or the complete closure of subsistence fishing are alarming and unnecessary. I ask the Board of Fisheries to support the actions currently being taken by the F&G in Glennallen who are combating the loopholes existing in the subsistence regulations and deny any proposals for full or partial closure of subsistence fishing. The modified regulations have discouraged past abusers by improving police enforcement for the area. Drastic measures for full or partial closure are not required.

People have customarily and traditionally taken whitefish at Lake Louise using subsistence gill nets for over 50 years. Tim and I have lived full time on Lake Louise since 1995. We have used our whitefish net for the last 8 years on Lake Louise. Before that, we helped Don and Eva Macarthur with their net for 4-5 years on Little Lake Louise. We are currently living on our savings enhanced by a limited income. We have always tried to maintain as close a subsistence way of life as possible. As times get tougher, the use of our whitefish net continues to increase in importance as one of our main food source for the winter.

In the last few years, some people have over-reacted to a small group of aggressive (non-local) fishermen who are accused of deliberately targeting by-catch species. They have also been accused of trespassing, vandalism and using their gill nets in an illegal manner. Until the regulations were modified, it had been difficult for Glennallen troopers to catch the abusers. Because few had been punished, some people have retaliated by submitting proposals to either over-restrict or entirely close subsistence fishing in order to "save the depleting trout population." The fact is, there is no evidence that any fish population is in jeopardy at Lake Louise. If there was evidence, other more obvious causes would have a greater affect to populations rather than the legal use of gill nets.

Another point that must be stressed is that the white fish are most active in October and November. This is when the bulk of your yearly supply is taken. By mid-December, fish activity reduces dramatically. The truth is, you are lucky to catch 2-4 fish per day. By February, the catch drops from 0-2 per day. Therefore, **strapping a late opening date to the season will ultimately kill subsistence fishing as surely as closing it entirely.**

Because Tim and I have lived full time at Lake Louise for the last 16 years, we have been able to observe certain trends that most of the antagonists of gill net fishing cannot possibly see from their short periodic visits to the lake. Listed below are some of our pertinent observations:

- Since first moving here, the number of cabins constructed on Lake Louise and Susitna has increased greatly. The number of people sport fishing on the lakes has increased proportionally.
- We have not noticed any significant changes in any fish populations through the years while using our gill net.
- There may be a slight increase occurring in the current burbot population within our bay. They are more apparent in and around our net. There are also increased numbers of small burbot seen in the shallow water in the spring. They are actually becoming a nuisance because they like to steal our whitefish that are caught in the net.

(Page 1 of 3)

- Practically all of the fish we clean are plagued with parasites in their stomach, sometimes in their flesh. The healthier ones have fewer parasites, while the more sickly have more. Some years are worse than other years.
- The total number of trout caught in the net at one set is 0-2 fish, usually alive.
- We often catch healthy trophy size trout which are always carefully released (even before the new rules were in place). They are rarely dead because they are usually caught by one tooth and not in the gills (due to their size).
- The few trout that die in the net average 18-24" in length (caught in the gills).
- The sport fishermen in front of our cabin are consistently pulling out good-sized lake trout throughout the year. I cannot comment on the fishing in the 60's and 70's since we did not live here then. I do state the fishermen are regularly catching and taking trout year-round.
- Not all sport fishermen observed in front of our cabin are strictly following regulations while fishing.

These are our observations. I have tried not to include assumptions that might lead towards wrong conclusions. I believe, however, many proposals being submitted were made to fit certain assumptions in order to draw sought after conclusions that will achieve specific, unwarranted demands. Assumptions are used consciously as well as unconsciously. The trouble is that people often "reconstruct" past events or acts in order to produce a wanted conclusion. Certain observations are often remembered, while others are disregarded. This can create misconceived assumptions that are really just a guess or a probability. If this assumption is used as a fact, without evidence, it seriously limits our ability to perceive the reality. It takes the place of the truth and you are stuck with a faulty conclusion. In other words, **people tend to label things prematurely, without verifying the truth with evidence. They also react as though that label describes all there is to say.**

So then come the faulty conclusions, unrealistic demands, quick fixes, increased (many times unnecessary) regulations, another loss in our freedoms....The repercussions of proposing to eliminate subsistence fishing affects more than just the abusers. As a trained engineer by profession, I have had much experience weeding out the facts from the fiction. Below are listed some of the facts:

- There is no evidence the population of any fish species is in danger of collapse.
- A healthy fish population is cyclic, not stagnant. A number of causes affect those cycles. If you don't understand the cycle you don't know whether it's healthy or not and do not know how to manage it. In other words: **You don't know what you have until you measure it.** Hopefully, it is done by using scientific methods.
- There is no evidence the suspected incidents of excessive by-catch take are the sole cause for a *possible* decline in the Lake Louise trout population.
- Subsistence gill net fishing on Lake Louise is intended for the catch of whitefish. However, according to many reports on the lake, a few had exhibited a more aggressive interpretation.
- Until the 2010-11 season, by-catch was legal and whitefish limits were high, which has been customary & traditional for most areas in the state. F&G in Glennallen has eliminated any by-catch to "release only," therefore, all by-catch in possession now equates to poaching.
- Several restrictions have already been put into place by the Glennallen F&G.
 1. The use of nets in the Susitna channel is closed during open water.
 2. Nets must be moved if 5 or more Lake Trout are caught.
 3. All by-catch must be released, dead or live.
 4. Increased monitoring of subsistence use by requiring pre-notification (>24hrs) of your net "in-use" to F&G or Glennallen Troopers (a Big Brother system).

Opinion: The regulations have become more specific to the conditions needed at Lake Louise. The troopers can now make arrests under the "poaching" context. Past abuses appear to be decreasing. These actions should have appeased anyone concerned with possible declining trout populations by subsistence fishing.

- Under Sec.16.05.258, often called **The Subsistence Preference or Priority**, states that fish stocks are to be identified for what is customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence. If the harvestable portion of the stock cannot sustain all users, the Board of Game must first eliminate all other consumptive users (sport fishing) before subsistence is altered. Then if the harvest still can't sustain subsistence use, the Board must distinguish priorities among subsistence users. Total closure for subsistence is not even listed in this section.
- Some locals have: (1) Reported that a few subsistence fishermen have harvested large quantities of fish, trespassed, vandalized, etc. (2) Some of these reports have turned out to be entirely wrong. I know of one report that had definitely been exaggerated. I suspect there have been more embellishments as well.
- Most, if not all of the proposals attacking whitefish gill netting are by people who don't subsistence fish.
- Practically all of the proposals state "no one will be affected" which is not true.

- Practically all of the proposals state the trout population will be “saved” for future sport fishermen which is not true. There is no evidence subsistence gill netting is a major (or minor) cause of a decrease.

Finally, listed below are some of our opinions:

- The problem boils down to a criminal action. Poaching, vandalism, trespassing, the use of gill nets in an illegal manner, are all criminal actions and should be investigated and handled like any other types of crimes regardless of a person’s ancestry. Efforts should be focused on aiding the troopers in catching those criminals and fining them to the full extent of their offense. The tighter, newly modified regulations are doing this.
- The assumption that our trout population is threatened because of subsistence fishing is pure speculation, not fact. Only through scientific monitoring can assumptions be proved or disproved. You don’t know if any fish population is endangered until you measure it and identify the causes, which can be many. You can’t manage it properly until you understand it with verified data. I would like to see efforts moved towards more fish monitoring, before demands for closures are considered.
- Lack of available funds is always a problem. I then suggest following the steps outlined in the regulations under **Sec.16.05.258-The Subsistence Preference**.
- Closing subsistence fishing without evidence does nothing but strip people’s privileges. The demand for full or partial closure of subsistence fishing is short sighted and does not follow the existing (Sec.16.05.258) regulations.

Tim and I are prepared to help the troopers and F&G in ways to catch anyone abusing the regulations, but not at the expense of losing subsistence privileges for a misconception that whitefish gill netting is the cause of a possible decline of the trout population. There simply is no evidence.

I ask the Board of Fisheries to provide support to the actions currently in use by F&G and deny any proposals for closing subsistence fishing. The newly modified regulations that are now in place are discouraging the identified abuses. Those concerned with sustaining our natural resources should be satisfied and must recognize the importance of preserving a subsistence way of life for Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Judy A. Bertuca

Tim Sutter



Attn: BOF COMMENTS

Boards Support Section/ADFG

PO Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Fax: (907) 465-6094

From: C. Scott Thomas

1852 East 24th

Anchorage, AK 99508

81

Support strongly.

“Set-Drifting” is all too common and frustrating to law abiding fishermen. The longer the opener, the more instances of this type of fishing are seen.

#102

Support

The setnet group is not asking for a change in the allocation formula. We are simply asking for an adjustment in the penalty to match the operational scenario in a given year. The change would give more flexibility to ADFG to manage. The penalty remains, and as proposed could certainly give setnetters less time than the current regulations.

#96

Strongly Oppose

Hard feeling certainly exist between the groups. The commercial gear group is not concerned over the loss of fish. We are concerned with the, gunfire, fireworks, drinking, littering, defecation and general disregard for the fact that people live in main bay. Most of us are trying to make a

living, pay our bills, feed our kids, and work a hard and honest trade in order to accomplish this. I don't even fish in main bay, but find 10-15 snagging hooks each year in my nets. This general disregard for my safety and crew by folks chasing reds in and around our nets does not need to be rewarded with a "party day" for the sports fishermen.

Lastly if we arbitrarily begin to close commercial harvest for whimsical reasons...where will it end?

#103

STRONGLY OPPOSE

FOR ALL THE reasons that the allocation plan is working and the drift groups does not want the allocation plan changed are the exact same reasons why #103 should be opposed. The penalty measures that are in place if the setnet group exceeds their allocation have been in place since 2005 and have proved their effectiveness. The setnet group has experienced the penalty periods and has dropped below the trigger mark. This proposal is not needed as the regulations in place are working well as designed.

#88, 89, 92 101, 103, 104-106, 108, and 110 -

OPPOSE

I strongly proposals; 104, 105, 106, 108, and 110, due in fact, they will alter the PWS Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan, that was revised and approved in 2005 by the BOF, at the request of all PWS salmon user groups. I also ask the BOF to oppose proposals 88, 89 & 92, because they will have a direct negative impact on this current PWS allocation plan. There is no justification for increasing time and area for the seine fleet in PWS.

The simplest way for me to describe is that in 2005 the seiners needed help, pinks were at a low and there was not a lot of money being made. All parties came to the table and worked out a sharing program that everyone agreed on. PWSAC was called upon to help manage allocation balance through the assignment of cost recovery within specific gear

groups. Now times are good, the seiners are ahead of the curve, and are back asking for more. Now that the tables are turned, that sense of community and parity is gone.

Comparing ADF&G's 2010 and 2011 ex-vessel harvest values calculated using the Commercial Operators Annual Reports (COAR) illustrates a growing disparity between the PWS Drift fleet and Purse Seine fleet. The goal of the allocation plan is to maintain a 50% split of the total ex-vessel harvested value between the drift gillnet and seine fleets, of PWSAC enhanced salmon. The 2010 report shows a difference, with 41% of the value harvested by the drift gillnet fleet and 59% of the value harvested by the purse seine fleet. The 2011 report has the disparity with 39.1% of the value harvested by the drift gillnet fleet and 60.9% of the value harvested by the purse seine fleet. The purpose of the PWS allocation plan is to provide a fair and equitable allocation among the PWS salmon user groups and reduce conflicts among these fishers. Any change in favor of the seine fleet would only increase this disparity. Including non-enhanced salmon in the PWS allocation plan will also contradict ADF&G's concern for the harvest of uncontrolled numbers of wild salmon in migratory corridors far from their natal streams.

The fact is that Prince William Sound seine fleet is doing very well. They are harvesting the greatest share of PWSAC enhanced salmon by almost 20%. There is absolutely no justification to change the existing PWS Management and Allocation Plan, or give them more time and area. In 2005 the Board of Fisheries working with ADFG, the seine and gillnet fleets adopted major changes to the Allocation Plan to make a more equitable split of PWSAC enhanced salmon. It worked, the seine fleet has recovered.

Walt Hummer
4215 Charing Cross Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

November 12, 2011

RECEIVED

NOV 17 2011

BOARDS

Issue: Subsistence and personal use fishing on
Lake Louise, Susitna and Tyone lakes.

Dear Sir;

We have a cabin on Lake Louise. Our family has noted much less fishing success for lake trout over the last couple of years. This year we learned that there is a personal use fishery with a large by catch of lake trout on the above 3 lakes. I am writing now to support the proposals to close Lake Louise, Susitna and Tyone lakes to all subsistence and personal use fishing by nets.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Walt Hummer

Attn: BOF Comments
Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094

November 14, 2011

Dear Board of Fisheries,

My name is Chris Maxcy and I have been a commercial fisherman out of Cordova for the past 24 years. I currently own a drift gillnet permit for SO3 and my wife and I have been direct marketing part of our catch for over 12 years. I am very concerned with many of the current proposals placed before the Board of Fish and the negative impacts they will have on my ability to support my family and the negative impacts on the resource itself. We consider Cordova to be our second home and the people that live there our lifelong friends and neighbors. Commercial fishing provides economic stability for the community of Cordova.

I also believe that a person would be hard put to find anyone opposed to true subsistence use of a resource. I can tell you that when people in the lower 48 as well as many of my Alaskan friends think subsistence and personal use they are picturing individuals that have very limited income and other means of acquiring their food. They are not, nor should they be, picturing individuals living in large houses, driving \$50,000 SUVs, and making hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. Rural, isolated Alaska is a difficult and expensive place to live. The road system provides relatively easy access to fairly inexpensive food that costs no more than in Montana or many other places in the United States. Pursuit of the subsistence life style in these states requires an individual to purchase a hunting and fishing license.

My wife and I are also avid sport fishermen and outdoorsmen as are most of the commercial fishermen in our area. I have been disappointed and alarmed at the increase in sport fishing pressure and harvest with little apparent change in regulations or enforcement. My young daughter is already crazy to fish and yet I was hesitant to take her on Ibex and out to 18 mile due to the crazy behavior and "combat" fishing now occurring in and around Cordova. I have watched the same fisherman who in Montana would catch and release his prize fish and walk carefully so as not to disturb the bank and spawning area come to Alaska and brutalize his catch and the area, leaving with 10-12 boxes of salmon. Harvest by residents and non-residents needs to be monitored as I have witnessed residents catching and keeping three times their limits. Some changes need to be made immediately if there are to be any quality, healthy places for our children and grandchildren to fish.

PROPOSAL 43: I urge the board to oppose this proposal. This is a problem that requires careful and equitable discussion to identify the specific problem/s and come up with workable solutions. PWS is a historical long line fishery for many local fisherman, especially those who fish small boats and limited amounts of quota. The recreational harvest of rockfish and lingcod far exceeds that of the commercial harvest in the Sound. This increased harvest needs to be evaluated as even a reduction in the rockfish bag limit did not reduce the total harvest and many of the discarded rockfish die. The entire halibut harvest also needs careful consideration. Recreational harvest has increased despite a decline in the stocks. Before any drastic measures are taken harvest by all user groups needs to carefully be assessed and a sound management decision reached.

Board of Fisheries November 14, 2011
Christopher L Maxcy

PROPOSAL 81: I urge the board to **oppose** this proposal. Historical fishing methods involve fishing in shallow waters and fishing at the change of tide. In order to stay safe, keep the net in legal formation, move out of the way of marine mammals (oncoming whale), avoid snagging down when drifting and to keep the net in legal formation mechanical power is necessary. I support targeting the fishermen who intentionally and illegally "rock down" to hold key sets and keep other fishermen out as this hurts the honest guys but this proposal will hurt all gillnet fishermen and is not based on fact or common sense.

PROPOSALS 88,89,92, 101, 104, 105, 106, 108, 110: I urge the board to **oppose** these proposals. The current purpose of the PWS allocation plan is to provide a fair and equitable allocation among the PWS salmon user groups and reduce conflicts among the fishermen. The allocation plan is to maintain a 50% split of the total ex-vessel value between the drift and seine fleets of PWSAC enhanced salmon. The disparity is on the increase, in 2011 the gillnet fleet harvested 39.1% of the value and the seine fleet harvested 60.9%. There is no justification for increasing time and area for the seine fleet in PWS. I feel these proposals are based only on greed and any change in the plan will increase the gap in harvest value and go against the intent of the allocation plan. Including non-enhanced salmon in the PWS allocation plan will also contradict ADF&Gs concern for the harvest of uncontrolled numbers of wild salmon in migratory corridors far from their natal streams.

PROPOSAL 93: I urge the board to **strongly oppose** this proposal. This proposal would eliminate the opportunity for commercial fishermen to fish some very key sets so the sport fishermen would have more fish available to them. Sport users should not have priority over commercial users. These coho salmon are primarily hatchery fish returning to Wally Noerenberg Hatchery and are paid for entirely by commercial fishermen. Commercial fishermen also pay for the remote release of coho salmon to Whittier and Chenega solcy for the benefit of the sport fleet.

As I stated earlier I am an avid sport fisherman. Commercial operators are no different than commercial fishermen. They derive financial gain from their operations. The disparity here is that these commercial operators pay nothing for the hatchery fish production from which they derive a large financial gain. Please note that proposals 93, 100, and 120 were submitted by David Pinquoch, owner of Alaska Good Time Charters, a commercial operation that pays nothing to support these fish but from which he derives financial gain.

PROPOSAL 107: I urge the board to **support** this proposal as it attempts to correct the disparity between the ex-vessel value to the gillnetters versus the seiners.

PROPOSAL 122: I urge the board to **support** this proposal as I have personally witnessed the exploitation of this small, wild run.

PROPOSALS 123, 124: I **strongly urge** the board to support these proposals. The sport fishing use on the Copper River Delta and Ibec Creek especially has increased exponentially over the last few years. Closing limited areas of both Ibec and 18 mile would provide a small, safe area for the salmon to spawn in, reduce bank erosion, and limit take of some of the spawners. This would benefit all user groups.

PROPOSAL 125: I urge the board to **support** this proposal. Sport fishing pressure has increased. This proposal makes good, common sense.

**Board of Fisheries letter November 14, 2011
Christopher L Maxcy**

PROPOSALS 54, 55: I urge the board to **oppose** these proposals. Most of the dipnet fishery users are residents of urban communities like Fairbanks and Anchorage. They are not from small, isolated communities such as Cordova. They are not subsistence users, many which have relied on this resource to help feed their families for generations.

PROPOSAL 56: I urge the board to **support** this proposal. All user groups should share in the management and thus restriction of their harvest of king salmon in order to meet the escapement goal. It is impossible to correctly manage a resource without appropriate participation by all of the user groups.

PROPOSALS 72, 73, 74, 75, 117, 118: I urge the board to **oppose** these proposals. The Copper River king salmon run is a fully utilized and allocated resource. ADF&G memorandum, September 20, 2011 states that there are no stocks of concern and did not reference the need to adjust the SEG of 24,000 or more. Nothing has happened that should change the fact that the Chitina personal use fishery should share in the proper management of the king salmon fishery and be restricted to one king salmon. If the Alaskan families asking to be changed to subsistence classification were allowed to retain 5 kings per family their use would more than double the minimum SEG of 24,000 and would be more than 5 times the commercial harvest of 9500 kings for 2009 and 2010. These issues are recent ones and have only occurred since the establishment of a commercial upriver fishery. Charter boat operators are commercial and all user groups should share in escapement accountability.

Since 2006 ADF&G has implemented the mandatory inside closures as part of the Copper River king salmon management plan (as revised at the '05 Valdez BOF mtg.), and has the authority to close commercial fishing by emergency order as necessary. 2010 saw 5 inside closures versus a mandated 2. If ADF&G limits commercial fishing time personal use harvest should also be limited. The delayed and inaccurate reporting of how many kings are taken by upriver users must be addressed if the resource is to be sustainably managed. Further restricting the drift gillnet user group is not justified nor is it a valid solution.

PROPOSAL 76: I urge the board to **support** this proposal for the reasons stated above.

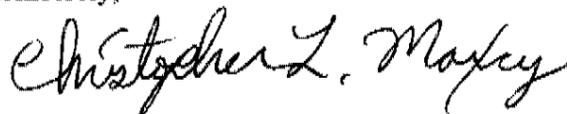
PROPOSAL 79: I urge the board to **support** this proposal as I have personally witnessed Port Chalmers fishermen fishing the Copper River and Eshamy districts without changing from deep gear to 60 mesh gear. Current regulations make this illegal practice very hard to enforce, and give the illegal fishermen an unfair advantage.

PROPOSAL 80: I urge the board to **support** this proposal as this practice gives unfair advantage to fishermen who try to bend the rules.

PROPOSAL 126, 127, 128: I strongly urge the board to **support** these proposals. All user groups are responsible and should be required to participate in the conservation of the resource. The impact of commercial fishing has been well regulated for many years with limited entry permitting and intense management practices that regulate and track harvest. There is currently nothing in place to limit the exponential increase in use by the sport and personal use fishermen. Reporting requirements for sport and personal use are inaccurate and enforcement of restrictions on the harvest is difficult. Consider the charter boat operators who run a commercial business that makes money off of the valuable public fishery resource and yet they are not limited by the number of days they can fish, number of clients they can take, number of total fish taken a season and they do not pay enhancement taxes or buy a limited entry permit. It is also incorrect to assume the commercial fishermen is making more income than the other commercial operators. This is often not the case. There needs to be a better system for accurately accounting for upriver use and controlling expansion and exploitation of the resource.

Thank you for taking the time to review my comments.

Sincerely,



Christopher L. Maxcy
7945 Fowler Lane
Bozeman, MT 59718
406-581-9286

PO Box 2016
Cordova, AK 99574
907-424-7672

November 15, 2011

Attn: BOF COMMENTS
Board Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Box 115526
Juneau, Ak 99811
Fax: 907.465.6094

Members of the Board,

My name is Kory Blake, I was born in Cordova and I am a third generation Copper River/PWS fisherman! I am a dual permit holder and have seined PWS for 32 years and Gillnetted the Copper River for 39 years. My youngest son, Derek, is also a commercial fisherman in PWS/Copper River. Commercial fishing has been our livelihood for 4 generations and is the driving economic force for the town of Cordova.

The following are my comments on the 2011 BOF proposals of most concern to me, thank you for the opportunity to share them.

Prop 54 & 55: Oppose

There is no new evidence regarding subsistence criteria in the Chitina subdistrict since the 2010 Special meeting devoted specifically to this issue. At the Special meeting the Board made a negative C&T finding for the subdistrict.

Prop 72, 73, 74, 75: Oppose

The Copper River commercial fishery has traditionally harvested Sockeye and King salmon for over a hundred years. The Copper River Salmon are already a fully utilized and fully allocated resource.

All user groups must share in escapement accountability. Until the upriver fishing data is submitted in a timely manner, to keep strategies current, placing further restrictions on the commercial drift fleet is not a valid solution.

In my lifetime fishing the Copper River, the commercial fleet has undergone restrictions to gear depth, gear mesh size, king gear and in recent years we are restricted to no fishing in "inside waters". ADF&G has the authority to close the inside fishery on week 20 and 21 for 1 period a week! ADF&G has on numerous occasions closed the fishery for more than 2 periods to ensure Chinook escapement meets SEG levels.

Prop 79: Support

There is no reason to fish deep gear to catch Chums in Port Chalmers. Deep gear should only be allowed in Port Chalmers after the other areas of PWS are opened for deep gear.

Prop 117: Oppose

This is suggesting an unnecessary increase in the SEG of King salmon on the Copper River. The Department has supported an SEG of 24,000 kings on the Copper River since 2002 and as of this year's PWSMA Escapement Goal and Stock of Concern Recommendations memorandum, the department states there are **No Stocks of Concern** in the Prince William Sound Management Area and maintains the SEG of 24,000 for king escapement.

Prop 118: Oppose

ADF&G already has the tools in place to manage the commercial fleet by setting closures of the inside waters during weak Chinook returns. The addition of mandatory closures will inhibit the department's ability to effectively manage the resource.

Prop 81: Oppose

This will alter the historical fishing methods; every gillnetter on the Copper and in PWS would get a ticket if this regulation were passed.

Prop 90: Oppose

This proposed change does not reflect the historical 1 mile boundary in the Northern most portion of this district.

Prop 88, 89, 92, 101, 104, 106, 108 & 110: Opposed

I strongly oppose all of these proposals and to save time and space defer to the extensive comments submitted by the CDFU Gillnet Division regarding these allocation issues.

Prop 123 & 124: Support

I support these proposals for the protection of our creek beds and Coho Salmon.

Prop 127: Support

All user groups should be accountable to share in the burden of conservation measures in place to maintain the sustainability of this shared resource

Prop 128: Support

This would create some accountability for non-resident sport fishermen and allow ADF&G to collect more accurate information.

Wade Buscher
PO Box 1032
Cordova, Ak 99574

November 14, 2011

Attn: BoF comments
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, Ak. 99811-5526

To the members of the Ak Board of Fish,

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments on these proposals. While most of the proposals won't affect me personally as a commercial gillnet fisherman, there are more than several that most certainly will. And make no mistake, those that do affect me are allocative in nature and will have a harmful effect on my livelihood, in contrast to what the author of the proposal would lead you to believe. Being a PWS gillnet fisherman I will be biased in my comments as you will see, but I do hope that I may persuade you that the allocation system that is in place is working and does not need to be changed.

On the Upper Copper River: Of the 10,000 or so Alaska residents that dipnet on the Copper River, there is a vocal minority that would like to achieve the distinction of being defined as "subsistence users" rather than "personal users" of the salmon resource which they currently belong to. It might be of interest to the Board to read an excerpt taken from "Subsistence Management Information" put together by the United Fisherman of Alaska (<http://www.subsistmginfo.org/about.htm>). In the section entitled "Preference Among Subsistence Users", there are comparisons drawn between subsistence users during times of resource shortage. It's interesting to note that both the federal and state management definitions are virtually the same when it comes to subsistence users, however Alaska state law prohibits the inclusion of 'local residency' or rural preference as one of the criteria. But it seems to me, even without 'rural preference' as part of the criteria we can conclude from the below definition what a true subsistence user is.

"Under (Alaska) state law, if a harvestable portion of a fish stock or game population isn't enough to provide for all subsistence users, the state differentiates between users, employing the following criteria: 1) customary and direct dependence on the fish stock or game population by the subsistence user for human consumption as a mainstay of livelihood and, 2) ability of the subsistence user to obtain food if subsistence use is restricted or eliminated.

In 2010, the Ak BoF adopted the definition of the phrase "subsistence way of life", under which the Chitna dipnet fishery still did not qualify. And given that the majority of Chitna dipnetters come from the urban centers of the state (ie. Fairbanks, Matsu Valley, Anchorage) where food resources are readily available, by definition of #2 above, it would be difficult to designate these users under the heading of subsistence.

The State population will continue to grow, and with population growth there will be increased pressure on fisheries resources. The salmon resource is already fully utilized. The SEG for Copper River king and sockeye salmon has been realized, there is no reason to shift the salmon resource from one user group to another. And regardless of user group designation, we all must share in the conservation of the resource in times of shortage, and the Ak dept. F&G has the capacity through Executive Order to do just that.

NO on proposals 54, 55, 72, 73, 74, 75, 118

On the commercial fisheries in PWS: As you are aware, the commercial gillnet fishery opens every season on the Copper River Delta in mid May. By June 15 most of the fleet has left the Delta to target hatchery produced sockeyes and chums at Main Bay and Esther, with some fishers targeting chums at Port Chalmers. As a commercial fishery we are fortunate to have these different areas, if one area falters, the others seem to pick up the slack. For example, Esther in 2011 was a bust, while the Copper River Delta came in strong. Had the Copper River not produced, it would have been a dismal season for the gillnet fleet, as all 500+ fishers would have been confined to Main Bay which is a small district for so many boats. (Port Chalmers seems to be inconsequential as that remote release fishery only sustains a limited few who frequent the district.)

In 2005, representatives of the seine, gillnet, and setnet fleets sat down at the table and hashed out an allocation plan that was agreeable to all. The split of enhanced PWSAC fish would be 48-48-4 respectively, to be calculated on a 5 year rolling average. Since that time, the x-vessel price of pink salmon has increased dramatically and this has caused the allocation split to be weighed heavily in favor of the seine fleet at 60.9% (seine), 39.1%(gillnet), 3.7% (set gillnet). The Board will hear various reasons for changing the allocation plan, to limiting time and area for the gillnet fleet, and extending time and area for the seine fleet. Any changes to the current management plan would certainly create further disparity between gear types and nullify what the agreed upon allocation plan had intended. If PWS wild stocks are in danger of being over fished as some of the authors proclaim, the Ak DF&G has the capacity to regulate within the current PWS management plan. The reasons for any changes as written in some of these proposals are not justified.

NO on proposals 88, 89, 92, 101, 104-106, 108, 110

On proposal 81; Generally I can agree with a proposal submitted by the Ak DF&G for management purposes. However, I must disagree with this proposal and what it intends to accomplish. The issue at hand is the act of "rocking down" where the inside end of a gillnet is intentionally "anchored" or set to the beach with various methods as described in the proposals. However, as salmon tend to hug the beach on their way to their destination, it's sometimes necessary to set our nets as close to the beach as possible to be effective. And sometimes this practice will result in the unintentional 'snag' of the inside of the net, since the net tends to move with the current and coastlines as a rule are not smooth and snag free. It's also necessary to tow on a drift gillnet from both ends to maintain shape and to avoid obstacles, and so the likelihood of enforcing part (g) of the proposal will be virtually unenforceable.

This proposal as written will create more controversy than it will trying to mitigate the act of "rocking down". In most cases intentionally "rocking down" is obvious and can be handled with better enforcement using the current regulation that is already on the books.

NO on proposal 81.

Thank you for your time,

To: Alaska Board of Fisheries
Attn: Board Comments
Board Support Section, ADF&G
POB 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

11/17/11

By FAX to 907-465-6094

From: Richard H. Bishop
1555 Gus's Grind
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Ph/Fax: 907-455-6151



Dear Board of Fisheries members:

Please consider these comments in your deliberations at the December 2-7, 2011 meeting:

Proposal #43 – I support adoption of #43. Please pass it.

Halibut are a common property public resource. The State of Alaska has the trust responsibility to manage trust resources for common use, within the federal halibut management framework. Commercial halibut fishing in near-shore waters impairs common use opportunity by individual fishermen. I have also heard accounts that there are safety issues involved in the proximity of larger commercial vessels to smaller personal and charter vessels.

Commercial vessels are built and equipped to fish in waters more distant from shore. Their allocated portion of the halibut harvestable surplus would not be diminished by this proposal.

The proposal would reduce pressure on near-shore halibut stocks available to individual fishermen who fish for food and recreation from small boats, and reduce the safety risks of fishing in more distant waters.

Proposal #51 – I oppose Proposal #51. Please do not pass it.

The Copper River District is in a state subsistence area. Subsistence fishing opportunity for Alaskans should not be reduced in such areas. Although commercial fishing with its home pack provision dominates salmon fishing in the Copper River District, a subsistence fishery designation provides a “fail-safe” opportunity for Alaskans who may not fish commercially, or those who in the event of significant restrictions on commercial fishing may need an opportunity to fish for food.

Proposals #54 & #55 – I support these proposals. I urge their passage.

I have followed the issue of classification of the Chitina dipnet fishery for 40+ years, and have carefully examined the information on this fishery in relation to provisions of the Alaska Constitution, statutes and regulations. There is no question that the Chitina dipnet fishery should be classified as a subsistence fishery for the regulation to be consistent with constitutional and statutory mandates.

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS

Boards Support Section/ADFG

PO Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Fax: 907-465-6094

From: Paul Owecke

W235376 Sullivan Rd.

Trempealeau, WI 54661

Dear BOF members, thank-you for attention to the following comments. I have been a salmon setnet permit holder/operator in PWS for 28 years and have participated every board cycle either in person or by written comment. Prior to commercial fishing I was employed as a ADFG fish culturist. Your consideration of all testimony is much appreciated.

-Support-This allows family operators who have two permits to conduct fishing operations in the safest and most efficient manner. Other participants are not adversely affected.

-Proposal 79-Support-Eliminates the unjustified use of deep gear.

-Proposal 81-Support-The intentional anchoring of drift gillnets has been a consistent long term problem within the Eshamy District, and would be solved by this proposal. Approval would eliminate the single largest source of conflict between set and drift operators in PWS, and would provide for a situation where harvest potential is equalized between set and drift operators and between all drift gillnet operators fleetwide. In the event that this proposal is not enacted for the entirety of PWS it should nonetheless be approved in the Eshamy District to eliminate this constant source of conflict between set and drift gillnet operators.

-Proposals 82,83,84,86,87,88-Oppose-Currently the seine fleet harvests far and above their allocation, and to grant the additional harvest advantage these proposals seek would further advantage a gear group whose current harvest abilities are more than adequate. These proposals are in direct violation of BOF Allocation Criteria (AS16.05.251)

-Proposal 89-Oppose-This proposal ignores a fundamental difference in harvest efficiency between gillnet and seine operations. Gillnet harvest efficiencies are not even close to the efficiencies achieved

by seine harvest. Gillnet inefficiencies guarantee a higher percentage of fish escape capture in the gillnet fishery as opposed to seine harvest. This is a fundamental in managing gillnet fisheries, and current and past managers in PWS have consistently achieved wild stock escapements throughout PWS while allowing gillnet fisheries to target returning hatchery returns. PWS fishery managers have however seen seine fisheries decimate individual wild stock returns in specific areas when highly efficient seine gear is utilized near terminal wild stock return areas, generally near spawning streams. PWS seine areas are not delineated in a manner that would allow managers the ability or discretion to prevent targeting wild stock returns and destruction of wild stock returns over time. When allowing harvest, managers must consider harvest efficiencies, and because seine and gillnet have great disparity in efficiency there is also great differences in management. Current management has been exemplary in protecting wild stocks and allowing the most efficient harvest for all user groups. Approval of this proposal would impose unwarranted restrictions on gillnet harvest and convey harvest advantage to the seine fleet that currently over harvests by a large margin, and would pose a threat to wild stocks in the Northwest District in particular.

-Proposal 90-Support-Clarifies district boundaries

-Proposal 93-Oppose-Coho sport opportunities are currently underutilized, sport users with the skill set are more than able to harvest coho salmon in large numbers in western PWS.

-Proposal 96-Oppose-The sport user group has ample opportunity during commercial closure times to harvest more sockeye than bag limits even allow. That these closure times do not coincide with the times that certain users deem the most convenient is not reason enough to disrupt commercial fishery openers. Nowhere is there, or should there be, regulations that guarantee fish to a user group on the most appealing dates to the users.

-Proposal 97-Support-A long needed boundary clarification.

-Proposal 100-Support-Disagree that there is inequitable division between sport and commercial users, but do agree that commercial operators should not have access to the Eshamy River closure area unless the maximum escapement goal for Eshamy Laker is to be exceeded.

~~-Proposal 101-Oppose-This proposal poses a threat to every commercial operator in PWS.~~ Not only would economic disparity be greatly exaggerated, but the current successful management of wild and hatchery stocks in PWS would be thrown into unending upheaval. The disproportionate economic benefit to the seine fleet does not justify eliminating a management and allocation plan that over time has evolved into a highly equitable plan that protects the viability of all user groups. All user groups came to the table to craft this plan recognizing the unique problems posed by the exceptional aquaculture programs within PWS. There have been compromises by all sides in making the fisheries of PWS remain viable for all users. I have been involved with the crafting of the plan, and I am personally dismayed that this group would be willing to throw out what I believe a majority see as the best option to protect all users as well as the resource we all depend on. Had the returns to Port Chalmers been

more reliable over time than the plan would have provided very close to the 50/50 allocation sought after. To throw out the entire allocation/management plan due to this relatively minor shortfall is a disservice to every commercial operator who wishes to have a viable future in PWS. The current plan recognizes the unique situation posed by the aquaculture programs in PWS, and is the most logical means to conduct commercial harvest of mixed stocks in PWS.

-Proposal 102-Support-I personally sat on the committee convened by BOF member Mel Morris that crafted the setnet restrictions when the setnet group is over allocation. The intention was to restrict the setnet fleet to 50% of the time the drift fleet was allowed to fish weekly, and at the time 36 hours was on average a 50% reduction in fishing time. Since adopting the restrictions the weekly fishing periods have been highly variable in duration with the result that the setnet fleet has been penalized greater than intended. This simple change keeps the intended penalty of 50% reduction in fishing time compared to drift gillnet fishing time as intended by original BOF and all user group intent.

-Proposal-103-Oppose-The author has no clear concept of the actual intent and effect of the allocation plan or how shorefishery leases affect setnet fishing effort. This proposal would not affect the amount of setnet gear utilized or the area utilized by setnet users as implied. The concept that one user can change allocation percentages for a gear group so he can access additional area, or that changing the percentage somehow ensures reduction in setnet fishing area is so far from reality as to be absurd.

-Proposals 104,105,106,108,110-Oppose-All these proposals seek to give additional harvest advantage to the seine fleet in direct opposition to the current PWS allocation plan, and BOF allocation criteria(AS16.05.251(e) In addition proposal 110 violates the Mixed Stock Salmon Policy in a most blatant manner, has been before the BOF many times in many forms and been defeated with good cause every time. Proposal 110 authors acknowledge the fact that enhanced stocks would be intercepted without looking at wild stocks. Wild stocks would be intercepted without question; in direct violation of Mixed Stock Salmon Policy (5aac 39.220)

-Proposals 114,115-Oppose-There has not been any conclusive evidence that there is any "overgrazing" in the ocean environment, or any adverse affects of hatchery stocks on wild stocks.

-Proposal 120-Oppose-The escapement goal established for Eshamy Lake was recently reduced from 30,00 to 20,000 to reflect the long term inability to achieve the 30,000 goal. But, the fact remains that the Eshamy system optimum escapement goal is not known accurately, and that the greater the return of spawners the greater the benefit to the system, probably up to the previous 30,000 escapement goal. To increase bag limits in a system where the optimum escapement goal is not accurately known is not biologically justified.

-Proposal121-Support-This is a critical proposal for the Gun Boot (Gum Boot) lake system in particular. This is a very small system with fish access only during the highest tides, and sport and guide snag fishing in recent years is taking a very large toll on these fish holding before entering the stream. Immediate action is needed to protect this system.

I would like to comment on two proposals before the Board of Fisheries on Copper River Personal Use and Subsistence fisheries:

Proposal #51 - I oppose this proposal. I have netted and used a fishwheel on the Copper River, both below and above the bridge at Chitina, since I was a boy. In my 55 years in Alaska, my way of life has been, and will be, based on a consistent, long-term reliance upon fish and game resources for the basic necessities (food) of life. Every year I see hundreds of people similar to myself who come to the Copper River to dip or fishwheel for their basic necessities of life, and they rely on this fishery for food, and there is no doubt about that when talking to these fishers. They meet the new definition of subsistence exactly. If they do not get fish, or enough fish from this fishery, it will negatively affect the quality and/or quantity of food they have to feed their families. The Copper River Subsistence area should have subsistence fisheries, not personal use fisheries. Seems pretty straight forward since that is exactly what it has been, and continues to be.

Proposal #55 - I support this proposal. The Canyon below the Chitina bridge has historically been the best place to dip net for salmon. Subsistence fishermen have known that and have always dipped in the canyon (for hundreds of years, I believe). The fishery in that area should be classified what it has historically been - a subsistence fishery. People risk their lives to get one of the basic necessities of life for them and their families. It is not just for recreation. It is serious work - to feed their families - a.k.a. subsistence. It is subsistence just like the people above the bridge are involved in and the BOF has classified as subsistence. Additionally, we can switch back and forth each year between the two areas by signing a piece of paper (choosing upstream or downstream of the bridge), so it does not make sense that a mark on a piece of paper determines if we are participating in subsistence (above) or personal use (below) for that year. I'm catching the same fish with the same net for the same reasons whether I'm 100 feet above the bridge or 100 feet below the bridge, so classify it the same - subsistence fishing.

Tony Russ
574 Sarahs Way
Wasilla, AK 99654
907-376-6474

11/11/2011

Zachary Williams
19136 Birchwood Lp. Rd
Chugiak, AK. 99567

State Of Alaska Board of Fisheries

Commentary on proposal 101

Dear Board of fisheries,

Thank you for taking the time to consider the following comments regarding the Prince Williams Sound allocation plan.

Background and History:

I moved to Prince William Sound at age 10 when my parents moved permanently to our home at Falls Bay (one bay south of Main Bay and the Main Bay Hatchery, although it wasn't built at this time)

At age 15 I first started salmon purse seining as a skiffman for our family boat and was the captain a few years later. I purchased my first seiner at age 20. I can still remember how my hand shook as I wrote that check as well as sign a mortgage that looked like Everest to me at the time.

I now have a total of 31 uninterrupted years seining in the Prince William Sound, and have seen many changes.

By the end of the 1980's, when enhanced salmon stocks started to really ramp up it was decided that an allocation plan was need lest these enhanced stocks unfairly disrupt the traditional catch ratios of the different user groups. After years of review and input it was decided that the historical split between the seine and drift gillnet fleets would be around 50/50.

Using this as a goal the Prince William Sound Allocation plan was implemented. Time and area was shifted from the seine fleet as well as the creation of "safe Haven" corridors were created to accomplish this. However, without a crystal ball to foresee the dramatic drop in pink salmon prices this turned out to be a complete failure for the seine fleet, resulting in

19136 Birchwood Lp. Rd

bankruptcies, as well as overall participation in the fishery dropping to a low of only about 35% of the total permits were fished.

After more than a decade of half measure fixes by the board and failed assurances by PWSAC that production could be increased to offset any inequities in the catch ratios (PWSAC has made a good faith effort at increasing production, however these increases have a lot of political opposition and in reality are very hard to accomplish) it was decided that real change was needed. So in the mid 2000's the board made some fundamental changes in the allocation plan. They were primarily the inserting of triggers that would help an aggrieved gear group to get back on track should they fall behind their historical ratios . A "piggy bank" approach was applied to the management of the Port Chalmers and Ester chum harvest, with the aggrieved parties gaining exclusive harvest rights to both areas should this trigger be tripped. A five year rolling average was adopted rather than a year by year approach and it was also changed to include only PWSAC salmon harvest in the calculation of these ratios.

Summation:

The change to the allocation plan , although well intended, still has a fatal flaw. Please review the attached chart that includes both the five year rolling average on PWSAC only harvest as compared to the total area harvest results for those same five years. You can see that many of these groups in the PWSAC only column have resulted in the triggering of harvest in favor of the drift gillnet fleet, when in reality when you compare this to the total area harvest the drift gillnet fleet continues to trend above their historical ratio of 50%. Upon review of the earnings of 2000-2009 this has resulted in a \$40,000,000.00+ benefit to the drift gillnet fleet.

If it is the intent of the board to meet the stated goal of the allocation plan to continue managing PWS to meet historic ratios than this must be corrected. The seine fleet has suffered enough!! (TWO DECADES!!)

The good news is I believe the cure is relatively simple. Change the five year calculation to include the entire area E harvest numbers rather than PWSAC only. After all, are we not trying to keep each gear group at or about a 50/50 split that was determined by historical review of THE TOTAL AREA HARVEST??

Thank you for your time,

Cordially,



Zachary Williams

**Calculation for Allocation Plan (VFDA & Wild Stocks included) - 5
year average**

**Calculation for PWS Hatchery (PWSAC ONLY) Allocation Plan - 5
year average**

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2002	77.69%	22.31%	5.15%
2003	53.42%	46.58%	3.36%
2004	75.73%	24.27%	1.94%
2005	51.87%	48.13%	1.39%
2006	68.53%	31.47%	2.33%
Average:	63.74%	36.26%	2.68%

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2003	53.18%	46.82%	3.34%
2004	75.23%	24.77%	1.93%
2005	52.16%	47.84%	1.37%
2006	68.13%	31.87%	2.32%
2007	46.94%	53.06%	2.01%
Average:	56.30%	43.70%	2.15%

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2004	75.23%	24.77%	1.93%
2005	52.16%	47.84%	1.37%
2006	68.13%	31.87%	2.32%
2007	46.94%	53.06%	2.01%
2008	35.22%	64.78%	1.79%
Average:	49.82%	50.18%	1.87%

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2005	52.16%	47.84%	1.37%
2006	68.13%	31.87%	2.32%
2007	46.94%	53.06%	2.01%
2008	35.22%	64.78%	1.79%
2009	75.19%	24.81%	3.93%
Average:	51.55%	48.45%	2.20%

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2002	65.00%	35.00%	7.94%
2003	46.96%	53.04%	6.12%
2004	71.01%	28.99%	6.84%
2005	34.85%	65.15%	3.30%
2006	54.96%	45.04%	5.77%
Average:	52.43%	47.57%	5.97%

To be used for management year: 2008

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2003	44.31%	55.69%	6.41%
2004	71.02%	28.98%	6.85%
2005	34.45%	65.55%	3.25%
2006	54.50%	45.50%	5.73%
2007	33.79%	66.21%	4.94%
Average:	42.88%	57.12%	5.27%

To be used for management year: 2009

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2004	71.02%	28.98%	6.85%
2005	34.45%	65.55%	3.25%
2006	54.50%	45.50%	5.73%
2007	33.79%	66.21%	4.94%
2008	33.15%	66.85%	2.33%
Average:	37.88%	62.12%	3.67%

To be used for management year: 2010

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2005	34.5%	65.5%	3.3%
2006	54.5%	45.5%	5.7%
2007	33.8%	66.2%	4.9%
2008	33.2%	66.8%	2.3%
2009	61.5%	38.5%	5.9%
Average:	41.0%	59.0%	4.0%

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2006	68.13%	31.87%	2.32%
2007	46.94%	53.06%	2.01%
2008	35.22%	64.78%	1.79%
2009	75.19%	24.81%	3.93%
2010	34.82%	65.18%	2.52%
Average:	45.13%	54.87%	2.41%

To be used for management year: 2011

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2006	54.50%	45.50%	5.73%
2007	33.79%	66.21%	4.94%
2008	33.15%	66.85%	2.33%
2009	61.54%	38.46%	5.88%
2010	36.00%	64.00%	3.25%
Average:	39.08%	60.92%	3.68%

To be used for management year: 2012

****Remember that set gillnet is taken off the top and then drift gillnet and purse seine split remaining 50/50!**

PWSAC, VFDA, & WILD STOCKS

Return Year	DGN	PS	SGN	Grand Total
2000	\$17,781,587.32	\$17,099,828.26	\$588,463.06	\$35,469,878.63
2001	\$18,223,201.18	\$12,391,063.71	\$963,446.25	\$31,577,711.14
2002	\$17,858,589.02	\$5,129,806.96	\$1,249,355.72	\$24,237,751.71
2003	\$16,754,298.50	\$14,747,847.05	\$1,089,945.99	\$32,592,091.54
2004	\$18,276,401.80	\$6,016,295.80	\$478,819.08	\$24,771,516.68
2005	\$20,462,301.25	\$18,767,661.33	\$543,004.61	\$39,772,967.18
2006	\$24,391,099.96	\$11,409,925.23	\$848,929.39	\$36,649,954.58
2007	\$31,221,270.80	\$35,295,591.68	\$1,365,872.13	\$67,882,734.61
2008	\$28,318,681.11	\$52,075,739.96	\$1,467,492.70	\$81,861,933.77
2009	\$31,822,403.30	\$10,500,614.41	\$1,730,198.80	\$44,053,216.51
Grand Total	\$225,109,834.23	\$183,434,394.38	\$10,325,527.74	\$418,869,756.36

PWSAC ONLY

Return Year	DGN	PS	SGN	Grand Total
2000	\$8,958,494.63	\$9,792,663.84	\$509,507.06	\$19,260,665.53
2001	\$8,294,369.15	\$3,845,376.07	\$954,643.60	\$13,094,388.83
2002	\$8,832,944.88	\$4,755,400.40	\$1,171,600.17	\$14,759,945.45
2003	\$6,939,202.61	\$8,719,617.77	\$1,071,690.31	\$16,730,510.70
2004	\$4,033,494.92	\$1,646,086.31	\$417,568.74	\$6,097,149.97
2005	\$4,369,411.29	\$8,312,855.08	\$426,090.84	\$13,108,357.21
2006	\$7,010,573.83	\$5,851,982.90	\$781,184.10	\$13,643,740.83
2007	\$8,365,676.84	\$16,394,815.50	\$1,287,859.45	\$26,048,351.80
2008	\$18,059,466.10	\$36,411,663.50	\$1,300,084.99	\$55,771,214.59
2009	\$15,553,268.89	\$9,722,044.68	\$1,578,784.57	\$26,854,098.13
Grand Total	\$90,416,903.15	\$105,452,506.05	\$9,499,013.83	\$205,368,423.03

These #'s are what were used to calculate above allocations.

Written Testimony to the BOF on 2011 PWS salmon proposals

Having seined in PWS since 1985 I have witnessed several cycles of fish abundance and scarcity and price fluctuation. As one gear group or the other faces financial harm the allocation plan is tweaked. It is my opinion that the solutions are short sighted and only bring parity for a portion of the industry cycles. It is good for the BOF to review its changes and it is ok to change back if necessary. It is not in the best interests of either group to give up traditional areas. It may be necessary to apply more attainable percentages to the allocation policy.

It is definitely not right to allow both gear groups to fish at the same time in the same area.

At some point we have to accept market forces and know that time will allow for near parity. The main concern should be that each group is prospering and PWSAC has clear guidelines. At this moment in time that is happening.

Also, when considering monetary values of PWS gear groups please consider that seining is a very expensive business compared to drifting. Seiners essentially have two boats to upkeep when you consider the skiffs that now cost approximately \$100,000 just by themselves. Each seiner has a minimum of 3 crew members to support, plus the skipper and our nets are another major expense. If monetary considerations are being discussed please remember this when the gillnet fleet is talking about income from the fisheries. Seiners expenses can easily be at least 60% of the boat gross of any year, the good years and the poor ones. Seining is a wonderful fishery that supports many people and spreads the wealth of the fish production further than any other and has allowed many young people to begin their own business, whether as fishermen or as doctors or teachers because they have been able to pay for their education or permits.

The PWS Management and Salmon Allocation Plan was formulated over several years and BOF cycles.

The PWS Enhancement Program is integral to the overall success of all users who harvest PWS salmon.

Historic methodology was used to determine user groups' fair and equitable allocation of enhanced salmon stocks.

The current allocation plan provides for fleet adjustments depending on economic values in allocating enhanced PWSAC salmon stocks.

It is imperative that any allocation plan provide for a variety of tools to bring parity to the user groups. We recognize that these tools do not bring immediate results as evidenced by the ex-vessel value of harvests between user groups.

There is no way of accurately predicting wild and enhanced salmon run strength or salmon prices prior to any given season. Therefore, it is unreasonable to seek specific short term remedies with potentially unforeseen results.

It is further recognized that ex-vessel value is the most reasonable guideline for allocating enhanced PWSAC salmon stocks among user groups.

It must be recognized that in the end the percentage guidelines are unattainable in the short term and should be labeled as "guidelines" so as to avoid legal attack.

On the basis of the above statements I request that the BOF reject Proposal #101

Proposal #92

I am in favor of using the fleet as a sampling tool rather than depending on aerial surveys alone. June 1st would be a very good starting date to implement a test fishery 2x a week. ADF&G does not have the budget to push more aerial surveys and many times the weather does not allow the ones it can afford. Fleet sampling will be an extremely useful early run indicator if there are large runs imminent. At the very least it will be an accurate and timely assessment. It can be curtailed if wild runs are being adversely affected.

Proposal #105

I would like to see some action to reduce gear conflict at Esther. Perhaps splitting up the area and alternating the split up areas would be worth a try. Both gear types can adapt easier to any plan other than purse seines and gillnets fishing alongside each other. When the current plan was adopted, pink salmon were of so little value that it was assumed that gillnetters would not want to participate and that was true until about 3 years ago. It is time to come up with a way to have an orderly fishery that works for both gear groups.

Proposal #113

PWS salmon regulations and rules lack enforcement. It is a frustrating situation for an orderly and fair fishery. Salmon spotting regulations are being abused and enforcement has told us it is impossible to monitor. I ask that salmon spotting be made illegal in both open areas and closed areas at all times during the PWS salmon season. There is no reason to have laws we can't enforce so that only the unethical will benefit.

Richard A Corazza - PWS seine permit holder

Box 1320

Homer, Ak. 99603

907-399-3082

ATTN : BOF COMMENTS

Board Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Juneau, AK
FAX: 907.465.6049

PROPOSAL #43: OPPOSE

I strongly urge you to **oppose Proposal 43!**

I do not feel this is a fair proposal. These are two gear groups that do go after the same product. Most of the time, the difference in terrain keeps these two gear groups fishing different spots. Sports fishermen hit pinnacles while commercial fishermen favor broad flatter terrain.

Though I do not target halibut while I'm fishing for black cod commercially, many of my fishing spots take me in to the 3 mile zone. We fish at 300 fathoms plus. This proposal would destroy PWS black cod fishery that has been going strong for decades.

Britt Pedicord
Cordova, AK

BOF COMMENTS
BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
PO BOX 115526
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-6094
FAX: 907-465-6094

I OPPOSE proposal #43

I would like to have the restriction lifted. This proposal would inconvenience the fishermen being able to harvest fish. Prince William Sound has historically been an important fishing area for small boats delivering to local communities. Long lining for halibut and black cod in Prince William Sound is an important part of our fishing business.

I OPPOSE proposals #72, 73, 74, 75, 117 and 118

The Copper River king salmon stock is a fully utilized and allocated resource. Any increase in allowable take in the fishery would be a direct re-allocation of the resource. There is no justification to adopt further restriction to fishing inside the barrier islands, the department already had the ability to restrict fishing when there is a concern by emergency order.

I OPPOSE proposal #81:

I strongly urge the board to consider its dismissal.

Clause (c) strike the word intentionally set, staked, anchored or otherwise fixed. This would deny a person any recourse to challenge the charge on conditions or mitigating factors.

Clause (f) would not allow fishermen's nets to touch the bottom. Fishermen would be liable for grounding our nets without any recourse in that situation.

Clauses (g) would not allow use of mechanical power. Towing on a net is a large part of our fishery. The tide and/or current cause the net to collapse or snag on submerged rocks. There are occasions a current is moving swiftly, and fishermen need to tow on

their net to get it off shore, a snag and sometimes off another fisherman's gear. Prince William Sound has many bays, shallow areas along the shoreline and rocks protruding in various locations. There is always a chance the net will touch the bottom.

I OPPOSE proposals #88, 89 and 92

These proposals will have a direct negative impact on the current Prince William Sound allocation plan. The seiners are already harvesting a large portion of enhanced salmon. There is no justification for increasing time and area for the seine fleet in Prince William Sound. Any change in favor of the seine fleet would only increase disparity.

I OPPOSE proposals 101, 104, 105, 106, 108 and 110

I strongly urge the Board of Fisheries to oppose proposals 101, 104, 105, 106, 108 and 110, due to the fact they will alter the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhanced Allocation Plan, which was revised and approved in 2005 by Board of Fisheries.

I support proposal #90

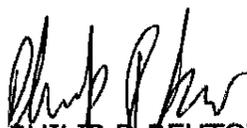
Add more latitude and longitude points to illustrate the area.

Last year I was ticketed and sentenced for fishing in closed waters.

Strict liability means that you are guilty regardless of the intent, circumstances or mitigating factors. I was fined \$3000, with some suspension, and had mandatory points assessed against me, which in the future could deny me the right to fish and earn a living.

I am a third generation commercial fisherman; I started fishing with my dad as a young boy, worked as a deckhand, and now an area E fisherman since 2009. I was making a night set, I set my net out and was drifting north. My net was in the one mile boundary, however as the net drifted along and the shore line curves in and therefore making it so that the net is past the one mile mark. If you drift for another thirty to forty-five minutes, again the shoreline changes and you are well in the one mile mark.

Commercial fishing is my livelihood; I am a college student and work hard in the summer so I am able to continue my education. I depend on fishing to support myself. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.



PHILIP D REUTOV
F/V TOOKALOOK
31818 S ONA WAY
MOLALLA, OREGON 97038
503-853-5780

BOF COMMENTS
BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
PO BOX 115526
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-6094
FAX: 907-465-6094

I OPPOSE proposal #43

I would like to have the restriction lifted. This proposal would inconvenience the fishermen being able to harvest fish. Prince William Sound has historically been an important fishing area for small boats delivering to local communities. Long lining for halibut and black cod in Prince William Sound is an important part of our fishing business.

I OPPOSE proposals #72, 73, 74, 75, 117 and 118

The Copper River king salmon stock is a fully utilized and allocated resource. Any increase in allowable take in the fishery would be a direct re-allocation of the resource. There is no justification to adopt further restriction to fishing inside the barrier islands, the department already had the ability to restrict fishing when there is a concern by emergency order.

I OPPOSE proposal #81;

I strongly urge the board to consider its dismissal.

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Clauses (g) would not allow use of mechanical power. Towing on a net is a large part of our fishery. The tide and/or current cause the net to collapse or snag on submerged rocks. There are occasions a current is moving swiftly, and fishermen need to tow on their net to get it off shore, a snag and sometimes off another fisherman's gear. Prince

William Sound has many bays, shallow areas along the shoreline and rocks protruding in various locations. There is always a chance the net will touch the bottom.

I OPPOSE proposals #88, 89 and 92

These proposals will have a direct negative impact on the current Prince William Sound allocation plan. The seiners are already harvesting a large portion of enhanced salmon. There is no justification for increasing time and area for the seine fleet in Prince William Sound. Any change in favor of the seine fleet would only increase disparity.

I OPPOSE proposals 101, 104, 105, 106, 108 and 110

I strongly urge the Board of Fisheries to oppose proposals 101, 104, 105, 106, 108 and 110, due to the fact they will alter the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhanced Allocation Plan, which was revised and approved in 2005 by Board of Fisheries.

I support proposal #90

Add more latitude and longitude points to illustrate the area.

Strict liability means that you are guilty regardless of the intent, circumstances or mitigating factors, causing points to be assessed against a fisherman that in the future could deny him the right to fish and earn a living.

I am a second generation commercial fisherman and have been fishing in area E since 1992. Commercial fishing is my lively hood; I depend on fishing to support my family. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.


DAVID REUTOV
F/V RUNNINGWILD
31818 S ONA WAY
MOLALLA, OREGON 97038
PH 503-314-5314

November 17, 2011
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Board Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Re: Prince William Sound Board Proposal #43

Dear Board of Fisheries members:

The author of this proposal may be correct in defining that resource depletion has occurred near the local communities of Whittier and Valdez in Prince William Sound. This might be expected considering the vast increase in recreational use over the last 20 years. I am a small boat longliner in Area 3A, the supposed villain who has been catching all of the local stocks. The trouble with this scenario is that commercial longline effort has declined in recent years, both in numbers and catch. We don't fish nearby local communities. But I have noticed a massive increase in sport boats and charters over the years, especially since the completion of the Whittier tunnel. Commercial longlining has a long history in Prince William Sound. We supply markets in local communities and around the world. We should not be wiped out in the name of an additional small increase in recreational resource consumption.

Eventually, the sport charter fleet which authored this proposal will have to mature to the point where it is recognized that conservation of the resource means action to be taken by each individual fisherman of whatever stripe. Yes, the halibut resource is suffering a decline coastwide. This is very concerning to all of us. As yet, the cause has not been biologically established, but commercial IFQ's in Area 3A have been reduced by approximately half in response to the resource decline. As such, commercial halibut longliners fishing in Prince William Sound are only allowed to catch half the pounds they did five years ago. There is a mechanism in place already by which we conserve the resource. Meanwhile, there is no limit or quota on recreational and charter catches. They have increased by orders of magnitude. This proposal is misguided and attempts to reward those for whom conservation means pointing the finger at others. The end result is loss of resource for everyone. Conservation only works when everyone shares in the sacrifice. This is especially true in heavily used areas near access communities where there is almost no commercial fishing anyway.

Please disregard this proposal in its entirety. Thank-you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Linville
PO Box 1753
Seward, AK 99664
907-224-3252
linville@ak.net

COMMENTS FOR BOARD OF FISH MEETING
IN VALDEZ DECEMBER 2011
FROM KENT HERSCHLEB

PAGE 2

RE: PROPOSALS 88, 89, 92, 101, 104, 105, 106
108, and 110.

I AM OPPOSED TO THE ABOVE

I FIND IT PUZZLING AND RATHER EMBARRASSING FOR THE GENERAL SEINE FLEET THAT A PORTION OF THEIR FLEET (THE NORTHWEST AND ALASKA SEINERS ASSOC.) ARE CLAMORING FOR A BIGGER SHARE OF THE PIE WHEN THEY ARE CURRENTLY SUBSTANTIALLY AHEAD OF THE GILLNET FLEET. AS A THIRTY-FIVE YEAR VETERAN OF THE GILLNET FLEET AND ONE OF THE FLEET REPRESENTATIVES IN THE INITIAL HAMMERING OUT OF THE ALLOCATION AGREEMENT, I'M NOT PLEASED THAT THE BOARD IS BEING ASKED ONCE AGAIN TO SPEND TIME AND ENERGY ON THIS ISSUE. PLEASE SEE THESE PROPOSALS FOR WHAT THEY ARE: A GREEDY ATTEMPT TO GRAB MORE BY A SEGMENT OF THE SEINE FLEET THAT IS ALREADY AHEAD. WHEN WILL THEY LEARN THAT FAIR IS FAIR. HAVE THEY NO SHAME?

KENT HERSCHLEB
5038922989
BOARD OF FISH COMMENTS - KENT HERSCHLEB

P. 2

PAGE 2

RE: COPPER RIVER PROPOSALS 72, 73, 74, 75, 116, 117, 118
I OPPOSE ALL OF THE ABOVE.

I WOULD HAVE THE BOARD TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT
COPPER RIVER ESCAPEMENT LEVELS FOR THE PAST
NUMBER OF YEARS. CASE RESTED.

RE: PROPOSAL 43 - I'M NOT A LONG-LINER, BUT
THIS PROPOSAL IS WAY OUT OF LINE. I STRONGLY OPPOSE.

RE: PROPOSALS 114, 115 - THESE PROPOSALS ARE FLAWED
IN FACT AND IN THE ASSUMPTIONS MADE. I OPPOSE.

RE: PROPOSAL 81 THE DEPARTMENT USUALLY MAKES
WELL THOUGHT OUT PROPOSALS - BUT THIS IS NOT ONE
OF THEM. A GILLNETTER MUST OFTEN TOW ON THE NET
TO KEEP IT FISHING EFFECTIVELY, IN DEEP WATER
OR SHALLOW. THE PROBLEM OF INTENTIONALLY ROCKING
A NET DOWN HAPPENS TOO OFTEN AND IS UNFAIR TO
THOSE FISHING LEGALLY. THIS PROPOSAL REALLY MUDDIES
THE WATERS. I OPPOSE.



①

Fax to 907-465-6098

Boards Support Section 4

PROPOSAL # 46, 47 AND 48, GROUND FISH,

SUPPORT; THIS WOULD INCREASE AND DIVERSIFY THE FISHERY DURING THE HARVEST PERIOD.

PROPOSALS 51, 52 AND 53; OPPOSE:

NO ONE IS DENIED ACCESS TO SALMON.

UNDER REGULATIONS COVERING SPORT FISHING

PERSONEL USE AND ~~SPORT~~ FISHING AN
SUBSISTANCE

INDIVIDUAL CAN CATCH AND RETAIN A VERY

LARGE AMOUNT OF SALMON, TROUT AND WHITE FISH

PROPOSALS 54 & 55; OPPOSE.

CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL SHOULD

REMAIN AS IS ON THE COPPER RIVER WATERSHED.

THE FIRST, PEOPLE HAVE RESIDED THERE FOR

THOUSANDS OF YEARS AND CONTINUE A GENUINE

SUBSISTANCE (CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL) WAY OF LIFE

(2)

PROPOSAL 56: Support:

ACCOUNTABILITY IS VITAL FOR
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT TO BE SUCCESSFUL
ALL USERS MUST SHARE THE PAIN OF SMALL
RETURNS AS WELL AS THE SURPLUS OF LARGER
THAN EXPECTED RETURNS

PROPOSAL 72, 73 + 74: OPPOSED.

THE RESOURCE, IN THIS CASE KING SALMON
COME FIRST. THE SURVIVAL AND SUSTAINED USE
OF KING SALMON IS THE MANAGING BIOLOGISTS
PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY, NOT SOMEONE'S DESIRE
FOR A PARTICULAR SPECIES OF FISH. DRAGGING
A FOUR FOOT "DIPNET" BEHIND A "CHARTER BOAT"
IN THE COPPER RIVER IS NOT "DIP NETTING" IT'S
"TRAWLING" IN ITS MOST BASIC FORM AND
SHOULD BE BANNED!

(3)

PROPOSAL 75: OPPOSE;
CALCULATE THE AMOUNT OF VARIOUS
MARINE RESOURCES, INCLUDING SALMON THAT
IS AVAILABLE TO ALL "SPORT" OR "PERSONAL ^{USE} ~~USE~~"
INDIVIDUALS AND THERE IS MORE THAN IS NEEDED
FOR EACH HOME THAT TRULY NEEDS IT.

PROPOSAL 76 SUPPORT:
ACCOUNTABILITY IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.
THIS PROPOSAL GOES A LONG WAY TOWARD
MAKING THAT HAPPEN. TAKE CARE OF THE RESOURCE

PROPOSAL 77: SUPPORT,
~~PROPOSAL 77~~ SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY ARE IMPORTANT, BUT
STRICT LIMITS ARE NECESSARY WHEN COMBINING
OPERATIONS

(4)

PROPOSAL 78: SUPPORT

THE NUMBER OF SALMON SEINE PERMITS IN "AREA E" WAS ESTABLISHED UNDER "LIMITED ENTRY" WHEN FAR FEWER FISH WERE AVAILABLE HERE AND ELSEWHERE IN ALASKA. ALL PERMITS SHOULD BE IN USE EVERY YEAR IN ALL SALMON FISHERIES. BOTH GEAR GROUPS SHOULD USE THE SAME SIZE NET WHEN FISHING IN THE SAME AREA AT THE SAME TIME.

PROPOSAL 79: SUPPORT!

GO ONE STEP FURTHER; CILNET NUMBER 545 PERMITS; 60 MESH DEEP NETS ARE ALL WE NEED TO HARVEST SALMON IN ANY AREA WE HAVE ACCESS TO. THE ECONOMICS ARE OBVIOUS AND ENFORCEMENTS JOB WOULD BE SIMPLER. ALL PINK PRODUCT SHOULD BE MOVED TO AFR

(IN NEXT of 16

02

AND CCH. PINK SALMON ARE NOT SUPPOSED
TO BE PRODUCED AT THE "PROMISED"
GILNET HATCHERY IN THE FIRST PLACE.
GEAR CONFLICT WOULD BE ELIMINATED

PROPOSAL 80: OPPOSE;

DON'T ELIMINATE A TOOL, USED FOR WORK &
SAFETY. USED TO PICK FISH, AS A LIFEBOAT, A TOW-
BOAT AND TO GO TO THE BEACH. WRITE THE TICKET
FOR ~~ANY~~ USES THAT ARE ILLEGAL & MAKE THE
REGULATION EASY TO UNDERSTAND.

PROPOSAL 82/ OPPOSE.

IF THEY WANT SMALL MESH, DON'T USE A LEAD

PROPOSAL 85 SUPPORT

ALL NETS IN "AREA" SHOULD BE THE SAME
DIMENSION: 900' X 50' DEEP

(5) (6)

PROPOSAL 88+89: OPPOSE!

THE BOARD DOES NOT NEED TO MICRO-MANAGE THE P.W.S DRIFT FISHERY, THE MANAGING BIOLOGIST HAS ALL THE TOOLS HE/SHE NEEDS TO PROTECT ANY WILD STOCK ANYWHERE IN P.W.S.

PROPOSAL 92: OPPOSE!

IF THE DEPARTMENT NEEDS MORE TIMELY AND ACCURATE DATA THEY HAVE THE MEANS TO HIRE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT TO GET THE JOB DONE.

PROPOSAL 93 OPPOSE!

~~ALL~~ ALL OF P.W.S. IS OPEN TO SPORT FISHING ALL YEAR! "NUE SAID"

(87)

PROPOSAL 96 OPPOSE:

ALTHOUGH LEGAL, TO ME SNAGGING IS NOT
A METHOD OF "SPORT" FISHING. SPORT AND
COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN IN SOUTH EAST AK
AND CANADA HAVE LEARNED TO CATCH FISH ON
A HOOK. COMMERCIAL FISHERS PAY FOR THE
OPPORTUNITY TO CATCH ALL THE SALMON NOT
NEEDED FOR BROOD STOCK OR COST RECOVERY
THROUGH SELF-TAXATION.

PROPOSAL 98:

CONTINUOUS EXPANSION TO COST RECOVERY
AREA'S IS NOT NEEDED, IT IS FAR TOO LARGE
ALREADY. WHERE DOES IT END? MANAGE
BETTER/SMARTER.

(8)

PROPOSAL 99 OPPOSE,

AS A SEINE VESSEL CAPTAIN YOU
MAKE THE DECISIONS ON WHERE AND WHEN
TO FISH.

PROPOSAL 100, OPPOSE

NO USER IS DENIED ACCESS OR
OPPORTUNITY TO CATCH THESE SALMON.
THIS WOULD JUST BE A FURTHER RE-ALLOCATION
BY REGULATION OF THIS RESOURCE FROM
THE GILNET FLEET TO SPORT FISHING
INTERESTS

PROPOSAL 101, OPPOSE!

THE DRIFT FLEET SAVED THE HATCHERIES BY
PASSING A 2% ENHANCEMENT TAX. THEN PROVIDED &
LOST CLAIMS FOR THE SEINE FLEET, AND THE SEINE
IS HARVESTING 60% OF THE VALUE OF THE FISHERY.

(9)

PROPOSALS 104, 105 & 106 OPPOSE

THE SEINE FLEET ALREADY HAS ACCESS TO ALL OF P.W.S. WHEN THERE IS FISH AVAILABLE. MANAGEMENT IS ACHIEVING THEIR GOAL OF A SUSTAINABLE FISHERY. THEIR MAIN FOCUS HAS ALWAYS BEEN PINK SALMON. THE SEINE FLEET IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAXIMIZING THE VALUE OF THEIR FISHERY. AT 60+% OF THE VALUE OF THE WHOLE FISHERY THEY ARE DOING FAR BETTER THAN THE GILNETTERS

PROPOSAL 107: SUPPORT:

GIVE THE GILNETTER ACCESS TO THESE CHUMS OR STOP THE REMOTE RELEASE AT A.F.K.

(10)

PROPOSAL 108 OPPOSE!

THE SEINE FLEET ALREADY HAS ACCESS
AND A LARGE INCREASE IN VALUE.

PROPOSAL 109 SUPPORTS

GETTING MORE AREA TO FISH IS A
GOOD THING BUT INTERCEPTION OF ALL
SPECIES IS A SERIOUS ISSUE IN
THIS AREA FOR/BY ANY GEAR GROUP.

PROPOSAL 110 OPPOSE!

INTERCEPTION ISSUES HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN AN ISSUE/PROBLEM FOR THE SEINE
FLEET. PUT THE CHUM BACK @ W.N.H.
AND HARVEST THE PINKS WHEN THEY RETURN

(11)

PROPOSAL 111; OPPOSE

THE FULL PERCENTAGE OF COST RECOVERY SHOULD BE TAKEN EVERY YEAR. ANY SURPLUS MONEY'S SHOULD THEN BE SAVED FOR FUTURE SHORTFALL PROBLEMS IN REVENUE GOALS

PROPOSAL 112, OPPOSE

I BELIEVE THE PRESENT 5 YEAR FORMULA WORKS FOR BOTH USER'S LONG-TERM

PROPOSAL 113: OPPOSE,

I BELIEVE IT CAN AND SHOULD BE ENFORCED. AIRCRAFT ARE NOT NEEDED FOR STEINERS OR GUNNETERS TO BE SUCCESSFUL. REMEMBER THE HATERIES?

(2)

PROPOSAL 114: OPPOSE.

THE HATCHERIES ONLY PRODUCE ~~THE~~
 THE AMOUNT ALLOWED BY REGULATION/PERMITTED
 THIS IS SUPPORT BY THE BEST AVAILABLE
 SCIENCE.

PROPOSAL 115 & 116 OPPOSE!

THERE IS NO SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

THEIR CONCERNS ARE VALID, & I AS
 A COMMERCIAL FISHER PAY A LARGE PRICE FOR
 MY "HOME PACK"
PROPOSAL 117 OPPOSE!

No Accountability for Number of
 King SALMON CAUGHT IN "WHEELS & D. NETS"
 BY ALL USERS. THERE IS 100% Accountability
 BY THE COMMERCIAL USER'S, NO COMPLIANCE
 BRINGS HARSH PENALTIES. \$5,000⁰⁰ FINE + PTE
 AGAINST THE PERMIT HOLDER.

(13)

PROPOSAL 118 OPPOSE!

THERE IS TREMENDOUS SACRIFICE
 BY THE GILNET FLEET TO ENSURE THAT
 ADEQUATE ESCAPEMENT OCCURS. THIS
 AMOUNTS TO MORE REALLOCATION OF SALMON
 (RE-ALLOCATION)
 BY REGULATION OUR LIVELIHOOD IS SO
 DEPENDENT ON.

PROPOSAL 1191 OPPOSE!

PUT BACK AND MAINTAIN THE MARKERS.
 THEY ARE VITAL AS REFERENCE POINTS AND
 ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN KNOWN TO
 FAIL. ALSO, THE U.S.C.G CAN'T BE
 EXPECTED TO DO ENFORCEMENT'S JOB.

PROPOSAL 120: OPPOSE;

ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO REALLOCATE RESOURCE
 TO A GROUP THAT HAS PLENTY OF ACCESS

(14)

TO ALL MARINE RESOURCES.

PROPOSAL 121+22 SUPPORT

KEEP ALL USER'S OUT OF
CLOSED AREA'S. TAKE CARE OF THE
RESOURCE! DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY!
MANAGE THE HARVEST! IGNORE / REMOVE
THE POLITICS

PROPOSAL 123+124 SUPPORT

HEAVY USE OF EASILY ACCESSED
STOCKS CAN AND DOES ENDANGER THEM.
SPAWNING NUMBERS ARE OR CAN BE CRITICAL
IN POOR RETURN YEARS

PROPOSAL 125 SUPPORT

TAKE CARE OF A SPECIAL FISHERY

(15)

PROPOSAL 126 - OPPOSE!
~~126~~

TAKE CARE OF KING SALMON STOCKS
IN ALL WATERSHED. DON'T ALLOW SPORT FISHERS
IN SPAWNING STREAMS/HABITAT.

PROPOSAL 124 & 128 SUPPORT!

ACCOUNTABILITY IS VITAL, ALL USERS
EVERYWHERE NEEDED TO BE, THE RESOURCE
WILL NOT SURVIVE WITHOUT IT.

PROPOSALS 129, 130, 131, 132 & 133.
SUPPORT!

I'VE ENJOYED SPORT FISHING FOR
50+ YEARS. A QUALITY EXPERIENCES
IS VERY IMPORTANT AND I BELIEVE IS BASED
IN AND FROM RESPONSIBLE, ACCOUNTIBLE
AND CARING USE OF A RESOURCE.

(16)

PROPOSALS 134 & 135 SUPPORT
COMMERCIAL USE OF A RESOURCE
DOES NOT HAVE TO OCCUR EVERYWHERE.

ETHICAL USE OF THE MARINE RESOURCES
IN THE STATE OF ALASKA ARE VITAL FOR
THE FUTURE USE OF THEM BY FUTURE
GENERATIONS.

THESE ARE MY BELIEFS AND
OPINION'S REGARDING THESE PROPOSALS
THANK YOU FOR TAKING TIME TO
REVIEW THEM AND USING THEM IN
FORMULATING YOUR DECISIONS.

BILL MYERS
F/V SHIPSTREAM

BOF COMMENTS
BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
PO BOX 115526
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-6094
FAX: 907-465-6094

I OPPOSE proposal #43

I would like to have the restriction lifted; this proposal would inconvenience the fishermen in being able to harvest fish. Prince William Sound has historically been an important fishing area for small boats delivering to local communities. Long lining for halibut and in Prince William Sound is an important part of our fishing business.

I OPPOSE proposals 72, 73, 74, 75, 117 and 118

The Copper River king salmon stock is a fully utilized and allocated resource. Any increase in allowable take in the fishery would be a direct re-allocation of the resource. There is no justification to adopt further restriction to fishing inside the barrier islands, the department already had the ability to restrict fishing when there is a concern by emergency order.

I OPPOSE proposal #81:

I strongly urge the board to consider its dismissal.

Clause (c) strike the word intentionally set, staked, anchored or otherwise fixed. This would deny a person any recourse to challenge the charge on conditions or mitigating factors.

Clause (f) would not allow fishermen's nets to touch the bottom. We would be liable for grounding our nets without any recourse in that situation.

Clause (g) not use mechanical power, towing on a net is a large part of fishery.

Depending on the direction of the tide and or the flow of the current, it may cause the net to collapse or snag on rocks that are submerged under water. Because sometimes the current is moving very swiftly fishermen need to tow on their gear to get it off the

shore, a snag and sometimes off another fisherman's gear. Prince William Sound has many bays with a lot of shoreline that have shallow spots and rocks that are in the middle, there are always times that the nets will touch the bottom.

I OPPOSE proposals #88, 89 and 92

These proposals will have a direct negative impact on the current Prince William Sound allocation plan. The seiners are already harvesting a large portion of enhanced salmon. There is no justification for increasing time and area for the seine fleet in Prince William Sound. Any change in favor of the seine fleet would only increase disparity.

I OPPOSE proposals 101, 104, 105, 106, 108 and 110

I strongly urge the Board of Fisheries to oppose proposals 101, 104, 105, 106, 108 and 110, due to the fact they will alter the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhanced Allocation Plan, which was revised and approved in 2005 by the Board of Fisheries.

I support proposal #90 add more latitude and longitude points to illustrate the area

Strict liability means that you are guilty regardless of the intent, circumstances or mitigating factors, causing points to be assessed against a fisherman that in the future could deny him the right to fish and earn a living.

I was fishing as a crew member for many years and just bought in 2010 and have been fishing in area E. I rely on this fishery to support my family if any more changes are made it will affect all of that depend on this fishery. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

PAVEL EFIMOFF
F/V SHOCKANDAWA
12929 MILLER RD NE
GERVAIS, OR. 97026
PH 503-991-3783p



ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094

Proposal 81: Oppose

I oppose this proposal for the following reasons:

- This proposal is even more ambiguous than current law. Section (g) "*vessel in substantially the same geographical location*" is vague and open to interpretation. It is sure to generate debate between fishermen and enforcement on the grounds and in court.
- It is often necessary, especially in wind, to tow on drift gear to maintain its shape. On days with little current, doing so results in maintaining *substantially the same geographical location* even if there is no lead line contact with the bottom.
- There are many occasions when fish run in very shallow water and we have to fish on the beach. If the deep end of the gear is not contacting the bottom, it will flag and fish will lead around the gear. In these instances, it is necessary to tow on the deep end to maintain net shape and to keep the gear from interfering with other fishermen or to prevent it from becoming damaged on pinnacles.
- Cleaning up buildups of fish in bays efficiently is important to maximizing the value of the fish because they become dark quickly and also to reduce potential for straying. The bays are small and we almost always have to have at least one end of the gear in shallow water with lead line on the bottom. Many fishermen crowd the bays for these cleanups and if the deep end of gear was at the mercy of the current, there would be increased conflict and damage as nets full of fish would tangle.
- This proposal will indirectly result in allocating more Eshamy District fish to setnetters and they already exceed the target allocation.
- Inside fishing on the flats is conducted in shallow, uncharted, silty water. Occasionally while setting gear we will accidentally ground on a sand bar that wasn't present previously. There is often nothing that can be done except to wait for rising tide to refloat the vessel; the gear cannot be retrieved. This proposal would result in that being a crime.

I understand that the current enforced requirement is that neither end of the gear can be fastened to the beach (either by tying to trees or rocks or by use of anchors), and that all corks and buoys must be floating (not dry or sunk). This is not ambiguous, is easy to distinguish by fishermen and enforcement, and easy to document non-compliance through the use of photographs. There should be no change.

If the intent of this proposal is to keep fishermen from "rocking down" in popular drift areas like Hodgkins Point or along the wall between Esther Light and Point Esther, the Board could consider identifying "No Lead Line Contact Areas". This would be easier to enforce and wouldn't create the issues identified above.

November 18, 2011

Bill Craig

Proposals 72-75, 117, and 118: Oppose

I oppose these proposals because the commercial fleet has already been restricted to reduce harvest of these fully allocated stocks. As an Anchorage resident, I meet people who either participate in upstream PU fisheries or know someone who has a fishwheel and I am disgusted by the amount of fish that are wasted. The limits are too high, there is little enforcement, and people have an attitude that taking too much does not hurt anything. None of the commercial catch is wasted; it feeds people and benefits the economy of the state and nation.

Proposals 88, 89, 92, 101, 104-106, 108, and 110: Oppose

The seiners should be ashamed for attempting at every BOF cycle to steer more allocation their way. Especially now when they are so far ahead on the percent of harvest value.

Thank you for your time and for considering my views.

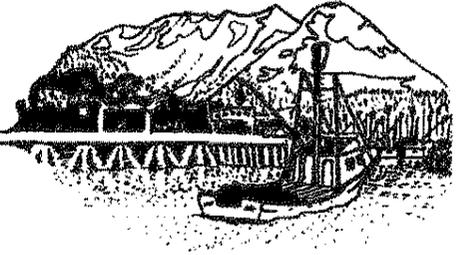


Bill Craig
13331 Badger Lane
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

November 18, 2011

Bill Craig

CITY OF CORDOVA



November 18, 2011

Attn: BOF COMMENTS
Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

BY FAX and mail

Board of Fish Members:

Cordova is located between the Copper River Delta and Prince William Sound. Our Alaska Native community, the Eyak's, have fished this area for thousands of years. Commercial fishing on the Copper River began over 100 years ago. Our peoples' lives revolve around the river, we identify with it, and it is who we are. Combined with our great heritage and customary and traditional use of subsistence fishing and hunting activities, Cordova has often been named as the perfect Alaskan town to call home. However, Cordova has one of the highest cost of living averages in Alaska. We are one of the last pure fishing communities; we survive by the efforts of the commercial fishermen, the processors and the support businesses. We enjoy the highest number of resident fishermen of any area in the State of Alaska, and many maintain year-round homes here. The way of life of most Cordova citizens would be threatened by the implementation of the proposals I have listed below. Cordova continues to sustain itself even through the tough times immediately following the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. The City capably supports its infrastructure, maintains great levels of services for its citizens and funds our award-winning school district and full-service hospital to make Cordova a wonderful and safe place to live. Cordova could easily become a ghost town, a shell of a once thriving commercial fishing dependent town, if some or all of these proposals are approved by the Board of Fish.

The City of Cordova would like to offer input on five of the proposals that are before the Board for the December 2 – 7 meetings in Valdez.

Proposal 50 does not appear to identify specific action to be taken by the Board. However, the City does agree with the proposer in supporting sound biological management which in tandem with expanding markets would increase fishery profitability for all permit holders and for our coastal community.

Proposal 51 asks the Board to review the Copper River District salmon subsistence fishery and consider changing the classification from customary and traditional (i.e. subsistence) to personal use. The customary and traditional subsistence use of salmon in the Copper River region by Alaska Natives for 10,000 years as well as by Cordova residents for over 100 years is well documented. The 2003 C&T Worksheet

used by the Board to review all available data regarding the C&T eight criteria very accurately reflects this community's continued multi-generational dependence and use of Copper River salmon stocks. As an isolated, heavily fish-dependent coastal Alaskan community, Cordova's resource harvest and use pattern epitomizes all subsistence criteria.

Proposal 53 asks the Board to amend the regulations concerning the Prince William Sound subsistence salmon fisheries management plan by combining the four Prince William Sound areas into one Area E and to have one set of bag and possession limits for the entire area. The City of Cordova believes that current subsistence districts and harvest levels amply provide for the respective needs of each community in Prince William Sound. The remote villages in the Sound have specific harvest areas, local licensing requirements, and adequate harvest levels in place. Supplemental provisions of the proposal throughout Prince William Sound are unwarranted.

Proposals 114 & 115 aim at reducing the hatchery production of Chum Salmon in Prince William Sound and the City of Cordova adamantly opposes that. Hatchery chum production is a significant portion of the PWS commercial salmon harvest. The expanding market for all Alaska chum salmon is being realized due in large part to the enhanced components of chum runs throughout the state. Foreign producers readily fill any reduction in world market share of Alaskan salmon. Cordova, PWS regional ports and the State of Alaska continue to greatly benefit from raw fish taxes, processing jobs, transportation and individual income derived from these well-managed and healthy stocks.

On behalf of the City and citizens of Cordova, I urge the Alaska Board of Fisheries to consider the negative impacts of the aforementioned proposals to the rural communities and families of Prince William Sound during your deliberations. Please reject proposals 51, 53, 114 and 115.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



James Kallander, Mayor
City of Cordova

cc: Monica Wellard, Executive Director, BOF
Cora Campbell, Commissioner, ADF&G
Tom Carpenter, CR/PWS Advisory Committee
John Renner, CR/PWS Advisory Committee

JK:sb

Boards Support Section

ADF&G

PO Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Fax: 907-465-6094

11/17/2011

Comments on 2011 Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposals

Mike Mahoney

Commercial Fisherman, Subsistence user and Resident of Cordova

Members of the Board,

Thank you for your time and service as you decide on these important issues which affect the livelihoods of so many hardworking Alaskans and the communities that depend on them.

Proposal #

43: Opposed

This is a radical proposal that seeks to virtually eliminate the commercial longline fishery in Prince William Sound. To close these waters to fishing would deny the commercial fishing fleet historical access to several fisheries and would be very damaging to the regional economy.

54 and 55: Opposed.

During the special session in 2011, the board unanimously decided against the classification of the Chitina district as a subsistence fishery after hearing from all user groups and a

thoughtful deliberation. The users of this dipnet fishery should share in the burden of sustainable management during times of shortage and the status quo allows them to do so.

51: Opposed

Over 80% of the subsistence fish harvested in the Copper River District are taken by Cordova Residents. We depend on salmon culturally, economically and to provide for the basic necessities of life. Our lives revolve around the salmon runs on the lower river system and it is discouraging to see our primarily urban neighbors trying to deny us traditional and historical access to these fish .

116: Opposed

Contrary to the notion of the Fairbanks advisory committee, allowing commercial fishermen to retain a homepack does not give them any sort of preference. We are essentially buying those fish from ourselves in that we are not selling them on the open market to support our livelihoods. The most basic laws of economics demonstrate that anyone retaining fish in this manner will have great incentive to take home only exactly what is needed for sustenance.

117: Opposed

The Department has recently conducted an extensive review of all stocks in area E and found no concern about the King Salmon escapement goals and recommended no change to the current escapement goal.

118: Opposed

The department already has the authority to close the fishing grounds to commercial fishing at any time. A politically motivated mandate such as this one and the previous proposal would restrict the Department's ability to manage according to biological needs. It is important to give our state managers the tools they need to manage and not to restrict them due to politics. A mandatory closure such as this in our historical fishing grounds will severely limit the ability for the commercial fleet to harvest salmon effectively. Further, mandatory closures such as this will without a doubt put people's lives at an undue risk. Many people who commercially fish on the flats have boats that are not suited to fishing in outside waters during rough weather. If the inside waters are closed for such a long period of time, when the fish are in, people will be forced to fish "outside" in order to stay in business. Debt laden fishermen will choose to take chances, and boats with members of our community onboard will be lost as a result. I respectfully invite anyone who doubts this to join me in fishing outside the barrier islands when it is storming in the Gulf of Alaska.

72-75: Opposed

The users of the Chitina dipnet fishery already have generous harvest limits. Most of these users are from areas outside the watershed and do not have the same socio-economic dependence as those of us that do live in the region. In times of abundance they are granted additional fish anyway.

81:Opposed

If someone is intentionally grounding their gear, then law enforcement has the ability to penalize them. It is not possible to fish a gillnet without occasionally snagging a rock or having the leadline touch the bottom. The fish often travel in shallow water so we must catch them there. With regard to using mechanical power to tow on the net; often there is no other way to effectively control your gear. What if i'm fishing in an area or at a time when there is minimal current? Will I be ticketed for keeping a hook in my net? That is what we do. We tow on our nets to hold a shape that facilitates catching salmon. Of course we need to use power to fish safely and effectively.

101, 104-106, 108,110& 112: Opposed

The allocation plan that was most recently drafted is working. The seiners are currently receiving over 20% more of the value of the enhanced fish, not including the Valdez production. It is unlikely that that trend will change soon. Any change in the current plan will serve to increase the disparity of revenue toward the seine fleet.

128: Support

Currently a large amount of fish are being shipped out of state by nonresident sport fishermen. With no effective means to keep track of that number or to keep it in check, the system will be abused and will cause more demand for these fish, which are often being illegally traded for money, goods or services.

Sincerely,

Mike Mahoney

PO Box 2416

Cordova, AK 99574

November 17, 2011

RECEIVED

NOV 18 2011

BOARDS

Dear Board of fish members,

Thank you for allowing me to respond to various Prince William Sound proposals.

I oppose #43. Inside Prince William Sound has historically been an important commercial fishing area for the small boat fleet longlining for halibut and black cod. I have personally longlined for halibut out of an open setnet skiff, and to have the summer months of good weather taken away would have been a large hardship and safety issue.

I oppose #54 and #55. This issue was addressed in a special meeting in March 2010, and resulted in a unanimous decision that Chitna does not meet the criteria for a positive customary and traditional finding.

I oppose #82, #83 and #84. These all seek to improve the efficiency of the seine fleet. In 2005 the BOF approved the Prince William Sound Enhancement and Allocation plan at the request of all user groups. The current goal of the plan is to maintain a 50% split of total ex-vessel harvested value between the drift gillnet and seine fleets of PWSAC enhanced salmon. The 5 year COAR average shows the drift gillnet fleet at 39.1%, and the seine fleet at 60.9%. There is no need to increase the efficiency of the seine fleet.

I oppose #88, #89, and #92. These proposals would have a negative impact on the current Prince William Sound allocation plan passed by the BOF in 2005. Because of the disparity between seine and drift gillnet percentages, with seiners having a five year average of 60.9% and drift gillnetters 39.1%, there is no justification for increasing time and area for the seine fleet.

I oppose #96. Closing the Main Bay subdistrict on the 4th of July, if it happens to fall during an open fishing period, would be a hardship to the setnet fishermen who only fish in Main Bay. While the rest of the fleet could fish the rest of the outer district if it were open, Main Bay setnetters would lose 24 hours of fishing time. As it is now sport fishermen still have the ability to snag fish during an open fishing period.

I oppose #101, #103, #104, #105, #106, #108, and #110. These all seek to alter the Prince William Sound allocation plan that was approved by the BOF in 2005 at the request of all user groups. Seiners, set and drift gillnet fishermen came to the table and worked long hours to hammer out an agreement. Now one user group wants to throw out that agreement because they are over allocation. A good indicator of what it seems the seiners would really like was heard during the 2002 BOF meeting when seiner Alan Kapp was asked by committee what the seiners wanted. His reply was "the whole enchilada !"

I support #80. You should not be able to have power at both ends of a gillnet, essentially turning it into a small seine. It is an unfair advantage to the rest of the drift and setnet fleet fishing legally.

I support #81. As a set gillnet permit holder in Prince William Sound with one district to fish in, it can be difficult to watch a drift fisherman with his bouy in the rocks on shore, with a 150 fathom net stretched out in front of your 50 fathom net. To make matters worse, some drift gillnetters sit in that spot for the entire season, never moving except to roll up their gear and pick fish, essentially claiming it as their site.

I support #90. It will help enforcement clear up the boundary of the north end of the Eshamy district.

I support #94. This will correct the geographical description of closed waters throughout PWS.

I support #97. This will clear up the boundaries of the Alternating Gear Zone in the Main Bay subdistrict.

I support #102. It would seem to support the intent of a 50% reduction in fishing time for the setnet fleet after July 10th, if the setnet fleet has a five year average of over 5%.

I support #121. Implementation of a smaller bag limit would help protect the small wild sockeye systems in Prince William Sound.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Aberle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Thomas J. Aberle
429 W. 10th St.
Juneau, Ak 99801

FAX

1 of 4 pages

November 18, 2011

To: Board of Fish
Re.: Subsistence Proposal
Fax: (907) 465-6094

From: Glen E. Lankard Jr.
Of: Eyak Preservation Council (EPC)
Phone: (907) 424-5890
Fax: (907) 424-5891

To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider the following amendment to EPC's subsistence proposal, submitted for presentation at the Board of Fisheries meeting December 2-7, 2011. If you have any further questions, please call Mr. Lankard at (907) 952-5265.

Thank you,



Rebecca L. Mair
Office Manager
Eyak Preservation Council



EYAK PRESERVATION COUNCIL

Protecting the ecosystem & Indigenous culture of the Copper River and Prince William Sound watersheds

November 18, 2011

Dear Board of Fish,

After much consideration and discussion, our Eyak Preservation Council (EPC) has decided to rescind our Board of Fish proposal. Unfortunately, I do not know the official BoF number assigned to the proposal (but see enclosed copy of our proposal). I was hoping to be there in Valdez in person to discuss this proposal, but I am traveling in the lower 48 right now.

I have heard that several of the villages in Prince William Sound as well as CDFU members in Cordova are opposing our EPC proposal. Our intention on this subsistence proposal was to help protect and preserve subsistence fishing rights of the villages in PWS, not open it to every citizen in Alaska that wants access to our salmon.

Please honor my request and rescind our EPC Subsistence proposal at this time. Thank you and have a good productive meeting in Valdez. If you have any questions about this request please contact me on my cell phone: 907.952.5265.

Sincerely,

Dune Lankard, EPC Co-Founder, Board Chair
Eyak Preservation Council
PO Box 460
Cordova, AK 99574
907.424.5890 (office)
www.redzone.org

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES AND ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
REGULATION PROPOSAL FORM
PO BOX 115526, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-5526**

BOARD OF FISHERIES REGULATIONS Fishing Area and Fishery <u>Prince William Sound,</u> <u>salmon</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subsistence <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Use <input type="checkbox"/> Sport <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial JOINT BOARD REGULATIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Advisory Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Council	BOARD OF GAME REGULATIONS Game Management Unit (GMU) <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting <input type="checkbox"/> Trapping <input type="checkbox"/> Subsistence <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Resident <input type="checkbox"/> Nonresident
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Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. All answers will be printed in the proposal packets along with the proposer's name (address and phone numbers will not be published). Use separate forms for each proposal.

1. Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC 5AAC 01.648 and 01.645 Regulation Book Page No. _____

2. What is the problem you would like the Board to address?

Combine the 4 separate PWS subsistence areas (Tatitlek, Chenega, Copper River and PWS) into one subsistence area. The current set of regulations is far more complex than is needed to provide for the subsistence needs of Alaskans in this area. These regulations were crafted in the 1980s when Tatitlek and Chenega residents could have exclusive access to the areas described in the current 01.648. In addition, there is no direct mention of subsistence harvest in the PWS general area in regulation so current subsistence management of areas outside of the Copper River District and the two areas described in 01.648 must be inferred.

3. What will happen if this problem is not solved?

The current situation will continue where

- a Chenega resident who chooses to harvest salmon in the area around his village will be precluded from subsistence fishing in other parts of PWS and the Copper River District,
- bag limits vary greatly in areas of close proximity,
- legal gear types vary greatly in areas of close proximity.

4. What solution do you prefer? In other words, if the Board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?

The new regulation would define one subsistence area in area E with one set of rules regarding legal gear. This could be,

"5 AAC 01.648. Prince William Sound Subsistence Salmon Fishery Management Plan

(c) Salmon may be taken for subsistence purposes in those waters of the Prince William Sound Area as described in 5 AAC 24.200, only as follows:

- (1) salmon may be taken only by gillnets as described in 5AAC 01.620(3), except that pink salmon may be taken in fresh water by dip nets only;
- (2) no fishing is allowed within the closed waters areas described in 5 AAC 24.350 and 5 AAC 39.290 for commercial salmon fisheries; only pink salmon may be taken in fresh water;"

Have one set of bag and possession limits for the above described area. This could be,

"5 AAC 01.645. Subsistence bag, possession, and size limits

(b) In the Prince William Sound Area as described in 5 AAC 24.200 the annual subsistence salmon limit is as follows:

- (1) 15 salmon for a household of one person;
- (2) 30 salmon for a household of two persons;
- (3) 10 salmon for each additional person in a household over those specified in (2) of this subsection;
- (4) no more than five king salmon may be taken per permit.
- (5) upon request, a permit for additional salmon will be issued with the following limits:
 - (A) no more than a total of 50 salmon for a permit issued to a household with one person, of which no more than five may be king salmon;
 - (B) no more than a total of 100 salmon for a permit issued to a household with two or more persons, of which no more than five may be king salmon."

5. Does your proposal address improving the quality of the resource harvested or products produced? If so, how?

No, the quality of the salmon harvested will remain the same.

6. Solutions to difficult problems benefit some people and hurt others:**A. Who is likely to benefit if your solution is adopted?**

Subsistence users in PWS will benefit from access to all areas of PWS in a given season rather than being forced to choose only one area and then being locked out of other areas. Tatitlek and Chenega harvests have been minimal in recent years despite unlimited subsistence bag limits this is because the Tatitlek and Chenega subsistence areas do not include areas that have significant numbers of returning sockeye salmon. This solution will allow residents of these villages to harvest the increased bag limit from enhanced returns to the Main Bay hatchery.

B. Who is likely to suffer if your solution is adopted?

No one.

7. List any other solutions you considered and why you rejected them.

Leaving the current set of regulations vague and incomplete, but this reduces user access to subsistence resources in PWS.

DO NOT WRITE HERE

Submitted By: Name _____

Individual or Group

Eyak Preservation Council, PO Box 460

Cordova, Alaska

99574

Address

City, State

ZIP Code

907/424-5890

907/424-5890

eyak@redzone.org

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email

I would like to thank the Board of Fish for considering my comments at this time.

To start off, I would like say that I have been commercial fishing sense I was 14 (1996). Most of those years I was a crewhand trying to make enough money for my own boat. It wasn't until after the 2009 season that I obtained this goal. I tell you this mostly to make a point in one of my proposal comments.

Proposal 85: I feel that this proposal doesn't benefit anyone except the very few that fish a certain type of shallow water small bay fishing. The majority of the fisherman in the sound (including myself) fish off points of land where about one-third of our fish are caught a good distance off the shoreline. If there are fisherman that don't want the lead on their net, then they are more than welcome to remove them.

Proposal 101: I feel that this is a very important proposal for my future and the for the future of the PWS. I will start off by saying this would benefit the seiners more so right off the bat. However I feel that it will be easier to manage the whole PWS. I know that In 2005 the seiners put the allocation in for the 50/50 split for only PWSAC fish. This was a mistake! I would also like to make the point that, like myself, there are many seiners with 5 years or less as owner/operator that wasn't apart of the 2005 allocation. Of course I can't and don't speak for them, however I know this new proposal will help the seiners now and in the long run. It will benefit the younger and newer seiners, because we are still paying off all of our equipment.

The figures show that there were many years over the last ten years that the seiners brought in more of the PWSAC fish than the drift gillnet. However if you include VFDA and wildstock, it shows that the drift gillnet did better. So if we keep going by the same allocation that was put in in 2005, the seiners will be pushed out of more areas that they shouldn't be pushed out of.

Morgan Williams
F/V Shearwater
P.O. box 672505
Chuglak, Ak, 99567

907-242-6822



YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

November 14, 2011

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907.465.6094

**RE: Board of Fisheries Proposal Comments, Prince William Sound
Proposals 114-115**

Dear Board of Fisheries Members:

The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YR DFA) is an association of commercial and subsistence fishers on the Yukon River, Alaska's longest river. The salmon of the Yukon River provide a primary source of food for local residents and for many the commercial salmon harvest also provides the only means of income for those who live in the 49 remote villages of the Yukon River in Alaska. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on Proposals 114-115 to reduce Prince William Sound (PWS) hatchery production to 24% of 2000 production. YR DFA **supports** these proposals to reduce PWS hatchery production by 24% from 2000 levels, as originally promised by hatchery managers in 2001. We urge the Board of Fisheries to reduce PWS hatchery production and undertake research and monitoring efforts to address the problem of marine carrying capacity.

YR DFA has grave concerns about the biological and economic impacts of increased hatchery production. While we are still studying the precise interactions, it is clear that hatchery fish compete with wild salmon stocks for food in the marine environment, and may be contributing to size declines.¹ Hatchery outputs in PWS have increased dramatically since 2001: while approximately 76 million chum fry were released in 2001, over 146 million were released in 2006, a near doubling of fry releases. In 2010, the number of chum salmon fry released remains at 130 million. These hatchery fish compete directly with wild fish in the marine environment. This increased competition for a fixed (and in some environmental conditions declining) amount of food in the marine

¹ See Bigler et. al. 1996 for information on size declines in salmon throughout the North Pacific.

725 CHRISTENSEN DRIVE, SUITE 3-B • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
TELEPHONE: 907-272-3141 • 1-877-99YUKON(9-8566)
FAX: 907-272-3142 • EMAIL: info@yukonsalmon.org
WWW.YUKONSALMON.ORG

Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
of 3
BOF Comments, PWS Proposal 81

Page 2

environment results in size declines in wild stocks. Smaller fish carry fewer eggs which are less likely to survive, thus size declines directly impact production as well.

Wild fish face stressors from a variety of factors under current environmental conditions. Climate change is impacting salmon stocks throughout their lifecycles. Yukon River Chinook salmon face the threat of *Ichthyophonus* infection and Chinook and chum salmon are taken as bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery as well. Of the many factors impacting wild salmon stocks, competition from hatchery fish is one of the few which we can control. Particularly in these rapidly changing environmental conditions it is imperative that hatchery production is managed conservatively. Where the impacts on wild stocks and marine carrying capacity are not known, the Board of Fish and ADF&G should take a precautionary approach, reducing hatchery production until we know that it does **not** impact wild fish stocks. These reductions should be mandatory, and strict penalties enforced if hatchery operators do not comply with production guidelines. Particularly because of PWSAC's history of noncompliance with permit requirements, reporting and marking requirements and a suite of other performance issues,² it is particularly important that ADF&G set specific standards with strict penalties for noncompliance.

Beyond the biological impacts, hatchery production has had serious economic impacts as well. There is no question that hatchery production has dealt Yukon River chum markets a serious blow. Early season chum sales have been lost to hatchery production in Southeast Alaska and Prince William Sound that were directed at this same market period. Roe markets have been equally, if not more, affected. Increasing chum production in PWS makes the remote, higher cost fisheries, such as in the Yukon River, that much more marginal.

The Board of Fish addressed this issue in 2001, when hatchery managers promised to *reduce* their production by 24%. This promise was not met, but is no less important than it was in 2001. We urge the Board of Fisheries to take this opportunity to enforce this promise and reduce PWS hatchery production. We further ask the Board to require research and monitoring efforts to address the problem of marine carrying capacity. Finally, to ensure that fishermen and fishing organizations from throughout Alaska are given an opportunity to participate actively in hatchery discussions, we ask the Board to regularly convene the hatchery forum as a "forum for open discussion on a mutually agreed upon agenda of hatchery topics," as described in the Joint Protocol on Salmon

² See ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME, Divisions of Sport and Commercial Fisheries, Internal Review of Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (November 2006).

Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
of 3
BOF Comments, PWS Proposal 81

Page 3

Enhancement (#2002-FB-215). Thank you for your consideration of our comments and this important issue.

Sincerely,



Jill Klein
Executive Director

November 18, 2011

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Members of the Board

RE: Support Proposals 46, 47, 48, 52, 53, 76, 80, 123, 124, 127, 90,
RE: Oppose Proposals 43, 51, 54, 55, 72-75, 79, 81, 88, 89 92, 96, 100, 101, 104, 105, 106,
108, 110, 114 -117, and 118.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these proposals as part of the 2011 Board of Fisheries process. I was born in Cordova and raised 10 miles away by boat. My family relied on subsistence for survival and continues to do so. As a child, I longlined with my family for halibut and skate before the IFQ system was initiated. I went seining several years in high school. This was my second season gillnetting, and I just bought a permit this spring. Every year I make several trips as a deckhand longlining for Halibut and Pacific Cod in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska. I plan on living and commercial fishing in Cordova for the rest of my life.

Sincerely,



Mike Mickelson

I OPPOSE Proposal 43

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has given no indication that this proposal is necessary. There is no conservation concern the commercial longline harvest for rockfish, lingcod, halibut, pacific cod, or other groundfish stocks. The recreational sector harvests significantly higher amounts of rockfish and lingcod in PWS than the commercial sector, and these harvests continue to increase. Although the rockfish bag limit was reduced, rockfish harvests by the recreational sector have gone up. The recreational sector also discards huge amounts of rockfish that then die. If there is a depletion problem, the recreational sector impact on these resources must be reviewed.

This proposal would significantly limit the fishing area of smaller fishing vessels that participate in bottom fisheries in Prince William Sound. Much of the small boat fleet would be redirected to the near shore area of the Gulf of Alaska. This would put much more pressure on bottom fish in areas that are close enough to safe harbors for vessels to escape the frequent bad weather in the gulf. Small boats would have to travel farther to reach these areas, raising fuel costs.

I SUPPORT Proposals 46, 47, and 48.

Longline fisheries are open before, after, and during the slow portions of the salmon fisheries in Prince William Sound enable local fishing families to stay in Cordova in the winter. Many of the vessels participating in these fisheries have a limited amount of halibut quota. Retaining skate and spiny dogfish would help make these trips more economical for fisherman and offset the rising costs of fuel. There is a large biomass of skate and dogfish that is barely being harvested.

I OPPOSE Proposal 51

This proposal assumes that all residents of Cordova are commercial fisherman on the Copper River Delta or immediate family members, which is not true. As of 2010, there were 235 people with drift gillnet permits living in Cordova. That's a little more than 10% of the population. There is no way that Cordova drift gillnetters could afford to give away enough not sold/personal use fish to feed everybody that depends on Copper River Salmon to make it through the winter. There are many residents of Cordova who maintain a subsistence lifestyle, don't commercial fish, and depend on subsistence fishing. Cordova meets the 8 C&T requirements, and a review of this subsistence fishery would be a waste of time and money.

I SUPPORT Proposal 52

This proposal would make it much easier for Cordovans to get their subsistence fish. At the beginning of the salmon season the only opportunity for subsistence fishing is during the midweek commercial openers. Allowing one more day a week to go subsistence fishing lets users pick the safest weather for fishing in a small skiff. Also, Saturday openers allow people who have to work during midweek commercial openings to have the opportunity to get their fish with out taking sick days.

I SUPPORT Proposal 53

This proposal clarifies subsistence regulation and makes subsistence fishing less confusing.

I OPPOSE Proposals 54 and 55

There is no new evidence to support the changes that are suggested in these proposals. There is ample opportunity in the Glennallen subdistrict subsistence fishery for those who live a subsistence lifestyle. If the Chitina fishery is reclassified as a subsistence fishery it will occur before the Glennallen subsistence fishery and give Chitina fisherman priority. Chitina dipnetters harvest fish before they enter the Glennallen subdistrict in a manner that is consistent with recreational activity. Changing the status of the Chitina personal use fishery sets the precedent that urban area residents who only participate in dip netting can be considered subsistence users. Fish in the Copper River are already a fully allocated resource, that's why the Chitina dipnet fishery is designated personal use. Urban residents have access to fish in times of surplus, because urban users don't depend on Copper River salmon as a primary food source.

I OPPOSE Proposals 72-75

Proposals 72-75 restrict ADF&G's flexibility to use management tools on a fully allocated resource. The ADF&G has shown they are willing to use their management tools to manage king salmon escapement and provide for early stocks. King salmon returns were sufficient this season for ADF&G to allow personal users to retain 1 king salmon. When low king salmon escapement causes ADF&G to close commercial fishing on the inside waters of the Copper River Delta, personal users should also be restricted. Personal use is the second largest user group and their harvest data is not available to ADF&G until after management decisions are made by area biologists.

In addition, personal use fishermen should not be allowed to increase their harvest of sockeye salmon in times of king salmon shortage, because by definition personal use is not a subsistence fishery. The traditional sockeye salmon SEG of 300K to 500K for the Upper Copper River has been successfully exceeded ADF&G, but ADF&G's memorandum of September 20, 2011 calls for increasing the UCR sockeye salmon SEG to a range of 360K to 750K. All user groups should share in this escapement accountability.

I SUPPORT Proposal 76

I support the idea behind this proposal, but don't think it is necessary to change the start date of the Chitina Personal Use fishery. Reinstalling the 24 hour checkpoint would help ADF&G accurately manage the Personal Use fishery and immediately have access to user data. Area biologists would know how many fish coming past the miles lake sonar were being caught; giving a much better indication of actual fish escapement.

I OPPOSE Proposal 79

Due to the variable nature of the Port Chalmers fishery, deep gear is essential on years when there is a low volume of fish. While I agree that it is a problem that a few people are fishing deep gear in areas of Prince William Sound that are open to commercial fishing, but not open to deep gear, I think this problem can be solved with in the fishing fleet. Commercial harvesters can tell when deep gear comes over a neighboring vessel's bow rollers. It's up to commercial fisherman to report these violations to the State Troopers when they see them.

I SUPPORT Proposal 80

Using two vessels to tow on a drift gillnet can provide a significant advantage and should not be permitted.

I OPPOSE Proposal 81

The intention of this proposal is to eliminate "de facto set netting" by drift gillnetters. This "de facto set netting eliminates the possibility of equal harvest opportunity for commercial fisheries participants. However, the language of proposal 81 prevents gillnetters from participating in Prince William Sound boundary line fisheries which are consistently conducted in a fair and equitable manner. Each gillnetter gets a 20-minute set on the line and often mechanical power is required to hold the net in legal formation. If the current isn't moving quickly, the vessel will remain in substantially the same location for the entirety of the set. Lineups of up to 30 boats sometimes form where participants generally honor the "gentlemen's agreement" of 20-minute sets on the boundary line. After a 20 minute "turn," the next vessel in the line up sets their net out either in front the vessel that has completed their set, or behind it as the 1st vessel picks up their net.

I SUPPORT proposal 90 but suggest these amendments:

More latitude & longitude points must be added to illustrate the northern historical area of the Eshamy district. The Eshamy district has been defined as extending 1 nautical mile off shore and proposal 90 does not reflect the historical 1 nautical mile boundary in the northern most portion of the district. The intention of this proposal is clarify the boundary lines of the Eshamy district, not to reduce fishing area. The fishing area that would be lost if this proposal is not amended, would be a major economic loss to a large number of fisherman who fish near the Northwest boundary line.

I OPPOSE Proposals 88, 89, 92 101, 104-106, 108, and 110

Proposals 101, 104, 105, 106, 108, and 110, will alter the PWS Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan, that was revised and approved in 2005 by the BOF, at the request of all PWS salmon user groups. Proposals 88, 89 & 92, because they will have a direct negative impact on this current PWS allocation plan. There is no justification for increasing time and area for the seine fleet in PWS. Comparing ADF&G's 2010 and 2011 ex-vessel harvest values calculated using the Commercial Operators Annual Reports (COAR) illustrates a growing disparity between the PWS Drift Gillnet fleet and Purse Seine fleet. The current goal of the allocation plan is to maintain a 50%

split of the total ex-vessel harvested value between the drift gillnet and seine fleets, of PWSAC enhanced salmon. The 2010 report shows a disparity, with 41% of the value harvested by the drift gillnet fleet and 59% of the value harvested by the purse seine fleet. The 2011 report has the disparity with 39.1% of the value harvested by the drift gillnet fleet and 60.9% of the value harvested by the purse seine fleet. The purpose of the PWS allocation plan is to provide a fair and equitable allocation among the PWS salmon user groups and reduce conflicts among these fishers. Any change in favor of the seine fleet would only increase this disparity. Including non-enhanced salmon in the PWS allocation plan will also contradict ADF&G's concern for the harvest of uncontrolled numbers of wild salmon in migratory corridors far from their natal streams.

I OPPOSE Proposals 96 and 100

There is not a shortage of opportunity for sport users in Prince William Sound. Compared to the commercial fleet, sport fishing opportunities and locations to fish are much greater. Closing commercial fishing in the manner suggested by both of these proposals does not meet ADF&G's management criteria, and limits their ability to adequately manage both of these fisheries.

I OPPOSE Proposal 114 and 115

Chums make up a large percentage of the drift gillnet season that fisherman and their families depend on. There is no evidence from ADF&G to support reducing chum production.

I OPPOSE Proposal 116

The Copper River commercial is required to report every salmon taken. Each fish that is not sold to a processor is in effect bought by the commercial harvester; each fish kept represents revenue that isn't generated. These "not sold/personal use" fish are required to be declared on each fish ticket. The commercial fleet has the right to either sell their harvested fish or not; they have always fed their families and their communities from this catch.

I OPPOSE Proposal 117

For over 100 years king salmon have been a traditional part of the commercial harvest and are a fully utilized and allocated resource. ADF&G's memorandum of September 20, 2011 states there are no stocks of concern and did not reference the need to adjust the current king salmon management SEG of 24,000 or more, as stated under 5 AAC 24.361.

I OPPOSE Proposal 118

Proposal 118 is an allocation issue on a fully allocated resource. In 2006, ADF&G implemented the mandatory inside closures as part of the Copper River king salmon management plan (as revised at the '05 Valdez BOF mtg.), and has the authority to close commercial fishing by emergency order as necessary. Mandatory inside closures until June 15th will restrict ADF&G from achieving their commercial fishing management goal, which is to maximize commercial fishing opportunity. In the 2011 season ADF&G illustrated their capacity to effectively use inside closures for conservation with a total of 5 inside closures rather than the mandated 2.

I Support Proposals 123 and 124

Both of these proposals are necessary to protect silver salmon spawning area. Fishing in freshwater spawning grounds is unsporting and should not be allowed.

I Support Proposal 127

This proposal would eliminate the disconnect between the commercial drift gillnet fleet fishing at the mouth of the Copper and sport fishing guides on the Upper Copper River.

Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
FAX (907) 465-6094

November 17, 2011

I am opposed to proposal 43,

The three mile from shore proposal would eliminate many of the PWS's black cod commercial fishing sets. Black cod are fished at 300fathoms plus and result in little halibut by-catch. These areas are typically not accessible to other fishers due to extreme depth. Adopting this proposal would lead to concentrating all commercial black cod gear in a small area virtually wiping out the fishery.

I am opposed to proposals 51, 54 and 55

Leave the C&T findings as they are for the salmon stocks in the Chitina Subdistrict and the Copper River District. Previous boards have exhaustively reviewed the C&T finding for the Chitina Subdistrict stocks and have determined that they do **NOT** meet the 8 criteria necessary to establish a C&T finding, and do not fit the new definition of a stock used for a "subsistence way of life". Whereas, in the Copper River District there has been a long term reliance on this fish stock going back 5 generations. The participants, owing to the isolation of the community rely almost solely on the subsistence harvest of salmon, moose and deer to feed their families. The harvest is done close to the where the participants live and is very efficient and economical in terms of the effort and cost of the harvest

I am opposed to proposals 72,73,74,75, 117 and 118,

The Copper River king salmon stock is a fully utilized and allocated resource. Any increase in allowable take in the PU fishery would be a direct re-allocation of the resource. There is no justification to adopt further restrictions to fishing inside the barrier islands, the department already has the ability to restrict fishing when there is a concern by emergency order. If Proposal 118 is adopted and put into regulation, this would restrict the department's ability to manage the fishery in times of abundance and maximize the opportunity for commercial harvest.

I support proposal 80 but oppose 81,

Losing the ability to tow on gear, would totally render a net useless in any kind of current, not to mention the danger of fishing a drift net in strong currents. It is essential to maintain net shape and safety while fishing to tow on the net.

Thank you for your consideration,

John Stack
P.O. Box 1983
Cordova, AK 99574

Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
FAX (907) 465-6094

November 17, 2011

I am opposed to proposal 43,

The three mile from shore proposal would eliminate many of the PWS's black cod commercial fishing sets. Black cod are fished at 300fathoms plus and result in little halibut by-catch. These areas are typically not accessible to other fishers due to extreme depth. Adopting this proposal would lead to concentrating all commercial black cod gear in a small area virtually wiping out the fishery.

I am opposed to proposals 51, 54 and 55

Leave the C&T findings as they are for the salmon stocks in the Chitina Subdistrict and the Copper River District. Previous boards have exhaustively reviewed the C&T finding for the Chitina Subdistrict stocks and have determined that they do **NOT** meet the 8 criteria necessary to establish a C&T finding, and do not fit the new definition of a stock used for a "subsistence way of life". Whereas, in the Copper River District there has been a long term reliance on this fish stock going back 5 generations. The participants, owing to the isolation of the community rely almost solely on the subsistence harvest of salmon, moose and deer to feed their families. The harvest is done close to the where the participants live and is very efficient and economical in terms of the effort and cost of the harvest

I am opposed to proposals 72,73,74,75, 117 and 118,

The Copper River king salmon stock is a fully utilized and allocated resource. Any increase in allowable take in the PU fishery would be a direct re-allocation of the resource. There is no justification to adopt further restrictions to fishing inside the barrier islands, the department already has the ability to restrict fishing when there is a concern by emergency order. If Proposal 118 is adopted and put into regulation, this would restrict the department's ability to manage the fishery in times of abundance and maximize the opportunity for commercial harvest.

I support proposal 80 but oppose 81,

Losing the ability to tow on gear, would totally render a net useless in any kind of current, not to mention the danger of fishing a drift net in strong currents. It is essential to maintain net shape and safety while fishing to tow on the net.

Thank you for your consideration,

Foma Reutov
P.O. Box 3058
Homer, AK 99603

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November 17, 2011

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Homer, AK 99603

Boards Support Section

November 18, 2011

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

PO Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

My name is Paul Hearn and I am a resident of Cordova and I have drift netted on the Copper River for fifteen years. I would like to comment on a number of proposals before the Board for this most current cycle. Before I do that I would like to express my gratitude to the Board, ADF&G, and all the residents of this State that work to preserve the resources that we all enjoy and share. Few places like Alaska still exist and it is in all of our interests to make sure that these resources remain viable long after we are gone.

Proposals 51, 54, and 55:

I oppose any changes to the C&T findings for the salmon stocks of the Chitna Subdistrict and the Copper River District. These types of proposals have been visited many times by the Board and I feel the Board has determined, correctly, that access to a subsistence fishery is to be designated to those who live in a rural area as well as a C&T finding must meet 8 criteria which the Chitna Subdistrict does not meet. I urge the Board to oppose these proposals.

Proposals 72, 73, 74, 75, 117, and 118:

As a drift netter on the Copper River, I have seen, first hand, ADF&G's model of management work to preserve the resources of the Copper River. In times of abundance as well as times of scarcity the Department has used a number of tools to ensure that all user groups share in the conservation burden. I have not always agreed with their decisions, but I know that the long term management of the resource is what is the most important. I feel that increasing the allowable take in the upriver King salmon PU fishery would create more of a conservation burden on the Copper River drift fleet. The Department has also stated that there are no concerns for the CR King salmon or CR Sockeye escapement goals. Also, the Department has the authority and tools to restrict inside fishing areas and time. I, again, urge the Board to oppose these proposals.

Proposals 88, 89, 92, 101, 104, 105, 106, 108, 110, and 112:

The COAR report from 2010 shows and the 2011 report will also show that the ex-vessel value favors the seine fleet. As the Board is aware, PWSAC Management and Allocation Plan seek a 50/50 split of the enhanced PWSAC stocks. Any changes to this plan, including time and area, will only create more of a disparity between gear types in favor of the seine fleet. I urge the Board to oppose the proposals.

I appreciate being able to express my opinion and, again, would like to commend the Board and ADF&G for the efforts to manage our shared resources fairly. Thank you very much.

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Dear Board Members:

NASA, Inc. respectfully submits the following comments for Board consideration on selected proposals related to the salmon seine fishery in Prince William Sound. NASA, Inc. is a social advocacy group incorporated under the laws of the State of Alaska, and granted non-profit status under federal law. NASA, Inc. was formed in 2010 to provide representation and advocate on behalf of the seiners in Prince William Sound and other areas of the State and the Pacific Northwest.

Proposal 78 – NO ACTION

NASA, Inc. recommends no action on this proposal at the present time. This proposal should go to a restructuring committee to determine whether a buy-back should occur if there is indeed too much seine gear in PWS, or to try to identify unforeseen consequences of attempting a permit stacking scheme in a seine fishery.

Proposal 79 – SUPPORT

NASA, Inc. supports this proposal if it reduces the use of illegal drift gillnet in other areas of PWS. Presently, NASA, Inc. is concerned about interception of wild stocks that occurs during the prosecution of enhanced gillnet fisheries, in particular chum salmon. Illegal use of deep gear increases the likelihood of interception of wild salmon stocks.

Proposal 80 – SUPPORT

NASA, Inc. supports this proposal as a possible way to reduce gear conflict in the Esther subdistrict. Presently, drift gillnets being towed by vessels utilizing water jet propulsion creates disturbances on the back of seines attempting to hold fish in the “pocket”. This disturbance flushes salmon from the pocket of the seine, reducing efficiency. With the increased number of seine boats participating in the fishery, seiners often have to wait in long lines to take their turn on the set. The disturbance created behind a seine is very frustrating to a seiner who has been waiting a full day for one turn on a primary set.

Proposal 81 – SUPPORT

NASA, Inc. supports this proposal as another possible way to reduce gear conflict in the Esther subdistrict. While seiners and legally fishing drift gillnetters try to share the fishing grounds and attempt to tow out each other’s way, a drift gillnet that is rocked down elevates the

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level of conflict by refusing to share the fishing grounds. Often, a seiner is unable to close up a set because a rocked down gillnet sunk with pink salmon is unwilling to move out of the way.

Proposals 82, 83 – SUPPORT

NASA, Inc. supports proposals 82 and 83 as they relate to the use of a corkline border strip. The current language related to the use of leads is addressed in comments on other proposals.

The use of a heavy border strip attached to the corkline, and in some instances along the leadline or ribline, provides a means to quickly and effectively repair a seine in the event of a tear and also to prevent damage caused to the webbing by the use of a gripper wheel on the power block. A gripper wheel is a hydraulic or pneumatic wheel attached to the power block which can be raised or lowered into the power block to assist in the retrieval of the seine. The gripper wheel ensures that the corkline and leadline are retrieved at the same speed, keeping the net even throughout the retrieval process.

One disadvantage of the gripper wheel is the additional stress placed on the corkline, which requires the corkline to be hung with continuous corks. A continuous corkline is a corkline without spaces between the corks. Typically, the continuous corkline is hung with heavy twine and coated with a knot hardener. As the gripper wheel pulls on the corks, occasionally, corks will slip or break, which transfers the strain to the black body web, often leading to tears.

Tears will also occur in the normal course of setting, towing and retrieving the net. When a tear occurs on a net with a continuous corkline, repairs are severely complicated by the continuous nature of the corkline and the heavy twine used to tie down the corks. A border strip will usually absorb the additional stress placed on the net and prevent tears. In the event a tear does occur in the net, it will usually occur between the border strip and the body web of the seine, permitting easy access to the repair point, without having to rehang the corkline.

A border strip does not affect the efficiency of the seine as it catches salmon. It does, however, create efficiency in the repair of the net, should a repair become necessary. It also provides an economic efficiency in that the border strip protects the investment in the net, by extending the life of the net and reducing tears. A new salmon seine costs upwards of \$50,000, and a repair or rehang of an existing seine can cost up to half that amount if the net is hung with a continuous corkline. Without a border strip, the net will see more wear and tear if a gripper wheel is used, and repairs become much more difficult to make.

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Proposal 84, 86 and 87 – SUPPORT

The use of a 7" lead web is problematic for one serious reason and for several other reasons as well. The most serious reason to eliminate the 7" lead requirement is because after one season, the lead web shrinks and becomes illegal. In order to fish within the confines of the current regulation, a new lead would need to be hung every year.

Other reasons to eliminate the lead web requirement, or more to the point, to make up to 7" lead web an option, is because many seiners now employ a sewn on, or permanently attached lead, rather than a detached lead that is wound up on a separate reel on a jitney.

With the sewn on lead, the lead remains with the seiner, rather than the jitney, and is typically deployed on the seaward end of the net. Pink salmon are notorious for swimming through the lead, and requiring 75 fathoms of lead web creates a less efficient net. A less efficient net is more costly to operate. Prince William Sound seines are already the least efficient in the state. While most other areas are permitted 250 fathoms of total seine, PWS seines are limited to 225 fathoms. Other areas do not require leads at all, or limit leads to 50 fathoms. As a percentage of the total net, leads in other areas of the state range from zero to 20% of the total length. In PWS, the lead is 33-1/3% of the total net length. If a pocket is held at the back of the lead where the body web attaches, up to 66.66% of the seine is used to hold fish in the net, leaving only a third of the net actively fishing.

For example, a Kodiak seine may be 250 fathoms long and consist of a lead that is 50 fathoms in length. A PWS seine is limited to 225 fathoms aggregate with 75 fathoms of lead.

A Chignik seine may be up to 225 fathoms in aggregate length, with no more than 75 fathoms of lead, giving the fisher the option of using a lead or not using a lead, or using a lead specific to their style of fishing.

This proposal brings the regulations relating to seine specifications in PWS more in line with those in the rest of the state and most importantly, would make shrunken lead web legal.

Proposal 85 – OPPOSE

NASA, Inc. opposes the proposal to reduce seines to 150 fathoms in light of support for making leads optional and still permitting the maximum amount of gear at 225 fathoms. If the issue is too much gear, then the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission and concerned fishermen should implement a buy-back as permitted by statute. If the issue is congestion due to limited fishing opportunity, then that should be addressed through time and area proposals. As

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for wild stocks, the Department currently manages wild stocks in a conservative manner and a reduction in the amount of gear is unlikely, in itself, to lead to more fishing opportunity.

Proposals 88 and 89 – SUPPORT

NASA, Inc. supports these proposals with Department input in order to protect wild pink and chum stocks in the Northwestern and Northern Districts. As confirmed by staff at the 2008 BOF meeting in Cordova, the prosecution of enhanced gillnet fisheries in the western Sound has lead to interception of wild stocks bound for the Northwestern and Northern Districts. The area on the west side of Port Wells and Nellie Juan have been the hardest hit in these mixed stock fisheries, chronically leading to restrictions on the seine fleet to meet escapement goals.

Although NASA, Inc. commends the Department for taking action in recent years to reduce interception of wild stocks, currently there is no formal regulation protecting these stocks and the Department has reduced area by utilizing Emergency Order (E.O.) authority. Formal regulations that protect wild stocks while allowing the prosecution of enhanced through new district lines will obviate the need to adjust area by EO.

Proposal 92 – SUPPORT

NASA, Inc. supports this proposal as a way to give the Department accurate, early season information on run strength and composition. This proposal is unlikely to harm wild stocks for the simple reason that seines are not efficient for catching widely scattered fish, and will therefore self regulate away from those areas where few fish are travelling. The Department can then adjust time and area based on sampling to protect weak stocks or allow harvest on robust stocks. Aerial surveys, though an important tool for the Department, fail to provide early season indication of actual composition and strength of returns until salmon are near their natal streams, thereby limiting harvest opportunities outside terminal harvest areas.

Proposal 93 – OPPOSE

NASA, Inc. strongly opposes this proposal. The Department utilizes a conservative management strategy when managing the seine fleet for primarily pink salmon harvest during August. This proposal is speculative in nature, and lacks a scientific basis to show that if there were a conservation concern for coho salmon, that closing these particular areas would lead to increased recreational opportunity.

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Proposal 99 – SUPPORT

NASA, Inc. supports expanding the AFK THA for the reasons stated in the proposal, primarily that it would remove a hazardous set and relieve congestion by making the south line a viable set that more boats could share, taking some pressure off the other sets.

Proposal 101 – COMMENT RESERVED

NASA, Inc. is reserving comment on this proposal pending further input from the fleet. Like many of the other allocative proposals, this one is controversial and NASA, Inc. is presently gathering information from both its membership and the seine fleet at large in order to provide comments that represent the majority of the seine stakeholders in PWS. It is anticipated that comments will be provided in a record copy at the December meeting, as well as through public testimony and the committee process. At this time, proposal 101 should be considered a placeholder only until further public comment by NASA, Inc. Due to the complicated nature of all the allocation proposals on the agenda, including this one, NASA, Inc. respectfully requests that allocative proposals be heard by a committee of the whole to ensure the greatest possible participation by all Board members.

Proposal 104, 106 – SUPPORT

NASA, Inc. strongly supports these proposals. This would provide some species diversity to the seine fleet and restore access to an historic seine area. Currently, the Coghill sockeye harvest is underutilized by the drift gillnet fleet and regularly exceeds the upper bound of the escapement goal. Permitting seine access to these stocks will increase the likelihood that the mid-range goal will be met, while fully utilizing the resource.

Proposal 105 – SUPPORT/MODIFY

NASA, Inc. supports this proposal to the extent it can reduce gear conflict in the Esther subdistrict. However, given the allocative proposals before the Board, the Board may find it necessary to implement a pink salmon trigger to enable the drift gillnet fleet to achieve its share of the pie. Therefore, NASA, Inc. requests that this proposal be included as a place holder for discussion before the committee as a whole, and to permit full discourse by both the affected gear types.

Proposal 107 – OPPOSE

NASA, Inc. strongly opposes this proposal. The drift gillnet fleet does appear to be behind in the allocation plan. However, this is only because the 2005 Board overturned years of Board precedent and removed wild stocks and VFDA from the allocation matrix to achieve the

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illusion of parity between the gillnet and seine fleets. This has resulted in an annual windfall of \$5-8 million annually to the drift gillnet fleet. Giving the drift gillnet fleet access to AFK chums will not have a statistical impact on the current plan, and will further reduce diversification for the seine fleet. Most importantly, it will continue to change the historic harvest percentages in favor of the gillnet fleet, an impact that was intended to be alleviated by the original allocation plan with the inclusion of wild stocks and enhanced stocks in the 50-50% matrix. *See Alaska Board of Fisheries Findings 97-167 FB. Attached.*

Proposal 108 – SUPPORT

NASA, Inc. strongly supports this proposal. The Port Chalmers “piggy bank” was ill-conceived and fails to provide a meaningful allocation percentage to the gillnet fleet. Giving Port Chalmers back to the seine fleet will increase time and area for the seine fleet in June, and reduce the economic risk to those seiners who are not dual permit holders or who do not participate in other fisheries. As with the other allocative proposals, NASA, Inc. requests that the committee as a whole consider this proposal.

Proposal 109 – OPPOSE/MODIFY

NASA, Inc. opposes this proposal to the extent that it fails to provide a mechanism to provide seine access to Esther produced chums. The greatest threat to the seine fleet over the years has been lack of diversification, and the resultant economic hardship sustained when the price of pinks fell. Should the price of pinks fall again in the future, the seine fleet needs access to chum salmon to alleviate the drastic impact of low pink prices through species diversification.

NASA, Inc. recognizes that the remote release at Port Chalmers is expensive and burdensome for PWSAC, and that the survival rate is currently low; however, to simply discontinue this release without consideration to how it may affect the seine fleet and its share of the allocation percentage would be ill-advised.

Therefore, NASA, Inc. suggests that any effort to discontinue Port Chalmers chum production include a provision for seine access to Esther chums.

Proposal 110 – SUPPORT

NASA, Inc. supports this proposal for the reasons stated in proposals 92 and 99, and also to facilitate an efficient and orderly harvest of AFK chums. Currently, the area open during June and July in the AFK terminal harvest area and special harvest area provide limited opportunity to set a seine, resulting in a long wait between sets, and increasing the cost per pound to harvest

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returning chums. By removing the start date in the Southwest district and expanding the area available to harvest returning chums, boats will be able to increase efficiency on an individual basis and not be limited to making one or two sets per day.

Proposal 111 – OPPOSE

NASA, Inc. opposes this proposal. Currently, PWSAC has shifted cost recover to pink salmon to the extent practicable within the parameters of fiduciary responsibility. To preclude non-pink salmon cost recovery would put PWSAC in the same situation as the seine fleet – at increased economic risk due to lack of diversity.

The current allocation percentages are based on a 2005 amendment that removed wild stocks and VFDA enhanced salmon from the matrix, thereby distorting the historic harvest percentages of each gear type and providing a \$5-8 million windfall to the gillnet fleet. *See attached calculations provided by ADF&G.* The current PWSAC cost recovery scheme provides additional windfall to the gillnet fleet because of the extra pink salmon cost recovery shift from chum salmon of approximately \$1-2 million annually to meet the 2005 amendment.

Proposal 112 – OPPOSE

NASA, Inc. opposes this proposal. A five year rolling average is sufficient to mute the effects of year to year fluctuations in price and abundance. NASA, Inc. agrees with the author that the only variable that statistically affects the allocation percentages is the price of pink salmon. NASA, Inc. strongly disagrees with the author that the drift gillnet fleet is behind in their historical percentage – the current allocation that considers only PWSAC enhanced salmon does show a lack of parity under current pink prices. As stated above, the drift gillnet fleet has enjoyed a windfall of \$5-8 million that is not included in the allocation matrix, and should be discussed by this Board, especially in light of Board findings 97-167-FB.

Proposal 114, 115 – OPPOSE

NASA, Inc. opposes these proposals as alarmist and speculative. Currently, hatchery production is based upon permitting by the State of Alaska. Whether production should be increased or reduced should be based on scientific fact after review by the Department. Whether hatchery production in PWS affects chum returns in other parts of the state is wildly speculative. Chum returns in Western Alaska increased in 2011 and were below projections in PWS, even though smolt releases were not reduced. Correlation does not equal causation, and many factors, some unknown, affect survival rates of salmon at sea. It may very well be that hatchery chum production actually increases survival rates among Western Alaska wild stock chums by providing alternative prey sources for predators of wild chum stocks.

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Proposal 116 - OPPOSE

NASA, Inc. opposes this proposal. As long as homepack is correctly recorded on a fish ticket as presently required, a commercial fisher should be able to take home as much salmon as they want. When a commercial fisher takes salmon home, those salmon are actually purchased for the ex-vessel value that could have been received at the dock if sold to a processor or individual. At the present time, there is no limit on the amount of salmon that can be purchased by any single individual, whether they buy it from themselves, a processor, or the supermarket.

Thank you for considering these comments submitted by NASA, Inc. prior to the December meeting. On behalf of our entire board of directors, we look forward to participating at the December meeting, and are happy to answer any questions regarding comments or proposals submitted.


Denny Dohner
F/V *Destiny*
President

97-167-FB

Previously
(Finding #97-02-FB)

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
FINDINGS REGARDING THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND
MANAGEMENT AND SALMON ENHANCEMENT
ALLOCATION PLAN (5 AAC 24.370)

At its meeting in Cordova, the Board of Fisheries (board) took staff reports, both oral and written, oral and written testimony from the public and advisory committee reports concerning the allocation of Prince William Sound salmon stocks between three different gear types; seine, drift gillnet and set gillnet. The current allocation plan is found in 5 AAC 24.370, the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan. The board had numerous proposals before it to change this particular regulation.

The history of attempts to establish allocations between the gear types goes back more than seven years and involves this board, the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC), the Regional Planning Team (RPT) and numerous members of the public. Despite the best efforts of all of these people, and because of changes in conditions and PWSAC practices, the allocation plan is currently not working in the manner intended.

For a historical perspective, the board reviewed and discussed how the current situation was created. The existing regulation arose out of an agreement between gear types facilitated by PWSAC, the RPT and the board. In a prior form of the regulation (5 AAC 24.370), the board expressly recognized the allocation policy adopted by PWSAC in May, 1990. This regulation has been in effect since 1991.

After hearing from the public, the board has determined that the allocation plan is generally acceptable to all of the parties involved in terms of its allocation percentages. Admittedly, the set gillnetters would prefer to have their allocation percentage increased from one percent (1%) to two point three percent (2.3%) of ex-vessel value, but since they have a small and singular fishery (Main Bay and Crafton Island subdistricts), their fishery will produce what it produces regardless of the percentage assigned. The two largest fisheries (seine and drift gillnet) still agree that their respective allocations should remain at forty-nine percent (49%) and fifty percent (50%) respectively, although there is evidence that the actual percentages should be forty seven point five percent (47.5%) for seiners, fifty one point five percent (51.5%) for drift gillnetters and one percent (1%) for set gillnetters (See letter from Board Chair Kay Andrew to Commissioner Carl Rosier, page 2, numbered paragraph three, dated February 13, 1994). There has been some public testimony concerning these percentages which vary by one and one-half percent (1.5%) from the percentages set forth in the regulations.

In this regard, it should first be understood that these allocations are not intended to be a specific allocation number for each gear type for each season, but rather a long-term goal or objective of the board which, if not realized over a long term (more than 2 board cycles), could

1 of 5

previously
(97-02)-FB

result in a change in the allocation provisions of the regulation. Further, it is impossible for this board or the staff to manage the resource within one or two percentage points. Finally, in this board's opinion, it would be more appropriate for the gear types to agree on a range of percentages and agree upon a method for adjustment as has been done in other fisheries (See 5 AAC 33.364-Southeastern Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan).

The problem which was presented to the board is based upon two factors. The first factor is the dramatic reduction in pink salmon prices. The second factor is the current inability of PWSAC to fulfill that portion of its allocation plan which required additional production of fish. Simply stated, the problem arises from the fact that, over the last six (6) years, the average ex-vessel value for the drift gillnet fleet has been approximately seventy-five percent (75%) of the total ex-vessel value of all salmon (wild and enhanced) and the average ex-vessel value for the seine fleet has been approximately twenty-five percent (25%) of the total ex-vessel value.

This disparity is based upon an ex-vessel value based upon a combination of both wild and enhanced stocks. There is no debate as to the accuracy of these numbers. The only question here is to the use of both wild and enhanced stocks in calculating ex-vessel value. There is a significant debate going on between the seiners and the drifters over the inclusion/exclusion of wild stocks in the calculation of the ex-vessel value.

Ex-vessel value of both stocks were used in determining the historic percentages. However, the PWSAC policy statements which were presented to the board, all refer to enhanced stocks until the very end of the PWSAC Allocation Policy on Enhanced Salmon: An Explanation to Clarify Intent of Key Statements: Policy Clarification Statements, page 48, paragraph 6 where wild stocks were referred to as follows:

"6. It is the intent of the authors of the policy that production planning will attempt to achieve a balance of enhanced salmon harvest value. This intent is based on the assumption that established the historic basis for the allocation ratio. That is, wild stocks, averaged over time, were and will be harvested according to the balanced value ratio. Should this premise hold true, then a balance of enhanced salmon harvest value will maintain an economic balance between the gear groups. Only over time can this condition be achieved due to annual harvest value fluctuations. However, should it become apparent that economic balance trends away from the historic balance due to persistent failures of wild stocks, changing fish values, evolving environmental conditions, enacted laws regulations or any other factor(s) which may change the described balance, then production will be planned to rebalance the ratio such that the over-all economic balance in the fishery is maintained. This statement clearly supports the intent of the policy statement that "[t]his balance will be utilized in planning and production as a long term approximate projection goal anticipated to achieve equitable value in **returning salmon...**" (emphasis in the original).

Based on the foregoing language, it appears as if PWSAC was using both enhanced and wild stocks in its allocation determinations even though PWSAC could only allocate as to enhanced stocks. Further, members of the public who also served on the PWSAC board, on the allocation

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(97-02)-PB)

committee, who are commercial fishermen, and who are apparently very knowledgeable concerning the PWSAC allocation policy, state that all fish, both wild and enhanced, were to be included in the calculation of ex-vessel value.

However, this is strongly disputed by others, primarily drifters, who contend to the contrary. Some of these individuals are also knowledgeable, having been active in the development of the PWSAC allocation policy. This disagreement as to one of the fundamental precepts of the PWSAC allocation policy needs to be resolved by the board.

Further, of considerable importance to this board, is the fact that a prior board, when it adopted this regulation in 1991, stated its intent as follows:

“...to allocate the natural and enhanced salmon stocks in Prince William Sound in such a manner as to maintain the long-term historic balance between competing commercial users that existed since statehood and prior to any significant production from enhancement programs.”

Thus, the prior board decided that allocation decisions would be based on both wild and enhanced stocks.

If both wild and enhanced stocks are used in the calculation of the ex-vessel value, the disparity over the last six years is as noted above. If only enhanced stocks are used in the calculation of the ex-vessel value, the disparity is minimal and no adjustments would be necessary.

Thus, this board first needs to decide which ex-vessel value to use in its allocation determinations. After discussion, the board determined that both wild and enhanced stocks would be used in its allocation decisions. The reasons for this decision include the prior board's determination, the testimony of the public, the written record presented to the board and, most importantly, the fact that the historic catch of all salmon stocks reflects a division between gear types substantially in line with decisions based on both wild and enhanced stocks.

Next, the board discussed the percentages themselves and, for the reasons stated above, determined that the percentages stated in the proposal (drift gillnet 50%, seine 49% and set gillnet 1%) represented an approximate allocation percentage for each gear group. It was stressed by the board in its discussions that it would much rather see a range for the allocation percentages, but that these specific percentages are of sufficient merit to be “recognized” by the board.

The board then discussed the department's determination of the ex-vessel value. Staff was solicited to comment. The staff's comments were to the effect that this provision was appropriate and feasible. Since some ex-vessel measuring tool is required, this is an acceptable method. This method was adopted by the board.

Subsection (d) was then discussed by the board. It was noted that this subsection is substantially identical to the existing regulation with only one change. The only change is found in subparagraph (5)(B) which allows the seine fleet to fish in previously closed waters because of

Previously
(97-02-PR)

a change in the coho fishery. Previously, the Noerenberg Hatchery was producing coho which was harvested by the drift gillnet fleet. Because of a disease situation, the hatchery has ceased production of these coho. The seine fleet was confined to an area to avoid harvesting these coho. With the pending absence of these coho, there is no reason to confine the seine fleet to any particular area. There, the regulation was amended so as to allow the seine fleet to fish in previously closed waters so long as the predominant species is pink salmon.

The board then discussed the "piggy bank" concept. This concept was originally developed by the fishermen who fish in this fishery as a method by which disparities in the allocation between gear types could be corrected in the short run. Corrections in the long run were intended to be handled by increased production by PWSAC. This may or may not occur. However, in the short run, there is no corrective action which can be taken based upon increased production. Such corrective action is both biologically and financially impossible. Thus, the only short term corrective actions which can be taken involve re-allocations between the two user groups; seiners and drift gillnetters.

From discussions with staff and the public, as well as the board's review of the written materials provided by staff and by the public, there appears to be two potential "piggy banks" areas within Prince William Sound; the enhanced chum salmon run at Port Chalmers in the new Port Chalmers Subdistrict and the enhanced chum salmon run in the Esther Subdistrict beginning June 1 through July 20. The Port Chalmers area is a traditional seine fishery. The Esther Subdistrict is traditionally (by agreement since 1990) a drift gillnet fishery during this period. Also with regard to these two "piggy banks", the potential harvest in the Port Chalmers Subdistrict is less than the potential harvest in the Esther Subdistrict. There is also a risk of interception of Coghill Lake bound sockeye salmon in the Esther Subdistrict. The board also noted that the seine fleet is more efficient than the drift gillnet fleet in harvesting salmon. Finally, the board took note of the problems at the Main Bay hatchery which will affect the sockeye return which, in turn, will effect the drift gillnet fleet which participates in the Main Bay fishery.

The board also discussed the fact that there is no way in which parity can be precisely maintained over the short run. Parity is a long-term goal. Originally, the allocation divisions were determined on a twenty year plus period. Thus, parity is something which should be achieved over a similar lengthy period. This conclusion, however, does not mean that shorter term parity is not an appropriate goal and that the board should not adopt regulations which tend, in the short run, to bring the gear types into compliance with the allocation percentages.

Based on the foregoing, the board decided to proceed with the "piggy bank" concept to adjust allocation disparities over the shorter term. The regulation adopted took into consideration the interception of Coghill Lake sockeye salmon by allowing the department to confine the more efficient seine fleet to a smaller area than the drift gillnet fleet in the Esther Subdistrict. By granting the drift gillnet fleet both the potential of a larger area, by permitting a dual gear fishery and by permitting the drift gillnet fleet to fish exclusively in the Port Chalmers Subdistrict, the board recognized both the difference in gear efficiency and the "richness" of the two "piggy bank" fisheries.

*previously
(97-02-FB)*

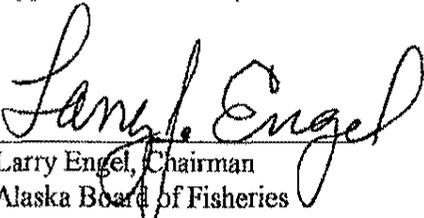
Finally, the board established 1997 as the "base" year. There will be no changes in the 1997 fishery in Prince William Sound. The seine fleet will fish in the new Port Chalmers Subdistrict. The drift gillnet fleet will have the exclusive right to fish in the Esther Subdistrict from June 1 to July 20. Only in 1998 and beyond, will any of the "piggy banks" be used for either gear group. The board expects this matter to be considered again in the next cycle.

In conclusion, the board completely and thoroughly reviewed the fishery and the competing gear types. By reaching its decision it put to rest over seven (7) years of dispute between the various gear groups. Finally, by adopting the new regulation, the board cleared up the previously existing regulatory problems.

At Sitka, Alaska

Date: January 29, 1997

Approved: 6/0/0/1 (Yes/No/Absent/Abstain)


Larry Engel, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

5 of 5

Calculation for Allocation Plan (VFDA & Wild Stocks included) - 5

year average

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2002	77.69%	22.31%	5.15%
2003	53.42%	46.58%	3.36%
2004	75.73%	24.27%	1.94%
2005	51.87%	48.13%	1.39%
2006	68.53%	31.47%	2.33%
Average:	63.74%	36.26%	2.68%

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2003	53.18%	46.82%	3.34%
2004	75.23%	24.77%	1.93%
2005	52.16%	47.84%	1.37%
2006	68.13%	31.87%	2.32%
2007	46.94%	53.06%	2.01%
Average:	56.30%	43.70%	2.15%

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2004	75.23%	24.77%	1.93%
2005	52.16%	47.84%	1.37%
2006	68.13%	31.87%	2.32%
2007	46.94%	53.06%	2.01%
2008	35.22%	64.78%	1.79%
Average:	49.82%	50.18%	1.87%

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2005	52.16%	47.84%	1.37%
2006	68.13%	31.87%	2.32%
2007	46.94%	53.06%	2.01%
2008	35.22%	64.78%	1.79%
2009	75.19%	24.81%	3.93%
Average:	51.55%	48.45%	2.20%

Calculation for PWS Hatchery (PWSAC ONLY) Allocation Plan - 5

year average

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2002	65.00%	35.00%	7.94%
2003	46.96%	53.04%	6.12%
2004	71.01%	28.99%	6.84%
2005	34.85%	65.15%	3.30%
2006	54.96%	45.04%	5.77%
Average:	52.43%	47.57%	5.97%

To be used for management year: 2008

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2003	44.31%	55.69%	6.41%
2004	71.02%	28.98%	6.85%
2005	34.45%	65.55%	3.25%
2006	54.50%	45.50%	5.73%
2007	33.79%	66.21%	4.94%
Average:	42.88%	57.12%	5.27%

To be used for management year: 2009

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2004	71.02%	28.98%	6.85%
2005	34.45%	65.55%	3.25%
2006	54.50%	45.50%	5.73%
2007	33.79%	66.21%	4.94%
2008	33.15%	66.85%	2.33%
Average:	37.88%	62.12%	3.67%

To be used for management year: 2010

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2005	34.5%	65.5%	3.3%
2006	54.5%	45.5%	5.7%
2007	33.8%	66.2%	4.9%
2008	33.2%	66.8%	2.3%
2009	61.5%	38.5%	5.9%
Average:	41.0%	59.0%	4.0%

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Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2006	68.13%	31.87%	2.32%
2007	46.94%	53.06%	2.01%
2008	35.22%	64.78%	1.79%
2009	75.19%	24.81%	3.93%
2010	34.82%	65.18%	2.52%
Average:	45.13%	54.87%	2.41%

To be used for management year: 2011

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2006	54.50%	45.50%	5.73%
2007	33.79%	66.21%	4.94%
2008	33.15%	66.85%	2.33%
2009	61.54%	38.46%	5.88%
2010	36.00%	64.00%	3.25%
Average:	39.08%	60.92%	3.68%

To be used for management year: 2012

**Remember that set gillnet is taken off the top and then drift gillnet and purse seine spilt remaining 50/50!

PWSAC, VFDA, & WILD STOCKS

Return Year	DGN	PS	SGN	Grand Total
2000	\$17,781,587.32	\$17,099,828.26	\$588,463.06	\$35,469,878.63
2001	\$18,223,201.18	\$12,391,063.71	\$963,446.25	\$31,577,711.14
2002	\$17,858,589.02	\$5,129,806.96	\$1,249,355.72	\$24,237,751.71
2003	\$16,754,298.50	\$14,747,847.05	\$1,089,945.99	\$32,592,091.54
2004	\$18,276,401.80	\$6,016,295.80	\$478,819.08	\$24,771,516.68
2005	\$20,462,301.25	\$18,767,661.33	\$543,004.61	\$39,772,967.18
2006	\$24,391,099.96	\$11,409,925.23	\$848,929.39	\$36,649,954.58
2007	\$31,221,270.80	\$35,295,591.68	\$1,365,872.13	\$67,882,734.61
2008	\$28,318,681.11	\$52,075,759.96	\$1,467,492.70	\$81,861,933.77
2009	\$31,822,403.30	\$10,500,614.41	\$1,730,198.80	\$44,053,216.51
Grand Total	\$225,109,834.23	\$183,434,394.38	\$10,325,527.74	\$418,869,756.36

PWSAC ONLY

Return Year	DGN	PS	SGN	Grand Total
2000	\$8,958,494.63	\$9,792,663.84	\$509,507.06	\$19,260,665.53
2001	\$8,294,369.15	\$3,845,376.07	\$954,643.60	\$13,094,388.83
2002	\$8,832,944.88	\$4,755,400.40	\$1,171,600.17	\$14,759,945.45
2003	\$6,939,202.61	\$8,719,617.77	\$1,071,690.31	\$16,730,510.70
2004	\$4,033,494.92	\$1,646,086.31	\$417,568.74	\$6,097,149.97
2005	\$4,369,411.29	\$8,312,855.08	\$426,090.84	\$13,108,357.21
2006	\$7,010,573.83	\$5,851,982.90	\$781,184.10	\$13,643,740.83
2007	\$8,365,676.84	\$16,394,815.50	\$1,287,859.45	\$26,048,351.80
2008	\$18,059,466.10	\$36,411,663.50	\$1,300,084.99	\$55,771,214.59
2009	\$15,553,268.89	\$9,722,044.68	\$1,578,784.57	\$26,854,098.13
Grand Total	\$90,416,903.15	\$105,452,506.05	\$9,499,013.83	\$205,368,423.03

These #'s are what were used to calculate above allocations.



November 14, 2011

Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

To the Board of Fisheries:

Attached are comments on the Upper Copper River/Upper Susitna River fisheries proposals.

Please review them and consider them during deliberations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eleanor Dementi", written in a cursive style.

Eleanor Dementi,
Chair of
Ahtna Tene Nene' C&T Committee

Proposal 51 – 5 AAC 01.616. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amount necessary for subsistence uses. By Howard Delo. Review the Copper River District salmon subsistence fishery C&T as follows:

If the BOF reviews the Copper River District salmon subsistence fishery and determines that fishery no longer meets the criteria of being a subsistence fishery, the fishery should be re-classified as a personal use fishery with all the same methods and means, season timing, and fish bag limits as currently exists in regulation for the subsistence fishery.

Comment:

Maintain status quo. This issue has already been addressed many, many times and does not need to be brought up again. There hasn't been any new information provided that would justify re-examining the subsistence classification. The new language adopted by the Board for criterion eight of the C&T criteria did not change in any substantive way the Board's past application of the eight criteria to the Copper River subsistence salmon fishery.

Proposal 52- 5 AAC 01.610. Fishing seasons. By Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee. Specify open periods in the Copper River District subsistence fishery as follows:

Keep the existing regulation but add that subsistence fishing will also be open for a 24 hour period beginning each Saturday at 0700 throughout the season and when regularly scheduled commercial periods are suspended.

Comment:

We support Proposal 52 of additional 24 hour period beginning each Saturday at 0700 throughout the season and when regularly scheduled commercial periods are suspended.

Proposal 54 – 5 AAC 01.616. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amount necessary for subsistence uses. By Fairbanks Advisory Committee. Review the Copper River District salmon subsistence fishery C&T as follows:

Chitina salmon would be designated with a positive C&T finding.

Comment:

We oppose Proposal 54. There is no new information to support reopening this issue after the Board conclusively and unanimously decided as recently as 2010 that this is a personal use fishery. All the rationale used to justify the proposal such as “misleading statistics from the Subsistence Division” have been determined to be completely unfounded by a Fairbanks Superior Court. There is simply no legal, factual or practical basis for revisiting this time-consuming and divisive issue.

Proposal 55-5 AAC 01.616. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amount necessary for subsistence uses. By Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Review the Copper River District salmon subsistence fishery C&T as follows:

Reclassify the Chitina Dipnet Fishery as a State of Alaska subsistence fishery.

Comment:

We oppose Proposal 55. There are numerous reasons to take no action on this proposal. In the first place, the *Federal* Regional Advisory Council has absolutely no jurisdiction or recognized role in the formation of State subsistence law or policy. The RAC has stepped far overstepped its boundaries. Second, the RAC fails to cite any new information to support reopening this issue. Third, the rational cited in the RAC proposal consists of outdated arguments that have already been rejected by the Fairbanks Superior Court. Fourth, the RAC cannot point to any lack of fishing opportunity or harvest amounts being affected suffered by dipnet users requiring a change from personal use to a subsistence fishery.

Proposal 56-5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan. By Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Amend the Copper River King Salmon Management Plan as follows:

(a) The department shall manage the Copper River commercial, **personal use**, sport, **and subsistence** fisheries to achieve a sustainable escapement goal of 24,000 or more for king salmon. For the purposes of managing these fisheries, the department shall consider the best available information regarding harvest, age composition, and escapement, including escapement information obtained from mark-recapture-studies, aerial surveys, or by other means.

(b) In the commercial fishery, during the statistical weeks 20 and 21, the commissioner may open no more than one fishing period per statistical week within the inside closure area of the Copper River District described in 5 AAC 24. 350(1)(B)(c) In the sport fishery,

(1) in the upper Copper River drainage, the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is four fish;

(2) if the commissioner determines additional conservation measures are necessary to achieve the escapement goals, the commissioner may, by emergency order, use the following management measures in the following order:

(A) reduce the annual limit for king salmon

(B) modify other methods and means not specified in this paragraph;

(C) designate the fishery as a catch and release fishery only;

(D) close specific waters to sport fishing for king salmon

(d) In the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery,

(1) the annual limit for king salmon is one fish;

(2) if the commissioner determines additional conservation measures are necessary to achieve the escapement goals, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Chitina Subdistrict personal use dipnet salmon fishery to the retention of king salmon.

(e) In the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery, if the commissioner determines additional conservation measures are necessary to achieve the escapement goals, the commissioner may, by emergency order, restrict the retention

of king salmon or modify methods and means to reduce king salmon harvest in the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery.

Comment:

We support Proposal 56 to allow ADF&G to manage Chitina and Glennallen Subdistrict fisheries, so that King Salmon will be sustainable in the future. The escapement goal for King Salmon has not been met within four years of the last ten years. We do not agree that the commissioner may decide to place restrictions on retention of King Salmon for those who utilize fish wheels in the Glennallen Subdistrict. It would be difficult to enforce. Most of the Ahtna harvest fish under federal management system, and this proposed regulatory action will not affect the federal management system.

Proposal 57-5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing and 5 AAC 77.570 waters closed to personal use fishing. By Karl Moe. Prohibit netting of fish in Lake Louise, Susitna and Tyone lakes as follows:

Stop all netting.

Comments:

We oppose Proposal 57. See comments under Proposal 66.

Proposal 58-5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing and 5 AAC 77.570 waters closed to personal use fishing. By Tom and Ellen Frohlich. Prohibit netting of fish in Lake Louise, Susitna and Tyone lakes as follows:

No netting of fish in these lakes.

Comments:

See comments under Proposal 66.

Proposal 59-5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing and 5 AAC 77.570 waters closed to personal use fishing. By Jake Moe and Brynn Moe. Prohibit netting of fish in Lake Louise, Susitna and Tyone lakes as follows:

Stop the abuse of netting fish.

Comments:

See comments under Proposal 66.

Proposal 60-5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing and 5 AAC 77.570 waters closed to personal use fishing. By Danae Williams. Prohibit netting of fish in Lake Louise, Susitna and Tyone lakes as follows:

No netting.

Comments:

See comments under Proposal 66.

Proposal 61-5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing and 5 AAC 77.570 waters closed to personal use fishing. By Gene Moe. Prohibit netting of fish in Lake Louise, Susitna and Tyone lakes as follows:

There will be no netting of white fish or lake trout.

Comments:

See comments under Proposal 66.

Proposal 62-5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing and 5 AAC 77.570 waters closed to personal use fishing. By Jane Newby and Susitna Group. Prohibit netting of fish in Lake Louise, Susitna and Tyone lakes as follows:

There will be no netting of whitefish and incidental lake trout in Lake Louise, Lake Susitna and Lake Tyone.

Comments:

See comments under Proposal 66.

Proposal 63-5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing and 5 AAC 77.570 waters closed to personal use fishing. By Jenna Knoll. Prohibit netting of fish in Lake Louise, Susitna and Tyone Lakes as follows:

No netting of whitefish.

Comments:

See comments under Proposal 66.

Proposal 64-5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing and 5 AAC 77.570 waters closed to personal use fishing. By Dorothy Tideman. Prohibit netting of fish in Lake Louise, Susitna and Tyone Lakes as follows:

Stop all netting of fish in Tyone, Lake Louise, and Lake Susitna.

Comments:

See comments under Proposal 66.

Proposal 65-5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing and 5 AAC 77.570 waters closed to personal use fishing. By Larry Roberts. Prohibit netting of fish in Lake Louise, Susitna and Tyone Lakes as follows:

No netting of any fish in Lake Louise, Susitna Lake and Tyone Lake,

Comments:

See comments under Proposal 66.

Proposal 66-5 AAC 01.610. By the Copper Basin Advisory Committee. Fishing seasons. 5 AAC 01.620. Lawful Gear and gear specifications. Prohibit bycatch, require ADF&G notification, and set season in the whitefish fishery as follows:

Under 5 AAC 01.610. Fishing seasons. Add the following language:

Any species (except as provided in 5 AAC 01.610(e)) taken incidentally by gillnet may not be retained and must be immediately released

Under 5 AAC 01.620. Lawful Gear and gear specifications. Add the following language:

Gillnets used for subsistence fishing of freshwater finfish, other than salmon, may be operate only as follows;

- (1) With 24 hour prior notification to ADF&G identifying the specific water body
- (2) May only be fished under the ice
- (3) Must be re-located a minimum distance of 500 feet if greater than 4 lake trout are caught in a set

Comments:

We support Proposal 66 that includes existing regulation to notify ADF&G prior to 24 hour notification identifying specific water body and for the department to set stipulations. We support fishing for white fish, which is customary and traditional use specie.

Proposal 67-5 AAC 01.610. Fishing season (e) Rainbow trout and steelhead; and 5 AAC 01.630. Subsistence fishery as follows:

Require subsistence whitefish permit holders to notify ADF&G 24 hours prior to deploying gear. Season dates for subsistence whitefish; Nov. 10-March 31st. No more than 5% total bycatch will be allowed for the season for each permit holder.

Comment:

See comments under Proposal 66.

Proposal 68-5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing. By John & Yvette Delaquito. Establish closed areas and seasons, and prohibit bycatch in the whitefish fishery as follows: (see ADF&G book for coordinates of closure to Lake Louise-Susitna Channel area: Susitna Lake – Tyone Lake Area)

(A) Closure of the Lake Louise/Susitna Lake and Susitna/Tyone channels totally to subsistence whitefish netting to ensure the natural movement of all finfish.

(B) Change the opening date of the subsistence whitefish fishery from October 1 to November 15 to ensure the protection of lake trout spawning and to avoid collision of boats/nets due to the still active boating season until the lake area is fully frozen.

(C) Release all incidental bycatch dead or alive back into the lake system.

Comments:

See comments under Proposal 66.

Proposal 69-5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing. By Wayne Simmons. Establish closed area and set season dates in the whitefish fishery as follows:

Close the Lake Louise/Lake Susitna Channel to freshwater fish subsistence gillnets. The closed area would extend ¼ mile beyond the channel on both the Lake Louise and the Lake Susitna side of the channel. Also, change the opening date of the “freshwater fish subsistence permit” to December 1st.

Comments:

See comments under Proposal 66.

Proposal 70-5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing; and 5 AAC 77.570. Waters closed to fishing to personal use fishing. By Jesse Moe and Bridget Moe. Restrict netting of whitefish in Lake Louise, Susitna and Tyone Lakes as follows:

Limit the amount of white fish netted; no coincidental lake trout in nets; add more regulatory patrolling.

Comments:

See comments under Proposal 66.

Proposal 71-5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing; 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. By Wayne Simmons. Establish lake trout spawning closures in Tyone Lakes complex as follows:

Close lake trout fishing on the Lake Louise, Lake Susitna, Lake Tyone Waterway from September 1st to October 15th.

Comments:

See comments under Proposal 66.

Proposal 72-5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. By Chitina Dipnetters Association. Rescind allocation reduction in the Chitina personal use fishery as follows:

Rescind regulation.

Comments:

We oppose Proposal 72. See comments under Proposal 74.

Proposal 73-5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. By Chitina Dipnetters Association. Increase harvest limit of king salmon in the personal use fishery as follows:

Restore retention of king salmon to at least 5 per family and 1 for individuals.

Comments:

We oppose Proposal 73. See comments under Proposal 74.

Proposal 74-5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. By Chitina Dipnetters Association. Allow for retention of king salmon in the personal use fishery as follows:

As long as commercial and sport fisheries are allowed to fish or retain any king salmon, personal use fishermen will be allowed to retain kings 2-3 per week at the fisheries manager's discretion.

Comments:

We oppose Proposal 74. The Department should manage King Salmon fisheries until a sustainable escapement goal for King Salmon of 24,000 is met. If necessary, the Department can issue an Emergency Order or change King Salmon fishing season as necessary. King salmon have been on the decline for several years. Research studies on King Salmon should continue to be a priority by the Department on the Copper River water bodies.

Proposal 75-5 AAC. XXXX. Regulations Title. By Chitina Dipnetters Association. Increase limit for sockeye salmon in the Chitina Personal Use Fishery as follows:

Increase limit as follows for red salmon in the event kings are eliminated due to a conservation concern-

- 1 person household-20 reds
- 2 person household-35 reds
- 3 person household-45 reds
- 4 person household-60 reds
- 5 or more person household = 75 reds

Comments:

We oppose Proposal 75 to increase take of reds in the Chitina Subdistrict for Personal Use. There is no evidence that existing regulations do not provide a sufficient harvest of reds to accommodate personal use needs. As more people participate in this fishery more reds will be harvested and less Sockeye salmon will reach spawning grounds. Many people participate in this personal use fishery, and increasing the allowable harvest may result in waste by those not experienced enough to understand their needs. Increase harvest may also negatively and unnecessarily impact the other fisheries dependent on this salmon stock.

Proposal 76-5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. By Elmer Marshall. Delay opening of Chitina use dipnet fishery as follows:

Open the Dipnetters season from June 15th each year.

Comments:

We strongly support Proposal 76 to open a later season of June 15 for Dipnetters in the Chitina Subdistrict. As many as 10,000 people have participated in this fishery and take their harvest limit, which equates to thousand of salmon not escaping to spawning grounds. As more people participate in this fishery more native salmon will not reach the Upper Copper River spawning grounds, which is drastically declining. A later fishing allows for native salmon to reach upper Copper River spawning streams. A later season for Dipnetters would alleviate the impact of harvested salmon by the Dipnetters.

Proposal 113-5 AAC 24.378. Use of aircraft unlawful. By Ken Jones. Amend regulation regarding use of aircraft in PWS commercial fishery as follows:

If enforcement of 5 AAC 24. 378 is not feasible, then eliminate the regulation.

Comments:

We oppose Proposal 113 to eliminating aircraft regulation making it legal to utilize aircraft to aide in locating fish from the air because it is not being enforced. This regulation must be enforced, so that commercial users do not harvest too many salmon or King Salmon by utilizing aircraft to determine where all the salmon are in the Copper River District. King salmon are on the decline and have been for several years. Enforcement must do a better job of enforcing this regulation.

Proposal 116-5 AAC. 24XXXX. New Regulation. By the Fairbanks Advisory Committee. Add restrictions on homepack from commercial fishing as follows:

Set a limit on homepack salmon to match the sport fishing possession limit, and prohibit any homepack for commercial fishers who engage in the Copper River Delta salmon subsistence fishery.

Comments:

We oppose Proposal 116 to propose a new regulation on homepack. Commercial fisheries allocation is set by the Board of Fisheries. If fish is taken home for personal use, it is taken from their commercial catch, which means that they will have less fish to sell. It would not affect commercial allocation. A subsistence regulation, 5 AAC 01.645 (b) allows them to take an "annual subsistence salmon limit as follows:

- (1) 15 salmon for a household of one person
- (2) 30 salmon for a household of two persons;
- (3) 10 additional salmon for each additional person in a household
- (4) no more than 5 King salmon may be taken per permit.

Proposal 117-5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan. Establish an optimal escapement goal for Copper River Chinook salmon as follows:

The optimum escapement goal (OEG) for Copper River Chinook should be 30,000. The average escapement from 1999—2008 was 30,221.

Comments:

We oppose Proposal 117. The present method SEG of 24,000 to determine escapement goals is a good scientific way of determining escapement goals for King salmon in the Copper River. OEG is not based upon scientific method. OEG “considers biological and allocative factors”. “It is debatable whether SEG is currently being adhered to, poachers and unreported harvest should be addressed before SEG is modified or changed to an OEG”.

Proposal 118-5 AAC 24. 350. Closed Waters. By Fairbanks Advisory Committee. Restrict commercial fishing inside barrier islands prior to June 15 as follows:

The Copper River District commercial fishery shall be conducted entirely outside the barrier islands until June 15.

Comments:

We are neutral on Proposal 118, however, a discussion and action should be taken by the Alaska Board of Fisheries on the continuation of decline of King Salmon in the Copper River. In four years (2002, 2005, 2010, 2011) of the last ten years, King Salmon escapement goal in the Copper River has not been met.

The run of the Sockeye salmon during the month of May to the latter part of the month of June are slow as well. Run of Sockeye salmon is slow until hatchery salmon migrate up the Copper River

Proposal 126-5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Areas. By Paxson Fish & Game Advisory Committee. Allow King Salmon fishing on Gulkana River five days per week June 10-August 10 as follows:

King Salmon fishing on the Gulkana River will be open for five days per week, Tuesday 12:01 am thru Sunday 11:59 pm. June 10-August 10.

We oppose Proposal 126 to allow an open season on the Gulkana River [to] be open for five days per week, Tuesday 12:01 am thru Sunday 11:59 pm. June 10-August 10. King salmon has been on the decline for several years. Emergency Orders were issued for Sport Fishery and Personal Use due to low King Salmon return last summer. A sustainable escapement goal of 24,000 King Salmon should be met. Emergency Orders should continue to be in place as deemed necessary by the Department.

Proposal 127-5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Areas. By Shawn Gilman. Restrict guided sport fishery when commercial fishery is restricted as follows:

If the commercial fishery is closed for conservation measures on the inside waters during commercial season at least one conservation measure will be instituted on the guided sport fishery. Be it A, B, C or D.

We oppose Proposal 127 to allow guided sport fisheries on the Copper River. We oppose a conservative fishery season or any open season for guided sport fisheries. Subsistence fisheries in the Chitina Subdistrict have been negatively impacted by guided sport fisheries. Trespass on Ahtna and Chitina Corporation lands occur during the fishing season.

Proposal 128-5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area; 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. By Ralph Lohse. Establish a limit for shipping of fish out of state for nonresident sport fishermen as follows:

A valid nonresident sport fishing license entitles the bearer to ship on daily bag limit of each legal species out of the State of Alaska per year. All shipped fish shall be in a form and with enough skin attached so species and quality can be easily determined. All shipping containers will be labeled with a signed AD&G export tag identifying shipper, license number, quantity and species and granting law enforcement agents the permission to open and inspect the contents. In addition, an ADF&G furnished export report and harvest data survey will be mailed prior to the fish leaving the State of Alaska.

Comments:

We support Proposal 128 to add a regulation to “establish a limit for shipping of fish out of state for nonresident sport fishermen, with labels signed by ADF&G and license number, quantity and species on labels, and allowing ADF&G to inspect containers as well as having an export report and harvest data survey mailed to ADF&G before containers of fish leaves the State of Alaska”.

Nonresidents who take fish out of the State of Alaska should be required to report fish, have containers inspected upon demand by ADF&G, labeled with contents identified and number of fish, proof of license number so that fish taken out of State will be quantified and a track record will be kept by ADF&G.

Proposal 129-5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area; 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. By the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. Modify lake trout regulations in four area lakes as follows:

5 AAC 52.022.

(2) in all lakes, except **Crosswind Lake and Lake Louise**, Paxson Lake, Summit Lake, **Susitna Lake and Tyone Lake**, bait and artificial lures may be used; in **Crosswind Lake, Lake Louise**, Paxson Lake, Summit Lake, **Susitna Lake and Tyone Lake**, a hook and bait may be used only as follows:

- (A) from April 16-October 31, only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;
- (B) from November 1-April 15, only single-hooks may be used; bait may be used;

5 AAC 52.023.

(5) in Crosswind Lake,

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

(13) in Lake Louise

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

(21) in Susitna Lake

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

(26) in Tyone Lake

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

Comments:

We support Proposal 129 to change regulations in Crosswind lake, Lake Louise, Susitna Lake and Tyone Lake to one lake trout without size limit, and to add these lakes to the existing regulations under 5 AAC 52.022 and 5 AAC. 52.023. Mortality rates of lake trout that are hooked will be reduced with the no size limit regulation added, and keeping existing regulation in place of no bait use allowed from April 16-October 31, and only single-hooks and bait may be used from November 1 to April 15th will also keep the population at a sustained yield. People will be able to keep smaller fish that are hooked, and will keep lake trout in good physical shape.

Proposal 130-5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. By Laurie Thorpe Establish a maximum size limit for lake trout in Lake Louise and Crosswind as follows:

Lake trout 28 inches or greater in length must be immediately returned to the water. Trout under 28 inches may be kept, one per day; one in possession.

Comments:

We oppose Proposal 130 to return lake trout to the water after it has been caught and wounded by being hooked in its mouth or even snagged by fish hooks. It is not customary and traditional to play with any fish by returning it to the water bodies.

Keeping smaller lake trout, 28 or less will not reduce trophy fishing of lake trout. Fishermen will still fish for lake trout and keep larger lake trout. Enforcement will not be out in the field to monitor this proposed regulation. There isn't enough enforcement to check on every sport fishermen while they are out fishing.

Proposal 71-5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing; 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. By Wayne Simmons. Establish lake trout spawning closures in Tyone Lakes complex as follows:

Close lake trout fishing on the Lake Louise, Lake Susitna, Lake Tyone Waterway from September 1st to October 15th.

Comments:

See comments under Proposal 66.

Proposal 132- AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area By Paxson Fish & Game Advisory Committee. Close Paxson and Summit lakes to lake trout fishing September 1- October 1 as follows:

Paxson and Summit Lake are closed to lake trout fishing from Sept 1-Oct. 1.

Comments:

We are neutral Proposal 132 to establish a more restrictive lake trout fishing season from Sept. 1 – Oct. 1. There isn't conservation concern for lake trout in Paxson and Summit lakes, however, we disapprove of fishing for lake trout when they are spawning. Restrictions that are now in place, should discourage fishing for lake trout during the spawning season.

See comments under Proposal 129. We supported season dates from April 16-October 31, only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used, and from November 1-April 15, only single-hooks may be used; bait may be used.

Proposal 133- AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area By Paxson Fish & Game Advisory Committee. Allow the use of bait October 1 – July 31 in Paxson and Summit as follows:

In Paxson and Summit lakes, Single hook, bait allowed Oct. 1 – July 31st.

Comments:

We oppose Proposal 133 to allow Single hook, bait allowed from October 1 – July 31st. When there is open water, during the months of Oct 1 to July 31st, bait use while fishing may encourage fishing for lake trout, which may eventually cause a conservation concern for lake trout.

See comments under Proposal 129. We supported season dates from April 16-October 31, only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used, and from November 1-April 15, only single-hooks may be used; bait may be used.

Proposal 134-5 AAC.52.037. Freshwater guiding requirements. By Philip Iverson. Restrict guided sport fishery on Lake Louise and Susitna and Tyone Lakes as follows:

Restrict any guides before they get started there.

Comments:

We support Proposal 134 with modification to include Transporters and all the lakes in the Upper Copper River Areas and Upper Susitna River Areas. Guided fishing on lakes in the Ahtna Region will eventually become an impact as more and more people travel to this area to fish and hunt.

Proposal 135-5 AAC.52.037. Freshwater guiding requirements. By Gene Moe. Restrict guided sport fishery on Lake Louise, and Susitna and Tyone lakes as follows:

No guide fishing on the Lake Louise – Susitna system.

Comments:

See comments under Proposal 134.

Proposal 136-5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. Modify rainbow trout regulations in Summit Lake as follows:

5 AAC 52.023

(23) in the Tebay River drainage,

(A) in Summit Lake

(i) **repealed** [SPORT FISHING IS ALLOWED ONLY FROM JULY 1 – MAY 31;]

(ii) the bag and possession limit for rainbow/steelhead trout is 10 fish, which must be **14** [12] inches or less in length;

Comments:

We support Proposal 136 to change rainbow trout regulations in Summit Lake to 14 inches or less in length. Changing the length from 12 inches to 14 for rainbow trout will aide in diversifying the size of rainbow trout in Summit Lake. Harvesting 14 inch rainbow trout will “maintain improved size structure of the rainbow trout population in Summit Lake”.

Proposal 137-5 AAC 52.055. Wild Arctic Grayling Management Plan. By the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game. Align the Wild Arctic Grayling Management Plan with area regulations as follows:

5 AAC 52.055. Wild Arctic Grayling Management Plan.

(d) Regional management approach. Under the regional management approach, sport anglers may use baited or unbaited artificial lures and the bag and possession limit if five fish. The season is open year round; however there are fisheries where catch-and-release fishing is imposed during part of all of the spawning period from April 1 through **May 31** [MAY].

(e) Conservative management approach. Under the conservative management approach, sport anglers may use baited or unbaited single-hook artificial lures. The bag and possession limit is two fish. The fishing season is open year round, and is restricted to catch-and-release fishing during the spawning period of April 1 through **May 31** [MAY 30] . The use of size limits does apply to certain stocks and fisheries under this approach. If a fishery for a species other than Arctic grayling occurs in the water body, the use of large multiple hooks and bait on larger single and multiple hooks is allowed.

(h) Special management approach. Under the special management approach, only unbaited single-hook artificial lures and unbaited single hook artificial flies may be used. Size limits may be greater in length. The bag limit is one fish, except that a fishery may be restricted to catch-and-release fishing, or closed. Single-hook water may be established. The fishing season is open year round, but fishing is restricted to catch-and-release fishing during the April 1 through **May 31** [MAY] spawning period. If a fishery

for a species other than Arctic grayling occurs in the same water body, the use of larger multiple hooks and bait on larger single and multiple hooks is allowed.

Comments:

We support Proposal 137 to changing the dates from May 30th to May 31st in the Wild Arctic Grayling Management Plan. Changing the date to 31st will include all of the month of May under the Regional management approach, Conservation management approach, and Special management approach.

Proposal 138-5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River. By the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. Open Tolsona Lake to sport fishing for burbot as follows:

(24) in Tolsona Lake,

(A) **the bag and possession limit for** burbot **is two fish, with no size limit** [MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED AND MUST BE RETURNED TO THE WATER UNHARMED];

Comments:

We support Proposal 138 to change the bag and possession limit for burbot in “Open Tolsona Lake to sport fishing to two fish with no size limit”. Changing the sport fisheries for Burbot fishing in Tolsona Lake in open waters will open it up for subsistence fisheries for burbot in Tolsona Lake, too.

November 17, 2011

Comment on Proposal 78

I oppose this proposal because I believe there is not enough enforcement in PWS to regulate this fairly. I would love to see permit stacking in some form or another to reduce the number of seiners in PWS, but this requires too much enforcement.

Thank you,

Megan Spurkland

Comment on Proposal 82

I support this proposal because it keeps the modern seine nets in compliance with the regulations. This type of net construction lowers our maintenance costs.

Thank you,

Megan Spurkland

Comment on Proposal 88

I support this proposal because it protects wild fish on weak years.

Thank you,

Megan Spurkland

Comment on Proposal 89

I support this proposal because it protects wild stocks.

Thank you,

Megan Spurkland

Comment on Proposal 92

I support this proposal ONLY if proposal 113 is adopted. I believe bi-weekly openings allowing the seine fleet to harvest all over the sound will be detrimental if the use of pilots is continued. The seine fleet is already extremely efficient; using pilots and having bi-weekly openings instead of aerial surveys may harm the wild stocks.

Thank you,

Megan Spurkland

Comment on Proposal 93

I oppose this proposal because right now commercial and sport fishermen often fish the same areas and it works out for everyone.

Thank you,

Megan Spurkland

Comment on Proposal 98

I support this proposal because it will allow PWSAC to more effectively obtain its cost recovery in a timely manner.

Thank you,

Megan Spurkland

Comment on Proposal 101

I oppose Proposal 101 concerning allocation issues in PWS.

The PWS Management and Salmon Allocation Plan was formulated over several years and BOF cycles. The PWS Enhancement Program is integral to the overall success of all users who harvest PWS salmon. Historic methodology was used to determine user groups' fair and equitable allocation of enhanced salmon stocks.

The current allocation plan provides for fleet adjustments depending on economic values in allocating enhanced PWSAC salmon stocks.

It is imperative that any allocation plan provide for a variety of tools to bring parity to the user groups. We recognize that these tools do not bring immediate results as evidenced by the ex-vessel value of harvests between user groups.

There is no way of accurately predicting wild and enhanced salmon run strength or salmon prices prior to any given season. Therefore, it is unreasonable to seek specific short term remedies with potentially unforeseen results.

It is further recognized that ex-vessel value is the most reasonable guideline for allocating enhanced PWSAC salmon stocks among user groups.

On the basis of the above statement, I request the Board of Fisheries reject Proposal #101.

Thank you,

Megan Spurkland

Comment on Proposal 104

I support this proposal because it allows the seiners to fish on wild stocks that they traditionally fished on. It would not affect the current allocation policy or rolling averages.

Thank you,

Megan Spurkland

Comment on Proposal 105

I oppose this proposal because it takes away more fish from the gillnetters. I do, however, actively support finding a way to reduce gear conflict in the Coghill District. I do not believe that alternating days for gear types would decrease quality.

Thank you,

Megan Spurkland

Comment on Proposal 107

I oppose this proposal because the allocation plan already has a "piggy-bank" in place and anything can happen... run failures, price failures... that could bring the five-year rolling average back into equity. The BOF should not second-guess their allocation plan.

Thank you,

Megan Spurkland

Comment on Proposal 108

I oppose this proposal because the allocation plan is already in place and having Pt. Chalmers is allowing the gillnetters a way to catch back up on their percentage. The seiners don't need to take more enhanced salmon away from the gillnetters.

Thank you,

Megan Spurkland

Comment on Proposal 109

I oppose this proposal because this should be an internal decision made by the BOD of PWSAC, not the BOF.

Thank you,

Megan Spurkland

Comment on Proposal 111

I oppose this proposal because this should be an internal decision made by the BOD of PWSAC, not the BOF. PWSAC takes gear group allocation and the five-year rolling averages into account when they set their cost-recovery goals every year.

Thank you,

Megan Spurkland

Comment on Proposal 113

I strongly support this proposal because there is every indication that has been abuse of the spotter pilot system in PWS, with spotters giving information to their boats during openings about open waters. The seine fleet and their gear are very efficient even without pilots. There is so little enforcement in PWS that a regulation needs to be in place that makes it very obvious if the law is being broken or not... eliminating aircraft assistance to fishing boats would be a simple one to regulate (unless pilots and boats used cell phones). There are so many tenders assisting seiners that if a parts flight or medical flight was needed, the plane could land and tie up to the tender to assist the boat.

Thank you,

Megan Spurkland

Comment on Proposal 114 and Proposal 115

I oppose this proposal because there is no proof of "overgrazing," and hatchery chum fry are actually feeding whales! That is hard to argue against.

Thank you,

Megan Spurkland



**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION**

350 East Dahlia Avenue
Palmer, AK 99645

November 18, 2011

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RE: BOARD of FISHERIES STATEWIDE PROPOSAL #68

Dear Chairman Johnstone and Board Members:

I am writing on behalf of the *Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission*, formerly called the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee. This committee has served to represent the Borough on policies and practices related to fish and wildlife resources since 2007. We have been contacted by a concerned resource user about the subsistence whitefish gillnet fishery in the Lake Louise, Susitna and Tyone Lake area and therefore submit the following comments regarding Proposal 68.

Proposal 68: Waters Closed to Subsistence Fishing

We support Proposal 68 to establish closed areas and seasons and prohibit bycatch in the whitefish fishery. This fishery is being impacted by excessive takings of lake trout as bycatch of the whitefish subsistence fishery (see attached photo). The trout bycatch is taking place during the fall lake trout spawning season. Delaying the opening of the whitefish subsistence season as proposed in #68 would allow time for the lake trout spawning to conclude and would avoid boat/net tangles during the open water periods on the lakes. We also support the total closure of the channels between Lake Louise/Susitna Lake and Lake Susitna Lake/Tyone Lake to subsistence gillnetting because this activity obstructs the natural movement of fish between the systems. By placing the requirement in regulation to release all incidental bycatch back into the lake system, both alive and dead, there would be less incentive to target lake trout while claiming to be subsistence fishing for whitefish.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on these proposed regulations. Please contact us through our MSB staff member, Frankie Barker fbarker@matsugov.us, 907-746-7439, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


T. Bruce Knowles, Chair

cc: Mayor Larry Devilbiss

10.14 - 10.16.10

100 Lake Trout Remains

Scavenger
3Lehrs



11/18/2011

ATTN: BOF Comments
Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Jimmy Gabriel
F/V Lady Katie
Vice President, NASA, Inc.
490 Capricorn Circle
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Board Members,

Please review these comments pertaining to several of the Prince William Sound (PWS) proposals. I grew up Pursue Seining for salmon in PWS in the early 1990's, where I started on my father's vessel. After growing from spectator, to deckhand, to relief skipper, I graduated to my own boat. I have been independently operating a seiner in PWS since 2010. As a young fisherman, I am aware that the health and stability of the fishery are vital to continued prosperity for all involved. It is my intent to provide some insight into the contributing factors and possible results that future Board action on these proposals may generate. For the purposes of these comments, I have combined several related proposals to address singular issues.

Issue 1: Fixed leads on Salmon Seines.

Affected Proposals:

- Proposal 78 – Oppose
- Proposal 84 – Support
- Proposal 85 – Oppose
- Proposal 86 – Support
- Proposal 87 – Support

Comments: There are several proposals regarding fixed leads for salmon seines. Proposal 78 proposes to allow smaller lead mesh size if an individual possesses more than one permit. I whole-heartedly oppose this. Everyone that owns a PWS seine permit should have equal opportunity to use the same gear under the same regulations. This proposal seeks to reduce the number of active permits by incentivizing permit stacking. There are better ways to reduce the number of active permits, such as a buy-back. Proposal 85 seeks to eliminate leads all together. The proposal states that every seiner will benefit, but this does not pass the smell test. How can removing 75 fathoms of gear improve catch rates? This may benefit fishermen waiting in long lines with other boats by allowing more boats to fish in a given area, but hurts those fishermen who prospect new areas and travel to find fish where there are fewer boats. Additionally, this proposal will harm those fishermen who fish in rocky or snag-filled areas by putting their leads in shallow to prevent gear damage. Proposals 84, 86, and 87 all seek to eliminate the 7" size requirement for lead mesh.

Individuals could still use the larger mesh if they chose to, but would allow anyone to use traditional black seine mesh for the entire net. This will increase productivity, especially in a year with a small average fish size. The 2011 season is a perfect example of this with a 2.8 to 2.9 lb pink salmon average fish size. When the fish are small, they are more prone to bleeding through the lead. Since most of the pinks caught by the seiners are destined for a terminal fishery, it makes no sense for these fish to be caught multiple times before they find their way into a fish hold.

Issue 2: Proposed closed areas.

Affected Proposals:

- Proposal 93 – Oppose

Comments: Proposal 93 would allow for areas closed to seining to be established to protect Coho for sport use. This is an unnecessary and blatant attempt for an area grab by special sport interests. Seiners are already limited by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) in the time and area of openers. While seiners do catch Coho, the targeted salmon is Pinks. Closing areas based on protecting Silvers for sport use will allow Pinks to go un-harvested and cause over-escapement. There are ample areas for sport users to fish for various salmon species, Coho Included, unobstructed by commercial users. If ADFG ever becomes concerned for Coho stocks, they will manage the fishery as such.

Issue 3: Salmon Allocation Management.

Affected Proposals:

- Proposal 101 – Support
- Proposal 107 – Oppose
- Proposal 108 – Support
- Proposal 109 – Oppose
- Proposal 110 – Support
- Proposal 111 – Oppose

Comments: The Salmon Allocation Management plan in PWS has been a contentious issue for two decades. As it currently stands, more modification is necessary for the plan to accomplish the goals it was laid out to accomplish. Proposal 101 by NASA, Inc. serves to open the discussion of the allocation issue in its current state. The premise of the allocation plan was to prevent one user group (seine or gillnet) from gaining unfair advantage of enhanced runs when compared to the historic economic average of 50-50. Unfortunately, comparing a high value, low volume fishery to a low value, high volume fishery is like comparing apples to oranges. The single biggest factor driving the allocation plan is the cost of Pink salmon. When Pinks went down, the seiners got behind and needed more diversity. A one dimensional fishery cannot survive on its own, as eventually an influential event will cause the fishery to become depressed. Diversity is required to allow the fleet to ride through the low points of the cycle. The seine fleet was hurting so bad that they allowed the wild stocks to be removed from the allocation plan in order to get diversity in the fishery. Now the price of pinks are up, and the gillnetters are behind and seeking ways to even out the allocation. It is important to point out that when the seiners were behind, many were on the verge of bankruptcy. Now that the gillnetters are behind, they have never seen such prosperity. New boats are being built constantly. The gillnet economic pie keeps growing. The allocation numbers provided by ADFG regarding the economic

split of the fleet tell a story different than the numbers used for the triggers in the allocation plan. If the aggregate of PWS fisheries are considered (the original goal of the allocation plan), the two fleets are much closer in the numbers. Rather than tweaking the plan to favor one group or another, the entire area should be considered, which ironically comes close to meeting the goal of the allocation plan without changing any of the other allocation issues. In order for both fleets to be successful, diversity is required. Proposal 108 seeks to give AFK Chums to the gillnetters. If the allocation plan is addressed, this becomes a non-issue, as the gillnetters are not that far behind the seiners, and the trigger to give them more time and area would not be activated. If the gillnetters do get AFK Chums, the seiners become a one dimensional fishery. If Pinks crash, as in 2009, the fleet starves. Meanwhile, the gillnetters are able to fish all five species of salmon in multiple areas, such as the Copper River Flats, Esther, Eshamy, Main Bay, Coghill, and Unakwik. Proposal 109 seeks to release more chums at Esther and eliminate the Port Chalmers enhanced run. I oppose this proposal based on Proposal 107. Proposal 107 seeks to give the seiners Port Chalmers Chums back. This district does not provide gillnetters the same value it does to the seiners. It is another layer of protection in a much undiversified fishery. It allows fishermen to train new crewmembers and try out equipment before the peak of the Pink run hits. It also spreads a growing fleet out among several areas. Proposal 110 takes this a step further by allowing the seiners to spread out in the Southwest district. The main argument against this is that some gillnet fish will get intercepted. The June gillnet fisheries already intercept seine fish, both in wildstock Pink and enhanced Chum runs. Many AFK Chums were documented this year with gillnet marks on them. By allowing seiners to fish in more of the Southwest district, more of these seine allocated fish will end up in seine fish holds. Additionally, ADFG can use the June seiners in the Southwest district as a litmus of run strength and tool for managing the run throughout the rest of the summer. The diversity requirement is not limited to just the seine and gillnet fleets. Proposal 111 seeks to reduce or eliminate using Chums as a cost recovery tool when the allocation between the fleets is skewed. Once again, if the proper numbers are used for the allocation plan, or the allocation plan changes to time and area rather than ex-vessel economic value, this is a non-issue. PWSAC needs diversity in their cost recovery plan. Just as the seiners need Chums as insurance against poor Pink prices or poor run strength, PWSAC cannot put all their proverbial eggs in the Pink basket. Allocation issues can be addressed elsewhere. For the good of the fleet, PWSAC needs to be diversified in their cost recovery.

In addition to these comments, I also support the comments provided by NASA, Inc. The comments listed above are my personal views, and should not be taken as the position of NASA, Inc. I am available for further comment if required. Thank you for your time.

Jimmy Gabriel
(907) 575-7521
inseine.ak@gmail.com

Gregory R. Gabriel, Jr.
F/V *Miss Michelle*
Box 3392
Soldotna, AK 99669

Monica Wellard
Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Board Support Section
Via Fax 1-907-465-6094

November 18, 2011

RE: Personal Comments in SUPPORT/AMEND Proposal 101

Dear Board Members:

Thank you for considering my personal comments on Proposal 101. The comments that follow are my own personal views and although there may be fishermen or groups who agree or disagree, my views do not officially represent any group or individual other than myself.

Personal Background

I began commercial fishing in 1973 at the age of 13. I worked on a setnet site in Cook Inlet to gain experience so that I could get hired on for a half-share the next season. My compensation that first year was a folding buck knife. By the time I was sixteen, I was full share and skiff captain on the offshore sites. By eighteen I was fishing my own drift gillnet operation in Cook Inlet.

In 1992, I moved from Cook Inlet gillnetting to Prince William Sound seining. One of the reasons I moved to the Sound was because the allocation was spelled out in regulation. I naively thought that the seine fleet would split 50% of the ex-vessel value and that as long as I hit the average, I would do alright. When I bought my seiner and permit, I had never even seen a seine set or hauled back – I knew nothing of seining, but I had a lot of determination. I have been stubbornly seining PWS since the 1993 season, except 2009 when I seined in Kodiak because my boat was late coming out of the boatyard after extensive refurbishment.

I have also fished commercially for herring, crab, halibut, black cod, and Pacific cod. I've fished Kodiak, Bristol Bay, the Gulf of Alaska, and out of Dutch Harbor.

I employ three deckhands in addition to myself. My insurance is about \$10,000/year and I spend an average of about \$2,000/year meeting USCG requirements for safety at sea. Replacement

value of my net is about \$50,000, my skiff is over \$100,000, and replacement value of my seiner is well in excess of \$1,000,000. Annual maintenance and upgrades on the boat and net average over \$15,000/year. My fuel bill for 2011 was \$22,000. Salmon seining requires a high capital investment and a large annual overhead.

When the price of pink salmon dropped and there was no end in sight, I went back to school at the age of 40 and graduated cum laude from the University of Alaska, Anchorage with a B.A. in Economics. While at the UAA, I worked on projects for Dr. Gunnar Knapp, renowned fisheries economics professor. One of my projects included an examination of the PWS allocation plan and how the price of a permit reflected the actual allocative split among drift gillnet and seine gear.

The theory states that if the market value of a limited entry permit represents the net present value of an expected income stream produced from a fishery, then by comparing the market values of those permits, one can then make comparisons between fisheries and gear types based upon economic expectations. These market expectations can then be used to determine whether an allocation plan is achieving the expected allocation goal, or whether the market expectations indicate a different allocation goal is being met.

Given a 50-50% ex-vessel split, and the fact that there are approximately twice as many gillnet permits as seine permits, then the price of a seine permit should be higher than that of a gillnet permit. A value of twice that of a gillnet permit would be unlikely due to the higher capital investment and operating cost of a seiner, therefore if the allocation plan were working as expected, the value of a seine permit should be higher than that of a gillnet permit.

According to the CFEC, the relative values from 1982-1991 showed a seine permit to be worth about twice that of a gillnet permit. In 1992, the year the allocation plan was implemented, the value of a seine and gillnet permit were worth the same amount at approximately \$98,000.00. The following year, a gillnet permit became worth more than a seine permit, a trend that has not reversed. In fact for the years 1994-2007, a gillnet permit was worth, on average, approximately twice that of a seine permit, a complete inversion from what would be expected if the allocation plan were working as intended.

Additionally, a look at permit participation rates provides an indication to the relative health of a fishery. Again, according to the CFEC, the gillnet participation rate has remained virtually unchanged at nearly 100% of the limited entry permits in the fishery. On the other hand, the seine participation rates in the Sound have fluctuated from nearly 100% prior to the allocation plan, to 38% in the years leading up to the 2005 Board cycle. In 2009 the seine participation rate was 57.4% and in 2010 it was 64.9%. Although the numbers from the 2011 season are not yet available, due to the unprecedented pink salmon return combined with a high price in 2010, the 2011 participation rate should be higher than any year since implementation of the allocation plan.

After graduating from UAA, I attended the University of Washington School of Law at Gates Hall. While at UW, I participated in projects through the Environmental and Indian Law clinics, including a film documentary on Native subsistence issues in Alaska, including the effects of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill on Native subsistence patterns in PWS. I also participated in the petition to the federal government to pursue the reopener clause in the Exxon Valdez Settlement, to compensate the state and federal governments for long-term unforeseen damages caused by the oil spill.

I also participated in projects related to fisheries allocation under International Treaty and the Stevens Treaties in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. In particular, the Boldt decision that interpreted the Stevens Treaties and Indian fishing rights and allocations, as well as subsequent decisions upholding the Boldt decision for various fisheries.

After graduating from law school in 2006, I participated in the seine fishery until just before the bar exam, when I took a five day break to study for and take the Alaska bar exam, which I (whew!) passed on the first attempt. Although not actively practicing law at the present time, I am an active member of the Alaska bar in good standing.

Background - The 1991 Allocation Plan

The 1991 allocation plan was devised after extensive public input, as well as research and recommendations by the Department and PWSAC. During the period leading up to the allocation plan, the seine and drift gillnet gear types were bargaining on equal footing. Both gear types had economically viable fisheries and full participation in their respective fisheries. The agreed method to equitably allocate the fisheries in PWS was to give the set net fishermen 1% of the total ex-vessel value of the fishery, then to split the remaining 99% on a 50-50% basis to the gillnet and seine fleets.

The ex-vessel value was calculated on all Area E salmon harvested. In order to ensure the gillnet fleet met their percentage, a seine closure was implemented in the Southwest district prior to July 18, the seiners gave up their historic Coghill wild stock sockeye fishery, and gillnetters were given exclusive access to the Esther chum production prior to July 21.

Although there was a great amount of public input, and the allocation matrix was agreed to be the most fair, rational, and reasonable for each of the respective gear types, at the time of the plan a crystal ball that accurately forecast the future had yet to be invented. As a result, the original allocation plan failed to provide mechanisms for either gear type to achieve their respective percentage of the allocation in the event of an unforeseen circumstance.

With the benefit of hindsight, we now know that the one variable that most affects the allocation matrix is the price of pink salmon. At the time the allocation plan was implemented no one could have envisioned the price of RSW pink salmon falling to \$.05/lb and remaining depressed for over a decade.

The original allocation plan also placed the seine fleet in the situation of being limited to single specie harvest – pink salmon. In addition, the wild pink and chum salmon stocks in the Sound are highly variable, and often fail to return in numbers adequate for a common property fishery. Therefore, most years, the seine fleet is limited to harvesting enhanced pink salmon. This lack of diversification, coupled with the chronic and unprecedented low price for pink salmon, lead to the economic collapse of the seine fleet.

With fleet participation at an all time low, and average ex-vessel value to the seine fleet of only \$56,000, the seine fleet was desperate to gain any access to chum salmon to provide some diversity and economic stability to the fleet.

The 2005 Amendment

After several board cycles, the plan was amended in 2005 to provide some relief to the seine fleet. It should be noted that by this time, the seine fleet had few participating members, and were politically weak compared to the gillnet fleet. The gillnet fleet, with 100 % participation, were well represented at PWSAC, CDFU, and had plenty of members to lobby the Department. This set up a situation in which the gillnet fleet had an advantage economically and politically, and the seine fleet was grasping at straws. As a result of the diminished seine fleet and lack of a seine organization, there was far less input into the amendment than the original matrix.

The upshot of the 2005 amendment was to remove all wild stocks and Valdez enhanced pink and coho salmon stocks from the 50-50% matrix, and only consider PWSAC produced salmon. This drastically changed the original recipe and provided a windfall of \$5-8 million annually to the drift gillnet fleet. Additionally, no provision was implemented to provide seiners with access to traditional wild stocks at Coghill that were given up in the original matrix, even though they were not a part of the new matrix.

To meet the new 50-50% split, a “piggy-bank” approach was implemented in 1997 with a trigger point of 25% and then amended in 2005 to 45%. The piggy-bank provided exclusive access to Esther chums to the seine fleet if their percentage, based on a five-year rolling average and set at 45% was not met. If the gillnet fleet failed to meet their 45% threshold, then the gillnet fleet would gain exclusive access to Esther chums and the Port Chalmers remote release chum production.

Upon implementation of the amended plan, the gillnet dominated CDFU sued to prevent the seine gear group from gaining access to Esther chum production, thereby breaching its duty to the minority shareholders in CDFU and disenfranchising the seine fleet.

Present Situation

The withdrawal of wild stocks and VFDA stocks from the allocation matrix created an apparent economic imbalance in favor of seine fleet, with no apparent mechanism for the gillnet fleet to

achieve its 50% due to increasing pink salmon prices. It is my opinion that this imbalance is illusory, the gillnet fleet is well diversified by time and area, as well as by species. But for the withdrawal of wild stocks and VFDA stocks, the gillnet fleet and seine fleets would be quite close to their respective percentages with a seine fleet trigger implemented in three of the past five years and no gillnet trigger implemented (including year 2012). *See allocation calculations attached.*

PWSAC has shifted cost recovery to pink salmon to the extent possible; however, PWSAC cannot take all cost recovery from pink salmon without placing PWSAC at economic risk. Therefore, there is little or no room to alleviate the problem through cost recovery. It should be pointed out that although taking all the cost recovery from pink salmon would be a breach of fiduciary duty due to economic risk, the seine fleet assumes the same economic risk due to lack of diversity.

Given the regulation mandates a 50-50% split of PWSAC enhanced salmon, and the gillnet fleet has been chronically below 45% (four of the past five seasons including 2012), if the current matrix remains in regulation, then some action must be taken to increase the gillnet percentage. Failure to amend the plan or put in place a mechanism to achieve the gillnet percentage creates the potential for litigation by a gillnetter seeking to achieve their 50% allocation.

When discussing the allocation plan with other seiners, two schools of thought emerge. The first is that the seine fleet was sold down the road when the wild stocks and VFDA were removed from the matrix. The other school of thought is don't rock the boat, the seiners are ahead in the allocation. The "don't rock the boat" theory does not exactly endorse the current matrix; rather there is a perception that even to raise the question will lead to draconian measures against the seine fleet. If history is any guide, the law of unintended consequences seems to be on the side of the seiners who don't want to rock the boat – each time the allocation plan is reopened, the seine fleet loses more time and area.

Recommendation to the Board

After participating at numerous BOF meetings, starving as a seiner, and objectively reviewing the history of the allocation plan and reviewing both the shortfalls and benefits of the allocation plan, I humbly propose the following course of action through a board generated proposal.

First of all, the original allocation matrix should be reinstated. *See Alaska Board of Fisheries Findings #97-167-FB.* This matrix was reached by parties of equal bargaining power, with years of public input. The five-year rolling average should be kept as part of the plan. The five year rolling average mutes the year to year effects of run failure or a high price, yet provides information on the long term direction the allocation plan is headed. The seine fleet should regain exclusive access to Port Chalmers. The returns to Port Chalmers are insignificant in the scheme of providing percentage to the drift gillnet fleet, yet provides needed diversity to the seine fleet. The seine trigger providing access to Esther chums should be retained.

The allocation plan is driven almost exclusively by the price of pink salmon. If the seiners fall behind, only access to chums can bring the fleet up to their percentage. On the other hand, if the price of pinks continues to climb in relation to sockeye and chums, then the gillnetters will fall behind on their percentage. The only way to provide a mechanism to enable the gillnet fleet to reach their percentage would require access to lots of pinks. I would suggest that the gillnetters get exclusive access to Esther pinks with the caveat that the seiners would retain exclusive THA/SHA access to avoid quality issues, and the Perry Island subdistrict should be open (or a portion of, if there are wild stock concerns) concurrently with the other pink hatcheries to spread out the seine fleet and prevent excessive build-ups of pink salmon at Esther.

I have heard that processors don't want gillnet pink salmon. Based on my observations, I disagree. I know that the processor I fished for last year tried desperately to buy gillnet fish, both chum and pink. The processor I fished for in 2010 paid the same price for both gillnet and seine pinks. If there was a preference for seine pinks, a premium should have been paid for RSW. In the event the gillnet trigger were realized, the price of pinks would likely be at such a level that plenty of gillnetters would pick pinks and plenty of processor will buy them. In any event, I don't recall the market issue being part of the matrix. It was not so long ago that processors did not want any pink salmon, seine or gillnet, and seiners did not have markets.

This proposal would eliminate the current windfall to the gillnet fleet, address shortcomings in the original plan, and consider all stocks as was initially envisioned.

Another proposal would be to simply divide equally all of Esther production on an alternating basis, giving the gillnetters exclusive access to the THA/SHA during chums and giving the seiners exclusive access to the THA/SHA during pinks. During chums, when one gear type had access to Esther, the other gear type would fish Port Chalmers. This would shift approximately \$5 million to the seine fleet and erase most of the windfall now enjoyed by the gillnet fleet.

Given all of the public input into the original allocation matrix, the first proposal is far less radical and likely to achieve the percentages envisioned when the allocation plan was first implemented, is equitable to both fleets, and is therefore my recommendation to the board.

Thank you for your consideration of my personal comments. I am happy to respond to any inquiries from Board members, and look forward to participating in the committee of the whole.

Sincerely,



Gregory R. Gabriel, Jr.
F/V *Miss Michelle*

Calculation for Allocation Plan (VFDA & Wild Stocks included) - 5

year average

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2002	77.69%	22.31%	5.15%
2003	53.42%	46.58%	3.36%
2004	75.73%	24.27%	1.94%
2005	51.87%	48.13%	1.39%
2006	68.53%	31.47%	2.33%
Average:	63.74%	36.26%	2.68%

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2003	53.18%	46.82%	3.34%
2004	75.23%	24.77%	1.93%
2005	52.16%	47.84%	1.37%
2006	68.13%	31.87%	2.32%
2007	46.94%	53.06%	2.01%
Average:	56.30%	43.70%	2.15%

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2004	75.23%	24.77%	1.93%
2005	52.16%	47.84%	1.37%
2006	68.13%	31.87%	2.32%
2007	46.94%	53.06%	2.01%
2008	35.22%	64.78%	1.79%
Average:	49.82%	50.18%	1.87%

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2005	52.16%	47.84%	1.37%
2006	68.13%	31.87%	2.32%
2007	46.94%	53.06%	2.01%
2008	35.22%	64.78%	1.79%
2009	75.19%	24.81%	3.93%
Average:	51.55%	48.45%	2.20%

Calculation for PWS Hatchery (PWSAC ONLY) Allocation Plan - 5

year average

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2002	65.00%	35.00%	7.94%
2003	46.96%	53.04%	6.12%
2004	71.01%	28.99%	6.84%
2005	34.85%	65.15%	3.30%
2006	54.96%	45.04%	5.77%
Average:	52.43%	47.57%	5.97%

To be used for management year: 2008

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2003	44.31%	55.69%	6.41%
2004	71.02%	28.98%	6.85%
2005	34.45%	65.55%	3.25%
2006	54.50%	45.50%	5.73%
2007	33.79%	66.21%	4.94%
Average:	42.88%	57.12%	5.27%

To be used for management year: 2009

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2004	71.02%	28.98%	6.85%
2005	34.45%	65.55%	3.25%
2006	54.50%	45.50%	5.73%
2007	33.79%	66.21%	4.94%
2008	33.15%	66.85%	2.33%
Average:	37.88%	62.12%	3.67%

To be used for management year: 2010

Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2005	34.5%	65.5%	3.3%
2006	54.5%	45.5%	5.7%
2007	33.8%	66.2%	4.9%
2008	33.2%	66.8%	2.3%
2009	61.5%	38.5%	5.9%
Average:	41.0%	59.0%	4.0%

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Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2006	68.13%	31.87%	2.32%
2007	46.94%	53.06%	2.01%
2008	35.22%	64.78%	1.79%
2009	75.19%	24.81%	3.93%
2010	34.82%	65.18%	2.52%
Average:	45.13%	54.87%	2.41%

To be used for management year: 2011			
Year	DGN	PS	SGN
2006	54.50%	45.50%	5.73%
2007	33.79%	66.21%	4.94%
2008	33.15%	66.85%	2.33%
2009	61.54%	38.46%	5.88%
2010	36.00%	64.00%	3.25%
Average:	39.08%	60.92%	3.68%

To be used for management year: 2012

****Remember that set gillnet is taken off the top and then drift gillnet and purse seine spilt remaining 50/50!**

PWSAC, VFDA, & WILD STOCKS

Return Year	DGN	PS	SGN	Grand Total
2000	\$17,781,587.32	\$17,099,828.26	\$588,463.06	\$35,469,878.63
2001	\$18,223,201.18	\$12,391,063.71	\$963,446.25	\$31,577,711.14
2002	\$17,858,589.02	\$5,129,806.96	\$1,249,355.72	\$24,237,751.71
2003	\$16,754,298.50	\$14,747,847.05	\$1,089,945.99	\$32,592,091.54
2004	\$18,276,401.80	\$6,016,295.80	\$478,819.08	\$24,771,516.68
2005	\$20,462,301.25	\$18,767,661.33	\$543,004.61	\$39,772,967.18
2006	\$24,391,099.96	\$11,409,925.23	\$848,929.39	\$36,649,954.58
2007	\$31,221,270.80	\$35,295,591.68	\$1,365,872.13	\$67,882,734.61
2008	\$28,318,681.11	\$52,075,759.96	\$1,467,492.70	\$81,861,933.77
2009	\$31,822,403.30	\$10,500,614.41	\$1,730,198.80	\$44,053,216.51
Grand Total	\$225,109,834.23	\$183,434,394.38	\$10,325,527.74	\$418,869,756.36

PWSAC ONLY

Return Year	DGN	PS	SGN	Grand Total
2000	\$8,958,494.63	\$9,792,663.84	\$509,507.06	\$19,260,665.53
2001	\$8,294,369.15	\$3,845,376.07	\$954,643.60	\$13,094,388.83
2002	\$8,832,944.88	\$4,755,400.40	\$1,171,600.17	\$14,759,945.45
2003	\$6,939,202.61	\$8,719,617.77	\$1,071,690.31	\$16,730,510.70
2004	\$4,033,494.92	\$1,646,086.31	\$417,568.74	\$6,097,149.97
2005	\$4,369,411.29	\$8,312,855.08	\$426,090.84	\$13,108,357.21
2006	\$7,010,573.83	\$5,851,982.90	\$781,184.10	\$13,643,740.83
2007	\$8,365,676.84	\$16,394,815.50	\$1,287,859.45	\$26,048,351.80
2008	\$18,059,466.10	\$36,411,663.50	\$1,300,084.99	\$55,771,214.59
2009	\$15,553,268.89	\$9,722,044.68	\$1,578,784.57	\$26,854,098.13
Grand Total	\$90,416,903.15	\$105,452,506.05	\$9,499,013.83	\$205,368,423.03

These #'s are what were used to calculate above allocations.

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(Finding #97-02-FB)

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
FINDINGS REGARDING THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND
MANAGEMENT AND SALMON ENHANCEMENT
ALLOCATION PLAN (5 AAC 24.370)

At its meeting in Cordova, the Board of Fisheries (board) took staff reports, both oral and written, oral and written testimony from the public and advisory committee reports concerning the allocation of Prince William Sound salmon stocks between three different gear types; seine, drift gillnet and set gillnet. The current allocation plan is found in 5 AAC 24.370, the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan. The board had numerous proposals before it to change this particular regulation.

The history of attempts to establish allocations between the gear types goes back more than seven years and involves this board, the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC), the Regional Planning Team (RPT) and numerous members of the public. Despite the best efforts of all of these people, and because of changes in conditions and PWSAC practices, the allocation plan is currently not working in the manner intended.

For a historical perspective, the board reviewed and discussed how the current situation was created. The existing regulation arose out of an agreement between gear types facilitated by PWSAC, the RPT and the board. In a prior form of the regulation (5 AAC 24.370), the board expressly recognized the allocation policy adopted by PWSAC in May, 1990. This regulation has been in effect since 1991.

After hearing from the public, the board has determined that the allocation plan is generally acceptable to all of the parties involved in terms of its allocation percentages. Admittedly, the set gillnetters would prefer to have their allocation percentage increased from one percent (1%) to two point three percent (2.3%) of ex-vessel value, but since they have a small and singular fishery (Main Bay and Crafton Island subdistricts), their fishery will produce what it produces regardless of the percentage assigned. The two largest fisheries (seine and drift gillnet) still agree that their respective allocations should remain at forty-nine percent (49%) and fifty percent (50%) respectively, although there is evidence that the actual percentages should be forty seven point five percent (47.5%) for seiners, fifty one point five percent (51.5%) for drift gillnetters and one percent (1%) for set gillnetters (See letter from Board Chair Kay Andrew to Commissioner Carl Rosier, page 2, numbered paragraph three, dated February 13, 1994). There has been some public testimony concerning these percentages which vary by one and one-half percent (1.5%) from the percentages set forth in the regulations.

In this regard, it should first be understood that these allocations are not intended to be a specific allocation number for each gear type for each season, but rather a long-term goal or objective of the board which, if not realized over a long term (more than 2 board cycles), could

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result in a change in the allocation provisions of the regulation. Further, it is impossible for this board or the staff to manage the resource within one or two percentage points. Finally, in this board's opinion, it would be more appropriate for the gear types to agree on a range of percentages and agree upon a method for adjustment as has been done in other fisheries (See 5 AAC 33.364-Southeastern Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan).

The problem which was presented to the board is based upon two factors. The first factor is the dramatic reduction in pink salmon prices. The second factor is the current inability of PWSAC to fulfill that portion of its allocation plan which required additional production of fish. Simply stated, the problem arises from the fact that, over the last six (6) years, the average ex-vessel value for the drift gillnet fleet has been approximately seventy-five percent (75%) of the total ex-vessel value of all salmon (wild and enhanced) and the average ex-vessel value for the seine fleet has been approximately twenty-five percent (25%) of the total ex-vessel value.

This disparity is based upon an ex-vessel value based upon a combination of both wild and enhanced stocks. There is no debate as to the accuracy of these numbers. The only question here is to the use of both wild and enhanced stocks in calculating ex-vessel value. There is a significant debate going on between the seiners and the drifters over the inclusion/exclusion of wild stocks in the calculation of the ex-vessel value.

Ex-vessel value of both stocks were used in determining the historic percentages. However, the PWSAC policy statements which were presented to the board, all refer to enhanced stocks until the very end of the PWSAC Allocation Policy on Enhanced Salmon: An Explanation to Clarify Intent of Key Statements: Policy Clarification Statements, page 48, paragraph 6 where wild stocks were referred to as follows:

"6. It is the intent of the authors of the policy that production planning will attempt to achieve a balance of enhanced salmon harvest value. This intent is based on the assumption that established the historic basis for the allocation ratio. That is, wild stocks, averaged over time, were and will be harvested according to the balanced value ratio. Should this premise hold true, then a balance of enhanced salmon harvest value will maintain an economic balance between the gear groups. Only over time can this condition be achieved due to annual harvest value fluctuations. However, should it become apparent that economic balance trends away from the historic balance due to persistent failures of wild stocks, changing fish values, evolving environmental conditions, enacted laws regulations or any other factor(s) which may change the described balance, then production will be planned to rebalance the ratio such that the over-all economic balance in the fishery is maintained. This statement clearly supports the intent of the policy statement that "[t]his balance will be utilized in planning and production as a long term approximate projection goal anticipated to achieve equitable value in **returning salmon...**" (emphasis in the original).

Based on the foregoing language, it appears as if PWSAC was using both enhanced and wild stocks in its allocation determinations even though PWSAC could only allocate as to enhanced stocks. Further, members of the public who also served on the PWSAC board, on the allocation

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committee, who are commercial fishermen, and who are apparently very knowledgeable concerning the PWSAC allocation policy, state that all fish, both wild and enhanced, were to be included in the calculation of ex-vessel value.

However, this is strongly disputed by others, primarily drifters, who contend to the contrary. Some of these individuals are also knowledgeable, having been active in the development of the PWSAC allocation policy. This disagreement as to one of the fundamental precepts of the PWSAC allocation policy needs to be resolved by the board.

Further, of considerable importance to this board, is the fact that a prior board, when it adopted this regulation in 1991, stated its intent as follows:

"...to allocate the natural and enhanced salmon stocks in Prince William Sound in such a manner as to maintain the long-term historic balance between competing commercial users that existed since statehood and prior to any significant production from enhancement programs."

Thus, the prior board decided that allocation decisions would be based on both wild and enhanced stocks.

If both wild and enhanced stocks are used in the calculation of the ex-vessel value, the disparity over the last six years is as noted above. If only enhanced stocks are used in the calculation of the ex-vessel value, the disparity is minimal and no adjustments would be necessary.

Thus, this board first needs to decide which ex-vessel value to use in its allocation determinations. After discussion, the board determined that both wild and enhanced stocks would be used in its allocation decisions. The reasons for this decision include the prior board's determination, the testimony of the public, the written record presented to the board and, most importantly, the fact that the historic catch of all salmon stocks reflects a division between gear types substantially in line with decisions based on both wild and enhanced stocks.

Next, the board discussed the percentages themselves and, for the reasons stated above, determined that the percentages stated in the proposal (drift gillnet 50%, seine 49% and set gillnet 1%) represented an approximate allocation percentage for each gear group. It was stressed by the board in its discussions that it would much rather see a range for the allocation percentages, but that these specific percentages are of sufficient merit to be "recognized" by the board.

The board then discussed the department's determination of the ex-vessel value. Staff was solicited to comment. The staff's comments were to the effect that this provision was appropriate and feasible. Since some ex-vessel measuring tool is required, this is an acceptable method. This method was adopted by the board.

Subsection (d) was then discussed by the board. It was noted that this subsection is substantially identical to the existing regulation with only one change. The only change is found in subparagraph (5)(B) which allows the seine fleet to fish in previously closed waters because of

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a change in the coho fishery. Previously, the Noerenberg Hatchery was producing coho which was harvested by the drift gillnet fleet. Because of a disease situation, the hatchery has ceased production of these coho. The seine fleet was confined to an area to avoid harvesting these coho. With the pending absence of these coho, there is no reason to confine the seine fleet to any particular area. There, the regulation was amended so as to allow the seine fleet to fish in previously closed waters so long as the predominant species is pink salmon.

The board then discussed the "piggy bank" concept. This concept was originally developed by the fishermen who fish in this fishery as a method by which disparities in the allocation between gear types could be corrected in the short run. Corrections in the long run were intended to be handled by increased production by PWSAC. This may or may not occur. However, in the short run, there is no corrective action which can be taken based upon increased production. Such corrective action is both biologically and financially impossible. Thus, the only short term corrective actions which can be taken involve re-allocations between the two user groups; seiners and drift gillnetters.

From discussions with staff and the public, as well as the board's review of the written materials provided by staff and by the public, there appears to be two potential "piggy banks" areas within Prince William Sound; the enhanced chum salmon run at Port Chalmers in the new Port Chalmers Subdistrict and the enhanced chum salmon run in the Esther Subdistrict beginning June 1 through July 20. The Port Chalmers area is a traditional seine fishery. The Esther Subdistrict is traditionally (by agreement since 1990) a drift gillnet fishery during this period. Also with regard to these two "piggy banks", the potential harvest in the Port Chalmers Subdistrict is less than the potential harvest in the Esther Subdistrict. There is also a risk of interception of Coghill Lake bound sockeye salmon in the Esther Subdistrict. The board also noted that the seine fleet is more efficient than the drift gillnet fleet in harvesting salmon. Finally, the board took note of the problems at the Main Bay hatchery which will affect the sockeye return which, in turn, will effect the drift gillnet fleet which participates in the Main Bay fishery.

The board also discussed the fact that there is no way in which parity can be precisely maintained over the short run. Parity is a long-term goal. Originally, the allocation divisions were determined on a twenty year plus period. Thus, parity is something which should be achieved over a similar lengthy period. This conclusion, however, does not mean that shorter term parity is not an appropriate goal and that the board should not adopt regulations which tend, in the short run, to bring the gear types into compliance with the allocation percentages.

Based on the foregoing, the board decided to proceed with the "piggy bank" concept to adjust allocation disparities over the shorter term. The regulation adopted took into consideration the interception of Coghill Lake sockeye salmon by allowing the department to confine the more efficient seine fleet to a smaller area than the drift gillnet fleet in the Esther Subdistrict. By granting the drift gillnet fleet both the potential of a larger area, by permitting a dual gear fishery and by permitting the drift gillnet fleet to fish exclusively in the Port Chalmers Subdistrict, the board recognized both the difference in gear efficiency and the "richness" of the two "piggy bank" fisheries.

*previously
(97-02-FB)*

Finally, the board established 1997 as the "base" year. There will be no changes in the 1997 fishery in Prince William Sound. The seine fleet will fish in the new Port Chalmers Subdistrict. The drift gillnet fleet will have the exclusive right to fish in the Esther Subdistrict from June 1 to July 20. Only in 1998 and beyond, will any of the "piggy banks" be used for either gear group. The board expects this matter to be considered again in the next cycle.

In conclusion, the board completely and thoroughly reviewed the fishery and the competing gear types. By reaching its decision it put to rest over seven (7) years of dispute between the various gear groups. Finally, by adopting the new regulation, the board cleared up the previously existing regulatory problems.

At Sitka, Alaska

Date: January 29, 1997

Approved: 6/0/0/1 (Yes/No/Absent/Abstain)

Larry Engel
Larry Engel, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

5 of 5

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
November 18, 2011
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

I am a commercial fisherman in Area E, resident of Cordova, and support my wife and family thru a traditional, coastal Alaska lifestyle.

I oppose proposals 51, 54, and 55. This is a difficult topic. I do not want to deny anyone their right to harvest fish and/or game if their livelihood depends on it. The Chitina Dipnetters have some good arguments but fail to qualify for the eight criteria because the vast majority of its users cannot demonstrate a customary and traditional use. Their use is directly proportional to recent technological developments such as the automobile, good roads, freezers, etc. This is clearly shown in the number of participants in the fishery, as it has grown only in the latter part of the 20th century. Furthermore, the Board is instructed to develop policy with **respect** to the conservation and sustainability of the stocks. This is a fully allocated stock. Due to the nature of this fishery, the number of fish harvested is directly related to the number of participants. As the number of participants in the fishery inevitably increases, so will their take. With respect to the stock and its other users, this is clearly not sustainable.

I am not a subsistence user, though as a resident of Cordova, I qualify as one. I warn the board to oppose proposal 51. Cordova's subsistence users are dramatically different than the Chitina Personal Users. Recorded in their native heritage, is their use of salmon that clearly meets the eight criteria.

I support proposal 56. The AKDF&G needs authority over all user groups to sustainably manage, as outlined by the BOF. If they don't have the authority that general logic would submit, how could we be fair, and how could we ensure that one group or the other does not 'over use'? The individual user, no matter what group or gear type, cannot manage. The Department as a whole can and needs to oversee completely and justly.

I oppose proposals 72, 73, 74, and 75. We all want more fish. However, we can't all have more fish and expect the salmon to keep returning. The Board of Fish needs to continue to recognize the importance and tradition of commercial fishing to the state's economy and the livelihood of its many coastal fishing villages. We need to uphold and be consistent with the traditional uses of these stocks. As a Board of Fish you are charged with being fair in allocating these stocks. **The Personal User Group needs to share in the conservation burden.** There is no other State in the Union where residents are granted such liberal limits and opportunities to harvest such a wide variety of fish and game for their various personal uses. An increase in limits would either threaten the sustainability of the stocks, or 'steal' from other user groups. Increasing limits on already fully allocated stocks and even threatened stocks, such as the kings, should not happen.

I support proposal 81, but oppose (g) (in proposal 81). Combing drift nets, currents, boundaries, rocks and catching fish effectively makes for a multitude of situations and technical circumstances. It is often times necessary to hold a net with mechanical power in one spot for a vast array of reasons. For one it is necessary to hold a tight net so the net catches fish. Also,

there are emergency situations where one needs to hold the net in one spot to pull off a snag or prevent a snag. I am against 'intentional rocking down', and support further language to clarify. However, (g) would essentially prohibit a drift net to be fished on the beach, even when the current is slack, or near slack. Often times the fish run close to shore, and this would place unnecessary restrictions on the drift fleet. I would support a proposal clarifying 'rocking down' by addressing the speed of the current, and/or whether corks are being pulled under. The line between what is 'rocking down' and what is 'fishing on the beach' needs to be addressed in section (g). If it is not, law enforcement officials would have the right to give many innocent fishermen an expensive ticket.

I oppose proposals 101, 104, 105, 106 and 108. It is important for the Board to remain principled and uphold the original equality of PWSAC's allocation plan. The Northwest & Alaska Seiners Association is greedy and has lost its credibility as they are merely 'fishing' for policy that benefits them, at the expense of others. History shows a fluctuation of success amongst gear types, specifically regarding enhanced stocks. PWSAC is unique and successful. Its allocation plan **has** worked, contrary to their claims. Much like the AK BOF is charged with developing and evolving its policy and management strategies based on what works and what doesn't, the AKDF&G has a unique charge to uphold the allocation plan, based on what works and what doesn't. As the gap continues to grow, based on strong pink prices and returns, other measures within the guidelines of equality need to be taken. Differences could be made up in the areas of cost recovery or paying down PWSAC's debt.

Sufficient tools are already in place at the AKDF&G to ensure that wild stocks are protected, ie. deep gear restrictions, specific openers and closures and detailed boundary areas.

These proposals would take from the drift and set net user groups unfairly and are the typical result of people wanting something that belongs to someone else. The framework of a very successful aquaculture plan is in place and needs to be followed.

I oppose proposals 88 and 89. The seine fleet is once again trying to obtain more fishing areas citing an endangerment of wild stock escapements. The Department has sufficient tools in place to manage wild stock escapements effectively. I would support the examination of proposals from the AKDF&G, a neutral source, not the Northwest and Alaska Seiners Association, who seem to be 'fishing' for policy that benefits them, at the expense of the drifters. Historic boundaries should be upheld in the spirit of fairness, and enhanced stocks should be allocated according to the doctrines of PWSAC.

I oppose proposal 102 and support proposal 103. PWSAC's allocation policy should remain unchanged and upheld. As the set netters continue to be more and more successful in recent years, their growth needs to happen in accordance with PWSAC's allocation plan. We need the original mandates enforced, in the spirit of fairness, as is written.

I oppose proposal 117 and 118. These would lead to overly restricting the gillnet fleet and not allowing access to the run they have had traditional access to. The Board is instructed to continually develop and evolve their management models as they learn what works and what doesn't. Considering what is being uncovered by scientists in the northern Gulf of Alaska regarding Chinook by-catch and its effect on king numbers statewide, it would be unwise to make drastic changes that would unfairly restrict one gear group or the other at this point,

especially since we observed enormous sockeye returns during 2011. I think it would be unwise and unfair for the Board to permanently shut down the drift gillnet fleet from fishing inside the barrier islands until June 15th. This would be detrimental to the drift fleet during times of great abundance, such as 2011. There are sufficient management tools in place at the AK Department of Fish and Game to ensure the sustainability of the stocks as all user groups should share in the conservation burden.

I oppose proposals 114 and 115. These are unnecessary and radical changes that will seriously impact the lives of thousands. We have unique situations here in Alaska. As a whole our society will need to explore and engage in massive efforts to continue to feed itself. Aquaculture is an incredibly magnificent way to harvest the bounty of the ocean, and allow the individual citizen (as anyone can buy a limited entry permit) to bring fresh, wild salmon to market and start an economic engine for all to benefit.

Unlike other Pacific regions, Alaska's situation is different. We have had and continue to have sustainable management strategies in place to protect wild stocks. As a whole, the health of wild stocks in Area E are good, as the Copper River experienced a massive return and the wild pink stocks of PWS returned abundantly.

Aquaculture should be revered as great way for the state and country to meet the needs of its people providing quality seafood.

Thank you for your service, it is invaluable.

Jason R. Lee

PO Box 1441

Crodovala, AK 99574

Compeau's Inc.

4122 Boat Street • Fairbanks, AK 99709

Ph (907) 479-2271 • Fax (907) 474-9537

11-18-11

To: BOF Members

I am writing to provide input on three different BOF proposals:

I would like to see #43 and #55 Adopted.

#43- ADOPT-

The problem is not the guy on the charter boat trying to put a fish or two in the freezer for the winter. Harvest of halibut by those who charter with a licensed halibut captain aren't the problem causing a conservation concern for halibut stocks in PWS.

#55 ADOPT-

This one is so simple. We need to remember who is getting the use of the resource. Subsistence fisheries feed all Alaskans that need the fish from Alaskan waters, first and foremost, Personal use fisheries and commercial fisheries do not.

I would like to see #51 Opposed.

#51 OPPOSE-

(same reasons to adopt #55)

Thank you for your service to Alaska, and for considering Alaskans first when you make these decisions. Nothing is more important.

Sincerely

Craig Compeau
375 Parkland Drive
Fairbanks, Ak. 99712

Board of Fish

Valdez December 2011.

Proposal 43 Comments

All changes that protect Alaskan resources for Alaskans and their Families should be passed. Commercial harvest which negatively affect or deplete resources , in this case Halibut, which are easily accessed by Alaskans and their Families need to moved to areas not fished by Alaskans and their Families.

Sincerely,

Paul Holland

798 Capricorn

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Board of Fish

Valdez December 2011

Proposal 55 Comments

I was at the BOF meeting at which the Chitina Subdistrict's Subsistence classification was reversed to Personal Use. The outstanding fact which drove this decision was the stocking of the BOF with Commercial Fishers. This continues to this day and there is little hope for the BOF to acknowledge or accept it's legal and moral responsibility to manage Alaska's Fisheries for Alaskan's. With the vast majority of Cordova Fishers being NON-ALASKAN to demote Chitina Dipnetting from Subsistence is proof that we have a Non-Alaskan **Commercial** Board of Fish with priorities that reflect that.

To reinstate Subsistence Priority to the Chitina Subdistrict is clearly needed and the correct thing for the 10,000 Alaskans and their families who dipnet at Chitina. Or the BOF can continue to tell Alaskans and their families that they can wait in a long line behind NON-ALASKAN commercial fishers, which many of us hear as a very loud, "GO TO HELL DIPPERS" and "Step right up front non-Alaskan Commercial fishers, who we work for and advocate for".

Sincerely,

Paul Holland

798 Capricorn

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Board of Fish,

I oppose proposal# 43.

I historically have longlined Prince William Sound (PWS) for halibut and sable fish and have earned a significant portion of my income doing so. This proposal would reduce allowable area for the PWS Sable fish permit holders to an unworkable boundary in relation to the number of permits held and would destroy the fishery. It would also force me to go outside the sound for halibut, which would affect safety issues in operation of my 32' boat.

The by catch conservation issue of PWS fishing is already addressed in allowable percentages of by catch which causes me to choose my sets according to traditional high by catch areas.

This proposal is an allocation issue. Charter Fishermen are commercial fishermen who seek the exclusive resources of PWS and are not justified to exclusive access to the resources.

Please vote NO on proposal # 43.



Deborah A S Z Eckley

P O Box 1274

Cordova, AK 99574

Board of Fish

I oppose proposal #43, which would cause my Sablefish fishery in PWS to be crippled. I fish for halibut and Sablefish in PWS with hook and line commercially, and have for many years. This proposal reflects the wishes of a few who have tried to create a local area management plan for themselves at the BOF several times before. The proposal has no grounds for biomass concern or the fishing conflict. We fish 350 fathoms only one mile from shore. This proposal would eliminate our ability to make these sets. We also have very seldom see any other gear types fishing in the areas that are identified as a concern at the time of year we fish. The economic impact on the commercial sablefish fishery would be great. This is an allocation issue and should be dismissed. Another group that would be greatly affected by this proposal would be the subsistence halibut long line group. They typically fish close to shore in small boats and would eliminate this access.

The managers have modeled the Prince William Sound as a whole; if you begin cutting it into chunks 3 miles off shore their historical data is dead. An enforcement issue exists when you try to keep your gear from drifting as it sinks for over one half hour to the bottom. You may be setting in open water and hope it does not drift in PWS 's currents into closed water. I feel this is a terrible proposal. Please vote it down.

Robert Eckley

PO Box 1274

Cordova, AK 99574

BOARD OF FISH Nov. 18, 2011

Sirs,

Thank you for your dedication and service with the Board of Fish and for the opportunity to comment on these important issues. I have lived in Alaska most of my life and have made my living, supported my family and the local economy through commercial fishing here for the last 29 years. Commercial fishing is an important part of the local and state economy.

PROPOSAL 54 and 55:

I urge the board to oppose proposals 54 and 55. I do not believe that the Chitina dipnet fishery should be classified as a subsistence fishery. Subsisting on fish and wildlife in its traditional sense conjures up an image of rural living and economic circumstances in which one relies heavily on local fish and game for survival. I do not see the Chitina dipnet fishery and those who utilize it as subsistence oriented.

PROPOSALS 72, 73, 74, 75, and 117

Please oppose these proposals. Commercial harvest of Copper River sockeye and king salmon are a traditional and allocated resource. These runs have been well managed by ADF&G with escapement goals met resulting in a healthy resource. To insure this, mandatory inside closures are in place for the commercial fleet, also management has the tools of emergency orders to close areas to commercial harvest when necessary. It should be at the managements' discretion as to harvests limits upriver for the sake of escapement goals. All user groups need to share the burden of escapement accountability.

PROPOSAL 81

Please oppose proposal 81. By deleting the word "intentionally" in the language of this proposal: Strong currents and fishing in shallow waters are a reality in traditional gillnetting methods. Unseen and undetectable snags or hangups exist and are of constant concern to fishermen. These can cause damage to the net and result in lost fish and fishing time. Removing the word "intentionally" will add insult to injury when the fisherman is fined after his net get ripped up on an underwater rock. "Intentionally" must stay in the language. Also, using mechanical methods to hold shape in a gillnet is standard procedure for gillnetting. Stages of the tide and variations in the speed of the current in a given area between one end of the net to the other require towing to keep the net in any kind of effective shape and avoid snagging during a drift. I oppose proposal 81.

BOARD OF FISH Nov. 18, 2011

PROPOSAL 90

I would like to see this proposal amended by adding more latitude and longitude points to better illustrate the historical area of the Eshamy district. This proposal as written does not reflect the historical one nautical mile boundary in the northern most portion of the district.

PROPOSALS 88, 89, 92, 101, 104, 105, 106 108, AND 110

I strongly oppose all these proposals and urge the BOF to oppose them. They are an attempt to derail the PWS Allocation Plan. Increasing time and area for the PWS seine fleet is not justified. The purpose of the allocation plan is to maintain a 50% split of the total ex-vessel harvested value between the drift gillnet and seine fleets. The last two years have shown that the seine fleet has exceeded their 50% by far. The plan was put into place to provide a fair and equitable allocation among the user groups in PWS and reduce conflicts. The seine fleet is benefiting with the lion's share of the harvest in spite of the intentions of the allocation plan. The drift gillnet fleet has not received its fair share of the allocation. These proposals will only broaden the gap of disparity, adversely affect the gillnet fleet, and create conflicts between the groups. The allocation plan was proposed by these user groups and approved by the BOF and should stay that way. Please oppose these proposals!

Proposal 114 and 115

Please oppose proposal 114 and 115. My family relies on PWS hatchery chums. The concern of "overgrazing" the North Pacific is ludicrous with no adverse effects of hatchery stocks on wild stock being documented.

Proposal 118

Please oppose Proposal 118. Closures inside the barrier islands already exist. ADF&G management can close this area additionally when they see it as required for the strength of the run. Professional biologists should manage the CR fishery. As far as sonar counts are concerned; many times the sonar is deployed late after many fish have passed due to ice conditions on the Copper River.

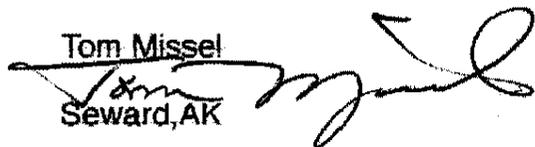
BOARD OF FISH Nov. 18, 2011

Proposal 96

Please oppose proposal 96. The 4th of July is the peak of the salmon run in Main Bay. Ample opportunities for sport fishing abound just outside the gillnet district where large numbers of fish travel. What the sport fishers perceive as animosity is actually the gillnet fishermen's concern for their nets. Every year, gillnets are substantially damaged by sport boat who believe that the fish only exist where the fleet is fishing. Running their net is a way for the gillnet fisherman to make the sport boat aware that there is a net in the water and avoid damage and financial hardship that this damage causes. Many sport fishermen fish without conflict with the commercial fleet. There is no reason to close Main Bay on the 4th of July.

Thank you

Tom Missel
Seward, AK

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Missel', is written over the typed name and location. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Ak. Dept. of Fish and Game

Board Support Section

Board of Fish Members

I am a born and raised Alaskan with 33 years of experience fishing in the Copper River/PWS

I am wholeheartedly opposed to Proposals 72,73,74, and 75

Proposal 81

I am opposed to changing the wording in (c)

I am opposed to changing the wording in (f)

I am extremely opposed to (g), Being able to mechanically work the net is a logistical necessity. It's vitually impossible to work a gillnet without using power to manipulate it . There are many different situations which demand power to viably keep the nets in proper functioning positions. It would be a safety concern. It would also be impossible to enforce this. My opinions are drawn from 33 years of experience as a gillnetter.

Proposal 117

I am opposed to 117

There is no justification to change the SEG if the Dept. does not have a concern.

Proposal 118

I am opposed to 118 .

The inside closures proposed would severely restrict us as fisherman in this area. The current management plan allows for conservation in the fishery and also gives the commercial fleet an opportunity to harvest the resource with economic viability. There is also a safety issue involved with the fleet inside the barrier islands as weather and ocean conditions can play a part in the harvest, restricting our ability to fish during the times allowed. The Flats is one of the most dangerous places to fish. Lives have been lost going in and out of the bars during storms because we have to subject ourselves to the danger, with our short time allowed to fish. The inside areas are traditional harvest areas dating far back in history, and the fishery has always been sustained, as it is, by the fishermen, with conservation in mind.

Sincerely,

Peter Brockert

P.O.Box 2326, Cordova, Ak. 99574

Alaska Board of Fish

11/13/11

Concerning proposals 54 & 55: OPPOSED

I'm an Alaska resident who lives in Cordova and makes my living as a commercial salmon gillnetter harvesting market resources originating from the Copper River. A large portion of my town's income comes from harvesters like myself who not only support local businesses but provide for the enhancement of fish stocks that return to the Copper for all user groups to utilize. Thru our Gulkana hatchery the dependability of consistent fish runs is encouraged...for the past 3 decades. Cordova is a remote town and as a whole virtually 'subsists' on the fruits of the Copper River and has traditionally.

It seams each Board cycle that hears issues regarding our area's resource management brings a different angle of the same theme....Traditional vs. Personal use classification of the upper Copper River resource.....

Any way I look at it I just can't see a traditional subsistence activity as one where the participant has to drive past a Costco hundreds of miles at great cost to harvest the same fish that can be bought in their neighborhood at less cost. I'd sympathize if there was no close source nearby....but.....with the price of fuel and mechanical costs associated...it just doesn't pencil out to me.

Another problem that may well arise with a great influx of dipnet participation is the lack of adequate law enforcement to oversee activities. THAT has always been a problem and remains so to this day. Too much pressure via fish-wheels spinning unattended endlessly coupled with over-harvest during thin runs and trampling of spawning grounds via foot and ATV's makes more accessibility by the masses of this sensitive habitat frightening. Please vote to keep present regulations unchanged.

Concerning Proposals 72, 73, 74, 75 : OPPOSE

I think the regulations and bag limits are fine as they are...for participants' and management's sake.....please vote to uphold the present regulations.

Concerning Proposal 76 : SUPPORT

I support this delay of Personal use/ Dip-netter's season to aid in getting more fish up into the spawning grounds...and limiting the availability of fish-wheel use. Too many fish are taken when so many are allowed to use a fish-wheel...to the point where it's easy to abuse the privilege. Key to much of this is much more active enforcement of laws already on the books...much like that of the commercial fishing fleet.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and dedication to the process.

Sincerely,
Cliff Ward

204 1st St, Cordova AK 99574

BOF 2011, resident fisher comments

11/18/11

I'm a resident Area E salmon drift gill-netter...having participated in many net fisheries over the past 35 years. PWS is my main area of participation and concern.

I SUPPORT the following proposals:

79). Enforcement can't be everywhere to oversee that all participants play by the rules. Simplify the rules so that those breaking them are much more obvious via standardizing all net depths... Port Chalmers and the rest. Those using deep gear will be difficult to detect but may well be turned in by peers...

77) Makes sense to allow PWS participants same rules as elsewhere in this case. I support for sake of efficiency, safety, enforcement, and economy of operation.

81) A 'Drift gill-nett' is just that....adrift....not set. I'm sick of seeing operators w/ anchored gear. it's unfair to others that play by the rules...ADF&G is right on this.

103)Set-net site operators have been doing a little too well consistently at the expense of the drift fleet. This new 'trigger' would set things right...and fair.

107, 109, 111, 112) all address the inequality of the allocated hatchery fish. Since the price of pinks has surged and the numbers of seine permits participating in the harvest there has developed a need to re-adjust the pieces of the common property pie among all involved. Mr Lorentzen gives a variety of solutions to choose from. I think a combination of them all would address the persistent imbalance we're experiencing...

I OPPOSE all the proposals introduced by the seine organizations or individual seine permit holders that propose to take away resource from the gillnet fleet, whether it be both groups fishing the same area concurrently, gillnetters excluded from traditional fishing areas, time/season restrictions other than those we already have, etc. Seems like these proposals are brought forward by that faction time and time and time again.

Remember, these are the same seiners that excluded even others of their own gear-group from having a market for their fish...excluding many permit-holders from participating at all during the lean years when they allowed the buyers to drop their price into the single digit cents! I don't know what drives them, but I'll give them the benefit of the doubt and just say GREED!

Of course it doesn't help that there's no more PWS Herring fishery, Thanks to EVOS!

43) I OPPOSE this proposal as it takes away traditional commercial fishing grounds for small vessel longliners that may otherwise have no other area as option due to safety and/or range restrictions. Perhaps some areas could be considered off-limits to Com. long-lining, but not the whole sound....some areas that are the only places that produce black-cod!

Thanks for your time, consideration, and sacrifice.

204 1st St,
Sincerely,
Cordova AK
2 of 2



EDWARD
Public Comment #85



PURSE SEINE VESSEL OWNERS ASSOCIATION

1900 W. NICKERSON ST., #320
SEATTLE, WA 98119-1650

TEL. (206) 283-7733

FAX. (206) 283-7795

November 18, 2011

VIA FACSIMILE (907) 465 -6094

Monica Welland, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115826
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: Prince William Sound Board of Fisheries Meeting

Dear Ms. Welland:

The Purse Seine Vessel Owners Association ("PSVOA") submits the following comments for Board consideration for the Prince William Sound Board of Fisheries meeting in Valdez from December 2-7, 2011. PSVOA represents purse seine vessel owners throughout Alaska and the Northwest, including Prince William Sound.

PSVOA recognizes that many of the commercial salmon proposals are allocative in nature. The principal gear types are set gillnet, drift gillnet, and purse seine. PSVOA generally supports efforts to provide economic diversity to the purse seine fleet through time and area proposals and other proposals that maintain the historic harvest percentages for each fleet as originally outlined in the 1991 Prince William Sound Salmon Allocation Plan. With the benefit of hindsight, we know that the price ratio of pink salmon to sockeye and chum salmon is the one variable with the most impact on the allocation parity. During the years leading up to the 2005 Board meeting, the price of pink salmon remained at unprecedented low prices, and the seine fleet needed some economic diversity and access to chum salmon stocks to meet their historic allocation percentage.

With the recent increase in the value ratio of pink salmon to sockeye and chum salmon, the seine fleet appears to be ahead in the allocation percentage as currently written. PSVOA respectfully requests that the Board carefully consider the effects of the 2005 amendment to the allocation plan, and the unintended consequences that may have ensued or may arise if the allocation plan is altered. In the interest of equitable division of the salmon resources in Prince William Sound, serious consideration should be given to the original allocation scheme that considered both wild and enhanced stocks and the respective historical harvest percentages, as well as Board precedent that maintained and recognized those historical harvest percentages.

PSVOA recognizes the need to equitably allocate the salmon resources in Prince William Sound. However, as an association representing purse seine vessel owners, PSVOA also recognizes the need to provide stability to the respective fisheries. An allocation plan should strive for

November 18, 2011

Page 2

consistency and meet its goals over a period of time. Knowing the impact of pink salmon value ratios on the allocation plan, PSVOA is concerned that, as currently written, the allocation plan will necessitate some adjustment to meet the drift gillnet percentage at the upcoming Board meeting, or a future meeting. PSVOA again urges the Board to consider the wisdom of the 2005 amendment and to respect the precedent and findings of those Boards prior to 2005, before removing time and area from the seine fleet to meet the current allocation percentages.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Kehoe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Robert R. Kehoe, Executive Director
Purse Seine Vessel Owner's Ass'n

PURSE SEINE VESSEL OWNERS ASSOCIATION

410 CALHOUN AVENUE, SUITE 206

JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

Phone: (907) 523-3004 E-mail: rfk@psvoa.com**WASHINGTON OFFICE**

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(888) 284-7733

November 18, 2011

VIA FACSIMILE (907) 465 -6094

Monica Welland, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115826
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: Prince William Sound Commercial Salmon--Management & Allocation Plans

Dear Ms. Welland:

The Purse Seine Vessel Owners Association ("PSVOA") submits the following comments for Board consideration for the Prince William Sound Board of Fisheries meeting in Valdez from December 2-7, 2011. PSVOA represents over 400 purse seine vessel owners operating along the West Coast and throughout Alaska, including Prince William Sound.

PSVOA recognizes that many of the commercial salmon proposals are allocative in nature. The principal gear types are set gillnet, drift gillnet, and purse seine. PSVOA generally supports efforts to provide economic diversity to the purse seine fleet through time and area proposals and other proposals that maintain the historic harvest percentages for each fleet as originally outlined in the 1991 Prince William Sound Salmon Allocation Plan. With the benefit of hindsight, we know that the price ratio of pink salmon to sockeye and chum salmon is the one variable with the most impact on the allocation parity. During the years leading up to the 2005 Board meeting, the price of pink salmon remained at unprecedented low prices, and the seine fleet needed some economic diversity and access to chum salmon stocks to meet their historic allocation percentage.

With the recent increase in the value ratio of pink salmon to sockeye and chum salmon, the seine fleet appears to be ahead in the allocation percentage as currently written. PSVOA respectfully requests that the Board carefully consider the effects of the 2005 amendment to the allocation plan, and the unintended consequences that may have ensued or may arise if the allocation plan is altered. In the interest of equitable division of the salmon resources in Prince William Sound, serious consideration should be given to the original allocation scheme that considered both wild and enhanced stocks and the respective historical harvest percentages, as well as Board precedent that maintained and recognized those historical harvest percentages.

PSVOA recognizes the need to equitably allocate the salmon resources in Prince William Sound. However, as an association representing purse seine vessel owners, PSVOA also recognizes the need to provide stability to the respective fisheries. An allocation plan should strive for consistency and meet its goals over a period of time. Knowing the impact of pink salmon value ratios on the allocation plan, PSVOA is concerned that, as currently written, the allocation plan will necessitate some adjustment to meet the drift gillnet percentage at the upcoming Board meeting, or a future meeting. PSVOA again urges the Board to consider the wisdom of the 2005 amendment and to respect the precedent and findings of those Boards prior to 2005, before removing time and area from the seine fleet to meet the current allocation percentages.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert F. Kehoe". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Robert F. Kehoe, Executive Director
Purse Seine Vessel Owner's Ass'n

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094

Proposals 88, 89, 92, 101, 104-106, 108, and 110: OPPOSE

If not out of respect for themselves, then out of respect for the Board of Fisheries and everyone else involved in this process, the seine fleet should stop these ridiculous, repeated attempts at allocation grabs every cycle. In fact, due to the extreme imbalance in the most-recent five-year harvest percentages, the seiners should be embarrassed at these latest attempts to steer more allocation their way.

Proposal 81: OPPOSE

I am in opposition to this proposal for the following reasons:

- It is even more ambiguous than current law. Section (g) "*vessel in substantially the same geographical location*" is vague and open to interpretation. It is sure to generate debate between fishermen and enforcement on the grounds and in court.
- It is often necessary, especially in wind, to tow on drift gear to maintain its shape. On days with little current, doing so results in maintaining *substantially the same geographical location* even if there is no lead line contact with the bottom.
- There are many occasions when fish run in very shallow water and we have to fish on the beach. If the deep end of the gear is not contacting the bottom, it will flag and fish will lead around the gear. In these instances, it is necessary to tow on the deep end to maintain net shape and to keep the gear from interfering with other fishermen or to prevent it from becoming damaged on pinnacles.
- Cleaning up buildups of fish in bays efficiently is important to maximizing the value of the fish because they become dark quickly and also to reduce potential for straying. The bays are small and we almost always have to have at least one end of the gear in shallow water with lead line on the bottom. Many fishermen crowd the bays for these cleanups and if the deep end of gear was at the mercy of the current, there would be increased conflict and damage as nets full of fish would tangle.
- It will indirectly result in allocating more Eshamy District fish to setnetters and they already exceed the target allocation.

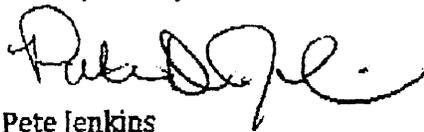
- Inside fishing on the flats is conducted in shallow, uncharted, silty water. Occasionally while setting gear we will accidentally ground on a sand bar that wasn't present previously. There is often nothing that can be done except to wait for rising tide to refloat the vessel; the gear cannot be retrieved. This proposal would result in that being a crime.

I understand that the current enforced requirement is that neither end of the gear can be fastened to the beach (either by tying to trees or rocks or by use of anchors), and that all corks and buoys must be floating (not dry or sunk). This is not ambiguous, is easy to distinguish by fishermen and enforcement, and easy to document non-compliance through the use of photographs. There should be no change.

Proposals 72-75, 117, and 118: OPPOSE

I oppose these proposals because the commercial fleet has already been restricted to reduce harvest of these fully allocated stocks. Any waste is criminal, and based on anecdotal information I have heard personally from upriver users, the degree of waste is often significant. The limits are too high, there is little enforcement, and people seem to have an attitude that taking too much does not hurt anything. None of the commercial catch is wasted; it feeds people and benefits the economy of the state and nation.

Thank you for your consideration.



Pete Jenkins

2400 Tasha Drive

Anchorage, AK 99502



Cordova District Fishermen United
PO Box 999 | 509 First Street | Cordova, AK 99574
phone: (907) 424 3447 | fax: (907) 424 3430
web: www.cdfu.org | email: cdfu@ak.net

November 18, 2011

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: 2011 PWS & UPPER COPPER/UPPER SUSITNA RIVERS FINFISH MEETING

Dear Chairman Johnstone,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Proposals as part of the 2011 PWS & Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Rivers Finfish meeting in Valdez.

Attached, you will find written comments prepared by Cordova District Fishermen United on behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the commercial fishing fleet in Prince William Sound.

We trust that the points we raise in these comments provide you with sufficient information to aid your final determinations during this regulatory cycle. If you require further clarification on any of the points we raise, we welcome questions either during the public testimony portion of the meeting or at any other time preceding deliberations.

Sincerely

Alexis Cooper
Acting Executive Director



Serving The Fishermen Of Area E Since 1935



Cordova District Fishermen United 2011 Board of Fisheries Written Comments

Prop	Position	Comments
43	OPPOSE	<p>CDFU opposes this proposal. It is unclear that local depletion within Prince William Sound is caused by commercial bottom gear practices. Abundance of halibut in general is down. Commercial halibut quota has been steadily reduced over the last several years leading to a reduction in commercial harvest.</p> <p>Implementation of this regulation would virtually eliminate the viable and valuable commercial blackcod fishery within Prince William Sound.</p> <p>This type of proposal would have to result from a LAMP process, which would require all stakeholders sitting at the table, identifying a problem and coming up with a solution with a high degree of consensus.</p> <p>It should be noted that the only LAMP in the state is around Sitka where commercial and charter operations are excluded and subsistence and unguided sport users are allowed.</p>
44	NA	
45	NA	
46	SUPPORT	
47	SUPPORT	.CDFU supports concurrent openings for groundfish fisheries to reduce wanton waste. CDFU acknowledges that ADF&G needs more funding to study the abundance of skate populations.
48	SUPPORT	CDFU supports this proposal in order to reduce waste and encourage the development of markets for this species. CDFU acknowledges that ADF&G needs more funding for abundance surveys for spiny dogfish.
49	NA	
50	SUPPORT W/ AMENDMENTS	Amend the language to explicitly allow <i>only</i> existing herring permit holders eligibility for the special experimental permit for product testing. CDFU supports the author's intent to open the door for discussion of the possibility of a future PWS herring fishery.
51	OPPOSE	CDFU supports the positions and comments submitted by the Native Village of Eyak and the Cordova Fish and Game Advisory Committee.
52	NA	
53	NA	
54	OPPOSE	This issue was extensively deliberated at a special meeting held in March of 2010 where the Board of Fish unanimously voted against reclassifying the Chitna subdistrict a subsistence use fishery. To legally justify a review of this issue at this time one of the following three things must occur. There must be an introduction of "significant new information", an error in application of the 8 criteria or a court decision mandating a review of the current finding. It is

NA=NO ACTION, N=NEUTRAL, O=OPPOSE



Cordova District Fishermen United 2011 Board of Fisheries Written Comments

		hard to believe that in the 21 months since the March 2010 meeting and decision there is any significant new information justifying a review of this classification.
55	OPPOSE	This proposal disregards the multiple times since 2003 this issue was dealt with, most recently and extensively in 2010.
56	NA	
57	NA	
58	NA	
59	NA	
60	NA	
61	NA	
62	NA	
63	NA	
64	NA	
65	NA	
66	NA	
67	NA	
68	NA	
69	NA	
70	NA	
71	NA	
72	OPPOSE	All user groups must share the burden of conservation equally.
73	OPPOSE	This is a fully utilized resource upon which EO restrictions have been placed on Sport and PU groups and time and area restrictions have been placed on commercial users. The burden of conservation must be shared equally.
74	OPPOSE	This proposal would undermine ADF&G's ability to effectively manage the resource by changing management strategies in place since 1989.
75	OPPOSE	Additional opportunity already exists in times of abundance via the use of supplemental permits.
76	NA	
77	NA	
78	NA	
79	NA	
80	NA	
81	NA	
82	NA	
83	NA	
84	NA	
85	NA	
86	NA	
87	NA	

NA=NO ACTION, N=NEUTRAL, O=OPPOSE



Cordova District Fishermen United 2011 Board of Fisheries Written Comments

88	NA	
89	NA	
90	NA	
91	NA	
92	NA	
93	OPPOSE	
94	OPPOSE	Please continue visual marker placement at the most commonly fished lines. Visual markers are the best tool for the orderly execution of commercial fisheries where lines are involved. CDFU acknowledges that ADF&G needs funding to continue the use of visual markers.
95		
96	OPPOSE	If there is a harvestable surplus ADF&G must open the fishery. Fisheries management decisions must be biologically based.
97		
98	NO ACTION	
99	NA	
100	NA	
101	NA	
102	NA	
103	NA	
104	NA	
105	NA	
106	NA	
107	NA	
108	NA	
109	NA	
110	NA	
111	NA	
112	NA	
113	NA	
114	NA	
115	NA	
116	OPPOSE	The proposal cannot effect conservation or allocation. The fish kept for homepack would be sold commercially if homepack were limited or eliminated. Also Cordova's subsistence needs are met largely by homepack retention of commercially caught fish. This is reflected by Cordova's unique two level ANS finding.
117	OPPOSE	There are no stocks of concern and the ADF&G does not see the need to adjust the current management plan SEG of 24,000 or more kings as stated under 5AAC 24.361
118	OPPOSE	Gillnet Division

NA=NO ACTION, N=NEUTRAL, O=OPPOSE



Cordova District Fishermen United 2011 Board of Fisheries Written Comments

119	OPPOSE	Visual markers are the best tool for the orderly execution of commercial fisheries where lines are involved. CDFU acknowledges that ADF&G requires more funding in order to provide visual markers.
120	NA	
121	NA	
122	NA	
123	NA	
124	NA	
125	NA	
126	NA	
127	NA	
128	NA	
129	NA	
130	NA	
131	NA	
132	NA	
133	NA	
134	NA	
135	NA	
136	NA	
137	NA	
138	NA	
139	NA	

NA=NO ACTION, N=NEUTRAL, O=OPPOSE

Lynn Potter
P. O. Box 1472
919 Chase Avenue
Cordova, AK 99574
Phone # 907-424-5226

Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
Board support section
Board of Fish Members
FAX# (907)465-6094

RECEIVED

NOV 18 2011

BOARDS

RE: REGULATION PROPOSAL # 43

Proposal 43 - I oppose Proposal 43 for the reasons listed below and I would like to add that because commercial longline fishing efforts are so well documented, transparent and enforceable (in direct contrast to subsistence, sport and charter fishing) that makes our industry an easy target.

I would urge the board to resist the urge to do what is easiest or most popular and instead take a hard look at bringing a lot more documentation, transparency and enforcement to the activities of charter, sport and subsistence operations that we really know very little about in a real effort to bring balance to the equation.

1. Similar proposals to the BOF in the past regarding conflict over fishing grounds have been determined to fall under the Local Area Management Plan process, which requires collaboration among stakeholders to identify problems and find solutions.
2. There is no conservation concern for rockfish, lingcod, halibut, pacific cod, or other groundfish stocks harvested by the commercial fleet, primarily longlines. The recreational harvest of halibut has risen in recent years, even though the halibut stocks as a whole are in decline. The commercial harvest of halibut in PWS is probably in decline because of declining stocks, and fewer fishermen using the Sound. The recreational sector harvests significantly higher amounts of rockfish and lingcod in PWS than the commercial sector, and these harvests continue to increase. Even though the rockfish bag limit was reduced, rockfish harvests by the recreational sector have gone up. The recreational sector also discards huge amounts of rockfish that then die. If there is a depletion problem, the recreational sector impact on these resources must be reviewed.
3. PWS has historically been an important fishing area for small boats delivering to local communities. Longlining for halibut and blackcod in PWS is an important part of many fishing businesses that operate in PWS. This proposal will force many small boat fishermen to fish outside of PWS, at times of the year when weather is generally worse. This increases fuel costs and raises safety issues. This proposal also eliminates the primary fishing areas for blackcod, and would destroy this fishery.

I urge you to OPPOSE Proposal 43

My family and I along with various crewmen over the last 30 years have counted on the ability to utilize the resources close to town. Our weather and the small vessel size of the local fleet makes this a really important piece of the economic and job sustaining of our community here in Cordova.

My thanks to the Board of Fish for their interest in just how these regulations will affect real people struggling to stay economically viable.

Lynn Potter
P. O. Box 1472
919 Chase Avenue
Cordova, AK 99574

Owner Operator of the Vessel Good News out of Cordova
Phone # 907-424-5226

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Phone

Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
Board support section
Board of Fish Members
FAX# (907)465-6094

Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
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Board of Fish Members
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RE: I SUPPORT THE CDFU GILLNET DIVISION POSITIONS.

I would like to express my support for the positions put forth by the CDFU Gillnet Division positions that follow and I would like to add that because commercial salmon fishing efforts are so well documented, transparent and enforceable (in direct contrast to subsistence, sport and charter fishing) that makes our industry an easy target.

I would urge the board to resist the urge to do what is easiest or most popular and instead take a hard look at bringing a lot more documentation, transparency and enforcement to the activities of charter, sport and subsistence operations that we really know very little about in a real effort to bring balance to the equation. I believe that our commercial salmon fishermen behave as concerned and cooperative partners in the effort to maintain and protect healthy fish stocks.

My family and I along with various crewmen over the last 30 years have counted on the commercial salmon industry to sustain ourselves and we know that commercial fishing places a critical role in maintaining the economic health of our community of Cordova.

My thanks to the Board of Fish for their interest in just how these regulations will affect real people struggling to stay economically viable.

Lynn Potter
Cordova
P. O. Box 1472
919 Chase Avenue
Cordova, AK 99574

Owner Operator of the gillnet vessel Pig Pen out of
Phone # 907-424-5226

BOF COMMENTS
 BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION
 ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
 PO BOX 115526
 JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-6094
 FAX: 907-465-6094

I OPPOSE proposal #43

I would like to have the restriction lifted; this proposal would inconvenience the fishermen in being able to harvest fish. Prince William Sound has historically been an important fishing area for small boats delivering to local communities. Long lining for halibut and in Prince William Sound is an important part of our fishing business.

I OPPOSE proposals 72, 73, 74, 75, 117 and 118

The Copper River king salmon stock is a fully utilized and allocated resource. Any increase in allowable take in the fishery would be a direct re-allocation of the resource. There is no justification to adopt further restriction to fishing inside the barrier islands, the department already had the ability to restrict fishing when there is a concern by emergency order.

I OPPOSE proposal #81:

I strongly urge the board to consider its dismissal.

Clause (c) strike the word intentionally set, staked, anchored or otherwise fixed. This would deny a person any recourse to challenge the charge on conditions or mitigating factors.

Clause (f) would not allow fishermen's nets to touch the bottom. We would be liable for grounding our nets without any recourse in that situation.

Clause (g) not use mechanical power, towing on a net is a large part of fishery.

Depending on the direction of the tide and or the flow of the current, it may cause the net to collapse or snag on rocks that are submerged under water. Because sometimes the current is moving very swiftly fishermen need to tow on their gear to get it off the

shore, a snag and sometimes off another fisherman's gear. Prince William Sound has many bays with a lot of shoreline that have shallow spots and rocks that are in the middle, there are always times that the nets will touch the bottom.

I OPPOSE proposals #88, 89 and 92

These proposals will have a direct negative impact on the current Prince William Sound allocation plan. The seiners are already harvesting a large portion of enhanced salmon. There is no justification for increasing time and area for the seine fleet in Prince William Sound. Any change in favor of the seine fleet would only increase disparity.

I OPPOSE proposals 101, 104, 105, 106, 108 and 110

I strongly urge the Board of Fisheries to oppose proposals 101, 104, 105, 106, 108 and 110, due to the fact they will alter the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhanced Allocation Plan, which was revised and approved in 2005 by the Board of Fisheries.

I support proposal #90 add more latitude and longitude points to illustrate the area

Strict liability means that you are guilty regardless of the intent, circumstances or mitigating factors, causing points to be assessed against a fisherman that in the future could deny him the right to fish and earn a living.

I am a third generation commercial fisherman and have been fishing in area E since 2008. I go school during winter and summer I go fishing with dad , grandpa and uncles. We all depend on the fishery. Thank you very much.

TIMOFEY REUTOV
F/V HERO
240 THUNDERBERIRD ST
MOLALLA, OREGON 97038
PH 503-502-8365



Attn: BOF comments

11/18/11

Members of the Board of Fisheries

I am a commercial salmon seiner in PWS (S01E). The following are the written comments I have with regard to the 2011 proposals. Thank you for your consideration.

Proposal #78

I support proposal #85 in favor of this proposal. I am in opposition to permit stacking as it creates an unfair advantage for established fishermen and further closes a fishery that already requires a substantial investment. I believe lead-less nets are vastly more efficient and as is usual the smaller boats and less established fishermen would suffer. I think it an especially bad idea in the midst of a substantial generational shift as we are seeing now and would do nothing but give young fishermen with significant financial backing an advantage that would be amplified over the course of their career with as you know can be a long time in this industry. Additionally I do not believe that this will serve to shrink the PWS Seine fleet effectively as it's intentioned because a substantial number of currently unfished permits are held by fishermen who hold multiple permits in different areas and will hold on to the permit so they have an option to enter the fishery at a later date.

Proposal #82

I support amending the definition of leads to allow for shrinkage as a majority of the fleet is not in compliance. However what will stop a fisherman from simply hanging hi seine with smaller mesh size and then he too would be in non compliance after a year or two. If there were a way to insure that the web was 7" nominal and no smaller I would have greater support for this proposal. I support proposal #85 in favor of this proposal.

Proposal #84,86,

I support proposal # 85 in favor of these proposals. I believe that either of these proposals will exacerbate the already real problem of choking off the head of Valdez arm. Also if the fleet continues to grow, and the gear is allowed to become more efficient there is a good chance that the ADF&G will be forced to manage even more conservatively than in any years past.

Proposal #85

I support a 150 fathom gear total as this would have a multiple advantages. The first and most obvious is to reduce the gear congestion that comes with 250+ seiners. This advantage manifests in more ways than one, first being able to fit more nets because of physical dimension, but also the effect of not being able to hold fish as long and thus allowing more "turns" in a line situation where one might normally only be able to make one or two hauls in a day such as is common in Valdez.

The second advantage is that we satisfy some of the issues of efficiencies of a net with a lead (see proposal #86 by Rob Nelson). As late season pink salmon could not swim through the smaller mesh making us waste less by preventing fish that would swim through our leads from gilling or being lost altogether. Furthermore much of the late

fishing is in small bays where the fish are denser and I don't believe that a small net would prevent one from harvesting in buildup scenarios.

The third advantage to this proposal is that smaller are easier to fish in the bights, bays, narrow passages, lagoons and rock piles that are abundant in the Sound, thus having the same effect of opening more area to a commercial seine effort.

Lastly as there is less gear, it would take less time to retrieve it from the water. Couple this with shorter time one might hold his/her seine open the result is that in a 14-hour opening a person could go from 14 or 17 to 18 or 20 hauls in a day, I believe this is diversification in a small but no less real way. If a fisherman has a set that fails, they rip their gear or there simply is no fish around I lets them reset, repair or reposition faster with less of an effect on a day overall.

Proposal #113

I support this proposal amended to be a complete ban use of aircraft to spot for salmon.

Morgan E.J Jones
P.O. box 1044
Homer, AK 99603
(907)399-3197

Native Village of Eyak Comments for BOF PWS meeting 2011

Prop	Position	Comments
43	Oppose	This proposal would have a major negative impact on the PWS blackcod fishery which occurs almost entirely within the 3 mile limit.
44	Oppose	There is not enough scientific information available on the life history or biomass of rockfish in PWS to justify such a dramatic increase from 10% to 30%
47	Support	This is how skate bycatch used to be managed in this fishery, and it did not result in an observable negative impact to the skate population. No halibut fisher will specifically target skate when fishing halibut. Allowing bycatch retention is preferable to the wanton waste now encouraged by regulation.
48	Support	This has been a recurring proposal theme to the BOF for many years, and the typical response of ADF&G is that not enough science is available to allow responsible management of a spiny dogfish fishery. However, anecdotal information from various commercial fisheries suggests a large seasonal biomass that could be sustainably exploited. If the BOF requires more science to take action on this, then more science should be demanded of ADF&G. For a good start, spiny dogfish bycatch retention should be allowed. This will allow fishers to explore market viability, and ADF&G to obtain population data at little or no cost to the State.
49	Oppose	This proposal is presented as housekeeping by ADF&G, but it appears that they may be seeking to strike an allowable gear type from regulation without due process. Trawl gear has historically been allowed in this fishery, and the proposal analysis does not include sufficient information on when or if trawl gear was made illegal. Considerable clarification is required before an informed decision can be made.
50	Support	If it is feasible to create a new fishery with a viable market, without degrading the long term sustainability of this threatened resource, then we fully endorse the concept and the economic opportunity it presents to our community.
51	Oppose	The author of this proposal is not asking for any specific outcome or action, only a review an existing C&T determination. The BOF supported a C&T use determination in 1996 following extensive review by ADF&G staff. This determination was further reviewed and supported with ANS levels set in 2005. There is no evidence to suggest that C&T uses of the resource by Cordova residents have changed in any way since that time. If the current BOF chooses to take up this discussion, it could easily become a very lengthy and contentious battle. The Native Village of Eyak and many other groups in Cordova are prepared to provide ample testimony supporting a continued positive C&T determination for the Copper River District. However, with respect to the valuable time of this Board and the meeting attendees who travel a great distance at their own cost to be here, we oppose this proposal and respectfully ask the Board to take no action at this time. If the BOF does wish to take up this discussion, we request that it be done at a special meeting at a later date, to be located in Cordova where in excess of 80% of the permitted participants of this fishery reside.
52	Support	The Eyak people traditionally harvested subsistence salmon when and where salmon were available for harvest. Under the current management plan, subsistence harvest is limited by regulation to coincide with scheduled commercial fishery openings and within commercial fishing boundaries, which dramatically reduces subsistence harvest opportunity, often to as little as 24 hours per week, and often to areas outside the "inside closure area" and inaccessible/ life threatening to subsistence users in small skiffs. Furthermore, in recent years on several occasions when sonar counts caused the commercial fishery to remain closed, ADF&G chose to enact the same restrictions on the subsistence fishery, essentially ignoring the C&T PRIORITY for subsistence users. Many of our Tribal members believe that their subsistence needs are not being adequately met. We strongly support the intent of this proposal to increase subsistence harvest opportunities, and in fact prefer the alternative solution of opening the Copper River District to subsistence harvest 24/7. By law, subsistence users must be given priority access to the resource over all other user groups. Currently, the inriver PU and Sport fisheries have more harvest opportunity, and the commercial fishery has equal harvest opportunity. To be fair, this subsistence fishery should be regulated with equal access opportunities to the subsistence fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict.

Native Village of Eyak Comments for BOF PWS meeting 2011

54	Oppose	The Fairbanks AC ignores the fact that the Board deliberated extensively on this proposal at a special meeting following the Statewide Meeting in March 2010 where their constituents were well represented and had "sufficient time" for the presentation of new evidence". The outcome of this meeting was a unanimous vote of the BOF against a positive C&T for the Chitina subdistrict. There is no new evidence presented in this proposal to support a change, and it is flagrant contempt of the BOF and the whole regulatory process to continue pushing this issue.
55	Oppose	This is outside the legal purview of the Eastern Interior RAC, and should not have been submitted to the BOF.
56	Support	ADF&G should have adequate tools to enact EO authority across all fisheries to preserve the sustainability of the run.
72	Oppose	This regulation is essential to the long term sustainability of the resource. Everyone who desires to share the resource should be willing to share the conservation burden, especially in times of shortage.
73	Oppose	This is a fully allocated resource which has exhibited poor returns over the past several years, resulting in EO restrictions on retention in the Sport and PU fisheries, and reduced fishing time and area in the commercial fishery. It is irresponsible to even consider increasing harvest on a stock which is already pushed to the brink of sustainability.
74	Support Intent	We support the intent of this proposal, and believe the sport fishery should take a larger share of the conservation burden than they currently do. It is unfair that, in times of shortage, king salmon retention in the "AK Resident" PU fishery is eliminated entirely while the "universal" Sport Fishery continues to be allowed to harvest king salmon at a reduced rate. Managers estimate upwards of 75% of the sportfish harvest on the Klutina and Gulkana Rivers is by non-residents. It is unclear whether the proposed language would adequately address this concern, but the BOF should consider ways to enable ADF&G to more fairly share the conservation burden between non-subsistence user groups.
75	Oppose	There are already measures in place to allow supplemental harvest of sockeye salmon when the sockeye run shows a harvestable surplus. It would create a conservation concern for the sockeye run to trigger a supplemental harvest due to low abundance in the Chinook run.
76	Support	There is a conservation concern for many of the small early runs of Chinook salmon, and action needs to be taken to preserve these runs. The commercial fishery has been pushed to outside waters in the early season to allow more Chinook to enter the river for this purpose, but then these fish are allowed to be intercepted by heavy early season pressure from the Personal Use fishery. All fisheries should be willing to share the conservation burden. As it stands, the early fish are simply being re-allocated to a different user group.
114	Oppose	This is outside the legal purview of the Eastern Interior RAC, and should not have been submitted to the BOF.
115	Oppose	The Native Village of Eyak is a long time supporter of the hatcheries. We have seen how effective they are at restoring stocks of concern and enhancing highly valued runs to the benefit of the Alaskan economy and the health of the resource. All of the hatcheries in our region are managed in such a way as to not degrade the genetic viability of hatchery or wild fish, not outcompete wild fish, and not cause damage to the ecosystem. We strongly support the continuation of hatchery production in PWS at current levels, and request that the BOF encourage enhancement of additional runs throughout the region, in particular Copper River Chinook salmon.
116	Oppose	The author clearly doesn't understand how homepack works. Reducing allowable homepack will not reduce the overall harvest, it will just prevent a commercial fisher from buying fish from their own catch.
117	Oppose	The current SEG is based on sound research and should be sufficient. Increasing this goal is scientifically unfounded, which explains the proponent's request to change it to an OEG, which has far less basis in science. At the end of the day, it is debatable whether managers are even adhering to the current SEG. Issues of unreported harvest and poaching in the inriver fisheries need to be addressed before we think about adjusting the escapement goals.

Native Village of Eyak Comments for BOF PWS meeting 2011

118	Oppose	<p>The inside closures mandated since 2003 have been ineffective in reducing early run Chinook harvest. In fact, it could be debated that pressure has increased on early Chinook salmon still feeding in deep waters outside the barrier islands particularly on the eastern delta. The inside closures have effectively increased the safety risk to commercial fishers while doing little to address the conservation concerns for which the closures were intended. Furthermore, the inside closures have further reduced the ability of subsistence fishers in small boats to meet subsistence needs, and created a new conservation concern for Eyak Lake sockeye stocks which are now being more heavily targeted in the inside areas on the western delta near Egg Island, which remain open during the inside closure periods. We oppose this proposal, and support research to determine a safer and more effective means of protecting early run Chinook salmon. For a start, conduct some research into Chinook harvest "hotspots", and target these areas for early closures, rather than the arbitrary zone currently defined in regulation.</p>
119	Oppose	<p>Regulatory markers should be put back in place for the benefit of all fishers and enforcement officers. Without the markers, the State is discriminating against fishers without GPS (commercial and subsistence), and enforcement becomes difficult and contentious with no means for photographic evidence and ample room for debate. Essentially, citations are no longer clear cut and a majority are left for the courts to decide, at a further cost to the State. GPS accuracy changes with weather, technology and radio interference (such as that caused by enforcement aircraft overhead). Not all GPS units are equal. Not all fishers can afford the latest technology. Furthermore, the Copper River flats are a highly dynamic environment and the exact proposed coordinates will need to be updated every single Board cycle if not every winter storm or flood event that hits the region. The regulatory markers have also traditionally been used as navigation aids for fishers. Language referring to the regulatory markers should be left in place, and ADF&G should make a concerted effort to put them back in place immediately.</p>
120	Oppose	<p>It is difficult to justify a request for increased harvest with insufficient data available from ADF&G on actual harvest levels or sportfishing pressure in this area, or what actual reduction in allocation would result for the commercial fishery. Sportfishermen are allowed access to many areas for harvest already where commercial fishing is restricted. Increasing pressure in an established commercial area will result in conflicts and accidents.</p>
121	Oppose	<p>There is no known conservation concern to justify such a dramatic and overarching change to bag limits. ADF&G already has tools and EO authority to reduce harvest levels and protect specific stocks of concern.</p>
122	Support	<p>Hells Hole resides within EVOS buyback lands, which were sold with the explicit understanding that they would be managed for environmental sustainability, and subsistence above all other uses. There should be restrictions put into place to limit overexploitation of this resource by non-resident user groups.</p>
123	Support	<p>We have seen a dramatic increase in sportfishing pressure on this system in recent years. While there is no current conservation concern, it would be best to be proactive and put some protections in place now, before it's too late. This proposal would not limit the ability of any user group to access the resource, and ample geographic access would still be provided- the proposal simply seeks to protect critical spawning habitat from trampling, and spawning fish from indiscriminate snagging.</p>
124	Support	<p>We have seen a dramatic increase in sportfishing pressure on this system in recent years. While there is no current conservation concern, it would be best to be proactive and put some protections in place now, before it's too late. This proposal would not limit the ability of any user group to access the resource, and ample geographic access would still be provided- the proposal simply seeks to protect critical spawning habitat from trampling, and spawning fish from indiscriminate snagging.</p>
125	Support with clarification	<p>Proposed language needs to be clear that reduced bag limits will not apply to the stocked lakes of PWS.</p>
126	Oppose	<p>Author cites a conservation concern and claims to propose a reduced harvest pressure, but in fact proposes to extend the king salmon season by an additional 3 weeks with no justification. ADF&G seems to have adequate EO authority and ample tools to enact closures as evidenced the past 2 years, and there is no real justification in mandating regular weekly closures.</p>

Native Village of Eyak Comments for BOF PWS meeting 2011

127 **Support**

Sport fishing guides are licensed commercial fishermen, and should be regulated as such. This is a statewide issue, and should probably be discussed at a statewide meeting. With regards to the proposal, the author has good intentions, but there are too many major obstacles in actually carrying this out. Too many methods of shipping are available out of Alaska. How would they distinguish between sport caught fish and commercial, PU or subsistence fish? Especially in the case of individuals who visit Alaska to sport fish and then purchase fish from commercial processors or direct marketers. The proposal doesn't get at illegal sale of subsistence or PU fish, it just seems to target nonresidents leaving the state with their sport fish in an attempt to address poaching concerns. We would need a whole new government agency in place to regulate and enforce this, with uniformed officers at every airport, border crossing, post office, barge and ferry terminal, custom processor and commercial shipping company. Who would fund this? A better and more cost effective approach would seem to be mandatory and timely sport fish harvest reports from all license holders, which we strongly support and encourage the State to pursue.

128 **Oppose**

FROM: Tom Warren
12321 E. Prince of Peace Dr.
Eagle River AK 99577
907-854-8794

25 October 2011

SUBJECT: Support for proposal 68 – 5 AAC 01.625. Waters Closed to Subsistence Fishing.

I have been a resident of this great state since 1999, came up here with the Air Force, retired and opted to stay and make Alaska my home. One of the many reasons for my family staying in Alaska is the bountiful fishing and hunting opportunities, basically the great outdoors.

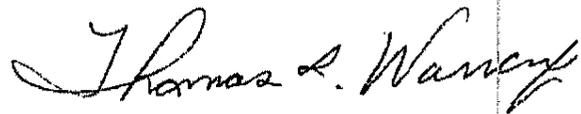
I have in particular enjoyed recreating the lake Louise/Susitna/Tyone Lakes area. I started going up there in 2000, fell in love with the area, and being from Northern Michigan and fishing for lake Trout growing up during both summer and winter, this was like home...only better.

At first it seemed the fishing (lake Trout) was fairly productive, typical Laker fishing is challenging, exactly why I fish them, but this was some of the best fishing I had experienced, although I like the salmon and halibut fishing for my dinner table, my interest is fishing the old man of the lake. The last two to three years the Laker fishing has really been a challenge, just when you think you have a lake dialed in, we now spend many more hours between fish. By the way, I must add that we practice catch and release of lake Trout, focus on minimal handling, to minimize after catch mortality.

So, now I've been asking questions of locals, of cabin owners trying to figure out the trick, maybe learn something new on the ole Laker. I learned of the current subsistence issue and lake trout being caught as bycatch, some of our old lakers, mature spawning stock being caught and harvested. This news disgusts me to no end. I was very sickened to hear of this situation and I am looking to the Department of Fish & Game to fix this before we lose a valuable resource we could never get back.

I am not only speaking in this letter for myself, but on behalf of my kids and their kids. I would hate to only be able to tell my grand children some day of "how it used to be".

So, I strongly support proposal 68, I will be looking into other areas and ways I can voice my opinion as a resident, a sportsman, and a grandfather.



Thomas L. Warren Jr
12321 E. Prince of peace Dr
Eagle River AK 99577
907-854-8794

25 October 2011

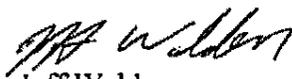
To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of proposal 68 to 5 AAC01.625 to restrict the subsistence netting area and delay the opening date on the Lake Louise water system. This proposal is vital to protect a natural resource that is being abused by a select few.

The few that are abusing this white fish subsistence fishery are purposely targeting Lake Trout and Burbot with total disregard as to how many they kill. They are extremely brazen leaving hundreds of Lake Trout carcasses on the shoreline for all to see. This restriction will not affect the law abiding citizens that follow the law and respect Alaska's resource. It will only restrict the unlawful intruders that have invaded the Lake Louise water system like a parasite slaughtering fish and vandalizing property.

Alaskan's have been very vocal over this abuse with very little action to date from the Alaska Dept of Fish and Game. I own property on this water system and seen the abuse and vandalism first hand. This proposal is long overdue and still allows for a subsistence fishery for those needing to fish for subsistence.

Please adopt this proposal to protect this fragile fishery.



Jeff Walden
4562 N. Arbor Way
Wasilla AK, 99654
907 373-7062

November 14th, 2011

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Comments for BOF PWS 2011 meeting
% Sherry Wright ADG&G Boards Support
333 Raspberry Road #1081
Anchorage, AK 99518



Jennifer Ehmann
Po Box 2144
Palmer, AK 99645

Karl Johnstone.

I am supporting changes to the subsistence whitefish gillnet fishery in Lake Louise, Susitna, and Tyone Lake area. Gillnet fisherman are setting gillnets across the navigable portions of Lake Louise Susitna and Susitna Tyone channels that creates a safety hazard and does not allow for natural migration of all other finfish species. Gillnet fisherman are also targeting lake trout spawning beds throughout October when lake trout spawning has been observed to still be taking place.

ADF&G has record of subsistence netting taking place as early as 1963 and up until approximately 7 years ago existed without adversely impacting the Lake Trout and other finfish species. Around 7 years ago a small group of individuals from Wasilla started applying for the subsistence whitefish permits and targeting lake trout specifically. There has been reports from residents of Lake Louise that as many as 100 lake trout remains were found on the banks 1/4 mile from the channel in a well known spawning bed after this group of individuals fished for 2 days in mid October 2010 (please see attached pictures of site 36 hours after discovery when scavengers had removed much of the remains). When this occurred it was not illegal because the regulations at the time did not restrict large amounts of bycatch. Once ADF&G were made aware of this situation they E.O. netting be closed until December 1st when the lake had gotten a change to freeze over so that gill-netters could not target spawning beds and restricted ALL retention of bycatch.

The permits that are being issued this year have 11 stipulations placed on them by Mark Somerville area management biologist Glenallen in order to address concerns but when I talked with Mark on 10/20/11 he reported that the stipulations could be lifted at anytime and until adopted into regulation were not permanent. I have attached a list of the current stipulations, of which the proposal I am supporting #68 asks that three of the stipulations become adopted into regulation:

- 1) Close Lake Louise/Susitna Channel and Susitna Tyone Lake Channel to netting so that other finfish species can naturally migrate through channel and remove the safety concern for those navigating through the channel.
- 2) Open the subsistence netting season November 15th to allow for Lake Trout spawning to conclude.
- 3) Subsistence netters must release all incidental bycatch dead or alive.

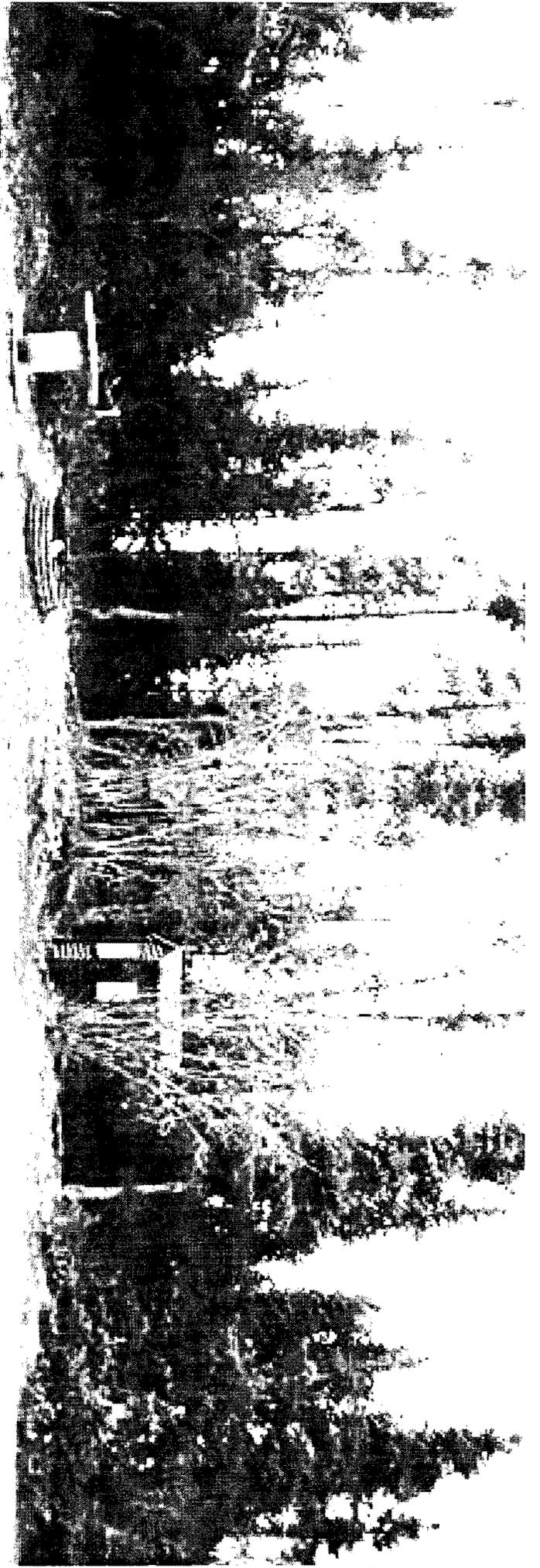
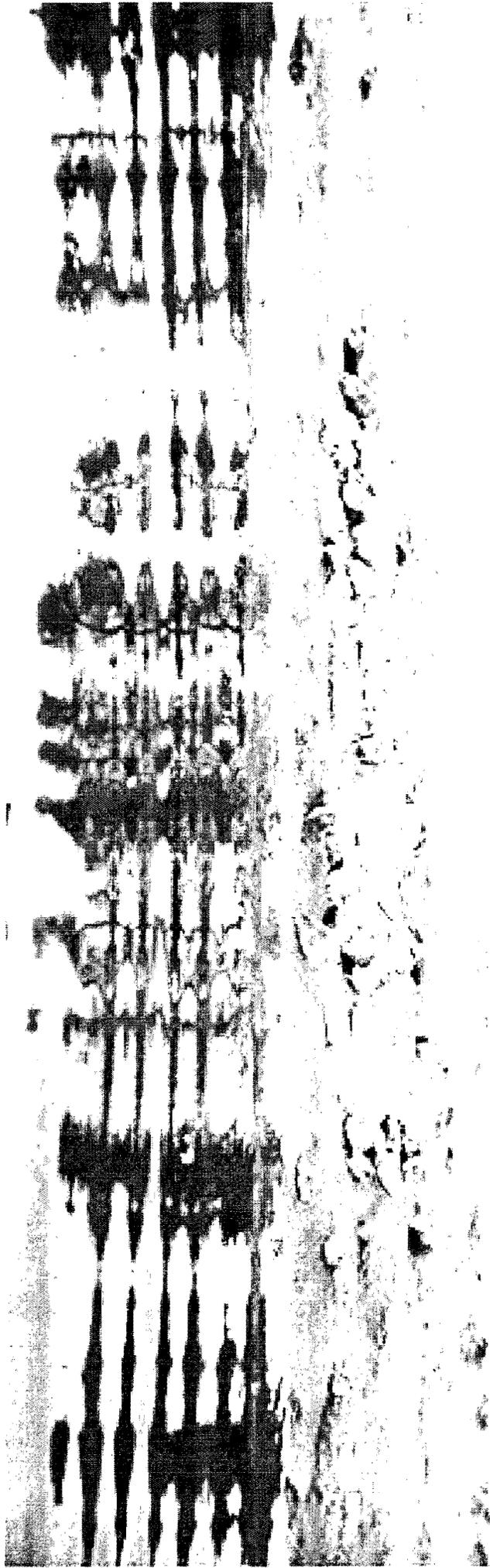
Lake Trout are specifically vulnerable to over-fishing because they grow so slowly in northern climates and don't begin spawning until they are 7-8 years old. ADF&G has growing concern for the Lake Trout populations because the total fishing mortality has exceeded estimated sustained yield in 12 of the past 15 years and as such has submitted proposals to restrict the sport fishery. (see proposal #129). In speaking with Mark he said that if the subsistence netters remove a small amount of Lake Trout via bycatch during a season, 20-30 fish, he does not think it would adversely effect the population but if say 100 lake trout were taken especially by only a couple permit holders that would be of concern for him and would negatively impact the fishery. If his stipulations are lifted then regulation, unless CHANGED, will allow for that same group or a different group of individuals to again target lake trout.

Originally I supported closing the subsistence whitefish fishery on said waterways but understand that in order for it to be closed the sport fishery would also have to be closed because subsistence is given priority. I support ADF&G's proposal to restrict the sport fishery but more importantly we have to protect a species of fish being targeted by a group of individuals exploiting the subsistence fishery and a group that in one weekend can damage the lake trout population so badly that ADF&G could then remove entirely the opportunity for sport fisherman.

Thank you,
Jennifer Ehmann
(907-354-0059)







2011 Permit Stipulations-

1. Gillnets must be set stationary and not manned on one or both ends like a beach seine.
2. A permittee may fish only a single gear type at a time (i.e. gillnet). No gillnet may be set within 100 feet of another gillnet.
3. Permittee may not combine the daily sport and subsistence bag and possession limits for a single species in the same day and may not fish sport fish while fishing subsistence gear.
4. Subsistence gear must be visibly identified with the permit holder's first initial, last name and address in characters at least 1 inch high. Gillnets fished in open waters must be marked with a buoy on each end.
5. Hand lines must be closely attended, within 15 feet. The number of hand lines may not exceed the daily bag limit for the target species.
6. Non-target species must be released alive or dead. You are PROHIBITED from retaining lake trout, burbot, or grayling caught in gillnets.
7. The waters of the Lake Louise-Susitna Lake channel and approaches, as designated in the attached aerial photo, are closed to gillnets and fyke nets from October 1 through November 15.
8. Permittee shall show their permit, catch, and fishing gear to any Alaska Wildlife Trooper or ADF&G Peace Officer upon request.
9. Your household will be denied a permit the following year for failure to report harvest as specified.
10. Permit holders finding 5 or more lake trout in their net, shall move their fishing location at least ¼ mile to avoid further catch of non-target species.
11. Permittee shall notify the ADF&G Glennallen field office 24 hours prior to setting any subsistence fishing gear authorized by this permit.

25 October 2011

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Jeff Walden
4562 N. Arbor Way
Wasilla AK, 99654
907 373-7062

FROM: Tom Warren
12321 E. Prince of Peace Dr.
Eagle River AK 99577
907-854-8794

25 October 2011

SUBJECT: Support for proposal 68 – 5 AAC 01.625. Waters Closed to Subsistence Fishing.

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Thomas L.

Warren Jr

12321 E. Prince of peace Dr
Eagle River AK

99577

907-854-8794

Inriver abundance of Copper River Chinook salmon, *Oncorhynchus Tshawytscha*, 2003-2011

Special report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

December 2011

Keith van den Broek and Bill Youmans
Native Village of Eyak
PO Box 1388
Cordova, AK 99574

Jason Smith
LGL Alaska Research Associates, Inc.
1101 E. 76th Ave, Suite B
Anchorage, AK 99518

RECEIVED

NOV 18 2011

**BOARDS
ANCHORAGE**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

Native Village of Eyak, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management
Alaska Department of Fish and Game



The purpose of this project is to use fishwheels and two-sample mark-recapture methods for long-term monitoring of Chinook salmon *O. tshawytscha* escapement on the Copper River. The primary objective is to estimate the inriver abundance of Chinook salmon returning to the Copper River, such that the estimate is within 25% of the true escapement 95% of the time. The study is conducted in an area of the Copper River above the upper boundaries of the commercial fishery, and below the lower boundaries of any inriver fisheries (Fig 1), so that subtracting estimated harvest in the inriver fisheries from the abundance estimate derived should provide an accurate estimate of drainage-wide spawning escapement. This project has generated reliable Chinook salmon estimates annually since 2003.

For the first sample event, up to two live-capture fishwheels are operated at Baird Canyon (Fig 1) continuously from May through July. During this period, adult Chinook salmon are captured, measured, sexed and marked with a unique dorsal tag and a secondary right operculum punch. For the second sample event, up to two fishwheels are operated continuously at Canyon Creek near the lower end of Wood Canyon (Fig 1) from May through July. All captured adult Chinook salmon are measured, sexed, examined for marks, and given a left operculum punch. Using an appropriate analysis method, generally a modified Peterson's or temporally stratified Darroch estimator, estimated abundance of Chinook salmon measuring 500 mm FL or greater migrating upstream of Baird Canyon is calculated. Tags are printed with contact information so harvested fish can be voluntarily returned by fishers (Table 2).

In 2011, a total of 2,135 Chinook salmon were marked, and 2,832 were examined for marks. Of these, 178 fish were marked. Using a maximum likelihood Darroch estimator, the estimated abundance of Chinook salmon measuring 500 mm FL or greater that migrated upstream of Baird Canyon from 15 May to 9 July was 33,889 (SE = 3,329) (Table 1).

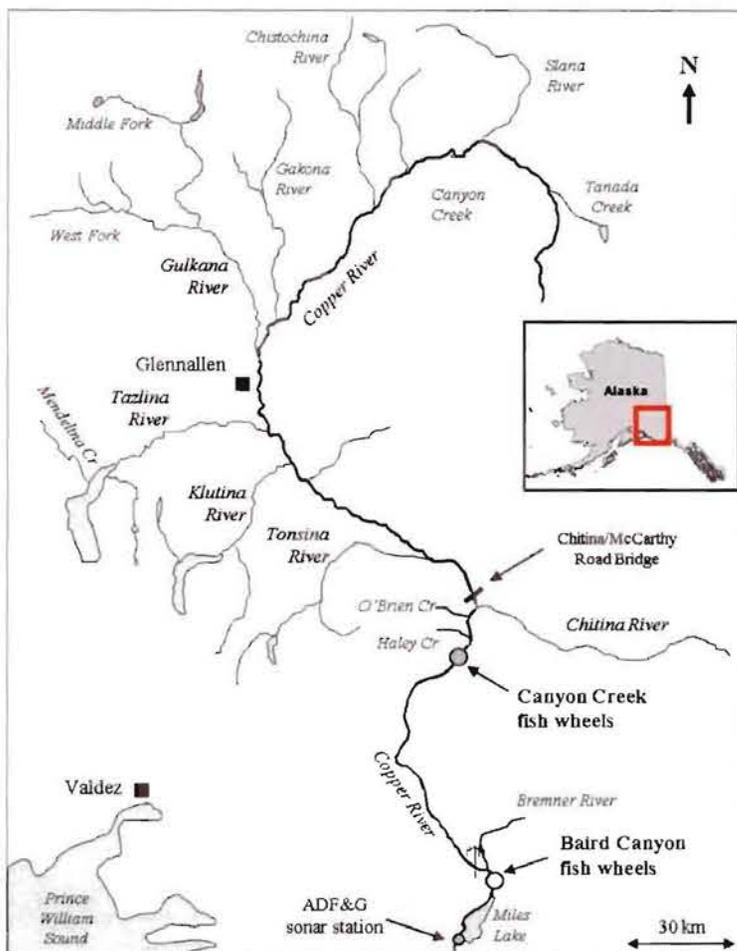


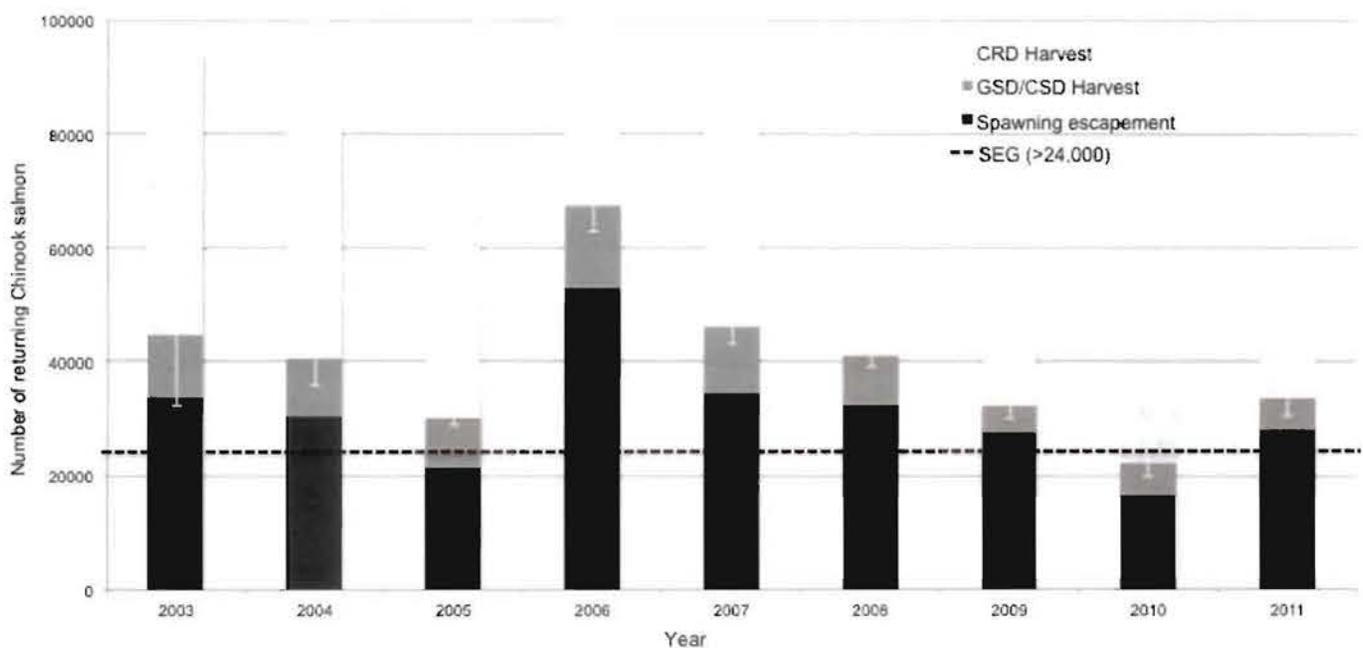
Figure 1. Map of the Copper River study area.

Table 1. Estimated inriver abundance^a of Chinook salmon above Baird Canyon on the Copper River, 2003-2011

Year	Period (m/d)		Length (mm FL)	Marked (M)	Examined (C)	Recaptures (R)	Abundance (N)	Standard Error (SE)
	From	To						
2003	5/17	7/1	810-1,070	1,723	1,630	97	44,764	12,506
2004	5/22	6/22	> 600	2,477	3,101	185	40,564	4,650
2005	5/9	7/14	> 600	3,379	3,150	315	30,333	1,529
2006	5/21	7/31	> 500	4,035	5,224	377	67,789	4,779
2007	5/18	8/6	> 500	4,456	4,192	459	46,349	3,283
2008	5/19	8/4	> 500	3,931	3,509	342	41,343	2,166
2009	5/13	8/2	> 500	2,484	2,224	171	32,401	2,365
2010	5/15	7/5	>500	1,745	894	69	22,323	2,492
2011	5/15	7/9	>500	2,135	2,832	178	33,889	3,329

^aUpriver escapement may be calculated by subtracting the estimated total inriver harvest (ADF&G) from the abundance estimate presented here. Minimum SEG for Chinook salmon is 24,000 (Fig 1).

Figure 1. Estimated spawning escapement and harvest^a of Chinook salmon on the Copper River, 2003-2011



^aHarvest values include State and Federal harvest, compiled from data published by ADF&G and NPS. Data for 2011 are preliminary based on 60% of issued permits for GSD, and projected for CSD, CRD and Federal Subsistence based on past year's harvests and inseason fishery observations.

Table 2. Number of tagged Chinook salmon reported harvested^a by the various Copper River fisheries, 2007-2011

Location	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Chitina Subdistrict	16	17	8	25	115
Glennallen Subdistrict	52 ^b	36	54	76	134
Sport	18	5	10	14	43
Unknown ^c	27	38	21	41	12
Other ^d	3		2		5
Total Returns	116	96	95	156	309
Tagged	2,135	1,745	2,484	3,931	4,456
% Recovered	5.43%	5.50%	3.82%	3.97%	6.93%

^a Reporting is voluntary, prompted by printed contact details on tags; percentage of participation is unknown

^b In 2011, Glennallen subdistrict reported tags included 45 Fishwheel and 7 Dipnet. Gear type was not distinguished in previous years.

^c Majority of unknown tags are those left in ADF&G tag return boxes and returned with no harvest information. Tag return boxes are strategically located at fishing hotspots in both the Glennallen and Chitina subdistricts.

^d "Other" category includes tags collected on other research projects (eg. genetics, counting weirs, spawner surveys), found in spawned out salmon or bear scat, and commercial gillnet fishery (downstream migrants).

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS

Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Juneau, AK
FAX: 907.465.6094

November 18, 2011

Re: Prop 43 - OPPOSE

To the Board of Fisheries,

I am a lifelong commercial fishermen living in Cordova, AK. My total income is from commercial fisheries. I started fishing halibut in PWS in 1983 long before the charter industry was going strong in PWS.

I Oppose Proposal 43: All you would accomplish is to take from one user group to benefit another.

Thank you,

Peter A Blake
1917 Power Creek Rd.
Box 718
Cordova, AK 99574
F/V Dakine

November 18, 2011

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS

Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Juneau, AK
FAX: 907.465.6094

Members of the Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. My name is Curt Herschleb. I am a full time resident of Cordova, where my wife and I are raising two young children. I am a third generation commercial fisherman. I derive 90% of my income from the Area E drift gillnet fishery and the area 3A halibut IFQ fishery.

Today I am commenting individually, however, I am longtime member of CDFU and have served many terms on the CDFU Board of Directors. Therefore I have participated in the development of the comments submitted by the full Board of Directors as well as the CDFU Gillnet Division. I will also reference positions submitted by the Cordova Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Thanks again for the opportunity weigh in on these proposal that weigh so heavily on my livelihood. Attached are my positions and some comments.

Thank you,



Curt Herschleb
Box 1622
Cordova, AK 99574

Prop	Position	Comments
43	OPPOSE	I strongly oppose this proposal. Such a drastic measure cannot be taken without solid numbers of removals from each sector. It cannot be assumed that local depletion within the Prince William Sound is the result of commercial bottom fishing practices. Abundance of halibut in general is down. Commercial halibut quota has been steadily reduced over the last several years leading to a reduction in commercial harvest. Implementation of this regulation would virtually eliminate the viable and valuable commercial blackcod fishery within Prince William Sound. This type of proposal would have to result from a LAMP process, which would require all stakeholders sitting at the table, identifying a problem and coming up with a solution with a high degree of consensus. It should be noted that the only LAMP in the state is around Sitka where commercial and charter operations are excluded and subsistence and unguided sport users are allowed.
44	NA	
45	NA	
46	SUPPORT	
47	SUPPORT	.I support concurrent openings for groundfish fisheries to reduce wanton waste. CDFU acknowledges that ADF&G needs more funding to study the abundance of skate populations.
48	SUPPORT	I support this proposal in order to reduce waste and encourage the development of markets for this species. CDFU acknowledges that ADF&G needs more funding for abundance surveys for spiny dogfish.
49	NA	
50		
51	OPPOSE	I support the positions and comments submitted by the Native Village of Eyak and the Cordova Fish and Game Advisory Committee.
52	NA	
53	NA	
54	OPPOSE	This issue was extensively deliberated at a special meeting held in March of 2010 where the Board of Fish unanimously voted against reclassifying the Chitna subdistrict a subsistence use fishery. To legally justify a review of this issue at this time one of the following three things must occur. There must be an introduction of "significant new information", an error in application of the 8 criteria or a court decision mandating a review of the current finding. It is hard to believe that in the 21 months since the March 2010 meeting and decision there is any significant new information justifying a

NA=NO ACTION, N=NEUTRAL, O=OPPOSE

		review of this classification.
55	OPPOSE	This proposal disregards the multiple times since 2003 this issue was dealt with, most recently and extensively in 2010.
56	NA	
57	NA	
58	NA	
59	NA	
60	NA	
61	NA	
62	NA	
63	NA	
64	NA	
65	NA	
66	NA	
67	NA	
68	NA	
69	NA	
70	NA	
71	NA	
72	OPPOSE	All user groups must share the burden of conservation equally.
73	OPPOSE	This is a fully utilized resource upon which EO restrictions have been placed on Sport and PU groups and time and area restrictions have been placed on commercial users. The burden of conservation must be shared equally.
74	OPPOSE	This proposal would undermine ADF&G's ability to effectively manage the resource by changing management strategies in place since 1989.
75	OPPOSE	Additional opportunity already exists in times of abundance via the use of supplemental permits.
76	NA	
77	NA	
78	NA	
79	NA	
80	NA	
81	OPPOSE	This misguided proposal would alter historic fishing practices and result in a drift gillnetters ability to fish legally and safely and would result in the disorder conduct of the fishery. See CDFU gillnet positions.
82	NA	
83	NA	
84	NA	
85	NA	
86	NA	

NA=NO ACTION, N=NEUTRAL, O=OPPOSE

87	NA	
88	OPPOSE	This will negatively impact the pwsac allocation plan
89	OPPOSE	This will result in a further imbalance in the pwsac allocation plan
90	Support w/amendments	See CDFU gillnet division comments
91	NA	
92	NA	
93	NA	
94	OPPOSE	Please continue visual marker placement at the most commonly fished lines. Visual markers are the best tool for the orderly execution of commercial fisheries where lines are involved.
95		
96	OPPOSE	If there is a harvestable surplus ADF&G must open the fishery. Fisheries management decisions must be biologically based.
97		
98	N	
99	NA	
100	NA	
101	OPPOSE	See CDFU gillnet division comments
102	NA	
103	NA	
104	OPPOSE	See CDFU gillnet division comments
105	OPPOSE	See CDFU gillnet division comments
106	OPPOSE	See CDFU gillnet division comments
107	NA	
108	OPPOSE	See CDFU gillnet division
109	NA	
110	OPPOSE	See CDFU gillnet division comments
111	NA	
112	NA	
113	NA	
114	NA	
115	NA	
116	OPPOSE	The proposal cannot effect conservation or allocation. The fish kept for homepack would be sold commercially if homepack were limited or eliminated. Also Cordova's subsistence needs are met largely by homepack retention of commercially caught fish. This is reflected by Cordova's unique two level ANS finding.
117	OPPOSE	There are no stocks of concern and the ADF&G does not see the need to adjust the current management plan SEG of 24,000 or more kings as stated under 5AAC 24.361
118	OPPOSE	I oppose this proposal. The ADF&G has been given the tools and

NA=NO ACTION, N=NEUTRAL, O=OPPOSE

		has proven it's willingness to use them to close inside waters when necessary. Mandatory inside closures until June 15 would result in a huge and unnecessary loss of commercial fishing opportunity in most years.
119	OPPOSE	Visual markers are the best tool for the orderly execution of commercial fisheries where lines are involved. CDFU acknowledges that ADF&G requires more funding in order to provide visual markers.
120	NA	
121	NA	
122	NA	
123	NA	
124	NA	
125	NA	
126	NA	
127	NA	
128	NA	
129	NA	
130	NA	
131	NA	
132	NA	
133	NA	
134	NA	
135	NA	
136	NA	
137	NA	
138	NA	
139	NA	

NA=NO ACTION, N=NEUTRAL, O=OPPOSE



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November 18, 2011

SENT VIA FAX TO (907) 465-6094

Mr. Karl Johnstone
Chair, Alaska Board of Fisheries
c/o Board Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Mr. Johnstone,

Re: Proposal 43 – Lawful Gear for Prince William Sound Area

We OPPOSE this proposal.

The proposal does not provide any evidence of a biological problem. The proposer intends to limit commercial halibut fishing but indiscriminately impacts other fisheries. The proposed area to be closed is indiscriminately large and the proposer does not provide any meaningful information on possible areas of local depletion.

As noted in ADFG' comments there is no biological rationale for this proposal and it would have economic impacts harmful to fishermen and Alaska communities.

We would like to remind the Board that, in the past, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, supported the study of local area management plans (LAMP), which are designed to resolve user conflicts. In fact there was a previous attempt by the BOF/NPFMC to develop a LAMP for PWS. LAMPS take a considerable amount of time and effort to accommodate all user groups. LAMP studies take more time than can be accommodated in one board meeting and, ifre- initiated, should be designed to allow adequate time for data collection and stakeholder involvement.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments

Sincerely,

Thomas M Gemmell
Executive Director

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Cordova District Fishermen • Deep Sea Fishermen's Union •
Fishing Vessel Owners Association • Halibut Association of North America • Kachemak Bay Fisheries
Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Sea Food
Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance • United Cook Inlet Driftnetters Association
• United Fishermen's Marketing Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters Association

November 18, 2011

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS

Boards Support Section

Dear Members of the Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments for your consideration. I am a long term resident (18 years) of Cordova, Alaska and have held a drift gillnet permit in the Copper River/Prince William Sound area since 1998. I would like to address my comments to the following proposals before your board.

Proposal 50

I **support** this proposal. More opportunity for commercial harvest of species, in this case herring but this also could be used as a framework for other species, would be a great benefit for Cordovans.

Proposal 54

I **oppose** this proposal. It addresses the same issue that was discussed at the special board meeting that I attended in March 2010. At that time the board rejected this issue. Without new information, there is no reason to reopen this contentious issue.

Proposal 116

I **oppose** this proposal. Because of the wording of this proposal I feel that there is a misunderstanding of the personal use fish that are brought in by commercial fishermen in the Copper River District. I looked in the regulation books for Prince William Sound and could not find a statute for reporting requirements for these fish. I think that a clarification of this issue is in order especially because one of the strengths of the management of the Copper River and Delta stocks is accurate reporting of all fish landed by all user groups.

Proposal 119

I **oppose** this proposal. Because Copper River fishermen are usually on their boats by themselves, it is very difficult to both operate the deck machinery and keep track of location on a GPS. Plywood markers are necessary to be able to determine legality. I would like the department to allocate funding to continue this practice.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Sincerely,

Kimberly Menster
307 South 2nd
Cordova, AK 99574

Comment on Proposal 43 – 5 AAC 28.230

I am strongly opposed to this proposal. My wife and I are longtime Cordova residents and each own PWS limited entry Sablefish permits and two blocks each of 3A Halibut IFQ.

We fish all of our halibut and sablefish from our 32' vessel exclusively within the waters of PWS. If this proposal were adopted it would severely restrict our ability to safely and successfully harvest our fish each season. We have worked very hard for many years, invested large amounts of money, borrowed from Alaska Comm. Fish & Agriculture Bank. We make the majority of our yearly income from these fisheries within the Sound. Adoption of Prop #45 would be nothing short of devastating for us. Lastly, there is no indication from ADF&G or IPHC that any of the stocks we harvest are showing signs of depletion. This proposal is simply an expression of personal greed and general animosity toward commercial fishermen. Please vote NO on this proposal.

Thank you,

Richard Casciano
P.O. Box 584
Cordova, Alaska 99574

2011 BOF Comment on Proposal 98

As a PWS drift gillnet fisherman and as a member of the PWSAC Board of Directors I urge the board to adopt proposal 98. Under current regulation, PWSAC does not have the authority to make management recommendations in the Granite Bay sub district where large commercial harvests of Wally Noerenberg Hatchery chum salmon occur. As a result, run entry into the WNH THA & SHA slows, fishermen lose access to the Esther sub district and PWSAC can not achieve their chum revenue goal in a timely manner. Adoption of this proposal would be a win win win for fishermen, processors and PSWAC.

Thank you,

Richard Casciano
P.O. Box 584
Cordova, Alaska 99574

Comment on Proposal 43 – 5 AAC 28.230

Please vote no on this proposal. My name is Natasha Casciano, my husband and I oppose this proposal. We are commercial long line fishers in Prince William Sound and have invested in Black Cod, Halibut and Ling Cod fisheries. We have been fishing since before IFQ changes were put in place. When the IFQ systems were put in place one of the important pieces to that puzzle was boat size. Much thought and effort has been put into the current system and allows all user groups the ability to harvest fish. This proposal neglects to take into account the efforts by many organizations and individuals involved in the creating the current system and the true impact it would have.

Issue: There is no data to show that there is a problem of near shore depletion or that if a problem did exist that it is caused by a particular user group.

What will happen if nothing is done: If nothing is done these historic commercial fisheries that are licensed by the state of Alaska will continue to provide a positive economic impact.

Will the quality of the resource harvested or products produced be improved? There is no data to show that resources would increase or that risk to the general public would be reduced.

Who is likely to benefit? Insatiably consumptive commercial sport fishing anglers would be the only beneficiaries.

Who is likely to suffer? Historic commercial fisheries and invested fishing families that are licensed by the state of Alaska.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Natasha Casciano
P.O. Box 584
Cordova, Alaska
99574

2011 BOF Comment on Proposal 101

I urge the Board to oppose proposal 101. As a PWS drift gillnet permit holder since 1988 I have witnessed continuous attempts by a small group of seine fishermen to amend or change the PWS management and salmon enhancement allocation plan. In every one of these cases which spans 20 years and 7 BOF cycles they have sought to gain access to PWSAC enhanced salmon production exclusively allocated to the drift fleet.

At the 2005 BOF meeting the "Piggybank" section. 5ACC24.370 was amended. This action was enthusiastically supported by the seine fleet. Now six years later after strong PWSAC pink returns and high ex vessel prices the seiners are doing so well that they have lost access to PWSAC chums at Pt Chalmers and now want to change the regulation yet again. In my opinion the BOF should fail this proposal.

I feel strongly that the allocation plan currently in place may not be perfect and at times is despised by drifters, seiners and set netters, but is ultimately fair and is the best solution to the problem of equitably allocating PWSAC salmon amongst the users.

Thank you,

Richard Casciano
P.O. Box 584
Cordova, Alaska 99574

BOF Comments

RE; Proposals 100 and 120 - Support for Proposal 100 and 120

Greetings,

I wrote Proposals 100 and 120. Proposal 120 addresses sport fishing in Eshamy Lagoon and Proposal 100 addresses commercial fishing in Eshamy Lagoon, however, they were written with the intent that they be considered as a package - one without the other probably won't produce the desired result.

I wrote these proposals years ago but did not submit them because of the financial difficulties the commercial salmon industry was experiencing. That is no longer an issue and I believe this is the appropriate time to address improving sport fishing in Prince William Sound especially with the increase in sport fishing pressure created by the opening of the tunnel in Whittier to road traffic.

The purpose of Proposal 100 is simple - restrict commercial fishing in Eshamy Lagoon to allow more sockeye salmon at the lagoon for sport fisherman. As a sport fisherman I feel the current system in Eshamy Lagoon is far from fair and equitable. Sport fisherman are restricted from snagging sockeye salmon until the escapement goal is met, yet commercial drift netters are often allowed to come up into the lagoon and catch sockeye salmon prior to the escapement goal being met.

The purpose of Proposal 120 is to provide better sport fish opportunity for sockeye salmon in Prince William Sound. I chose to keep the existing 3 sockeye daily bag limit in Eshamy Lagoon to limit the sport harvest at Eshamy and to keep congestion at Eshamy Lagoon amongst sport fisherman to a minimum. Keeping the limit at 3 per day reduces the time needed to catch a limit and should reduce congestion as people catch their fish and move on.

These proposals should reduce user conflict. Not only would this proposal eliminate conflicts in Eshamy Lagoon it will likely reduce conflicts in Main Bay as more sport fisherman would move to Eshamy.

A few years ago I spoke with Glenn Hollowell, Fisheries Biologist in Cordova, about moving the commercial fleet away from the creek and he did do that to protect the eel grass and cutthroat trout. This move of approximately 200 yards had little effect on the numbers of sockeye available to sport fisherman. Commercial management of the Eshamy sockeye stocks will need to be modified not just to move the nets, but to allow sufficient numbers of fish to get to the lagoon for escapement and increased sport harvest.

Proposal 100 and 120 are unanimously supported by the Prince William Sound Charter Boat Association.

Proposal 120 is unanimously supported by the Whittier Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Proposal 100 is supported by the Whittier Fish and Game Advisory Committee. (6 for, 2 against) The Whittier Fish and Game Advisory Committee is made up of 2 sport fisherman representatives and the rest are commercial.

The next page is my experience fishing for reds in western Prince William Sound over the last 25 years.

Eshamy Lagoon - sport fishing opportunities are decreasing. Although we do occasionally have a good year, the numbers of fish at the lagoon have decreased significantly from 20 years ago and the escapement goals have been reduced. 20 years ago there were usually enough reds in the lagoon that inexperienced fisherman could land a few reds by "flossing" during certain periods of the tide. Today I find the number of days this is possible to be so few that I seldom try. If sufficient numbers of fish arrive, commercial openers inside the lagoon on Mondays and Thursday prevent sufficient numbers of fish being available to provide "good" sport fishing.

Coghill River - reds at Coghill used to show up like clockwork. There was a 2 week window that I could almost guarantee would produce outstanding fishing. After 3 years of not catching a red in Coghill, I took it off my list of red holes. I was told that the system for counting fish at the weir has changed and the fish no longer get backed up behind the weir because of the change - I haven't verified this.

No Name Bay #1 - In the 80's and early 90's this location was usually good for 10-20 reds in a day for 6 sport fisherman. I last fished this bay approximately 2002 and found decreased numbers of fish and a large increase in sport fishing pressure.

Gunboot - a hard area to protect with so much commercial pressure around it. The reds coming back to this creek seem to be shrinking in size. This year more than half of the reds were under 3 pounds.

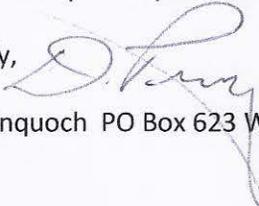
Federal Stocked Bay - The Federal government has been trying to establish a red run in western Prince William Sound for several years. This year was supposed to be a good return - up to 2500 fish. Stopped in there 4 times and didn't see a fish.

No Name Bay #2 - In the 80's this spot was great. Nice healthy reds, reasonable access and limits were usually not a problem if you timed it right. Today this bay has a run so small that I question whether it will continue at all in the future.

Main Bay Hatchery - in the early years when no barrier was put up early on and only one barrier was put up later in the season a lot of sport caught reds came out of Main Bay. Today, with the success of the Main Bay run you'd think that sport opportunities would increase but it is actually the opposite - there is now a second barrier which often keeps sport fisherman just out of reach of the reds and commercial openers are more common.

Bottom line is sport fishing opportunities for reds in Prince William are decreasing. 15 years ago I caught approximately 5 times as many reds as I do today. With Main Bay bringing in 10+ times the harvest Eshamy Bay offered to commercial fisherman prior to the hatchery it doesn't seem unreasonable to make more of the Eshamy reds available to sport fisherman - the current sport harvest of reds in western Prince William Sound is less than 1%. Proposals 100 and 120 are the best solution I know of to improve sport fishing for sockeye in western Prince William Sound.

Sincerely,



David Pinquoch PO Box 623 Whittier, AK 99693

BOF Comments

Re; Proposal 93 - I Support This Proposal (I wrote it)

Hello Board of Fish Members,

Having sport fished western Prince William Sound 25+ years and witnessed silver salmon fishing change from an excellent sport fishery to a mediocre sport fishery that spikes up and down based in part on run strength but more so on commercial fishing pressure I submitted Proposal 93 to provide a better and more consistent silver salmon sport fishery in western Prince William Sound. The last few years when the commercial fisheries are open, sport fishing can be close to non-existent in saltwater -seiners are efficient at what they do. Additionally, the commercial harvest of silvers will likely not drop because of sport harvest if this proposal is passed now - Esther Hatchery has increased the release of silver salmon fry from approximately 1.5 million to approximately 4 million and 4 of the 5 areas listed in Proposal 93 are likely areas for those fish so increased sport harvest will probably come from additional common stock and not be felt as a decline to the commercial harvest.

A comment I hear from the commercial side is that they don't get a lot of silvers when seining. I agree that most seiners don't harvest a lot of silvers, but there are a lot of seiners and it only takes a few to eliminate most of the silvers in western PWS. Not very many silvers to a commercial fisherman can be the mother lode to a sport fisherman.

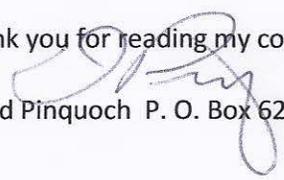
Another comment I received about this proposal is that sport fisherman can simply go past the commercial fleet and fish. In 2010, commercial seining was intense and sport fisherman were traveling 80 miles from Whittier to find silvers - in the Gulf of Alaska. The 5 areas listed in Proposal 93 would allow sport fisherman to harvest silvers a reasonable distance from Whittier.

I originally came up with 13 areas that sport fisherman often fish if there is no commercial fishing activity. I brought that down to 5 based on distance from Whittier, how much area sport fisherman need for the existing effort and using areas I believe will capture mostly silvers from Esther Hatchery.

I did a comparison between ports using sport fish data collected Fish and Game. Although there are variables in the data such as Seward and Valdez have large areas that allow a harvest of 6 fish and most fishing out of Whittier is limited to 3, the data still clearly demonstrates the need for improved sport fish opportunities in western Prince William Sound. The figures are a 9 year average, angler days are based on fishing for all species, not just silvers.

	Annual average # of Angler Days	Annual average # of Silver Salmon Harvested	
Seward	58,964	66,431	1.13 per day per angler
Valdez	26,417	47,377	1.79 per day per angler
Whittier	42,023	12,484	.29 per day per angler

Thank you for reading my comments,


David Pinquoch P. O. Box 623 Whittier, AK 99693

On 10/13/11 I Stephen Srebernak
was at Curleys Point (Near lot 27328 US53485)
in my boat & witnessed Lakers spawning.

IF you need to contact me my info

is as follows

Stephen Srebernak 373-3365

SREB@MTAonline.net

November 15, 2011

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS

Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Fax: 907.465.6094

Members of the Board,

I urge the board to **Oppose proposals 72, 73, 74, 117 and 118.**

Thank you to all the board members for your service and willingness to read my comments.

I am a third generation Copper River fisherman and I have fished the Copper for over 30 years. The Chitina Dipnetters Association as well as the Fairbanks Advisory Committee proposals are nothing more than baby steps in a reallocation of a fully utilized fishery. In the past 30 years I have seen in Cook Inlet what these baby steps can ultimately lead to. A once viable way of life that has been reallocated to the point that is now crap shoot as to covering expenses let alone providing for your family. If left unchecked the reallocation of the commercial fishery on the Copper River will likely be in the same boat.

On the proposals the question is asked WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A majority of the responses simply state, No one... I beg to differ.

Thank you,

John Platt
PO Box 1085
Cordova, Alaska 99574
alaskafisherman@hotmail.com

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

9369 North Douglas Highway

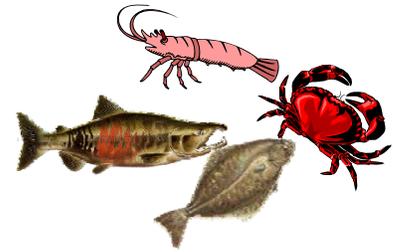
Juneau, AK 99801

Phone: 907-586-6652

Fax: 907-523-1168

Email: seafa@gci.net

Website: <http://www.seafa.org>



November 18, 2011

Alaska Dept of Fish and Game

Board Support Section

PO Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: BOF Comments - Prince William Sound

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposals submitted for consideration at the Prince William Sound meeting. We have organized our comments by numerical proposal number. Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) is multi-gear, membership based commercial fishing organization representing our members involved in salmon, crab, shrimp and longline fisheries. We have members involved in Prince William Sound drift gillnet and Gulf of Alaska longline fisheries.

Proposal #43: Oppose

SEAFA opposes this proposal to close within three miles of the shoreline from May 15th to September 1st for commercial bottom gear. ADFG in their comments have said that there is not a biological need for this closure and the proposal does not provide any information or details regarding their claim of localized depletion. This proposal affects many fisheries but its main goal is a backdoor request to close the commercial halibut fishery which the Board of Fish does not have the authority for. In particular the state PWS sablefish fishery would be significantly affected by this proposal from changing the fishery from a 4 month fishery to a one month fishery as well as other entry level fisheries such as pacific cod. Prince William Sound has in the past gone through the joint protocol (BOF/NPFMC) to try and develop a Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) that a consensus was never developed. A proposal that affects this many fisheries that are both

federal and state should occur only under a LAMP protocol.

Proposal #55: Oppose

SEAFAs oppose reconsideration of the Chitina dipnet fishery. There is no new information for consideration since last reviewed in 2008 and 2010 nor has the Dept. of Law found any errors in the deliberations in 2010. The Department permit data indicates the use pattern is consistent with previous reviews.

Proposal #109: Oppose

SEAFAs oppose this proposal because this is not the appropriate public forum to discuss this issue. It should be considered at the hatchery association board level, Regional Planning Team (RPT) and through the comprehensive plan for Prince William Sound.

Proposal #114 & #115: Oppose

These two proposals would reduce hatchery chum production to 24% of the year 2000 production. We oppose this reduction because the proper place for this discussion is within the context of the Regional Comprehensive plan and Regional Planning Team and not the Board of Fish process as has been pointed out in previous years when this proposal has been submitted.

Proposal #116: Oppose

This proposal would set a limit on homepack salmon to match the sport fishing possession limit and prohibit any homepack for commercial fishermen who engage in the Copper River Delta salmon subsistence fishery. This proposal does not save any salmon and passage of this proposal may actually increase the amount of salmon taken. When the Board of Fish established the necessary and customary take of subsistence salmon they factored in the amount kept from commercial harvests. These subsistence/commercial fishermen if prohibited from keeping fish while commercial fishing will not catch less salmon in their fishery but go and subsistence fish on days off increasing the harvest of salmon. In addition you could still sell the salmon caught and purchase back from the processor equating into the same situation as is occurring today. It is already required to list all salmon kept for "homepack" and nothing more should be required, therefore we oppose this proposal.

Thank for considering our comments on these proposals. If you have any additional questions or need clarification of our position please feel free to contact us at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Hansen", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kathy Hansen
Executive Director

November 12, 2011

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS

Boards Support Section
Alaskan Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Ak 99811-5526
FAX: 907.465.6094

Members of the Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal as part of the 2011 PWS, Upper Copper/Susitna Board of Fisheries meeting.

RE: Proposal 90 - I SUPPORT this proposal WITH AMMENDMENTS

I, James Pahl have lived in Cordova, AK for 36 years and have been a PWS setnetter for 29 of those years.

The coordinates expressed in proposal 90 would put my set net site, which has been registered in PWS since the 1960's, in closed waters.

In a conversation with the ADF&G Assistant Area Manager in the Cordova office, her research indicated the North line of the Eshamy District to be at 148*06.135W longitude. However, the Dept. of Natural Resources prefers to keep all boundary coordinates listed to the hundredths rather than the thousandths, after the decimal, so my suggested amendment to the new coordinate is as follows:

The current proposal reads "*east of a line from the entrance to Port Nellie Juan at 60*35.87N lat, 148*06.11W long.*"

The proposal *should* read "*east of a line from the entrance to Port Nellie Juan at 60*35.87N lat, 148*06.14W long*" to prevent the loss of this historical set net site.

I thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,



James Pahl
Box 179
Cordova, AK 99574

The Copper River fishery is already a fully utilized and allocated resource. We've seen all of these same issues before the Board in the past. ADF&G already does a good job; let's not hamstring them with additional mandatory rules. They already have all the tools necessary to manage on short notice and under times of concern using their Emergency Order authority.

In regards to Proposal 118, making inside closures mandatory until June 15 would not have any affect on wise conservation of king salmon. ADF&G does a good job already and has tools to manage under Emergency Order for conservation.

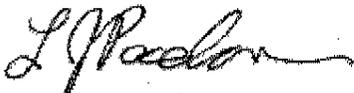
Additionally, I agree with the basis for Proposal 76 to help ensure prosperous salmon spawning into native Copper River streams.

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND ISSUES

The proposals in question, which were submitted by a fractional and marginal group of Prince William Sound seiners are not well-supported in Cordova by the seine fishing fleet. As far as the PWS Enhanced allocation plan is concerned, we already agreed on allocation as two cooperative groups in 2005 and the allocation plan was revised and approved by Board of Fish. There is no justification for increasing time and area for the seine fleet in PWS Sound at this time. The current plan allows for a 50% split of total ex-vessel harvested value between the drift and seine fleets, the main goal being to provide a fair and equitable allocation and reduce conflict among groups. Any change in favor of the seine fleet would only increase disparity between these two groups. Currently the seine fleet is above their 50% allocation; being closer to 41%/59% in 2010 and 39%/61% in 2011. What these seiners want now, even though they agreed to the previous plan, is to change it, but they have no basis for their request.

In sum, I hope the Board of Fish is able to sift through the proposals and be able to make clear decisions on these important issues. Again, I appreciate the time you have taken to ensure fairness and longevity among user groups for our fisheries.

Sincerely,



Lauren Padawer

Cordova Resident
Area E Permit Holder, F/V Canvasback

PO Box 394
Cordova, AK 99574
907.424.4695

To: Board of Fisheries

Hello my name is Anatolie Lisov. I'm a commercial fisherman in Cordova Alaska. I have fished the Copper River Elats and Prince William Sound for 21 years and would like to for 20 more. I would like to say that I strongly oppose

Proposal - 81

Proposal - 72- 75 and 117

Proposal - 118

And Proposals - 88, 89, 92, 101, 104-106 108 n 110

This commercial gillnet fishing is my livelihood and is the only source of income that supports my whole family thru the winter, especially now, the way the economy has been. We have traveled to and from Alaska for 21 years with the whole family and we would not have it any other way.

My boys have fished with me since they were big enough to step on board. And I would like to see them experience the pleasures of commercial fishing for many years. So I'm asking

Board of Fisheries to please Oppose

Proposal 72-75- and 117

Proposal 118

Proposal 81

And Proposals 88, 89, 92, 101, 104-106, 108 n 110

Thank You

Pauline Lisov
FIV Lisov

Attn: BOF Comments
Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094

November 14, 2011

Dear Board of Fisheries,

My name is Heather Maxcy and I have been involved with the commercial fishing industry in Cordova since 1992. My husband owns an SO3 drift gillnet permit. I have been a seine crewman in Prince William Sound and a gillnet crewman in Bristol Bay, Prince William Sound and on the Copper River flats. My husband and I own two businesses that market his catch as well as the catch of some of the other area fishermen, Wild By Nature LLC and Maxcy Fishing Inc. I am extremely concerned with many of the proposals placed before the Board of Fish and the negative impacts they will have on our ability to support our family and the community of Cordova. I hold a degree in Fish and Wildlife management and have been fortunate to work in both education and research in and around the Copper River Delta.

I am passionate about the resource not only as a person who derives their living from it but also as a person who enjoys recreating and one who has spent many hours working, playing and enjoying all it has to offer. My family and I are avid sport fishermen and outdoorsmen. I believe there are no issues with true subsistence use but I believe the qualifiers for subsistence use need to be expanded, not reduced. I enjoy the subsistence life style in Montana which we pursue via hunting and fishing licenses and gathering since we live with access to fairly reasonably priced food. This is true of many Alaskans living on the road system.

The changes in the sport fishery around Cordova and much of Alaska are alarming and need addressed immediately. Our little girl loves to fish and I would not take her to either Ibec or 18 mile creek on the Copper River Delta last summer. I did not want her to learn that "combat fishing" is a quality fishing experience. I did not want her to think that the behavior of many of these fishermen and their abuse of an incredible resource is acceptable. I support any and all equitable changes that will improve the quality of the sportfishing experience and maintain the healthy ecosystems we enjoy and need to maintain our livelihoods for generations to come.

PROPOSAL 43: I urge the board to oppose this proposal. This is a problem that requires careful and equitable discussion to identify the specific problem/s and come up with workable solutions. PWS is a historical long line fishery for many local fisherman, especially those who fish small boats and limited amounts of quota. The recreational harvest of rockfish and lingcod far exceeds that of the commercial harvest in the Sound. This increased harvest needs to be evaluated as even a reduction in the rockfish bag limit did not reduce the total harvest and many of the discarded rockfish die. The entire halibut harvest also needs careful consideration. Recreational harvest has increased despite a decline in the stocks. Before any drastic measures are taken harvest by all user groups needs to carefully be assessed and a sound management decision reached.

Board of Fisheries letter November 14, 2011
Heather L Maxcy

PROPOSALS 54, 55: I urge the board to **oppose** these proposals. Most of the dipnet fishery users are residents of urban communities like Fairbanks and Anchorage. They are not from small, isolated communities such as Cordova. They are not subsistence users, many which have relied on this resource to help feed their families for generations.

PROPOSAL 56: I urge the board to **support** this proposal. All user groups should share in the management and thus restriction of their harvest of king salmon in order to meet the escapement goal. It is impossible to correctly manage a resource without appropriate participation by all of the user groups.

PROPOSALS 72, 73, 74, 75, 117, 118: I urge the board to **oppose** these proposals. The Copper River king salmon run is a fully utilized and allocated resource. ADF&G memorandum, September 20, 2011 states that there are no stocks of concern and did not reference the need to adjust the SEG of 24,000 or more. Nothing has happened that should change the fact that the Chitina personal use fishery should share in the proper management of the king salmon fishery and be restricted to one king salmon. If the Alaskan families asking to be changed to subsistence classification were allowed to retain 5 kings per family their use would more than double the minimum SEG of 24,000 and would be more than 5 times the commercial harvest of 9500 kings for 2009 and 2010. These issues are recent ones and have only occurred since the establishment of a commercial upriver fishery. Charter boat operators are commercial and all user groups should share in escapement accountability.

Since 2006 ADF&G has implemented the mandatory inside closures as part of the Copper River king salmon management plan (as revised at the '05 Valdez BOF mtg.), and has the authority to close commercial fishing by emergency order as necessary. 2010 saw 5 inside closures versus a mandated 2. If ADF&G limits commercial fishing time personal use harvest should also be limited. The delayed and inaccurate reporting of how many kings are taken by upriver users must be addressed if the resource is to be sustainably managed. Further restricting the drift gillnet user group is not justified nor is it a valid solution.

PROPOSAL 76: I urge the board to **support** this proposal for the reasons stated above.

PROPOSAL 79: I urge the board to **support** this proposal as any proposal that assists enforcement and removes the advantage of illegal fishing should be supported. I have been made aware of fishermen fishing the Copper River and Eshamy districts without changing from deep gear to 60 mesh gear.

PROPOSAL 80: I urge the board to **support** this proposal as this practice gives unfair advantage to fishermen who try to bend the rules.

**Board of Fisheries letter November 14, 2011
Heather L Maxcy**

PROPOSAL 81: I urge the board to **oppose** this proposal. Historical fishing methods involve fishing in shallow waters and fishing at the change of tide. In order to keep the net in legal formation, stay safe and avoid incidences with other boats mechanical power is necessary. I **support** targeting the fishermen who intentionally and illegally "rock down" to hold key sets and keep other fishermen out as this hurts the honest guys but this proposal will hurt all gillnet fishermen and is not based on fact or common sense.

PROPOSALS 88,89,92, 101, 104, 105, 106, 108, 110: I urge the board to **oppose** these proposals. The current purpose of the PWS allocation plan is to provide a fair and equitable allocation among the PWS salmon user groups and reduce conflicts among the fishermen. The allocation plan is to maintain a 50% split of the total ex-vessel value between the drift and seine fleets of PWSAC enhanced salmon. The disparity is on the increase, in 2011 the gillnet fleet harvested 39.1% of the value and the seine fleet harvested 60.9%. There is no justification for increasing time and area for the seine fleet in PWS. I feel these proposals are based only on greed and any change in the plan will increase the gap in harvest value and go against the intent of the allocation plan. Including non-enhanced salmon in the PWS allocation plan will also contradict ADF&Gs concern for the harvest of uncontrolled numbers of wild salmon in migratory corridors far from their natal streams.

PROPOSAL 93: I urge the board to **strongly oppose** this proposal. This proposal would eliminate the opportunity for commercial fishermen to fish some very key sets so the sport fishermen would have more fish available to them. Sport users should not have priority over commercial users. These coho salmon are primarily hatchery fish returning to Wally Noerenberg Hatchery and are paid for entirely by commercial fishermen. Commercial fishermen also pay for the remote release of coho salmon to Whittier and Chenega soley for the benefit of the sport fleet.

I am an avid sport fisherman. Commercial operators are commercial operators and are no different from commercial fishermen. They derive financial gain from their operations. The disparity here is that these commercial operators pay nothing for the hatchery fish production from which they derive a large financial gain. Please note that proposals 93, 100, and 120 were submitted by David Pinquoch, owner of Alaska Good Time Charters, a commercial operation that pays nothing to support these fish but from which he derives financial gain.

PROPOSAL 107: I urge the board to **support** this proposal as it attempts to correct the disparity between the ex-vessel value to the gillnetters versus the seiners.

PROPOSAL 122: I urge the board to **support** this proposal as I have personally witnessed the exploitation of this small, wild run.

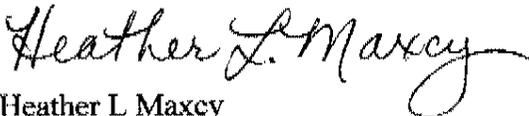
PROPOSALS 123, 124: I **strongly urge** the board to support these proposals. The sport fishing use on the Copper River Delta and Ibec Creek especially has increased exponentially over the last few years. Closing limited areas of both Ibec and 18 mile would provide a small, safe area for the salmon to spawn in, reduce bank erosion, and limit take of some of the spawners. This would benefit all user groups.

PROPOSAL 125: I urge the board to **support** this proposal. Sport fishing pressure has increased. This proposal makes good, common sense.

PROPOSAL 126, 127, 128: I strongly urge the board to **support** these proposals. All user groups are responsible and should be required to participate in the conservation of the resource. The impact of commercial fishing has been well regulated for many years with limited entry permitting and intense management practices that regulate and track harvest. There is currently nothing in place to limit the exponential increase in use by the sport and personal use fishermen. Reporting requirements for sport and personal use are inaccurate and enforcement of restrictions on the harvest is difficult. I am consistently in the airport and at custom processors due to the nature of our business. Day after day I witness sport fishermen leaving with 10+ boxes of salmon fillets. More than they can ever eat in a year and more than they are supposed to have in possession. Consider the charter boat operators who run a commercial business that makes money off of the valuable public fishery resource and yet they are not limited by the number of days they can fish, number of clients they can take, number of total fish taken a season and they do not pay enhancement taxes or buy a limited entry permit. It is also incorrect to assume the commercial fishermen is making more income than the other commercial operators. This is often not the case. There needs to be a better system for accurately accounting for upriver use and controlling expansion and exploitation of the resource.

Thank you for taking the time to review my comments.

Sincerely,



Heather L Maxcy
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Cordova, AK 99574
907-424-7672

Boards Support Section

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

PO Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

I address this to all who have persuasion, influence and decision making abilities. My name is Justin Hinde and I have been fishing area E as a captain or crewmember over the last 15 years. Please look long term when making these decisions.

On proposition 117 I am opposed. No change is necessary.

On proposition 81 I am opposed. I hold this position because mechanical operation is necessary to keep a gillnet in shape, and because it is safer mechanical operation is necessary.

On proposition 90 I support with amendments.

On propositions 88 89 92 104 105 106 108 110 I am opposed. These have direct negative impact on the current PWS allocation plan.

On propositions 51 54 55 I am opposed. There is no new information here.

On propositions 72 73 74 75 117 119 I am opposed. Nothing has changed to merit a change.

On proposition 118 I am opposed. This is not justified.

Justin Hinde

P.O. Box 166

Cordova, AK

99574

November 16, 2011

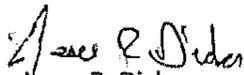
To Whom It May Concern:

I am a resident of Lake Louise and it has been brought to my attention with regard to the abuse and waste of fish resources on the Lake Louise waterways. I am in full support of Proposal #68 to restrict the subsistence netting areas and delay the opening date to allow the lake trout ample time to complete their spawning cycle.

It is imperative for this issue to be addressed. If immediate action is not taken, it would be a detriment to the lake trout fishery. This proposal only makes sense and to ignore the current situation would be irresponsible to future generations.

Please take this proposal into serious consideration and adopt this into law.

With sincerity,



Jesse R. Dicks

HC01 Box 1704

Glennallen, AK 99588

Telephone #: (907) 748-4068

Boards Support Section

November 17,2011

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Fax: 907-465-6094

From: Robin Dexter

robindexter@comcast.net

360-733-2977

RE: Proposals 82 thru 87 regarding seine gear specifications

With the exception of #85, which I do not support, these proposals will have little effect on the efficiency of fish harvest, but are an attempt to bring the regulatory language into harmony with the way seine gear is manufactured and assembled.

The use of "border" or "collar" strips in seines has made assembly and repair of seines faster and easier, but they have not been accounted for in the depth requirements in 5 AAC 24.332.

Further, there is no longer any reason to use 7inch mesh in leads permanently sewn on the boat end of seines. While operators who feel strongly about the utility of leads should be able to continue using them, operators who do not ought to be permitted to replace them with ordinary seine web.

Finally, some care should be taken in the regulatory language to account for the concern in proposal 87 about the shrinkage of nylon twine over time.

I don't believe any of these matters are controversial but I am do think they are important and could be solved very quickly by a committee which included the relevant stakeholders.

RE: Proposals 101, 105, 106, 108 and 110 concerning changes to the PWS Management and Salmon Enhancement and Allocation Plan

As a member of CDFU Seine division, I generally support the positions taken by that organization concerning the various proposals before the Board. It represents the largest organized group, by far, of active Seine operators in PWS.

I've been closely involved with the allocation issue in PWS since 1991 and am a member of the PWSAC Board.

While the Allocation plan is not perfect and should always be subject to improvement, the above referenced proposals depart radically from the Board's own Findings from prior cycles.

The above referenced proposals are the product of a very narrow constituency within the seine fleet and were advanced with almost no feedback from relevant stakeholders.

While none of these proposals should be adopted, CDFU Seine divisions' comments on them make note of some topics that are ripe for committee discussion.

These include the restoration of the Seine fleet's traditional access to wild stocks on the West side of the Sound and some protection of those wild stocks from interception in the gillnet fisheries on enhanced stocks.

Thank each of you very much very much for your service, and I look forward to lively discussion of these and other matters in committee.

Nov 17, 2011

BOARD OF FISHERIES

MY WIFE + I MOVED TO ALASKA IN 1982. WE RAISED FOUR CHILDREN WITH THE HELP OF HARVESTING MOOSE CARIBOU, BLACK BEAR, SHEEP, AND FISHING FOR HALIBUT & SALMON.

MY WIFE + I ~~SUPPORT~~ WANT TO VOICE OUR OPINION ON THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS:

PROPOSAL #43 ADOPT

PROPOSAL #51 OPPOSE

THIS SHOULD BE A SUSTAINABLE FISHERY. WE HAVE DIPNET FOR 28 YEARS

PROPOSAL #55 ADOPT

CLEM + CONNIE COOPER

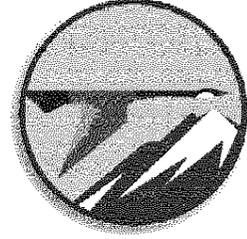
1163 LINDA LOU LANE

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November 17, 2011

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Boards Support Section

Alaska Department of Fish & Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Fax: (907) 465-6094

RE: Written comments for the Alaska Outdoor Council

Dear Chair Vince Webster and board members,

The Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) thanks the members of the Board of Fisheries for the opportunity to comment on proposals that will greatly affect AOCs member's ability to acquire a wildfood harvest. Board action on a number of the proposals will not only affect AOC member's ability to be assured of an annual salmon harvest from the Copper River drainage but statewide ultimately. Creation of personal use fisheries in areas outside of Joint Board's adopted Nonsubsistence Area is inconsistent with current statutes governing the allocation of fish stocks for subsistence uses.

AOC recommendations to the Board of Fisheries:

Proposal 54 and 55. Adopt. The new definition for "subsistence way of life" passed by the board is **new information** that has not been available for public comment until this Fall 2011 board meeting. The Board of Fisheries (the board) is required by law to take the proposal up for consideration.

The board continues to **incorrectly** adopt regulations consistent with 5 AAC 77.001. **Intent and application of the Personal Use Fishery** for the Chitina Subdistrict Fishery.

5AAC 77.000. Personal use fishery

5 AAC 77.001. Intent and application of this chapter

a) The Board of Fisheries finds that

- 1) before the enactment of the state's subsistence priority law in ch. 151, SLA 1978, an individual could fulfill that individual's personal use needs for fish under subsistence fishing regulations;
- 2) the state's subsistence priority law changed the definition of subsistence in a manner that now precludes some individuals from participating in customary and traditional subsistence fisheries and efficiently harvesting fish for their personal use;
- 3) there presently are areas of the state with harvestable surpluses of fish in excess of both spawning escapement needs and present levels of subsistence, commercial and sport uses; and
- 4) it is necessary to establish a fishery classified as "personal use" because

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- A) since the sale of fish is not appropriate or permissible, this fishery cannot be classified as commercial;
 - B) since the use is not a customary and traditional use, this fishery cannot be classified as subsistence; and
 - C) since the gear for this fishery is often different from that historically associated with sport fishing, this fishery should not be classified as a sport fishery, to prevent confusion among the public.
- b) It is the intent of the board that the taking of fish under 5 AAC 77 will be allowed when that taking does not jeopardize the sustained yield of a resource and either does not negatively impact an existing resource use or is in the broad public interest.

The intent in 5 AAC 77.001 has not been valid for the Chitina Dipnet Fishery for over two decades. The board has **not** taken into account the Alaska Supreme Court decision in *McDowell v. State*, (Alaska 1989). It is no longer necessary for the board to create a special personal use fishery in a Nonsubsistence Area, 5 AAC 99.015, in order for individual Alaskans to efficiently harvest fish in the Chitina dipnet fishery. The Joint Boards has not created a Nonsubsistence Area for the Copper River drainage. The highest State court has struck down AS 16.05.258(b)(4)(B)(ii) the proximity of the domicile of the subsistence user to the stock or population. You don't have to have a rural zipcode in order to participate in a state subsistence fishery. In a **Tier I** situations, AS 16.05.258(b)(1), **ALL** Alaskans can participate in a subsistence fishery. Past boards have misused the 8 point criteria, 5 AAC 99.010, to differentiate between users when determining the customary and traditional uses (C&T) of a fish stock. The 8 criteria found in 5 AAC 99.010 is inconsistent with the state subsistence statute AS 16.02.258. All C&T determinations of fish stocks are made based on historical uses. There is no one disputing the fact that salmon in the Copper River drainage have been used by inriver residents for 1,000s of years. The board must recognize all Alaskans as qualifying for subsistence use priorities of fish stocks at the Tier I level in order to be in compliance with current law. The board can't differentiate between Alaskans fishing the Copper River until all commercial salmon harvest has been closed. The board should correct the intent language in 5 AAC 77.001 to reflect the current law. The board should also request that the Joint Boards ask the Alaska legislature to correct the state subsistence law AS 16.05.258(b)(4)(B)(ii) to reflect the current law regarding distinguishing between subsistence users. Return the Chitina Dipnet Fishery to a State of Alaska subsistence fishery, consistent with the current state subsistence law.

Proposal 51. Do not adopt. This proposal if adopted would change the Copper River District salmon fishery to a personal use fishery. The Personal Use Fishery regulation was created by the board to give Alaskans an opportunity to use dipnets as a method of catching salmon after the Alaska legislature passed a state subsistence law requiring a rural residency in 1978. The Copper River District salmon subsistence fishery is not located in a State Nonsubsistence Area, it shouldn't be changed into a personal use fishery. It's time to find out if the State's "Common use clauses" enshrined in the Alaska's State Constitution are worth anything or not. Can urban Alaskans have a priority to salmon resources in the Copper River or not? Personal use fisheries in areas upon to subsistence uses, under the state subsistence law, AS 16.05.258, should be unconstitutional.

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It will be very educational to listen to ADF&G Subsistence Division as they go through the 8-criteria steps, 5 AAC 99.010, to determine C&T use, or not, for salmon at the mouth of the Copper River. The new definition for “subsistence way of life” adopted by the board, after remand by the Alaska Superior Court, will be applied in the board’s evaluation of the Copper River District. Subsistence use is now going to be determined by a way of life that is “consistent with the long term reliance upon the fish and game resources for the basic necessities of life”. This is **new information** that requires the board to take this proposal up for consideration.

All subsistence fisheries on the Copper River should be managed consistent with the state subsistence law, AS 16.05.258, without exception.

Proposal #43 – Adopt. This proposal if adopted would prohibit the commercial use of bottom gear (longlining) within 3 miles of shore in Prince William Sound (PWS). The board has the authority to regulate methods, gear types, for state as well as federal fisheries within the three miles of State territorial waters in Prince William Sound.

Adoption of this proposal to restrict bottom gear for the summer, May 15th – September 1st in PWS would help assure that Alaskans could keep catching their annual supply of halibut and rockfish. In addition passage of this proposal would be the least restrictive action the BOF could take to help preserve a viable charter fleet that benefits many Alaskans and their coastal communities. The feds aren’t going to fix the issue of declining halibut biomass by reducing the harvest on the small percentage (15%) taken by individuals who have hired a charter boat. The board has no authority over managing the halibut fishery. If this is a conservation issue it is up to the federal fisheries managers to regulate the commercial fleet that takes the majority (85%) of the harvest and bottom draggers out in the Gulf. Correcting the commercial overharvest of halibut is the federal fisheries managers’ responsibility.

Adoption of this proposal would provide individual anglers in PWS with the continued opportunity to harvest halibut, and to some extent rockfish, within the state’s three mile waters without having to compete with the commercial halibut fisheries industry. This is an action the State could take now in the name of protecting the resource and the saltwater charter industry in PWS that would be consistent with state law. This small area of restriction would not prohibit the federal halibut IFQ program from being full utilized by the commercial halibut fisheries industry.

Proposal 72. Adopt. This regulation is **not** biologically based; there is no connection between the Copper River Commercial Fishery and the allocation for individual harvest of salmon at the Chitina dipnet fishery. The board has determined that salmon entering the Copper River drainage have a positive C&T, except when they are swimming just downstream of the Chitina-McCarthy Road Bridge. This determination was incorrectly adopted by the board based on distinguishing between Alaskan resident users not the use of the resources. The Alaska State Constitution’s Common-Use clauses, Article VIII, Sec. 3, 15, and 17, and state statutes AS 16.05.258 shouldn’t allow the board to restrict individual Alaskans opportunity to harvest salmon because of in season closures to the commercial salmon fisheries.

The board should adopt this proposal to rescind the allocation reduction for the Chitina dipnet fishery.

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AOC represents over 10,000, Alaskans, many of whom harvest fish in Alaskan waters for their annual wildfood supply. Our membership appreciate your consideration of our comments and AOC representatives will attend the December Board of Fisheries meeting in Valdez and would appreciate being included in the Committee of the Whole: Group 1 and in Committee's A and B.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Rod Arno



Executive Director
Alaska Outdoor Council

Bill Iverson



President
Alaska Outdoor Council

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission

P.O. Box 439
Mile 106.8 Richardson Hwy.
Copper Center, AK 99573

October 18, 2011

Karl Johnstone, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

By fax: 907-465-6094

Re: Proposals 54 and 55

Dear Chairman Webster,

We would like to offer comments regarding the classification of the salmon fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict (Proposals 54 and 55), which are scheduled for discussion before the Board of Fisheries at your December 2011 meeting. The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) represents subsistence users of federal lands and waters within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Salmon harvested in the upper Copper River are a very important subsistence resource for residents of many of the park's resident zone communities.

The Wrangell-St. Elias SRC opposes Proposals 54 and 55. The Commission believes that the use of salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict does not meet the criteria for classification as subsistence. This fishery is not a customary and traditional use of salmon stocks in the Upper Copper River District. Personal use was put into statute because it was deemed necessary to have another category. Personal use does not fit the criteria for customary and traditional use, nor is it sport fishing. Nothing has changed to allow the Chitina dip net fishery to be classified as subsistence use.

Most current participants in this fishery travel hundreds of miles and spend hundreds of dollars on gas and other necessities to get to Chitina. Some arrive with giant freezers on specially built trailers. This is not subsistence. Some of them have little respect for the people and community

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of Chitina while they are there, trespassing on private property and improperly disposing of fish remains and other waste. This is contrary to customary and traditional practices such as respecting traditional territories and private property. Public access to this fishery is limited, and many participants must pay for charters in order to access it. The Commission is also concerned that local subsistence users who have customarily and traditionally harvested fish will be negatively affected by the proposal to classify the dip net fishery as subsistence.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bert Adams, Sr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bert Adams, Sr.
Chairman

cc: Southcentral Alaska Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
NPS Alaska Regional Director

Chairman: Bert Adams, Sr.; Members: Dan Stevens, Don Horrell, Don Welty, Gloria Stickwan, Ray Sensmeier, Robert Fithian, Sue Entsminger, Suzanne McCarthy