

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

REVIEWER LETTER

DEAR REVIEWER:

July 2006

The Alaska Board of Fisheries will consider the attached book of regulatory proposals at its **October 2006 through March 2007** meetings. The proposals concern changes to the state's fishing regulations. Members of the public, organizations, advisory committees, and staff timely submitted these proposals. The proposals are published essentially as they were received.

The proposals in this book are presented as brief statements summarizing the intended regulatory changes. In cases where confusion might arise or where the regulation is complex, proposed changes are also indicated in legal format. In this format, bolded and underlined words are **additions** to the regulation text, and capitalized words or letters in square brackets [XXXX] are deletions from the regulation text.

You are encouraged to read all proposals presented in this book. Some regulations have statewide application and some regulations may affect other regions or fisheries of the state. Also, some proposals recommend changes to multiple fisheries within an area or region.

In this book the proposals are first grouped by the meeting to which they pertain (see PROPOSAL INDEX for each meeting). Within each meeting the proposals are then organized by region, fishery or species. These proposal lists are not in roadmap order for the meeting. The board will generate a roadmap for deliberations prior to each meeting when committee assignments are made. The roadmap may be changed up to and during the meeting.

Before taking action on these proposed changes to the regulations, the board would like your written comments and/or oral testimony on any effects the proposed changes would have on your activities.

After reviewing the proposals, please send written comments to:

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

Public comment, in combination with Advisory Committee comments and ADF&G staff presentations, provide the Board of Fisheries with useful biological and socioeconomic data to form decisions. Comments may be submitted at any time until the public testimony period for that proposal and/or its subject matter is closed at the meeting and the board begins deliberations. As a practical matter, you are encouraged to mail or fax your written comments to the above Juneau address at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting. See "Tentative Meeting Schedule" on page v for the comment deadline for each meeting. Receipt by this date will ensure inclusion in the board workbook. All comments received after that time will be presented to board members at the time of the meeting, but may not be printed in the board workbook. Written comments will also be accepted during the board meeting and public

testimony during the public testimony portion of the meeting is always appreciated. Written comments become public documents.

When providing written comments regarding these proposals, list the PROPOSAL NUMBER to which your comment pertains and specifically whether you FAVOR or OPPOSE the proposal. This will ensure that your comments are correctly noted for the board members. If the comments support a modification in the proposal, please indicate SUPPORT AS AMENDED and provide a preferred amendment in writing.

Please briefly explain why you are in support or opposition of the proposal. Board actions are based on a complete review of the facts involved in each proposal, not a mere calculation of comments for or against a proposal. Advisory committees and other groups also need to explain the rationale behind recommendations. Minority viewpoints from an advisory committee should be noted in advisory committee minutes along with the majority recommendation. The board benefits greatly from understanding the pro and cons of each issue. A brief description consisting of a couple of sentences is sufficient. If making comments on more than one proposal, please do not use separate pieces of paper. Simply begin the next set of written comments by listing the next proposal number.

Written comments will be photocopied so please use 8 1/2" x 11" paper and leave reasonable margins on all sides, allowing for hole punches. Whether typed or handwritten, use dark ink and write legibly.

Pertinent policies and findings, proposals, written comment deadlines, meeting calendars and notices for the Board of Fishery meetings are posted on the Board Support website at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>.

Agendas for each Board of Fisheries meeting will be available prior to the meeting. Also, the most current roadmap will be provided at the specific meeting, which will set forth the order in which proposals will be considered.

Beginning in October, a recorded telephone message will provide current updates on the board's agenda and schedule. Call 800-764-8901 (in Juneau, call 465-8901).

Persons with a disability needing special accommodations in order to comment on the proposed regulations should contact the Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4110 no later than two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

SPECIAL NOTES: The board applies various policies when considering fisheries allocations and when addressing salmon proposals: 1) When addressing fishery allocations among sport, guided sport, personal use, and/or commercial fisheries, the board considers the "Allocation Criteria: (5 AAC 39.205; 5 AAC 75.017; and 5 AAC 77.007). 2) When addressing salmon proposals the board generally considers 5 AAC 39.220, the "Mixed Stock Salmon Policy." 3) The board also considers 5 AAC 39.222, the "Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy." You may wish to review these policies as you prepare comments for the board. These policies are also accessible on our website at the above web address.

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

TABEL OF CONTENTS

2006/2007 PROPOSAL BOOK

INTRODUCTION SECTION

Page Number

Reviewer Letter	i-ii
Tabel of Contents.....	iii-iv
Tenative Meeting Schedule	v
Board of Fisheries Ling-Term Meeting cycle	vi
Board of Fisheries Membership Roster	vii
Boards Support Section Staff	viii
Draft Public/Legal Notice.....	ix-xi

PROPOSAL INDEX BY MEETING/AREA:

State Waters Trawl: Cook Inlet and Adak Areas.	xii
Bristol Bay Finfish	xiii-xvi
Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Finfish.....	xvii-xviii
Alaska Peninsula / Aleutian Islands	xix-xx
Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues.....	xxi

PROPOSAL SECTION

Page Number

<u>STATE WATERS TRAWL: COOK INLET AND ADAK AREAS</u>	1-6
---	-----

BRISTOL BAY FINFISH

Subsistence/Personal Use	6-12
Commercial Herring	13-15
Salmon	
<i>Fishing Gear Specifications and Operations</i>	15-21
<i>Use of 200 Fathoms of Gillnet</i>	21-26
<i>Registration and Reregistration</i>	26-33
<i>Vessel Specifications and Operations</i>	33-39
<i>Bay-wide Management Plans</i>	39-43
<i>Naknek River Special Harvest Area Manegment Plan</i>	43-52
<i>Egegik River Special Harvest Area Manegment Plan</i>	52-57
<i>Ugashik River Special Harvest Area Manegment Plan</i>	57--59
<i>Alagnak River Special Harvest Area Manegment Plan</i>	59-62
<i>Naknek-Kvichak District Management and Allocation Plan</i>	62-71
<i>Nushagak District Management and Allocation Plan</i>	71-74
<i>Egegik District Management and Allocation Plan</i>	74-76
<i>Fishing Districts and Fishing Periods</i>	76-81
Sport Fishing	81-87

ARCTIC-YUKON-KUSKOKWIM FINFISH

Resident Species	
<i>Sport</i>	88-99

<i>Personal Use</i>	99-100
Kotzebue and Norton Sound-Port Clarence Areas Salmon and Herring	
<i>Subsistence and Sport</i>	100-108
<i>Commercial</i>	108-112
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	112
Kuskokwim Area Salmon	
<i>Commercial</i>	112-114
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	115-116
Yukon Area Salmon and Fresh Water Fish	
<i>Subsistence and Commercial</i>	116-131
<i>Sport</i>	131-133

ALASKA PENINSULA / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

Groundfish	134-139
Salmon	
<i>June Fishery</i>	139-146
<i>Post-June Fishery</i>	146-150
<i>Southeastern District Mainland</i>	151-155
<i>Northern Peninsula</i>	155-160
Herring and Salmon: Miscellaneous.....	160-168

STATEWIDE FINFISH AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES

Commercial Salmon Fishing General Provisions.....	169-177
Sport Fish General Provisions	177-188
Personal Use.....	188-189
Commissioner Proposed Regulatory Change.	189-194

Alaska Board of Fisheries
2006/2007
Tentative Meeting Schedule

Bristol Bay, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, and
Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Finfish;
Statewide General Finfish Provisions;
and Supplemental Issues

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: Monday, April 10, 2006

Dates [and Duration]	Topics	Location	Comment Deadline
October 12 – 13, 2006 [2 days]	Work Session ACRs, cycle organization, Stocks of Concern	Anchorage Howard Johnson	*
October 14 – 15, 2006 [2 days]	State Waters Trawl: Cook Inlet and Adak Areas	Anchorage Howard Johnson	Sept. 29, 2006
December 4 – 12, 2006 [9 days]	Bristol Bay Finfish	Dillingham Dillingham Middle School	Nov. 17, 2006
Jan. 31– Feb 5, 2007 [6 days]	Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Finfish	Anchorage Millennium Hotel	Jan. 19, 2007
February 6 – 11, 2007 [6 days]	AK Peninsula/Aleutians Islands	Anchorage Millennium Hotel	Jan. 19, 2007
March 9 – 13, 2007 [5 days]	Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues	Anchorage Millennium Hotel	Feb. 23, 2007

ACR Deadline: August 28, 2006

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

MEETING CYCLE

The board meeting cycle generally occurs from October through March. The board considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule. All fisheries are considered when the regional area, shellfish species, or statewide regulations are before the board. The fisheries include subsistence, sport, guided sport, personal use, and commercial. Special petition and agenda change request procedures are available for the board to consider out-of-cycle requests.

NOTES:

- 1) Statewide shellfish regulations will not be considered every meeting cycle. When setting the future meeting schedule annually, the board will determine whether to consider statewide finfish or shellfish regulations for that meeting cycle.
- 2) The proposal deadline is April 10 every year. *If April 10 falls on a weekend, the proposal deadline is the Friday preceding that weekend.*

Meeting Cycle:	2006/2007	2009/2010	2012/2013	2015/2016
<u>Area:</u>	Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island Areas (All Finfish) Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Areas (All Finfish) Bristol Bay Area (All Finfish) Statewide Provisions (Finfish)			

Meeting Cycle:	2007/2008	2010/2011	2013/2014	2016/2017
<u>Area:</u>	Cook Inlet Area (All Finfish) Kodiak and Chignik Areas (All Finfish) King and Tanner Crab (Statewide)			

Meeting Cycle:	2008/2009	2011/2012	2014/2015	2017/2018
<u>Area:</u>	Southeast/Yakutat Areas (All Finfish) Prince William Sound Area (All Finfish) Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, and Miscellaneous Shellfish (Statewide) Statewide Provisions (Shellfish)			

THE MEETING CYCLE REPEATS ITSELF EVERY THREE YEARS (with the exception of statewide regulations). This schedule was adopted November 9, 1990.

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

(Revised July 2006)

Name / Address	Term Expires
Art Nelson 2132 Clark St. Anchorage, Alaska 99504	06/30/2007
Jeremiah Campbell PO Box 1586 Seward, AK 99664	06/30/2009
Rupe Andrews 9416 Long Run Dr. Juneau, Alaska 99801	06/30/2008
Bonnie Williams PO Box 82812 Fairbanks, Alaska 99708	06/30/2009
Robert Heyano PO Box 1409 Dillingham, AK 99576	06/30/2007
John Jensen PO Box 681 Petersburg, AK 99833	06/30/2008
Mel Morris 917 Mill Bay Road Kodiak, Alaska 99615	06/30/2008

Alaska Board of Fisheries members may also be reached at:

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Boards Support Section

P.O. Box 25526

Juneau, AK 99802-5526

(907) 465-4110

(907) 465-6094 FAX

www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us

Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
(907) 465-4110
(907) 465-6094 Fax

HEADQUARTERS

Board of Fisheries

Jim Marcotte, Exec. Director II 465-6095
Gerry Bigelow, Pub. Tech. II 465-6097

Board of Game

Kristy Tibbles, Exec. Director I 465-6098
Scott Crass, Pub. Specialist II 465-4046

Olivia Orsborn, Administrative Manager 465-6096
Lindsay Terry, Administrative Clerk III 465-4110

REGIONAL OFFICES

Arctic Region

Charlie Gregg
PO Box 689
Kotzebue, AK 99752
Phone: (907) 442-1717
Fax: (907) 442-2420

Southeast Region

Gerry Bigelow
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Phone: (907) 465-6097
Fax: (907) 465-6094

Interior Region

Rita St. Louis
1300 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599
Phone: (907) 459-7263
Fax: (907) 459-8558

Southwest Region

Joe Chythlook
PO Box 1030
Dillingham, AK 99576
Phone: (907) 842-5142
Fax: (907) 842-5514

Southcentral Region

Sherry Wright
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599
Phone: (907) 267-2354
Fax: (907) 267-2489

For updated information on the progress of an ongoing Board of Fisheries or Board of Game meeting,
call: Juneau 465-8901; outside Juneau 1-800-764-8901

Website address: <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>

DRAFT

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE
REGULATIONS OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**

The Alaska Board of Fisheries proposes to adopt, amend, or repeal regulations contained in Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with fishery resources in the areas designated below.

Regulations subject to board action concern subsistence, personal use, sport, guided sport, and commercial fishing.

The Board of Fisheries may adopt, amend, repeal, or take no action on the following subject matters.

IN THE KOTZEBUE, NORTON SOUND-PORT CLARENCE, YUKON-NORTHERN, and KUSKOKWIM FINFISH AREAS (collectively referred to as Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim or A-Y-K), AND IN THE BRISTOL BAY, ALASKA PENINSULA, ATKA-AMLIA ISLANDS, ALEUTIAN ISLANDS FINFISH AREAS; and STATEWIDE (GENERAL PROVISIONS) FINFISH REGULATIONS:

- A. In the commercial, sport, guided sport, and personal use fisheries:** fishing seasons, periods, opening and closing times; bag, possession, size, and harvest limits, harvest levels or quotas; districts, subdistricts, sections, subsections, areas, and other management boundaries; locations open and closed to fishing; methods and means; gear and vessel restrictions, marking and identification, definitions, operational requirements, registration and permit requirements; permits, harvest records, fish tickets, harvest marking requirements; management plans for conservation and development of fisheries; allocation among beneficial uses; restrict, prohibit, or require the retention, sale, or purchase of fish; registration, reporting, logbook, and operating requirements for fish guides, guided anglers, catchers, processors, buyers and transporters; possession, transport, or release of fish; onboard observer requirements; sustainable salmon fisheries policy; salmon escapement goal policy; regulation of fishing as needed for the conservation, development, or utilization of fisheries.

- B. In the subsistence fisheries:** identify subsistence uses and users; fishing seasons, periods, opening and closing times, harvest levels; methods and means; size, age, and sex limitations; districts, subdistricts, sections, subsections, areas, and other management boundaries; area open and closed to fishing; gear and vessel restrictions and operational requirements; harvest limits, registration and permit requirements, requirements for marking and possession of fish; management plans for conservation, development and allocation among beneficial uses, and users; identify customary and traditional uses of fish stocks, and establish or change subsistence fisheries.

Copies of the proposed regulations may be obtained by writing to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526 or on the internet at: <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>

Notice is also given that anyone interested may present written comments relevant to the subjects in this notice, including potential costs to the private persons of complying with the proposed action. Oral comments will be taken on a portion of the subjects in this notice as explained below. Written comments will be accepted on any subject in this notice and may be submitted to the Board of Fisheries any time before the proposal is voted on by the board in deliberations at the

scheduled meeting, but, as a practical matter comments submitted after the board begins deliberations on relevant proposals are likely to receive less consideration than comments submitted earlier (see the meeting schedule below). Written comments should be submitted to the Boards Support Section office, at the above address, at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting to insure inclusion in the board workbooks.

There will be five separate meetings. The public hearing portions for each meeting will begin immediately after staff reports and continue until everyone who has signed up has been given the opportunity to be heard. Additional public hearings with Board committees may be held throughout the meeting just before the consideration and adoption of proposed changes in the regulations for the various areas. An agenda will be posted daily during the meeting. The board will take oral testimony only from those who register before the cut-off time announced by the board chair at each meeting. The length of oral statements may be limited to five minutes or less. Anyone interested in, or affected by, the subject matter contained in this legal notice should make written or oral comments if they wish to have their views considered by the board.

Anyone interested in or affected by subsistence, personal use, sport, guided sport or commercial fishing regulations, is hereby informed that, by publishing this legal notice, the Board of Fisheries may consider any or all of the subject areas covered by this notice. **THE BOARD IS NOT LIMITED BY THE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE OR CONFINES OF THE ACTUAL PROPOSALS THAT HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC OR STAFF.** Pursuant to AS 44.62.200(b), the board may review the full range of activities appropriate to any of the subjects listed in this notice. The board may make changes to the personal use, sport, guided sport or commercial fishing regulations as may be required to ensure the subsistence priority in AS 16.05.258.

On its own motion, after public hearing, the board may adopt, amend, reject, supplement, or take no action on these subjects. In addition, the board may adopt other regulations necessary to implement, administer, or enforce the regulations adopted.

TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE

State Waters Trawl - Cook Inlet and Adak Areas

October 14, 2006

Howard Johnson Plaza, 239 W. 4th Ave, Anchorage, AK

Bristol Bay Finfish

December 4, 2006

Dillingham School, Dillingham, AK

Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Finfish

January 31, 2007

Millennium Hotel, 4800 Spenard Road, Anchorage, AK

Alaska Peninsula/Aleutians Islands

February 6, 2007

Millennium Hotel, 4800 Spenard Road, Anchorage, AK

Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues

March 9, 2007

Millennium Hotel, 4800 Spenard Road, Anchorage, AK

Any changes to meeting locations, dates or times, or rescheduling of topics or subject matter will be announced by news release. Please watch for these announcements in the news media or call (907) 465-4110. Please carefully review the ***PROPOSAL INDEX*** available for the meeting for specific proposal issues to be addressed by the board. Copies of the proposal indices are in the proposal book or at the relevant meeting.

If you are a person with a disability who may need a special accommodation in order to participate in the process on the proposed regulations, please contact Jim Marcotte at (907) 465-4110 no later than two weeks prior to the beginning of each meeting to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Statutory Authority: AS 16.05 - AS 16.20

Statutes being implemented, interpreted, or made specific: AS 16.05 - AS 16.020

Fiscal Information: The proposed regulatory actions are not expected to require an increased appropriation.

Date: _____

< DRAFT >

Jim Marcotte, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
October 14 – 15, 2006

STATE WATERS TRAWL: COOK INLET AND ADAK AREAS

PROPOSAL INDEX

Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.

PROP **SUBJECT**
NO.

STATE WATERS TRAWL

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 1 | Modify Pollock GHF |
| 2 | Establish State Water Pollock Fishery |
| 3 | Modify Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod Management Plan |
| 4 | Clarify Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod Management Plan |
| 5 | Adak Pollock Fishery |
| 6 | Cook Inlet Pollock Fishery |

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

December 4 – 12, 2006

BRISTOL BAY FINFISH

PROPOSAL INDEX

Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.

**PROP
NO. SUBJECT**

SUBSISTENCE/PERSONAL USE

- 7 Restrict subsistence fishing by sport fishing lodge residents
- 8 Open personal use salmon fishery in Bristol Bay

COMMERCIAL HERRING

- 9 Change herring allocation for gillnet and seine
- 10 Specify Togiak herring allocation
- 11 Modify herring season for Togiak and Bay districts
- 12 Reduce herring purse seine holding period
- 13 Establish equal shares fishery for Togiak herring roe-on-kelp

SALMON

Fishing Gear Specifications and Operations

- 14 Allow multiple permit use
- 15 Allow multiple permit use
- 16 Modify drift gillnet operation in Bristol Bay
- 17 Remove requirement for net lights
- 18 Modify gear identification requirement
- 19 Require removal of all setnet gear during drift gillnet openings
- 20 Require reporting of lost gillnets

Use of 200 Fathoms of Gillnet

- 21 Allow permit stacking
- 22 Allow additional driftnet gear for multiple permit holders
- 23 Allow additional driftnet gear for multiple permit holders
- 24 Allow additional fishing time, area, or gear for multiple permit holders
- 25 Provide for multiple permit holders
- 26 Restrict use of 200 fathom nets for multiple permit holders
- 27 Allow multiple permit use
- 28 Allow additional time for multiple permit holders

Registration and Reregistration

- 29 Exclude non-locals from Togiak Bay fishery
- 30 Establish Ugashik as super-exclusive registration district
- 31 Repeal 48-hour waiting period between gear type use
- 32 Repeal 48-hour waiting period between gear type use
- 33 Eliminate 48-hour waiting period for reregistration
- 34 Eliminate 48-hour waiting period for reregistration
- 35 Allow simultaneous registration in two districts

- 36 Allow later designation of district for transferring once per season
- 37 Allow later designation of district for transferring all season
- 38 Allow open registration until June 23

Vessel Specifications and Operations

- 39 Repeal 32-foot vessel length limit
- 40 Repeal 32-foot vessel length limit
- 41 Repeal 32-foot vessel length limit
- 42 Repeal 32-foot vessel length limit
- 43 Modify vessel length limit to 45 feet or longer
- 44 Modify vessel length limit to 42 feet
- 45 Modify vessel length limit to 42 feet
- 46 Modify vessel length limit to 38 feet
- 47 Modify vessel length limit to 38 feet

Bay-wide Management Plans

- 48 Modify Bristol Bay sockeye management plan
- 49 Establish equal shares type allocation system
- 50 Modify fishing periods in Bristol Bay
- 51 Allow fishing in General District
- 52 Allow fishing in General District after maximum escapement met

Naknek River Special Harvest Area Management Plan

- 53 Require equal fishing time in Naknek River SHA
- 54 Require equal fishing time in Naknek River SHA
- 55 Eliminate allocation for Naknek River SHA
- 56 Eliminate allocation for Naknek River SHA
- 57 Suspend Naknek River SHA allocation after minimum escapement met
- 58 Expand Naknek River SHA boundary
- 59 Expand Naknek River SHA boundary
- 60 Adjust Naknek River sockeye open time
- 61 Open Naknek River SHA to set net only when Kvichak closed
- 62 Modify Naknek River sockeye SHA management plan
- 63 Allow concurrent set and drift net fishing in Naknek River SHA
- 64 Limit net length to 75 fathoms in Naknek River SHA
- 65 Allow setnet fixed gear to remain all season in Naknek River SHA
- 66 Remove all setnet gear beyond 500 ft from shore in Naknek River SHA
- 67 Remove all setnet gear during driftnet periods in Naknek River SHA

Egegik River Special Harvest Area Management Plan

- 68 Modify Egegik River Special Harvest Area
- 69 Modify Egegik River Special Harvest Area
- 70 Modify boundary of Egegik River SHA
- 71 Eliminate the Egegik River Special Harvest Area
- 72 Modify Egegik River sockeye salmon SHA management plan
- 73 Modify Egegik River sockeye salmon SHA management plan by reducing notification time
- 74 Modify Egegik River sockeye season
- 75 Restrict gillnet length in Egegik River SHA
- 76 Remove setnet running lines when not in use in Egegik River SHA

Ugashik River Special Harvest Area Management Plan

- 77 Modify Ugashik River SHA
- 78 Modify Ugashik River SHA
- 79 Modify Ugashik River SHA
- 80 Modify Ugashik River SHA

Alagnak River Special Harvest Area Management Plan

- 81 Set OEG of 100,000 for Alagnak River
- 82 Modify allocation within Alagnak River SHA
- 83 Modify allocation within Alagnak River SHA
- 84 Close commercial fishing in Alagnak River SHA
- 85 Eliminate drift gillnet fishery in Alagnak River SHA
- 86 Eliminate drift gillnet fishery in Alagnak River SHA

Naknek-Kvichak District Management and Allocation Plan

- 87 Repeal Naknek-Kvichak District allocation plan
- 88 Repeal Naknek-Kvichak District allocation plan
- 89 Modify Naknek/Kvichak District allocation plan
- 90 Modify Naknek-Kvichak District allocation to 67/33 percent
- 91 Reevaluate Naknek-Kvichak District allocation
- 92 Base Naknek-Kvichak District allocation on alternating tides
- 93 Modify Naknek-Kvichak District allocation
- 94 Set Naknek-Kvichak District daily allocation based on permits registered
- 95 Limit either gear group to 3 successive tides in Naknek-Kvichak District
- 96 Close Kvichak River
- 97 Establish OEG for Kvichak River
- 98 Establish OEG for Kvichak River

Nushagak District Management and Allocation Plan

- 99 End allocation accounting period earlier in Nushagak District
- 100 Modify chinook openings in Nushagak District
- 101 Establish "dude fishing" within Nushagak District
- 102 Modify Nushagak District Management Plan for protection of Kvichak River sockeye

Egegik District Management and Allocation Plan

- 103 Modify Egegik District allocation
- 104 Allocation period ends when escapement goal is met
- 105 Allow only in-river fishing for Egegik District
- 106 Remove all setnet gear during setnet closures

Fishing Districts and Fishing Periods

- 107 Modify Nushagak District boundary at Etolin Point
- 108 Modify Nushagak District boundary at Etolin Point
- 109 Modify Nushagak District boundary at Etolin Point
- 110 Modify Ugashik District boundary to restrict fishery to in-river only
- 111 Modify Ugashik District boundary
- 112 Modify Ugashik District boundary
- 113 Adjust Igushik Section boundary
- 114 Keep Egegik outer boundary at 32110 line
- 115 Add 12 hours to the Kulukak Section of the Togiak District

Sport Fishing

- 116** Modify bag and possession limit for Northern pike
- 117** Allow fishing in Brooks Lake
- 118** Modify limits on sport-caught sockeye in Iliamna
- 119** Modify bag and possession limit for rainbow trout in Naknek drainage
- 120** Change king salmon bag limit for Nushagak River
- 121** Establish state fish refuge in Talarik Creek and Koktuli River
- 122** Require barbless hooks in Alagnak River

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

January 31 – February 5, 2007

ARCTIC-YUKON-KUSKOKWIM FINFISH

PROPOSAL INDEX

Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting

**PROP
NO. SUBJECT**

RESIDENT SPECIES

Sport

123 Reduce Northern pike bag and possession limit for Nowitna drainage
124 Allow harvest of Arctic grayling in lower Chena River
125 Expand harvest dates for Arctic grayling in Delta Clearwater River
126 Modify methods and means for Fielding Lake
127 Prohibit use of bait for Fielding Lake
128 Reduce bag limit for Northern pike in George Lake)
129 Increase size limit for lake trout in Harding Lake
130 Remove minimum size limit for lake trout in Tangle Lake system
131 Update Tanana River Management Area stocked waters list
132 In the Tanana River drainage, require Northern Pike to be left whole
133 Prohibit use of “tip ups” in Fielding Lake
134 Limit the number of lines to one for Fielding Lake
135 Modify stocked waters management category for Koole Lake
136 Reduce bag limit in the AYK Stocked Waters Management Plan
137 Adopt Lake Trout Management Plan
240 Allow Northern pike to be taken by spear (Statewide)
241 Add definition of "Tip up" (Statewide)

Personal Use

138 Allow spearfishing for whitefish in the Chatanika River
139 Allow spears in personal use whitefish and sucker fishery

KOTZEBUE AND NORTON SOUND-PORT CLARENCE AREAS SALMON AND HERRING

Subsistence and Sport: Norton Sound-Port Clarence

140 Clarify permit limits for subsistence gear
141 Allow EO subsistence openings for sockeye in Salmon Lake
142 Modify closed subsistence area in Nome River
143 Open portions of Penny and Cripple rivers to subsistence fishing
144 Expand hook and line use for subsistence
145 Repeal annual subsistence permit limit for Norton Sound Subdistrict 1
146 Modify sport and subsistence coho limits, Norton Sound Subdistrict 2
147 Modify sport and subsistence coho limits, Norton Sound Subdistrict 2
148 Allow cash exchange of subsistence caught fish

Commercial

- 149 Clarify Norton Sound salmon fishing periods
- 150 Open Port Clarence District sockeye fishery
- 151 Simplify Kotzebue District salmon fishing periods
- 152 Simplify Norton Sound herring district boundary
- 153 Close Norton Sound District herring fishery

Miscellaneous

- 154 Establish controlled use area for Nome River along highway

KUSKOKWIM AREA SALMON

Commercial

- 155 Increase mesh size to 8 in or less in Kuskokwim River District 1
- 156 Allow 8-hour periods in Kuskokwim River Subdistrict 1-B

Miscellaneous

- 157 Establish a Holitna Basin fisheries reserve area

YUKON AREA SALMON AND FRESH WATER FISH

Subsistence and Commercial

- 158 Change subsistence marking requirement for king salmon
- 159 Require windows schedule May 1 to September 1
- 160 Require windows schedule for entire river all season
- 161 Require windows schedule for entire river all of summer season
- 162 Require windows schedule for entire river all of summer season
- 163 Prohibit subsistence and commercial gillnets over 6 inch mesh size
- 164 Prohibit commercial gillnets over 6 inch mesh size
- 165 Restrict subsistence and comm nets over 6 in mesh to 35 meshes deep
- 166 Restrict commercial nets over 6 inch mesh to 35 meshes in depth
- 167 Modify commercial fishery to address changing size of king salmon
- 168 Allow earlier commercial opening for king salmon
- 169 Allow earlier commercial opening for king salmon in Lower Yukon
- 170 Modify king salmon commercial allocation for District 1
- 171 Modify boundary and commercial allocation for Districts 1 and 2
- 172 Modify District 2 and 3 boundary for commercial fishing
- 173 Amend coho salmon management plan
- 174 Close commercial fishing for fall cisco, whitefish, and sheefish

Sport

- 175 Allow catch-and-release king salmon fishing in the Goodpaster River
- 176 Allow catch-and-release king salmon fishing in the Goodpaster River
- 177 Allow archery as legal gear for king salmon in the Salcha River

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

February 6 - 11, 2007

ALASKA PENINSULA / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

PROPOSAL INDEX

Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting

**PROP
NO. SUBJECT**

Groundfish

178 Establish set opening date for statewide Pacific cod season
179 Delay cod openings as needed for weather
180 Adopt reporting requirement
181 Require season extension if 10 percent of P-cod GHL unharvested
182 Increase Pacific cod GHL for South Alaska Peninsula Area
183 Modify GHL for P-cod in state waters season
184 Restrict simultaneous vessel registration
185 Prohibit vessels greater than 58 feet

Salmon: June Fishery

186 Change Sanak Island and Otter Cove descriptions
187 Close Sanak Island Section during June
188 Reinstate pre-2001 South Unimak and Shumagin Island salmon management plan
189 Return to regulations in effect prior to 2001 BOF meeting
190 Change South Peninsula June Management to 2001-2003 plan
191 Reinstate sockeye allocation based on 83 percent
192 Eliminate early June salmon fishery in Area M
193 Open portions of South Central District in June
194 Modify allowable drift gillnet depth
195 Allow drift gillnets in Southwestern, Southcentral, and Southeastern districts

Salmon: Post June Fishery

196 Allow earlier openings for pink and chum salmon
197 Allow earlier openings for pink and chum salmon
198 Change Post-June fishing schedule
199 Adopt new South Peninsula management plan to protect non-local sockeye
200 Eliminate immature salmon seine test fishery

Salmon: Southeastern District Mainland

201 Link open periods to Orzinski Lake sockeye escapement
202 Allow harvest of Orzinski Lake sockeye
203 Change estimate of Chignik sockeye caught in Southeastern Mainland District
204 Modify Southeastern District Mainland plan allocation
205 Modify management plan for Southeastern District Mainland
206 Modify fishing periods for Southeastern District Mainland

Salmon: North Peninsula

- 207 Modify opening of Ilnik Section salmon fishery
- 208 Modify opening of Ilnik Lagoon salmon fishery
- 209 Modify Northern District to protect Bear River sockeye stocks
- 210 Change boundary for sockeye season in Northern District
- 211 Modify Northern District season
- 212 Modify Northern District season
- 213 Reinstate 100,000 sockeye salmon cap in Northern District
- 214 Modify Northwestern District and Uria Bay fishing periods

Herring and Salmon: Miscellaneous

- 215 Allow use of herring pounds in Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area
- 216 Require vessel registration for seine and gillnet herring fishery
- 217 Change description of Aleutian Islands area
- 218 Amend subsistence seine net season
- 219 Adopt vessel registration requirement
- 220 Regulate use of net pens in Aleutian Islands area
- 221 Regulate use of net pens in Atka-Amalia area
- 222 Regulate use of net pens in Alaska Peninsula area
- 223 Allow two CFEC permit holders aboard vessels
- 224 Establish Krenitzin Island super-exclusive registration area
- 225 Amend the sportfish Chinook bag limit

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

March 9 - 13, 2007

**STATEWIDE FINFISH AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES
PROPOSAL INDEX**

Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting

**PROP
NO. SUBJECT**

Statewide commercial salmon fishing general provisions

226 Registration of commercial fishing vessels
227 Identification of stationary fishing gear
228 Repeal Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries
229 Rewrite 5 AAC 39 130 Reporting requirements
230 Amend Policy for statewide salmon escapement goals
231 Disallow single filament monofilament gillnet gear
232 Policy for statewide salmon escapement goals

Statewide Sport Fish general provisions

233 Amend emergency order authority
234 Allow the taking of sockeye salmon unintentionally hooked
235 Eliminate sport fish proxy system in non-subsistence areas
236 Eliminate sport fish proxy for kings and coho salmon
237 Only two proxies per year for a proxy holder
238 Only two proxies per year for a proxy holder in a calendar year
239 Amend SF emergency order authority to include annual limits
240 Allow Northern pike to be taken by spear
241 Add definition of "Tip up"
242 Allow for freshwater king salmon bag limit
243 Require recording of all steelhead caught commercially
244 Allow ADF&G to sell hatchery reared game fish to public

Personal Use

245 Create bag limit for dipnetting same as hook and line bag limit
246 Disallow dipnetting on steams until BEG is met

COMMISSIONER PROPOSED REGULATORY CHANGE

247 Create new regulation regarding hatchery salmon use authorization

STATE WATERS TRAWL: COOK INLET AND ADAK AREAS

PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 28.XXX. Pollock Management Plan for Western Gulf of Alaska.

Amend this regulation as follows:

Request a historical state waters harvest percentage plus 15 percent of the federal Pollack GHG in Western Gulf area 610 to be managed by state regulations and have a year round 58-foot limit on vessels that fish pollock in statewaters.

ISSUE: A large percent of the pollock have historically been harvested in statewaters during the federal/state parallel pollock openings of Western Gulf area 610. Pollock rationalization is probable leaving the state without ability to manage own waters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? As in the case of Pacific cod before the state took control of statewater management the federal government will manage and possibly rationalize Pollock stocks in statewaters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It would cause a slower rate of harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? State would manage its own stocks. Smaller 58-foot or less vessels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Large pollock vessels.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee (SW-06F-004)

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 28.XXX. Establish a new regulation as follows:

Establish a state waters pollock fishery. The quota shall be a percentage of the federal Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) calculated by averaging the pollock caught in state waters over the previous years and adding another 15 percent to account for reporting errors.

ISSUE: The taking of local pollock quotas by large Bering Sea pollock trawlers.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local fishermen will continue to lose quota to large Bering Sea pollock trawlers.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M pollock fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Bering Sea pollock trawlers are guaranteed quota in the Bering Sea.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Amend this regulation as follows:

Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan.

This management plan governs the harvest of Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W. long., of the state Bering Sea – Aleutian Islands area.

b) Each year the commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, a parallel Pacific cod season in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W. long., to coincide with the initial federal season in the federal Bering Sea – Aleutian Islands area. The commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, the parallel Pacific cod season during which the use of the same gear allowed in the federal Bering Sea – Aleutian Islands Area Pacific cod season is permitted, unless that gear is prohibited under 5 AAC 28.050. or 5 AAC 28.629.

c) [ON OR AFTER MARCH 15,] the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, a state-waters Pacific cod A season in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W. long., [IF] when the initial parallel catcher-vessel trawl fishery is closed. The commissioner shall, by emergency order, close the state-waters Pacific cod season opened under this subsection when the guideline harvest is taken or [ON DECEMBER 31] **prior to the opening of the federal fixed gear B season,** which ever occurs first. **The commissioner shall open, by emergency order, a state-waters Pacific cod B season in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W. long., when the initial parallel fixed gear B season fishery for catcher-vessels less than 60’ is closed. The commissioner shall, by emergency order, close the state-waters Pacific cod season opened under this subsection when the guideline harvest level is taken or on December 31 whichever occurs first.**

d) The commissioner may open and/or close, by emergency order, **(parallel or state-water)** fishing seasons at times other than those specified in the management plan if;

(1) the guideline harvest level specified in (e)(1) of this section has been reached and/or a federal season is ongoing in adjacent federal waters; or

(2) the commissioner determines it is necessary to

- A) adapt to unanticipated opening and closures of the federal season;
- B) maintain sustained yield management; or
- C) provide for orderly fisheries.

e) During a state-waters season,

1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W. long., is three percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea – Aleutian Islands area;

A) a maximum of 70 percent of the guideline harvest level shall be available for harvest before June 10;

B) any unharvested amount under (e)(1)(A) of this subsection, will be rolled over on June 10; a total of 30 percent of the guideline harvest level plus the unharvested amount from the prior season up to a maximum of 70 percent will be available June 10;

C) if the commissioner determines that the guideline harvest level will not be harvested in the state-waters fishery, the commissioner may notify the National Marine Fisheries Service that the projected unharvested guideline harvest level may be available for harvest in the federal fishery;

2) Pacific cod may be taken only with groundfish pots, mechanical jigging machines, and hand troll gear; in addition to the requirements of 5AAC 28.020, a vessel must be registered to fish with pot gear or mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear, and may be registered to fish only with one of these two gear types; a vessels gear registration may be changed during a state-

waters season to a different gear registration if the owner, or owner's agent, submits a written request for a change in registration by mail, facsimile, or in person, to the department office in Dutch Harbor, or other locations specified by the department for validation, and that registration has been validated by the department; a vessel may not fish outside of the designated registration area; a vessel may not change registration areas while unprocessed fish are on board;

3) during [THE 2006 AND] 2007 season, **and for any subsequent year in which the NPFMC has not subdivided the BSAIP. Cod TAC between the Aleutian Island and Bering Sea management areas,** in addition to the gear types specified in (e)(2) of this subsection, non-pelagic trawl and longline gear may be used, except during a state-waters season, trawl and longline gear may not be used from May 1 – September 15, except vessel's operating gear under 5 AAC 28.629.(d) and (e) and 5 AAC 28.690(a) and (b);

4) a vessel must be registered to fish with non-pelagic trawl or longline gear; a vessel's gear registration may be changed during a state-waters season to a different gear if the owner, or owner's agent, submits a written request for a change in registration by mail, facsimile, or in person, to the department office in Dutch Harbor, or other locations specified by the department for validation, and that registration has been validated by the department; a vessel may not fish outside of the designated registration area; a vessel may not change registration while unprocessed fish are on board;

5) a vessel may harvest up to 150,000 pounds daily of Pacific cod, and may only have 300,000 pounds of unprocessed Pacific cod on board the vessel; a vessel may not have more processed fish on board than the round weight equivalent of the fish reported on ADF&G fish tickets during the two seasons specified in (e)(1)(A) and (e)(1)(B) of this section; a validly registered vessel must report daily to the department the pounds of Pacific cod taken on board the vessel;

6) all Pacific cod taken must be retained, however, any overage must be immediately reported to the department and all proceeds from the sale of Pacific cod in excess of the limitations of the amount specified in (e)(5) of this section shall be surrendered to the state; an overage of the provisions of this section shall not be considered a violation of this section if the overage is immediately reported to the state and proceeds of the overage immediately surrendered to the state.

7) **participation in the state-waters fishery is limited to:**

A) **those vessels less than 60' for the use of longline gear, and other fixed gear (pot gear, mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear).**

C) **those vessels less than 125' for the use of trawl gear.**

8) **harvest of the A and B season allocations will be divided in two components (1) for vessels under 60' and (2) for vessels between 60' and less than 125'.**

A) **in 2007 the A and B seasons of the allocations will be a minimum of 60 percent to the vessels under 60' and up to 40 percent to the vessels between 60' and less than 125'.**

B) **in any subsequent year to a year in which vessels less than 60' harvest their share of a seasonal apportionment, the minimum amount available to vessels under 60' for such season shall be increased by 20 percent, until 100 percent is reserved for vessels less than 60'.**

C) **if the commissioner determines that vessels less than 60' will be unable to harvest the full 40 percent of the seasonal allocation, the commissioner may roll over the projected unused amount to vessels between 60' and under 125' in length.**

f) The Aleutian Islands District is a nonexclusive registration area for Pacific cod during a state-waters season.

g) The commissioner may, by emergency order, impose bycatch limitations and or retention requirements based on conservation of the resource, to avoid waste of a bycatch species, to

prevent over harvest of bycatch species, or to facilitate consistency of the regulations in an area where state and federal jurisdictions overlap.

h) In the state-waters Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery, all closures specified in the parallel Pacific cod fishery shall apply as specified by gear group in 50 CFR 679, revised as of October 2005.

[i) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2007.] **The Board of fish will review the provisions of this section on a three year cycle.**

ISSUE: Aleutian Island west of 170° Pacific Cod Management Plan. Provide more opportunity for small local Adak fleet.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Most of state-water cod will be harvested by large non-local vessels.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Harvest is close to Adak plant, quality better.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local Alaska limit fleet and Adak city.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Large distant water fleet.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Aleut Enterprise Corporation (HQ-06F-098)

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 28.647 Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Amend the management plan as follows:

Specify a seven day stand-down period between the initial parallel Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel closure and the opening of the state-waters Pacific cod fishery. Clarify that all parallel Pacific cod fishery gear sectors are closed during the state-waters Pacific cod season. Modify overage provision of the management plan to allow an overage to be considered for a violation. Adopt recently-adopted NMFS habitat-protection measures for coral garden and bottom-trawl closure areas of the Aleutian Islands during the state-waters Pacific cod fishery.

5 AAC 28.647 Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan.

(c) The commissioner shall open, by emergency order, a state-waters Pacific cod season in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W long., on March 15, or seven days after the initial parallel catcher-vessel trawl fishery closure, whichever occurs later. During the state-waters Pacific cod fishery, all parallel Pacific cod gear-sectors shall be closed. The commissioner shall, by emergency order, close the state-waters Pacific cod season opened under this subsection when the guideline harvest level is taken or on December 31, whichever occurs first.

(e)(6) all Pacific cod taken must be retained, however, any harvests exceeding the limits specified in (e)(5) of this section must be reported daily to the department by the vessel operator if delivery has not occurred, and reported by the processor at the time of delivery. All proceeds from the sale of Pacific cod in excess of the harvest limits specified in (e)(5) of this section shall be surrendered to the state.

(h) In the state-waters Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery, all closures specified in the parallel Pacific cod fishery shall apply as specified by gear group in 50 CFR 679, revised as of September 2006.

ISSUE: The Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted the Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery management plan in February 2006. The management plan generally provided for an orderly and manageable fishery in March 2006, however there are several aspects of the plan that could be modified to improve management and provide clarity for the public.

Similar to other state-waters Pacific cod fisheries, the department requests that the board specify a seven day stand-down period between the initial parallel trawl catcher vessel closure and the opening of the state-waters fishery to provide for accurate catch accounting and an orderly start to the state-waters fishery.

In light of the various overlapping federal/parallel Pacific cod fishery gear-sector allocations, the state-waters fishery management plan should be clarified with regard to the status of the parallel fishery when the state-waters season is open. The department requests clarification that all parallel fishery gear sectors are closed during the state-waters season.

The current overage provision of the management plan does not consider an overage to be a violation, provided that the overage is immediately reported to the state. The department requests that the Board consider removing this portion of the overage provision, thereby allowing an overage to be considered for a violation. In addition, the plan uses vague language to describe when an overage should be reported to the state.

The National Marine Fisheries Service recently implemented regulations closing specific areas of the Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area to fishing gear. This area includes six “coral gardens” that are closed to all bottom-contact gear. The department closed the six coral areas by emergency order during the 2006 season. The Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area also includes areas that are closed to bottom trawling. The department recommends that the board consider adopting the portion of these habitat-protection closures occurring in state waters for the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department will continue to manage the fishery as it did during the 2006 season. Trip limit overages will continue to be difficult to enforce and relatively ineffective in reducing harvest rate.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Department fishery managers and industry members will benefit from regulations that clarify the board’s intent with regard to the status of the state-waters fishery in relation to various federal/parallel seasons and with regard to trip limit overages.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-181)

Note: This proposal was deferred from the March 2005 and October 2005 Board of Fisheries meetings. It was previously numbered Proposal 455 and split to apply to different areas.

PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 28.XXX. State waters walleye pollock fishery, Adak Area. Create a new regulation to provide for a state waters walleye pollock fishery as follows:

Area:

Option 1. Open all state waters between 174° to 178° W longitude, 1-3 miles except continue rookery closure 0-20 miles.

Option 2. Between 174° to 178° W longitude state waters 0-3 miles around haulouts and 0-20 miles around rookeries shall remain closed, the rest of state waters, 0-3 miles, are opened.

Open to pelagic trawl vessels 58 feet in length or less.

Harvest Limits:

Option 1. 1,500 metric tons, A-season only.

Option 2. 3,000 metric tons, A-season only.

Option 3. 3,775 metric tons

Option 4. No limit up to the Total Allowable Catch (19,000 metric tons),
A-season 40 % / B-season 60 % split remains in place.

Methods for monitoring harvest and harvest area compliance:

1. Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) will be required on all vessels fishing pollock in state waters between 174° to 178° W longitude.
2. No cod-end transfers are allowed; each vessel must deliver its catch directly to a plant where the unsorted catch can be observed.

Fishing will occur at the same time as the non-critical habitat open areas in federal waters, except that the board will allocate the small vessel harvest only during the A-season.

Occurs under NMFS rules and seasons in the federal/parallel Aleutian Islands pollock fishery.

ISSUE: This proposal presents management options for a state waters pollock harvest near Adak, in the Aleutian Islands, to provide access for a small boat fishery, consistent with Congressional intent to develop a small vessel fishery adjacent to the community of Adak

The U.S. Congress, in Section 803 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004 (HR 2673, now Public Law 108-199) required that future directed fishing allowances of pollock in the Aleutian Islands be allocated to the Aleut Corporation. The Aleut Corporation was unsuccessful in harvesting its allocation outside of critical habitat during the 2005 season and sought access to safer, nearshore state waters via a proposal to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

This action would provide community economic development via a pollock fishery in the safer, nearshore state waters of the Aleutian Islands.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Proposal Evaluation Information

1. The geographic extent of the proposal: The current information that NMFS has indicates most of the Steller sea lion (SSL) juveniles are within 0 – 1 mile from shore (the information was not aggregated by proximity to rookeries and haulouts). Therefore two options are considered:

Option 1.) Open all state waters between 174° to 178° W longitude 1 – 3 miles, except continue rookery closure 0 – 20 miles.

Option 2.) Between 174° to 178° W longitude state waters 0 - 3 miles around haulouts and 0-20 miles around rookeries shall remain closed, the rest of state waters, 0 – 3 miles, are opened.

2. Type, size, number and capacity of vessels: State waters described above would only be open to pelagic trawl vessels 58 feet in length or less, generally having a harvest capacity of less than 100,000 pounds. It is expected that fewer than 12 vessels would participate.

3. How much fish will be harvested and how will it be seasonally apportioned? Harvest Options: (Could also limit to fishing to 3 days/week – vessel choice by weather – to further reduce possible depletion concerns.)

Option 1) 1,500 mt, A-season only

Option 2) 3,000 mt, A-season only

Option 3) 3,775 mt (25% of the 15,100 mt Aleut allocation for 2005/2006 as described in the February 24, 2005 Federal Register notice. This will move to 50% of the Aleut TAC allocation after 2008.) A-season harvest only through 2008.

Option 4) No limit up to the TAC (19,000 mt), A-season 40%/B-season 60% split remains in place.

4. Methods for monitoring harvest and harvest area compliance:

1) VMS will be required on all vessels fishing pollock in state waters between 174° to 178° W longitude.

2) No codend transfers are allowed; each vessel must deliver its catch directly to a plant where the unsorted catch can be observed to account for bycatch of rockfish, which are a concern to managers.

5. Limitations on participation: Because Adak is so far a distance from GOA communities where 58-foot vessels are available, only a few contracted vessels are likely to travel from Sandpoint to Adak for the A-season harvest.

6. When will fishing occur: Fishing will occur at the same time as the non-critical habitat open areas in federal waters, except that the Board will allocate the small vessel harvest only during the A-season.

7. Type and method of harvest: As described above and the same as that which occurs under NMFS rules and seasons in the federal/parallel Aleutian Islands pollock fishery.

The goal of opening the state waters of the Aleutian Islands from 174° to 178° W longitude is to support community development by providing a safe fishing area (near the lee of islands and headlands) which will allow for the development of a small vessel fleet in Adak. Access to state waters is particularly important for small vessels fishing in the Aleutian Islands. Weather conditions in this area can be extreme and these vessels need either safe harbor and/or weather protection while working in the lee of land. The most dangerous time for small pollock trawlers is after haul back, when the net is brought on board to dump the catch into the hold. Without protection from heavy weather behind headlands, a vessel could turn turtle.

Also, concern by NMFS about bycatch species has also been expressed. To assure that vessels fish cleanly and accurately report catch and bycatch on a load-by-load basis, the board can require that each unsorted net tow be placed into the hold to account for EFH, salmon, rockfish and other bycatch. Observers can also be required at any plant processing Adak pollock to

insure that the entire net haul is observed at the plant. Prohibition of tendering in this area will assure that the entire haul is plant observed.

State-enforced pelagic trawling over coral and rough bottom types in the Aleutian Islands will keep nets from contacting the sensitive bottom habitat. This is to comply with the Council's intent to protect sensitive EFH in the Aleutian Islands.

Section 108 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that for the first five years up to 25 percent of the total available pollock harvest in the Aleutians can be taken by vessels less than 60 feet LOA. This Congressional intent may best be met with pollock harvested in state waters to provide for development of the small boat Aleutian Islands pollock fishery.

Lastly, the Traditional Aleut Council of the Pribilof Island of St. George has requested a review and, if warranted, and expansion of the Steller sea lion protection measures to include 0 – 10 mile closure around the Dalnoi Point haulout. The Aleut community of Adak supports the Dalnoi Point haulout closure as a tread-off for the requested Board of Fisheries opening of state waters to commercial fishing adjacent to their community near two haulouts and in other critical habitat in state waters in the Aleutian Islands. Considering that the only three rookeries in the Central Aleutian Islands where SSL populations are not increasing are west of the 178° W longitude line, and that the June 2004 NMFS document on SSL indicates that pollock only account for 2.7 percent of the SSL prey in the Central Aleutians during the winter (December through April, 1990-1998). Since the Board's proposed action is also a winter event, the impact on pollock would be small. Additionally, Atka mackerel, which by itself accounts for 65 percent of prey selection, is a high-energy, abundant prey available year round in the central Aleutians. Therefore it is unlikely that the proposed fishery near Adak would impact SSL, even if the 2001 Biological Opinion presumption of nutrition and fishery activity were correct.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishing in state waters for walleye pollock will remain closed in Steller sea lion protected areas.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Unknown.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen wanting to harvest walleye pollock in state waters that are currently closed, processors that currently have little or no opportunity to purchase pollock, and coastal communities that are economically affected by large-scale pollock fishing closures will benefit from access to the pollock resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unknown

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: ADF&G on behalf of the Alaska Board of Fisheries (HQ-06F-001)

Note: This proposal was deferred from the March 2005 and October 2005 Board of Fisheries meetings. It was previously numbered Proposal 455 and split to apply to different areas.

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 28.XXX. State waters walleye pollock fishery, Cook Inlet Area.
Create a new regulation to provide for a state waters walleye pollock fishery as follows:

Area:

The geographic extent of the fishery includes those state waters between 149° W Longitude and 150° W Longitude of the Central Gulf of Alaska that are beyond a 3-mile radius of SSL haulouts at Rugged Island, Chiswell Islands, and Seal Rocks (Kenai). This action would open the state statistical areas 495902, 495932 through 495938, 496001, and 496002 to pollock fishing.

Gear, Other:

The fishery would be open only to vessels using pelagic trawl gear.

All fishing would occur under the terms of a commissioner's permit (Alaska Statute 16.05.050(10)), and specifically 5 AAC 28.379. The permit could specify fishing seasons, area, gear, logbook requirements, landing requirements, observer requirements, bycatch limits, etc.

Daily limits equal to the trip limits (300,000 pounds) would also be imposed. The use of tenders in the fishery would be prohibited.

Harvest Limits:

Option A. Establish a state waters seasons in which the total harvest would be limited to 1,500 metric tons, with the opening date coinciding with the CGOA pollock A season and an Emergency order closure when the harvest level was achieved.

Option B. Establish a parallel season wherein open season dates would coincide with the CGOA pollock A seasons and no state harvest limit would be imposed.

100 percent onboard observer coverage would be used to monitor the harvest and VMS would be required.

ISSUE: This proposal present management options for a state waters pollock harvest in the Cook Inlet Area, to provide fishery-dependent communities access to the pollock resource in waters adjacent to their communities.

A historical pollock fishery occurred in state waters in and around Resurrection Bay prior to fishing closures resulting from the 2001 Biological Opinion, designed to protect Steller sea lions within critical habitat in the Cook Inlet management area. The average harvest of 2,000 MT from the affected area during 1996 to 1999 represents lost local opportunity to harvesters and processors, particularly in Seward. A small experimental fishery occurred in 2004 under a Commissioner's permit.

This action would provide regulations for a pollock fishery in a portion of Cook Inlet state waters to restore historic harvest opportunity and provide economic stability for Seward processors and their workers.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Proposal Evaluation Information

1. The geographic extent of the changes to the fishery includes those state waters between 149°

W Longitude and 150° W Longitude of the Central Gulf of Alaska that are beyond a 3-mile radius of SSL haulouts at Rugged Island, Chiswell Islands, and Seal Rocks (Kenai). This area is approximately 0.6% of the total area within GOA designated critical habitat. This action would open state statistical areas 495902, 495932 through 495938, 496001, and 496002 to pollock fishing.

2. The fishery would be open only to vessels using pelagic trawl gear. During 1996-1999, an average of 8 permits fished in the waters listed in #1 above; the greatest harvest occurred in 1998 when approximately 8.7 million pounds (3,941 MT) were harvested. The average harvest within these statistical areas by mid-water pelagic trawlers is approximately 4.4 million pounds (1,982 MT). (See Table 1) All fishing would occur under the terms of a Commissioner's Permit (Sec. 16.05.050 (10), and specifically 5 AAC 28.379). The permit could specify fishing season, area, gear, logbook requirements, landing requirements, observer requirements, bycatch limits, etc. Existing statewide regulation (5 AAC 28.073) establishes trip limits not to exceed 300,000 pounds (approximately 136 MT). Daily limits equal to the trip limits would also be imposed. The use of tenders in the fishery would be prohibited.
3. Two harvest options are being considered: Option A would establish a state waters season in which the total harvest would be limited to 1,500 MT, with the opening date coinciding with the CGOA pollock A season and an emergency order closure when the harvest level was achieved. Option B would establish a parallel season wherein open season dates would coincide with the CGOA pollock A season and no state harvest limit would be imposed.
4. 100 percent onboard observer coverage would be used to monitor the harvest and VMS would be required.
5. Only those vessels holding a valid Commissioner's Permit would be allowed to participate in the fishery. Preseason vessel registration requirements will indicate fishery participation levels. For Option A, if registration levels indicate that participation levels will be too high to ensure that the harvest limit of 1,500 MT will not be exceeded, the commissioner shall close the fishery by Emergency Order.
6. Fishery duration would vary under each option above.
7. See #6.

Table 1. Pollock harvest from those statistical areas within Cook Inlet Management Area that would open to pollock fishing under this proposal.

Year	Vessels	Pounds	Metric tons
1996	5	1,937,926	879
1997	6	3,873,854	1,757
1998	12	8,689,896	3,941
1999	10	2,983,335	1,353
Average	8	4,371,253	1,982

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishing in state waters for walleye pollock will remain closed in Steller sea lion protected areas.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Unknown.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen wanting to harvest walleye pollock in state waters that are currently closed, processors that currently have little or no opportunity to purchase pollock, and coastal communities that are economically affected by large-scale pollock

fishing closures will benefit from access to the pollock resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unknown

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: ADF&G on behalf of the Alaska Board of Fisheries (HQ-06F-002)

BRISTOL BAY FINFISH

PROPOSAL 7 - 5 AAC 01.335. Limits on participation in subsistence finfish fisheries.

Amend this regulation as follows:

While one resides at a sportfishing lodge one may not participate in subsistence fishing activities unless the lodge is also your year-round residence.

ISSUE: Commercial sportfishing lodge personnel operate subsistence nets and potentially feed or give subsistence-caught fish to clients.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lodges that illegally provide subsistence fish to clients will have an advantage over legally operating lodges.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Legal lodge operators.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who live at a lodge part of the year and currently subsistence fish while at the lodge.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No one at a sportfishing lodge may participate in subsistence activities.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee (SW-06F-016)

PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 77.2XX. Bristol Bay Personal Use Salmon Fishery. Adopt a new regulation as follows:

Allow a salmon opening for personal use from May 1 through May 15.

ISSUE: Have a commercial salmon opening for personal use, starting May 1 through May 15 so no one needs to travel across the bay for herring.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? No development of potential markets. Loss of time and money.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Beginning stages of resource development.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Limited salmon permit holders.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Local subsistence harvesters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Harvesting herring at Togiak. Using leftover salmon parts.

PROPOSED BY: Corrine A. Olsen (HQ-06F-010)

PROPOSAL 9 - 5 AAC 27.865. Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

30 percent gillnetter and 70 percent seiners – neither harvest depends on the other reaching an amount of harvest. At the beginning of the year the split is decided and half way through the department makes in-season adjustments if needed.

ISSUE: The way the 30/70 split between gillnetters and seiners is handled.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Loss of harvesting quality product. Lower price to fishermen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. We would take fish when they are ready not letting them pass by.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Processors and fishermen – each group would not be shut down when good fish are there waiting on others to catch the product.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Remove allocation of 30/70 altogether.

PROPOSED BY: Roseleen Moore (HQ-06F-020)

PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 27.865. Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(b)(8) The department shall manage for a removal of 35 percent of that surplus by the gillnet fleet and 65 percent by the purse seine fleet.

ISSUE: More equitable harvest of surplus of Togiak herring between gillnet and purse seine fishermen.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local people who comprise most of the gillnet group will continue to loose opportunity to harvest a more equitable share of harvestable surplus of the local herring resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The gillnet caught Togiak herring have historically become more of a better roe quality product. Therefore the increase in the gillnet harvest will enhance the overall quality of the resource harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local Bristol Bay village residents and local businesses that help to improve the living conditions and overall economy on the area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A few purse seine fishermen that usually fish elsewhere in the state before coming to the Togiak herring fishing grounds.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Increase the gillnet quota to 50 percent. This seems a little too drastic at this time.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Wilson (SW-06F-011)

PROPOSAL. 11- 5 AAC 27.810. Fishing Seasons and Periods for Bristol Bay Area.

Amend the regulation as follows:

5 AAC 27.810. Fishing Seasons and Periods for Bristol Bay Area. (a) In the Togiak and Bay Districts, herring may be taken by purse seines and hand purse seines from **April 15** [APRIL 25] through June 1.

(b) In the Togiak and Bay Districts, herring may be taken by gillnets from **April 15** [APRIL 25] through June 1.

(c) In the Togiak and Bay Districts, herring spawn on kelp may be from **April 15** [APRIL 25] through June 1.

ISSUE: Herring run timing has been earlier over the last several years and, if this trend continues, harvestable stocks of herring might be available before April 25. Under current regulations, no fishing would be allowed before April 25. With the current quotas and processing capacity, every day of processing is important in order to harvest and process the entire quota. In recent years compressed run timing and poor weather have resulted in some of the quota left unharvested.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If nothing is done, opportunity to harvest herring prior to April 25 will be lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Adoption of this proposal may allow the herring harvest to be spread out over a longer period of time, reducing the time that fish are held and thus improving product quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users would benefit from harvesting herring as soon as they arrive on the spawning grounds and the roe percentage is suitable for harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-165)

PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 27.832. Seine specifications and operations for Bristol Bay Area.

Amend this regulation as follows:

(c) Herring may not be retained in a purse seine for more than **18** [36] hours after the closure of a herring fishing period.

ISSUE: The current regulation allows herring to be held in purse seines for 36 hours following a closure, creating the possibility that some participants may try to hold herring in their seines

while tenders take multiple loads from large sets. This may allow for the harvest of more fish than tender and processing capacity would indicate during a fishing period. As the quota is approached, this may hamper the manager's ability to stay within the quota.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If nothing is done, purse seiners will be allowed to hold fish for 36 hours after a closure making it difficult to control harvest as the quota is approached.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Herring held in purse seines for a shorter duration would likely be of higher quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The resource and the resource users would benefit because managers would be better able to manage the fishery and keep the total harvest within the quota.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? This has not been an issue since the early 1990s so the department believes that no one will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-166)

PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 27.834. Togiak District Herring Spawn on Kelp Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Select a harvester/fisherman to harvest the roe-on-kelp quota.

ISSUE: Herring fishery/roe-on-kelp.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Roe-on-kelp harvesters will never have a chance to get any benefits of the fishery and still keep paying for permits.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, roe-on-kelp harvesters want equal share of the quota.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All the roe-on-kelp permit holders.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Close the herring fishery for recovery, but we figured Board of fisheries wants it like California herring fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Togiak Traditional Council (SW-06F-033)

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations and 5 AAC 06.33X. Holder of Multiple Permits. Amend these regulations as follows:

Add the following regulation (also requiring amendment of 5 AAC 06.331(c) and (e)) to come

onto effect immediately following the enactment of HB 251.

5 AAC 06.33X. Holder of Mutiple Permits.

a) Except within special harvest areas described and defined in 5AAC 06.357, 06.358, 06.360, the holder of two Bristol Bay drift gillnet CFEC permits may fish and operate 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear from a single vessel.

b) The vessel and multiple permit holder may fish and transfer to other districts upon notification and registration with the department as required in 5AAC 06.370; however, the 48-hour district transfer notification period normally required is waived for multiple permit holders.

c) When a holder of multiple uses a single vessel, the vessel must display its ADF&G permanent license plate number followed by the letter "M" to identify the vessel as a multiple permit vessel. The identification number and letter must be displayed in accordance with 5AAC 06.343.

ISSUE: The need for consolidation in the Bristol Bay fishery; the problem of long-term profitability and high harvesting cost and the future expense of funding a buyback program.

The CFEC in its Bristol Bay salmon drift gillnet fishery optimum number report addressed the issue of economic viability, along with resource conservation and management concerns, and it identified the optimum number of Bristol Bay drift permits was identified as a number in the range of 800 to 1200. The CFEC discussed certain methods to eliminate the 600 or so permits from the Bristol Bay area and noted its support of the boards temporary regulation changes that had allowed for some limited voluntary consolidation maintaining existing permit numbers, i.e., 5 AAC 06.333., in recent years.

In anticipation of House Bill 251 being enacted into law in the near future, the board will be given authority to take further measures and make more permanent regulatory changes to encourage voluntary consolidation of permits in the Bristol Bay fishery. If passed and signed by the governor, HB 251 would allow the Board to assign additional fishing privileges to persons who hold two commercial fishing entry permits in the same salmon fishery. "Those added privileges mat include the use of additional or modified gear; additional fishing time or expanded fishing areas; or other such conditions as the Board considers appropriate for the conservation, development, and/or utilization of the salmon fishery resource."

Accordingly, in anticipation of HB 251 becoming law before the next call for proposals for the Bristol Bay fishery, I would like to propose the following additions to the Bristol Bay fishery regulations which would encourage further voluntary consolidation of permits and achieve the goals outlined by the CFEC's optimum number report.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The problem of low profits and thus, lack of funds to pay crew members, to reinvest into improving quality of fish handling or to maintain equipment on vessels will continue to plague the Bristol Bay fishery until some type of consolidation effort is achieved.

Action should be taken immediately upon enactment of HB 251. But if action is not taken during this cycle of proposals in anticipation of HB 251 being enacted in the immediate future, arguably the Board will not be able to entertain any change in the regulations to take advantage of HB 251 until the 2010 season. The sponsor's statement includes the following, "The Board would only be able to hear this type of request in its normal, three-year cycle; agenda change requests would not be allowed."

Allowing multiple permit holders to take advantage of additional gear and additional fishing time will encourage harvesters to voluntarily consolidate permits and thus avoid high cost of any type of funded buyback program to achieve the optimum number of 800 to 1200 permits.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? As noted above and in several reports, including the Bristol Bay Salmon Restructuring Study, it is imperative to our long-term market survival that harvesters start improving the quality of product coming out of the Bristol Bay area. Harvesters cannot start investing money into the boats and equipment to start utilizing ice, CSW or RSW equipment until greater profits are realized.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those that can finance or fund the purchase of a second permit will benefit with the ability to hold two permits and fish them on one vessel, with 220 fathoms of gear and without any 48-hour transfer period. Every fisherman in the bay will benefit from this consolidation, especially when compared to the options of funding a buyback program through taxes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Only those that wish to buy a second permit, but cannot, will arguably find this proposal inequitable. But, even they will acknowledge a benefit with the ultimate reduction in the number of boats and amount of gear in the water which will increase their ability to catch more fish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Erick Sabo (HQ-06F-007)

PROPOSAL 15 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Amend this regulation as follows:

Allow anyone who owns two setnet permits to operate them in accordance with existing regulations and anyone who owns two drift permits to be allowed to fish them in accordance with 5 AAC 06.333.

ISSUE: A person may own two permits but he can only fish one at a time. HB251 gives the board the authority to allow one person to own and operate two permits at the same time. I am asking the board to allow anyone who owns two setnet permits to be allowed to fish them at the same time and anyone who owns two drift permits to be allowed to fish them in accordance with 5 AAC 06.333.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will continue to be no benefit to anyone who owns two permits.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Any fisherman who buys two fishing permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one because the permits have been fished in the past.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Vince Webster (SW-06F-021)

PROPOSAL 16 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Amend this regulation as follows:

(R) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 39.105.(d)(3), **in the Bristol Bay area** a person may not operate a drift gillnet when the vessel to which it is attached is grounded, or when any part of the gillnet is grounded above the waterline [IN THE

- (1) UGASHIK RIVER SPECIAL HARVEST AREA DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 06.357;
- (2) WOOD RIVER SPECIAL HARVEST AREA DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 06.358;
- (3) EGEK RIVER SPECIAL HARVEST AREA DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 06.359; AND
- (4) NAKNEK RIVER SPECIAL HARVEST AREA DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 06.360.]

ISSUE: Adopting into regulation a definition of a drift gillnet in Bristol Bay that is enforceable.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The continuation of a regulation defining drift gillnetting in Bristol Bay that is not enforceable.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen and public safety that support enforceable regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen who are allowing their vessels or nets to be grounded to harvest more fish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Wilson (SW-06F-012)

PROPOSAL 17 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Amend this regulation as follows:

Remove the following regulation. 5 AAC 06.331(q). [DURING THE HOURS BETWEEN SUNSET AND SUNRISE, ASCH GILLNET MUST DISPLAY A LIGHT. FOR DRIFT GILLNETS, THE LIGHT MUST BE LOCATED AT THE END OF THE NET FURTHEST FROM THE FISHING VESSEL. FOR SET GILLNETS, THE LIGHT MUST BE A BLINKING WHITE LIGHT AND MUST BE LOCATED AT THE END OF THE NET FURTHEST FROM THE SHORE].

ISSUE: Net night lights – remove the regulation. Navigation lighting is something we all do to the best equipment will allow.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? No tickets for batteries and night lights not working.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The entire fleet.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, the net lights are poorly made. We would still use them but would not be ticketed if they do not work.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Roseleen Moore (HQ-06F-019)

PROPOSAL 18 - 5 AAC 06.334(a). Identification of gear. Amend this regulation as follows:

Remove the requirement of marking nets every 10 fathoms on corks, on drift gillnet gear

ISSUE: Marking at the ends, by burning the numbers into the cork, or with paint. This does not help Fish and Game and is a risk to fishermen.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Tickets will be given to those who are trying to comply with the rule as they do not stay marked. Tide water washes the marks off. This does not help Fish and Game and is a risk to fishermen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No – house keeping.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone. The point system makes it necessary to correct this.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Maybe protection, but I do not think it will help them.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Burning numbers in corks – timely to do. With the painting of corks – paint does not stay on.

PROPOSED BY: Roseleen Moore (HQ-06F-021)

PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Amend this regulation as follows:

All setnet gear, lines, anchors, stakes, buoys, kegs etc. shall be removed from any and all waters during any and all driftnet only openings used by management to enforce any Bristol Bay commercial salmon fishing allocation plan.

ISSUE: Add the requirement to remove all setnet gear during driftnet only gear openings and use to enforce the Bristol Bay commercial fishery allocation plans.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Currently Alaska Statute 16.10.55 states: “Interference with Commercial Fishing Gear” which states “A person who willfully or with reckless disregard for the consequences, interferes with or damages the commercial fishing gear

of another is guilty of a misdemeanor. For the purpose of this section “interference” means the physical disturbance of gear which results in a economic loss or loss of fishing time, and “reckless disregard of the consequences” means a lack of consideration of one’s acts in a manner that is reasonably likely to damage the property of another.”

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both drift and set commercial gear groups in Bristol Bay, to prevent the loss of property, including both set net and drift net gear during drift only openings, clearly defined in AS 16.10.055.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? N/A.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? These allocation plans benefit both user groups, another solution to solve this issue by tossing these allocation plans, does not appeal to either user group.

PROPOSED BY: Todd Granger (HQ-06F-088)

PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet Specifications and Operations. Amend this regulation by adding a new subsection as follows:

(t) Permit holders who lose gillnets while fishing must report the lost net to the nearest ADF&G office within 15 hours of the loss.

ISSUE: Inevitably, fishing gear will be lost while prosecuting a fishery. Gear may be lost accidentally or purposely cut loose. There are no records to show how much gear is lost and/or retrieved. Every year, lost nets surface and the circumstances under which the gear was lost are unknown. There are approximately 1,400 permit holders fishing in Bristol Bay, each with 150 fathoms of gill net. If a small percentage of gear is lost annually, “ghost fishing” in Bristol Bay could be problematic. The problem may or may not be pervasive but a reporting requirement would reveal the extent of the gear loss. A regulatory reporting requirement would give the department a means to track the amount of gear lost each year and could facilitate retrieval of the gear.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Permit holders will continue to lose gear that will remain unreported. It will remain unknown how much gear is lost each year and gear retrieval will be less likely. Lost nets may become a navigational hazard and may reduce fishing opportunity for others.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This regulation is not likely to improve the quality of the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Reporting may provide an incentive to discourage permit holders from losing gear. By reducing the amount of lost gear, the amount of fish trapped in ghost nets would be reduced, resulting in more fish available for harvest. Reported losses of gear would also make retrieval more likely, eliminating a navigation hazard.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-167)

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. Amend this regulation as follows:

Allow one person to own and benefit from the permit stacking privileges granted by the board in the Bristol Bay driftnet fishery as allowed by 2006 legislation.

ISSUE: Too many participants in the Bristol Bay fishery as indicated in the Commercial Fish Entry Commission's optimum number study. Present regulations allow vessels to "stack" permits provided that the permits are held by different individuals. Allowing the two permits to be held by one individual will reduce the transactional difficulties in having separately owned permits on one vessel.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The incentive to "stack" permits will not be sufficient to adequately reduce the amount of gear on the grounds contributing to continued economic distress, management difficulty and enforcement of the regulation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. With fewer vessels, quality problems inherent in line fisheries will be reduced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bristol Bay drift permit holders and crews as fewer vessels and less gear per permit will give more opportunity for the remaining vessels and fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who are satisfied with crowded fishing grounds, low returns on their commercial fishing businesses and substandard fish quality.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Additional privileges for stacking with two separate permit holders on board, however, the transactional difficulties would still not be resolved.

PROPOSED BY: Charles W. Treinen (HQ-06F-044)

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. Amend this regulation as follows:

Allow an individual owning two permits to fish an additional 50 fathoms of driftnet gear or such other additional fishing privileges the board deems appropriate.

ISSUE: Effective June 28, 2006, House Bill 251 authorizes the board to grant additional fishing privileges to individuals owning two permits in a salmon fishery. The current regulation allows a vessel with two separate permit holders onboard to fish an additional 50 fathoms of driftnet gear. The requirement of two separate permit holders onboard the vessel is now inconsistent with legislative intent.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The current regulation unfairly denies the owner of two permits the same additional fishing privileges now granted to a permit holder who has an additional permit owner onboard his vessel.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The proposal standing alone does not improve quality. Yet adoption of the proposal fosters and promotes an environment of change necessary to make quality improvements.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Individuals owning two permits will now have the same benefit accorded to a permit holder who has a second permit holder onboard his vessel.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer from adoption of this proposal; however, we anticipate opposition by those same individuals or groups who opposed the current regulation.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Bristol Bay Reserve (HQ-06F-046)

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. Amend this regulation as follows:

Allow vessels with two active permits to be able to fish additional gear in the special harvest area.

ISSUE: Too many participants in the Bristol Bay fishery as indicated in the CFEC's optimum numbers study. We need more incentives for current permit holders to buy a second permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue have economic hard times in the Bristol Bay fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. With less boats it will cut down on the line.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone, even people with one permit will have the benefit of less boats in the fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Konrad Schaad (HQ-06F-048)

PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. Amend this regulation as follows:

Allow one person to have two active permits per House Bill 251 and receive extra benefits which may include more time, area, gear or any other incentives.

ISSUE: Too many participants in the Bristol Bay fishery as indicated in the CFEC’s optimum numbers study.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue to have economic hard times in the Bristol Bay fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. With less boats it will cut down on the line fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone, even people with one permit will benefit with less boats in the fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Dominic Lee (HQ-06F-051)

PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. Amend this regulation as follows:

(a) Except in the special harvest areas specified in (e) of this section, two Bristol Bay drift gillnet CFEC permit holders may concurrently fish from the same vessel and jointly operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear under this section. **Additionally a permit holder with two Bristol Bay drift gillnet CFEC permits may operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear under this section.**

(b) Before operating drift gillnet gear jointly under this section, both permit holders shall register with the department under 5 AAC 06.370. for the same district. **A permit holder with two Bristol Bay drift permits shall register both permits for the same district with the department under 5 AAC 06.370.** The permit **holder or** holders may not use a vessel for [JOINT] operations of drift gillnet gear unless that vessel is registered with the department under 5 AAC 06.370. for the same district as the permit holders **or holders.**

(c) When two Bristol Bay drift gillnet CFEC permit holders fish from the same vessel and jointly operate a drift gillnet gear under this section **or a permit holder with two Bristol Bay drift gillnet permits,** the vessel must display its ADF&G permanent license plate number followed by the letter “D” to identify the vessel as dual permit vessel. The letter “D” must be removed or covered when the vessel is operating with only one drift gillnet CFEC permit **[HOLDER]** on board the vessel. The identification number and letters must be displayed

- (1) in letters and numerals 12 inches high with lines at least one inch wide;
- (2) in color that contrast with the background;
- (3) on both sides of the hull; and
- (4) in a manner that is plainly visible at all times when the vessel is being operated.

(d) When two permit holders jointly operate gear under this section, each permit holder is responsible for ensuring that the entire unit of gear is operated in a lawful manner.

(e) The joint operation of drift gillnet gear **or the use of two permits by one permit holder** under this section is not allowed in any other area, or during any time when, a single CFEC permit holder is restricted to operating less than 150 fathoms of drift gillnet gear and in the

(1) Ugashik River Special Harvest Area described in 5 AAC 06.357, and as described in 5 AAC 06.366(f).

(2) Wood River Special Harvest Area described in 5 AAC 06.358.

(3) Egegik River Special Harvest Area described in 5 AAC 06.359.

(4) Naknek River Special Harvest Area described in 5 AAC 06.360.

ISSUE: Use of two permits by one permit holder.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It will slow the implementation of the optimum number of units of gear as determined by CFEC.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The fishery will become more viable and support investment required to improve equipment to increase product quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen with two permits, all fishermen will benefit from less gear being fished.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There will be a perceived negative effect by some vessels without the extra 50 fm gear.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? To achieve the CFEC optimum number buy back could be implemented with the negative impact of all permit holders having to pay off their debt. The buy back option is rejected because the stacking of permits is preferable as it is flexible to respond to the changing economic realities in the future without government actions.

PROPOSED BY: Peter Thompson (HQ-06F-054)

PROPOSAL 26 - 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unless all areas are opened to 200 fathoms on a two permitted vessel, no single district shall be allowed to fish 200 fathoms on one vessel.

ISSUE: The use of 200 fathoms on one vessel with two permits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Since this regulation was implemented the only district allowed the 200 fathoms per vessel has been the Nushagak. This puts an undo strain on the local fishermen who choose not to own two permits.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local fishermen who cannot or will not be able to own two permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Two permitted vessels.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Geoff Wyman (HQ-06F-057)

PROPOSAL 27 - 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. Amend this regulation as follows:

A CFEC permit holder may hold two permits.

ISSUE: The lack of ability for a setnet permit holder to have more than one permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued hardship for setnet (mostly Alaska owned) permit holders.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Any hard working successful setnet permit holder who wants to make a better living.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Those fishermen who are hard working will continue to be able to make a living.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Roland Briggs (HQ-06F-081)

PROPOSAL 28 - 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. Amend this regulation as follows:

Require management to add additional scheduled fishing time for vessels fishing two permits, by emergency order.

ISSUE: Legislative passage of House Bill 251, “An act authorizing the Board of Fisheries to adopt regulations regarding fishing by a person who holds two permits for a salmon fishery”, effective date June 28, 2006.

The current permit stacking regulations in 5 AAC 06.333 is used by few driftnet vessels due to management’s continued use of the “Special Harvest Areas”. Any economic benefit, defined in 5 AAC 06.333 with management’s use of 5 AAC 06.333(e)(1-4), makes such a small economic benefit for permit stacking that this fleet reduction method has been marginally used by this fleet. With the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) report, 04-3N, from October 2004 and 20 AAC 05.1147, using HB 251, giving a larger economic benefit will move the fleet

closer to the final CFEC optimum number defined in 20 AAC 05.1147. This follows in form with the economic, conservation, and fishery management concerns exposed in this report using a voluntary system with a realistic economic benefit. Promoting more fishers into acceptance of this available permit stacking plan and the race will begin to the Optimum Number without the need to implement AS 16.43.100(a)(10) using voluntary acquisitions and mergers used in many industries throughout this nation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? With the continued decline of the fisheries economic benefit, by factoring in the lowest inflation adjusted salmon prices paid in history, the lack of fleet consensus dealing with the CFEC report, 04-3N is unacceptable, and detrimental to all fishers' current and future financial stability in this fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishers who wish to reduce the fleet for economic gain, by increasing actual production. Using business principals, of mergers and acquisitions, and seen locally at a processor near you. Any true form of fleet reduction will benefit all who fish at today's low prices, using increased production for economic gains unavailable using other theory.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishers who ignore the economic reality of low product pricing. And this fleet itself, that allowed the state to disregard the Alaskan voter, and their limited entry amendment, as used in all other Alaska salmon fisheries. The harshness of these results is well demonstrated by the facts in this fishery.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A state funded buyback? Using tax-and-spend principals, or another loan to be paid off with another tax, and spent bureaucracy, showing off their social engineering skills is always a negative to any business practice.

PROPOSED BY: Todd Granger (HQ-06F-089)

PROPOSAL 29 - 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Closed season to out-of-area fishermen within Togiak Bay area.

ISSUE: Bristol Bay drift net fishing. Lack of harvest due to out-of-area fishing during week the ending of July.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lack of spawning, lack of harvest, and will decrease salmon escapement.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Will increase harvest production and will also increase spawning grounds.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Togiak Bay Area Permit Holders as well as those who are registered to fish the area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Do not know who will likely suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Togiak Bay fishermen meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Diane Abraham

(SW-06F-001)

PROPOSAL 30 - 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration. Amend this regulation as follows:

(k) Notwithstanding (b) of this section, a CFEC permit holder registered before 9:00 a.m. July 17 to fish in the

Ugashik district may not take salmon in the Nushagak, Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, or Togiak district from 9:00 a.m. June 1 to 9:00 a.m. July 24;

Nushagak, Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik and Togiak district may not take salmon in the Ugashik district from 9:00 a.m. June 1 to 9:00 a.m. July 24; the department may waive the requirements of this paragraph after 9:00 a.m. July 21 if the department projects that the Ugashik River escapement will exceed 850,000 sockeye salmon before 9:00 a.m. July 24.

ISSUE: Establish the Ugashik district as a super-exclusive registration Bristol Bay commercial sockeye fishing district.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The communities of Pilot Point, Port Heiden and Ugashik will continue to experience economic hardship due to excess interception, low ex-vessel price, drastically reduced raw fish tax base and an increase in drift fleet competition later in the season when Ugashik is still lagging in escapement numbers. The Ugashik sockeye traditionally run later than the other Bristol Bay tributaries and with a mobile fleet it becomes impossible to predict effort levels on any given day. With this unpredictable effort level the fishing periods for the Ugashik district have gone from regular 12-hour openings to two to six-hour openings. This reduced fishing time is detrimental to the quality of our product and the production of our local fleet and setnetters.

It should be noted that for the last three years the Ugashik district's harvest has been approximately one million sockeye short of the predicted harvest. This scenario makes it impossible for our communities to financially survive and many families have had to relocate to find jobs. For example, the Pilot Point school may close next year because of a lack of students and most city services have been curtailed due to a lack of raw fish tax funds.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this proposed regulation change will allow for longer fishing opening allowing fishermen the time to properly ice or chill down their product prior to delivering their catch. Will eliminate the need to use excessive towing on the net to avoid other nets and also eliminate the need to use dead stacking of the catch during an opening. In addition, processors will be better able to judge the amount of capacity needed to process or transport their product to another district for processing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local fisher persons of Lower Bristol Bay. The department because Ugashik River escapement needs will be easier to achieve and maintain.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Several hundred drift fishermen who transfer to Ugashik district after their district of choice has peaked. Predominately non-local vessels.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee (SW-06F-038)

PROPOSAL 31 - 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration. Amend this regulation as follows:

Repeal 5 AAC 06.370. (c) and (d)

ISSUE: After the use of either drift gillnet or set gillnet gear, the use of other types of gear is not permitted until 48 hours have elapsed following notification to the department of the type of gear intended to be used. After July 17, changing to either drift gillnet or set gillnet may be done without notification to the department. The board needs to eliminate the 48-hour notification before July 17 within a fishing district.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There is little or no benefit for a person to own both types of permits at the same time. If you eliminate the 48-hour notification, it may encourage fishermen to buy back some of the permits in Bristol Bay. Under normal fishing conditions only one permit would be fished. However if the department allowed only one gear group to fish to catch up on allocation, this would allow a fishermen to switch gear if he owned both permits. This seems like a small benefit to fishermen but with our depressed fishery, it may mean the difference in being able to survive a bad fishing season.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? A person who owns both a set net and a drift net permit. All fishermen when both gear groups are fishing at the same time because gear is removed from the fishery. The gear group sitting on the beach waiting for the other gear group to catch their allocation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one because this will remove gear from the fishery under normal fishing conditions.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Reduce the notification period to 12 hours. It would cause more paper work for the department.

PROPOSED BY: Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee (SW-06F-010)

PROPOSAL 32 - 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration. Amend this regulation as follows:

Repeal 5 AAC 06.370 (c) and (d).

ISSUE: After the use of either drift gillnet or set gillnet gear, the use of the other type of gear is not permitted until 48 hours have elapsed following notification to the department of the type of gear intended to be used. After July 17, changing to either drift gillnet or set gillnet may be done without notification to the department. I would like the Board to eliminate the 48 hour

notification before July 17 within a fishing district.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There is little or no benefit for a person to own both types of permits at the same time. If you eliminate the 48 hour notification, it may encourage fishermen to buy back some of the permits in Bristol Bay. Under normal fishing conditions only one permit would be fished. However, if the department allowed only one gear group to fish to catch up on allocation, this would allow a fisherman to switch gear if they owned both permits. This seems like a small benefit to fishermen but with our depressed fishery, it may mean the difference in being able to survive a bad fishing season.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? A person who owns both a setnet and driftnet permit. All fishermen when both gear groups are fishing at the same time because gear is removed from the fishery. The gear group sitting on the beach waiting for the other gear group to catch their allocation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one because this will remove gear from the fishery under normal fishing conditions.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Reduce the notification period to 12 hours. It would cause more paperwork for the department.

PROPOSED BY: Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-022)

PROPOSAL 33 - 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration. Amend this regulation as follows:

Allow a vessel that has registered one permit in one district the ability to drop a second blue card (register) in another district and begin fishing immediately without waiting out 48 hours.

ISSUE: Too many participants in the Bristol Bay fishery as indicated in the CFEC's optimum numbers study. We need more incentives for current permit holders to buy a second permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue to have economic hard times in the Bristol Bay fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. With less boats it will cut down in the line fishery and give the board more flexibility in the management.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone, even people with one permit will have the benefit of less boats in the fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Konrad Schaad

(HQ-06F-047)

PROPOSAL 34 - 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration. Amend this regulation as follows:

Repeal requirement to wait 48 hours before switching gear types within the same district. Require only notification.

ISSUE: The need to wait 48 hours before switching gear types within the same district.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued economic hardship on fishermen who try to maximize catch volume.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Economically pressed fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one as there is still allocation of catch.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Rolland Briggs (HQ-06F-082)

PROPOSAL 35 - 5 AAC 06.370 Registration and Reregistration. Amend this regulation as follows:

Allow a vessel with two active permits to be registered in two districts simultaneously.

ISSUE: Too many participants in the Bristol Bay fishery as indicated in the CFEC’s optimum numbers study. We need more incentives for current permit holders to buy a second permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue to have economic hard times in the Bristol Bay fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. With less boats it will cut down on the line fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone, even people with one permit will have the benefit of less boats in the fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Konrad Schaad (HQ-06F-049)

PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration. Amend this regulation as follows:

Allowed a one time per season opportunity to file your intent to transfer, wait out 48 hours or more, then designate what district you will be fishing in.

ISSUE: Having to designate what district you are transferring to before waiting out the 48 hour transfer period.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Without this change, it is difficult for fishermen to efficiently break in their inexperienced crews, test new refrigeration systems and any new mechanical systems which require several hours or days of testing in order to work properly for the season. Under the current regulation, it can be devastatingly costly for the vessel and the quality of product can suffer if serious problems arise due to lack of earlier testing under actual fishing conditions. One example could be if there were a major mechanical breakdown midseason, the fishing situation can make dramatic changes while the vessel is out of commission, which could adversely effect the rest of their season depending on which district they committed there vessel to, thus locking in their fate.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This proposal will definitely improve the quality of their product by allowing them to more efficiently work out any refrigeration and mechanical problems for this short season. For instance, if refrigeration problem arise, a boat owner may feel it is too costly and risky to play a guessing game of commitment to a certain district and then wait out the time for repairs. It might be more tempting to just continue fishing with a potentially defective reefer system and sell warmer, dry and poorer quality fish than take that huge financial gamble.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All permit holders will benefit. This will allow boats to break in crew and test any refrigeration or mechanical problems near their boatyard support in early June and then designate where they want to fish. Also, say for example if a vessel broke down mid season and took a few days for repair, they could put in their transfer and when the vessel was repaired they could make a better judgment on where to resume fishing as conditions can change rapidly in a few days.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody. Why is it so necessary to have to choose an area before waiting another 48 hours to fish? Fishing conditions can change in this two day window and for the permit holder, that often means playing a guessing game, luck game or even a game of financial Russian Roulette. It is a matter more of the department managing the fish stocks in a district rather than the amount of boats.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Ed Hisaw (HQ-06F-055)

PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration. Amend this regulation as follows:

Allow all season, the opportunity to file your intent to transfer, wait out 48 hours or more. Then designate what district you will be fishing in.

ISSUE: Having to designate what district you are transferring to before waiting out the 48-hour transfer period.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Without this change, it is difficult for fishermen to efficiently break in their inexperienced crews, test new refrigeration systems and any new mechanical systems which require several hours or days of testing in order to work properly for the season. Under the current regulation, it can be devastatingly costly for a vessel and the quality of product can suffer if serious problems arise due to lack of earlier testing under actual fishing conditions. One example could be if there was a major mechanical breakdown midseason, the fishing situation can make dramatic changes while the vessel is out of commission, which could adversely affect the rest of their season depending on which district they committed their vessel to, thus locking in their fate.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This proposal will definitely improve the quality of their product by allowing them to more efficiently work out any refrigeration and mechanical problems for this short season. For instance, if refrigeration problems arise, a boat owner may feel it is too costly and risky to play a guessing game of commitment to a certain district and then wait out the time for repairs. It might be more tempting to just continue fishing with a potentially defective refrigeration system and sell warmer, day and poorer quality fish than take that huge financial gamble.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All permit holders will benefit. This will allow boats to break in crew and test any refrigeration or mechanical problems near their boatyard support in early June and then designate where they want to fish. Also, say for example if a vessel broke down mid-season, and took a few days for repair, they could put in their transfer and when the vessel was repaired they could make a better judgment on where to resume fishing as conditions can change rapidly in a few days.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody. Why is it so necessary to have to choose an area before waiting another 48 hours to fish? Fishing conditions can change in this two day window and for the permit holder that often means playing a guessing game, luck game or even a game of financial Russian roulette. It is a matter more of the department managing the fish stocks in a district rather than the amount of boats.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Ed Hisaw (HQ-06F-056)

PROPOSAL 38 - 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration. Amend this regulation as follows:

(a) Before taking salmon in Bristol Bay, each commercial salmon set gillnet or drift gillnet CFEC permit holder shall register **on June 23 of each year** for a district described in 5 AAC 06.200. Each drift gillnet permit holder also shall register for the same district the drift gillnet vessel that the permit holder will be operating. Initial district registration is accomplished by completing a registration form provided by the department and returning the completed form to the department office in Dillingham or King Salmon. For the purposes of this section, a CFEC permit holder and a drift gillnet vessel may be registered in only one district at a time.

ISSUE: There is no free week; fishermen should be able to go fish wherever they can until June 23 of the current year and then register for a district of their choice.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishers will have to make decisions before having all the data available on the timing of the run size and strength and will not be able to train crews and test machinery before the seasons' run arrives.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No affect on quality of the harvested resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishers in Bristol Bay.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No fishers in Bristol Bay.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Darryl F. Pope (HQ-06F-094)

PROPOSAL 39 - 5 AAC 06.341. Vessel specifications and operations. Amend this regulation as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 06.341. to eliminate the 32-foot limit on vessels used in the driftnet fishery in Bristol Bay.

ISSUE: Vessel safety, quality of salmon caught and the arbitrary 32-foot limit on the length of vessels allowed to fish in Bristol Bay's driftnet fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the board continues to limit the size of the vessels to 32 feet, harvesters will continue to be limited in the equipment and the ability to outfit their vessels to make improvements in fish quality while maintaining safety aboard the boats. At present many 32-foot vessels within the fishery just do not have the capacity or space to properly install an RSW unit or the size and power needed to utilize holds that are filled with a mixture of ice and water. At present, one need only look in a boat yard in Naknek or Dillingham to see that many boats do not even look like boats, evidence of efforts made to put too much into a 32-foot boat. Frankly, some of those boats look like a disaster or serious accident waiting to happen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The proposal is made to specifically address the need to allow harvesters to design, purchase, adapt current vessels to safely accommodate equipment used to chill or freeze salmon that are caught in Bristol Bay. The quantities of salmon that are caught in a short time in this fishery require a large deck space and large capacity to hold and treat thousands of pounds of product within hours. Some harvesters may see the use of larger and longer vessels as an option to help achieve such goals as processing and freezing their own product on board, in combination with marketing their own product.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? If larger and longer vessels were allowed, fishermen that would like a bigger and longer vessel to accommodate and operate refrigeration and possibly freezing equipment on board would benefit. Vessel manufacturers and fabricators would benefit from the work that would be generated.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? If a larger vessel has complete advantage over smaller

vessels, the smaller vessels will become obsolete in the fishery. But, I do not think a complete loss of smaller vessels from the fleet would be realized, as smaller vessels can and will always be able to fish shallower waters. They are also generally faster and much more economical to operate.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? As mentioned above, the elimination of the 32-foot limit would not necessarily mean the end of smaller vessels which will always have their own advantages and value over large vessels. It depends on how a fisherman chooses to fish. He or she may choose not to use any type of RSW or CSW system, as gas engine, outboard engines, jet water propulsion, etc. to make ends meet for their individual needs. I thought about proposing a longer limit on the length of vessel, such as 42 feet but the reality is that fishermen will not want a vessel that is too long or too deep and much of the type of vessel depends on a fisherman's favorite way or area to fish. The importance is giving harvesters the option and ability to choose what he or she knows is best for their personal situation.

PROPOSED BY: Erick Sabo (HQ-06F-006)

PROPOSAL 40 - 5 AAC 06.341. Vessel specifications and operations. Amend this regulation as follows:

The vessel length limit in Bristol Bay would be removed from regulation.

ISSUE: The quality issues and inefficiencies caused by the 32-foot vessel length restriction in the Bristol Bay driftnet fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishermen will continue to be encumbered by an arbitrary vessel length limit that makes it difficult and problematic to produce the higher quality products demanded by the world market.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, larger vessels would allow for vessels to have equipment and deck space necessary to produce a higher quality product.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Bristol Bay fishermen since the overall pack quality could be improved allowing for higher sales prices and better marketing arrangements.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who believe that marketability, product quality and ultimately price, are unimportant in operation of their commercial fishing businesses.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allowing for only incremental vessel length changes, over time. Since it is reasonable to project that vessels excessively larger than 32 feet are unlikely to be immediately adaptable to the Bristol Bay drift fishery and available support services, complete removal of the length restriction will not suddenly change the character of the fishery while allowing for innovation.

PROPOSED BY: Charles W. Treinen (HQ-06F-045)

PROPOSAL 41 - 5 AAC 06.341. Vessel specifications and operations. Amend these regulations as follows:

Repeal the 32-foot vessel length limit.

ISSUE: The current and archaic, vessel length limit is restraining the drift gillnet fleet from developing a much more valuable fishery. The simple law of economic returns relative to boat size works fine in all other areas of Alaska. Longer boats that would allow shallower fish holds would greatly increase the quality and value of the catch. We need to remove the limit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Salmon will continue to be destroyed through bruising and disconfiguration. As we all recognize that quality must improve in order to raise the value of the salmon, this is the most obvious stumbling block. It must start here and now.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal is all about improving quality and value. Shallow fish holds, and room for ice or RSW.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who wants salmon to be worth more period.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody, a 32 foot limit does not create equality, ask the guy in the old power rolling Rawson how he feels about the 18 foot wide triple jet.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Larry Christensen (HQ-06F-174)

PROPOSAL 42 - 5 AAC 06.341. Vessel specifications and operations. Amend these regulations as follows:

Repeal 5 AAC 06.341. Vessel Specifications and Operations.

ISSUE: The 32-foot vessel Bristol Bay length restrictions in 5 AAC 06.341.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? With the board’s “Finding of Fact,” #81-92-FB of April 7, 1981, this regulation does not address the obvious quality issues these findings ignore with another 25 years of fact. With no vessel length limits in any other Alaska salmon driftnet fishery, that deal with the Bay’s large catch volume, the justification can only be attributed to 60 years of sailboat mentality, and ignores a true product quality issue by overloading the 32 foot vessel.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Improvements in product quality are available with the use of larger vessels. Spreading out these large harvest volumes, and needed increasing the quality for a future more marketable product. With the fleet reduction proposed using economic reality, in the CFEC’s Bristol Bay Optimum number report, 04-03N, and 20 AAC 05.1147. This proposal, with a possible future fleet reduction does more to assist this driftnet fleet’s ability to make more quality improvement modifications in these vessels.

As the board’s 1981 “Finding of Fact” imply, “the board considered this action to be consistent with its responsibilities to conserve and develop the salmon resources of Bristol Bay, promote the orderly harvesting and marketing of quality fishery products and to maximize the public

interest.”

Here the sufferer is the industry product, a fleet using Volkswagen Beetles, in need of a school bus, the limit does nothing for the “...orderly harvesting and marketing of quality fishery products...” and actually moves back the marketing of quality fishery products.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Any fisher willing to make the long overdue change to promote quality, ending the obvious overloading of their current vessels since 1889, with or without refrigeration.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Any person, with no regard to the product quality issue and supporting these obsolete board findings that have done little since 1981 to improve the product quality issues.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A

PROPOSED BY: Todd Granger (HQ-06F-178)

PROPOSAL 43 - 5 AAC 06.341 Vessel specifications and operations. Amend this regulation as follows:

The old 32-foot rule would be removed.

ISSUE: Length of vessel, changed to 45 feet or removed totally.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Quality of salmon in area will not improve as fast as it should in order to compete with other areas and would market. Prices will not come up.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Larger holds, spread the fish over more area, less pressure-in a 32-foot vessel-10,000 pounds is three to four feet deep in a 38 to 40-foot 10,000 pounds is two feet or less, more room to install RSW units. Larger vessels can be tanked.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone; as new or used 38 to 42 foot vessels are built or added to the fishery: The over all quality of Bristol Bay fish will increase and the price for the product will also go up.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The fleet is old. Most of the large aluminum vessels are 16-20 years old. New boats will soon enter the fishery, so timing is important. Now is the time. Very few would be affected as everyone will benefit from the price increase.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Fishing more days early to reduce large catches. This was not favored by many small boat owners. Also fishing more area early.

PROPOSED BY: Roseleen Moore (HQ-06F-018)

PROPOSAL 44 - 5 AAC 06.341. Vessel specifications and operations. Amend this regulation as follows:

(a) No vessel registered for salmon net fishing may be more than 42 [32] feet in overall length. An anchor roller may not extend more than eight inches beyond the 42 [32]-foot overall length, and any portion that extends beyond the 42 [32]-foot overall length may not be more than eight inches in width or height.

ISSUE: Current regulations restricting the overall length of Bristol Bay vessels to 32 feet is detrimental to the fishermen of Bristol Bay because it inhibits our ability of producing a better quality salmon product, makes it extremely dangerous to participate in our 4E halibut fishery and absolutely eliminates us from participating in other developmental fisheries such as cod, clam, capelin, flounder and sole fisheries currently being proposed and studied.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Utilizing larger vessels will enable Bristol Bay fishermen the necessary space to install Refrigerated Salt Water (RSW) systems that can be operated by a separate generator. This advantage would allow the fishermen to operate their respective RSW systems independent of their main engines, saving on fuel. The larger vessels would also allow the participants of the local 4E halibut fishery adequate deck space to fish for halibut, larger fish holes to adequately ice and store the product, fish further off-shore and improve safety of the crew and vessel. This proposed overall length increase will also allow our local fleet the opportunity to participate in other experimental fisheries other than salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Bristol Bay fishermen will reap benefits. Ex-vessel prices of our salmon products will improve with the marketing of a better quality product.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. With the inriver fisheries currently dominating departmental management protocol in recent years many fishermen will elect to remain with their smaller 32-foot vessels. Elevated fuel prices will also dictate the decision to upgrade a vessel.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee (SW-06F-039)

PROPOSAL 45 - 5 AAC 06.341. Vessel specifications and operations. Amend this regulation as follows:

(a) No vessel registered for salmon net fishing may be more than [32] 42 feet in overall length. An anchor roller may not extend more than eight inches beyond the 42-foot overall length and any portion that extends beyond the [32] 42-foot overall length may not be more than eight inches in width or height.

ISSUE: The 32-foot vessel length limit that very effectively retards the advancement of vessel technology. This is the only salmon fishery in Alaska with this small of a vessel length limit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? 1.) Quality of product will continue to suffer. 2.) Innovations or gear requiring more space will not be an option for the fleet. 3.) Our lack of economy of scale combined with stagnant fish prices, increases costs and stiff competition in the marketplace are making 32-foot boats so inefficient as to render them

obsolete and in many cases non-profitable.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Possibly those fishermen with the resources who choose to upgrade to larger vessels would benefit. I might add that it will probably take a lot of hard work in conjunction with a larger vessel in order to realize any potential profit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? To some extent those fishermen who choose not to, or are unable to upgrade to larger vessels. Keep in mind that all vessels, regardless of length, fish the same amount of time and have the potential to fish an equal amount of gear.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: John Webb (HQ-06F-003)

PROPOSAL 46 - 5 AAC 06.341. Vessel specifications and operations. Amend this regulation to include the following:

No vessel registered for salmon net fishing may be more than 38 feet in overall length.

ISSUE: The problem is the current 32-foot length limit on gillnet boats that can be used in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The primary intent of this proposal is to provide a means useful to fishers that would significantly help to alleviate the historical and ongoing problem of poor quality salmon from the largest component of the Bristol Bay fishery. Ex-vessel prices are significantly lower than in other comparable Alaskan fisheries. They will remain so unless a variety of innovative steps are taken. Allowing the use of larger boats would be a major step toward correcting the problem. If quality is not improved, the potential for higher and more equitable ex-vessel prices will not be realized. All beneficiaries of the fishery, from fishers to service businesses to the tax collectors are currently foregoing potential increased financial returns. Conversely, for the fishers and others, all fixed operational costs are rising rapidly and will likely continue to do into the foreseeable future.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposed change improves the quality of both the resource harvested and the products subsequently made from the harvested resource. Quality production starts with the fishers. Additionally, larger vessels will provide space for on-board value added processing for those fishers attempting to expand additional markets for all or a portion of their catch. The current 32-foot length limit greatly restricts options for improving the quality of salmon produced, as well as options for value-added small scale on-board processing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those fishers who choose to operate a 38-foot vessel. Note, this proposal mainly focuses on improving the quality of salmon caught and retained on the catcher vessel until delivery. There are other benefits such as improved hydrodynamic performance of longer vessels, less stacking of salmon in individual fish holds, opportunity to carry ice in free holds, less likelihood of overloading the stern, etc.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The fishery in general will suffer, due to continued archaic regulation that restricts options for improvement of quality at the fishing end of the industry. From the aspect of competition among fishers, no one will suffer because regulations concerning net length and mesh size will apply equally to all vessels, regardless of size.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions were considered.

PROPOSED BY: John J. Burns (I-06F-002)

PROPOSAL 47 - 5 AAC 06.341. Vessel specifications and operations. Amend this regulation as follows:

(a) No vessel registered for salmon net fishing may be more than 38 [32] feet in overall length. An anchor roller may not extend more than eight inches beyond the 38 [32]-foot length, and any portion that extends beyond the 38 [32]-foot overall length may not be more than eight inches in width or height.

ISSUE: Vessel length in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Quality cannot be achieved, dual permits need larger vessel to support larger crew and catch.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Quality in Bristol Bay with the room to put improved refrigerated sea water, to hold more ice aboard a larger vessel or even an ice machine. Room to put insulated totes to ship fresh fish the possibilities would be endless.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All individuals that want to step up to the plate and bring better quality product to the salmon consumer. Bristol Bay Borough would get bigger tax base with a better base price for fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who do not want to accept change.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Darryl F. Pope (HQ-06F-090)

PROPOSAL 48 - 5 AAC 06.355. Bristol Bay commercial Set and Drift Gillnet sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Amend this regulation to include the following in the Bristol Bay East Side (Ugashik, Egegik and Naknek-Kvichak):

(d) The department shall manage existing management plans, fishery openings, closures, and areas to maximize the escapement past each district fish destined for the various rivers in the Naknek-Kvichak District; especially the Kvichak River, which has in recent history had difficulty in achieving it’s escapement goals.

(1) achieve adequate escapement by requiring the fisheries in the various east side districts to remain inside their special harvest area boundaries until the point goal for the Kvichak River red salmon escapement is achieved.

(2) Acknowledge by this regulation that the Kvichak River Sockeye Salmon Escapement is significantly impacted by fishing in the areas seaward of the Special Harvest District Boundaries in the Ugashik and Egegik districts as well as the Naknek-Kvichak district.

This addition would insure that each stock would be harvested at a rate that would approximate the actual arrival of the stocks into the originating system and thus would help target the fisheries on natal stocks while minimizing the incidents of interception of stocks headed for other systems. Specifically this would protect the early Naknek run as well as protect Lake Clark and other Kvichak River spawning area fish from harvest in Egegik and Ugashik. The major benefit would be to the Naknek-Kvichak system as less stress would be put on the potential escapement.

ISSUE: Naknek-Kvichak escapement needs to be shared by the systems that the fish first appear. This will help equalize the burden for the Kvichak escapement among all of the fishermen who benefit from harvesting Kvichak stocks.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Karl R. Hellberg (HQ-06F-028)

PROPOSAL 49 - 5 AAC 06.355. Bristol Bay commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Establish a “share” or IFQ type system using CFEC annual catch records to produce the “share”.

ISSUE: Ineffective allocation plan.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lost opportunity by all user groups.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It definitely could improve the quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Improved quality and opportunity should benefit everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Neil C. Armstrong (SW-06F-030)

PROPOSAL 50 - 5 AAC 06.320. Fishing periods. Amend this regulation as follows:

In the Egegik, Naknek/Kvichak, Nushagak and Ugashik sections from June 25 through July 17 the following tentative fishing schedule will be in effect:

Monday 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
For a total of 36 hours per week.

ISSUE: More consistent fishing openings.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Very sporadic openings will continue to occur.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Prior to statehood the federal folks used a similar system (72 hours per week) with apparent success.

PROPOSED BY: Neil C. Armstrong (SW-06F-031)

PROPOSAL 51 - 5 AAC 06.356. General District Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Allow General District fishing as generally promulgated during the 2004 season to harvest up to 25 percent of the projected catch.

ISSUE: Bristol Bay run is currently too compressed and overwhelms processing production capacity. Early season general district openings will allow a longer harvest window with associated quality improvements, marketability, and higher value.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The quality of the fish will continue to be substandard due to the compressed timeframe of harvest and overwhelming demands on processing capacity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Longer harvest window will allow for more niche marketing, fresh fish shipment, and quicker processing time.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The fishery as a whole by increasing overall value and allowing for more marketing opportunities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen who do not wish to participate in higher

earnings obtainable by fishing in the general district and localities that perceive losses in fish tax revenue.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Charles W. Treinen (HQ-06F-043)

PROPOSAL 52 - 5 AAC 06.356. General District Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Fishing in General District of Bristol Bay can only take place after all river systems have their maximum escapement goals.

ISSUE: Escapements in the Kvichak River. General district early fishing hurts escapements. Fishing in the waters of the General District should only occur after all rivers have achieved there escapement goals. This is a management plan that should only be used late in the season, if at all.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Kvichak River system will be hurt with low escapements. The Kvichak River has been experiencing poor escapement levels. Because of this the Naknek River Special Harvest Area Management Plan has had to be used to achieve Kvichak escapement. The General District of Bristol Bay is not a traditional fishing area. By regulation the management of Bristol Bay is to try to have fishing in traditional areas. Early fishing in the General District the last time it was used in 2004 hurt Kvichak escapements making it difficult for the Kvichak River to achieve early escapement goals, the Naknek River Special Harvest Area had to be used to help the Kvichak meet escapement goals. This general fishing in the early part of the season before managers had a handle on run size and escapement is a poor management tool. This early fishing on known mixed stocks made managers open the Naknek Special Harvest Area. Keeping the General District closed until all river systems have their escapement goals makes sure we have a future. The Naknek River Special Harvest Area has become one of the only tools used to insure escapement. Why did we manage for catch, then escapement as in 2004, we should be working towards escapement, then catch. Escapement is our future and managing for catch first, as was done in 2004, hurt the fishery later when escapement was needed. Management tools should be in place to help escapement first, then catch.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, everything we can do to prevent the Naknek River Special Harvest Area Management Plan from happening helps with quality and harvest ability.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone in Bristol Bay region benefits from Kvichak escapement. By adopting this closure of the General District until escapements are in, helps the future of Bristol Bay. Early fishing on mixed stocks in the General District only hurts days or weeks later when escapements are a must.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. We all gain by insuring our future with escapements. Management that works towards escapement first, catch later is what is needed.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Chris Cameron (HQ-06F-130)

PROPOSAL 53 - 5 AAC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation to provide:

Equal fishing time in the NRSHA to both set gillnet and drift gillnet groups.

ISSUE: The set net gear group is currently being very unfairly treated in the Naknek River Special Harvest Area (NRSHA). The 20 year average catch used for allocation (1977-1996), for the most part, were Naknek/Kvichak district caught fish. When Naknek/Kvichak allocation plan became regulation, it did not include the NRSHA. The original intent of the allocation was for Naknek/Kvichak district fishing, not river fishing. For the last five or six years, most of our fishing has been done in the Alagnak and Naknek rivers. When the setnet gear group fished equal time with the drift fleet, setnetters caught 36 percent of the allocation. This alone should tell everyone that the current allocation percentage in the NRSHA fisheries is wrong. Setnetters are far more efficient at catching salmon in the river fisheries than the drift fleet. The drift fleet is mobile and so, catch more fish in the Naknek/Kvichak district than the setnetters. Because of this the allocation works in the district fisheries, but does not work at all in the NRSHA fisheries.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This will again cause an extra hardship on setnetters for no rational reason. Before allocation setnetters fished equal time with the drift fleet.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, because the tenders are so close, setnet fish are delivered more than normal. This will result in higher quality salmon. Setnetters do not tow nets like drift fleet, which results in softer and poor quality fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The setnetters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Possibly the drift fleet, but the board just recently increased the length of their gear from 50 fathoms to 75 fathoms, which would balance it out.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I considered the NRSHA allocation of 36 percent setnet and 64 percent driftnet. I believe equal fishing time is fair to both gear groups. Again, the setnet gear group is currently being unfairly treated.

PROPOSED BY: Doug McRae Sr. (SC-06F-003)

PROPOSAL 54 - 5 AAC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Allow harvest of excess stock into the Naknek River with equal fishing time for both gear types.

ISSUE: Not enough fishing time in the Naknek River Special Harvest Area due to the current allocation: 16 percent setnet and 84 percent drift boats. In 2004, there were seven setnet openings and 17 drift openings. When it was hour for hour, the setnetters caught 36 percent of the fish.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Setnetters will be sitting on the beach

with not enough fishing time which would cause for a bad season.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Set gillnet fish have higher quality because deliveries are more often than drift net fish. Setnetters do not tow their nets which results in softer and poorer quality fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnetters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Drift boats.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Revision of the allocation of fish that were caught in the Naknek River Special Harvest Area. We used to fish hour for hour.

PROPOSED BY: Doug G. McRae Jr. (SC-06F-004)

PROPOSAL 55 - 5 AAC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

5AAC 06.360(c). On or after June 27, when the department projects that the sockeye salmon escapement into the Naknek River will exceed 800,000 fish and the Kvichak River escapement projection is one or more days behind schedule for reaching its escapement goal, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, the NRSHA to the drift gillnet and set gillnet fisheries. The drift gillnet and set gillnet fisheries will open separately [AND THE ALLOCATION SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 06.364(b)(3)(A) AND (B) WILL APPLY IN THE NRSHA.]

There should be no allocation in the NRSHA. Alternating tides between gear groups works.

ISSUE: Allocation of salmon harvest between gear groups in the NRSHA. The drift fleet is allocated 84 percent and the setnet fleet is allocated 16 percent. Allocation was based on 800 plus boats fishing. When the NRSHA is open most of the drift fleet leaves. Even if only 50 boats remained they would be allocated 84 percent.

Allocation of catch between the driftnet and setnet fleet was based on historical average catches. Those catches occurred in the general Naknek-Kvichak district. During the years used for those historical catches there were an average of at least 800 drift boats registered to fish the district.

When the allocation of 84 percent drift and 16 percent set (eight percent Naknek section and eight percent Kvichak section) was established, it was intended for the Naknek-Kvichak district. The Naknek River Special Harvest Area was established outside of and not part of the overall district. The intent of establishing the NRSHA was to allow harvest groups of surplus stocks entering the Naknek River and to allow a better chance for Kvichak River stocks to pass through to their river of origin.

At the time of creation of the NRSHA there was no allocation applied to it. Openings were concurrent for both gear groups. Eventually, opening times were made on alternate tides with the drift fleet getting the first opening. This made for a more organized fishery, but still there was no allocation applied to either gear group.

During the last cycle of meetings it was decided to add the NRSHA to the Naknek-Kvichak district as far as the allocation is concerned. That action was made without regard to the fact that the number of drift boats that remain to fish the NRSHA is severely diminished from the average numbers that fish the Naknek-Kvichak district. At times there have only been 200-300 drift vessels fishing the NRSHA at the same time, the number of set netters remain relatively constant.

As the regulations stand, even if there were only 50 boats fishing in the NRSHA they would be entitled to 84 percent of the harvest. The setnet fleet would have to sit on the beach and wait for those 50 boats to catch their allocation.

There should be a more equitable solution such as a sliding scale allocation based on fleet size. Example: if 800 boats were to be allocated 84 percent of the harvest, that looks like 10.5% per 100 boats. The remainder would be allocated to the setnet fleet.

A better and easier solution to this problem would be to go back to each gear group fishing alternate tides and taking what comes to them.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The setnet fleet will sit on the beach waiting for the drift fleet to catch its allocation. This is not the intent of the Special Harvest Area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnetters who fish the NRSHA.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, everyone will have an equal chance to catch fish. No one will have to wait for someone else to catch fish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allocation based on number of boats fishing the NRSHA. Example: 10.5 percent per 100 boats equals 84 percent per 800 boats, percentage wise.

PROPOSED BY: George Wilson (HQ-06F-016)

PROPOSAL 56 - 5 AAC 06.360. Naknek River Special Harvest Area Management Plan.

Amend this regulation as follows:

Remove the following from 5 AAC 06.360(c)

[AND THE ALLOCATION SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 06.364(b)(3)(A) AND (B) WILL APPLY IN THE NRSHA.]

ISSUE: The application of the Naknek/Kvichak, in-district allocation, to the Naknek River Special Harvest Area has created hardship upon setnet fishermen. Setnet fishermen have lost approximately three-quarters of their fishing periods and half their catch in this emergency fishery. At the inception of the NRSHA set and drift fishers were given equal opportunity by alternating openings. The in-district allocation was based on a fleet of 700-1000 boats. During the peak of 2005 season less than 250 boats were given the 84 percent allocation. Allocation

also subjects setnetters to drift fishing performance methods. Often some drifters fish only a small part of the opening. This extends the amount of time it takes to achieve the allocation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Setnet fishermen will be forced out of business. The emergency fishery in the NRSHA serves two purposes first to control escapement into the Naknek River shed and secondly provides fishermen an opportunity of some income. In the case of local and regional setnetters it may provide their only opportunity. Drift fishers are able to readily fish other districts and stocks.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Quality of harvest will improve. The setnet fish are better handled and delivered more frequently.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnet fishers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Drift fishers.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? 1) Place a sliding allocation in the NRSHA based on the number of boats participating. Might be difficult to manage. Later in the season boats transfer to the Naknek/Kvichak on their way to storage. They may fish an opening or two then quit fishing and pull their boats but their remains registered skewing actual numbers participating. The NRSHA was never intended to be catch orientated.
2) Consider a fishing period ratio. Original intent of NRSHA was equal opportunity between gear groups.

PROPOSED BY: Kvichak Setnetters Association (HQ-06F-077)

PROPOSAL 57 - 5 AAC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Once the department has determined that the minimum escapement goal has been, or will be reached, the allocation system in the NRSHA will no longer be in effect.

ISSUE: Allocation percentage within the Naknek River Special Harvest Area (NRSHA) adversely affects the ability of the department to manage escapement for the Naknek River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Optimum escapement goals for the Naknek River have not been met recently, and likely results include sub-optimum salmon returns in future years.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal would help maintain the quantity and quality of future salmon runs by assuring that optimum escapement numbers, as determined by the department, could be met through careful management.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Once the minimum escapement numbers are sure to be reached, if gear groups are given alternate fishing periods, then both drift and setnet fishermen benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Curt Nelson

(HQ-06F-104)

PROPOSAL 58 - 5 AAC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

The Naknek River Special Harvest Area (NRSHA) consist of

(b) **all waters east from a line (described using lat./long.) 100 feet west of the southern most setnet site on the South Naknek beach north to the outer end of the Libbyville Dock, then to the shore and up the Naknek River to the power lines across the river** [THE WATERS OF THE NAKNEK RIVER FROM A LINE BETWEEN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED AT 58° 43.37’ N. LAT., 157° 03.17’ W. LONG. AND AT 58° 42.67’ N. LAT., 157° 03.44’ W. LONG UPSTREAM TO THE POWER LINES ACROSS THE RIVER].

ISSUE: A twenty-year restrictive boundary with little benefit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Naknek/Kvichak fishermen will continue to bear the brunt of the burden of Kvichak escapement while southern eastside districts are allowed to fish in outside waters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes it expands the boundary for a more orderly fishery which will improve the quality of the catch.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Naknek/Kvichak fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee

(SW-06F-006)

PROPOSAL 59 - 5 AAC 06.360(b). Naknek River sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Redefine Naknek River Special Harvest Area (NRSHA) as all waters east from a line (described using lat./long.) 100 feet west of the southern most setnet site on the South Naknek beach north to the outer end of the Libbyville dock, then to the shore and up the Naknek River to the power lines across the river.

ISSUE: A twenty year restrictive boundary with little benefit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Naknek/Kvichak fishermen will continue to bear the brunt of the burden for Kvichak escapement while southern eastside districts are allowed to fish in outside waters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Expands boundary to allow for a more orderly fishery which will improve the quality of the catch.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Naknek/Kvichak fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Naknek Kvichak Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-023)

PROPOSAL 60 - 5 AAC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c) On or after **July 5**, [JUNE 27], when the department projects that the sockeye salmon escapement into the Naknek River will exceed 800,000 fish and the Kvichak River escapement projection is **three** [ONE] or more days behind schedule for reaching its escapement goal, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, the NRSHA to the drift gillnet and set gillnet fisheries. The drift gillnet and set gillnet fisheries will open separately, and the allocation specified in 5 AAC 06.364(b)(3)(A) and (B) will apply in the NRSHA.

ISSUE: On or after June 27, when the Kvichak River escapement goal projection is one or more days behind schedule for reaching its escapement goal we move into the NRSHA. This time frame is not realistic to determine the strength of the Kvichak run. It imposes undo hardships on fishermen for little benefit in saving Kvichak fish.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishermen will continue to be pushed into the NRSHA when there are no Kvichak fish in the district to save. 5 AAC 06.360.(c), puts a 30 percent safety cushion on the department’s forecast to save Kvichak fish.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Fish caught in Naknek/Kvichak district is fresher than fish caught in the NRSHA.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen in Bristol Bay.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen who want to fish the Naknek River.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Vince Webster (SW-06F-025)

PROPOSAL 61 - 5 AAC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Do not close the Naknek district to conserve Kvichak fish. Open the NRSHA to set net only, when the Kvichak District is closed to both gear groups.

ISSUE: When the fishing fleet is pushed into the Naknek River to conserve Kvichak fish, the entire bay is disrupted with little savings to show for the Kvichak escapement. The NRSHA was established because most people thought all the Kvichak fish were being intercepted. Mother nature may have shows us that we were wrong. The Alagnak River grew to historic runs over the past 15 years while the Kvichak River continued to decline. How can all the Kvichak fish be intercepted while the Alagnak fish continue to swim by? The department was able to bring the Kvichak River back to historic levels in the past from smaller escapement numbers then we have now just by closing the Kvichak section. The board needs to reassess the benefit of the NRSHA compared to the harm it imposes on other river systems.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishermen will continue to be pushed into the NRSHA with little benefit to the Kvichak River.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Fish caught in the bay are fresher than fish caught in the river.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen in Bristol Bay.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen who want to fish in the Naknek River.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Vince Webster (SW-06F-026)

PROPOSAL 62 - 5 AAC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(d) When a set gillnet opening is occurring,

....

(3) Nothing in this plan will prohibit the Naknek River Sockeye Special Harvest Area from being opened concurrently with openings in either the Kvichak subdistrict or Naknek subdistrict or both.

ISSUE: Allow a few fishermen to choose to fish in the “Special District” while the largest portion of the fleet would probably choose to fish the regular district. It would encourage the surplus fish to be harvested without the rancor and dangerous crowding that now occurs. Further this would be similar to what the Nushagak district has done the last couple of years with the Wood River Special Harvest Area. This provisions should not cause any negative impacts.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Karl R. Hellberg

(HQ-06F-031)

PROPOSAL 63 - 5 AAC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Allow both drift and setnet to fish at same time. Start openings earlier in tide allowing more time to stop over escapement. Over escapement should have no bearing or reflection on any allocation plan.

ISSUE: Over escapement of Naknek River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Possible damage to spawning grounds resulting in poor runs in the future.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who think they have exclusive rights to these fish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Donald Mack

(HQ-06F-067)

PROPOSAL 64 - 5 AAC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

No more than 75 fathoms of gear in the aggregate shall be used in the NRSHA, though vessels may have 150 fathoms onboard.

ISSUE: Poor quality of drift harvest from NRSHA.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A high percentage of the catch will get round-hauled rather than reel-picked leading to very poor quality.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Absolutely, it will encourage reel-picking.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishers concerned with the overall quality of Bristol Bay salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those fishers who continue to be concerned only with poundage.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Dave Hansen

(HQ-06F-095)

PROPOSAL 65 - 5 AAC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Setnetters are allowed to keep their gear fixed throughout the commercial salmon season once a site has been claimed in the NRSHA.

ISSUE: Setnet fishermen should be allowed to leave all of their fixed gear (anchors, buoys, running lines, chains, or other anchoring and site marking devices) on their claimed fishing sites in the Naknek Special Harvest Area between and during fishing periods.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Setnet fishermen have a difficult time anchoring their nets due to the swift tidal currents. As such, screw anchors need to be used, and it is impractical if not impossible, to put these anchors in and take them out each fishing period. If permanent anchors cannot be used for the season, more nets will flat and/or otherwise drag off the site line causing them to drift too close together and violate the 150 foot separation requirement that is to be maintained between sites.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Minimizing drifting nets will minimize the number of drop-out fish falling from the nets and prevent fish from getting squished as the nets are towed back into position.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnet fishermen and processors.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Drift fishermen will suffer by having their nets snagged on setnet gear which has been a danger of drifting since the gear group began fishing.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Eike Smith

(SW-06F-042)

PROPOSAL 66 - 5 AAC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

5 AAC 06.360

(d) When a set gillnet opening is occurring,

...

(2) [BEYOND 500 FEET FROM THE SHORE,] all gear associated with set gillnet fishing shall be removed when it is not being used to fish in the NRSHA.

ISSUE: Fishing area being denied the drift fishers by gear being left in the fishing area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The drifter will still be denied this area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Drift fisher would gain a little more area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one—all fishers will still have same level of access to salmon as they do now.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Mitch Kink (HQ-06F-078)

PROPOSAL 67 - 5 AAC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend these regulations as follows:

When a drift gillnet opening is occurring, all set net buoys and anchors and running lines will be removed.

ISSUE: Hazards to navigation when the driftnetters are fishing in the Naknek River Special Harvest Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, better fish quality will result from a driftnet fishery with less obstacles that require towing to miss them.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Driftnetters will save thousands of dollars in damaged nets.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Johnson (HQ-06F-108)

PROPOSAL 68 - 5 AAC 06.359(b). Egegik River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(b) The Egegik Special Harvest Area consists of the waters east of a line (described using lat./long.) from Goose Point north to a ADF&G marker at Bishop Creek.

(c) The commissioner may close, by emergency order, that portion of the Egegik District not described in (b) for the existing regulations reasons 1-3. (To be described using Lat./ Long.)

ISSUE: The harvest of salmon bound for other districts.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued harvest of salmon bound for other districts.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Adjacent fishing districts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Egegik fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee (SW-06F-007)

PROPOSAL 69 - 5 AAC 06.359. Egegik River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(b) The Egegik Special Harvest Area consists of waters east of a line from Goose Point north to a ADF&G marker at Bishop Creek.

(c) The commissioner may close, by emergency order, that portion of the Egegik District not described in (b) for the existing regulations reason 1-3.

ISSUE: The harvest of salmon bound for other districts.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued harvest of salmon bound for other districts.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Adjacent fishing districts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Egegik fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-024)

PROPOSAL 70 - 5 AAC 06.359. Egegik River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(b) The Egegik Special Harvest Area consists of a western boundary from Goose Point to Bishop Creek unless otherwise specified in this section, the applicable provisions in 5 AAC 06.001 through 5 AAC 06.380 apply to the Egegik Special Harvest Area.

ISSUE: The department has to add more protection to the Kvichak River system. Depending on timing, tide and weather patterns, Kvichak River stocks are still vulnerable to intercept in outlying fishing districts.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Kvichak River escapement will not be achieved with the timing pattern of the run.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No effect on quality of the harvested resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All user groups will benefit. Kvichak escapement is good. The faster we get escapement the faster we get to return to our normal fishing districts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one suffers, the faster we get the Kvichak on a normal timing pattern the sooner we get to fish in our regular salmon district.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Current inriver special harvest sockeye salmon run does not provide for an exploitation rate of greater than 40 percent with the timing patterns of the run for Kvichak sockeye salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Darryl F. Pope (HQ-06F-091)

PROPOSAL 71 - 5 AAC 06.359. Egegik River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Eliminate the Egegik Special Harvest Area to conserve Kvichak fish and move Egegik district's western boundary to the 130 line permanently.

ISSUE: When the Egegik western boundary is moved back to the 110 line from the 135 line, it disrupts the entire fishery. The western line is pushed back to conserve Kvichak or Ugashik fish. When the western boundary was set at the 140 line, the department asked the board to move the line shoreward to the 130 line to prevent interception of Kvichak fish. The board decided to move the line shoreward to the 135 line.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishermen will continue to be disrupted every time the boundary line is moved shoreward to the 110 line. If you move the Egegik western boundary to the 130 line and leave it there, the entire bay will be more balanced with fishermen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen in Bristol Bay because the fleet will be spread out more evenly.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen who like to fish within the 110 line.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Vince Webster (SW-06F-023)

PROPOSAL 72 - 5 AAC 06.359. Egegik River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(d) [IF A DISTRICT CLOSED UNDER (c)(1) OF THIS SECTION IS REOPENED TO FISHING, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL REOPEN THAT PORTION OF THE EGEGIK DISTRICT THAT WAS CLOSED UNDER (c) OF THIS SECTION.]

Removed this section to comply with the proposed change in Section 5 AAC 06.355(d).

ISSUE: The above change will insure that the Egegik district, which impacts the Naknek and Kvichak fish before they are available in the Naknek-Kvichak district, cannot harvest fish that are going to be needed to insure Naknek and/or Kvichak escapement nor significantly impact the harvest in these districts.

There is no logical reason to include the Naknek-Kvichak closure as a prerequisite in this statement. The burden of conserving low sockeye returns of the Kvichak needs to be shared by all systems.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? There should be no losers caused by this change as everyone involved will know what to expect.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Karl R. Hellberg (HQ-06F-029)

PROPOSAL 73 - 5 AAC 06.359. Egegik River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(e) The department shall attempt to issue an emergency order under this section at least **12** [48] hours before the effective time of the opening or closing.

ISSUE: Align the usual 12 hours or less notice that the Egegik managers have been customarily providing the Egegik District in the last several years. There is not a good reason for this anomaly in good management procedures. Additionally the provision for a 48 hour notice to bring Egegik in line to help with the conservation of the Naknek or Kvichak stocks has been perceived by the fisherman as a blatant maneuver to exclude Egegik from a fair share of the responsibility for conserving Naknek and Kvichak stocks they significantly harvest. There should be no damage caused by this change.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Karl R. Hellberg (HQ-06F-030)

PROPOSAL 74 - 5 AAC 06.359(c). Egegik River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

The line stays out at the 135 line until July 2.

ISSUE: There is no reason to use the Egegik Special Harvest Area during the early season.
WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue producing a low quality product at the 110 line. Continue to experience surges of fish that overwhelm processing capacity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, less towing, less round hauling and catching fish in deeper water will improve the quality of the fish substantially.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Peter Thompson (HQ-06F-053)

PROPOSAL 75 - 5 AAC 06.359. Egegik River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation to include the following:

(g) No more than 50 fathoms of drift gillnet may be used to take salmon

(h) A vessel may not have more than 150 fathoms of gillnet net on board

ISSUE: All the special harvest areas restrict fishers to a reduced area and reduced net length except ERSHA management.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishers fishing in a special harvest area would all have the same restrictions. The Kvichak escapement would also benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Mitch Kink (HQ-06F-079)

PROPOSAL 76 - 5 AAC 06.359. Egegik River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

At a minimum, set gillnet running lines must be removed when setnetters are not fishing.

ISSUE: Lack of access to the beach by drift gillnetters when setnetters are not fishing because their buoys, running lines, etc. obstruct drifters who are trying to fish.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued loss of fishing area by drift fishers.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Unknown.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Drift fishers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Remove buoys, lines and anchors, but may be too hard to take all gear out each time.

PROPOSED BY: Myra J. Olsen (SW-06F-018)

PROPOSAL 77 - 5 AAC 06.357. Ugashik River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulations by adding the following:

Prior to June 23 and when the Naknek River Special Harvest Area Plan is in effect, the Ugashik District boundaries will consist of all waters east of a line from South Spit to North Smokey Point (described using lat./long.).

ISSUE: Early harvest of non-Ugashik River salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Salmon bound for other rivers will continue to be harvested.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Possibly all districts other than Ugashik.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen who fish Ugashik District.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee (SW-06F-009)

PROPOSAL 78 - 5 AAC 06.357. Ugashik River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation by adding the following:

Prior to June 23, the Ugashik District boundaries will consist of all waters east of a line from South Spit north to Smokey Point (described using lat./long.)

ISSUE: Early harvest of non-Ugashik River salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Salmon bound for other rivers will continue to be harvested.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Possibly all districts other than Ugashik.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen who fish Ugashik district early (generally less than 50).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee (SW-06F-008)

PROPOSAL 79 - 5 AAC 06.357. Ugashik River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation by adding the following:

Prior to June 23, and when the Naknek River Special Harvest Plan is in effect, the Ugashik District boundaries will consist of all waters east of a line from South Spit north to Smokey Point to be described using latitude and longitude.

ISSUE: Early harvest of non-Ugashik River salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Salmon bound for other rivers will continue to be harvested.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Possibly all districts other than Ugashik.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen who fish Ugashik district.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-026)

PROPOSAL 80 - 5 AAC 06.357. Ugashik River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation by adding the following:

Prior to June 23, the Ugashik District boundaries will consist of all waters east of a line from South Spit north to Smokey Point to be described using latitude and longitude.

ISSUE: Early harvest of non-Ugashik River salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Salmon bound for other rivers will

continue to be harvested.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Possibly all districts other than Ugashik.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen who fish Ugashik district early (generally less than 50).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-025)

PROPOSAL 81 - 5 AAC 06.373. Alagnak River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

No action would be taken that would restrict the harvest of Naknek or Kvichak fish to obtain the OEG on the Alagnak. Set the OEG on the Alagnak at 100,000.

ISSUE: The department is developing a SEG for the Alagnak River system between 400,000 and 500,000. The department has never managed the Alagnak River system. If the Kvichak recovers fishers may be prevented from harvesting Kvichak fish to obtain the SEG on the Alagnak. The board needs to adopt a management plan, with an OEG, for the Alagnak River to prevent this from happening.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? All fishermen in Bristol Bay could continue to have restrictions placed on them after the Kvichak recovers.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen in Bristol Bay when the Kvichak recovers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, because the Alagnak was never managed in the past.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Stop the department from developing a SEG.

PROPOSED BY: Vince Webster (SW-06F-022)

PROPOSAL 82 - 5 AAC 06.373. Alagnak River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

The Alagnak should follow the regulations already established at 84 percent drift gillnet and 16 percent set gillnet.

ISSUE: No allocation for the Alagnak Special Harvest Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Setnetters are getting more fish than is allotted for the Naknek-Kvichak management plan.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, typically product off a drift vessel is better than set net product, especially if the drift vessel has RSW.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The driftnet fleet.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Setnetters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Dominic Lee (HQ-06F-052)

PROPOSAL 83 - 5 AAC 06.373. Alagnak River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

When the Naknek-Kvichak district is closed and there is a harvestable surplus of sockeye salmon in the Alagnak River Special Harvest Area (ARSHA), the distribution of the harvestable surplus will be as follows:

- (A) drift gillnet 84 percent
- (B) set gillnet 16 percent

Once the minimum escapement goal for the ARSHA is met, both gear groups may fish at the same time in an effort to achieve the allocation percentages.

ISSUE: The allocation agreement from the 1997 Bristol Bay board meeting that was based on the 20-year set and drift gillnet catch averages and was intended to include all fish harvested commercially by both gear groups is not being applied correctly.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen who made the 1997 allocation agreement; the fish that otherwise would be caught in the Naknek-Kvichak district, but for conservation of the Kvichak River sockeye salmon run, are caught in the ARSHA will be allocated as if they were caught in the Naknek-Kvichak district.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Johnson (HQ-06F-133)

PROPOSAL 84 - 5 AAC 06.373. Alagnak River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend the regulation as follows:

Due to the fact that the Alagnak River king salmon run occurs at exactly the same time as the Alagnak River sockeye salmon run and the average Alagnak king salmon escapement is only 5,000 fish, commercial fishing will not be permitted in the Alagnak River.

ISSUE: I do not believe that there should be any commercial fishing allowed in the Alagnak River because a relatively small run of king salmon occurs at exactly the same time as the sockeye salmon run in the Alagnak.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The king salmon escapement in the Alagnak River averages only 5,000 fish each year and unlike other rivers in Bristol Bay the Alagnak king run occurs at exactly the same time as the sockeye run. Due to the very shallow nature of the lower Alagnak, king salmon only enter the river on the tides. Even if the kings get through gill nets by busting a mesh, they lose their slime and will not live long enough to spawn. Therefore, I believe commercial fishing in the Alagnak could very easily wipe out the Alagnak king salmon run.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Over 1,000 sport fisherman each year, the Alaska tourism industry, several sport fishing lodges and many Bristol Bay area businesses will benefit if my solution is adopted.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A small number (20-50) of commercial fishermen may suffer if my solution is adopted, however there are other options (other areas in Bristol Bay) for these commercial fisherman.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

If Alagnak River sockeye could be harvested without adversely affecting the Alagnak king salmon run, I would not oppose it. Due to the shallow nature of the Alagnak and the fact that in the Alagnak, the king and sockeye salmon run at precisely the same time, I do not see how this can be done.

PROPOSED BY: Karl Storath (HQ-06F-063)

PROPOSAL 85 - 5 AAC 06.373. Alagnak River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(d) Salmon may be taken in the ARSHA only with set gillnet gear.

ISSUE: Drift in the Alagnak River Special Harvest Area jeopardizes the chinook salmon run. The area is not conducive to orderly drift fishing because of size, depth, gear length and efficiency. The setnetter and sport fishing interest have established a co-existence that does not endanger chinook stocks.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Chinook stocks will be put at risk. Conflict between drift and sport fishers will intensify.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Quality of the harvest will improve. The setnet fish are better handled and delivered more frequently.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnet fishers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Drift fishers.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Eliminating all commercial fishing in the Alagnak. It is not fair to punish setnetters. They have demonstrated they are able to co-exist with sport fishers.

PROPOSED BY: Kvichak Setnetters Association (HQ-06F-076)

PROPOSAL 86 - 5 AAC 06.373 Alagnak River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

A small setnet fishery is okay. But there should be no driftnet fishery in the Alagnak because of the bycatch.

ISSUE: I would like to see driftnet fishery on the Alagnak River stopped.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The king run in the Alagnak River is 5,000 fish, and they run with the sockeye run. So the bycatch of kings is going to be too great to sustain the king run for very long.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It would stabilize the king run for sport fishing and still give the commercial fishery some fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The king run in the Alagnak, the sport fishery, and the commercial setnet fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The driftnetters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Michael Struznik (HQ-06F-112)

PROPOSAL 87 - 5 AAC 06.364. Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Remove the allocation regulation completely.

ISSUE: The allocation between drift and setnet in the Naknek River Special Harvest Area and Naknek-Kvichak district.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Setnetters will continue to suffer economic hardship and lost fishing time even while meeting escapement and overescapement of

the river systems.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will increase the quality of the harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All concerned parties.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None at this time.

PROPOSED BY: South Naknek Village Setnetters (SW-06F-019)

PROPOSAL 88 - 5 AAC 06.364. Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Repeal the allocation regulation.

ISSUE: The allocation between drift and setnet in the Naknek River special harvest area and Naknek/Kvichak district.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Setnetters will continue to suffer economic hardship and lost fishing time even while meeting escapement and over escapement of the river systems.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will increase the quality of the harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All concerned parties.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None at this time

PROPOSED BY: South Naknek Village Setnetters (HQ-06F-064)

PROPOSAL 89 - 5 AAC 06.364. Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

- 1) The Naknek-Kvichak district allocation plan will not apply in the NRSHA. The setnet fleet will fish one tide after the drift fleet fishes two consecutive tides or
- 2) No gear group may fish more than two consecutive tides for the purpose of trying to catch up on allocation.

ISSUE: The Naknek-Kvichak allocation plan was based on the historical harvest in the district not the NRSHA. The amount of gear fished in the district is in no way a reflection of

the gear fished in the river. When the district allocation plan is used in the NRSHA, the setnet fleet has been unable to fish for two to three days at a time because the drift fleet did not have enough effort to harvest their allocation. Last year the drift fleet fished for three days straight and the canneries went on limit by the time the setnetters got to fish. The board needs to bring back an allocation in the NRSHA based on tides fished or say no gear group may fish more than two consecutive tides for the purpose of trying to catch up on allocation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Setnetters could continue to sit on the beach because there is not enough drift fleet effort to catch their allocation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnetters in the NRSHA.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Drift fishermen who choose not to transfer out of the NRSHA.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Vince Webster (SW-06F-024)

PROPOSAL 90 - 5 AAC 06.364. Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Delete from 5 AAC 06.364 under section (b):

- (1) drift gillnet - 84 percent and
- (2) set gillnet - 16 percent as follows:
 - (A) Kvichak Section set gillnet fishery - eight percent; and
 - (B) Naknek Section set gillnet - eight percent;
- (3) notwithstanding (2)(A) and (B) of this subsection, when the Naknek-Kvichak district is closed and there is a harvestable surplus of sockeye salmon in the Naknek River Special Harvest Area, the distribution of harvestable surplus will be as follows:
 - (A) drift gillnet - 84 percent; and
 - (B) set gillnet - 16 percent.

Replace with:

Drift gillnet 67 percent, Naknek Section setnet 16.5 percent, Kvichak setnet 16.5 percent. NRSHA drift gillnet 67 percent, and set gillnet 33 percent.

Apply to both the outside area and inside the SHA.

ISSUE: The allocation of 84 percent drift gillnet and 16 percent and the unforeseen problem brought about by a reduced effort of drift fleet. The Naknek/Kvichak has experienced many problems from the beginning of the allocation plan. Most of these problems are related to fleet size.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Incorrect allocation of salmon stocks.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnetters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Drifters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? 1.) Re-evaluation of allocation plan. 2.) Return to alternating tides. (Both submitted as proposals.)

PROPOSED BY: Donald Mack (HQ-06F-068)

PROPOSAL 91 - 5 AAC 06.364. Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Delete from 5 AAC 06.364 under section (b):

- (1) drift gillnet - 84 percent and
- (2) set gillnet - 16 percent as follows:
 - (A) Kvichak Section set gillnet fishery - eight percent; and
 - (B) Naknek Section set gillnet - eight percent;
- (3) notwithstanding (2)(A) and (B) of this subsection, when the Naknek-Kvichak district is closed and there is a harvestable surplus of sockeye salmon in the Naknek River Special Harvest Area, the distribution of harvestable surplus will be as follows:
 - (A) drift gillnet - 84 percent; and
 - (B) set gillnet - 16 percent.

Replace with:

New calculations starting at time of allocation plan to present time. Install safeguards to allow adjustment of allocation due to fluctuation of user groups.

Apply to both the outside area and inside the SHA.

ISSUE: Allocation problems from current regulations allowing drift gillnet fleet 84 percent and set gillnet 16 percent. New averages will show a greatly reduced drift gillnet fleet that enjoys an allocation designed for a fleet almost twice the size that participates nom.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Set gillnetters will sit on the beach while the drift gillnet fleet tries to close an allocation gap that is almost impossible to do with the size of the current fleet.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? A fair system benefits everybody.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? 1.) Drift gillnet 67 percent and set gillnet 33 percent. 2.) Return to alternating tides. (Both submitted as proposals.)

PROPOSED BY: Donald Mack

(HQ-06F-069)

PROPOSAL 92 - 5 AAC 06.364. Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Delete from 5 AAC 06.364 under section (b):

- (1) drift gillnet - 84 percent and
- (2) set gillnet - 16 percent as follows:
 - (A) Kvichak Section set gillnet fishery - eight percent; and
 - (B) Naknek Section set gillnet - eight percent;
- (3) notwithstanding (2)(A) and (B) of this subsection, when the Naknek-Kvichak district is closed and there is a harvestable surplus of sockeye salmon in the Naknek River Special Harvest Area, the distribution of harvestable surplus will be as follows:
 - (A) drift gillnet - 84 percent; and
 - (B) set gillnet - 16 percent.

Replace with:

Alternating tides for user groups as adopted during the 2000 Board of Fisheries cycle.

Apply to both the outside area and inside the SHA.

ISSUE: Problems closing allocation gap of 84 percent drift gillnet and 16 percent set gillnet, due to reduced fishing effort by drift gillnet fleet.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Set gillnetters will continue to miss fishing time due to a reduced drift fleet fishing on an allocation designed for a much larger fleet.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anyone who is affected by an incorrect allocation system.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anyone who is receiving an allocation percentage that is greater than it should be.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? 1.) Drift gillnet 67 percent and set gillnet 33 percent.

2.) Recalculate Naknek-Kvichak allocation system. (Both submitted as proposals.)

PROPOSED BY: Donald Mack

(HQ-06F-070)

PROPOSAL 93 - 5 AAC 06.364. Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

5 AAC 06.364(d)(1)

(A) When a harvest of Kvichak stocks is projected the commissioner shall allow Kvichak section set gillnets to fish concurrently with all Naknek section drift gillnet or set gillnet

openings, with openings consistent with other provisions of this section.

(1) shall allow additional Kvichak setnet only openings to attain the eight percent allocation

(2) If the projected Kvichak harvest is less than one million fish, the commissioner may limit Kvichak set gillnet gear to 25 fathoms.

ISSUE: The board has established that Kvichak setnet fishers are allocated eight percent of the Naknek/Kvichak harvest. Due to timing differences between returns to the Naknek River versus the Kvichak River, area biologists manage the district harvest to target first the Naknek River stocks and then the Kvichak River stocks. Primarily this is done through Naknek only openings early in the season, either drift, set, or both gear types. The result is the Kvichak setnet fishers are being excluded from participation in the early portion of the harvest comprised of predominately Naknek stocks though any stocks in the Kvichak district are likely Naknek stocks due to run timing. Kvichak setnet fishers are unable to participate on an equal basis. In most years this results in a high likelihood that the Kvichak setnet allocation of eight percent will not be achieved. During years when the projected harvestable stock from the Kvichak River system is low, full harvest of the Kvichak stocks are achieved through predominantly Naknek Section-only openings.

Catches are as high as 70 percent Kvichak fish. 1985 is an excellent example when drift catches of Kvichak stocks during a three-day period of Naknek-only openings equaled the entire seasons' Kvichak setnet catch of 500,000 fish. This information is in the departments scale sampling study. In the study, Naknek catches were comprised of 40 percent Kvichak stocks on the average.

The solution suggest here provides an additional tool to meet the allocation objective, while providing gear reduction necessary to meet the escapement goal in low-return years.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Kvichak setnet fishers will continue to be excluded from participation in the early portion of the harvest and the harvest of the allocated eight percent will continue to not be achieved.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Quality of the harvest will not be impacted positively or negatively.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Kvichak setnet fishers and Naknek section fishers, both setnet and drift, who currently harvest in excess of their allocated percentages. This proposal would help balance the allocation and validate their catches.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allow Kvichak setnet fishers to fish in the NRSHA while drift and Naknek setnet fishers are fishing in the Naknek section. This idea was rejected as being deemed unnecessary since when the department opens the Naknek section they are accepting a level of interception harvest of Kvichak stocks and Kvichak fishers could participate equaling by fishing their traditional sites.

PROPOSED BY: Kvichak Setnetters Association

(HQ-06F-075)

PROPOSAL 94 - 5 AAC 06.364. Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Allocation percentage between gear groups in the NRSHA will be set daily by the department based on the number of permits registered in the district. For instance, if 800 drift boats and 100 set nets were registered to fish the NRSHA, drift boats would receive a higher allocation percentage. When the initial allocation numbers were set, (84 percent drift/16 percent set), there were many more drift permits registered in the Naknek district than there have been since the fishery was moved to the NRSHA to protect Kvichak stocks. There were also more set permits registered, but the ratio between the two gear groups has changed. The allocation percentage needs to be changed to reflect this shift.

ISSUE: Allocation percentage within the Naknek River Special Harvest Area (NRSHA) adversely affects the ability of the department to manage escapement for the Naknek River salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Optimum escapement goals for the Naknek River have not been met recently, and likely results include sub-optimum salmon returns in future years.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal would help maintain the quantity and quality of future salmon runs by assuring that optimum escapement numbers, as determined by the department, could be met through careful management.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The fishermen, either set or drift, who are in the Naknek district.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Wanda Nelson (HQ-06F-103)

PROPOSAL 95 - 5 AAC 06.364. Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Limit the number of successive tides that a gear group would fish to three before the alternate gear group would be allowed an opportunity to fish at least one tide.

ISSUE: Generally, when fewer drift boats are fishing, it takes them longer to catch their allocated percentage of the harvest. Additionally, many drift boats choose not to fish the whole period which makes it even more difficult for them to catch their allocated percentage. While waiting for them to catch up, the setnet fleet, which remains relatively constant in numbers, has to sit on the beach and wait. During the 2004 fishing season, setnet fishermen waited over nine tides for the drift fishermen to try and catch their allotted percentage. This did not give the setnet fishermen an opportunity to participate equally in the fishery, especially considering this was during the peak time of the run (on and around July 4).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Willing and able setnet fishermen see the profitability of their seasons suffer while drift fishermen fish only the “best” part of the tide before heading back to the dock to wait for their next opening. The drift fishermen justify this behavior (reasonably) because it costs more to operate a drift boat, so more fish must be harvested to make each set profitable. As a result of the situation, over escapement occurred while setnet fishermen would have been willing to fish the entire tide to maximize the use of the resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This type of regulation would allow opportunity for setnet fishermen to have access to fishing time when there are few drift fishermen in the district. Processors have shown a preference for the quality of fish harvested by setnetters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnet fishermen and processors.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Drift fishermen who do not take advantage of their full fishing time.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Let setnet fishermen and drift fishermen fish simultaneously. Simultaneous gear group fishing has been unfavorable in the NRSHA due to the small size of the district.

PROPOSED BY: Eike Smith (SW-06F-041)

PROPOSAL 96 - 5 AAC 06.364(b). Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Amend the regulation as follows:

Close Kvichak River a minimum of five years to any commercial fishing.

Contain drift gillnet fleet to Naknek section only, contain set gillnetters to NRSHA and make NRSHA a permanent commercial fishing district for setnet only.

Continue to develop Alagnak River fishery.

From 5 AAC 06.364. section (b) the following parts (1), (2)(A)(B), and (3)(A)(B). Replace with any of the following to be used by the department: staggered tides, alternating tides, or simultaneous fishing by both user groups.

ISSUE: Declining salmon stocks in the Kvichak River. The following is a list of benefits that can be achieved by a temporary closure of the Kvichak River to commercial fishing.

- 1.) The Kvichak River - May help declining salmon stocks. Some say the decline is a historical cycle and will rebound naturally. What isn't historical is the efficiency and aggressive nature of the drift fleet fishing on the Kvichak stocks during a declining cycle.
- 2.) The quality of salmon - Less towing to avoid collisions, less tangled gear due to fishing in restricted areas, quicker delivery times to tenders and processing plants.
- 3.) Drift gillnetters - Safer less dangerous fishery, less gear and boat damage, more room to fish, more opportunity to fish on larger schools of salmon, less chance of over escapement, no

- interference from setnet gear, know where you will be fishing for the next five years.
- 4.) Set gillnetters - Safer and less dangerous fishery due to less boat traffic, less night openings, less gear lost, know where you will be fishing for the next five years, no allocation, no missed fishing time, choice of NRSHA of Alagnak fishing areas and easier quicker deliveries.
 - 5.) ADF&G - Easier management of stocks, can maximize returning Kvichak salmon stocks for rebuilding purposes. No Naknek/Kvichak allocation problems to deal with.
 - 6.) Enforcement - Safer less dangerous application on duties. Less disputes among user groups, less collisions/property damage among drifters, easier to monitor setnet group.
 - 7.) Board of Fisheries - a. Help stabilize Naknek/Kvichak shrinking drift gillnet fleet and allocation problems associated.
 - b. Help stabilize Nushagak growing drift fleet and allocation problems associated.
 - c. Eliminate long standing allocation disputes in Naknek/Kvichak area that the board has been dealing with since the beginning of the allocation plan.
 - d. Not faced with the morale decision to lower the Kvichak River minimum escapement goals further endangering this river system.
 - 8.) Canneries - Will know where their fleet will be for better processing, planning and tender placement.

This proposal has the potential for solving a wide range of problems and possibly creating some, but I believe it is worth consideration.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued decline of Kvichak salmon stocks. Continued uncertainty of Naknek/Kvichak fishermen and other river districts affected by Kvichak not needing minimum escapement as to where they will be fishing (special harvest area or commercial district).

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, less towing on gillnets to avoid collision and less tangled gear due to fishing in small area. More tenders spaced throughout district for quicker receiving and delivery of salmon to processing plants.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Kvichak River, drift gillnetters, setnet gillnetters, the department, enforcement and board of fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some set and drift gillnetters who wish to fish the Kvichak and some Ugashik and Egigek fishermen depending on their special harvest area status.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We have tried many other solutions. Maybe doing nothing for a period of time is the solution.

PROPOSED BY: Donald Mack (HQ-06F-004)

PROPOSAL 97 - 5AAC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan; and 5 AAC 06.364. Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Amend these regulations as follows:

Set an optimum escapement goal (OEG) of 2,000,000 fish on the small years and 6,000,000 fish on the large year with an additional escapement of 50 percent of the run over the 6,000,000 escapement on the large year.

ISSUE: The department is talking about setting a SEG for the Kvichak River at 17,000,000 fish on large years. I feel increasing the escapement goal would destroy our fishery again like it did the last time the BEG was increased for the Kvichak. I am asking the board to develop an OEG for the Kvichak River to prevent a total destruction of our fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishermen will continue to be pushed into the NRSHA after the Kvichak recovers.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen in Bristol Bay.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Ask the department not to raise the escapement on the Kvichak River. The department will not openly admit they caused the Kvichak to crash by increasing the BEG in 1984.

PROPOSED BY: Vince Webster (SW-06F-027)

PROPOSAL 98 - 5 AAC 06.364 Naknek – Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Establish an optimal escapement goal (OEG) for the Kvichak River for off-peak years between 1 million and 1.5 million fish. Allow full district fishing in the east side fisheries until July 2 regardless of the Kvichak escapement.

ISSUE: The effect that the Kvichak River has on the management of other districts. Quality issues with the inriver fisheries.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue to produce low quality product and not harvest significant quantities of fish due to management constraints.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, when fishing in the outer districts, the quality is better.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Konrad Schaad (HQ-06F-050)

PROPOSAL 99 - 5 AAC 06.367. Nushagak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c) Have allocation period end July 12.

ISSUE: By July 12 a significant portion of both user groups have ceased operation. But harvest percentages are still being managed for until July 17.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Missed opportunity to harvest more fish.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both user groups.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee (SW-06F-014)

PROPOSAL 100 - 5 AAC 06.367. Nushagak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(d) During directed chinook openings set and drift openings may be nonconcurrent but equal length.

ISSUE: Currently both gear types should be opened concurrently unless making adjustments to sockeye harvest percentages. This results in more bucking tide for the drift fleet during directed chinook openings.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? During directed chinook openings the drift fleet has to buck tide resulting in more expensive operating cost or the setnet fleet gets more fishing time than the drift fleet.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by allowing closures to be timed such that bucking time is minimized and access to the dock is available.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both user groups.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee (SW-06F-015)

PROPOSAL 101 - 5 AAC 06.XXX. Create a new regulation to provide for the following:

A special Nushagak harvest area shall be in effect after July 10 between Kanakanak Bluff and

Snag Point when Nushagak district registered permit holders may use up to 25 fathoms of drift gillnet gear for the “dude fishing” charter trips. Trip limits of 500 pounds may be reduced by the department if conservation considerations warrant.

ISSUE: Limited economic opportunities for rural Alaska communities.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? An easily realized economic opportunity will be lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Enhanced visitor business opportunities will add value to the resource by significantly increasing the ex-vessel value of the catch.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who participate benefit by virtue of the alternative economic opportunity made available, and those who do not participate benefit by decreased competition in the regular Nushagak commercial district, since for every permit fished in the special harvest area, 125 fathoms of drift gillnet gear are removed from the regular commercial district.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Costs involved in taking “dude licensed” tourists into the regular Nushagak District are prohibitive.

PROPOSED BY: Fritz Johnson (SW-06F-034)

PROPOSAL 102 - 5 AAC 06.367. Nushagak District commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

When the preseason forecast for the Kvichak River sockeye salmon run does not provide for an exploitation rate of greater than 40 percent, it is the intent of the Board of Fisheries that on July 5 that it will move the Nushagak District from Nushagak Bay north of a line from a ADF&G regulatory marker located at approximately 58° 39.37’N. lat., 158° 46.57’W. long. (Nichols Hills) to a ADF&G regulatory marker located at approximately 58° 39.37’ N. lat., 158° 19.31’W. long. (Etolin Point) to Snake River ADF&G marker 58° 52.90’ N. lat., 158° 43.30’ W. long.

ISSUE: The department has to add more protection to the Kvichak River system. Depending on timing, tide and weather patterns, Kvichak River stocks are still vulnerable to intercept in outlying fishing districts.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Kvichak River escapement will not be achieved with the timing pattern of the run.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No effect on quality of the harvested resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All user groups will benefit. Kvichak escapement is good. The faster we get escapement the faster we get to return to our normal fishing districts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one suffers, the faster we get the Kvichak on normal timing pattern the sooner we get to fish in our regular salmon districts.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Current inriver special harvest sockeye salmon run does not provide for an exploitation rate of greater than 40 percent with the timing patterns of the run for Kvichak sockeye salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Darryl F. Pope (HQ-06F-092)

PROPOSAL 103 - 5 AAC 06.365. Egegik District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries and Management Allocation Plan. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

In Egegik District from June 1 until escapement goal is met; if drift fleet falls behind by two percent of their 86 percent allocation allow fleet to fish 200 fathoms of gear until allocation is met. If boat numbers are below 200, set nets fish concurrently and allocation plan ends if fleet cannot bring up allocation. After three tides, allocation plan ends.

ISSUE: The drift fleet is unable to harvest the 86 percent allocation because there are too few boats in the district. Late in the Emergency Order period boats leave the Egegik District for other areas, leaving low effort in Egegik. Surplus fish are wasted.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Boats will continue to be unable to bring up allocation numbers because of low boat numbers. Setnets are safer by sitting on the beach.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both gear types.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Fleet below 200 boats, end allocation plan. (Did not reject idea.)

PROPOSED BY: Cody and Kim Rice (HQ-06F-105)

PROPOSAL 104 - 5 AAC 06.365. Egegik District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c) For the purpose of calculating the set and drift gillnet allocation percentages specified in (b) of this section, the accounting period is from June 1 until the escapement goal is met [THROUGH 9:00 A.M. JULY 17].

ISSUE: Accounting period change; change accounting period to reflect when escapement is met, not a calendar day.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If escapement is met, allocation plan

should end. Boat numbers too low in late season to bring up percentages.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both gear types.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Fleet below 200 boats end allocation plan. (Did not reject idea.)

PROPOSED BY: Kim Rice

(HQ-06F-106)

PROPOSAL 105 - 5 AAC 06.365. Egegik District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

The outer boundary of Egegik fishing district is the 110 line. When Naknek special harvest area goes into effect, Egegik goes to inriver fishing. No outside fishing. Move the line up inside to the mouth of the river. No outside beaches.

ISSUE: Kvichak River escapements. Low Kvichak River escapements hurt all of Bristol Bay. Interception of Kvichak fish is known and documented in the Egegik district. When the Naknek River Special Harvest Area goes into effect, and Egegik goes to the 110 line, catches in Egegik go down and two days later Naknek catches go up. When fishing at the beginning of the season starts in the Naknek River and Egegik starts at the 110 line projected catches change almost to the number: Egegik less fish, Naknek more fish. Egegik’s outer boundary should be the 110 line and when the Naknek River Special Harvest Area is in effect, they should have to move in more towards the Egegik River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We are hurting all fishers and people of Bristol Bay by allowing interception of Kvichak fish in Egegik. You cannot take fish in one district that are going to another. This management plan has been hurting all of Bristol Bay.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the proposal tries to prevent Kvichak from having low escapements causing Naknek Special Harvest Area. Egegik will have more time to fish on their own fish because interception of Kvichak stocks will be less.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone. Egegik always seems to have plenty of inriver fish on paper so let them catch this inriver estimated fish. They will get more fishing time inriver not having to worry about Kvichak stocks. Kvichak stocks of salmon will be protected from interception at the 135 line. Take interception out of the picture and management will be easier to control escapements.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Interception in Bristol Bay has been a problem for many years. It is time to stop it. The Kvichak is the main river system. The west side is a fishery that can handle more boats and it is the traditional fishing grounds of Bristol Bay.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Chris Cameron (HQ-06F-132)

PROPOSAL 106 - 5 AAC 06.365. Egegik District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Amend these regulations as follows:

(g) In the set gillnet fishery, all set gillnet fishing gear, including anchors and buoys, shall be removed during set gillnet closures, consistent with Alaska Statute 16.10.055.

ISSUE: Setnet gear still in the navigable fishing waters of the Egegik district during closed fishing periods.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The current situation allows dangerous hindrances to navigation, jeopardizing both lives and equipment. Commercial fishing vessels and gear will continue to be willfully and recklessly damaged by disregard to the consequences.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this regulation will also greatly improve quality by alleviating power-rolling situations by the driftnet fleet as they are blown or flooded onto all the cables, lines, and buoys.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All navigators will benefit. Set and drift gillnetters will both benefit from a more responsive manageable fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some set gillnetters will need to reconfigure their operations in order to operate in this manner of consequential responsibility. Hydraulic power packs for pulling anchors are readily available and affordable.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Larry Christensen (HQ-06F-173)

PROPOSAL 107 - 5 AAC 06.200(a). Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections. Amend this regulation as follows:

Move the lower Nushagak boundary at Etolin Pt. 2 to 3 miles to the north of Etolin Point.

ISSUE: The Nushagak interception of Kvichak fish.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Kvichak river sockeye stock will continue to experience difficulty in recovering. Commercial, sport and subsistence fishermen of the Kvichak will continue to have difficulty harvesting Kvichak sockeye.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All commercial fishermen as Kvichak stock will recover

more quickly allowing greater fishing opportunity for Kvichak sport and subsistence fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Having Nugashak fish inriver. Too restrictive.

PROPOSED BY: Igiugig Village Council (HQ-06F-126)

PROPOSAL 108 - 5 AAC 06.200. Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections. Amend this regulation as follows:

Reduce the district fishing boundary at the Etolin Pt.

ISSUE: Elimination of Kvichak bound sockeye in the lower Nushagak district, particularly at the southeast corner at Etolin Pt. Here, Kvichak fish cycle through and are intercepted before getting to their river of origin.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This interception of Kvichak bound fish stocks will continue and the Kvichak will continue to have problems meeting its escapement goals. The sport fish, subsistence and commercial Kvichak fishermen will be negatively impacted with reduced fishing times and harvest levels.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Quantity of Kvichak stock will increase and repopulate.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Kvichak sport and subsistence fishermen who have consistently had to reduce harvest levels and needs. Also commercial setnet and driftnet fishermen will have a healthier Kvichak stock to harvest in the future.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, Nushagak fishermen can go to other districts.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Igiugig Village Council (HQ-06F-127)

PROPOSAL 109 - 5 AAC 06.200(a). Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections. Amend this regulation as follows:

Move the lower boundary line two miles to the north, away from Etolin Point.

ISSUE: Interception of Kvichak stocks in the Nushagak district.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Kvichak sockeye run will continue to have difficulty achieving escapement goals.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Randolph Alvarez (HQ-06F-129)

PROPOSAL 110 - 5 AAC 06.200. Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections. Amend this regulation as follows:

Ugashik fishing district is all waters inside a line from Smoky Point to South Spit. Ugashik becomes an inriver fishery. No outside fishing.

ISSUE: Kvichak River escapements, low Kvichak escapements cause managers to use Naknek River Special Harvest Area hurting Naknek River stocks of king salmon and causing over-escapement of the Branch River and the Naknek River. Fishing in the Ugashik district has a 17-mile line on outside waters. If all the fish going into Ugashik were only caught in an inriver fishery which is already open, less interception of other district fish would occur. Ugashik fish are known to come later than other runs. It is a known intercept fishery of Kvichak stocks. If Ugashik was an inriver fishery, managers could give Ugashik fishers more time to work on only Ugashik fish.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We are going down the road of endangering Kvichak, Branch River, and Naknek runs. Interception of fish in any area of Bristol Bay when other rivers cannot meet escapement hurts everyone. If Ugashik fish are going into the Ugashik River then why can they not catch them all within Ugashik inside waters where interception most likely will not occur.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it helps prevent under-escapement of Kvichak stock which causes Naknek River Special Harvest Area. If Ugashik was an inriver fishery, managers could give Ugashik fishers more time to work on only Ugashik fish. Ugashik fish will be better; Ugashik fish are known to move in and out of the river on the tide. More time inriver to prevent water marking of these fish. Ugashik always seems to have big numbers of inriver fish before escapement so let Ugashik catch these fish and not intercept fish going to other areas on the 17-mile outside line.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Ugashik fishermen for they can now fish more time on Ugashik fish inriver and not be concerned about other stocks getting intercepted. All fishermen in Bristol Bay benefit from Kvichak fish getting to the Kvichak River without getting intercepted in other districts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Interception of Kvichak stocks in any river system hurts all people in Bristol Bay.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Chris Cameron (HQ-06F-131)

PROPOSAL 111 - 5 AAC 06.220. Fishing Districts, Subdistricts, and Sections. Amend this

regulation as follows:

The Ugashik District boundary will consist of all waters south of a line between South Spit and Smokey Point, upstream of a line from 57° 29.62' N. lat., 157° 37.63' W. long. to 57° 29.83' N. lat., 157° 35.22' W. long.

ISSUE: The department has to add more protection to the Kvichak River system. Depending on timing, tide and weather patterns, Kvichak River stocks are still vulnerable to intercept in outlying fishing districts.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Kvichak River escapement will not be achieved with the timing pattern of the run.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No affect on quality of the harvested resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All user groups will benefit. Kvichak escapement is good. The faster we get escapement the faster we get to return to our normal fishing districts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one suffers, the faster we get the Kvichak on normal timing pattern the sooner we get to fish in our regular salmon districts.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Current inriver special harvest sockeye salmon run does not provide for an exploitation rate of greater than 40 percent with the timing patterns of the run for Kvichak sockeye salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Darryl F. Pope (HQ-06F-093)

PROPOSAL 112 - 5 AAC 06.200. Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections. Amend this regulation as follows:

Change Ugashik boundaries to start at Cape Greig to a buoy one mile offshore and then continue out to Cape Menshikof.

ISSUE: Ugashik fishing boundaries.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued hardship on fisherman.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All drift fishermen

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Roland Briggs (HQ-06F-080)

PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 06.200(a)(1). Fishing districts, subdistricts and sections.

Amend this regulation as follows:

(a)(1) Igushik Section: all waters of Nushagak Bay bounded by a line from ... **to a point at 58° 36.28' N. lat., 158° 34.40' W. long.** [TO A POINT AT 58° 36.29' N. LAT., 158° 34.41' W. LONG.] ...

ISSUE: As written, the point to be changed is approximately 50 feet short of the Nushagak district south line as described in 5 AAC 06.200 (a). The new point is much closer to the south line (approximately 15 feet over), effectively closing the wedge that would otherwise be open in the Igushik Section when the Igushik Section is closed and the Nushagak Section is open.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A small area of the Igushik Section will be open when the Nushagak Section is open and the Igushik Section is closed.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Participants in the fishery will benefit from more clarity in the regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-168)

PROPOSAL 114 - 5 AAC 06.200. Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections. Amend this regulation as follows:

The outer boundary line will remain on the 32110 line whether the fleet is in the Naknek River Special Harvest Area or not.

ISSUE: Interception of the Naknek and Kvichak stocks at the Egegik district.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? These stocks will continue to have difficulty achieving escapements, especially the Kvichak.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Naknek/Kvichak fishermen, and Egegik inriver fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The line fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Lake Iliamna Advisory Committee (SW-06F-029)

PROPOSAL 115 - 5 AAC 06.320. Fishing periods. Amend this regulation as follows:

Add 12 hours to the Kulukak section.

ISSUE: Short opening for salmon fishing in Kulukak section.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It has not been fair for the traditional Kulukak fishermen especially for the setnet fishermen who do not have any other site besides Kulukak.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No, it will be the same.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnet and drift fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Same openings as Togiak section.

PROPOSED BY: Togiak Traditional Council (SW-06F-032)

PROPOSAL 116 - 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag limits, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

In Lake Kulik and the Chulitna River drainage including the waters of Lake Clark within one mile of the outside of the Chulitna River the bag, possession, and size limit of northern pike is 5 fish per day, 5 in possession, **none of which may be over 30 inches** [ONE IN POSSESSION MAY BE OVER 30 INCHES IN LENGTH].

ISSUE: Large trophy northern pike are only found in a number of drainages in Bristol Bay. Harvest of large northern pike at Lake Kulik of the Wood River Drainage and the Chulitna River drainage could eliminate a unique resource in the Bristol Bay area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Large northern pike may be over harvested resulting in stunted populations of northern pike and the loss of a unique angling opportunity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will help ensure that the large northern pike at these locations will not be overharvested providing a unique opportunity for individuals interested in angling for trophy northern pike, while still allowing for the harvest of fish under 30 inches for food.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anglers interested in angling for, and maintaining populations of northern pike.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anglers interested in harvesting large northern pike over 30 inches, however if a trophy is desired for taxidermy a replica can be created of a trophy fish released.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Apply the regulation Bristol Bay wide, but this would eliminate all harvest opportunity for large northern pike.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee (SW-06F-013)

PROPOSAL 117 - 5 AAC 67.022. Special Provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

Brooks Lake would be closed within one fourth mile of all inlet and outlet streams between April 10 and June 7 and there is no retention of Rainbow trout in Brooks Lake within one fourth mile of Brooks River from June 8 through October 31.

ISSUE: There is no fishing allowed in Brooks Lake between April 10 and June 7 and no retention of Rainbow trout from June 8 through October 31. I would like the board to remove the above restrictions from Brooks Lake. The closure and restrictions should only apply to Brooks River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishing on Brooks Lake will continue to be restricted without any biological concern.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anyone who wishes to fish in Brooks Lake.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. There is no biological concern of any species in Brooks Lake.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Vince Webster (SW-06F-020)

PROPOSAL 118 - 5 AAC 67.025. Kvichak River Drainage Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Remove from regulation any regulation that calls for the reduction of sport caught limits on sockeye salmon in the Iliamna drainage prior to biological data obtained during the current salmon season. The department has as a management tool, the ability to close any waters should biological data received show a need.

ISSUE: Unnecessary reduction in sport caught/kept sockeye in the Iliamna drainage when the department forecasts escapements below minimum returns of sockeye. Past records show that sport fish harvest of sockeye salmon averaged 0.0023. In 1989 the highest sport-harvested sockeye salmon was 23,614. When we take that number and use it on the 2002 escapement with the smallest sockeye salmon return of 703,884, it shows that sport fish harvest consists of only 0.0335 percent of all Iliamna drainage. The department still maintains the control to shut down all harvest should biological data show the need.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The loss of revenue in the Iliamna

drainage communities has been tremendous due to the reduction in harvestable sport caught sockeye salmon. If this regulation is left in place there will be continued loss of revenue and potential revenue for small sport fish Iliamna drainage businesses and Bed and Breakfasts in the area. In addition, the Iliamna drainage will have a continued poor reputation as a viable destination for sport fishing of all species.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it improves the potential for governments and individuals to enhance revenues, decrease dependence of outside agency's support as well as overall view of the welfare of the Iliamna drainage area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users and potential users as well as state governing agencies overlooking management of Iliamna drainage area resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one is expected to suffer because there is no biological evidence that the current regulation was needed or that any adverse impact has been recorded from the legal harvest of sockeye salmon to support the current regulation.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: George Riddle and Nanci Morris Lyon (SW-06F-035)

PROPOSAL 119 - 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

(g) In the Naknek River Drainage from its confluence with Harris Creek, upstream to its confluence with the Chichitnok River, only one rainbow trout over 24 inches per year may be retained. All other rainbow trout must be immediately released.

ISSUE: Lack of opportunity for anglers to retain one rainbow trout per year between Harris Creek and the Chichitnok River. Anglers travel far and pay plenty and should have the choice as to whether they want to keep one rainbow trout for trophy mounting. No biological reasons exist to justify zero harvest.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The guides operating in this area are at a disadvantage concerning client recruitment when compared to other areas that allow some rainbow trout retention. This disadvantage will continue when no biological reason can support keeping the current regulation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Under current regulations, no rainbow trout may be harvested. Under this proposal only a high quality rainbow would be retained on an extremely limited basis. The quality of the angling experience would increase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those likely to benefit include anglers who wish to retain one rainbow trout per year for mounting or eating and guides trying to recruit clients who wish to keep one rainbow. Guides who pay the state land use fees in this area will be able to fish closer to camp when angling to keep one trophy rainbow trout.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. The total take and the impact, even if every angler

retained a fish, would be insignificant.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Raise the minimum size for retention to 25 inches or 26 inches. Did not reject this idea. One rainbow trout may be kept on the main Nushagak River only. Rainbow trout may not be retained on any tributary between and including Harris Creek and the Chichitnok River. Did not reject. This would prevent any threat of overharvest on the smaller tributaries.

PROPOSED BY: Don Duncan (HQ-06F-015)

PROPOSAL 120 - 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

On the Nushagak River upstream from Harris Creek, to the confluence of the Chichitnok River, and excluding all tributaries, only one king salmon may be retained except that “jack kings” below “X” inches may be retained with no limit. All tributaries of the Nushagak River, above Harris Creek and the Nushagak River above Chichinok River are closed to king salmon fishing.

ISSUE: Lack of opportunity for anglers to fish and or retain one king salmon per year above Harris Creek on the Nushagak River. This regulation came to be for all the wrong reasons, politics. No biological reason supports the current regulation as evidence by the fact that no such restrictions are put on the Mulchatna River, the Nuyukuk River, the Iowithla River, the Kokwok River and Muklung River or the Wood River all the way to the head waters including all spawning grounds. Anglers travel far and pay plenty and should have the opportunity to fish for and keep one king salmon for trophy mounting. A king salmon is just as dead regardless if it was above or below Harris Creek. The upstream anglers in this area should have the right to some opportunity. With the current regulations in this area only allowing single hook, no bait,; the take would be in significant. Keeping the total closure is ridiculous.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The guides and their permitted base camps on state land in this area (above Harris Creek) are at a disadvantage concerning client recruitment when compared to other areas that allow king salmon fishing and limited retention. This disadvantage will continue when no biological reason can support keeping the current regulation. Anglers will loose opportunity needlessly. King salmon anglers will continue to be crowded into areas like Portage.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Under current regulations, no fishing for king salmon is allowed. This proposal would allow for a higher quality fishing experience and an extremely limited take.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those likely to benefit include anglers who fish for and retain one king salmon/year for mounting of eating. Those anglers who do not wish to combat fish in Alaska. The guides (who lease land from the state for camp in this area) trying to recruit clients who wish to fish for and keep one king salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. The total take and the impact, even if every angler retained a fish, would be insignificant.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Open all of the Nushagak River above Harris Creek

including all tributaries to king salmon fishing with or without ant retention allowed. Did not reject.

Open all Nushagak River above Harris Creek to the Chichitnok River, not including the tributaries, to king salmon fishing but no kings may be retained. Did not reject because something is better than nothing is what we currently have even though no biological reason can support the current closure.

PROPOSED BY: Don Duncan (HQ-06F-015B)

PROPOSAL 121 - This proposal asks the Board of Fisheries to recommend to the legislature, as per AS 16.05.251(a)(1), that a refuge area be designated as follows:

The state-owned waters in the Lower Talarik Creek, Upper Talarik Creek and the Kaktuli River are established as a State Fish Refuge to

- (1) ensure the protection and enhancement of fish habitat;
- (2) ensure the conservation of salmon and other fish;
- (3) allow the continuation of commercial, subsistence, and sport fishing of fish that spawn and rear in these waters;
- (4) policy for managing the fish refuge will be made by the board with advice from a refuge citizens advisory committee;
- (5) the board shall establish a citizens advisory committee for the refuge consisting of 12 members representing commercial, subsistence, and sport fisherman, who will assist in establishing a management plan for the refuge and provide the Board of Fisheries with an annual assessment of issues that affect the refuge in accordance with the State’s Policy for the Management of Sustainable Fisheries, and other relevant Board of Fisheries issues;
- (6) the department will manage the refuge, in accordance with board policy management of the refuge, based on board policy, taking into consideration advice from the citizens advisory committee.

ISSUE: The Board of Fisheries Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries states that “in the aggregate, Alaska’s salmon fisheries are healthy and sustainable largely because of abundant pristine habitat and the application of sound, precautionary, conservation management practices” (5 AAC 39.222(a)(1)). This notable achievement particularly applies to the Bristol Bay region where salmon are a world class renewable resource that sustains the livelihood and enjoyment of many commercial, subsistence, and sport fishermen and related businesses. But some salmon habitat in the Lake Iliamna and Kaktuli River watersheds of the Bristol Bay region may be faced with major and permanent transformation. One (and possibly more) open pit gold mines are being proposed for the area. If developed, they would be some of the largest open pit mines in the world.

Although the permitting process for these mines will address impacts on salmon habitat and one proposed mine (Pebble) states that there will be "no net loss to the regions fisheries as a result of our project" (Anchorage Daily News, May 5, 2005), there is considerable uncertainty about whether state policy "to effectively assure sustained yield and habitat protection for wild salmon stocks" 5 AAC 39.222(a) and "salmon habitats should not be perturbed beyond natural boundaries of variation" 5 AAC 39.222(c) can be meet at this scale of development right in the heart of an area so vital to salmon spawning and rearing. Also, there is some concern that a permit-driven approach to habitat protection does not necessarily provide the comprehensive or precautionary approach that is needed to adequately protect the pristine habitat that Bristol Bay salmon have thrived on. What is needed is conservation-oriented management approach that

oversees all factors that relate to Bristol Bay salmon habitat protection, irrespective of a permit. The management approach that is being proposed here is that the board use its powers under AS 16.05.251 for "setting apart fish reserve areas, refuges, and sanctuaries in the waters of the state" to establish a state fish refuge in the waters of Lower Talarik Creek and Upper Talarik Creek (which drain into Lake Iliamna) as well as the Kuktuli River (which drains into the Mulchatna River). Most of the land adjacent to these waters is owned by the State of Alaska. It is recognized that a fish refuge will be "subject to the approval of the legislature."

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If a comprehensive, conservation-oriented approach is not taken to protecting the water quality and quantity used by salmon that spawn and in the Talarik Creeks and the Kuktuli River, there is an unacceptable risk that some or all of these stocks may essentially be "taken" by habitat loss. Furthermore, any pollution that reduces salmon productivity in these watersheds could have a downstream effect and impact salmon habitat in the Lake Iliamna and the Mulchatna River watersheds. Establishing a fish refuge in the waters that flow through the mining operations should help contain any water quality or quantity problems to its source.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? All those who harvest fish from the Lake Iliamna and Mulchatna River watersheds, as well as those who provide services to these harvesters, will have greater assurance that these fish stocks will be available in future years.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All those who harvest fish from the Lake Iliamna and Mulchatna River watersheds, as well as those who provide services to these harvesters, will have greater assurance that these fish stocks will be available in future years.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No users of fish from the Lake Iliamna and Mulchatna River watersheds should suffer or be faced with any displacement of their usual practices. Who might suffer are developers of other resources (i.g., gold mines) that destroy fish habitat and, ultimately fish populations. However, if nonrenewable resource developers are able to internalize their costs and achieve "no net loss" of the regions fisheries, not only would they be unaffected by this proposal, but they should support the proposal to demonstrate their level of confidence in achieving "no net loss."

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A fish sanctuary was considered, for which there are other models to consider, but rejected since fish sanctuaries usually do not allow consumptive use of fish. Although there may be few if any fish refuges to compare to, Alaska does have many state and federal game refuges that allow public access and consumptive use of wildlife. This is the type of management being proposed.

PROPOSED BY: George Matz (HQ-06F-032)

PROPOSAL 122 - 5 AAC 67.022 Special provisions for seasons, bag, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

Make the Alagnak River a total barbless fishery.

ISSUE: With a 10 percent mortality rate for catch-and-release, and 150 fishermen a day, releasing five fish each, combined with the commercial bycatch could wipe out the king run.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The mortality of kings released with barbed hoops and the commercial fishery in the Alagnak River is damaging the king run.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The king salmon run on the Alagnak River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The sport fishermen, but ever so little.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Michael Struznik

(HQ-06F-113)

ARCTIC-YUKON-KUSKOKWIM FINFISH

PROPOSAL 123 - 5 AAC 70.013. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Yukon River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c)(#) in all waters of the Nowitna River drainage, the bag and possession limit for northern pike is 5 fish, of which only one fish may be 30 inches or greater in length

ISSUE: The current bag and possession limit for northern pike in the Nowitna River is 10 fish with no size limit. This background regulation was established in 1987 for areas of the Yukon drainage where little fishing effort for northern pike occurred. In Yukon River locations where anglers specifically target northern pike such as the Innoko River, and the Yukon River drainage between the mouth of the Tanana and the Hodzana rivers (including the Dall River), the bag and possession limit is five fish, of which only one may be 30 inches or greater in length (or more restrictive). The Nowitna River fishery, along with the Dall River and the Innoko River fisheries account for the majority of the sport catch and harvest of this species in the Yukon Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There is the potential for reductions in the proportion of northern pike in large size categories due to liberal regulations that allow the harvest of ten large northern pike. There will continue to be inconsistency in regulations for similar fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Recreational anglers who desire to catch large northern pike.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those recreational anglers that desire to harvest more than one northern pike larger than 30 inches or harvest more than five northern pike per day.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-121)

PROPOSAL 124 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

In flowing waters of the Chena River, above Nordale Road bridge, allow catch-and-release only for the entire year. Below the Nordale Road bridge, the daily bag and possession limit is on grayling less than 12 inches in length between June 1 and July 15. No grayling may be retained anywhere on the Chena River between July 16 and May 31.

ISSUE: We would like to see a limited harvest of the Arctic grayling in the Chena River below the Nordale Road bridge. No fish greater than 12 inches should be kept as they begin spawning around this age. The season requested would be one and one half months long from June 1 through July 15, and the daily bag limit and possession should be one.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This proposal would allow for a limited harvest of Arctic grayling from the Chena River downstream from the Nordale Road bridge

during a one and one half month period during the summer.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it allows for a limited harvest of Arctic grayling which have not recruited to spawning age yet.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local residents would benefit from being able to keep some of the fish they catch. This also allows a foul hooked fish to be kept for consumption versus being returned to the river to die.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There are numerous river guides that take clients further up the river on catch and release trips. However they should not be greatly affected by this proposal as it does not allow an angler to retain any fish above the Nordale Road bridge and they may not retain any fish larger than 12 inches.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered leaving this regulation as it is but there is a large interest in the community to open this species in this river for retention.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-06F-026)

PROPOSAL 125 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c)(5) In the Delta Clearwater River drainage including the Clearwater Lake drainage, Arctic grayling may be taken by catch-and-release fishing only, except that from **June 1 – December 31** [JULY 10 THROUGH AUGUST 9], a person may retain Arctic grayling, with a bag and possession limit of one fish, 12 inches or less in length; all Arctic grayling caught that are greater than 12 inches in length must be released immediately;

ISSUE: Currently there is a short season July 10-August 9 in which one Arctic grayling less than 12 inches may be taken. This was a conservative measure taken by the board in 2000 to see what level of harvest would occur and maintain large-sized grayling in the population. As a result little harvest occurred and we would like to see one grayling, less than 12 inches, taken from June 1 – December 31.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The opportunity to keep one Arctic grayling under 12 inches, for one month, is overly restrictive.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, that larger fish are retained in the river to enhance the quality of fishing experience. Harvest has been low on smaller fish that by extending the season it would not pose any risk to the stock.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anglers who desire to keep a grayling to eat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Have the department determine if other bag limit is possible for fish less than 12 inches, if not, leave it at one fish.

PROPOSAL 126 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

Modify the regulations concerning Fielding Lake as follows:

(A) the use of set lines is prohibited

(B) only single hook, artificial lures may be used [WHEN FISHING FOR BURBOT OR LAKE TROUT, ONLY ONE SINGLE HOOK WITH BAIT MAY BE USED].

(C) April 1 through September 30, bait may not be used

(D) October 1 through March 31, bait may be used

ISSUE: Maintaining fishing opportunities while addressing harvesting concerns. The department is considering a no bait restriction at Fielding Lake. Users would prefer to see harvest reduced by a combination of keeping the catch-and-release only, in September when lake trout arrive on the spawning beds, discontinuing bait during the open water season and allowing bait during a portion of the winter months. Regulations should be clarified so that single hook regulations apply to all species.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If bait is not allowed during the winter season this would essentially result in a de-facto closure for burbot and lake trout, as the odds of catching a trout or burbot while jigging through the ice without bait are slim to none. Recent regulations at nearby Summit and Paxson lakes will now allow bait during a portion of the winter after an outcry over a similar no-bait restriction. My proposal disallowing bait during summer will reduce some harvest because of the methods used, but summer lake trout can still be caught with unbaited lures. Keeping a catch-and-release season in September is the single best regulation that will reduce harvest of larger fish because of spawning. Allowing bait until March 31 will allow some winter harvest but eliminate the most active month which is April, when there is the most ice fishing pressure due to nice weather. Allowing treble hooks for some species and not others is inconsistent, causes confusion and would allow incidental catch of lake trout with treble hooks, increasing mortality.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This proposal reduces mortality and harvest by limiting methods and means by specifying single hook for all fish, maintaining catch-and-release for lake trout during spawning, and limiting harvest methods during winter months while retaining fair and reasonable harvest opportunities for fishermen. These regulations also maintain substantial consistency with current regulations at Summit and Paxson lakes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Dedicated fishermen concerned about the quality and value of the resource while retaining significant fishing opportunities for sport fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen that have little respect or knowledge of the resource they take for granted.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A) Catch-and-release for lake trout. This would unnecessarily limit harvest opportunities but would be an acceptable winter alternative. B) No bait year-round. This would unfairly discriminate against fishermen that enjoy ice fishing. No bait basically eliminates the potential to catch burbot or lake trout in winter. It would be

inconsistent with adopted regulations in nearby lakes such as Summit and Paxson. C) Only allowing one tended line. Only jigged rod typically catches burbot or lake trout but could be considered. D) September fly fishing only requirement. Although low impact, discriminates against some fishermen. It could be a valid idea for not allowing trolling techniques in September (spawning).

PROPOSED BY: Ethan Birkholz (I-06F-005)

PROPOSAL 127 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

- (d)(7) in Fielding Lake,
 - (A) the use of set lines is prohibited;
 - (B) **only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used.** [WHEN FISHING FOR BURBOT OR LAKE TROUT, ONLY ONE SINGLE HOOK WITH BAIT, MAY BE USED;]

ISSUE: Fielding Lake is a relatively deep, cold, low productivity lake. The life history characteristics of lake trout, combined with the environmental characteristics of Fielding Lake, increase the vulnerability of this species to over-harvest. The lake trout population in Fielding Lake is relatively small, and the estimated sustained yield for lake trout is low.

Currently there is a 26-inch minimum size requirement for lake trout in Fielding Lake. Based on current stock assessment, less than half of the catch at Fielding Lake is greater than 26 inches and most fish must be released. Given the low abundance of lake trout and the high proportion that are caught and released, the continued use of bait in this fishery will likely result in total lake trout mortality exceeding the estimated sustained yield. The proposed regulatory change is consistent with the Regional Lake Trout Management Plan under consideration in another proposal.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lake trout harvests combined with hooking mortality could exceed sustainable levels and result in further regulatory restrictions or closure.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All sport anglers benefit from the opportunity that a sustainable fishery provides.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anglers who currently harvest fish from Fielding Lake using bait.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-122)

PROPOSAL 128 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

(C)(11) In George Lake, including the George Lake outlet stream, northern pike may be taken only from June 1 through March 31, with a bag and possession limit of **three** [FIVE] fish, of which only one fish may be 30 inches or greater in length.

ISSUE: We believe there is potential for pike harvest to exceed the sustained levels in George

Lake.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We believe that much attention is focused on pike fishing on George Lake and the potential for overharvest is possible. Volkmar Lake was subject to overfishing and that population is just recovering after 12 years, we do not want that to happen at George Lake. There has been an improvement in fishing over recent years and we would like to maintain the quality of large-sized fish in the population.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, keeping harvest at lower level will help maintain larger-sized fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anglers who desire good catchability of pike and expect to catch larger individuals.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who desire to keep more fish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Reduce the season. Additional seasonal restrictions would overly restrict opportunity for anglers.

PROPOSED BY: Delta Advisory Committee (I-06F-009)

PROPOSAL 129 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and method and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation concerning Harding Lake as follows:

The bag and possession limit for lake trout is one fish, **36** [26] inches in length; all lake trout that are less than **36** [26] inches must be released immediately.

ISSUE: Maintaining fishing opportunities while addressing harvesting concerns due to a significant increase in fishing pressure. Due to increased fishing pressure the possession size limit for lakers should be 36-inches.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Allowing a 26-inch size limit for lakers will decimate the well-graded population due to drastically increased fishing pressure.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This proposal maximizes exploitation of the lake trout while retaining its trophy character.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen who are concerned about the quality and value of the resource while still retaining trophy class fishing opportunities for sport fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen who have little respect or knowledge of the resource they take for granted.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A) Catch and release for lake trout; this would unnecessarily penalize the opportunity for catching a trophy fish, but a viable option.
B) 33-inch limit for lake trout; this is another viable alternative. Dropped in favor of

maintaining trophy quality of lake so near to population center.

PROPOSED BY: Ethan Birkholz, Jason Hill, Travis Donovan and Per Sather. (I-06F-004)

PROPOSAL 130 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area.

(c)(24) in the Tangle Lake system, including all waters of the Delta River drainage upstream from Wild Horse Creek,

(A) sport fishing for salmon is closed;

(B) **the bag and possession limit for lake trout is one fish with no size limit;** [THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR LAKE TROUT IS ONE FISH, 18 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ALL LAKE TROUT CAUGHT THAT ARE LESS THAN 18 INCHES IN LENGTH MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

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

ISSUE: Currently, the lake trout harvest (including estimated hooking mortality) in the Tangle Lakes drainage is below the estimated sustained yield for lake trout. The current 18-inch minimum length limit for lake trout in the Tangle Lakes system is not needed to restrict harvests to sustainable levels, and is not an appropriate length limit to protect spawning-age fish from harvest. The Regional Lake Trout Management Plan under consideration in another proposal recommends that the minimum length limit, if needed, be 24 inches, which would protect most fish through at least one spawning cycle. Because current harvests are below the estimated sustained yield, having a minimum length limit is unnecessary.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvest opportunity for lake trout from Tangle Lakes will continue to be restricted unnecessarily.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anglers who fish for lake trout in Tangle Lakes and wish to harvest a lake trout less than 18 inches.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-120)

PROPOSAL 131 – 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area.

This proposal modifies the language and updates the Tanana River Management Area stocked waters list.

Amend the regulation as follows:

(c)(29) in stocked **waters** [LAKES], the bag, possession and size limit for rainbow trout, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, landlocked salmon and Arctic grayling is 10 of all **stocked** species combined, of which no more than one fish maybe 18 inches or greater in length; for the purposes of this paragraph "stocked **waters** [LAKES]" include Backdown Lake, Ballaine Lake,

Bathing Beauty Pond, Bear Lake, Big “D” Pond, **Big Lake**, Birch Lake, Bluff Cabin Lake, Bolio Lake, Brodie Lake, Bullwinkle Lake, Chena Lake, Chet Lake, CHSR 25.0 Mile Pit, CHSR 30.0 Mile Pit, CHSR 45.5 Mile Pit, CHSR 47.9 Mile Pit, Coal Mine Road #5, Craig Lake, Dick's Pond, Doc Lake, Donna Lake, Firebreak Lake, Four Mile Lake, Fourteen Mile Lake, **Fun Fish Day Pond**, Geskakmina Lake, Ghost Lake, Grayling Lake, Hidden Lake (Eielsen Air Force Base), Hidden Lake (Tetlin NWR.), **Horseshoe Lake**, J' Lake, Jan Lake, Johnson R. #1 Pit, **Kenna L**, Ken's Pond, Koole Lake, Last Lake, Les' Lake, Lisa Lake, Little Donna Lake, Little Lost Lake, [LONG POND], Luke Lake, Lundgren Pond, Manchu Lake, Mark Lake, **Meadows Rd #1, Meadows Rd #2, Meadows Rd #3, Meadows Rd #4**, Monterey Lake, Moose Lake, **Mosquito Creek Lake**, Mullins Pit, Nenana City Pond, Nickel Lake, No Mercy Lake, **Nordale #2**, North Chena Pond, North Pole Pond, North Twin Lake, Olnes Pond, Otto Lake, [OUTBOARD PIT, PARKS 209 POND], Parks 261 Pond, Paul's Pond, **Piledriver Slough**, Polaris Lake, Quartz Lake, Rangeview Lake, Rapids Lake, Richardson. Hwy. 28 M. Pit, Richardson. Hwy. 31 M. Pit, Richardson. Hwy. 81 Mile Pit, Robertson Lake #2, Rockhound Lake, [ROUND POND], **Sansing Lake**, Shaw Pond, Sheefish Lake, Sirlin Drive Pond, South Johnson Lake, South Twin Lake, Square Lake, Steese H. 29.5 Mile Pit, Steese H. 31.6 Mile Pit, [STEESE H. 33.0 MILE PIT], Steese H. 33.5 Mile Pit, Steese H. 34.6 Mile Pit, Steese H. 35.8 Mile Pit, Steese H. 36.6 Mile Pit, **Steese H. 120.0 Mile Pit, Stringer Rd Pond**, Triangle Lake, Tschute Lake, Wainwright #6, Weasel Lake, **West Iksgiza Lake, West Pond**, [WEIGH STATION POND # 1, WEIGH STATION POND # 2,] Z Pit (Chena Floodway).

ISSUE: This is a housekeeping proposal. In conjunction with the Board of Fisheries cycle, the Department reviews the stocked waters list for the various management areas. Stocked waters are removed from the stocked waters list due to a loss of public access, poor fish growth or survival, or insufficient fishing effort. As new waters are identified and included in the stocking plan they are added to the list. The proposed language will update the Tanana River Management Area stocked waters list. In addition, this proposal requests the language be modified to include all stocked waters, not only stocked “lakes”, which adds clarity to the regulation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Water bodies that are no longer stocked will remain in regulation and new stocked waters will not be added to regulation. The regulation will not reference stocked waters that are not lakes, in this case Piledriver Slough.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public, by having up-to-date regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-119)

PROPOSAL 132 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

For the Tanana River Drainage, it shall be unlawful to have, in possession, any pike that is not whole, with the exceptions that the gills and innards may be removed. Such fish must remain whole until angler reaches primary residence.

ISSUE: The inch limit on pike is currently unenforceable. Wardens are not able to determine

from filleted or chunked-up fish whether illegal fish are being taken. Currently they can be killed and filleted the minute they are caught. Most other states that have an inch limit also have a gill/gut law.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The major spawners (30-inch to 38-inch fish) will be fished off, thus adversely affecting the reproduction of the lake.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by insuring that the major spawners are retained.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen will benefit by a healthier, more abundant population of fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Possibly a few outfitters, guides and cabin owners.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? There is no other way to enforce the inch rule. It is very important for the adult fish to stay in the waters they are in for the future of the fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Mary Malcolm (I-06F-013)

PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

Regulations concerning Fielding Lake special provisions:
Tip-ups may not be used.

ISSUE: I would like to see tip-ups disallowed at Fielding Lake to reduce mortality and improve fishing practices.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Use of tip-ups encourages poor fishing practices and increases mortality. Use of tip-ups encourages cheating by people who leave them unattended. Fish that are caught on tip-ups typically have the hooks swallowed or deeply embedded by the very nature of how they work. If the hook is removed this can significantly increase mortality.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This proposal would reduce mortality caused by tip-ups and thus encouraging traditional jigging methods that have low fish mortality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Dedicated fishermen that are concerned about the quality and value of the resource while retaining significant fishing opportunities for sport fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen unconcerned with the value of the resource they take for granted.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Ethan Birkholz (I-06F-007)

PROPOSAL 134 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

Modify the regulations concerning Fielding Lake special provisions as follows:

October 1 through March 31, only one closely tended line may be used.

ISSUE: Maintaining fishing opportunities while addressing harvesting concerns. The department is considering a no-bait restriction at Fielding Lake. I would prefer to see harvest reduced by a combination of keeping the catch-and-release only in September when lake trout arrive on the spawning beds, discontinuing bait during the open water season and allowing bait during a portion of the winter months. This proposal specifically calls for using only one tended line to further limit harvest potential as another alternative that should be considered to a no-bait restriction. Using only one tended line during the winter season would not cut the potential for catching fish in half since the active line sees the most action, but it would significantly reduce fish caught with tip ups and reduce fish caught jigging.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If bait is not allowed during the winter season this would essentially result in a de-facto closure for burbot and lake trout, as the odds of catching a trout or burbot while jigging through the ice without bait are slim to none. Recent regulations at nearby Summit and Paxson lakes will now allow bait during a portion of the winter after an outcry over a similar no-bait restriction.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this proposal reduces mortality and harvest by limiting methods and means by only allowing one tended line to limit harvest methods during winter months while retaining fair and reasonable harvest opportunities for fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Dedicated fishermen that are concerned about the quality and value of the resource while retaining significant fishing opportunities for sport fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen that are not concerned with the resource they take for granted.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Catch-and-release for lake trout: this would unnecessarily limit harvest opportunities but would be an acceptable winter alternative. No bait basically eliminates the potential to catch burbot or lake trout in winter. It would be inconsistent with adopted regulations in nearby lakes such as Summit and Paxson.

PROPOSED BY: Ethan Birkholz (I-06F-014)

PROPOSAL 135 - 5 AAC 70.065. Artic-Kuskokwim-Yukon Region Stocked Waters Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Reclassify Koole Lake from “regional” management category to “conservative” management category. Regulations for regional management have a daily bag limit of ten fish, all species combined, of which only one fish can equal or exceed 18 inches. Regulations for conservative management area the same except the daily bag limit is five fish.

ISSUE: Koole Lake is a stocked lake that has large rainbow trout, easy winter access, and is

attracting increasing numbers of anglers. The current daily bag limit is ten fish. It is highly likely that more anglers will harvest more large fish. The bag limit must be reduced to five fish to prevent over harvest of large rainbow trout and to sustain an attractive, popular fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The large rainbow trout will be removed from the population. The result will be an unattractive population of small rainbow trout, loss of quality recreational opportunity, and less angler participation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? A bag limit of five fish will sustain the quality of the fishery and allow for increasing angler participation. Anglers are attracted to quality fisheries that provide for reasonable opportunities to catch large rainbow trout. Quality recreational opportunities will attract more angler participation which will result in more money for local businesses and the economy.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sport anglers who desire a reasonable opportunity to catch large rainbow trout. Local businesses that are used by anglers. Local communities that want quality recreational opportunities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who want a daily bag limit of ten fish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Stocking more fish was rejected because it would not provide more large fish.

PROPOSED BY: Bill Larry and Ralph Seekins (I-06F-003)

PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 70.065. Arctic-Kuskokwim-Yukon Region Stocked Waters Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

For stocked lakes in Region III. General provision: five fish daily and in possession with only one fish over 20”.

ISSUE: Amend Lake Management Plan:

A. Have uniform state bag limit for stock lakes. Bag limit preferred is five fish daily and in possession and only one fish over 20 inches.

B. Hatchery problems – hatchery unable to stock sufficient fish.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Because the bag limit in stocked lakes in the rest of Alaska is only half of region three bag limit, there are insufficient number of fish available for anglers to catch.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will enable anglers to catch larger sized fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All lake sport fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Subsistence style fishermen who prefer to harvest large numbers of fish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A. Total catch and release in times of hatchery crisis.

B. Having A. take place would penalize anglers who wish to retain part of their catch.

PROPOSED BY: Wendell Shiffler

(I-06F-001)

PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC 70.0XX. Lake Trout Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(a) Notwithstanding the other provisions in this chapter regarding lake trout, the department shall manage wild lake trout populations in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region by employing a conservative harvest regime and by maintaining harvests below maximum sustained yield levels. Following sustained yield principles, the department may manage wild lake trout fisheries to provide or maintain fishery qualities that are desired by sport anglers.

(b) In a sport fishery covered by this management plan, the commissioner, by emergency order, may take one or more of the management actions specified in this subsection if there is a conservation or biological concern for the sustainability of the fishery or for a stock harvested by that fishery. The concern must arise from harvest, effort, or catch data for that fishery which has been derived from statewide harvest survey data, on-site creel survey data, stock status data, stock exploitation rates, or from inferential comparisons with other fisheries. The management actions are as follows:

- (1) reduce the bag and possession limits;
- (2) reduce fishing time;
- (3) allow only a catch-and-release fishery;
- (4) modify methods and means of harvest.

(c) If the harvest level in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region exceeds sustained yield for a two-year time period, the commissioner by emergency order, may close the fishery and immediately reopen a fishery during which one or more of the following restrictions apply:

(1) set lines are prohibited;

(2) bag and possession limit of one lake trout;

(3) a minimum size limit applies, the size limit shall be established based on the following considerations:

(A) length of maturity, with two years of protection from harvest for spawning fish before recruitment to the fishery;

(B) lake size, with no size limits for a trout population in a lake with a surface area less than 247 acres;

(C) uniformity of size limits, with the minimum size limit 24 inches unless the department determines that there is a biological justification for an alternate size limit;

(4) if the reduced bag limit or size limits do not keep harvest below maximum sustained yield levels the commissioner may further restrict harvest opportunity, through

(A) seasonal closures;

(B) spawning closures, winter closures, or both;

(C) allowing single-hook, artificial lures only or no bait, or both;

(D) allowing catch-and-release fishing only;

(E) a complete closure of the fishery.

(d) Special management waters are waters designated by regulation of the Board of Fisheries, where harvests are within sustained yield levels and where the management objectives include higher stock abundance or a need for a higher percentage of trophy-sized fish. Within special management areas, if the department determines that management objectives will not be met under existing regulatory provisions, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the fishery and immediately reopen a fishery during which one or more of the following management measures apply:

- (1) reduced fishing season;**
- (2) special gear restrictions;**
- (3) alternative size limits;**
- (4) catch-and-release fishing only.**

(e) The department shall minimize potential conflicts with a subsistence fishery, or other fisheries that overlap the sport fishery, that harvest other fish within the same body of water.

ISSUE: There is currently no region-wide management plan for lake trout. A unifying management plan would allow evaluation of lake trout stocks to be conducted on a regional basis, thereby promoting consistent, objective-based fisheries management across the region. This plan would provide the department, public and Board with a reference for lake trout fishery management actions and to evaluate future regulatory requests. During the December 2005 meeting the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted this regulatory plan for lake trout in the Upper Copper/Upper Susitna area. Adoption of this management plan will provide a consistent management and regulatory approach for the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim portion of the region.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Management actions for lake trout populations in the AYK management areas will continue to be considered on a case-by-case basis without the benefit of a consistent objective-based protocol for lake trout management

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Recreational anglers, the board and the department.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-123)

PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 77.190. Personal use whitefish and sucker fishery. Amend this regulation as follows:

Create a personal use management plan to allow conservatively managed harvest of whitefish by spearfishing, allowing ten fish per person in household.

ISSUE: Loss of harvest opportunity for humpback whitefish in Chatanika River near Fairbanks, using spearfishing techniques.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Loss of harvest opportunity in Chatanika

River near Fairbanks for humpback whitefish, using spearfishing techniques.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents of Fairbanks area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, not an allocative issue.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Dr. Fred Bouse (I-06F-025)

PROPOSAL 139 - 5 AAC 77.190. Personal use whitefish and sucker fishery. Amend this regulation to include the following:

(b)(2) permits may be issued for set gillnet, beach seine, dip net, fyke net, **fish wheels, and spear gear** [AND FISH WHEEL GEAR].

ISSUE: Lack of opportunity to harvest personal use whitefish by traditional spearing technique.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued unnecessary restriction on spearfishing of whitefish.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It simply recognizes the customary and traditional use of spears to harvest whitefish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Consumptive users of whitefish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Reinstating a limited sport spearfish season on the Chatanika River. Rejected because the current personal use fishery provides the department with the management tools to effectively regulate harvest and ensure that threatened whitefish populations are not exploited by over fishing, whether by spear or other means listed on the personal use regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-06F-029)

PROPOSAL 140 - 5 AAC 01.172. Limitations on subsistence fishing gear. Amend as follows:

5 AAC 01.172. Limitations on subsistence fishing gear. (a) Except when fishing through the ice [OR WHEN A SUBSISTENCE FISHING PERMIT IS REQUIRED], for subsistence fishing in state waters of, and all flowing waters that drain into, northern Norton Sound from Cape Prince of Wales to Bald Point (Between Elim and Koyuk) with a hook and line attached to a rod or a pole, the following provisions apply:

(1) the methods and means specified in 5 AAC 70.011 and 5 AAC 07.030;

[AND]

(2) **in areas where subsistence permit limits are not in effect**, the bag and possession limits, by species, specified in 5 AAC 70.011[.]; **and**

(3) in areas where subsistence permit limits are in effect, the subsistence permit limit may be taken.

(c) A person fishing under this section may not take more than the bag and possession limit as specified in 5 AAC 70.011 in the Niukluk River unless the limit is waived by emergency order.

ISSUE: When the Board of Fisheries recognized hook and line as legal subsistence gear for waters in Northern Norton Sound, the board applied sport fish bag limits, possession limits, methods, and means to subsistence fishing, except when fishing through the ice or in areas where a subsistence permit was required. In Northern Norton Sound, subsistence fishing permits are required only for catching salmon. At the time this regulation was adopted, most Norton Sound subsistence salmon fishing permits had catch limits. Permits were only required in the Subdistrict 1 (Nome), Cape Woolley area and on the Pilgrim River (Port Clarence District). Thus, all hook and line fishing also had limits, whether for sport or for subsistence.

In 2004, the board extended subsistence salmon permit requirements to Norton Sound Subdistricts 2 and 3 and portions of the Port Clarence District (Brevig Mission and Teller). Unlike salmon permits for waters along the majority of the Nome road system, the new subsistence salmon permits did not have harvest limits. Because 5 AAC 01.172 does not apply in areas where subsistence fishing permits are required, hook and line now can be used in these areas without bag and possession limits. This was an unintended consequence of expanding the permit system. The proposed language would restore 5 AAC 01.172 to its original intent. In areas where subsistence permit *limits* (as opposed to just subsistence *permits*) exist, subsistence limits would apply to all subsistence fishing, including hook and line. In all other areas of Northern Norton Sound, the sport fish bag and possession limits would apply when hook and line were being used, whether for sport or for subsistence.

In the Niukluk River, chum and coho salmon runs have been weak for a number of years. This regulation would restrict hook and line fishers to the sport fish bag limit to protect salmon from overharvest. In years of large runs, particularly pink salmon, the subsistence hook and line fishing limit could be waived to provide more opportunity on an abundant resource.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? In areas of Northern Norton Sound where subsistence permits are required but subsistence catch limits are not imposed, any Alaska resident fishing with a rod and reel can fish without bag or possession limit.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who want to continue harvesting salmon for subsistence primarily with nets.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who want to exceed the sport fish bag limit while using hook and line.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Catch limits could be imposed on all subsistence fishing permits in Northern Norton Sound. In the Niukluk River, there are conservation issues and this is an appropriate solution is proposed. In other areas of Northern Norton Sound, not

easily accessible by road, subsistence harvests are within harvestable surpluses and individual permit limits are not necessary.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-159)

PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 01.175. Waters closed to subsistence fishing. Amend this regulation as follows:

(b) In the Port Clarence District, Salmon Lake, its tributaries and waters within 300 feet of Department of Fish and Game regulatory markers placed at the outlet of Salmon Lake are closed to subsistence fishing from July 15 through August 31 **unless opened by emergency order.**

ISSUE: In recent years record runs have returned to Salmon Lake. Previously the department closed Salmon Lake to protect spawning salmon. However, starting in 2005, the department began to allow fishing in Salmon Lake again for those wishing to target sockeye salmon. In recent years salmon have begun entering the lake in late June and the present closure for the lake is July 15 through August 31.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Possible lost subsistence fishing opportunity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those wanting to have more fishing opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who would like to see the lake closed longer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Restrict fishing locations in the lake.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-160)

PROPOSAL 142 - 5 AAC 01.175. Waters closed to subsistence fishing. Amend this regulation as follows:

- (c) The following waters are closed to subsistence fishing for salmon:
 - (1) the Nome River from its terminus upstream for a distance of 200 yards and upstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located near **the VOR site approximately two miles upstream from the Nome River mouth.** [OSBORN]

ISSUE: In recent years the subsistence boundary has been moved downstream to the VOR site by emergency order to prevent the overharvest of salmon spawning upriver of the VOR site. In conjunction with this management strategy, subsistence limits have been raised or waived earlier in the season for salmon in the Nome River. The Nome River weir is located approximately four miles upstream from the Nome River mouth with large congregations of salmon holding approximately one quarter mile downstream of the weir. The current regulation allows for subsistence fishing up to Osborn Creek which is located approximately seven miles upstream from the Nome River mouth. Both chum and coho salmon congregate and spawn in

some locations below Osborn Creek. Hook and line has been a very effective gear in harvesting coho salmon and with subsistence limits in the Nome subdistrict much higher than sport bag limits, large harvests of coho salmon may occur in upstream holding areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Possible overharvest of salmon on the Nome River.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who would like to harvest more salmon by having the subsistence limit waived earlier in the season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who would like to harvest more salmon farther upstream.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Make hook and line bag limits the same whether sport fishing or subsistence fishing. Allow nets only to be used downstream of the VOR site in the subsistence area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-161)

PROPOSAL 143 - 5 AAC 01.175. Waters closed to subsistence fishing. This proposal would allow for the opportunity to take pink salmon in the Penny and Cripple rivers for subsistence. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c) The following waters are closed to subsistence fishing for salmon:

(8) the Penny River **upstream of an ADF&G regulatory marker approximately 100 yards upstream from its mouth;** and

(9) the Cripple River **upstream of ADF&G regulatory marker approximately 400 yards upstream from its mouth.**

(e) The following waters are closed to subsistence fishing for chum salmon:

(1) the Penny River; and

(2) the Cripple River.

ISSUE: The current regulations have the entire Cripple and Penny Rivers closed to subsistence fishing for all salmon. Previous regulations had more than 100 yards upstream of the Penny River mouth and more than 400 yards upstream of the Cripple River closed to subsistence fishing for salmon. A previous proposal arising from the action plan for the Nome subdistrict chum salmon stock of management concern in 2001 asked to close the Penny and Cripple to subsistence chum salmon fishing.

These rivers are in permit areas which can control harvest limits of specific salmon species depending on stock abundance, health, and fishing effort without the need for additional regulations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Opportunity to subsistence fish for pink salmon will be eliminated on the Penny and Cripple Rivers.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence and sport fishers who want to harvest salmon other than chum salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-162)

PROPOSAL 144 - 5 AAC 01.175(c). Waters closed to subsistence fishing. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c) The following waters are closed to subsistence fishing for salmon **with a net**:

ISSUE: This will allow subsistence fishers in the Norton Sound – Port Clarence Area the opportunity to harvest salmon with hook and line in the same areas as sport fishers.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A sport fish license will be necessary to harvest salmon in the waters listed as closed to subsistence fishing for salmon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishers who want to harvest salmon in upstream locations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sport fishers who want less competition.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-163)

PROPOSAL 145 - 5 AAC 01.180. Subsistence fishing permits. Repeal the following regulation:

(d) Repealed. [IN SUBDISTRICT 1 OF THE NORTON SOUND DISTRICT, THE ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT FOR THE HOLDER OF A MARINE WATERS SUBSISTENCE SALMON FISHING PERMIT IS 200 SALMON, OF WHICH NO MORE THAN 50 MAY BE CHUM SALMON; THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE ADDITIONAL PERMITS DURING RUNS OF ABUNDANCE.]

ISSUE: This regulation is not necessary. In recent years there have been record runs of pink

salmon in Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District. Also, the number of permit holders targeting chum salmon has been decreasing with subsistence fishers shifting their effort to target sockeye salmon in the nearby Port Clarence District. The department now issues one permit for Subdistrict 1 and limits for each species are listed on the permit for various locations. As there have been more salmon returning in recent years to Subdistrict 1, the department has increased the permit limits for various locations rather than issuing additional permits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Subsistence fishers will continue to be inconvenienced by interrupting their activity in order to obtain additional permits.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who would like to harvest more salmon from marine waters without the need to obtain additional permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who would like to fish a particular river because less salmon return to a particular river as more salmon are harvested in the ocean.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-164)

PROPOSAL 146 - 5 AAC 01.180. Subsistence fishing permits; and 70.011. Seasons and bag, possessions, and size limits for the Northwestern Management Area. Amend these regulations as follows:

In subdistrict 2 of Norton Sound district, except in the fresh water of Kachavik River and McKinley Creek:

1) Sport Fishing: Sport fishing licenses apply to the individual. Currently, the bag and possession limit is three coho per day, and we would like that changed to the following: The bag and possession limit for sport fishing is one coho per day, which must be male, and only barbless single hook, unbaited lures may be used from July 20 through September 15.

2) Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing permits apply to the household. Currently there are no limits on subsistence fishing. We would like the following regulations enacted:

- a) The bag and possession limit for subsistence fishing with a rod and reel is three coho per day. No gear restrictions.
- b) The seining limit is 20 coho per day for each permit holder, of which only four may be female.
- c) The gillnetting limit is: from July 20 to September 15, set gillnets may be used to take salmon only during two 48-hour periods per week, which are established by emergency order.
- d) The annual harvest limit is 50 coho per year for each permit holder.

ISSUE: Because Golovin is located in Golovin Bay, it is further removed from the apparent decline of coho salmon on the Fish River system. However, the need for conservation measures

to preserve the future of coho salmon on the river system is understood. The department manages the coho salmon on the Fish River system by using the Niukluk River escapement project as an index. The Niukluk River escapement project has documented this decline in coho salmon since 1995. Because of the location of the escapement project is far upriver, on a tributary of the Fish River, the department does not get a good indication of inriver escapement numbers until relatively late in the coho season. Therefore, any management action taken to preserve the coho returns has not generally happened until mid-to-late August, and as a result, these management actions impact us, the local users, by doing too little, too late.

We have been impacted by the declining coho salmon in the Fish River system through those management actions. Sport and/or subsistence harvest has been closed or restricted each year for the past four years, and commercial fishing has been closed since a dismal harvest in 2001. Golovin residents once held 27 commercial fishing permits, but now we cannot earn a living by commercial fishing due to the coho salmon declines and department management actions. By putting harvest restrictions into regulation, conservation would occur over the entire coho season, spreading the effort to all user groups evenly. Perhaps these conservation actions will eventually result in an increase in coho salmon escapement to the Fish River system, and therefore re-open the possibility of future commercial fishing opportunities.

Although we are in favor of subsistence and sport harvest restrictions to help conserve the coho salmon escapement to the Fish River system, we do not intend for these restrictions to also apply to our traditional subsistence harvest areas of Kachavik River and McKinley Creek. These smaller systems are in the immediate vicinity of Golovin, are remote from the more intense subsistence fishery on the Fish River, and subsistence harvests there have been constant at a modest level for years. These smaller systems are not monitored by the department. However, from our harvest practices and observations, we know that these smaller systems have not experienced the same declines as the Fish River system, and are not under the same harvest pressure as the Fish River system. Subsistence harvest in the river mouth and upriver in these traditional use areas will not impact escapement to the Fish River system, because the harvest will target salmon bound for these smaller systems. Therefore, we do not support subsistence harvest restrictions in Kachavik River and McKinley Creek, however, we do support subsistence and sport harvest restrictions in the Fish River and the marine waters of Golovin Bay.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Coho salmon escapement to the Fish River system will continue to decline. We are worried because we want coho salmon to be available for future generations and we would like the possibility of commercial fishing opportunities in future years if coho salmon escapement increases. We are proposing these restrictions on both subsistence and sport harvest as much needed conservation measures that should have been enacted long ago.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Initially the resource will benefit. If restricted harvest results in increased escapement in future years, the users will also benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Initially the users will suffer through decreased harvest.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 147 - 5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Northwestern Management Area; and 5 AAC 01.180. Subsistence fishing permits; and 5 AAC 01.160. Fishing seasons and periods; and 5 AAC 01.172. Limitations on subsistence fishing gear. Amend these regulations as follows:

In Subdistrict 2 of the Norton Sound District:

Sportfishing: Sportfishing licenses apply to the individual. Currently, the bag and possession limit is three coho per day, and we would like that changed to the following:
the bag and possession limit for sportfishing is one coho per day, which must be male, and only barbless single hook unbaited lures may be used from July 20 through September 15. (5AAC 70.011 (c) (3) (B))

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing permits apply to the household. Currently there are no limits on subsistence fishing. We would like the following regulations enacted:
the bag and possession limit for subsistence fishing with a rod and reel is three coho per day. No gear restrictions. (5 AAC 01.172)
the seining limit is 20 coho per day for each permit holder, of which 4 may be female. (5 AAC 01.172)
the gillnetting limit is: From July 20 to September 15, set gillnets may be used to take salmon only from 6:00pm Thursday to 6:00pm Saturday. (5 AAC 01.160(7))
the annual harvest limit is 50 coho per year for each permit holder. (5 AAC 01.180 (f))

ISSUE: We are concerned because coho salmon on the Fish River system, which flows into Norton Sound Subdistrict 2, have been in consistent decline over the past 10 years. This decline has been documented by an Alaska Department of Fish and Game escapement project on the Niukluk River, a tributary to the Fish River, since 1995. In addition, we have noticed that traditional subsistence harvest areas have less coho salmon now than they used to. Commercial fishing in subdistrict 2 has not occurred for any species since 2001. Despite concerted management effort, the coho escapement on the Fish River system continues to decline.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game manages the coho salmon on the Fish River system by using the Niukluk River escapement project as an index. Because of the location of the escapement project is far upriver, on a tributary of the Fish River, the department does not get a good indication of in-river escapement numbers until relatively late in the coho season. Therefore, any management action taken to preserve the coho returns has not generally happened until mid-to-late August, and as a result, these management actions impact us, the local users, by doing too little too late. Significant harvest can occur prior to these management actions and harvest restrictions being enacted. Sport and/or subsistence harvest has been closed or restricted each year for the past four years, and commercial fishing has been closed since a dismal harvest in 2001. By putting harvest restrictions into regulation, conservation would occur over the entire coho season, spreading the effect to all user groups evenly.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Coho salmon in Subdistrict 2 will continue to decline. We are worried because we want coho salmon to be available for the future generations. We are proposing these restrictions on both subsistence and sport harvest as much needed conservation measures that should have been enacted long ago.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Initially the resource will benefit. If restricted harvest results will increase escapement in future years, the users will also benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Initially the users will suffer through decreased harvest.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: White Mountain IRA Council (HQ-06F-066)

PROPOSAL 148 - 5 AAC 01.1XX. Use of Subsistence Caught Fish. Create a new regulation to include the following:

The new regulation should allow the exchange of subsistence caught fish for cash, not to exceed \$1,000 and should not comprise a significant commercial enterprise.

ISSUE: Lack of customary trade regulations for Norton Sound and Port Clarence.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Laws will exist without implementing regulations, persons may become cited for customary trade. Customary trade as defined by state and federal law is the exchange of subsistence caught fish for cash.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal does address improving the quality of the resource for Alaskans who may no longer be active fishers and wish to exchange subsistence caught fish for cash when and if funds allow. Barter and customary trade is a longstanding cultural practice that should be legitimized so that persons may feel comfortable doing so upon the limited basis proposed in this proposal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishers who may no longer be active fishers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? N/A.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Austin Ahmasuk (A-06F-003)

PROPOSAL 149 - 5 AAC 04.320. Fishing periods. Amend the following regulations in the Norton Sound District as follows:

5 AAC 04.320. Fishing periods.

(2) in Subdistricts **2-4**, [3] salmon **fishing periods are established by emergency order** [MAY BE TAKEN FROM 6:00 P.M. MONDAY TO 6:00 P.M. TUESDAY AND FROM 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY TO 6:00 P.M. FRIDAY].

(3) in Subdistricts **5-6**, salmon **fishing periods are established by emergency order**. [2 AND

4-6 MAY BE TAKEN FROM 6:00 P.M. MONDAY TO 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY AND FROM 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY TO 6:00 P.M. SATURDAY].

ISSUE: Regulations listing times of fishing periods have become obsolete as the department has moved to establishing fishing times to coincide with market conditions. Buyers and managers coordinate the schedule of fishing periods with transportation opportunities and capacity limitations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? An outdated regulation will stay on the books.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who would like regulations to reflect current management practices and improve salmon marketing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who prefer to fish on a set schedule.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-158)

PROPOSAL 150 - 5 AAC 04.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts and 5 AAC 04.310. Fishing seasons; and 5 AAC 04.320. Fishing periods; and 5 AAC 04.330. Gear; and 5 AAC 04.331. Gillnet specifications and operations; and 5 AAC 04.350. Closed waters. Amend these regulations as follows:

5 AAC 04.200 The old commercial fishing boundary regulations from the commercial fishery of 1966 be utilized for the first year. The outer line ran from Brevig Lagoon entrance (marked by a now stranded bridge) to the western tip of Cape Riley. The inner line ran from Four Mile Point to Sunset Creek Mouth, across Grantley Harbor. Should this result in water marked fish an emergency opening could be issued to adjust the line to the narrows at the entrance of Grantley Harbor.

5 AAC 04.310 “from a date established by emergency order after July 1 through August 31” These dates could be refined after the first season.

5 AAC 04.320 “to be established by emergency order.” Depending on the number of participants this could be left to the buyer and fishers to best manage quality with little additional workload to the department as it is done in other low volume fisheries (Kotzebue salmon).

5 AAC 04.330 and 5 AAC 04.331 Same as Norton Sound District.

5 AAC 04.350 Strike (3) the Port Clarence District

ISSUE: The sockeye salmon returns in the Port Clarence District have increased by a factor of ten in past decade. Although subsistence use has had a proportionate increase in harvest and effort, there have been very large escapements to the spawning grounds at Salmon Lake. The

department and local people are now viewing this stock as a potential economic opportunity. The NSEDC board has expressed their wish to see that communities most closely located to local resources derive the bulk of the direct benefit from the harvest. It is quite likely that within three years, commercial fishers and a buying station could be operational at Port Clarence. Assuming the regulations to enable a commercial fishery are put in place, CFEC and the department will need to implement a permitting process, establish a management plan, and refine the escapement goal to effectively manage this stock and the fisheries dependent upon it. This proposal is intended to move that process forward.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Currently, there is no means of opening a commercial harvest at Port Clarence. Significant overescapements are occurring at Salmon Lake. Although the department, Bureau of Land Management and NSEDC sponsored a lake fertilization program during the past decade, the strong escapements now well exceed the amount of chemical fertilizer that was once required to jumpstart this system. Research is being conducted to assess the forage species and nutrients now in the lake. The escapement goal is likely to be adjusted, but it is anticipated there will be a large harvestable surplus. The potential human benefit from the resource cannot be realized without a well-managed commercial fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The regional commercial fishers will have another fishery adding to the diversity of their choices for participation.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A commercial fishery downstream of the subsistence fishery will reduce abundance on the fishing grounds of the Pilgrim River. However, since seining at prime milling sites is the primary method in the subsistence fishery, subsistence permit limits are still likely to be met.

PROPOSED BY: Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (HQ-06F-099)

PROPOSAL 151 - 5 AAC 03.320. Fishing periods. This proposal simplifies regulatory text and better reflects current management practices.

5 AAC 03.320. Fishing periods. In the Kotzebue District

(1) **fishing periods are established by emergency order.** [WEEKLY SALMON FISHING PERIODS ARE TO BE OPENED AND CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER UNTIL AUGUST 1;]

Repeal the following regulation:

[(2) AFTER AUGUST 1, SALMON MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM 8:00 A.M. MONDAY UNTIL 8:00 P.M. TUESDAY AND FROM 8:00 A.M. THURSDAY UNTIL 8:00 P.M. FRIDAY.]

ISSUE: Beginning in the mid-1990s, market conditions necessitated shorter periods for better fish quality. Since 2002, limited buyer capacity has resulted in the commercial fishery being

open continuously from mid-July through August 31. The open salmon fishery allows buyers and catcher-sellers to coordinate the fishing effort with airline schedules for better quality. This proposal simplifies regulatory text and better reflects current management practices.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? An outdated regulation is on the books.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who would like regulations to reflect current management practices.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-157)

PROPOSAL 152 - 5 AAC 27.905. Description of Bering Sea-Kotzebue Area districts and subdistricts. This is a housekeeping proposal to simplify regulatory boundaries. Amend the regulations as follows:

(b) The Norton Sound District consists of all waters between the latitude of the westernmost tip of Cape Douglas and the latitude of **Point Romanof** [CANAL POINT LIGHT].

ISSUE: The current herring district boundary in regulation is Canal Point Light. However, several years ago the southern boundary for the salmon district was changed to Point Romanof approximately 20 miles south of Canal Point. This proposal would make the herring and salmon district boundaries the same.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Regulatory language will continue to be confusing to those who fish both herring and salmon because of two different boundaries.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone will benefit by eliminating confusion and having one boundary for Norton Sound finfish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-156)

PROPOSAL 153 - 5 AAC 27.910. Fishing seasons and periods for Bering Sea-Kotzebue Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

If market prices for Norton Sound herring are too low for the buyers to travel there and for the

fishermen to make a profit, the fishery should be closed. No state program, like CDQ, should be allowed to use public funds to create a fishery that only exist for political reasons.

ISSUE: In 2005, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) paid a price subsidy at Norton Sound, to local fishermen only, of \$100 per ton. The real world market price at Togiak, for similar fish, was \$140 to \$150 per ton. The big fish buyer paid a market price of \$150 per ton at Norton Sound. The big buyer's price was less than harvest cost. The fishery would not have occurred without the \$100 per ton subsidy NSEDC added.

These herring just spawn in Norton Sound. NSEDC does not own them. During the rest of the year these herring travel as far as Dutch Harbor. They are the basis of the entire Being Sea food chain. Sea lions, birds, halibut and crab, all depend on that food chain.

Herring will come back year after year if you let them. The 1,764 tons of herring NSEDC paid to kill in 2005 could easily come back in five years. The price might be up by then and permit holders like myself might be able to fish for profit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? NSEDC executives will continue to waste vast amounts of CDQ money every year, to create a fishery that makes them look good at election time.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Right now the value of Norton Sound herring is a negative \$100 per ton. If you do not fish, the value increases to zero. In 2005 you would have improved the value of the harvest by \$176,400, if you did not fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Herring fishermen in other areas will not get the Norton Sound fish dumped on the market at below harvest cost. People who care about wanton waste will sleep better at night.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The big fish buyer will lose their subsidy. They will no longer get the Norton Sound herring at below harvest cost. NSEDC executives will lose a valuable campaign strategy in the next election. Some department staff might get laid off.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Use the vast CDQ wealth to help fund village schools, hospitals and police protection.

PROPOSED BY: Sidney Nelson (HQ-06F-062)

PROPOSAL 154 - 5 AAC XX.XXX. Create a new regulation to include the following:

The new regulation would establish a controlled use area for the Nome River specifically in regulation to Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities activities in locations where the Nome River is within the right-of-way of Nome-Taylor highway. The controlled use provision would only apply to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities activities and the provision should prohibit use of river substrate and provide for effective seeding of native willow clumps to enhance Nome riverbanks where they have been destroyed. The Nome-Taylor highway shoulder in some locations in the area is the bank of the river and actively erodes. Streamside stabilization using planted native willow clumps will provide cover, habitat for juvenile salmon, bank stabilization, macro invertebrates, and waterfowl.

ISSUE: Water quality in the Nome River. The Alaska Department of Transportation in many attempts to maintain Nome area roads is using river substrate or banks of rivers to upgrade, maintain, and/or repair Nome area roads. Those actions and others, unless curtailed or better managed, will result in destruction of salmon habitat. Enhancement needs to occur to improve habitat for anadromous and non-anadromous fish, macro-invertebrates, waterfowl, and terrestrial life. Such actions occurred between milepost 10 and milepost 30 of the Nome-Taylor highway. The alteration of the bank in those locations needs stabilization and streambank vegetation needs to be planted. Improvements were made that exposed the gravel bank and destroyed all or most vegetation in particular locations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Alaska Department of Transportation will continue to use stream substrate, and/or banks to maintain Nome area roads causing the destruction of aquatic life habitat.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will dramatically improve the quality of the resource, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities needs to address the destruction of streamside habitat along the Nome River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? N/A.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Austin Ahmasuk (A-06F-002)

PROPOSAL 155 - 5 AAC 07.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

In District 1, salmon may be taken with gillnets of up to eight or smaller mesh in the early part of the season (June 15 to July 1).

ISSUE: The mesh sizes for gillnets were reduced to six-inch or smaller in response to the decline in chinook in the Kuskokwim area about ten or more years ago. The current department information shows a rapid increase of chinook in the Kuskokwim within the last five years. Therefore, commercial fishermen in District 1 would like to see a limited chinook targeted fishery with use of larger mesh gear to harvest the surplus of chinook in the first part of the season while they are still fresh and marketable.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The local residents of District 1 will continue to not be able to take advantage of harvesting a limited number of chinook to boost the overall economy in the area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the Kuskokwim area fish are historically of best quality in the lower part of the Kuskokwim River and during the period suggest in this proposal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All District 1 commercial fishermen, fish buyers, and the

local economy.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There will not be any significant loss or suffering to other users or the resource as the numbers indicate there is sufficient surplus at this time to merit this small increase in harvest.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Return to prior to 1985 management. It would be too extreme at this time.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee (SW-06F-040)

PROPOSAL 156 - 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

During commercial openings, the lower portion of the river will be open for eight hours while the upper portion remains the same at six hours.

The Kuskokwim River is divided into two, the upper and lower, districts thus having different openings depending on the fish runs.

ISSUE: Commercial districts in the Kuskokwim River. Open the lower portion of the river for eight hours per opening. Upriver fishermen report catching more than we, due to river narrowing towards Bethel. The lower portion is about two and one half to three miles wide in some areas and thus fish are more spread out than in narrower areas. Average fish caught on the lower portion of the Kuskokwim for about one half hour would be 25 to 30, on the other hand, upriver would catch about twice the average or more in the same amount of time. The other idea would be to separate the district into two lower and upper, both having different times of openings depending on the fish run.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Probably the department will be the one to take the findings of not having openings even though there was an average run during that time and only opened up the upriver portion. Also, mainly fish run is always dependent on fish tests done near Bethel and not always accurate readings/tests. Bethel is far from the mouth of the river and when fish runs are abundant downriver, they may not be upriver and when they abundant upriver they may not be downriver, so it is like playing a game of see-saw.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Production will probably go up due to a better managed organization of the two districts, or prolonged hours fished downriver.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Lower portion and upper portion of the Kuskokwim.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The department, trying to manage two districts.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Separate the district into two lower and upper, both having different times of openings depending on the fish run.

PROPOSED BY: Douglas Kernak (HQ-06F-011)

PROPOSAL 157 - This proposal asks the Board of Fisheries to recommend to the legislature, as per AS 16.05.251(a)(1), that a reserve area be designated as follows:

Per authority granted under 16.05.251(a)(1), that the Board of Fisheries may adopt regulations it considers advisable for setting apart fisheries reserve areas, refuges, and sanctuaries in the water or on the land of the state over which it has jurisdiction, subject to approval of the legislature, the Board hereby establishes the Holitna Basin Fisheries Reserve consisting of the mainstem and tributaries of the Holitna River from Gemuk Lake to its confluence with the Kuskokwim.

For the purposes of this designation, “reserve” means to specifically recognize, elevate and emphasize the area’s high productivity potential; and that habitat maintenance for its abundant fisheries resources, dependent subsistence and other human harvest opportunity is the primary over-riding management purpose, such that any other activities are of secondary consideration in their potential degradation to the areas’ highest and best use; this being, preservation in perpetuity for the Holitna Basin’s significant productivity and contribution for salmon and other fisheries species to the entire Kuskokwim drainage.

ISSUE: The Holitna Basin is a highly productive ecosystem essential to the regional health of human and fisheries resources in the Kuskokwim region that has little in place against other competitive use interests to assure conservation of habitat and related fish stocks into the future.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Future development activities representing significant threat to maintaining long term integrity of the Holitna river system’s fisheries productivity for the entire Kuskokwim drainage may well occur.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The magnitude and fundamental support of the Holitna River system for sustained yield of fish stocks throughout the entire Kuskokwim drainage, and the importance of those fish stocks to residents of the Kuskokwim cannot be over emphasized. Studies over just the last few years have established that 25 percent of Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon (a board recognized stock of concern) comes from the Holitna River Basin. To punctuate this areas’ comparative importance in the broader state perspective; the subsistence catch of Kuskokwim Chinook represents 50 percent of the total King salmon subsistence harvest statewide.

It also has recently been found that as much as 50 percent of the sockeye salmon for the Kuskokwim originate in the Holitna River Basin. Of special note is that these sockeye may be unique in that they spawn and rear in a river environment, as compared to most other statewide sockeye populations that are dependent on lake systems for their early life history. It has yet to be determined which parts of the river system are most important for the 2 rearing years spent in the river. There is also heavy use of the Holitna Basin by whitefish species that are important in contributing to subsistence harvests throughout the entire Kuskokwim region.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All consumptive and non-consumptive user groups dependent upon the fish stock contributions of the Holitna River Basin.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Entities focused or oriented towards speculative, short term interest gains, without abiding consequences incumbent to degradation aftereffects.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Pursue designation as a Critical Habitat Area: The Kuskokwim area has been woefully lacking historically in funding and research activities

common to other areas of the state. With the recent advent of management support, significant findings as referenced above have already been found in just a few short years. At present this remains an option for further discussion.

PROPOSED BY: Orutsararmiut Native Council and Sleetmute Traditional Council (HQ-06F-118)

PROPOSAL 158 - 5 AAC 01.240. Marking and use of subsistence-taken salmon. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c) In Districts 1-3, during an opening for commercial salmon fishing, a person may not possess king salmon taken for subsistence uses unless **both lobes of the caudal fin (tail fin) have** [THE DORSAL FIN HAS] been **immediately** removed. A person may not sell or purchase salmon from which **both lobes of the caudal fin (tail fin) have** [THE DORSAL FIN HAS] been removed.

ISSUE: Removing the dorsal fin of king salmon harvested by subsistence fishers in District 1-3 in the Yukon Area during the open commercial fishing season places an undue hardship on subsistence fishers because of the following: 1) removing the dorsal fin from king salmon is physically difficult; 2) removing the dorsal fin often exposes flesh prior to processing; and 3) the regulations for marking king salmon in Districts 1-3 are inconsistent with other areas within the state regulations (e.g. 5 AAC 1.360., 5 AAC 01.590., 5 AAC 01.640.).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The flesh of the fish will continue to be contaminated if this problem is not solved since removal of the dorsal fin from king salmon harvested for subsistence in Districts 1-3 often breaks the skin of the dorsal fin area, exposing flesh prior to processing and allowing the flesh of the fish to be contaminated. Additionally, inconsistencies between the marking requirements for subsistence fishers in Districts 1-3 and those for other fisheries in the state will cause confusion.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, removing both lobes of the caudal fin (tail fin) allows the demarcation of subsistence harvest from commercial harvest of king salmon with greater ease, while decreasing the probability that the skin of the fish will be compromised (increasing the possibility of contamination).

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishers in districts 1-3 would benefit by making the marking of subsistence fish safer and easier.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one is likely to suffer if this solution is adopted.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (SC-06F-005)

PROPOSAL 159 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

The effective dates of the windowed schedule would be May 1 to September 1. The windowed

schedule will not be lifted for any reason.

ISSUE: Quality of chinook salmon on the spawning grounds. The department classifying a 655mm (25.79 inches) or longer chinook salmon as large. The department having a start date for windows schedule and ending the windows as soon as they have a commercial opening.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The eight-year age class of chinook salmon have been extirpated. The seven-year age class is less than one percent on the Tositna River. Over 70 percent of the escapement on the Tositna River will continue to be precocious males five-years old or less.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. When the same problem happened to the Taku River, commercial fishing was closed. It took 30 years for the department to recommend that commercial fishing start again. If we address the problem early on, we hopefully will not be facing total closures such as the Taku River later on.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In the long term everyone will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The most important issue is the sustainability of the run to include the large fish. What benefits the fish, benefits all the people in the drainage.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-06F-019)

PROPOSAL 160 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Retain the window concept for all fisheries including subsistence and commercial. The windows schedule has been established since 2001. However, whenever there is a commercial opening at the mouth, they get out of the windows schedule. This proposal is to force strict adherence to the schedule. No change for anything or anybody.

ISSUE: The sizes of Yukon River kings have become noticeably smaller over the last 30 years. Any fishermen or elder will verify that the size has greatly reduced. Historically, in other fisheries, such as the Columbia River fishery which allowed selective fishing, the size has decreased.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The genetic integrity of the species is in danger. The size of the king salmon will continue to decrease.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It allows big fish to get through to spawn so that their offspring can again get into the rivers, live their life cycles, then return to the rivers and spawn themselves, thus reversing the trend of fewer large kings in the Yukon River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In the long run, everybody. The more big fish that are hatched and make it to the ocean, the more there will be in years to come. It will help people become more conscious of the limited resource of the king salmon, and it will help them realize that this is an excellent long term strategy.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? In the short run, the people who think only of this year and perhaps next year, but not the long run future. Short-sightedness is going to cause long run (perhaps irreversible) damage to our king salmon stocks.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Tanana-Rampart-Manley Advisory Committee (I-06F-017)

PROPOSAL 161 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods. Amend these regulations to provide the following:

In the Yukon River drainage both subsistence and commercial salmon fishing will be subject to, and maintain, the windowed fishing schedule throughout the summer season.

ISSUE: Windows of no fishing to allow passage of returning Yukon River chinook salmon are needed throughout the summer season to allow pulses of returning salmon to reach their spawning streams. Allowing the various pulses of fish to pass throughout the entire drainage will ensure that the genetic variability and integrity of salmon will be maintained and protected. The true “windows” schedule was implemented by the board to provide this level of protection even after management decided to open a district to commercial fishing. The windowed fishing schedule would remain in effect even in a fishing district granted a commercial opening. The Yukon River salmon stocks need this additional protection to rebuild and have the genetic variability to face the challenges of climatic and human population changes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The genetic variability and integrity of the Yukon River salmon will not be protected and will continue to decline and the genetic shift to smaller fish will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Returning salmon throughout the summer season will be provided additional opportunity to reach their spawning grounds which would help improve the quality of escapement of chinook salmon throughout the Yukon River drainage. Passage of this proposal would stop the genetic shift to smaller fish that subsistence users are noticing. Local subsistence users in the upper Yukon River area, including Canada, are reporting harvesting smaller fish. Conservation actions are necessary now to protect the genetic integrity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence and commercial users will benefit by helping to rebuild the genetic variability and integrity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks for future generations of fishers across the drainage. Stabilizing the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks and preventing a decrease in their size is consistent with sound management principles and the conservation of healthy populations of fish. This proposal will provide for a reasonable opportunity to meet subsistence needs during a time to rebuild the stocks and to guarantee a realistic subsistence priority for future generations of all subsistence fishers across the drainage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Passage of this proposal would restrict all subsistence and commercial users to the same windowed schedule thereby sharing the conservation burden by all fishers across the drainage. This proposal was written to be consistent with sound management principles and conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife in order to

the have the least adverse impact on rural residents who depend on those resources for their subsistence needs. Management actions are needed now in order to have the least adverse impact on all subsistence users but especially on future generations of subsistence users.

It would also restrict the commercial fisheries to the windowed schedule the subsistence fishers are subject to. The restriction of the commercial fisheries is necessary for the conservation of healthy populations of fish and for the continuation of subsistence uses of those populations. It would also provide additional protection for the salmon stocks and allow them to return to their historic levels. Taking necessary conservation actions now will provide for the subsistence as well as commercial fisheries needs in the future. Not taking action will hurt future fisheries across the drainage as they face the challenges of climatic and human population changes.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council (HQ-06F-058)

PROPOSAL 162 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon King Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods. Amend this regulation as follows:

In the Yukon River drainage there will be set days of salmon fishing followed by days of complete closure to both subsistence and commercial fishing (example: four days of open fishing followed by three days of complete closure of commercial and subsistence fishing).

ISSUE: Time periods of no fishing are needed throughout the summer season to allow passage of returning Yukon River chinook salmon unmolested throughout the summer season to allow pulses of returning fish to reach their spawning streams. Allowing the various pulses of fish to pass and not be subjected to fishing pressure throughout the entire drainage will ensure that the genetic variability of salmon will be maintained and protected. The Yukon River salmon stocks need this additional protection to rebuild and have the genetic variability to face the challenges of climatic and human population changes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The genetic variability and integrity of the Yukon River salmon will not be protected and will continue to decline and the genetic shift to smaller fish will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Returning salmon throughout the summer season will be provided additional opportunity to reach their spawning grounds to help improve the quality of escapement of chinook salmon throughout the Yukon River drainage. Passage of this proposal would stop the genetic shift to smaller fish. Local subsistence users in the upper Yukon River area, including Canada, are reporting harvesting smaller fish. Conservation actions are necessary now to protect the genetic integrity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence and commercial users will benefit by helping to rebuild the genetic variability and integrity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks for future generations of fishers across the drainage. Stabilizing the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks and preventing a decrease in their size is consistent with sound management principles and the conservation of healthy populations of fish. This proposal will provide for a reasonable opportunity to meet subsistence needs during time of rebuilding the stocks and to guarantee a genuine subsistence priority for future generations of all subsistence fishers across the drainage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Passage of this proposal would restrict all subsistence and commercial users to the same fishing closures thereby sharing the conservation burden by all fishers throughout the drainage. This proposal was written to be consistent with sound management principles and conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife in order to have the least adverse impact on rural residents who depend on those resources for their subsistence needs. Management actions are needed now in order to have the least adverse impact on all subsistence users but especially on future generations of subsistence users.

It would also restrict the commercial fisheries to the same closure times to which the subsistence fishers are subjected. The restriction of the commercial fisheries is necessary for the conservation of healthy populations of fish and for the continuation of subsistence uses of those populations. It would also provide additional protection for the salmon stocks and allow them to return to their historic levels. Taking necessary conservation actions now will provide for the subsistence, as well as commercial fisheries needs in the future. Not taking action will hurt future fisheries across the drainage as they face the challenges of climatic and human population changes.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council (HQ-06F-061)

PROPOSAL 163 - 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations; and 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Amend these regulations as follows:

In the Yukon River drainage the maximum gillnet size is six-inch or smaller stretched-mesh for subsistence and commercial salmon fishing.

ISSUE: Larger nets have a detrimental effect on the stock composition and quality of escapements for Yukon River chinook salmon and tend to target the larger female chinook salmon. There have been continued poor returns of Yukon River salmon in most years since 1998. This has led to conservation concerns on the spawning grounds. These poorer returns are also not allowing subsistence users to have a reasonable opportunity to meet their subsistence salmon needs. The use of the larger gillnets has changed, and will continue to change the composition of the chinook stocks harvested. Subsistence fishers in the middle and upper Yukon Rivers have repeatedly noted that the returning chinook salmon are getting smaller and conservation measures are needed to protect the larger fish that in turns protects the genetic variability and integrity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If management actions are not taken now the genetic shift to smaller fish will continue and the genetic variability and integrity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks will continue to decline.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Returning salmon, especially larger female salmon, will be provided additional opportunity to reach their spawning grounds which would help improve the quality of escapement of chinook salmon throughout the Yukon River drainage. Passage of this proposal would address the genetic shift to smaller fish that subsistence users are noticing. Local subsistence users in the upper Yukon River area, including Canada, are reporting harvesting smaller fish. Conservation actions are necessary now to protect the genetic variability and integrity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence and commercial users will benefit by helping to rebuild the genetic variability and integrity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks for future generations of fishers across the drainage. Stabilizing the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks and preventing a decrease in their size is consistent with sound management principles and the conservation of healthy populations of fish. Passage of this proposal will provide for a reasonable opportunity to meet subsistence needs during a time to rebuild the stocks and to guarantee a realistic subsistence priority for future generations of all subsistence fishers across the drainage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council is keenly aware passage of this proposal would place restrictions on subsistence uses but the conservation concern of the genetic impacts of large mesh nets on the larger female chinook salmon needs to be addressed now in order to protect the Yukon River chinook Salmon runs for subsistence needs in the future. Without viable salmon stocks that have the genetic makeup to face the challenges of climatic changes and other impacts on salmon habitat, subsistence fishers on the Yukon River could have a rural priority for no fish or a priority for smaller fish that requires they fish harder and longer.

Passage of this proposal would restrict subsistence users to a gear type which may require additional fishing time and effort but it is being requested because of biological concerns and to provide for future subsistence needs. Management actions are needed now in order to have the least adverse impact on all subsistence users but especially on future generations of subsistence users.

It would also restrict the commercial fisheries to six-inch nets or smaller. It may result in additional fishing time and effort for the current commercial fisheries. The restriction on the commercial fisheries is necessary for the conservation of healthy populations of fish and for the continuation of subsistence uses of those populations. It would also provide additional protection for the salmon stocks and allow them to return to their historic levels. Taking necessary conservation actions now will provide for the subsistence as well as commercial fisheries needs in the future. Not taking action will hurt future fisheries across the drainage as they face the challenges of climatic and human population changes.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council (HQ-06F-059)

PROPOSAL 164 - 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Amend this regulation as follows:

Gillnets in the Yukon River districts shall be no larger than six inches stretched mesh.

ISSUE: Lack of chinook salmon on the spawning grounds. chinook salmon harvest in Y5 & Y6 with fishwheels is over 70 percent precocious males under 10 pounds. In the Taku River the directed commercial fishery was closed for 30 years when this happened.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The older age class larger chinook salmon will continue to decrease in abundance in the upper Yukon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It will provide for the ability to catch more of the

smaller chinook and allow for more of the larger chinook to get upriver.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone that uses the chinook salmon on the Yukon River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Allowing the large chinook to reproduce will eventually restore and preserve the large fish. This will benefit all fishers in the drainage.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Eliminate drift gillnets in the Yukon River.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-06F-020)

PROPOSAL 165 - 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations; and 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Amend these regulations as follows:

In the Yukon River drainage all gillnets with greater than six-inch mesh may not be more than 35 meshes in depth. This applies to both subsistence and commercial fishing gillnets.

ISSUE: Deeper nets are having a detrimental affect on the stock composition and quality of escapements for Yukon River chinook salmon and tend to target the larger female chinook salmon. There have been continued poor returns of Yukon River salmon in most years since 1998. This has led to conservation concerns on the spawning grounds bringing into question the sustained yield principle used in state management. These poorer returns are also not allowing subsistence users a reasonable opportunity to harvest their subsistence salmon needs.

The use of the deeper drift gillnets has and will continue to change the composition of the chinook stocks harvested. Stationary set gillnet and fish wheel gear likely harvest more local chinook salmon stocks, while the mobile drift gillnet gear will most likely harvest more Canadian origin chinook salmon stocks which are known to be larger on average than Alaska stocks. This knowledge is commonly accepted along the river. Allowing the use of greater than 35 mesh depth nets would be inconsistent with the conservation of natural and healthy populations of fish.

Test fish wheels and net monitoring projects break point for recording a large chinook salmon is 655mm in length from the center of the fish eye to the fork of the tail. Fish less than 655mm in length are considered small fish. For the average fisher this translates to a 28-inch fish or greater are considered large fish for management purposes. Published monitoring data from these projects list 655mm fish to be 14 pounds or larger in weight. Dr. Kocan's *Ichthyophonous* studies on chinook salmon in the Tanana and Rampart Rapids area, weighed as well as measured, the fish he collected. The 655mm fish he collected weighed seven to eight pounds. This confirms what fishers in the middle and upper Yukon Rivers have noted that the returning chinook salmon are getting smaller and conservation measures are needed to protect the larger fish that in turns protects the genetic integrity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks.

Current management plans for sustainable fishing ignore the consequences of selective harvesting that gear types can have on returning salmon. The Council supports that size-selective mortality causes genetic changes because they hear from fishers and elders across the drainage that the returning fish are smaller in size and weight. Department studies have shown gill nets to be size selective for chinook Salmon ("A study of Chinook salmon in Southeast Alaska" Sport Fish Division (1975, Volume 17 AFS 41); "Age, sex, and length composition of Chinook salmon from the 2002 Kuskokwim River subsistence fishery (2004 Regional

Information Report No. 3A04-13)). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service study, “Chinook Salmon Age, Sex, and Length Analysis from Selected Escapement Projects on the Yukon River (Alaska Fisheries Technical Report Number 87) clearly states the scope of their analysis was limited since they could only examine a small number of spawning populations over a short time period when both the fisheries and the environment were changing. The report went on further that “without accurate baseline data on age, sex, and length composition of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks, it is not possible to determine whether any of the trends we found were due to selectivity of the gill-net fishery”. The data from fishers and others clearly show a decline in the size of the fish which demands action be taken to address the decline. Even if the ASL study cannot definitively show it is because of gillnet fishery, reducing the depth of nets will allow more fish and bigger fish reach the spawning grounds, thereby protecting the genetic viability of salmon stocks for future generations across the drainage including Canada.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If management actions are not taken now the genetic shift to smaller fish will continue and the genetic variability and integrity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks will continue to decline.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Returning salmon will be provided additional opportunity to reach their spawning grounds which would help improve the quality of escapement of chinook salmon throughout the Yukon River drainage.

Passage of this proposal would afford protection of the larger chinook salmon migrating to their spawning grounds. Passage would address the potential genetic shift to smaller fish that subsistence users are noticing. Local subsistence users in the upper Yukon River area, including Canada, are reporting harvesting smaller fish. Conservation actions are necessary now to protect the genetic integrity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks. Nets need to be raised in depth so the larger fish can migrate under the nets and provide a more reasonable opportunity for upriver subsistence users.

The Tozitna River fishery monitoring project is one example showing that the composition of chinook salmon escapement is heavily skewed toward smaller, male fish or jacks. Conservation measures need to be taken now in order to maintain the genetic integrity and productivity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks that face ocean competition with hatchery fish, commercial by-catch, and climatic changes. Maintaining strong genetic diversity provides flexibility and safeguards for both management and users who depend on this value natural resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence and commercial users will benefit by helping to rebuild the genetic variability and integrity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks for future generations of fishers across the drainage. Stabilizing the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks and preventing a decrease in their size is the right step for the fisheries and is good for subsistence in the future. Passage of this proposal will provide for a reasonable opportunity for all subsistence fishers across the drainage.

It would have the beneficial effect on sport/recreational uses by increasing the opportunity for these uses to harvest larger fish throughout the drainage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council is keenly aware passage of this proposal would place restrictions on subsistence uses but the conservation concern of the genetic impacts of deeper nets on the larger female chinook salmon needs to be addressed now in order to protect the Yukon River chinook salmon runs for subsistence needs in

the future. Without viable salmon stocks that have the genetic makeup to face the challenges of climatic changes and other impacts on salmon habitat, subsistence fishers on the Yukon River could have a rural priority for no fish or a priority for smaller fish that requires they fish harder and longer.

Subsistence fishing opportunity would be spread more equably across the drainage and necessary conservation measures would be in place to allow the salmon to rebuild their genetic and stock composition for future subsistence and commercial needs.

Passage of this proposal would restrict subsistence users to a gear depth which may require additional fishing time and effort but it is being requested because of biological concerns and to provide for future subsistence needs. This proposal was written to be consistent with sound management principles and to conserve healthy populations of fish. Management actions are needed now in order to have the least adverse impact on all subsistence users but especially for future generations of subsistence users.

It would restrict the commercial fisheries to net depth of 35 meshes. It may result in additional fishing time and effort for the current commercial fisheries. The restriction on the commercial fisheries is necessary for the conservation of healthy populations of fish and for the continuation of subsistence uses of those populations. It would also provide additional protection for the salmon stocks and allow them to return to their historic levels. Taking necessary conservation actions now will provide for the subsistence as well as commercial fisheries needs in the future. Not taking action will hurt future fisheries across the drainage as they face the challenges of climatic and human population changes.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council (HQ-06F-060)

PROPOSAL 166 - 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Amend this regulation as follows:

No gillnets in the Yukon River larger than six inches stretch mesh will be more than 35 meshes deep.

ISSUE: Overharvest of the older chinook salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The older salmon will continue to be harvested.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. More of the older, larger chinook salmon will be on the spawning grounds.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of chinook salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Eliminate drift gillnets in the Yukon River.

PROPOSAL 167 - 5 AAC 05.320. Fishing periods; 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations; and 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Amend these regulations as follows:

To address the concerns raised by fishermen on the size of Yukon River chinook salmon, consider a wide variety of solutions, including fishing times and fishing gear. A specific solution may be provided after the working group meeting.

ISSUE: YRDFA is developing a proposal to address the concerns raised by fishermen on the size of Yukon River chinook salmon. YRDFA is assembling a working group composed of representatives from lower and upper Yukon River communities; tribal groups; representatives from Eastern Interior, Western Interior, and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta regional advisory councils; state fish and game advisory committees; state and federal agency staff; Federal Subsistence Board representatives; Board of Fisheries representatives; and YRDFA board members. Canadian members may also participate. This working group will meet in the fall of 2006 and will address this issue in a manner which all fishers can agree on.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We do not think this problem will be solved by the AYK January 2007 Board of Fisheries meeting, but we would like to address the issue of fish size on the Yukon River. If not addressed, proposals to limit gear size and fishing time will continue to be submitted to the Board of Fisheries and division will occur on the Yukon River.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will ensure that chinook salmon continue to return to the Yukon River can continue to be harvested from the Yukon River for all user groups.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen and women along the Yukon River will benefit by ensuring the health of Yukon River chinook salmon stocks and a consensus on how to protect and utilize the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? This will depend on what solution the working group endorses. Fishing gear restrictions would likely hurt all gillnet fishers. Fishing time restrictions would likely impact commercial and subsistence fishers up and down the river for both gillnet and fishwheel users.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 168 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

The first commercial period in this Lower Yukon will take place between June 11 and June 15. The length of these initial periods will be adjusted accordingly depending upon run strength. The first commercial period in the Upper Yukon will take place between June 28 and July 2.

ISSUE: This is a placeholder proposal to revise the king salmon management plan to better respond to the changing commercial markets so as to assure the sustainability of the mixed subsistence-cash economy throughout the Yukon River. As processors can attest, demand from Japan for both salmon flesh and roe has declined considerably. Conversely, however, the demand and interest from the domestic market for Yukon salmon products has grown tremendously similarly to the growth Copper River salmon first experienced in the late 1980s and early 1990s. YRDFA will be assembling department staff, YRDFA board members, fishers and processors to identify needs and develop solutions. This collaboration will result in a more detailed proposal to change the management plan to be more responsive to the market while still providing for subsistence and escapement needs.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvesting tactics (for example, waiting until run strength justifies a nine to twelve house opening in the lower Yukon or a 48-hour period in the upper Yukon) will continue to focus as if Japan was still buying 99 percent of the salmon. While this strategy has generally enabled escapement goals and subsistence needs to be met, the quality of the commercial harvest has declined, the season has become severely compressed and opportunities for building market interest and demand have stagnated because the season has gotten progressively shorter over time and the market will not commit to advertising and promotions when the season only lasts 14 days or less. As well, Yukon River fishers throughout the lower and upper Yukon will harvest poor quality fish during the second half of the run and receive lower prices for their fish and will not be able to access all markets and potentially lose markets due to poor quality. An opening earlier in the run will also help spread out the harvest during the run, lessening the pressure from harvesting the same stocks each year on the second half of the run.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? First this will help spread out the harvest during the run instead of harvesting the same stocks each year on the second half of the run. Second, quality will improve and third, the fresh market will have access to fresh fish and fresh roe for a longer time period. Fourth a predictable opening date as has been done with the Copper River fishery will make markets more likely to commit advertising and promotional dollars.

Fish harvested early in the season will be of better quality, especially for an inriver fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen all along the river will benefit from a more predictable duration of the commercial season. Processors will benefit as they can sell better quality fish to market over a longer season, which will ultimately return a premium to the fishers. A more controlled harvest will take place, with a more even distribution of fish to the spawning grounds. As well, the beginning of the run is proportionally males.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Shorter periods will force both fishermen and tender operators to burn the same amount of gas for less fish. This is unfortunate but the industry must adapt to the needs of the market. However, shorter periods may also discourage fishermen from burning gas while hunting for fish in the waning hours of the period.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered specifying an exact opening date with a minimum number of hours. We rejected this option because it would not allow for adjusting the opening or length accordingly.

PROPOSED BY: Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association

(SC-06F-002)

PROPOSAL 169 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

The first commercial period in the Lower Yukon will take place between June 11 and June 15. The length of these initial periods will be adjusted accordingly, depending upon run strength. The first commercial period in the Upper Yukon will take place within a specified window as well.

ISSUE: This is a placeholder proposal to revise the King Salmon Management Plan to better respond to the changing commercial markets so as to assure the sustainability of the mixed subsistence-cash economy of the Lower Yukon River. As processors can attest, demand from Japan for both salmon flesh and roe has declined considerably. Conversely, the demand and interest from the domestic market for Yukon salmon products has grown tremendously, similarly to what the Copper River first experienced in the late 1980s and early 1990s. YDFDA will attempt to assemble department staff, YDFDA board members, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association board members, fishermen and processors to identify needs and develop solutions. This collaboration will result in a more detailed proposal to change the management plan to be more responsive to the market while still providing for subsistence and escapement needs.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvesting tactics will continue to focus as if Japan was still buying 99 percent of the salmon. While this strategy has enabled escapement goals and subsistence needs to be met, the quality of the commercial harvest has declined, the season has become severely compressed and opportunities for building market interest and demand have stagnated because the season has gotten progressively shorter over time and the market will not commit to advertising and promotions when the season only lasts 14 days or less.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, fish harvested early in the season will be of better quality, especially for an inriver fishery. First, this will help spread out the harvest during the run instead of harvesting the same stocks each year on the second half of the run. Second, quality will improve and third, the fresh market will have access to fresh fish and fresh roe for a longer time period. Fourth, a predictable opening date (as it has done with the Copper River fishery) will make markets more likely to commit advertising and promotional dollars.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen all along the river will benefit from a more predictable duration of the commercial season. Processors will benefit as they can sell better quality fish to market and over a longer season, which will ultimately return a premium to the fishermen. A more controlled harvest will take place, with a more even distribution of fish to the spawning grounds.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? If the fishing periods become shorter, shorter periods will force both fishermen and tender operators to burn the same amount of gas for less fish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Specifying an exact opening date with a minimum number of hours. Would not be able to adjust opening or length accordingly.

PROPOSED BY: Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association

(HQ-06F-114)

PROPOSAL 170 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

The CDQ bycatch of king salmon along the coast at the mouth of the Yukon River will be part of the allocation of Y1 for Yukon kings.

ISSUE: The size of the Yukon kings has become noticeably smaller over the last 30 years. Any fishermen or elder will verify that the size has greatly reduced. Historically, in other fisheries, such as the Columbia River fishery which allowed selective fishing, the size has decreased.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The genetic integrity of the species is in danger. The size of the king salmon will continue to decrease.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It allows more kings, and hopefully some of the larger ones, to get through to spawn so that their offspring can again get into the rivers, live their life cycles, then return to the rivers and spawn themselves, thus reversing the trend of fewer large kings in the Yukon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In the long run everybody. The more big fish that are hatched and make it to the ocean, the more there will be in years to come. It will help people become more conscious of the limited resource of king salmon, and it will force them to be more careful with their fishing methods.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? In the short run, the people who think only of this year and perhaps next year, but not the long run future. The people who have excessive bycatch from their trawlers.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Tanana-Rampart-Manley Advisory Committee (I-06F-016)

PROPOSAL 171 - 5 AAC 05.200. Fishing Districts and Subdistricts; and 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan; and 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan. Amend these regulations as follows:

Change the boundary between Y1 & Y2 to Mountain Village. Divide the guideline harvest ranges for Y1 & Y2 for chinook, chum, and coho salmon equally between the new districts. Subtract the previous years bycatch of chinook from the guideline harvest ranges and the bycatch of other salmon from the fall chum and coho salmon from the Y1 guideline harvest for the current year.

ISSUE: The bycatch of chinook, chum, and coho salmon by the Lower Yukon CDQ group's trawler. This bycatch is in addition to, and not included in, the group's salmon allocation. As a result, the CDQ group has double the allocation of salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Lower Yukon CDQ group will

continue to have bycatch of chinook, chum, and coho salmon bound for Western Alaska to include the Yukon River that are above their allocation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The lower Yukon CDQ group will not have a double allocation of Yukon River salmon, i.e., bycatch by their trawler and the guideline harvest ranges in river.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone that fishes for salmon on the Yukon River. More salmon will make it the spawning grounds.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The lower Yukon River CDQ group will have less total yearly catch, as they will have to count all fish harvested toward their quotas.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-06F-018)

PROPOSAL 172 - 5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts. Amend this regulation to include the following:

Move District three line downstream to include the community of Marshall. District 3 consists of that portion of the Yukon River drainage from the department regulatory marker located at the confluence of Polty Slough and the main Yukon River stem (Toklik) up stream to the department regulatory marker at the mouth of an unnamed slough three-fourths of a mile downstream from Old Paradise Village.

ISSUE: Problems include declining markets for upper Y-2 fish, lack of any fishing opportunity in Y-3, and inability to compete with Y-1 buyers who continue to source product to Japan.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Markets for upper Y-2 fish will continue to decline. Operating cost will continue to climb for fishermen who must travel by boat, downstream, to sell their salmon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this proposal would help improve the quality as the department could better manage resource harvesting, and better accommodate processor capabilities. They could target earlier run fish when fish quality is stronger in Y-3. Late run fish have less acceptance in the marketplace because Yukon salmon are river caught salmon where quality deteriorates as the run progresses.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Y-3 fishermen will benefit greatly. They have a harvestable quota of 1800-2200 King salmon that has not been fished in many years. The department would benefit because they would have another management tool to harvest fish. This proposal is an innovative approach to resource management and the department could use this tool to harvest salmon sooner. The market will benefit as well. Prolonging the commercial fishing season on the lower Yukon River will benefit all processors as the domestic market in particular will have greater time to accept products.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Displaced Y-2 fishermen who choose to stay in the new

District 2 boundary, and thereby become displaced from their previous fishing grounds.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? 1. IFQ's for communities like Marshall to allow for sustained fishing opportunities. 2. Elimination of Y-3. Division of Y-2 and Y-1 fishery and allocation to fishermen of harvestable resource.

PROPOSED BY: Maserculiq Fish Processors Inc. (HQ-06F-134)

PROPOSAL 173 - 5 AAC 05.369. Yukon River Coho Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

5 AAC 05.369. Yukon River Coho Salmon Management Plan.

- (c) The department may allow a directed coho salmon fishery under this section in years when
- (1) the return of coho salmon measured under (b) of this section is above the average of previous years;
 - (2) the fall chum salmon return is assessed by the department to be more than 625,000 fish; and
 - (3) no directed fall chum salmon commercial has occurred or the department determines that it is not expected to occur.
- (d) Fall chum salmon harvested during a directed commercial coho salmon fishery under this section will be considered incidental and may only occur on the harvestable surplus of fall chum salmon above 625,000 fish.

The threshold numbers of fish mentioned above should be reassessed in the coho management plan to determine if these numbers should be lowered.

ISSUE: Current regulations do not allow for a directed commercial coho salmon fishery when fall chum are below the threshold required to allow a directed commercial fall chum fishery regardless of the coho salmon run strength. The YRDFA board is examining the available information to determine if the coho management plan should be amended to allow a directed commercial coho fishery. The YRDFA board has already received some information from the Department of Fish and Game and will be reviewing the matter further for a final recommendation at the fall YRDFA Board Meeting.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishermen may forego a potential commercial harvest of coho salmon when a surplus may be available.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It may enable fish to be harvested earlier in the run, and therefore improve the quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? It will benefit commercial fishermen by providing opportunity to harvest an available surplus of coho salmon. It will benefit salmon buyers by providing product to maintain market interest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? This change would only provide a small additional harvest which may mean that not all commercial fishermen may have the opportunity to participate. This change would lower the number of salmon returning to the spawning grounds.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? This will be provided after the working group

meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (SC-06F-006)

PROPOSAL 174 - 5 AAC 05.XXX. Closures to non-salmon fisheries. Adopt a new regulation as follows:

No commercial fishing for fall Cisco, whitefish or sheefish.

ISSUE: Fishing for Cisco and whitefish during fall.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the king salmon are depleted, we as a consumer of Cisco and whitefish will have no other fish to harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? They will replenish themselves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishermen, generations to come.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Commercial fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Edward Abraham (SC-06F-001)

PROPOSAL 175 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

Catch and release below the South Fork of the Goodpaster River for chinook salmon.

ISSUE: No fishing for salmon on the Goodpaster River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Goodpaster River will continue to be closed to fishing for salmon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-06F-024)

PROPOSAL 176 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

In the Goodpaster River drainage, king salmon may be taken from January 1 through December 31 by catch-and-release fishing only [THE GOODPASTER RIVER DRAINAGE IS CLOSED TO SPORT FISHING FOR SALMON], any king salmon caught must be released immediately. Sport fishing for king salmon is closed above the confluence of the south fork.

ISSUE: Currently no sport fishing for king salmon is allowed in the Goodpaster River drainage. In recent years runs of king salmon have been noticeable in the Goodpaster River drainage and opportunity to catch king salmon is possible.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The opportunity to catch king salmon will not exist.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anglers desiring an opportunity to catch king salmon close to Delta Junction.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The idea of allowing harvest of king salmon was rejected in order to promote production potential of the king salmon run.

PROPOSED BY: Delta Advisory Committee (I-06F-011)

PROPOSAL 177 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

In the Salcha River and its tributaries only unbaited, artificial lures may be used, except that bait may be used only on hooks with a gap size larger than three-quarters of an inch throughout the Salcha River drainage, and Archery equipment may be used if a recurve bow has a minimum pull weight of 35 pounds, a compound bow with a minimum 35/55 pound pull weight/release force bow, a fiberglass arrow equipped with a fish barb, arrow cannot be less than 30 inches in length and not more than 32 inches in length, arrow must be equipped with rubber/plastic fletching, line reel cannot be any larger than six inches in diameter and cannot contain more than 22 yards of line. Access to fishing waters cannot be accomplished using any type of water vessel. Fishing is to be from shore or shallow water that is accessible by walking or wading only. Archery certification is required to use archery equipment to harvest salmon.

ISSUE: Allow a short archery season for king salmon downstream from the Richardson Highway bridge to the Tanana River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This is not a problem. If there is a harvestable surplus of king salmon in this drainage, sportsmen would like to harvest a king salmon using archery equipment.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS

PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it provides additional methods and means to harvest salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users who would like to use archery equipment to harvest salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? There were no other solutions considered.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-06F-027)

ALASKA PENINULA / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

PROPOSAL 178 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c) The commissioner shall open, by emergency order, a state waters cod season in the South Alaska Peninsula area **on March 15**, or seven days following the closure of the directed federal cod season in the Federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area, **which ever comes later**.

ISSUE: Establish a set starting date for the Area M state waters cod season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-039)

PROPOSAL 179 - 5 AAC 28.XXX. Establish a new regulation as follows:

The start of Area M state waters cod season opening shall be delayed for 24 hours if the 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service 48-hour forecast, for Area M, contains gale force wind warnings for the opening date. The season opening delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis until weather forecast permits.

ISSUE: The area M state cod season start with nice weather.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local boats will continue to try and set gear in dangerous weather conditions.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

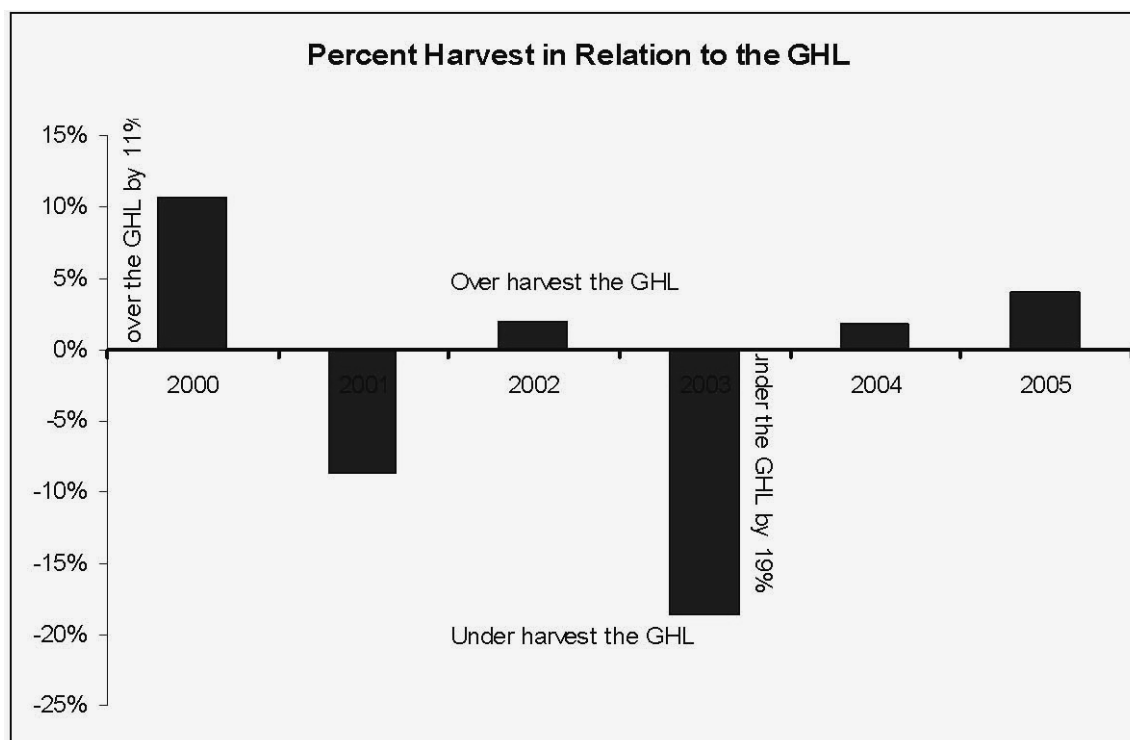
PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-041)

PROPOSAL 180 – 5 AAC 28.58X. Reporting requirements for South Alaska Peninsula state waters fishery. Adopt a new regulation as follows:

5 AAC 28.58X. Reporting requirements for South Alaska Peninsula state waters fishery. In the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod fishery, a validly registered vessel using pot gear must report each day to the department

- (1) the number of pot lifts in the previous 24-hour reporting period;
- (2) the pounds of Pacific cod retained for the previous 24-hour reporting period; and
- (3) any other information that the commissioner determines is necessary for the management and conservation of the fishery, as specified in the registration.

PROBLEM: Vessels fishing for Pacific cod using pot gear during the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters fishery have high fishing power. During some years, the fleet has averaged over one million pounds of cod per day. However, the amount of on-grounds fleet information the department has to manage this fishery is low compared to other similar Pacific cod fisheries. This results in a lack of precision in achieving the targeted guideline harvest level (GHL).



Because the Pacific cod fishery GHL is based on the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Allowable Biological Catch (ABC), the total GHL (pot and jig gear combined) cannot be exceeded. Thus, in years when the pot fleet over harvests the guideline, the difference is subtracted from the amount available to the jig fleet. When pot harvests are less than the GHL, the pot fleet may not achieve their guideline harvest level.

With the development of better communication hardware (e.g., satellite phones), the department has increasingly relied upon daily reports received directly from vessels participating in other fisheries within the region. This allows the department more timely information on daily catch rates, participation levels, weather, and total poundage onboard.

The department requested voluntary daily reports from vessel operators during the 2006 South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod season. Reporting worksheets were distributed while vessels were

purchasing buoy tags. Participation in the voluntary program was low (approximately 10 percent); however, the department could have provided more information on the importance of the reporting program.

The department has made recent investments to increase communications with fishing fleets in the Westward Region. Last year, a fixed site satellite phone with Matrix service was installed in the Kodiak office and an additional satellite phone with Stratos service is currently being installed.

As an example of the utility of inseason catch reporting from participants, harvest during the Kodiak Tanner crab season was within one percent of the GHL and pot gear harvest during the Kodiak Pacific cod season was within five percent of the GHL; both of these fisheries rely heavily on inseason catch reporting from fishing vessels.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Management precision will continue to be low, and the potential for under harvest or over harvest will continue to exist.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both pot and jig gear participants

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some fishermen may need to purchase additional communication equipment.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-138)

PROPOSAL 181 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

If 10 percent or more of the GHL is not harvested, there will be a mandatory extension or reopening.

ISSUE: State-water Pacific cod are, at times, underharvested. There is no certainty that the department will extend the season or reopen if closed before the GHL is harvested.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Loss of economic opportunity for Pot fishermen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Pot cod fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allow the department to decide whether to reopen or extend. Uncertainty.

PROPOSED BY: Ken Mack

(SW-06F-005)

PROPOSAL 182 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(e)(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula area is **50** [15] percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area.

ISSUE: We would like more cod quota moved into the Area M state waters cod fishery.

sWHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local fishermen will continue to lose fishing opportunities to large outside crabbers, longliners and trawlers in the federal fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local small boat cod fishermen in Area M.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee

(HQ-06F-040)

PROPOSAL 183 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

During a state waters season, the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area M is 50 percent of the estimated allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska area 610.

ISSUE: Large vessels with crab rationalized quotas had higher harvest rates of Pacific cod during the 2006 federal and state parallel season in area 610. The probability of Pacific cod rationalization by NPMC in the Western Gulf area 610 will take Pacific cod stocks in state waters away from state.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? More vessels will fish Pacific cod in federal and state parallel season of area 610 before moving on to fish their crab rationalization quotas of the Bering Sea.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will cause a slower rate of harvest and promote a cleaner harvest because of gear type allowed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Small local vessels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Large vessels.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee

(SW-06F-003)

PROPOSAL 184 - 5 AAC 28.556. South Alaska Peninsula Area Registration. Although vessels have participated in two simultaneous groundfish fisheries within the same area, this proposal would clarify that a vessel fishing groundfish involved in the state-waters Pacific cod fishery and other groundfish fisheries simultaneously in other management areas is not allowed. This proposal creates a new subsection as follows:

5 AAC 28.556 South Alaska Peninsula Area Registration:

(f) A vessel registered for the state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula Area may not simultaneously be registered to participate in a groundfish fishery outside of the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

ISSUE: Registration for the parallel groundfish fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula Area allows vessels to be simultaneously registered for the parallel groundfish fishery in the remainder of the Westward Region. The state-waters Pacific cod fishery registration is specific to the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

Fishermen in the South Alaska Peninsula groundfish management area have registered to participate in both the state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula Area and simultaneously in the parallel walleye pollock fishery in the same area. Recently the department has received requests to allow vessels to fish in walleye pollock fisheries outside of the South Alaska Peninsula Area while actively participating in the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Regulations allowing simultaneous participation in other groundfish fisheries may be ambiguous.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Regulations will be clear for the public.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen that wish to participate simultaneously in multiple groundfish registration areas.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-06F-144)

PROPOSAL 185 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

The commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, the parallel season during which the use of vessels larger than 58-feet is prohibited.

ISSUE: Bering Sea crab rationalization has allowed large vessels to delay the harvest of crab in January-February, until after they have cleaned up the federal/state parallel Pacific cod season quota of Western Gulf area 610. These vessels fish pots and harvest high 90s of state waters Pacific cod which they need no LLP's for.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? More large crab pot vessels will fish the federal/state parallel Pacific cod season of Western Gulf area 610 before moving on to Opilio.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will cause a slower rate of harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? 58-foot vessels and local communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Large pot vessels.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee (SW-06F-002)

PROPOSAL 186 - 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections. This proposal changes the description of the Sanak Island and Otter Cove Sections of the Unimak District of Area M.

5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections.

(c)(2) Otter Cove Section: waters of Unimak District east of the longitude of Rock Island (163° 38.00' W. long.) , **excluding the waters of the Sanak Island Section**; [AND NORTH OF 54° 30.00' N. LAT.]

(3) Sanak Island Section: waters of the Unimak District east of the longitude of **Cape Pankof Light (163° 03.70' W. long.)** [ROCK ISLAND (163° 38.00' W. LONG.)] and south of **54° 33.17' N. lat. (latitude of Hague Rock)** [54° 30.00' N. LAT.].

ISSUE: An area around Sanak Island is closed to commercial fishing during the South Alaska Peninsula June Fishery because, in some years, large numbers of chum salmon have been harvested in this area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The description of the closed area around Sanak Island will continue to be difficult to describe in emergency orders and may lead to confusion. This will codify existing management practices.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone will benefit by placing existing management practices into regulation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo, but modifying the boundaries in regulation will be clearer and more readily identifiable for commercial fishermen working in this area.

PROPOSAL 187 - 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters. This proposal closes the Sanak Island Section of Area M to commercial salmon fishing from June 1 through June 30. This will codify existing management practices.

5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.

(38) Sanak Island Section from June 1 through June 30.

ISSUE: Annually, this area is closed, by emergency order, to commercial fishing during the South Alaska Peninsula June Fishery because, in some prior years, large numbers of chum salmon have been harvested in this area. A companion proposal to modify 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections would redefine the Sanak Island Section boundaries.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department would continue to issue an emergency order each season to close the waters around Sanak Island to commercial salmon fishing in June.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone will benefit by placing existing management practices into regulation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo, but placing this closure in regulation will simplify management by making it unnecessary to draft an emergency order every season to close the waters around Sanak Island.

PROPOSAL 188 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Re-instate the pre-2001 Area M South Peninsula June sockeye management plan, which was in effect from 1975-2003 in order to protect Chignik bound sockeye from new and unallocated interception in the Shumagin Islands.

ISSUE: At the last Area M Board of Fisheries meeting in February of 2004, the board eliminated the Area M South Peninsula June fishery management plan that gave Area M fishermen an 8.3 percent allocation of Bristol Bay sockeye – 6.8 percent to South Unimak, and 1.5 percent to the Shumagin Islands. Unfortunately, the board did not consider the downstream effects that this would have on areas other than Bristol Bay. Prior to 2004, the majority of the sockeye harvested in the South Peninsula June fishery came from South Unimak. When the board eliminated the Bristol Bay allocation plan, the June harvest effort in Area M shifted away from South Unimak and toward the Shumagin Islands, and now the majority of the sockeye

harvested in the South Peninsula during the June Fishery comes from the Shumagin Islands. A 1987 tagging study showed that roughly 18 percent of the sockeye harvested in the Shumagin Islands in June are Chignik bound. This means there has been a drastic increase in the interception of Chignik bound sockeye in the Area M South Peninsula June sockeye fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Area M fishers will continue this new and alarming trend of intercepting large and unprecedented numbers of Chignik bound sockeye in the Shumagin Islands during the June fishery. A new and unallocated interception fishery only puts more stress on the small Chignik sockeye run, which has been suffering from very poor returns for several years, which in turn puts even more stress on the fishermen and residents of the economically depressed Chignik region.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Several Chignik fishermen will be working together on high quality programs including the delivery of live fish, etc. We receive almost \$1.00 per pound on average, while other adjacent areas receive only around \$0.60 per pound. If we were allowed to catch more of our own fish in our own area, than we would bring higher revenues to the Chignik region and the State as a whole.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Chignik fishermen, their families, and the entire Chignik region.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Area M fishermen would go back to the management plan they operated under for almost 30 years. A management plan that was very lucrative for them.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Seiners Association (HQ-06F-117)

PROPOSAL 189 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan; and 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.
Amend these regulations as follows:

Consider returning to the regulations that were in place prior to the 2001 Board of Fisheries meeting.

ISSUE: Area M.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Area M will not share the burden of conservation for Bristol Bay stocks and AYK stocks.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The resources in Bristol Bay and AYK.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Area M users.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Going back to the regulations that were in place prior to the 2004 Board of Fisheries meeting. These were considered too restrictive.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee (SW-06F-017)

PROPOSAL 190 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Change South Peninsula June Management Plan back to what it was for the 2001-2003 fishery.

ISSUE: Poor runs of chum salmon to the AYK, North Peninsula, and Bristol Bay areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? High harvests of migrating chum in the South Peninsula June fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of the chum salmon north of South Peninsula, all the predators that utilize chum salmon, i.e. bears, wolf, eagles, etc. The moose calf that will not be eaten because there are enough chum for the predators.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? N/A.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Close the fishery as all the stocks are migrating to fully allocated fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Virgil Umphenour (I-06F-023)

PROPOSAL 191 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Sumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. Amend these regulations as follows:

The combined sockeye salmon catch in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery and the Northern District salmon fishery before July 15 is not to exceed 8.3 percent of the total predicted Bristol Bay harvest.

ISSUE: Reinstate an 8.3 percent allocation of Bristol Bay sockeye guideline in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan and the Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Kvichak River will not achieve its minimum escapement goal in the future because of the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fisheries Management Plan and the Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan do not restrain the interception and possible overharvesting of Bristol Bay runs.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the quality of the Bristol Bay harvest will be better if caught in the full terminal districts. This would allow a longer harvest time frame, earlier

fishing with less chaos.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Bristol Bay fishermen, by letting them fish in the larger regular terminal districts when the Kvichak can meet its minimum escapement goal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Johnson

(HQ-06F-110)

PROPOSAL 192 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. Create a regulation to include the following:

Enact further restrictions in Area M by eliminating the early June commercial salmon fishery. Commercial salmon fishing should not occur until June 15 of each year, and should only continue under a windows management scenario of 12 hours on and 12 hours off. Salmon should be allowed to pass unmolested through Area M for alternating periods to allow salmon migration to occur without being harvested. The new regulation should also indicate the relative importance of stream origin, and establish escapement goals based upon the relative prosecution of Alaska Peninsula commercial fisheries.

ISSUE: Commercial fishing in Area M. Shockingly low salmon returns in the Norton Sound region, including numerous designations of “stocks of concern” by the department, combined with liberalized fishing opportunity in Area M have raised questions of appropriate allocation. It is expected that when the board meets in early 2007, salmon genetic information will be available to definitively prove that western Alaskan salmon are in transit, present and caught in the commercial Alaska Peninsula salmon fisheries.

The Norton Sound region is primarily inhabited by subsistence users who now experience severe subsistence salmon fishing restrictions never before realized until this modern day when several related events occurred in the restructuring of commercial fishing. In general, subsistence fishermen harvest approximately one million salmon statewide, commercial salmon catches have been as high as 217 million (but can vary by as much as 60 million from year to year), and recreational fishermen catch approximately two million salmon per year. With that distribution in harvest, there has been an inequity in the nature of regulations which govern salmon, an inequity that the board has not yet reconciled. Commercial salmon catcher vessels are very efficient at prosecuting salmon migrating in Area M and should be regulated according to applicable Alaskan law.

Allocation is a key regulatory mechanism the board employs to provide for Alaskans, and although the sustainable salmon fishery policy prescribes a comprehensive approach to salmon fisheries of the State of Alaska, to-date it is not apparent that regulations have been adopted to conserve western Alaskan salmon populations.

On March 7, 2005 the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced that it would seasonally close the trawl, pot and hook-and-line fisheries off Cape Sarichef (50 CFR Part 679, RIN 0648-AQ46). On December 20, 2004 the NMFS also issued additional protection measures for Stellar Sea Lions, which included vast areas west of and including False Pass and resulted in revised closures for Pacific cod and Pollock (50 CFR part 679, RIN 0648 AS41). It

is estimated that salmon bycatch either associated with or unrelated to those closures have decreased because of improvements in technology and management. The coincidence of slight and sudden improvements in Norton Sound chum salmon and sockeye salmon returns occurring in time with the NMFS closures cannot be ignored, as they are likely related. However, even if the NMFS closures are related to the slight improvements in salmon returns to Norton Sound, this is of minor significance because the improvements have been so small.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the problem is not solved the department and the board may underestimate the connection between the commercial fisheries in the Aleutians and Western Alaska and continue to manage mixed stock fisheries with incorrect information regarding migration time, river of origin, and level of prosecution.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal would improve the quality of the resource harvested by allowing for its comprehensive management. The department has ignored the importance of conservation in the Aleutian Islands commercial fishery. Genetic information will definitively show to the board that commercial exploitation has been a significant casual factor in the decline of Western Alaskan salmon. Oceanic survival is not well known and can, at best, be described with the barest of information to prove its relation to Western Alaskan salmon productivity. Without question, environmental factors have changed, but very little information exists to show how salmon have responded to generally warmer winter seasons, and longer summer seasons.

Inriver habitats have generally improved with warmer winter seasons and longer summer seasons. Alaska Statute 16.05.870 requires the department to identify the stream of origin or stream of importance for anadromous fish. The stream origin identification must be known and is best accomplished through genetic study but can be done via other means as well. Methods for the proper identification of stream origin of salmon migrating through Area M and a timeline for implementation must be decided at this board meeting. Current stream catalogs are out of date and do not adequately address the information needs to carryout that section of law and also do not allow the board to comprehensively manage Western Alaskan salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All residents of Western Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Area M commercial fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Austin Ahmasuk (A-06F-004)

PROPOSAL 193 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(b) The South Unimak fishery takes place in the Unimak District, the Southwestern District, [THE EAST PAVLOV BAY AND THE WEST PAVLOV SECTIONS OF] the South Central District, and the Bechevin Bay section of the Northwestern district.

ISSUE: A portion of the South Central District is closed in June. Opening these areas will give Sand Point and King Cove fishermen more fishing opportunities.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued lost fishing areas and fishing opportunities in Area M.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen, processors and communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-038)

PROPOSAL 194 - 5 AAC 09.331(a)(3). Gillnet specifications and operations. Amend this regulation as follows:

Remove the regulation to allow the driftnet fleet additional catching power to restore lost harvest share. This would restore regulation that was in place before 5 AAC 09.331(a)(3) was adopted.

ISSUE: Loss of harvest share by drift gillnet in the South Unimak June Fishery. Poor fishery performance over the past several years.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued poor performance of the driftnet fleet in the South Unimak June Fishery. Poor economic returns to fishers, processors, and local economies.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Driftnet fleet, local processors, local governments through increased tax revenue.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some reallocation between gear types possible. Most setnetters and purse seiners have left the South Unimak Fishery due to poor harvests.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Proposing some additional length of net considered. However, we think that fishing deeper in the water column will be a more politically acceptable way to address the issue.

PROPOSED BY: Concerned Area M Fishermen (HQ-06F-086)

PROPOSAL 195 - 5 AAC 09.330. Gear. Amend this regulation as follows:

Add drift gillnets to subsections (d), (e), and (f) of 5 AAC 09.330. This lets drifters fish in areas where other gear types fish.

ISSUE: Very poor sockeye catches in the South Unimak fishery and especially low catches by

the drift gillnet fleet. Everyone else can move around to where fish are except the drift fleet which is stuck in South Unimak.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? South Peninsula sockeye fishery is becoming not worth doing for the drifters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Drift fishermen in the June Fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Seiners and setnetters in areas where drift boats cannot fish presently. They would have more competition.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? More fishing time or fish earlier in June.

PROPOSED BY: Joe Hinton (HQ-06F-087)

PROPOSAL 196 - 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. Amen this regulation as follows:

(f) (2) That part of the south central district between Black Point (55°24.48 N. lat.) and Seal Cape (55°21.56 N. lat., 161° 20.00 long.); fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks.

ISSUE: Pink and chum runs in the South Peninsula continue to come in earlier. Lack of open areas in the first half of July continue to cause under utilization of local chum and pink stocks.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Pink and chum stocks will continue to be under utilized.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, earlier openings help to target brighter pink and chum salmon stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen, processors and communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-034)

PROPOSAL 197 - 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. Amend this regulation as follows:

Delete section (d) and replace with: notwithstanding (e)(1) of this section, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order; five 39-hour fishing periods (7:00 a.m. to 10:00p.m.) interspersed by 33-hour closure from July 6 through July 20. From July 21 through July 31,

fishing periods shall be based on the abundance of local sockeye, coho, pink and chum salmon stocks.

ISSUE: Local pink and chum runs are returning earlier. We would like the commercial fishing openings schedule for the Post-June Management Plan to be canceled.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local pink and chum runs continue to come in earlier. Area M fishermen and communities will continue to lose fishing time and money. Quality of local salmon stocks will continue to be low if we have to wait to catch them later in the terminal areas.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The quality of the fish is best before or when the fish first reach fresh water.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen, processors and communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-035)

PROPOSAL 198 - 5 AAC09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. Amend this regulation as follows:

Post June fishing would start on July 6 at 12:00 noon for 72 hours, close for 24 hours then reopen for another 72 hour period. This pattern would continue until the end of July.

ISSUE: In July we do not have enough time to fish in the Shumagin Islands. Also, the timing (midnight) is not good for setnet operations (setting nets and anchors).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? People can get hurt (safety) and if the net goes out wrong or gets hung up you are not fishing like you should but you cannot see the problem until hours later when there is daylight.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by staying on the gear and working less white gilled (old) fish will be picked before we have to pull the net out of the water.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The fishermen of Area M.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, interception at this time of year is very low and escapements have been met.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Start on July 2 because the last few years (warming) run timing is early. Rejected—board might think I ask for too much.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Eastlick (HQ-06F-065)

PROPOSAL 199 - 5 AAC 09.3XX. Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Create a new regulation as follows:

The board should assign a management responsibility to the post-June South Peninsula salmon fishery so that the interception of non-local sockeye are not only recognized and preserved, but regulated to provide a conservation responsibility.

Proposed Draft Management Plan:

5AAC 09.XXX Sockeye Salmon Management Plan for the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern Districts Post-July 5 fishery and the Southeastern District Mainland Post-July 25 fishery.

The purpose of the plan is to address the traditional sockeye salmon harvest/fishery that occurs post-July 5 in the Southeastern, South Central, and Southwestern Districts and post-July 25 in the Southeastern District Mainland. The board recognizes that the sockeye harvested in those waters and times are predominately non-local fish, destined to terminal areas which include Kodiak, Upper Cook Inlet, and Chignik and of these, Chignik is geographically the closest and likely, the major contributor. The board believes that a conservation and allocation linkage to Chignik sockeye salmon best serves the fishery. Further, the board recognizes that local salmon stocks are present in these waters and at these times with escapement and harvest objectives.

- (a) In the Southeastern, South Central, and Southwestern districts, the department shall manage the post July 5 fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested will approach as near as possible xx percent of the total post-July 5 sockeye catch in the Chignik Management Area.
 - a. Excluded from this are sockeye salmon taken in specified terminal sockeye harvest areas as provided for in 5 AAC 09.366.
 - b. From July 25 through August 10 (for the local pink/chum fishery), the number of sockeye salmon harvested during this period will be included in the cumulative post July 5 sockeye harvest numbers but those numbers will not be used for management decisions until the end of this period.
 - c. This plan is suspended, in any year, if commercial salmon fishing in the Chignik Management Area stops for reasons other than escapement.
- (b) In the Southeastern District Mainland, the department shall manage the post-July 25 fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested will approach as near as possible xx percent of the total post-July 25 sockeye catch in the Chignik Management Area.
 - a. Excluded from this are sockeye salmon taken in the specified terminal sockeye harvest area of Orzinski Bay (5 AAC 09.360).
 - b. From July 26 through August 10 (for the local pink/chum fishery), the number of sockeye salmon harvested during this period will be included in the cumulative post-July 25 sockeye harvest numbers but those numbers will not be used for management decisions until the end of this period.
 - c. This plan is suspended, in any year, if commercial salmon fishing in the Chignik Management Area stops for reasons other than escapement.

We propose the following method for determining allocations:

A) Post-July 5 Southeastern (excludes SEDM), South Central, and Southwestern Districts Allocation:

1. South Peninsula Data Base 1987-2006 (20 years): annual sockeye salmon catch numbers for Area M, South Alaska Peninsula for the post July 5 period excluding numbers of sockeye salmon harvested in designated terminal sockeye harvest areas and the entire SEDM and Unimak District. Compute the 16-year average after deleting the two highest and two lowest catch years.

2. Data Base 1987-2006 (20 years): Annual sockeye salmon catch numbers for the Chignik Management Area for the post July 5th period. Compute the 16-year average after deleting the two highest and two lowest catch years.

3. Compute the combined post July 5 Southeastern (excludes SEDM), South Central, and Southwestern Districts allocation as a percentage of the post July 5 Chignik harvest: Divide the 16 year average obtained from step one above by the 16 year average obtained from step #2 above.

B) Post-July 25 Southeastern District Mainland Allocation.

1. SEDM Data Base 1987-2006 (20 years): Annual sockeye salmon catch numbers for Area M, Southeastern District Mainland for the post-July 25 period excluding the sockeye catch in terminal harvest area of Orzinski Bay. Compute the 16-year average by dropping the two highest and the two lowest catch numbers.

2. Chignik Data Base 1987-2006 (20 years): Annual sockeye salmon catch numbers for the Chignik management area for the post July 25 period. Compute the 16-year average by dropping the two highest and the two lowest catch numbers.

3. Compute SEDM post-July 25th allocation: Divide the average obtained from step one above by the average obtained from step two above.

ISSUE: No management plan exists that addresses the non-local sockeye component of the Post June Sockeye Management Plan for the South Peninsula (except for the Unimak District and the SEDM before July 26). These Area M fisheries have been expanding and targeting non-local sockeye salmon resulting in a substantially increased negative impact on Chignik sockeye commercial and subsistence fisheries. Chignik's second run has been abnormally weak in recent years to the point that escapements have been compromised and non-traditional fishery closures have been implemented for conservation. The Post-June Area M sockeye fishery has neither a conservation management responsibility nor any stock accountably and therefore should be regulated to prevent further expansion and assigned a conservation/ management responsibility to the closest significant non-local stock, that being Chignik sockeye salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The problems above will continue. The second run (Chignik Lake) may become a stock of concern and if it does, then lack of management responsibility in these identified fisheries will place a serious and critical burden on Chignik's late run.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Chignik subsistence and terminal fishers and other terminal stock fishers including those operating in Upper Cook Inlet and Kodiak.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Area M fishermen will have some constraints but the allocation plan is fair because it acknowledges interception fisheries and bases the allocation plan on a 20 year history.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Seiners Association (HQ-06F-115)

PROPOSAL 200 - 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. Amend this regulation as follows:

Remove 5 AAC 09.366(i). There would be no new regulation.

ISSUE: We would like section (i), the immature salmon seine test fishery, removed from the post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? In certain years the seine fleet will continue to lose fishing time.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Seiners, processors and communities of the South Peninsula.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? If test fishery is left in place, then the test fishery should be managed on 100 immature of any one species. Rejected all salmon fisheries in the state should have test fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-037)

PROPOSAL 201 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Beginning July 1, the fishing schedule in the Northwest Stepovak Section, [EXCLUDING ORZINSKI BAY NORTH OF A LINE FROM ELEPHANT POINT AT 55° 41.92' N. LAT., 160° 03.20' W. LONG. TO WATERFALL POINT AT 55° 43.18' N. LAT., 160° 01.13' W. LONG.] may not be more than four 24-hour periods with no more than 48-hours continuous fishing during a seven-day period. **When escapement goals are exceeded at Orzinski Lake then the four 24-hour periods are lifted and replaced by continuous fishing. When escapement goals return to being met, but not exceeded, then the four 24-hour fishing periods in a 7-day period reapply.**

ISSUE: The overescapement of sockeye salmon to Orzinski Lake in the Northwest Stepovak section of the Southeastern Mainland district of Area M is a major concern for the local fishermen. Over the last four years, 2002 through 2005, escapement into Orzinski Lake has averaged 53,949 adult sockeye. The department escapement goal for Orzinski Lake is 20,000 adult sockeye. Under the present management plan, Area M fishermen are restricted to no more

than four days fishing in a seven-day period outside of Orzinski Bay in the Northwest Stepovak section. This has allowed overescapement to occur at an alarming rate. The management plan should be able to provide flexibility to insure that overescapement is controlled.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The belief is that overescapement over a number of years to a salmon system will damage and eventually cripple that salmon system.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Area M fishermen who fish in the Northwest Stepovak section for the local sockeye to Orzinski Lake.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. From July 1 forward, the Northwest Stepovak section is managed on a local stock basis and concerns about overescapement should outweigh any differences of opinion.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leave the present plan as is and hope that the recent four-year overescapement does not continue. I rejected that as not a solution. Under this proposal, no additional fishing time will occur unless overescapement is warranted.

PROPOSED BY: Mark Wagner (HQ-06F-012)

PROPOSAL 202 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Add to section (e); at times when over escapement is occurring in Orzinski Lake, the department shall open the outside waters of the Northwest Stepovak section concurrent with Orzinski Bay openings.

ISSUE: The chronic over escapement of sockeye salmon into Orzinski Lake.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued lost fish into Orzinski Lake. And potential harm to the Orzinski Lake sockeye run.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen, processors and communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-036)

PROPOSAL 203 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(f) The estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River has been determined to be **40** [80] percent of the sockeye salmon harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak sections.

ISSUE: The estimate of Chignik bound salmon caught is too high, in the Southeast District Mainland. The estimate should be changed to 40 percent.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Area M fishermen will continue to lose fishing opportunities in the Southeast District Mainland.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen, processors and communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-033)

PROPOSAL 204 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Instead of a six percent allocation based on the combined pre-July 26 harvest in the Chignik Area and 80 percent of the harvest in designated areas of the SEDM and 90 percent of the Igvak Section harvest, the East Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections and the Northwest Stepovak Section (pre-July 1) will be managed so that the assigned Chignik harvest will approach as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon catch in the Chignik Management Area. The change from a 6 percent to a 7.6 percent allocation is solely a mathematical adjustment. It provides no net loss or gain to the SEDM harvest of assigned Chignik sockeye salmon from using the Chignik Area sockeye salmon catch only rather than the total sum of the Chignik Area and assigned interception area catches.

ISSUE: The Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) Salmon Management Plan provides for a six percent allocation on the total Chignik sockeye catch. The 6 percent is calculated on the combined pre-July 26 sockeye harvest from the Chignik Management Area, the Kodiak Igvak Section and designated areas within the SEDM as assigned by stock.

Management errors in the Igvak and SEDM fisheries have inadvertently resulted in higher allocations of Chignik bound sockeye salmon than intended. The problem is that when an allocation overage occurs in one or more of the two intercept areas, the amount of the overage is used in calculating the inseason allocation, which effectively increases the allocation to both interception areas. In the past under conservative management, there was not a problem but in 2004 and 2005 management decisions resulted in excessive allocation overages triggering even more overages simply because of the mathematical formula applied in the allocation.

Neither Igvak nor the SEDM fishery should be rewarded by harvesting Chignik bound sockeye salmon beyond the intended allocation of 15 percent and 6 percent, respectively, as occurs now

due to the cyclic nature of a mathematical formula, easily correctable.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The pre-July 26 SEDM and the Igvak fishery will continue to be rewarded when management error occurs which results in a harvest beyond the assigned allocation in one or the other fisheries or both. Such overages disadvantage fishers in the Chignik Management Area as occurred as recently as in 2004 and 2005.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Chignik fishers because currently they are penalized when allocation overages occur in the pre-July 26 Igvak and SEDM fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who believe that interception fishers should be further rewarded by management errors when an allocation overage occurs.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Seiners Association (HQ-06F-116)

PROPOSAL 205 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

From July 1 through August 1, Orzinski Bay only shall be managed as 100 percent local sockeye stocks.

From July 1 through October 31, the remainder of the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) shall be managed considering 80 percent of the sockeye harvest to be Chignik bound.

Prior to July 1, 80 percent of the entire SEDM sockeye harvest shall be considered Chignik bound.

ISSUE: There continues to be excessive interception of Chignik bound second run fish in the Stepovak Bay portion of Area M after the June fishery. With chum and pink prices at all-time lows, sockeye salmon are the most desired species and therefore the most targeted by setnetters and seiners in Area M.

The second run in Chignik has been extremely depressed, and in 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2005, Chignik has experienced very low catches in late July through the end of the season and even shortfalls of escapement. We feel that more restrictions are necessary in the SEDM fishery to be fair to Chignik and share in the burden of conservation.

This proposal is aimed at reducing the harvest area targeting local Orzinski bound sockeye and recognizing that the vast majority of sockeye harvested in the SEDM are Chignik bound.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Chignik will continue to have little or no harvests of their own late sockeye run and escapements will begin or continue to be compromised. Further economic losses to the already economically depressed Chignik region.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS

PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Higher quality sockeye are harvested in the CMA—by allowing more Chignik bound sockeye to reach the Chignik area, more high quality fish will be processed and delivered to the marketplace.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Chignik fishermen and the entire Chignik region will benefit by more sockeye being allowed to reach their own area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Area M fishermen may lose some harvest opportunity but prior to 1998, Orzinski Bay was the only section considered to be 100 percent local, so this would actually be a reversal to previous board policy.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo—allows continued erosion of the Chignik late run and allows SEDM fishermen to continue aggressively intercepting Chignik bound late run sockeye with no conservation burden whatsoever while Chignik fishermen sit on the beach waiting for escapement.

PROPOSED BY: Roger Rowland (SW-06F-037)

PROPOSAL 206 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

We would like to propose weekly fishing periods, essentially allowing windows fish to get through while still allowing local pink and chum to be harvested. We would like to see weekly fishing periods tied to our escapement and ability to harvest. We propose the following:

After July 25, the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) can have a maximum of four 24-hour openings per week in non-terminal harvest areas with a minimum of 24 hours closure between openings.

If CMA daily escapement goals fall behind schedule for one week, or if Chignik fishermen are not allowed to fish that week because of escapement concerns, then the next week’s opening in the SEDM shall be reduced to two 24-hour openings in non-terminal harvest areas with a minimum of 96 hours closure between openings.

If CMA escapement continues behind schedule, or if Chignik fishermen still are unable to fish, then the next week’s openings in the SEDM shall be reduced to one 24-hour opening in non-terminal harvest areas.

After August 20, the SEDM shall have a maximum of two 24-hour openings with a minimum of 96 hours closure between openings per week.

After September 1, the SEDM shall have one 24-hour opening per week.

ISSUE: Currently the management of the SEDM after July 25 considers only the existence of “local” pink and chum stocks. Since the prices are at all-time lows for these species, fishermen concentrate and target the higher valued sockeye salmon.

The Chignik area late run is the only sockeye run of any reasonable size in the region that occurs after July 25. Chignik is only 80 miles away from the SEDM while the North Peninsula rivers and Kodiak Island runs are over 300 miles away. Chignik Lake sockeye average around

6.5 pounds while the SEDM harvest averages around 6.5 pounds (North Peninsula average is around 5.7 pounds). The entire July 1 through July 25 period is considered to be at least 80 percent Chignik bound sockeye in the SEDM. Logically the post-July 25 sockeye component should be at least that if not more, since the Orzinski run is over around August 1 and the Bristol Bay run is long gone.

We ask the board to recognize that sockeye is the driving species in the SEDM fishery and have the department and board focus their management concerns on sockeye. We request that the board address the fact that Chignik has had little or no harvest of it's own returns after mid-July in four out of the past six seasons, while Area M fishermen have been allowed to fish up to seven days a week targeting non-local sockeye, the majority of which we believe are Chignik bound.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Chignik will continue to have little or no harvests of their own late sockeye run, and escapements will begin or continue to be compromised. Further economic losses to the already economically depressed Chignik region.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Higher quality sockeye are harvested in the DMA—by allowing more Chignik bound sockeye to reach the Chignik area, more high quality fish will be processed and delivered to the marketplace.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Chignik fishermen and the entire Chignik region will benefit by ore sockeye being allowed to reach their own area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? SEDM seiners and setnetters shall lose some opportunity to harvest Chignik bound sockeye but they will still be able to harvest their local pinks, chums and silvers available for harvest.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo—allows continued erosion of the Chignik late run and allows SEDM fishermen to continue aggressively intercepting Chignik bound late run sockeye with no conservation burden whatsoever while Chignik fishermen sit on the beach waiting for escapement.

PROPOSED BY: Roger Rowland (SW-06F-036)

PROPOSAL 207 - 5 AAC 09.369(j)(1). Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. This proposal seeks to open the commercial salmon fishing season within the Ilnik Section southwest of Unangashak Bluffs if Ilnik River sockeye salmon abundance warrants, and northeast of Unangashak Bluffs if Meshik and Ilnik rivers sockeye salmon stocks warrant, as early as June 20.

5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

- (j) In the Ilnik Section,
 - (1) notwithstanding 5 AAC 09.320(a)(3), from June **20** [25] through July 20,
 - (A) commercial salmon fishing would be permitted in the Ilnik Section
 - (i) southwest of Unangashak Bluffs based on the abundance of Ilnik River sockeye salmon; and
 - (ii) northeast of Unangashak Bluffs based on the abundance of Meshik River and Ilnik River sockeye salmon;

ISSUE: The existing regulation governing the commercial salmon fishing season in the Ilnik Section does not allow the department to open the Ilnik Section, except inside Ilnik Lagoon, prior to June 25. Providing harvest opportunity earlier than June 25 will allow the department to further control the sockeye salmon escapement into the Ilnik and Meshik rivers. In some years, the season ending escapement goal is met at Ilnik and Meshik rivers prior to June 25, the earliest date that portions of the Ilnik Section can open to commercial salmon fishing. The existing conservation provision for Ugashik River stocks found under 5 AAC 09.369(j)(1)(B), within the Ilnik Section would still apply.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The sockeye salmon escapement levels at Ilnik and Meshik rivers will continue to be above escapement levels during healthy runs and lost harvest opportunity on the resource will continue. Harvest will continue to impact Ilnik and Meshik river late running stocks and early run stocks will not be exploited.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen may harvest additional Ilnik and Meshik river sockeye salmon that are currently not being harvested between June 20-24. It will improve the department's ability to control the escapement at Ilnik and Meshik rivers to within the SEG's.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Reopening the Outer Port Heiden Section or a portion of it, which has been closed since 1990 to commercial salmon fishing, to more effectively harvest Meshik and Cinder River bound salmon. This likely would not adequately control the Ilnik river sockeye salmon escapement and there could be more non-local sockeye salmon stocks present in this area since it is closer to Bristol Bay.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-149)

PROPOSAL 208 - 5 AAC 09.320(a)(3). Fishing Periods. This proposal would modify the fishing period inside Ilnik Lagoon and all waters inside the Seal Islands beginning June 20 from 6:00 a.m. Monday to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday.

5 AAC 09.320 Fishing Periods.

(a)(3) in the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Ilnik Sections salmon may be taken only from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, except that before June **20** [25] in that portion of the Ilnik Section within Ilnik Lagoon and all waters inside the Seal Islands, salmon may be taken only from noon Monday until 11:59 p.m. Wednesday.

ISSUE: This is a companion proposal to the department proposal seeking to open the Ilnik Section to commercial salmon fishing on June 20 and if that proposal is adopted, this proposal would clarify existing regulations so that the fishing times are similar between Ilnik Lagoon and the remaining portion of the Ilnik Section beginning June 20. Ilnik Lagoon and waters inside the Seal Islands have been commercially fished by set gillnet gear in past years, although no fishing has occurred since 1998. This proposal allows for similar starting and closing fishing

times for Ilnik Lagoon and the remaining portion of the Ilnik Section beginning June 20.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There might be differential opening and closing times within portions of the Ilnik Section beginning June 20.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone will benefit because this will clarify regulations and avoid confusion so that the entire Ilnik Section has similar fishing times beginning June 20 if the companion proposal is adopted.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo. Will add confusion to the regulations by having different fishing periods within portions of the Ilnik Section beginning June 20.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-150)

PROPOSAL 209 - 5 AAC 09.369(j)(3) Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. Adoption of this proposal modifies the regulation to protect the Bear River sockeye salmon run after August 15.

5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

(j)(3) after August 15, fishing periods may be modified in the Ilnik Section based on the abundance of coho salmon stocks in the Unangashak and Ilnik Rivers, and the Ocean River when the Ocean River flows directly into the Bering Sea, **unless concern exists for the late Bear River sockeye salmon run.**

ISSUE: The existing regulation, 5 AAC 09.369(j)(3), governing commercial salmon fishing in the Ilnik Section states that after August 15, fishing periods may be modified based on the abundance of coho salmon stocks in the Unangashak and Ilnik Rivers. In 2004, the lowest late (post July 31) Bear River sockeye salmon run on record occurred. The Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections were closed to commercial salmon fishing for 25 days from August 1-25 to provide needed sockeye salmon escapement into Bear River. In recent years of poor coho salmon market conditions, commercial fishermen have not directly targeted coho salmon in the Ilnik Section, and all coho salmon harvested are incidental to sockeye salmon. Allowing a coho salmon fishery in the Ilnik Section after August 15, 2004 would have provided harvest on sockeye salmon bound for Bear River when the fish were needed to meet escapement objectives.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Commercial fishermen will continue to question whether fishing periods in the Ilnik Section after August 15 are based on coho or sockeye salmon abundance.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen, since this may help the late Bear River

sockeye salmon run meet escapement objectives.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one as this management practice already occurs.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Another solution that was considered was to institute a larger gillnet mesh size restriction in the Ilnik Section after August 15 to allow for a coho salmon harvest, but this would be difficult to enforce and sockeye salmon would still likely be harvested.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-151)

PROPOSAL 210 - 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections. Amend this regulation as follows:

Bring boundary into one mile from May 1 – June 30 for sockeye season.

ISSUE: Ability to go out three miles in Port Heiden, Three Hills and Ilnik fishing sections for sockeye season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued interception of fish.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Terminal fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one as fishermen can adequately harvest terminal fisheries.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Past solutions, under current board, have reverted 30 years.

PROPOSED BY: Roland Briggs (HQ-06F-083)

PROPOSAL 211 - 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons. Amend this regulation as follows:

Revert to previous regulations used in 2001-2004 Seasons.

For Ilnik Section: Season open from June 25 through September 30 in all waters of Southwest of Unangashak Bluff (159° 10.80° W. long) and east of Three Hills (159° 50.00° W. long).

ISSUE: Interception of Bristol Bay salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued interception of Bristol Bay salmon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The terminal fisheries of Bristol Bay.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one as this will strengthen the terminal fisheries and fishermen can return to terminal fisheries.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Close other Ilnik.

PROPOSED BY: Roland Briggs (HQ-06F-084)

PROPOSAL 212 - 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing Seasons. Amend this regulation as follows:

Revert to previous limits. Outer Port Heiden closed / no open season.

ISSUE: Outer Port Heiden section. Intercepting Bristol Bay bound fish.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued interception of Bristol Bay bound fish.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Better management of the Bristol Bay resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one as all fishermen can return to previous terminal fisheries harvesting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Roland Briggs (HQ-06F-085)

PROPOSAL 213 - 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

That portion of the Ilnik section northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Stroganoff Point is managed on a basis of the Kvichak River conservation concerns. Before July 5 in the Ilnik section northeast of Unangashak Bluffs, a weekly total harvest cap of 100,000 sockeye salmon will be allowed. Fishing will be limited to a maximum of 24 hours continuous fishing and must be followed by at least 24-hour closure.

ISSUE: For the North Peninsula Management Plan reinstate the 100,000 sockeye salmon cap, and reinstate the maximum 24 hours continuous fishing followed by at least a 24-hour closure guideline.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Kvichak River and/or the Ugashik River will not achieve it's minimum escapement goal in the future because the North Peninsula Management Plan does not restrain the interception and possible overharvesting of Bristol Bay runs.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The Kvichak River will achieve it's minimum escapement goal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Johnson (HQ-06F-111)

PROPOSAL 214 - 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods. The proposed change will establish a fishing season in the Northwestern District, and open periods in the Uria Bay Section by emergency order.

5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods. ..

(b) In the Northwestern District, salmon may be taken during the [AN] open season from September 1 through September 30 [AFTER AUGUST 31] only during fishing periods established by emergency order. In the Northwestern District, before September 1, salmon may be taken [IN THE NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT ONLY] during the open season, unless modified by emergency order, except as follows:

(b)(3) Uria Bay Section, only during fishing periods established by emergency order [FROM 6:00 A.M. MONDAY UNTIL 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY];

ISSUE: The regulations governing commercial salmon fishing seasons and periods in the Northwestern District of Area M are different from those used in the rest of Area M. Adoption of this proposal, along with a companion proposal to amend 5 AAC 09.310 Fishing Seasons for the Northwestern District, will reduce confusion by making the regulations more like those in the rest of Area M.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Northwestern District will remain the only part of Area M without an established fishing season. Opening and closing fishing seasons by emergency order is unnecessarily confusing when all other parts of Area M have set fishing seasons and fishing periods are opened by emergency order.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Having consistent regulations will benefit everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-152)

PROPOSAL 215 - 5 AAC 27.6XX. Herring pounds and other devices for holding live, commercially-caught herring before processing in the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area. This proposal seeks to allow the use of herring pounds under the requirements of a

Commissioner's Permit.

5 AAC 27.6XX. Herring pounds and other devices for holding live, commercially-caught herring before processing in the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area. In the Alaska Peninsula Aleutian-Islands Area, a herring pound or other device may be used to hold live herring before processing, only under the conditions specified in a commissioner's permit.

ISSUE: Create regulations for the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area commercial herring fishery to govern the use of herring pounds, or similar devices, to hold live fish prior to processing. Currently, there are no regulations that define and allow commercially captured herring to be held alive in herring pounds, or other devices. This practice is allowed in the Dutch Harbor Food and Bait herring fishery (5 AAC 27.655(c)) and requirements for uses are defined under an annually issued Commissioner's Permit. Interest in using herring pounds to hold live fish prior to processing has been expressed by commercial herring fishing permit holders and processors.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvest reporting may be compromised and confusion will exist about allowable practices.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, use of pounds or other devices for holding live herring until they are processed could lead to an increased in product quality. Fish would be fresher when processed and additional steps, such as bleeding and icing, may be facilitated.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All commercial fishermen, processors, the department, and enforcement personnel, through adoption of regulations concerning herring pounds.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-146)

PROPOSAL 216 - 5 AAC 27.6XX. Registration. This proposal requires an Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area herring seine and herring gillnet permit holder to register each vessel that will be used by the permit holder.

5 AAC 27.6XX. Registration. An Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area seine and gillnet commercial herring permit holder shall register each vessel that the permit holder will use by contacting the department area management biologist in Dutch Harbor, Cold Bay, Sand Point or other place specified by the department, at least 48 hours before the season opens or before beginning commercial herring fishing.

ISSUE: Registration will facilitate the management of the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area commercial herring fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department would continue to manage the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands commercial herring fishing with little or no timely information on effort levels.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The department will obtain timely information to help manage herring fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo, but requiring fishermen to register with the department will assist management by making it easier to estimate effort levels in the fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-147)

PROPOSAL 217 - 5 AAC 01.350. Description of Aleutian Islands Area. This proposal changes the description of the eastern boundary of the Aleutian Islands Area in the subsistence salmon fishing regulations to be the same as in the commercial salmon fishing regulations.

5 AAC 01.350. Description of Aleutian Islands Area. The Aleutians Islands Area includes [ALL] the waters of Alaska in the Aleutian Islands west of [THE LONGITUDE OF THE TIP OF] Cape Sarichef Light (164° 55.70' W. long.) and west of a line extending from Scotch Cap (54° 24.17' N. lat., 164° 47.60' W. long.) through the easternmost tip of Ugamak Island (54° 12.87' N. lat., 164° 46.00' W. long.), [EAST OF 172° E. LONG., AND SOUTH OF 58° N. LAT.] including the waters surrounding the Pribilof Islands.

ISSUE: The description of the eastern boundary of the Aleutian Islands Area differs between the subsistence salmon fishing regulations and the commercial salmon fishing regulations 5 AAC 12.100.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The description of the Aleutian Islands Area will differ between the subsistence and commercial salmon fishing regulations leading to confusion.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishermen, fishery managers, and enforcement personnel.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo, but modifying the boundaries in regulation will be clearer and more readily identifiable for subsistence fishermen working in these areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-141)

PROPOSAL 218 - 5 AAC 01.360. Fishing seasons. This proposal would amend the regulation to allow for an extended subsistence fishing season using seine gear.

5 AAC 01.360. Fishing seasons.

(a)(1) that from June 1 through September 15, a salmon seine vessel may not be used to take salmon for subsistence use 24 hours before [, DURING,] or 12 [24] hours after an open commercial fishing period within an [A 50-MILE RADIUS OF THE] area open to commercial salmon fishing;

(a)(3) repeal [THAT FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 15, A PURSE SEINE VESSEL MAY BE USED TO TAKE SALMON ONLY WITH A GILLNET AND NO OTHER TYPE OF SALMON GEAR MAY BE ON BOARD THE VESSEL WHILE SUBSISTENCE FISHING.]

(a)(4) in the waters closed to subsistence fishing for salmon specified in 5 AAC 01.375.

ISSUE: During years when a significant commercial fishery occurs in the Aleutian Islands Area, the present regulation may not provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence users to meet their needs using seine gear. The current regulation closes a larger area, and for a longer period of time, than is necessary to ensure that subsistence caught fish are not sold in the commercial fishery

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Subsistence fishermen who use seine gear will continue to have limited opportunity to harvest their subsistence salmon during years with significant commercial fishing.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishermen who use seine gear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo, but modifying the subsistence fishing closure will provide more opportunity for subsistence fishing.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-142)

PROPOSAL 219 - 5 AAC 12.3XX. Registration. This proposal requires an Aleutian Islands Area salmon seine permit holder to register each vessel that will be used by the permit holder.

5 AAC 12.3XX. Registration. An Aleutian Island Area seine permit holder shall register the vessel that the permit holder will use by contacting the department area management biologist in Dutch Harbor, Cold Bay, Sand Point or other place specified by the department, at least 48 hours before the season opens or before beginning commercial salmon fishing.

ISSUE: Registration will facilitate the management of the Aleutian Islands commercial salmon fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department would continue to manage the Aleutian Islands commercial salmon fishing based on little or no timely information

on effort levels.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The department will obtain timely information to help manage salmon fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo, but requiring fishermen to register with the department will assist management by making it possible to estimate effort levels in the fishery in a timely manner.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-140)

PROPOSAL 220 - 5 AAC 12.3XX. Net pens and other devices for holding live, commercially-caught salmon before processing in the Aleutian Islands Area. Create regulations for the Aleutian Islands Area of the Area M commercial salmon fishery to govern the use of net pens, or similar devices, to hold live fish prior to processing.

5 AAC 12.3XX. Net pens and other devices for holding live, commercially-caught salmon before processing in the Aleutian Islands Area. In the Aleutian Islands Area, a net pen or other device may be used to hold live salmon before processing, only under the conditions specified in a commissioner’s permit.

ISSUE: Currently, there are no regulations that define and allow commercially captured salmon to be held alive in net pens, or other devices. This practice is allowed in the Kodiak Area (Area K) and requirements for uses are defined under an annually issued Commissioner’s Permit (5 AAC 18.392). Interest in using net pens to hold live fish prior to processing has been expressed by commercial salmon fishing permit holders and processors. This proposal seeks to allow the use of net pens only under the requirements of a Commissioner’s Permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvest reporting may be compromised and confusion will exist about allowable practices.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, use of net pens or other devices for holding live salmon until they are processed could lead to an increase in product quality. Fish would be fresher when processed and additional steps, such as bleeding and icing, may be facilitated.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All commercial fishermen, processors, the department, and enforcement personnel, with clear regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-143)

PROPOSAL 221 - 5 AAC 11.3XX. Net pens and other devices for holding live, commercially-caught salmon before processing in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area. This proposal would create regulations for the Atka-Amlia Islands Area (Area F) commercial salmon fishery to govern the use of net pens, or similar devices, to hold live fish prior to processing.

5 AAC 11.3XX. Net pens and other devices for holding live, commercially-caught salmon before processing in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area. In the Atka-Amlia Islands Area, a net pen or other device may be used to hold live salmon before processing, only under the conditions specified in a commissioner’s permit.

ISSUE: Currently, there are no regulations that define and allow commercially captured salmon to be held alive in net pens, or other devices. This practice is allowed in the Kodiak Area (Area K) and requirements for uses are defined under an annually issued Commissioner’s Permit (5 AAC 18.392). Interest in using net pens to hold live fish prior to processing has been expressed by commercial salmon fishing permit holders and processors. This proposal seeks to allow the use of net pens only under the requirements of a Commissioner’s Permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvest reporting may be compromised and confusion will exist about allowable practices.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, use of net pens or other devices for holding live salmon until they are processed could lead to an increase in product quality. Fish would be fresher when processed and additional steps, such as bleeding and icing, may be facilitated.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All commercial fishermen, processors, the department, and enforcement personnel, with clear regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-145)

PROPOSAL 222 - 5 AAC 09.3XX. Net pens and other devices for holding live, commercially-caught salmon before processing in the Alaska Peninsula Area. Create regulations for the Alaska Peninsula Area of the Area M commercial salmon fishery to govern the use of net pens, or similar devices, to hold live fish prior to processing.

5 AAC 09.3XX. Net pens and other devices for holding live, commercially-caught salmon before processing in the Alaska Peninsula Area. In the Alaska Peninsula Area, a net pen or other device may be used to hold live salmon before processing, only under the conditions specified in a commissioner’s permit.

ISSUE: Currently, there are no regulations that define and allow commercially captured salmon to be held alive in net pens, or other devices. This practice is allowed in the Kodiak Area (Area K) and requirements for uses are defined under an annually issued Commissioner’s Permit (5 AAC 18.392). Interest in using net pens to hold live fish prior to processing has been expressed by commercial salmon fishing permit holders and processors. This proposal seeks to

allow the use of net pens only under the requirements of a Commissioner's Permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvest reporting may be compromised and confusion will exist about allowable practices.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, use of net pens or other devices for holding live salmon until they are processed could lead to an increase in product quality. Fish would be fresher when processed and additional steps such as bleeding and icing may be facilitated.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All commercial fishermen, processors, the department, and enforcement personnel, with clear regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-148)

PROPOSAL 223 - 5 AAC 09.330. Gear. Amend this regulation to include:

(f) No more than two setnet CFEC permit holders with aggregate limits of set gillnet gear can be aboard a salmon fishing vessel in Area M.

ISSUE: This would allow a registered commercial fishing vessel in Area M to have two CFEC set gillnet permit holders with total aggregate limits of gear on board.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Safety concerns could arise for young setnet permit holders in adverse weather or long travel distances.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Setnet permit holders will be able to fish off boats that have ice and RSW instead of skiffs which do not.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnet families who invest and participate in the Area M salmon fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Make it legal for one vessel to be able to tow another permitted vessel. It would be harder and a skiff would be too heavy for long distances.

PROPOSED BY: James Smith (SC-06F-008)

PROPOSAL 224 - 5 AAC 12.XXX. Aleutian Islands. Establish a super-exclusive registration area as follows:

The Krenitzin Islands sub-portion of Area M will be a super-exclusive registration area, limited to a small number of CFEC limited entry gillnet permits, three drift and seven set gillnet

permits. Salmon may be taken only from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. seven days a week, May 15 to June 25. Vessels may not exceed 42 feet overall. Gear specifications and operations: set gillnets may be no more than 100 fathoms in length; the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by a CFEC permit holder may not be more than 200 fathoms; no more than two gillnet sites may be operated by a permit holder; a set gillnet must be operated in a substantially straight line, with no more than the 25 fathoms of the offshore end may be set in any configuration; there is no maximum nor minimum mesh size; the maximum depth of a set gillnet may not exceed 90 meshes; 25 fathoms of seine webbing may be used as a lead, and must be attached to the shoreward end of the lead or gillnet must be attached to the beach above high tide; during hours of darkness, each set gillnet must be marked with at least one red light on seaward end of the net.

The aggregate length of drift gillnets on a salmon fishing vessel shall be no more than 200 fathoms in length; no drift gillnet may exceed 90 meshes in depth; drift gillnet mesh size maximum of no more than five and a half inches, minimum mesh size of no less than five inches.

ISSUE: The residents of Akutan are attempting to expand participation in local fisheries. The CDQ group APICDA, has provided funds to purchase halibut quota shares and assisted in purchasing larger vessels than the skiffs which have been used. Our access to halibut and ground fish resources in our area is limited. We need access to more resources in order to successfully participate in commercial fishing ventures.

We would like the board to establish a super exclusive sub-portion of Area M, structured something like what was approved and implemented in the Atka-Amlia islands (Area F) several years ago.

Gear would be limited to set gillnet and drift gillnet, to be fished on vessels that do not exceed 42 feet. Gear specifications and operations would include, set gillnets must be no more than 100 fathoms in length ; the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by a CFEC permit holder may not may not be more than 200 fathoms; no more than two gillnet sites may be operated by a permit holder, a set gillnet must be operated in a substantial straight line, with no more than 25 fathoms of the offshore end may be set in any configuration; there is no maximum nor minimum mesh size; the maximum depth of a set gillnet may not exceed 90 meshes; 25 fathoms of seine webbing may be used as a lead; and must be attached to the shoreward end of the set gillnet; the shoreward end of the lead or set gillnet must be attached to the beach above high tide; during hours of darkness, each set gillnet must be marked with at least on red light on the seaward end of the net. The aggregate length of drift gillnets on a salmon fishing vessel shall be no more than 200 fathoms in length; no drift gillnet may exceed 90 meshes in depth.

Other portions of Area M already allows this type of gear to be fished. However the eastern Aleutians have not been authorized to do so. To simplify this process the board could simply adopt the rules and regulations set forth in another Area M districts and apply them to the Krenitzins.

This would allow a small number of Alaskan residents, who live within the boundaries, an opportunity to participate in a sustainable salmon fishery. The CFEC would then have to determine the number of limited / interim type permits that would be allowed. It has been proposed, to ask CFEC to consider issuing three drift and seven set gillnet permits maximum.

The area would encompass the statewater three mile limit around the Krenitzins from the east

end of Tigalda Island in Unimak pass at 165.00.00W. long., to the Baby Islands in Akutan pass at 166.05.00W. long. as a separate salmon net registration area.

The fishery would be limited to May 15 through June 25. Local knowledge has shown that these dates would have little or no impact on the resource and local stock biomass.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There would be continued lack of opportunity for local harvesters to participate in a local salmon fishery, with the accompanying loss of harvestable resource and revenues to the local economy.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Any salmon harvested as a part of this program will be processed in conformance with the Aleutia brand quality standards.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local Krenitzin Island residents if adopted as a super-exclusive designation would likely discourage non-local residents from participating in the proposed fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Based solely on the Krenitzins population, this proposal would have a minor effect on resources and other users based on the amount of fish harvested and species composition.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The board might consider establishing an experimental fishery to analyze stock composition through scale analysis, via a commissioner permit. This could be a short term viable alternative, but a local salmon fishery is the only real long term program that can meet the social and economic needs of Akutan.

PROPOSED BY: Akutan Fisheries Association (HQ-06F-027)

PROPOSAL 225 - 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

The regulations regarding the king salmon salt water sport fishing limit should be the same as the chinook salmon salt water sport fishing limits Kodiak, Alaska.

ISSUE: Salt water king salmon limit. Sport fishing for the Aleutian Islands.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Under utilization of the resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sport fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Gerald Swihart (HQ-06F-017)

STATEWIDE FINFISH AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES

PROPOSAL 226 - 5 AAC 39.120. Registration of commercial fishing vessels. Amend this regulation as follows:

Fishing vessels are allowed to register and fish in multiple salmon fisheries. An individual can own and operate multiple salmon fishing permits of different areas and gear types on the same vessel.

ISSUE: A fishing vessel may only register for one salmon fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishing vessels will be underutilized. Capital improvement will not be made to make the vessels geared for producing a quality product. By extending the seasons and areas there will be less economic hardship among the various fishermen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Dominic Lee (HQ-06F-097)

PROPOSAL 227 - 5 AAC 39.280. Identification of stationary fishing gear. Amend this regulation as follows:

(a) The owner or operator of a set gillnet or fish wheel in operation shall place in a conspicuous place or within 50 feet of [OR NEAR] CFEC permit numbers must be at least twelve inches in height with lines at least one inch wide if the marking is within 500 feet of the end of the net, at least 24 inches in height with lines at least two inches wide if the marking is within 1000 feet of the end of the net, and at least 30 inches in height with lines at least two and one half inches wide if the marking is more than 1000 feet from the end of the net [NUMBERS MUST BE AT LEAST SIX INCHES IN HEIGHT WITH LINES AT LEAST ONE INCH WIDE AND OF A COLOR CONTRASTING WITH THE BACKGROUND]. The name of the fisherman operating said operation must be at least six inches in height with lines at least one inch wide if the marking is within 500 feet of the end of the net. If in excess of 500 feet the operator's name shall be in letters at least 12 inches in height with lines at least one inch wide. All markings must be of a color contrasting with the background.

ISSUE: Current set gillnet site marking requirements are not consistent with setnet skiff and driftnet vessel and general vessel marking requirements and there are no specifications for operator name in 5 AAC 39.280(a). Current regulations call for site markings smaller than set gillnet skiff marking requirements and yet they can be at far greater distances from closest viewing water areas. Setnets are permitted as far as 1,200 feet from the high tide mark and

anchors to 1,300 and there is no specified exact distance how far away the sign might be permitted. Current set and drift gillnet CFEC number requirements are readable to just over 500 feet and yet setnet site marking requirements for numbers are only one half the height of those numbers and can additionally be placed at a distance from the end if considered “near”.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Difficult for safety, enforcement, etc. issues to determine whether it is legally permitted operation and who to contact. Vessels are normally floating and can be easily approached but setnet sill signage can be more than one fourth mile from navigable water viewing.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, same as other existing regulations—makes consistent.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All safety and resource conscious and law abiding set and driftnet fishers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? This proposal makes marking requirements consistent with existing regulations and that sill marking signs can be more than 1,300 feet from navigable water viewing and unreadable especially at low water and that there are presently no sign name specifications nor distance from end of net requirements.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Barr (HQ-06F-100)

PROPOSAL 228 - 5 AAC 39.222. Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries. Amend this regulation as follows:

Repeal 5 AAC 39.222. Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries.

ISSUE: Remove the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy from regulation. All aspects of the Sustainable Salmon Fishery Policy (SSFP) are included in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game mission statement and guiding principals.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A regulation will exist that has no regulatory value. The SSFP is confusing; it requires more pages of definitions in order to understand then the policy itself. It is easy for individuals to take select portions and/or definitions out of the policy and use out of context.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those that prefer to regulations to have a clear function and need.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those that try to use a portion of the policy out of context to further their agenda.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status Quo; rewriting the SSFP into a policy with clear and concise statements of broad intent; or allow the SSFP to become a Board of Fisheries

finding to provide a policy guideline where appropriate.

PROPOSED BY: United Fishermen of Alaska

(HQ-06F-102)

PROPOSAL 229 - 5 AAC 39.130. Reports required of processors, buyers, fisherman, and operators of certain commercial fishing vessels; transporting requirements. This proposal would repeal and readopt the reporting regulation and split the existing regulation into two parts. One regulation would reflect the Board of Fisheries authority and the other regulation would reflect the authority of the Commissioner of ADF&G.

5 AAC 39.130. REPORTS REQUIRED OF PROCESSORS, BUYERS, FISHERMEN, AND OPERATORS OF CERTAIN COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS; TRANSPORTING REQUIREMENTS. (a) A person, company, firm, or other organization who is the first purchaser of raw fish, or who catches and processes fish or byproducts of fish, or who catches and has fish or byproducts of fish processed **or received** by another person or company, or **catches and exports fish or byproducts of fish** shall

(1) furnish to the department each calendar year before operating, a completed Intent to Operate **Application** [REGISTRATION] form, available from the department; a person, company, firm, or other organization described in this subsection may begin to operate only after receiving authorization from the department and only after receiving **a code plate and** fish tickets from the department: forms will not be processed and fish **ticket forms** [TICKETS] will not be issued **or the continuation of the eLandings System authorization of use,** without [CERTIFICATION THAT SURETY BONDS AS REQUIRED BY AS 16.10.290 - 16.10.296 HAVE BEEN POSTED WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND THAT A VALID ALASKA BUSINESS LICENSE OR] a valid Alaska Fisheries Business License [THAT HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE];

(2) submit, no later than April 1, an **Commercial Operator's Annual Report (COAR) which is a** operator's accurate and complete summary of activity for each Intent to Operate form filed for the previous year or a signed statement of nonactivity on **a form** [FORMS] available from the department;

(3) furnish, verbally or in writing, purchasing or production records as requested by the department or its representative.

(b) A catcher/seller must complete a registration form available from the department each calendar year and may begin to operate only after receiving authorization from the department and only after receiving **a code plate and** fish tickets from the department.

(c) Each **first** buyer of raw fish, each fisherman selling to a buyer not licensed to process fish (a catcher/seller), and each person or company who catches and processes **or exports** his or her own catch or has that catch processed **or received** by another person or company shall record each landing on an ADF&G fish ticket. A catcher/seller must complete an ADF&G form in order to obtain fish tickets. Fish tickets must be submitted to a local representative of the department within seven days after landing, or as otherwise specified by the department for each particular area and fishery. **When a processor is using the eLanding System the processor must electronically submit the initial landing report at the completion of the off-load, and submit the final landing report and the eLandings fish ticket within seven days.** The operator of a fishing vessel whose port of landing is outside Alaska, or who sells, transfers, **receives** or delivers fish in the **Exclusive Economic** [A SEAWARD BIOLOGICAL INFLUENCE] Zone (**EEZ**), shall submit a completed ADF&G fish

ticket, [OR AN EQUIVALENT DOCUMENT CONTAINING ALL OF THE INFORMATION REQUIRED ON AN ADF&G FISH TICKET] to the department before the fish are transported out of the jurisdiction of the state. **Fish tickets** [THE RECORD] must include the following:

- (1) the name of the individual or company buying the fish, the processor code assigned to each buyer **imprinted on the fish ticket from the code plate issued** by the department, and the signature of the buyer or his representative;
- (2) the full name and signature of the permit holder **at the time of off-loading**;
- (3) the name or the Coast Guard number **or Department of Transportation number** of the vessel employed in taking the fish;
- (4) the date **fishing gear was deployed and the date** of the landing of the fish;
- (5) the permanent vessel license plate number or, for set gillnets and fish wheels, the fisherman's five-digit CFEC permit serial number, **as appropriate to the fishery**;
- (6) the type of gear by which the fish were taken **by gear code number**;
- (7) the **ADF&G statistical area, district or subdistrict, or the** nearest headland or bay or statistical catch area in which the fish were taken;
- (8) information applicable to the following species:
 - (A) the number and pounds of salmon by species;
 - (B) the number and pounds of king, Dungeness, and Tanner crab;
 - (C) the pounds of other fish or shellfish by species;
 - (D) the tons of herring;**
 - (E) the number and pounds of deadloss crab by species;**
- (9) the CFEC permit number of the operator of the unit of gear with which the fish were taken, imprinted on the fish ticket from the valid permit card at the time of delivery only; the imprinting requirement of this paragraph may be suspended by a local representative of the department after presentation by the fisherman of documentation from the department or CFEC that the permit card has been lost, transferred or destroyed; if the above suspension is granted, then the buyer or fisherman shall write the permit number on the fish ticket at the time of delivery only;
- (10) **any** other information the department may require.

(d) Each fisherman shall furnish to the buyer factual catch data necessary for completion of reports required by the department.

(e) Each shellfish fisherman shall furnish in writing **or electronically through eLandings System** to the department, directly or through the buyer, data necessary for reports required by the department.

(f) The following information regarding the transporting of unprocessed fish shall be transmitted to an authorized representative of the department either verbally, in writing, or by telephone:

(1) the number and species of salmon taken in any regulatory area shall be reported before being transported to any other area or out of the state;

(2) the numbers or pounds by species of all other fish shall be reported before being transported out of the state.

(g) Operators of floating fish processing vessels shall report in person, **electronically through eLandings System** or by radio or telephone, to the local representative of the department located within the management area of intended operation before the start of processing operations. The report must include the initial processing location by district or

subdistrict, the exact latitude and longitude of the location, and the date of intended operation. Before moving the operation and upon arriving at a new location, the operator shall notify the local department representative in person, or by radio or telephone, of the new location of operation by district or subdistrict and exact latitude and longitude of the location. The local representative of the department may waive all or part of the above requirements if he determines they are not necessary for the conservation or management of the fishery in that area.

(h) No person may possess a fish ticket that has been imprinted with a CFEC permit number until the time of delivery to the purchaser of the fish listed on the fish ticket, **unless fish with a fish ticket issued by the catcher have been transferred to a permitted commercial fish transporter for delivery to a processor.**

(i) In addition to other requirements of this section, each person, as that term is defined in AS 01.10.060, that is the first purchaser of or that first processes raw groundfish shall comply with the recordkeeping and **electronic reporting through eLandings System or any other reporting requirements in 50 C.F.R. 679 (updated October 1, 2005)** [(UPDATED DECEMBER 10, 1997)].

(j) Before entering the waters of Alaska, an operator of an unlicensed commercial fishing vessel shall report by telephone, and shall leave a recorded report, at a telephone number designated by the department for that purpose, or shall report by other means specified by the department. A report under this subsection must (1) identify the vessel and operator; (2) certify that no unprocessed fish are on board the vessel; (3) include the destination, travel route, and dates of transit; and, (4) if any processed fish are on board the vessel, include the quantity, species, and the location from which the fish were taken. The commissioner may, upon request by a local representative of the department, waive all or part of the requirements of this subsection if the commissioner determines that compliance with this subsection is not necessary for conservation, management, or enforcement in a designated geographical area. For the purposes of this subsection,

(1) "commercial fishing vessel" means a floating craft powered, towed, rowed, or otherwise propelled, which is used for or equipped to be used for

(A) commercial fishing; or

(B) fish processing;

(C) fish transport;

(D) fish storage, including temporary storage;

(2) "unlicensed " means not licensed under AS 16.05.490 - 16.05.530.

(k) For purposes of this section, a

(1) "catcher/seller" **means** [IS] a person who sells or attempts to sell unprocessed fish that were legally taken by the catcher/seller,

(A) to the general public for use for noncommercial purposes;

(B) for use as bait for commercial or noncommercial purposes; or

(C) to restaurants, grocery stores, and established fish markets;

(2) "catcher/exporter" means a person who catches and exports unprocessed fish out of state;

(3) "catcher/processor" means a person who catches and sells processed or unprocessed fish or fish products and

(A) can export processed or unprocessed fish or fishery resource out of state;

(B) can process or have their catch custom processed for sale in state or out of state;

(4) "buyer/exporter" means the first buyer of unprocessed fish or fishery resource from a fisherman and transports that unprocessed resource out of state;

(5) "first buyer" means the first purchaser of raw fish directly from the fisherman and are purchasing for their own business and not acting as a buying agent for another business;

(6) "commercial fish transporter" has the same meaning as defined in 16.05.671;

(7) "eLandings System" means the electronic and internet based reporting system developed by the National Marine Fisheries Service and ADF&G.

This regulation would be placed in chapters 3, 4, 5, and 7 AYK salmon reporting requirements.

(X) In the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area, a buyer or processor transporting salmon or salmon roe to the point of initial processing shall have in his or her possession, and display, upon request, to a peace officer of the state, a completed fish ticket, or a copy of it, for all salmon or salmon roe in the buyer's or processor's possession at the time. Such a buyer or processor, while transporting commercially caught salmon or salmon roe, may not possess or transport subsistence caught salmon or salmon roe.

This would be a new regulation placed in chapter 38, 5 AAC 38.14X. SE Red Sea Urchin reporting requirements.

(X) In addition to the requirements of this section, in Statistical Area A, the owner or operator of a facility or vessel that purchases unprocessed red sea urchins shall,

(1) within 30 days after the purchase, submit to the department a report indicating the pounds of red sea urchins purchased, the pounds of red sea urchin roe recovered, the price paid to the person who delivered the urchins, and the number of the ADF&G fish ticket prepared at the time of delivery;

(2) upon the request of an employee or representative of the department, report information regarding the dates, locations, and times of any delivering, transporting, unloading, or processing of red sea urchins.

(XX) In Statistical Area A, a person shall obtain a transport permit from the department before transporting unprocessed red sea urchins from Statistical Area A. Before issuing a transport permit, a department employee or representative shall inspect the unprocessed urchins and the fish tickets, and take biological samples of the urchins. The department shall conduct the inspections and sampling in Ketchikan or at other locations specified by the department. A person shall request the inspections and sampling by contacting the department office in Ketchikan in person, by telephone, or by radio from 8:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday, excluding state holidays.

Editor's Notes -For purposes of 5 AAC 39.130(k), the designated phone number to report to the department is (907) 247-ADFG (2334).

For purposes of 5 AAC 38.14X the department's Ketchikan office telephone number is (907) 225-5195.

ISSUE: Both the board and commissioner have regulatory authority over fish ticket requirements. The commissioner has the most direct authority to adopt fish ticket reporting requirements under AS 16.05.690(a). It makes more sense for the commissioner to take full responsibility for fish tickets for several reasons. Fish tickets generally apply to all species; the board's three year cycle schedule does not contain a category for regulations that apply to all species. Fish ticket issues arise almost every year, and it would be helpful if these issues could be addressed quickly. The commissioner is not tied to a three-year cycle, and could address these issues in an expedited fashion. Most of the issues that arise deal with specific technical and enforcement concerns rather than broader conservation or development concerns which are more appropriately addressed by the board.

In addition, as it is written now this regulation does not contain all current reporting needs, nor does it address all the various permit possibilities. Consequently, staff and members of the public experience confusion when trying to decide who is responsible to submit fish tickets, who is responsible for the Department of Fish and Game's Commercial Operator's Annual Report, and what configuration of permit possibilities applies to whom.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued confusion and lack of clarity involving the use of the regulation, and an outdated regulation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Departmental staff and members of the public.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Department of Law (HQ-06F-170)

PROPOSAL 230 - 5 AAC 39.223(c)(2). Policy for statewide salmon escapement goals.
Amend this regulation as follows:

(c)(2) during its regulatory process, review a BEG, SEG, or SET determined by the department and, with the assistance of the department, determine the appropriateness of establishing an optimal escapement goal (OEG); the board will provide an explanation of the reasons for establish an OEG and provide **at the meeting, documentation for the public and the board members to review before final decisions to be made on adopting any past or present OEGs what economic, historical, traditional and allocative changes will occur. The department will submit this report prior to the regulatory meeting for each area in cycle and will evaluate using the best available science (peer reviewed) to determine the differences in yield of any salmon stocks relative to maximum sustained yield resulting from implementation past and present of an OEG.** [TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE,] and with the assistance of the department, an estimate of expected differences in yield of any salmon stock, relative to maximum sustained yield, resulting from implementation of an OEG.

Modify the language in (d) redefine and clarify the terms used in 5 AAC 39.222(f) to establish a clear understanding as it relates to this regulation.

ISSUE: Lack of clarity.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Insufficient information to the public, stakeholders and others.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Paul A. Shadura II (HQ-06F-171)

PROPOSAL 231 - 5 AAC 39.250. Gillnet specifications and operations. Amend these regulations as follows:

Add section (c)(1)(C)

Monofilament single filament gillnet cannot be used for salmon fishing in any state waters.

ISSUE: Monofilament gillnets.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? High mortality with no benefit.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, domestic markets that are sustainable fisheries sensitive are confused at the difference between high seas monofilament drift nets and gillnet fisheries within state waters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Individuals who care nothing about marketing and high drop out mortality.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Test netting that has no scientific parameters or guidelines.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Shadura II (HQ-06F-172)

PROPOSAL 232 - 5 AAC 39.223. Policy for state wide salmon escapement goals. Amend this regulation as follows:

Consider changes that make the department and the board more accountable.

ISSUE: Regulation is in place but the department and the board does not properly facilitate a public review process before, during or after the regulatory meeting. The regulation should be

clarified and enforced.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The public will continue to be left out of the decision making process.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Improves predictability and consistency to allow implementation of quality measures.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who do not wish to be accountable.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Paul Shadura II (HQ-06F-175)

PROPOSAL 233 - 5 AAC 75.003. Emergency order authority. Amend this regulation as follows:

Crew members may keep up to eight fish per year. Since all halibut caught are recorded in your log book it will be easy to track.

ISSUE: Charter boat crew retaining fish for personal use. This regulation as written will close retaining of all species of fish, not just halibut. It also would prohibit me from catching halibut for my personal use. A large charter boat uses about \$200 worth of fuel to get to fishing grounds. A fisher would not want to go fishing on a day off.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Charter crew will not get halibut for their families.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Limits crew to yearly maximum.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Families of crew members.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, crew members are entitled to some halibut for their families.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Frank Casey (HQ-06F-008)

PROPOSAL 234 - 5 AAC 75.022. Freshwater sport fishing. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c) It is unlawful to intentionally snag or attempt to snag any fish in fresh water. **Except for sockeye salmon,** a fish unintentionally hooked elsewhere than in the mouth must be released immediately.

ISSUE: Allow sockeye salmon unintentionally hooked other than in the mouth to be retained. Sockeye salmon do not feed when they enter a fresh water stream; therefore, virtually all are snagged, either by drawing the line through their mouth or elsewhere on their body. By changing this regulation we would reduce injury and damage to the fish themselves, relieve crowding, and reduce injuries to fishermen.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishermen will be forced to continue the practice of sorting through and releasing many foul hooked fish in an attempt to harvest their limit. This is not good for the resource (fish), fishery (crowding) nor the fishermen (lengthened exposure to potential injury).

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, damage to the flesh of these fish (tearing and scaring) would be greatly reduced. In the current fishery many fish are hooked and released numerous times causing flesh damage and increasing mortality losses.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone. This would help reduce crowding because [people would retain their limit faster and their exposure to injury, from flying hooks or leads, would also be greatly reduced. Most of the emergency room patients seen at the Central Peninsula hospital in Soldotna for fishing related injuries are derived from the sockeye fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody. I realize this is a departure from pure fishing etiquette; however, these fish are mainly prized for their flavor as illustrated by the popularity of the personal use fisheries for this same species which allows great numbers to be harvested in a single outing. What is the difference when we are considering a species that is neither feeding nor striking?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Dwight Kramer (HQ-06F-009)

PROPOSAL 235 - 5 AAC 75.011. Sport fishing by proxy. Amend this regulation as follows:

Eliminate the sport fish proxy system in the non-subsistence areas of the state.

ISSUE: Alaska’s sport fish proxy laws allow residents to harvest fish by sportfishing or personal use methods for other residents who are either blind, have a 70 percent or greater physical disability, or are 65 years of age or older.

The fishing proxy system was originally established by the legislature to address the practice of sharing food. It is closely related to subsistence and was geared toward a “community harvest” where others could legally harvest fish for the elders in a village. This system was designed to benefit those people who are dependent on wild fish to supplement their food supply and who really cannot get out to fish for themselves.

What had started out as a rurally-oriented program to allow the designated hunters of a community to legally harvest subsistence foods for the elders and others in that community unable to harvest their own fish has transitioned into the urban orientation of proxies legally

harvesting fish for anyone who qualifies, whether they are dependent on the resource or not.

Many proxy holders view this program as a “recreational entitlement”, allowing them to abuse the system to increase their own harvest of fish. Many beneficiaries have no dependence on the resource for sustenance. For these reasons, the sportfishing proxy program should be eliminated in the non-subsistence areas of the state. Please reference the attached maps for these areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Serious abuse of the fishing proxy system will continue if this problem is not addressed.

In 1999, the Palmer Fish and Game office issued 244 sportfishing proxies. In 2004, the same office issued 866 sportfishing proxies. Between 1999 and 2004, the number of fishing proxies issued in Palmer has almost quadrupled.

Statewide, the numbers of sportfishing proxies issued look like this:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sportfishing Proxies Issued</u>
2000	2,033
2001	2,758
2002	3,123
2003	3,804
2004	4,568

In that same five-year period, statewide, the number of sport fish proxies has more than doubled.

In 2004, the numbers of sportfishing proxies issued by department offices around Southcentral and Fairbanks are as follows:

Homer	276
Soldotna	708
Anchorage	1,993
Palmer	866
<u>Fairbanks</u>	<u>406</u>
Subtotal	4,249

The other 319 sportfishing proxies issued were scattered across the rest of the state.

As the numbers show, the vast majority of sportfishing proxies are issued along the road system connecting the Kenai Peninsula with Fairbanks.

A high number of people come into the Palmer Fish and Game office to get both their senior license or department Permanent Identification Card (PID) and their proxy fishing forms on the same day. Since an individual is eligible for the PID card at age 60, but has to be 65 to qualify on age for the proxy, this same day application strongly suggests the individual has not previously held a fishing license, at least within the previous five years.

Many of these folks are already well past age 65 when they come in and, in addition to applying for their PID cards, have only recently heard about the proxy system and realized that they qualified. A younger person eager to hold a sport fish proxy for the applicant often accompanies the person to the department office.

These beneficiaries are taking advantage of the proxy system. They are putting extra pressure on the fisheries resources by allowing another person to harvest their bag limit for them. Without the proxy system, this individual, generally with no recent history of active participation in the consumptive use of the resource, would not be placing any extra demands on the limited numbers of fish available for harvest.

In years with “average” or better salmon returns, this increased demand on the fishery resource has not been a major management problem. However, the real concern arises when the salmon numbers are below normal and increased harvesting occurs in the name of people not physically present.

Other wild fisheries stocks, like rainbow trout, can be even more severely affected than a below average salmon return.

Many proxies, while fishing for king salmon, will keep the first king caught and then catch-and-release several fish before keeping the proxy fish. This practice defeats the “catch a king and stop fishing in those waters” management plan, causes mortalities among the released fish, and causes problems when other anglers report this apparent illegal activity.

A specific example of sportfishing proxy abuse occurred when a beneficiary had a proxy fish halibut for him in Kachemak Bay. This happened prior to the regulation change bringing the state in line with federal requirements on sportfishing for halibut. The proxy fishing regulations stipulate that a proxy cannot receive any remuneration for proxy fishing. When the beneficiary was to receive his fish, the proxy wanted to charge him \$100 for the cost of packaging the fish and gave the man the previous year’s frozen fish.

Another example of abuse includes a person who lined up all his proxies to fish for him during the summer while he was outside the state, traveling in his motorhome. When he returned in the fall, his freezer was well stocked. He was able to travel around the country and still enjoy that summer’s fish without any effort of his own.

Individuals looking to take advantage of this “recreational entitlement” by becoming proxy holders have visited senior centers and retirement homes on recruiting trips, looking to “sign up” beneficiaries, usually people they have never met before. This increases the proxy holder’s potential to harvest more fish than otherwise would be legal. This recruiting practice also occurs at work among co-workers, at social gatherings and community meetings, with friends who have older relatives, during neighborhood visits, and so on.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal does not directly address the quality of the harvested resource. It does address the allocation of opportunity to harvest that resource.

The department maintains that sportfishing effort has been increasing at the rate of five to eight percent per year for the last decade or more. The numbers of fish available for harvest have remained relatively unchanged over that same period.

The numbers of sportfishing proxies, statewide, have more than doubled in the last five years and almost quadrupled in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. The resource can only tolerate so much harvest before the fisheries managers will be forced to step in and limit sportfishing opportunity.

When a resource is limited, as the numbers of harvestable fish are, then at some point, the current users of the resource have to drop out to allow the new users of the resource to begin. This brings up an allocation question. At what point do we stop allocating for a particular user group or accommodating a special class of user without impacting other users and the resource itself?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who participates in either sports or personal use fishing activities in the non-subsistence areas of the state will benefit from the reduced competition for the resource because no one will be holding a proxy allowing the harvest of double his/her daily bag limit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those people who regularly participate in either sports or personal use fisheries while holding a proxy and view the proxy system as a “recreational entitlement” will lose their double-bag-limit opportunity.

Those people living in the non-subsistence area who are truly dependent on the fisheries resource for their sustenance and who have no family or friends willing to share a part of their normal bag limit of fish could suffer.

This very limited problem can be addressed by having the department act as a contact clearinghouse. Each office could maintain a list of individuals willing to share their fisheries bounty with others. A simple phone call to the department could provide a person in need with a list of individuals or groups like church organizations they can then contact to make their request for fish.

Under current sportfishing regulations, the only species of salmon with a season limit is king salmon. Sockeye, coho, chum and pink salmon do not have a season limit.

Generous personal use bag limits apply to dipnet fisheries both near Chitina and on the Kenai Peninsula. No season bag limits apply to common saltwater species and the same is true for freshwater lakes and rivers, other than a season size limit bag on rainbow trout.

Under the existing personal use and regular sportfishing bag limits, one good angler can easily supply his own family with a year’s worth of fish. Once their freezer is stocks, the virtually unlimited regular sports fishing bag limits allow ample fish to be caught and shared with friends and extended family members. If people would be willing to share fish from their regular sportfishing bag limits, the proxy fishing system would not be necessary.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The total elimination of the sportfishing proxy system statewide would address the abuse problem. The board does not have the authority to eliminate a program established by the legislature. The board does have the authority to set limits on such a program. By defining the acceptable areas for sportfishing proxies as the subsistence use areas, the majority of abuse problems can be significantly reduced while still complying with the original intent of the program.

Establish the requirement that a individual, in order to have a proxy issued in their name, has to demonstrate a history of consumptive use of and reliance for sustenance on the fisheries resource. One method to demonstrate this use and reliance would be by having purchased at least one resident Alaskan fishing license. This requirement would probably be unconstitutional under the “equal access” provisions of the state constitution.

Another correction would be requiring that a proxy holder can only fish for either his or his beneficiary's bag limit within a 24-hour period, but not both, as is currently allowed. A second loophole closure would mandate that the proxy could not keep any part of the fish harvested for the beneficiary, even if the beneficiary is willing to give the fish to the proxy. While these last two suggestions sound good, according to ABWE troopers, some serious legal issues and/or enforceability problems exist if they were implemented.

PROPOSED BY: Howard Delo (HQ-06F-071)

PROPOSAL 236 - 5 AAC 75.011. Sport fishing by proxy. Amend this regulation as follows:

The three most commonly abused fish in proxy fishing have been halibut, chinook and coho salmon. The Board recently eliminated proxy fishing to comply with existing federal law. Eliminating proxy fishing for chinook and coho salmon statewide would significantly reduce abuse of the proxy system.

ISSUE: The sport fishing proxy system has more than doubled (an increase of 125 percent) in the past five years. Most of this growth is abuse. Beneficiaries are granting proxies when they have no need for the fish. The proxy is merely receiving a "recreational entitlement" to allow a person to catch double their daily bag limit. To protect the proxy system, some control need to be implemented.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued abuse of the proxy system will continue and most likely will increase. This abuse will threaten legitimate anglers' because in weak return years, emergency closures could be instituted to protect the resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All chinook and coho anglers be fishing with the same daily bag limits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who fish proxies for chinook and coho salmon merely to extend their fishing time and daily bag limit catch.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Eliminating the sport fish proxy system. The board does not have that authority.

PROPOSED BY: Howard Delo (HQ-06F-072)

PROPOSAL 237 - 5 AAC 75.011. Sport fishing by proxy. Amend this regulation as follows:

The proxy holder would be limited to holding no more than two proxies per year. Further, the proxy holder must be related within the second degree of kindred to the beneficiary. These changes would make the sport fish proxy system similar to the recent changes adopted for the hunting proxy system.

ISSUE: The proxy sportfishing program has more than doubled in size statewide in the last five years. A significant amount of this proxy fishing system is simple abuse of the system. Beneficiaries are not receiving their fish or had no need for them to begin with. They were merely granting their proxy a “recreational entitlement” to catch twice the daily bag limit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? In weak salmon return years, the resource could be damaged due to over fishing or premature season closures could occur because of this abuse of the system. Enforcement concerns will continue when troopers are called to respond to someone seen over fishing, when they were, in fact, holding a proxy. With continued levels of abuse, the entire proxy program will be in jeopardy of being eliminated to protect the fisheries resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All sportfishing people would benefit from the reduction in abuse of the current sportfishing proxy system.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some qualified beneficiaries might suffer if they have no family available to proxy for them. However, they can simply ask their friends to share their own catch, since there are no season bag limits other than king on sport-caught fish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Elimination of the entire proxy system. The board does not have that authority.

PROPOSED BY: Howard Delo (HQ-06F-073)

PROPOSAL 238 - 5 AAC 75.011. Sport fishing by proxy. Amend this regulation as follows:

Limit the use of a proxy to no more than two in one calendar year as follows:
A resident who takes, or attempts to take fish on behalf of a person under this section may also simultaneously engage in fishing for the residents use; however, the resident may not take or attempt to take fish by proxy for more than one person at a time **or two in one calendar year.**

ISSUE: Abuse of a well intended proxy system. Currently, a person fishing proxy for their beneficiary is limited to only fishing for one beneficiary at a time, but can fish for as many beneficiaries as he/she wishes during a season. Abuse of this system by anglers allows one angler to harvest as many limits of fish as he can find people to proxy for. As daily and seasonal bags decrease for the general sport fishing public, no one angler can have a much bigger impact on the resource through proxy fishing than several other anglers fishing only for themselves, especially Chinook salmon, which have a five fish per season limit. Limit the amount of proxies one angler can fish to two per season, in addition to the current rules that a proxy may only fish for one beneficiary in a day, and have only two bag and possession limits in possession.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Anglers will continue to abuse the proxy system, in some cases retaining far more than double the annual bag limit of fish with annual possession limits, such as chinook salmon. Fisheries managers will have a difficult time

predicting harvest, and management of fisheries will suffer.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of the state’s proxy system, as the system will be able to remain in place.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People abusing the current proxy regulations, harvesting everything they catch with no regard to standard limits. Beneficiaries of proxy fishing will not suffer, as each proxy fisher can still fish for two beneficiaries in a season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leave status quo. Not viable, as the status quo is broken. Eliminate proxies. No, because the proxy system does not provide access to the resource that elderly and disabled would otherwise be denied.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-074)

PROPOSAL 239 - 5AAC 75.003. Emergency Order Authority. Amend the regulation to allow the following:

The department may, by emergency order, change bag and possession limits, annual limits, or alter methods and means in sport fisheries...

- (1) The commissioner or an authorized designee may decrease sport fish bag and possession limits, annual limits, and restrict methods and means of harvest by emergency order when...
- (2) The commissioner or an authorized designee may increase sport fish bag and possession limits, annual limits, and liberalize methods and means of harvest by emergency order when...

ISSUE: When exceptionally strong returns of salmon exceed the upper bounds of their biological escapement goals, liberalizing bag and possession limits or altering methods and means in sport fisheries may not result in an increased harvest, especially when an annual limit is in place. As a result, salmon that are surplus to the spawning escapement need in a particular drainage will remain unharvested. Conversely, the authority to decrease an annual harvest limit for a specific salmon return would provide the department additional flexibility in managing returns. A reduction in the annual limit for a particular return can either be used to reduce the overall harvest or to allow a greater number of anglers to participate in harvesting a more limited available surplus.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Salmon that are surplus to the number required for spawning escapements will remain unharvested, resulting in lost opportunities for anglers and businesses that provide services to anglers. Salmon returns that are small, weak, or heavily fished may only benefit a limited number of anglers.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anglers, and businesses that provide services to anglers, may benefit if an annual limit is increased.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anglers, and businesses that provide services to anglers, may not benefit if an annual limit is decreased.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The Department could seek the same emergency order authority to alter annual limits individually, for each management area or management plan, over the course of a three-year board cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-124)

PROPOSAL 240 - 5 AAC 75.034. Sport fishing gear for northern pike. Amend this regulation as follows:

Northern pike may be taken by spear. The minimum spear size stand shall be:

- 1) seven tines
- 2) tines that are 7/8 inch between centers
- 3) tines are 1/4 inch diameter steel
- 4) the smallest tine, unobstructed length is six inches
- 5) minimum length of spear is 48 inches

These standards are based upon a common commercially available spear model.

ISSUE: We believe that there is a potential for increased Northern pike spear fishing in future years and if fishermen are not using the proper gear there will be a high incidence of hitting fish and losing them, resulting in high pike mortality. When a fish is hit using a small spearhead there is more likelihood of that fish struggling off the spear tines and lost. There may be a high incidence of mortality associated with hit fish.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Northern pike fished using spears will have a higher incidence of wounding or mortality if spear guidelines are not imposed. If proper equipment is used there will be a high success rate of landing speared fish.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, there will be fewer fish found wounded or dead as a result of using proper gear. Anglers have reported seeing scars on pike likely as a result of spearing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? To ensure opportunity that spear fishing as a method continues and populations of Northern pike are protected from unnecessary mortality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who will have to change the gear they use.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Eliminate spear fishing. We reject this because spear fishing is a traditional method and we want to preserve the opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Delta Advisory Committee (I-06F-010)

PROPOSAL 241 - 5 AAC 75.995. Definitions. Amend this regulation to include the following:

Add the following definition:

“Tip up” means an ice fishing mechanism with an attached flag or signal device to indicate fishing action, used to hold a fishing rod, spindle or pole with a spool for line and hook.

ISSUE: There is no definition for tip-up in Article 9, Definitions. In order to propose modifications to the methods and means of the regulations, first there must be a definition to base the proposal.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If this definition is not addressed, then fishing methods for sensitive fishing lakes cannot be addressed and fishing mortality may remain higher than necessary.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This definition will provide a basis for future regulations addressing tip-up use.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen concerned about the value of the fishing resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Ethan Birkholz (I-06F-006)

PROPOSAL 242 - 5 AAC 75.010. Possession of sport-caught fish. Amend this regulation as follows:

Establish a resident, freshwater only, seasonal bag limit of five king salmon. The fish may be harvested on one day or over the entire season. Once the angler has harvested five fish they may not fish for king salmon until the following season. Once a king salmon is killed it must be annotated immediately on the fishing license.

ISSUE: An inequity of practical opportunity and loss of interested anglers to a fishing area, amount of time available and unnecessary excessive use of fuel for multiple long-distance trips. The time, effort and expense needed by many anglers to pursue king salmon is difficult to accept when you are only allowed to harvest one fish and then you must stop fishing and go home. Most places are one fish in possession and no catch-and-release fishing after harvest.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Resident anglers are losing interest in fishing due to decreased opportunity and expense. Many people must expend significant time, effort and money just to get to a king salmon stream. Currently it is not worth the effort and I believe many people are opting to quit fishing.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It could have an overall effect of reducing the number of fresh water king salmon killed by anglers. Currently anglers who live close to the resource can harvest a fish per day all season except in a few drainages already on five per year status.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents who must travel long distances at great expense of time and effort to fish for king salmon. The department may stimulate people to purchase licenses and king salmon stamps.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who want to harvest more than five freshwater king salmon. It would not affect saltwater fishing or nonresidents.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The acceptable bag limit number to allow is not known. Five is enough. It could be higher if the board sees fit. This idea is needed for resident halibut fishing as well as the same argument applies.

PROPOSED BY: Clinton W. Crusberg (I-06F-012)

PROPOSAL 243 - 5 AAC 39.130. Reports required of processors, buyers, fishermen, and operators of certain commercial fishing vessels; transporting requirements. Amend this regulation as follows:

All steelhead landed by CFEC permit holders must be reported on an ADF&G fish ticket at the time of delivery.

ISSUE: Biological data are lacking on numbers of steelhead taken by commercial fishermen. Escapement data provides an incomplete picture of populations, especially small populations. Escapement counts are inadequate to establish run strength without harvest information.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department would not have information on incidental harvest of steelhead. Steelhead management and conservation would be more difficult if this problem is not solved.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Improved data and documentation will help the department better manage the steelhead resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users will benefit from more complete information to use for stock assessment, and steelhead management and conservation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Midnight Sun Chapter of Trout Unlimited (I-06F-015)

PROPOSAL 244 - 5 AAC 28.XXX. Create a new regulation to provide the following:

The department shall provide the public an opportunity to purchase game fish from state operated fish hatcheries. Funds collected from the sale of game fish shall be put into the department fund and returned to the fish hatcheries to make the program self sustaining. The price paid by the public shall equal the cost of producing the fish. Fish stockings shall be subject to the department fish transport permit process to ensure that fish stockings will not adversely affect native fish populations.

ISSUE: Compel the department to sell hatchery-reared game fish to the public subject to the department fish transport permit process.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Not selling fish to the public for stocking private ponds will prevent new business opportunities, result in lost recreational opportunities for tourist and communities, and lost revenue to communities and the state. Selling fish to the public will create more business opportunities, sell more fishing licenses, and provide a positive economic benefit to communities and the state.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Entrepreneurs will purchase small fish and grow them to a large size to attract tourist who are willing to pay for an opportunity to catch large fish. Most tourists do not have the time or money to spend for a remote fishing trip. But tourists are willing to purchase a sport fishing license and pay a fee to fish for large fish in private ponds along the road system. This enterprise will attract more angler participation which will result in more money for local businesses and the state through fishing fees and sales of fishing gear and fishing licenses. It is important that this request be quickly approved because businesses must invest at least two years growing the fish to large size to attract anglers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This is not a difficult problem. Selling the fish to the public will generate business, increase fishing opportunities, and provide economic benefit to the state.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None. Department policy does not allow hatchery game fish to be sold to the public.

PROPOSED BY: James Winslow (I-06F-028)

PROPOSAL 245 - 5 AAC 77.010. Methods, means, and general restrictions. Amend this regulation as follows:

The bag limit for dipnetting in any stream will be the same as the bag limit for the hook and line sport fishery in the same stream.

ISSUE: The bag limit for personal use dipnetting is too high. Dipnetting is a recreational activity. A person must have a sportfishing license in order to participate, thus making it a recreational activity. It is not subsistence, therefore, should not have a subsistence bag limit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Sportfishing and commercial fishing will be restricted or delayed because of the large number of fish taken in the dipnet fishery. Before there was a dipnet fishery the fish were already totally allocated. Dipnetting reallocate fish primarily away from the commercial fishery without compensation to the commercial fishermen. This reallocation is in direct conflict with the intent of the limited entry law which was passed to provide economic stability to commercial fishermen. Commercial fishing is restricted to allow more fish to be available to dipnetters. This contributes to economic instability for commercial fishermen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Traditional hook and line sport fishermen and commercial fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Dipnetters who want to be subsistence fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Take dipnetters out of the streams.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Vanek (HQ-06F-013)

PROPOSAL 246 - 5 AAC 77.010. Methods, means, and general restrictions. Amend this regulation as follows:

Personal use dipnetting will not begin on any stream until the biological escapement goal (BEG) has been met where there is a BEG.

ISSUE: Personal use dipnetting occurs before the BEG is achieved. Personal use dipnetting first began on stocks that had a surplus because the sport fishery or commercial fishery was unable to harvest this surplus. Now dipnetting has priority over other fisheries and begins before the BEG is reached.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? In years of low returns, sportfishing and commercial fishing will be restricted or delayed because dipnetting has already begun and the BEG will be reached later. Commercial fishing will be curtailed so that the dipnetters can get their allocation before the BEG is reached.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sport fishermen will benefit. Commercial fishermen will benefit since they may be otherwise restricted until the BEG is met.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Dipnetters who will have to wait until there is a surplus above the BEG.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Close dipnetting and re-open the beaches for personal use. Not likely to happen.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Vanek (HQ-06F-014)

PROPOSAL 247 - 5 AAC 93.3XX. The Commissioner of ADF&G, under AS 16.05.831, is proposing to adopt a statewide permanent regulation that will give the commissioner emergency order authority to allow salmon hatcheries to recover roe without further utilization of the salmon carcass in limited situations under restrictive conditions, where such use is consistent with the maximum and wise use of the resource. The following are two options for the proposed regulation the commissioner may adopt. The final regulation may contain elements of either or both options

suggested during the public comment process. The commissioner may also amend 5 AAC 93.350(d).

Option 1:

5 AAC 93.3XX. Hatchery Salmon Use Authorization. (a) Notwithstanding AS 16.05.831(a) and 5 AAC 93.310, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open a fishing season in any area during which a hatchery operator, processor, or catcher processor may remove and sell pink or chum salmon roe without further utilization of the carcasses of the salmon, under the terms of this section.

(b) This section applies only to pink and chum salmon that,

- (1) originated from a hatchery;
- (2) are harvested in a hatchery terminal area or hatchery special harvest area;
- (3) are part of a return that exceeds the forecast return by at least 50 percent;
- (4) have matured to the point that their flesh cannot be marketed or put to other lawful use without an unreasonable risk of incurring a financial loss;
- (5) cannot be put to other lawful use or be given away despite compliance with the requirements of this section;
- (6) are retained until after completion of a fish ticket; and
- (7) are disposed of at the same time as other salmon on the same fish ticket.

(c) Before operating under this section in any calendar year, a hatchery operator, processor, or catcher processor must

(1) submit a written notice of intent to operate under this section to the commissioner that includes

- (A) a plan for complying with the requirements of this section;
- (B) a report documenting any and all preseason efforts to find lawful uses for pink and chum salmon and to allocate necessary resources for processing for such use; and

(C) estimates as to what it would cost the hatchery permit holder, processor, or catcher processor to put unmarketable pink and chum salmon carcasses to lawful use; estimates must include transportation, equipment purchase or lease costs, and other processing costs;

(2) receive a written acknowledgment from the department that the department has received a completed notice of intent to operate under this section and that the hatchery operator, processor, or catcher processor is not precluded from operating under this section.

(d) After receiving the written acknowledgment described in (c)(2) of this section, during seasons announced by emergency order, a hatchery operator, processor, or catcher processor may remove the roe from pink or chum salmon carcasses without further use of the carcasses if the hatchery operator, processor, or catcher processor, for each lot of salmon carcasses to be disposed of, first does the following:

(1) makes a written determination (A) that the pink or chum salmon satisfy the requirements of (b)(1) - (5) of this section; and (B) of estimated proceeds from roe sales and salmon sales and costs to put the salmon carcasses to lawful use;

(2) records on ADF&G fish tickets, the date, time, location and quantity of the salmon roe harvested and the number of salmon carcasses that are disposed of, and attaches to the ticket a statement documenting the location and manner of disposal; and

(3) except as provided in (e) of this section, makes the salmon carcasses available, free of charge, to food banks and to the public; in making the salmon carcasses available, a hatchery operator, processor, or catcher processor shall

(A) refrigerate, ice, or otherwise preserve the salmon carcasses adequately to prevent decomposition or unwholesomeness;

(B) transport the salmon carcasses to a location where public access is available by road to a city, and keep the salmon carcasses available at that location for at least 36 hours before disposal;

(C) at least 72 hours before the disposal, provide public notice of the availability of the salmon carcasses by posting of notices at its normal places of business and by publication in a newspaper or through radio or television announcement; additional notices shall be given if reasonably necessary to alert food banks and the public of the availability of the salmon carcasses.

(e) As an alternative to making all salmon carcasses available as required in (d)(2) of this section, a hatchery operator, processor, or catcher processor may instead transport, as described in (d)(2)(B) of this section, 100 salmon carcasses, or an amount of salmon carcasses sufficient to meet public and food bank demands, whichever is greater, and then may immediately dispose of other pink or chum salmon carcasses. The hatchery operator, processor, or catcher processor shall maintain the transported salmon carcasses at that location under the conditions described in (d)(2)(A) of this section. The hatchery operator, processor, or catcher processor shall (1) replace transported salmon as necessary to maintain freshness but at least every 72 hours; and (2) for a period of 72 hours after any disposal, replenish the supply of transported salmon in amounts sufficient to maintain 100 salmon carcasses or to meet public and food bank demands, whichever is greater. Except as otherwise specified in this subsection, operations under this subsection are subject to all other provisions of this section, including the notice requirements of (d)(2)(C) of this section.

(f) A hatchery operator, processor, or catcher processor disposing of pink and chum salmon under this section shall keep detailed records, which must include the date, time, location, species, quantity, and quality grades, of all lots of salmon carcasses offered, and given away, to food banks and the public, and of all salmon carcasses that are disposed of under this section. The records shall be retained for two years.

(g) A hatchery operator, processor, or catcher processor shall keep detailed records of all attempts to sell or market pink and chum salmon carcasses that are disposed of under this section. The records must include a bid package containing information on location, species, quantity, and quality grades of salmon offered for sale and must also include a list of all buyers contacted and copies of any offers received. The records shall be retained for two years.

(h) Before December 15 of a year in which a hatchery permit holder submits a written notice of intent to operate under this section, the hatchery permit holder shall submit to the department a written report documenting

- (1) the number of pink and chum salmon carcasses disposed of, by species;
- (2) copies of the hatchery operator, processor, or catcher processor's written determinations required by (d)(1) of this section;
- (3) the number of pink and chum salmon carcasses, by species, made available, and given away, to food banks and the public under (d) and (e) of this section;
- (4) how the salmon in (3) of this subsection were made available under (d) and (e) of this section;
- (5) estimated costs that would be necessary to increase processing capacity to provide for lawful use if an equivalent number of salmon were to return the next year under similar market conditions; and
- (6) how the salmon carcasses were disposed of, including reference to all applicable local, state, and federal permits.

(i) Reports and other information provided to the department under this section will be considered to be public records.

(j) Records maintained under this section shall be provided, upon request, to the department, the department's agent, or the Department of Public Safety for inspection.

(k) A hatchery permit holder, processor, or catcher processor, disposing of pink or chum salmon carcasses under this section shall comply with all applicable state, federal, and local laws.

(l) A hatchery operator, processor, or catcher processor may not operate under this section if notified by the commissioner that its operations are not covered by this section.

(m) The commissioner will notify a hatchery permit holder, processor, or catcher processor, in writing, that its operations are not covered by this section if the commissioner determines that the permit holder, processor, or catcher processor, has

(1) substantially failed to comply with the requirements of this section;

(2) failed to submit a report required by this section or to maintain records required by this section;

(3) falsified information contained in reports or records required by this section;

(4) disposed of salmon in a manner inconsistent with state, federal, or local laws.

(n) If the commissioner determines that operations under this section are not consistent with the maximum and wise use of the resource, the commissioner will, in the commissioner's discretion, issue a new emergency order closing the season and opening a new season in which the terms of this authorization are modified or revoked for salmon processed or caught in any fishing district, subdistrict, or section. The commissioner, by emergency order, may limit an authorization under this section to hatchery operators, processors, catcher processors, or any combination thereof, if the commissioner determines that such limitation is consistent with the maximum and wise use of the resource.

(o) In this section, "unreasonable risk of incurring a financial loss" means that, for a given lot of fish, as designated by the hatchery operator, processor, or catcher processor, with reasonable inseason and preseason effort and allocation of resources, cost of putting the salmon to lawful use and from selling the roe removed from the salmon, without foregoing processing of other salmon, could be expected to exceed the proceeds of sale of the salmon and roe. Cost of putting the salmon to lawful use and from selling the roe removed from the salmon, without foregoing processing of other salmon, shall not be considered to exceed the proceeds of sale of the salmon and roe if another person is willing to accept the lot salmon, with roe intact, free of charge, and put the salmon to lawful use.

(p) A person may not possess salmon for use under this section while possessing at the same facility or on the same vessel

(1) salmon taken outside the special harvest area or terminal harvest area opened under (a) of this section; or

(2) salmon taken before the issuance of an emergency order under (a) of this section.

Option 2:

5 AAC 93.3XX. Hatchery Salmon Use Authorization. (a) Notwithstanding AS 16.05.831(a) and 5 AAC 93.310, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open a fishing season in any area during which a hatchery operator or a processor, or catcher processor working under contract for the hatchery operator may remove and sell pink or chum salmon roe without further utilization of the carcasses of the salmon, under the terms of this section.

(b) This section applies only to pink and chum salmon that

(1) originated from a hatchery;

(2) are harvested in a hatchery terminal area or hatchery special harvest area;

(3) if left unharvested could create a public nuisance or could stray and intermix with or interfere with natural stocks;

(4) have matured to the point that the hatchery operator reasonably determines that the flesh cannot be marketed or put to other lawful use without an unreasonable risk of incurring a financial loss;

- (5) are required to be harvested under the terms of a hatchery permit,
 - (6) are retained until after completion of a fish ticket; and
 - (7) are disposed of at the same time as other salmon on the same fish ticket.
- (c) Before operating under this section in any calendar year, a hatchery operator must:
- (1) submit a written notice of intent to operate under this section to the department and identify any processor or catcher processor that will be involved in operations under this section; and
 - (2) receive a written acknowledgment from the department that the department has received a completed notice of intent to operate under this section and that the hatchery operator and any processor, or catcher processor it proposes to utilize is not precluded from operating under this section.
- (d) After receiving the written acknowledgment described in (c)(2) of this section, during seasons announced by emergency order, a hatchery operator, or a processor or catcher processor working for the hatchery operator may remove the roe from pink or chum salmon carcasses without further use of the carcasses if the hatchery operator, processor, or catcher processor, for each lot of salmon carcasses to be disposed does the following:
- (1) prior to disposal, makes a written determination that the requirements of (b) of this section will be met;
 - (2) keeps written records of all direct costs of harvesting the salmon, removing and processing the roe, disposing of the carcasses, marketing of the roe, and of all revenue generated from sales of the roe, and
 - (3) surrenders all proceeds from sale of the roe minus the direct costs of harvesting the salmon, removing and processing the roe, disposing of the carcasses, and marketing of the roe, to the state.
- (e) A hatchery operator, processor, or catcher processor shall retain all records required under this section for seven years.
- (f) Before December 15 of a year in which a hatchery permit holder submits a written notice of intent to operate under this section, the hatchery permit holder shall submit to the department a written report documenting
- (1) the number of pink and chum salmon carcasses disposed of, by species;
 - (2) copies of the written records required under this section from the hatchery operator and from any processor or catcher processor working for the hatchery operator;
 - (3) copies of records documenting the surrender of proceeds required by (d)(2) of this section;
- (g) Reports and other information provided to the department under this section will be considered to be public records.
- (h) Records maintained under this section shall be provided, upon request, to the department, the department's agent, the Department of Revenue, or the Department of Public Safety for inspection.
- (i) A hatchery permit holder, processor, or catcher processor, disposing of pink or chum salmon carcasses under this section shall comply with all applicable state, federal, and local laws.
- (j) A hatchery operator, processor, or catcher processor may not operate under this section if notified by the commissioner that its operations are not covered by this section.
- (k) The commissioner will notify a hatchery permit holder, processor, or catcher processor, in writing, that its operations are not covered by this section, if the commissioner determines that the permit holder, processor, or catcher processor, has
- (1) substantially failed to comply with the requirements of this section;
 - (2) failed to submit a report required by this section or to maintain records required by this section;
 - (3) falsified information contained in reports or records required by this section;

(4) disposed of salmon in a manner inconsistent with state, federal, or local laws.

(l) If the commissioner determines that operations under this section are not consistent with the maximum and wise use of the resource, the commissioner will, in the commissioner's discretion, issue a new emergency order closing the season and opening a new season in which the terms of this authorization are modified or revoked for salmon processed or caught in any fishing district, subdistrict, or section.

(o) In this section, "direct costs" does not include overhead or general marketing costs, but does include shipping and storage costs.

5 AAC 93.350(d) is amended to read:

(d) Notwithstanding AS 16.05.831 (a) and 5 AAC 93.310, a person may dispose of the carcass of a salmon from which milt or eggs are extracted under a permit issued under AS 16.10.400 - 16.10.480 for lawful use as brood stock **if the permit holder first documents milt and roe extraction and carcasses disposal information on a form provided by the department, and:**

(1) eggs that are not used for fertilization are removed from no more than 10 percent of the permit holder's brood stock goal during milt and egg extraction; or

(2) the department is immediately notified in writing of any extraction of eggs that will not be used for fertilization that exceed the limits established in paragraph (1) of this subsection, and all proceeds from sale of eggs exceeding the limits established in paragraph (1) of this subsection are immediately forfeited to the State.

ISSUE: During years of unexpectedly large salmon returns to various hatcheries the continued use of an emergency regulation has been necessary to prevent wandering of returning salmon and to prevent public nuisances from arising due to the accumulation of dead and dying salmon on the beaches and in the streams and surrounding areas. Because this issue has continued to arise, and because it is difficult to provide adequate incentives for maximum and wise use of the resource through last minute emergency regulations, permanent regulations are needed.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued reliance on emergency regulations is likely to be needed to assure that unexpectedly large returns of hatchery pink and chum salmon are harvested and it will be difficult to provide incentives for greater use of the resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this regulation will allow for immediate orderly and timely clean up salmon fisheries within Terminal Harvest Areas and Special Harvest Areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? ADF&G staff and members of the public who would like to see greater utilization of hatchery returns, greater hatchery responsibility for handling unexpectedly large returns, and reduced accumulations of dead and dying salmon on beaches and in streams.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hatchery operators and members of the public who would like the hatcheries to be able to maximize benefits from large returns without investing in increased processing capacity.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo.

PROPOSED BY: Commissioner of ADF&G (HQ-06-F-169)
