

**Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Committee Summary**

**COMMITTEE A**

**South Alaska Peninsula Salmon  
March 2, 2013**

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**Board Committee Members:**

1. Vince Webster \*Chair
2. Sue Jeffrey
3. Orville Huntington

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff Members:**

1. Aaron Poetter, AMB, Commercial Fisheries
2. Nathaniel Nichols, Assistant AMB, Commercial Fisheries
3. Aaron Tiernan, Assistant AMB, Commercial Fisheries
4. Jeff Wadle, Management Coordinator, Commercial Fisheries
5. Mark Witteveen, Research Biologist, Commercial Fisheries
6. Eric Volk, Fishery Scientist, Commercial Fisheries
7. Andrew Munro, Fishery Scientist, Commercial Fisheries
8. Adam St.Saviour, Research Biologist, Commercial Fisheries (note taker)
9. Charles Russell, Assistant AMB, Commercial Fisheries (note taker)
10. Todd Anderson, AMB, Commercial Fisheries
11. Lisa Olson, Deputy Director, Division of Subsistence

**Department of Law**

1. Lance Nelson, Attorney V

**Department of Public Safety:**

1. Tory Oleck

**Advisory Committee Members: (only those representing committees in committee)**

1. Kenneth Parker, False Pass AC
2. David O. Osterback, Sand Point AC
3. Roy Ashenfelter, Northern Norton Sound AC
4. Grant Newton, King Cove AC
5. Roland Briggs, Lower Bristol Bay AC

## Public Panel Members:

1.	Mark Wagner	Author of Proposal 194	Area M
2.	Patrick Brown	Self	Area M Setnet
3.	Eric Weber	Self	Area M Setnet
4.	William Dushkin Sr.	Sand Point	Area M Seine
5.	Duane Kapp	Self	Area M Setnet
6.	Jim Smith	Self	Area M Setnet
7.	Rick Eastlick	Self	Area M Setnet
8.	Ernie Weiss	Aleutians East Borough	
9.	Melvin Larsen	AMSA	Area M Seine
10.	Carol Foster	Self	Area M Seine/Setnet
11.	Mike Kurtz	Self	Area M Seine
12.	David Adams	Author of Proposal 176	Area M Setnet
13.	Bruce Barrett	CRAA	
14.	Chuck McCallum	CRAA/Lake and Peninsula Borough	
15.	Warren Wilson	King Cove	Area M Drift Gillnet
16.	Brenda Wilson	Aleutians East Borough	
17.	Don Bumpus	CMA	Area M Seine
18.	Tom Wooding	CAMF	Area M Drift Gillnet
19.	Alvin Osterback	Self	Area M Setnet/Seine
20.	Ben Mobeck, Sr.	Oppose Proposal 15	Area M Setnet

## Federal Subsistence Representative:

None

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The committee met March 02, 2013 at 3:10 p.m. and adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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PROPOSALS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE WERE: 176, 177, 178, 185, 186, 15, 194, 195, 242, 193

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**PROPOSAL 176 – 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.** Open and close the Northwest Stepovak Section, including Orzinski Bay, by emergency order (EO), between July 1 and July 25.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- RC 143 could allow up to 96 hours of uninterrupted fishing time

Department of Law:

- None.

Federal Subsistence Representative:

- None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Removes language restricting fishing periods to no more than 48 hours, but restricts to 96 hours in a seven-day period.
- Area is managed for local stocks, yet CMA fish are harvested in this area. CMA fisherman supports proposal given that there is no net increase or decrease in fishing time.

**Public Panel Recommendation:**

Consensus to support RC 143.

RC 158 submitted with substitute language.

**PROPOSAL 177 – 5 AAC 09.3XX. Southeastern District Post-July Salmon Management Plan.** Create a *Southeastern District Post-July Management Plan* in regulation.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- None.

Department of Law:

- None.

Federal Subsistence Representative:

- None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Set gillnetters voiced concern over lack of fishing time during fall fishery and support from the department during this time.
- Letter of support from user group for this proposal (PC 34).
- A Chignik panel member strongly opposed this proposal. He indicated this would negatively affect Perryville coho following stream rehabilitation and conservation efforts, which they depend on for subsistence.
- In August there is diminished effort by set gillnetters, by September 1, the fleet is usually 12 boats, and by September 15, it's usually down to 5 boats participating in the fishery. Processor and tenders have left.
- Perryville residents can go to Ivanoff for coho subsistence.
- Potential to open a fishery to over-exploitation with no accountability.
- Stepovak Bay and Balboa Bay has coho producing streams.
- Runs should be managed for conservation.
- Sand Point AC supports proposal.
- Chignik AC does not support this proposal.

**Public Panel Recommendation:**

No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 178 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.** Modify the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) management plan to open weekly fishing periods for setnet gear in the Southeastern District to set gillnet gear in September and October.

**Comment Summary:**

**Department:**

- Coho abundance, based on catch per unit effort of set gillnet fleet, used to manage coho fishery.

**Department of Law:**

- None.

**Federal Subsistence Representative:**

- None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Traditionally, a small fleet of boats during this fishery and concerns over bad weather.
- Differs from proposal 177. This only includes September and October, and allows for subsistence.
- Should be managed for conservation, inseason data would be needed.
- A member on the public panel said he received personal calls voicing concerns over effects on subsistence fishery in Chignik Lagoon and recent declining late-run subsistence fish.
- Sand Point AC in support of this proposal if proposal 177 did not pass.

**Public Panel Recommendation:**

No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 184 – 5 AAC 09.366(g)(1) and (2). Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.** Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Peninsula* and clarify regulation language conflicting with the regulatory language within the *Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) Salmon Management Plan*.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- Department proposal; area is covered by two conflicting management plans. In 2010, the board extended the *Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) Management Plan* fishing season through the end of October. This management plan has the tools necessary to manage Suzy's Creek under the SEDM management plan.

Department of Law:

- None.

Federal Subsistence Representative:

- None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Sand Point AC took no action on this proposal because it came out after the proposal book was published.

**Public Panel Recommendation:**

Consensus to support.

**PROPOSAL 185 – 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.** Provide the department more flexibility when conducting the Shumagin Islands Section test fisheries to assess immature salmon.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- None.

Department of Law:

- None.

Federal Subsistence Representative:

- None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Supporters would like to give managers flexibility if there are only a few fish over immature threshold.
- Would like to regain fishing time if closed due to immature salmon.
- Only area in state with immature test fishery.
- Opening of fishery would depend on the area manager's discretion.
- When this rule was instituted, 100 immature salmon were considered high; immature salmon are considered 1-ocean fish and harvesting these fish would be biologically and economically wasteful.
- Sand Point AC supports this proposal.
- Immature fish in Shumagin Islands in July are moving west.

**Public Panel Recommendation:**

No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 186 – 5 AAC 09.366(g)(1). Post-June Salmon Management Plan for South Alaska Peninsula.** Allow a pink salmon fishery within waters of Ramsey Bay in the Stepovak Flats Section.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- None.

Department of Law:

- None.

Federal Subsistence Representative:

- None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Chums and pinks segregate in that area; this allows harvesters to target a strong run and avoid weak ones.
- Sand Point AC supports this proposal. It is a historical pink fishery. They want the opportunity to open it by emergency order if the department deems escapement levels warrant it.

**Public Panel Recommendation:**

Consensus to support.



**PROPOSAL 191 – 5 AAC 09.320(b)(2). Fishing periods in the Northwestern District. Limit fishing periods in Bechevin Bay Section to four days in seven.**

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- None.

Department of Law:

- None.

Federal Subsistence Representative:

- None.

Public Panel Comments:

- False Pass AC supports this proposal. In 2011, many of the stocks were “taken out” and there were no fish in streams. This area is a subsistence area for False Pass. A regulation is needed to protect escapement.
- King Cove AC supports this proposal. False Pass can be open for seven days a week and this can lead to overharvest when the Port Moller fleet comes down there. It can be overharvested with weekly periods.

**Public Panel Recommendation:**

Consensus to support.

**PROPOSAL 15 – 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Allow set gillnet anchors and running lines at registered sites to remain in the water during closed periods.

**Comment Summary:**

**Department:**

- Current regulation allows anchors and running lines in the water during closures including at unregistered sites.

**Department of Law:**

- Navigational hazards are outside of the board's authority. The board can regulate locations and registration.
- Legal precedent established by the courts is first on site, with net in the water; this establishes a right to that site, as long as fishing is continuous.
- Need to treat everyone equally; concerns over DNR lease sites treated differently from unregistered sites

**Federal Subsistence Representative:**

- None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Some people leave gear out to "reserve" a site that they may or may not fish. Considered a navigational hazard.
- This would create a huge amount of work for unregistered fishermen and would be difficult to enforce.
- Anchors and lines are left out because fisheries move around so much. There is a "gentleman's" agreement that people can fish unused gear at a site.

**Public Panel Recommendation:**

No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 194 – 5 AAC 09.335. Minimum distance between units of gear.** Change the distance between set gillnets from 900 to 1,800 feet in the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) of area M set gillnet fishery.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- None.

Department of Law:

- Board has authority to regulate distance between nets. Need to treat everyone equally; grandfathering of DNR leases has never been done by the board and will be difficult to accomplish. It would be best to address this in another way.

Federal Subsistence Representative:

- None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Three reasons the proposal was submitted were to allow fishermen to continue to make a living, reduce conflict, and allow new fishermen to get in. Bowpickers and sternpickers can move more quickly than traditional skiffs and are more expensive. Would also support 1,500 foot separation. Provides an exception for Orzinski Lake to control escapement. Intent was not to force individuals to keep own nets apart
- Thinks it used to be 1,800 feet and was reduced many years ago.
- Is it enforceable?
- Sand Point AC opposes this proposal. Wants more time to study this.

**Public Panel Recommendation:**

No consensus.

Proposer withdrew support for proposal 194 in RC 162

**PROPOSAL 195 – 5 AAC 09.330(d)(1)(B). Gear.** Allow drift gillnet gear to operate in the Southwestern District of Area M from June 1-August 31.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- In 2007, the board expanded this same area to drift gillnet gear in the June fishery.

Department of Law:

- None.

Federal Subsistence Representative:

- None.

Public Panel Comments:

- King Cove AC submitted this so there was an option to fish for pink and chums closer to home when conditions and fishing are poor further away. There are no fish present in the Unimak District.
- Sand Point AC does not support expanding drift gillnet fishery because their seiners fish there.
- This is an expansion of an intercept fishery that would be detrimental to Chignik stocks and does not believe it is a chum and pink fishery.
- King Cove seiners would like to be able to fish there in August.
- Fishermen would like to be able to fish closer to home; considers it a safety benefit and not an expansion.
- Fisherman sold drift gillnet permit and purchase set gillnet permit; this would upset established balance.
- Wants to fish Deer Island in July and August. Will change it to just August if Chignik fishermen are concerned about sockeye. Sees it as being just locals fishing in this area.

**Public Panel Recommendation:**

No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 242 – 5 AAC 09.322(a). Seine specifications and operations.** Seine specification and operations to allow for seine specifications to be measured in feet and inches rather than mesh depth.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- Proposal was derived from ACR 5.

Department of Law:

- None.

Department of Public Safety

- Opposed this proposal because it is difficult to measure in the field.

Federal Subsistence Representative:

- None.

Public Panel Comments:

- King Cove AC proposed because seine webbing can shrink.
- Panel member stated that it is nightmare to try to measure. Different materials behave differently.

**Public Panel Recommendation:**

No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 193 – 5 AAC 09.350(35). Closed waters.** Reduce the closed water area in Grub Gulch.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- Introduced proposal and described brief history of the current line.

Department of Law:

- None.

Federal Subsistence Representative:

- None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Latitude and longitude in regulation is inaccurate. Wants the line to run from point to point. Chum run on west side of bay.
- Sand Point AC supports this proposal. Would like to see markers put back at these sites.

**Public Panel Recommendation:**

Consensus to support.