

Meeting of the Chignik Advisory Committee
December 18th, 2007

The Meeting was called to order at 1:08 PM Alaska Standard Time

Joe Chythook is the presiding ADF&G Board support staff person present.

Voting Advisory Members Present are:

- 1) For Chignik Lagoon: David Anderson
- 2) For Chignik Lagoon: John Jones (alternate for Alfredo Aboueid)
- 3) For Chignik Lake: Johnny Lind
- 4) For Chignik Lake: Ted Shangin
- 5) For Chignik Bay: Aloys Kopun
- 6) For Chignik Bay: Ernest Carlson (alternate for Shane Macauly)
- 7) For Perryville: Marvin Yagie (Perryville has one seat vacant and no alternate)
- 8) For Ivanof Bay: Noah Shangin (Sitting in for Alternate Edgar Shangin)

Staff is not on line yet so Joe Chythook continues with introductions and general announcements

Guests:

Also on line at Chignik Lagoon: Clem Grunert, Al Anderson, Frank Grunert
 Also on line at Chignik Lake: Eliot Lind, Ron Lind, Harry Kalmakof, Doris Lind, Elia Lind Jr., A.J., and Nick Odomin.
 Also on-line at Perryville: Andy Shangin
 On line at Seward: Michael Grunert and Alec Branson
 Others on-line: Chuck McCallum and Bruce Barrett

General announcements:

This meeting was first attempted on October 2nd but it appeared that a quorum was not going to be established and so was postponed.

Johnny is acting chairman but his term for holding office is expired. Election of officers is on the agenda for this meeting.

ADF&G Staff comes on-line:

Mark Stichert, Mark Witteveen, Jim McCullough (Jim will leave after an hour but may be able to return)

A quorum is declared established with eight voting members present.

The first item on the agenda is approval of minutes. The Chairman notes that few have reviewed the minutes.

Motion to postpone approval of the minutes

m/John; 2/Marvin
Unanimous approval.

Election of officers:

The floor is open for nominations for Committee Chairman

Aloys Kopun nominates Johnny Lind

Nomination closed

Johnny unanimously approved as chairman.

Without objection or comment Chuck McCallum is appointed as secretary and it is noted that Chuck has been assisting with minutes for years.

John Jones nominated as Vice-Chairman.

The nominations are closed and John Jones is elected Vice-Chair by unanimous approval.

Chairman Johnny Lind turns to staff to begin the AC action on proposals. Mark Stichert notes that all Department comments are draft.

PROPOSAL 23 – Allow subsistence fishing in Chignik Lake tributaries of Clark River and Home Creek.

Motion to adopt: m/Aloys; 2/Ernie

Comments:

It is noted that regulations have never accurately reflected actual traditional subsistence use in the Chignik Lake and Black Lake watershed and that subsistence use regulations are much more restrictive in Chignik than in other areas such as Bristol Bay. Currently it is illegal to take subsistence fish from Clark River and Home Creek which is the major subsistence fishing area for the Village of Chignik Lake.

Staff was asked why only Clark River and Home Creek when traditional subsistence practice is far wider. Staff answers that it is because the most subsistence effort is observed in Clark River and Home Creek. Staff also noted that a new federal regulation could make this proposal moot (FP08-11?)

There is no subsistence problem that is being addressed by the proposal. The problem is just that the current regulation does not recognize traditional subsistence practice and everyone agrees that the current closures are inappropriate.

Motion to amend Proposal 23

M/David Anderson; 2/Aloys Kopun

To authorize subsistence fishing in Chignik Lake and Black Lake inlet streams

Comment on the amendment:

ADF&G Staff support the unamended language to protect the spawning beds.

There is a consensus that it is important to keep people off the spawning beds but that this proposal would not be expected to result in any change in behavior by subsistence users

and that a local community commitment to educate subsistence users on best practices is the way to approach that issue.

The amendment passes unanimously.

Proposal 23 passes unanimously as amended.

PROPOSAL 24 – Subsistence gill net to obstruct no more than half the wetted width of a stream.

Motion to adopt: M/Ernie; 2/Aloys

Comments:

Staff is asked whether they have ever seen this as a problem anywhere and staff says yes – in Perryville.

This proposal would not save any fish in Perryville. What saves fish is local commitment to conservation backed up by an education program. That is what saved fish in Perryville.

Motion to amend (substitute language): m/ Ernie; 2/Aloys: A gillnet may not be anchored or used as set-net in a stream to where more than one half of the wetted stream width is obstructed.

on the amendment – unanimous approval.

on the main motion – unanimous approval.

Proposal 24 passes as amended.

PROPOSAL 25 – Amend the Chignik Area Salmon Management plan regarding the Eastern District.

Motion to adopt: M/Aloys; 2/David

Comments:

Staff notes that with the reduced size of the fleet and the sporadic use of the Eastern District in the early season that they do not know the effort in the eastern district.

One AC member notes that they operate a tender in Chignik and they have to give daily information on deliveries and that they do not see how reporting would be any better under this proposal.

Staff is asked how this proposal could possibly work - would it require reporting by each fisherman that wanted to fish in the Eastern District. The answer is that the proposal does not require fishermen to report and the staff reply includes a comment that they have thought about using a reporting requirement as one way of dealing with this issue.

An AC member asks: If a reporting requirement is not a part of the proposal and all you have is the ability to open it on request then you still won't know how many fishermen are going to the Eastern District. In other words your proposal cannot get you what you say you want.

If you have your escapement you should not worry who is catching the fish. Have you ever had a problem getting escapement? Staff answers, no.

If there was any concern about management due to uncertainty about what is caught in the eastern district you should simply be more conservative in your Chignik openings. (There appears to be consensus on this point from members of the AC and the public guests.)

If you are worried about uncertainty because you don't know what the effort is in the Eastern District then it is inconsistent to not have a similar proposal for Kodiak's Igvak fishery. Staff agrees that it is inconsistent but that we now have the proposals that are before us and we cannot change that now.

Since Igvak doesn't have a similar proposal and this proposal does nothing except give the department the power to keep the Eastern district closed, this proposal looks like it is written to favor Kodiak fishermen. ADF&G staff vigorously reject this suggestion.

If this is a problem then wouldn't Aniakchak be the same? Staff answers yes but that Eastern District is much more important.

There is a strong consensus from the AC and the public guests to totally and absolutely oppose the proposal as making no sense and opening the door to increased closures and loss of fishing opportunity.

ADF&G staff states that they are not unwilling to consider a formal reporting requirement as an alternative to the current proposal.

One Advisory Committee member stated that he was involved at the Board of fisheries in 1983 when the current language to open Eastern District when Chignik Bay and Central District were open was put into regulation. Larry Nicholson was Chignik Area Biologist then (he went on to be the Western Region Supervisor) and Larry had no problem with the Eastern District and no problem with escapement. The idea was that if Igvak can fish on Chignik bound fish right in front of you then why can't Chignik? Why is it so critical for us to have numbers right away when Igvak doesn't need to have figures for days? Why after all these years are we suddenly having a problem that needs fixing? It makes no sense to me at all. We have had good years and bum years and it hasn't made any difference. I think this is an allocative proposal.

A guest asks ADF&G Staff a question: What I think I'm hearing is that you want to have power to keep Eastern District shut down in case you need to take up some slack – that kind of micro managing is ridiculous – just get a bit more ahead of the escapement if that

is what you need. Staff commented "Fair enough ...". The AC member goes on to ask, why are you trying to take away something from the outside fishery to make your job easier? It doesn't seem fair and it could be allocative despite what you say.

Other AC members agree that fishermen don't like too much tide-to-tide micromanagement and if the department needs to reduce uncertainty then they prefer closing down the lagoon to build up escapement.

Staff comments that the other option is a registration option.

A guest asks why the department did not use the pre-season staff meeting with the fishing fleet to discuss the need for better information. You probably could have gotten better information on a voluntary basis. I see no need for a registration requirement and no need to close the Eastern District. This is a bad proposal. There is no problem to solve and the problem we are told exists is not addressed by the proposal.

There is general agreement by AC members regarding the last statement and the question is called and heard.

Proposal 25 is unanimously opposed.

PROPOSAL 26 – no commercial fishing before June 5 or before 30,000 to 40,000 escapement through Chignik weir.

Motion to adopt: m/David Anderson; 2/John Jones

Comments: Staff reads draft comments.

One AC member agrees with the department that they should have the management discretion they have now. I have not had any problem getting my subsistence fish and I am opposing proposal 26.

Staff read draft comments

Aloys – agree with dept – leave to dept discretion (oppose proposal 26) I have not had any problem getting my subsistence fish in all my years

Staff is asked questions regarding dates that escapement targets were met in 2006 and 2007.

Staff answers that the numbers are not ready at hand but that the dates and numbers in the proposal are confusing – the number doesn't match the escapement dates.

An AC member says that this concern developed during the years when the Chignik Coop was in operation. The fishery was micromanaged so closely that subsistence fishermen were having a hard time even getting their fish 48 hrs prior to an opening.

This proposal looks like a compromise between the 20,000 and 40,000 as I see it. I am not totally for it – I like to see some cushion (some buildup in the lagoon) – I don't like making 5 sets for a hundred fish 48 hours prior to an opening.

It is not the date that makes the difference – it is the numbers of fish in the lagoon.

ADF&G staff agrees that having both the date and the escapement numbers is confusing and suggests getting rid of the date. Staff also comments that they do not see that the proposal would have made any difference in how the fishery was managed in the previous two years.

Staff is asked to respond to the idea of a June 10 date instead of June 5. Staff responds that the date still doesn't matter.

Motion to amend proposal 26

M/David Anderson; 2/John Jones

To change the date to 9th of June and to change number to 30,000 sockeye through the weir or expected through the weir.

Friendly amendment to drop the date accepted by David Anderson and John Jones.

Approval of amendment unanimously approved.

Proposal 26 amended to read that there will be no commercial opening until 30,000 fish pass the wier passes with one objection

PROPOSAL 27 – Include Castle Bay in the Central District

Motion to adopt: M/Aloys; 2/ David

Staff comments

ADFG opposes – The stock ID is inadequate and there is adequate ability to catch Chignik bound stock under current regulations.

A guest notes that Castle Bay is only 8 miles from lagoon and that Castle Bay is an inner bay of Chignik Bay. Chignik Bay is a terminal harvest area for Chignik bound sockeye salmon. Castle Bay is a safe harbor area from southeasters and can offer an alternative fishing area during storm events in the outer Central District. Interception problems would not be expected as ADF&G has stated that there is no evidence of nonlocal sockeye accounting for more than 10% of the harvest anywhere in Chignik Bay. Because of the close proximity to Chignik Lagoon, it is reasonable that Castle Bay be included in the Central District.

Another guest notes that the size of the fleet has no bearing whatsoever. I don't see a problem expanding to castle cape – no other problems either – just gives us more room to do what we do.

Proposal 27 passes with all in favor except one abstention.

Proposal 28 – Western and Perryville Management Plan
Motion to adopt: M/Aloys; 2/John Jones

Staff comments:

It is not known what the effects would be.

Public Comments:

One AC member states support – Open it the way this proposal says.

Another AC member points out that this would make the Western and Perryville Districts consistent with how the Eastern District is managed. We have Sand Point fishing right in front of us – We should be given the opportunity of harvest our own fish in June month. I don't see why we have not been able to do that.

Staff: It is largely allocative and we are neutral on that. Additionally we don't have much information.

A guest asks staff if the presence of Chignik stocks in Western and Perryville is recognized. Staff answers that it is a reasonable assumption but we don't actually have the information.

Proposal 28 is passed with Unanimous approval

PROPOSAL 29 – Repeal closed waters near Kupreanof Point
Motion to adopt: m/Aloys; 2/Marvin

Public Comment:

This is a no brainer. We fished it forever and one bad episode got it closed. Area M has got a lot of new areas open recently and we should get this historical area back. The Area Mm guys would like to see it open too – they feel the same way we do. There is no reason for it except some fishing on the wrong side and everyone has had a chance to see it didn't pay to do that.

Staff comments that this is largely a Board of Fisheries call and the staff is neutral.

One AC member comments that this proposal opens Kup side when area M comes up again they will get their side open - you know it may have an impact on us.

Another AC member responds that Area M fishermen already catch Chignik sockeye at Bluff Point – they don't need to go down to Kupreanof – it won't make any difference to how many Chignik sockeye are caught – I know that Area M will put in a proposal to open kupreanof.

Question is called and heard
Unanimous approval for Proposal 29

PROPOSAL 30 to repeal the 60,000 Coho cap
Motion to adopt: m/Aloys; 2/Ernie
Staff Comments: Cap put in place in 2002 based on 1996 cap in area m which was repealed in 2004. The Coho cap has never been exceeded. There is no Coho conservation problem. Passing this proposal would simplify management and reflect what is done in Area M.

Public Comments are all supportive and agree with Staff comments are noted as excellent.

Question is called and heard

Proposal 30 passes unanimously.

PROPOSAL 31 – Department generated proposal to open Western and Perryville districts from approximately August 20 solely based on the departments evaluation of local Coho runs and Chignik Lake sockeye.

Motion to adopt: M/Aloys; 2/John Jones

Staff comments:

Public Comments:

Question is called and heard

Proposal 31 passes with unanimous approval

PROPOSAL 32 – Coho Management Plan

Motion to adopt: m/Aloys; 2/John Jones

Coho man plan

Staff comments: The department supports the intent but a lot of information would be needed. For example: how would non retention of sockeye salmon work?

A guest comments that in Kodiak they take their harvest of silvers seriously and Chignik is really missing the boat and we can't fish them effectively. We need to think about how to do better.

An AC member comments that he has a problem with the idea of throwing sockeye over into muddy and silty water. What will be the survival rate? Staff answers that they are not aware of anywhere that sockeye is thrown over for Coho.

An AC member notes that the real problem is processor economics and that they oppose the proposal.

A guest notes that while he understands the concerns over sockeye handling mortality that a balance is needed and there is also the predation element to consider – Coho eat a

lot of juvenile sockeye. The sockeye mortality problem can be addressed. It is true that a market for the Coho needs to be developed.

An AC member agrees with the last guest commenter – that it is important to put some pressure on the Coho population in the lake to balance the predation in the Lake. If you are going to do this you really need to watch what happens to the reds when you throw them overboard. Also – if you are dependent on a market to come to you first it won't happen – it has to be open first.

If we had a market it would always be open and we wouldn't need this proposal.

A AC member asks the department if they have a plan to balance out the increased predation from larger Coho populations and the staff responds by saying that they have no plan. The AC member then asks if this proposal would help. Staff responds by saying that it is a hard question to answer but that it might help.

A guest recommends staff to review thesis of Greg Ruggerone. Also noted is that the population of Brown bear has increased substantially.

Proposal 32 passes 7 in favor and 1 opposed

PROPOSAL 33 to allow gill nets in the Chignik Management Area

Motion to adopt: m/Aloys; 2/ David

Staff comments: Largely neutral but notes that gear conflicts are likely.

Public Comments:

A guest notes that a gillnet fishery in Aniakchak would be very wrong. Kings and steelhead go up that river. I can't believe anyone is seriously considering this – I don't see Trident paying more for gillnet caught fish. You aren't going to get anyone else to come in and process. This looks to me like someone trying to get something for nothing.

An AC member states opposition to the proposal. He notes that there is a quality issue and predicts that we would have outside guys coming in and buying permits.

An AC member asks Chuck McCallum to explain the status of Chignik Seiners Association (CSA: the organization that submitted the proposal).

Chuck McCallum responded by acknowledging that CSA had not had a public meeting or an election for many years and that the board of directors did discuss whether it was appropriate to submit proposals given this situation. While the Board of CSA understood that their authority to represent the fleet was weak they also believed that they also still had a responsibility to try. With regard to the gill net proposal and the troll proposal CSA did not strongly support these proposals and put them in as 'strawmen' in order not to miss an opportunity should it turn out that one of the proposals just might find support in the fleet. It was intended that there would be public discussion either during the 2007 season in Chignik at public meetings or at least by newsletter. Neither has happened and this AC meeting is really the first public discussion of these proposals. While I chaired

the CSA meeting at which these proposals were put forward I neither promoted these proposals or had anything to do with writing them or introducing them. Nor will I promote the gill net or troll proposal at the Board of Fisheries. Nor will I suggest to the Board of Fisheries, that CSA has strong representation from the fleet with regard to the gill net proposal or the troll proposal.

An AC member notes that if this were to go forward that the gillnetters would eventually be asking for an allocation.

It is noted that Chignik is one of the few places that have no gear conflicts and it would be a real shame to start now.

An AC member asks Chuck McCallum what the Lake and Peninsula Borough's opinion is on this.

Chuck McCallum responds that the Borough has no position on in-area issues like this and that he would not be promoting the proposal when he attends the board of fishery meeting January 10-12.

An AC member notes that if the Borough still had an active fishery committee that greater information regarding the Boroughs position would be available.

PROPOSAL 34 – Troll gear to be allowed in Chignik

Motion to adopt: m/David; 2/Aloys

Comments: Consensus to oppose until more information is available and especially until the statewide issue can be resolved.

Question is called and heard

Proposal 34 fails with all opposed.

PROPOSAL 53 – Change way the Igvak allocation is calculated

Motion to adopt: m/Aloys; 2/David

Staff Comments: We note that it takes out the 90% calculation

Public Comments:

One guest says that this was put in to be consistent after a similar proposal was proposed and passed in to regulation for the SEDM interception management. The issue there was that everything was OK up until a few years ago when the Igvak interception suddenly shot up markedly over the 15% goal. Then, because the intercept goal for SEDM was calculated on the total of Chignik, SEDM, AND Igvak that the result was that SEDM was rewarded with extra fish because Igvak overshot. By pegging the intercept based on only fish harvested at Chignik that loophole was closed. It is less important to fix it on the Igvak side (for when SEDM goes over) but was felt it was reasonable to put it in for consistency. It changes the number from 15% to 19%.

Staff is asked if they believe 19% of Chignik harvest is allocatively neutral and they respond that they had a biometrician to do math "and it looks allocatively neutral to us."

An AC member points out that the Igvak plan was put into place in the early 1970's long before the SEDM allocation was put into place (1985) and that originally Igvak was never supposed to include SEDM at all – So the allocation should stay at 15% of Chignik harvest only and not be increased to 19%.

AC member Ernie Carlson has to leave the meeting.

Motion to amend

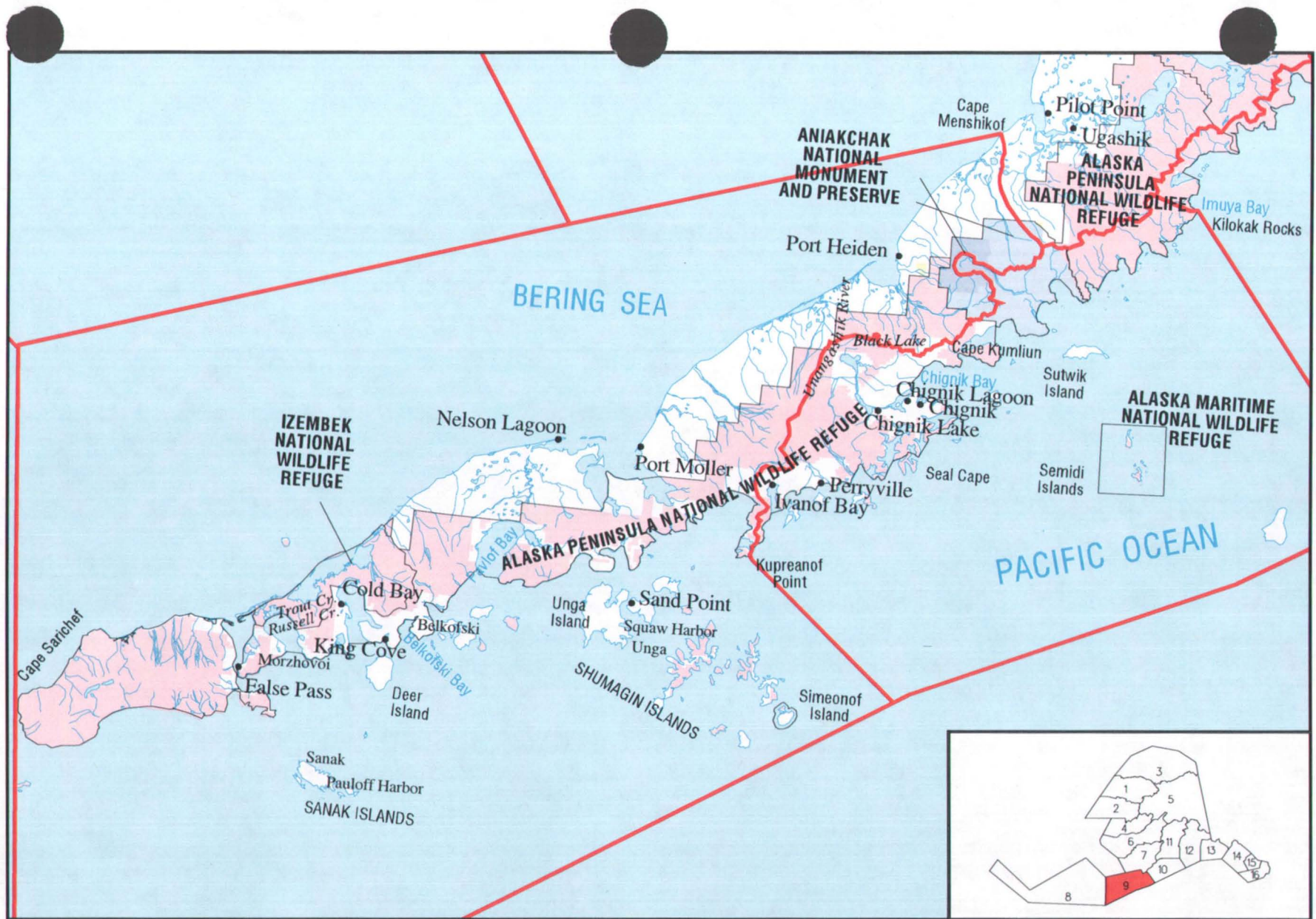
m/ David Anderson; 2/ John Jones

Amendment: The Igvak management plan should be as it is currently except that the 15% should be calculated by applying the 15% only to sockeye harvested in the Chignik management area. Further, the department is requested to provide a history of how the Igvak fishery has been managed since its inception.

Amendment Passes 6 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 absent.

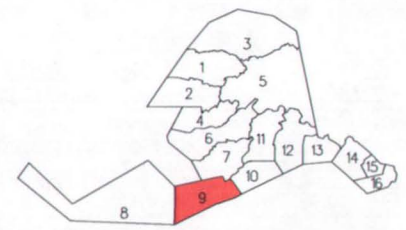
Proposal 53 passes as amended.

Meeting is adjourned at 5:26 P. M. Alaska Standard Time.





Map 9 Alaska Peninsula and Chignik Areas

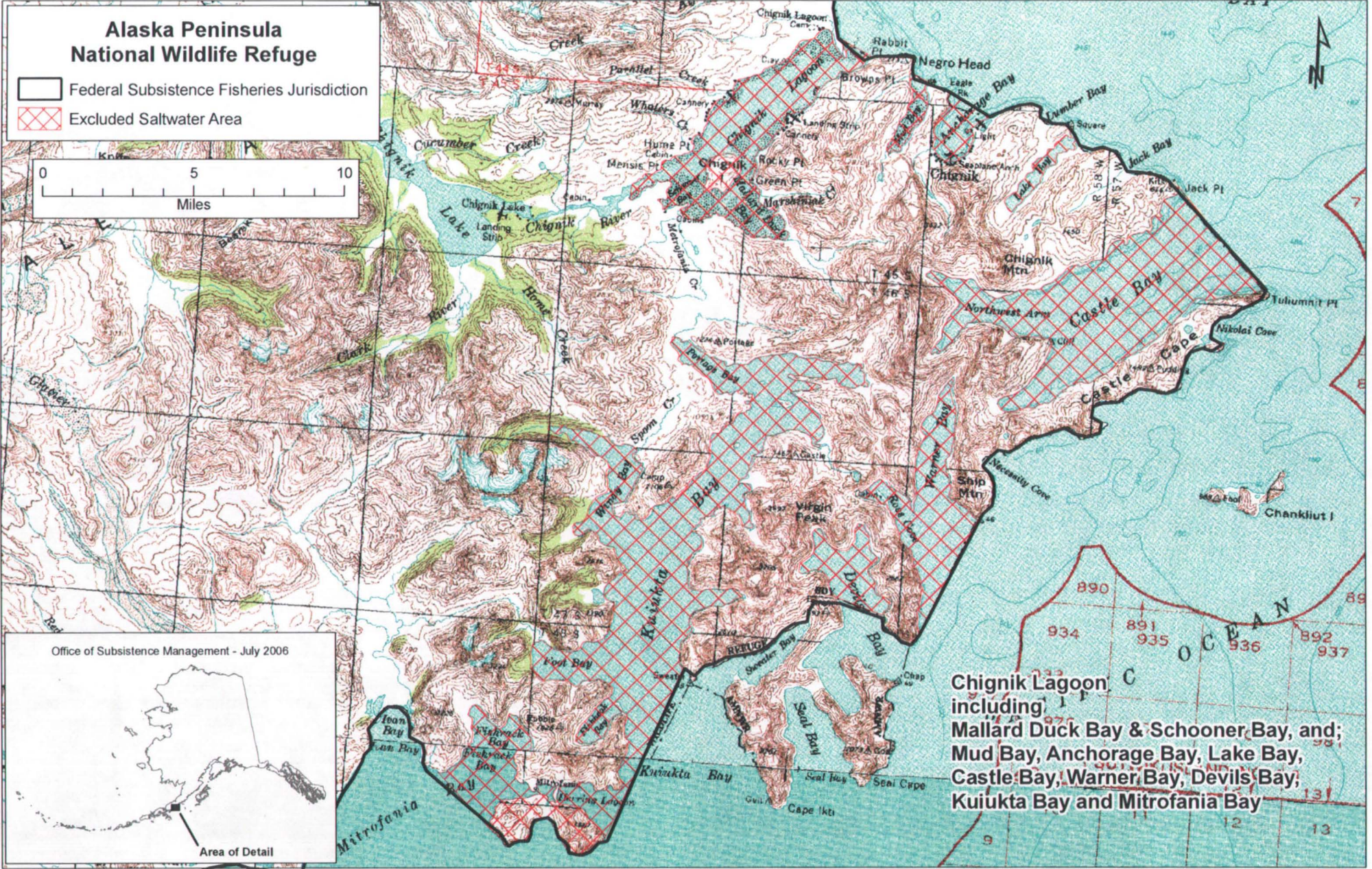
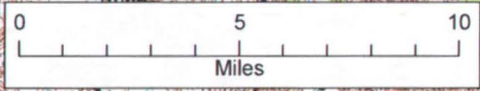
- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| FWS Administered Land | USFS Administered Land |
| NPS Administered Parks | Closed to Subsistence |
| NPS Administered Preserves | Roads |
| BLM Administered Land | Area Boundary |
| BLM Non-navigable Waters Only | Federal Boundary |



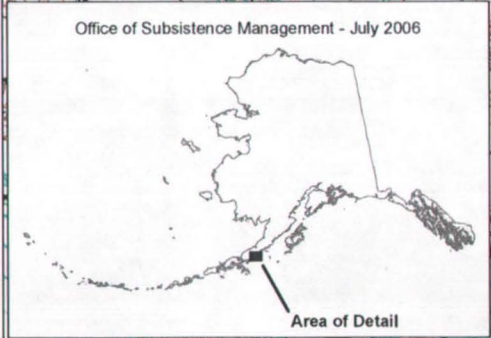
PL 6

**Alaska Peninsula
National Wildlife Refuge**

-  Federal Subsistence Fisheries Jurisdiction
-  Excluded Saltwater Area



**Chignik Lagoon,
including
Mallard Duck Bay & Schooner Bay, and;
Mud Bay, Anchorage Bay, Lake Bay,
Castle Bay, Warner Bay, Devils Bay,
Kuiuikta Bay and Mitrofanía Bay**



RC 7

Chignik Seiner's Association
Box 46, Chignik AK 99564

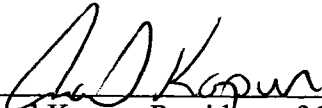
January 10, 2008

Attn: Jim Marcotte, Executive Director, Board of Fisheries

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

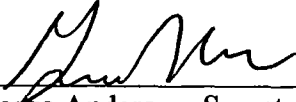
Chignik Seiners Association (CSA) hereby withdraws its support for Board of Fisheries proposals numbers 33 and 34 under consideration at the Board of Fisheries meeting in Anchorage, January 10th to 12th.

Sincerely,



Axel Kopun, President of CSA

1-10-08
Date



George Anderson, Secretary of CSA

1-10-08
Date

Board of Fisheries committee and task force assignments (updated 9/25/07)

Morris Jensen Campbell Williams Edfelt Webster Delo

Committees

Committee on Committees
 Bd. of Fisheries/Bd. of Game
 Federal/State Subsistence
 Habitat
 Joint BOF/NPFMC
 Legislation
 Sustainable Fisheries
 Salmon Industry Restructuring
 Bristol Bay Habitat
 Cook Inlet Management

Chair	Yes				Yes	
		Yes			Chair	Yes
Yes					Yes	Chair
	Yes		Chair			Yes
Chair	Yes			Yes		
			Yes	Chair		Yes
		Yes	Yes	Chair		
	Chair	Yes		Yes		
	Yes		Chair		Yes	
		Chair		Yes	Yes	

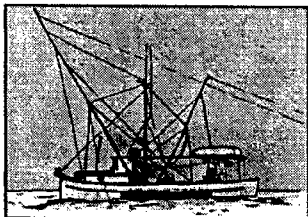
Task Forces / Workgroups

none at this time

**Board of Fisheries
January 10-13, 2008
Chignik Finfish meeting**

Public testimony sign-up list

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
1 Axel Kopun	self, Chignik Seiners Assoc.
2 Bruce Barrett	Chignik Reg. Aqua. Assoc.
3. Johnny Lind	Chignik Advisory Committee
4. Tony Gregorio	self
5. Chuck McCallum	self
6. Eric Weber	self, APCEA
7. George Anderson	Chignik Seiners Assoc
8. Jamie Ross	self, Chignik Seiners Assoc.



Alaska Trollers Association

130 Seward #205
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-9400 phone
(907) 586-4473 fax

January 10, 2008

Mel Morris, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: Proposal 34

Dear Mr. Morris and Board Members:

I am writing to inform you of Alaska Trollers Association's (ATA) opposition to Proposal 34, which seeks to establish a troll fishery in the Chignik management area.

ATA represents hook and line salmon fishermen operating in both state and federal waters off Southeast Alaska. Our members are committed to maintaining access to high quality Alaska salmon for consumers worldwide. There are over 2000 hand and power troll permits active in Alaska and about half are fished each year. The troll fleet is 85% resident and roughly 40% live in rural communities. Vessels range in size from 14' skiffs to vessels up to 60'.

Ironically, every troller in Alaska currently holds a statewide permit card and for the majority of the fleets' 130 year history trollers were allowed to fish in most all regions. ATA tried for many years to re-establish the troll fishery west of Cape Suckling, which was closed for conservation purposes in the mid-70s and remains closed today due, in part, to allocation concerns expressed by a variety of fishing interests.

For a great many years, both the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Board of Fisheries have insisted that the troll fishery remain limited to the Southeast region due to complications that could erupt within the Pacific Salmon Treaty arena. The US/Canada Salmon Treaty was signed in 1985 and includes a provision mandating no 'new or redirected' fisheries. Since trolling statewide was a pre-Treaty endeavor, we are told that re-opening the troll fishery west of Suckling would constitute a violation of the commitments made by, and between parties within, the United States. To say the least, this has been a disappointment, and the situation would be further aggravated if the state now chose to allow a select group of fishermen the opportunity to troll in areas closed to our fleet.

Another issue of concern is the matter of allowing Chignik fishermen to switch their permit between gear types, as opposed to buying a separate troll permit. There are more than 2600 troll permits in Alaska – many unused -- why add more? If this fishery is allowed to open, then existing troll permit holders should be free to fish the area, and/or sell their permits to willing buyers.

Finally, it should be noted that that there is only one area in Southeast where trollers can fish six lines – the Fairweather Grounds. In most areas, four is the maximum allowable number of lines for Power troll, with two hand gurdies OR four sport rods allowed for Hand troll. This is far less than the requested number of lines in Proposal 34.

ATA appreciates that other fishermen are interested in accessing under-utilized species and improving the quality of their landed catch throughout part or all of the season. In fact, we would like to see our fleet spread out to other regions to accomplish the goals of superior quality and increased opportunity for all of Alaska's salmon fishermen. Unfortunately, the current political climate for West Coast salmon fisheries is not conducive to that notion. Nor does it make sense to establish new, exclusive use opportunities for pocket fisheries, which could negatively impact existing, displaced fishermen who have been prevented from fishing the area in question for nearly three decades.

If ATA can be of assistance on this or other issues of concern to our fleet and the commercial fishing industry, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dale Kelley
Executive Director

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
COMMITTEE MINUTES

RC # 11

COMMITTEE of the WHOLE

Chignik subsistence and commercial finfish regulatory proposals
January 2008

Board Committee Members:

1. Vince Webster
2. Howard Delo
3. Larry Edfelt
4. Bonnie Williams
5. Jeremiah Campbell
6. John Jensen* Chair
7. Mel Morris

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff Members:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Mark Stichert | 7. Mark Witteveen |
| 2. Dave Sterritt | 8. Steve Honnold |
| 3. Patti Nelson | 9. John Hilsinger |
| 4. Jim McCullough | 10. Bridget Easley |
| 5. Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough | 11. Elizabeth Andrews |
| 6. Heather Finkle (note taker) | 12. Todd Anderson (note taker) |

Advisory Committee Members:

1. Johnny Lind, Chignik AC

Public Panel Members:

1. Chuck McCallum, CSA
2. Bruce Barrett, CRAA
3. Tony Gregorio, Chignik fisherman
4. Eric Weber, Area M
5. George Anderson, CUI CSA
6. Jamie Ross, CUI CSA
7. Axel Kopun, CUI CSA
8. Mark Wagner, Area M
9. Edgar Smith, Area M

Federal Subsistence Representative:

1. Rod Campbell USFWS/OSM

The Committee met January 11 at 3:24 pm and January 12 at 8:37 am

PROPOSALS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE WERE: (12 Total) Chignik Subsistence: 23,24; Chignik Commercial Salmon: 25-34

PROPOSAL # 23. Amend regulation to allow fishing in Chignik Lake tributaries

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 1 and 2, Written Tab 4 and 5, RC 4

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 7 pg 3

AC Reports: RC 5, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1 and 6, PC 2

Record Comments: RC 5, 6

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: The department submitted and supports this proposal. A one-mile restriction upstream from the stream mouth would help preserve spawning grounds. The department also advocated a precautionary approach with this proposal because of the uncertainty of the impact of increasing the subsistence harvest area.

Federal Subsistence Management Program: Supports this proposal. These areas would remain closed under current federal regulations.

Support:

Would provide reasonable late-season subsistence harvest opportunities.

May increase the subsistence harvest and improve documentation of those harvests.

Opposition:

Would restrict fishing in historical subsistence fishing areas.

SSFP: This proposal could allow for an even distribution of harvests and protect genetic diversity. This is a conservative approach to activities that can affect essential salmon habitat.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chignik AC: Opposed as written.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support with amended language.

Substitute Language: It was suggested to amend the language to allow subsistence harvests in all tributaries.

PROPOSAL # 24. Amend regulation to restrict gillnets from fishing no more than one half of wetted width of any fish stream.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 1 and 2, Written Tab 4 and 5, RC 4

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 7 pg 7

AC Reports: RC 5, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab, PC 2

Record Comments: RC 5, 6

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: The department submitted and supports this proposal.

Federal Subsistence Management Program: Supports this proposal as this is already in the general provisions of the federal regulations.

Support:

Would reduce some harvest of salmon stocks in local streams, and limit future subsistence fishing opportunities.

A wetted net width of no more than one half of any fish stream is a common practice in other parts of the state.

Opposition:

Overly restrictive.

Gillnets are used in as seines in these streams: they will block more than one half width of a stream for a relatively short period of time, and are not anchored or stationary.

Educating subsistence fishers about location and protection of spawning areas would likely achieve a better result.

SSFP: This proposal could allow for an even distribution of harvests and protect genetic diversity. This is a conservative approach to activities that can affect essential salmon habitat.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chignik AC: Supports with amended language.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support with amended language.

Substitute Language:

Chignik AC would support if read as “a gill net may not be anchored or used as a set net” as stated in RC 5.

PROPOSAL # 25. Amend regulation to allow the Eastern District to open independently of the Chignik Bay and Central districts.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 1 and 2, Written Tab 4 and 5

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 7 pg 9

AC Reports: RC 5, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 5, 6

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: The department submitted this proposal with the intent to obtain accurate and timely harvest information which has been a problem to date. However, following discussion with the public panel, the department believes that the intent of this proposal may be achieved without the need for a change in regulation and withdraws support of the proposal.

Support:

Would allow the department to better document effort and manage the fishery.

Only six boats (with refrigeration) are capable of fishing this area and this proposal would have minimal impact on the fishery.

Opposition:

Would restrict fishing opportunities in the Eastern District.

Does not resolve the problem of receiving timely catch information.

No biological or management foundation.

SSFP: Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chignik AC: Opposed.

Public Panel Recommendation: Opposed.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL # 26. Restrict commercial fishing in the CMA before June 5 or before 30,000 to 40,000 fish pass the Chignik weir.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 1 and 2, Written Tab 4 and 5

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 7 pg 11

AC Reports: RC 5, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 5, 6, 12, 13, 15

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: Opposed to the potential for limiting actions to effectively manage the fishery in early June.

Federal Subsistence Management Program: This proposal is out of the USFWS/OSM's jurisdiction.

Support:

May increase harvest opportunities and ease of obtaining early run subsistence fish for subsistence fishers, who prefer early season fish.

Would ensure there are fish to harvest for subsistence uses prior to commercial openings.

Opposition:

May restrict ADF&G's ability to manage the fishery in early June.

Present policy has not hindered the harvest of subsistence fish.

A jump on the fishing season allows the one processor in Chignik to keep up with its processing capacity.

The department has already reduced commercial fishery periods to allow for increased subsistence harvest.

SSFP: Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chignik AC: Supports

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

PROPOSAL # 27. Amend regulation to include Castle Bay in the Central District.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tabs 1 and 2, Written Tabs 4 and 5

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tabs 7 pg 15

AC Reports: RC 5, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 5, 6, 14

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: Neutral on allocative aspects of this proposal but opposed to biological and enforcement aspects associated with this proposal. The department suggested that if the Board wanted to provide fishing time prior to July 6 in the Castle Bay area, that the Castle Bay area be added to that portion of the management plan directing fisheries prior to July 6 rather than changing the district boundary. This would minimize impacts on historical catch numbers and escapement goal reviews. Further the department suggested establishing inner and outer Castle Bay sections; the inner section would be managed prior to July 6 with the Eastern, Central, and Chignik Bay districts while the outer section would be managed with the remainder of the Western and Perryville districts.

Support:

Castle Cape is a natural boundary.

Offers an alternative fishing area in bad fishing conditions.

Opposition:

Enforcement concerns.

May impact salmon escapement goal review criteria and historical reporting practices.

SSFP: This proposal appears to be in alignment with the SSFP.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chignik AC: Supports.

Public Panel Recommendation: Supports with amended language.

Substitute Language: It was recommended to amend the proposal language to create two sections for Castle Cape within the Western District, allowing the inner Castle Cape section to open concurrently with the Central District. The quarter mile boundary line would also be removed.

PROPOSAL # 28. Open the Western and Perryville districts in June and early July with the Chignik Bay and Central districts.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tabs 1 and 2, Written Tabs 4 and 5

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tabs 7 pg 19

AC Reports: RC 5, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 5, 6

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: Neutral on allocative aspects of this proposal but undecided on how this proposal would affect management. If approved, the department would need direction from the BOF to clarify intent.

Support:

Chignik fishermen should have the opportunity to harvest those fish.

Reduce fishing pressure in the Chignik Lagoon.

Opposition:

Would create harvest opportunities only accessible to members of fleet with RSW because of cannery policy.

Could open a mixed-stock fishery and create allocation issues with Area M.

SSFP: Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chignik AC: Supports.

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL # 29. Repeal the closed waters area near Kupreanof Point.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tabs 1 and 2, Written Tabs 4 and 5

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tabs 7 pg 23

AC Reports: RC 5, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 5, 6

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: Neutral on allocative aspects of this proposal.

Support:

Increase cape fishing opportunities in the Perryville District.

Reduce fishing pressure in the Chignik Lagoon.

Opposition:

May cause conflicts between Area L and Area M fishers.

Would create harvest opportunities only accessible to members of fleet with RSW because of cannery policy.

Could create enforcement issues.

SSFP: Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chignik AC: Supports.

Public Panel Recommendation: Approved the concept of the proposal, however, they agree with the Board in seeking a delayed implementation of this proposal respective of proposals submitted in the 2009 Area M board meeting.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL # 30. Repeal the coho cap in the Chignik fishery.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tabs 1 and 2, Written Tabs 4 and 5

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 7 pg 25

AC Reports: RC 5, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 5, 6

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: Neutral on allocative aspects of this proposal but supports aspects of this proposal to simplify management.

Support:

May simplify management as it is a regulation that has minimal to no impact on management of the fishery.

Opposition: None

SSFP: Not discussed

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chignik AC: Supports.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL # 31. Amend regulation to allow fishing periods in the Western and Perryville districts based on pink, chum, coho, and sockeye salmon.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tabs 1 and 2, Written Tabs 4 and 5

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 7 pg 27

AC Reports: RC 5, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 5, 6

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: The department submitted and supports this proposal as amended. See proposal language in Staff Comments RC 2 Tab 7.

Support:

May increase harvest opportunities for pink and chum salmon.

Opposition: None.

SSFP: Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chignik AC: Supports.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL # 32. Develop a coho salmon management plan.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tabs 1 and 2, Written Tabs 4 and 5

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 7 pg 29

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 5, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 5, 6

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: Supports the intent of this proposal. If approved, the department would need direction from the BOF, proposal authors, and fishery stakeholders to clarify management of a late-season coho salmon fishery.

Support:

May increase harvest opportunities for coho salmon.

May help the local economy.

A coho salmon targeted fishery would help reduce predation and rearing pressure on rearing sockeye salmon.

Opposition:

Would cause bycatch issues for sockeye salmon if coho salmon returns are strong and sockeye salmon returns are weak.

SSFP: Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chignik AC: Supports.

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL # 33. Allow drift gillnet gear in the Chignik Area. WITHDRAWN

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tabs 1 and 2, Written Tabs 4 and 5

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 7 pg 31

AC Reports: RC 5, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 5, 6, 7, 12

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: Neutral on allocative aspects of this proposal but, if approved, the department would need direction from the BOF to provide a framework for resolving allocative conflicts between users and gear types and define a registration process for switching gear types.

Support:

None.

Opposition:

May cause conflicts between CMA salmon permit holders.

May increase costs for a private person to participate.

Proponents that submitted the proposal withdrew support.

SSFP: Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chignik AC: Opposed.

Public Panel Recommendation: Opposed.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL # 34. Allow hand and power trolling in the Chignik Area. WITHDRAWN

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tabs 1 and 2, Written Tabs 4 and 5

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 7 pg 33

AC Reports: RC 5, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 5, 6, 7, 10, 12

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: Neutral on allocative aspects of this proposal but opposed until the effects of troll gear and effort on local and nonlocal stocks can be fully explored.

Support:

None.

Opposition:

May create a new interception fishery.

May increase costs for a private person to participate.

Proponents that submitted the proposal withdrew support.

SSFP: None

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chignik AC: Opposed.

Public Panel Recommendation: Opposed.

Substitute Language: None.

From: Al Anderson
To: Alaska Board of Fisheries
Date: January 10, 2008

Subject: Written Comments of Al Anderson on proposals, 26, 33, 34, and 53 for the meetings to be held in Anchorage and Kodiak regarding the Chignik and Kodiak Salmon proposals

Mr. Chairman members of the board of fish.

My name is Al Anderson.

I have been involved in the Chignik fishery in one way or another all my life –Born, raised here, and still living here.

Subsistence is a big part of my families lifestyle, I currently serve on the CRA board as vice chair and have the subsistence seat

I have lived thru the rough times when we sat on the beach in June for several years in the 60's to build up our first run, now it is about all we have left besides the humps and dogs on the outside and a few silvers.

Our second run of reds is doing a little better than just meeting the escapement goals which is not enough in my opinion and here is what I think part of the problem is.

Some years back video cameras were installed for counting escapement at the weir. Prior to that it was done with the old tally machines and eyeball.

I believe that the old method was not as accurate as the cameras are now simply because of the "boring factor" when the count was slow—the person taking the count would looking around watching bears etc;

All he would have to do is miss a few fish at one of the gates and you multiply that by the rest of the gates and it will add up over time, A couple off months ago I read an article in the paper it was I believe about the Kasiloff river on the Kenai peninsula their King escape turned out to be something like 5 times higher than the dept thought they were getting up into the watershed counting the old fashioned way. The upshot of this is I believe the sports people got an extra day of fishing per week. THIS CONFIRMED WHAT I HAVE SUSPECTED ALL ALONG THAT THERE IS A REAL GOOD CHANCE THAT THE RIVER SYSTEMS FOR BOTH RUNS IS BEING UNDER ESCAPED HERE IN CHIGNIK. The department keeps saying the rearing habitat is not very good right now and they want to keep the escapement on the lower end. I say when we were using the old counting way we were getting more carcasses, thus nutrients, and you know something we were getting better returns.

I really want to go into this allot more because there are issues with black lake but I'm afraid I will lose your attention.

Proposal #26

I support basically what the local AC did but I would like to see this added.

Should the number of commercial fishers increase again to 75 or more than the Dept would have to go back to the old plan of having a minimum of 40,000 fish thru the weir and a good showing in Chignik Lagoon – this would be pre Co-op days, before any commercial fishery can occur, this would allow the subsistence users to get their fish and process them in a timely fashion and they

would not have as hard a time getting them.

Proposal #33 and #34

I think that you are going to throw these two in the garbage and rightly so. Let's keep Chignik one gear type. The fishery is already fully utilized and then some.

Proposal #53

I'm against this proposal all the way,

I believe the original Board of fish when they allowed Igvak the 15% in the beginning meant that the 15% should be calculated only on the fish that was caught in Chignik proper, Not on the combined catches at Igvak and Chignik and then the Area M percentage was added in about 1985 now Kodiak is getting 15 % of that as well. Now Chignik's interception has become a perpetual motion machine Area M feeding of what ever Kodiak has caught and vise versa. The way it is figured now is the fish and game comes out with a forecast and allows Kodiak to harvest ahead on our first run of what is actually happening and then Chignik is hopefully going to catch up fishing on our second run.

A little of the background above helps you to understand what is going on here.

For a few years now we have been hitting the late run really hard. SEDM and the Shumigans hitting them really hard and then us—This has really taken a toll. With the exception 1999, we no longer fish in September like we did and now the August run is dwindling away to nothing. PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS FOR THESE TWO MONTHS GOING BACK 15 YEARS OR SO. That is about 3 life cycles of these fish I believe. In the years when we sat on the beach in June to build up the first run the latter part of July, August and September is where we made our money and got our subsistence.

Chignik has basically only one run left and that is the first run. Its time to take a look at how Chignik is being managed and LASTLY THE CHIGNIK PEOPLE NEED YOUR HELP — ELIMINATE THE IGVAK INTERCEPTION FISHERY.

The Co-op was an attempt by the previous Board to fix Chignik but in fact most people are in worst shape now then ever.

I think that this board can help a lot by taking the intercept fisheries off of Chignik. It would certainly give a few more fish to this Area and the fish and game would not have submit proposals like #25 to try and micro manage Chignik even more.

CHIGNIK WAS ONCE THE ENVY OF ALL OTHER FISHING AREAS. IT'S BROKEN NOW.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS

Al Anderson

RC13

Testimonial on Proposal 26

Attn. Board of fish

For the meetings to be held in Anchorage regarding the Chignik Salmon proposals

Mr. Chairman, members of the board of fish.

My name is Al Anderson.

I have been involved in the Chignik fishery in one way or another all my life --Born, raised here, and still living here.

Subsistence is a big part of my family's lifestyle, I currently serve on the CRA board as vice chair and have the subsistence seat

I have lived thru the rough times when we sat on the beach in June for several years in the 60's to build up our first run, now it is about all we have left besides the humps and dogs on the outside and a few silvers.

Our second run of reds is doing a little better than just meeting the escapement goals which is not enough in my opinion and here is what I think part of the problem is.

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I really want to go into this a lot more because there are issues with black lake but I'm afraid I will lose your attention.

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Proposal #33 and #34

I think that you are going to throw these two in the garbage and rightly so. Let's keep Chignik one gear type. The fishery is already fully utilized and then some.

Chignik has basically only one run left and that is the first run. Its time to take a look at how Chignik is being managed and LASTLY THE CHIGNIK PEOPLE NEED YOUR HELP-----
ELIMINATE THE IGVAK INTERCEPTION FISHERY

The Co-op was an attempt by the previous Board to fix Chignik but in fact Most people are in worst shape now then ever.

I think that this board can help a lot by taking the intercept fisheries off of Chignik It would certainly give a few more fish to this Area and the fish and game would not have submit proposals like #25 to try and micro manage Chignik even more.

CHIGNIK WAS ONCE THE ENVY OF ALL OTHER FISHING AREAS IT'S BROKEN NOW.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS

Al Anderson

Substitute language for proposal 27

Fishing Districts:

5 AAC 15.200(c)(1) is repealed and readopted to read:

(c)(1) **Inner and Outer** Castle Cape Sections: Intent language is as follows for this regulation to be renamed into the Inner Castle Cape Section which would include Castle Bay and the Outer Castle Cape Section which includes the rest of the Castle Cape section in the Western District.

5 AAC 15.357(b) is amended to read:

(b) In the Chignik Bay, Central Districts, **and the Inner Castle Cape Section of the Western District**, the commercial salmon fishery shall open concurrently based on escapement objectives for the Chignik Lakes' system sockeye salmon runs, except that

.....

(b)(3) from the end of the transition period, described in (2) of this subsection until September 14, the commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, fishing periods in the Chignik Bay, Central Districts, **and the Inner Castle Cape Section of the Western District**, based on the Chignik Lakes' system sockeye salmon escapement goals; the commissioner may take additional emergency order actions to protect or harvest local pink, chum, king, and coho salmon runs; and

(b)(4) beginning September 15, fishing periods in the Chignik Bay, Central Districts **and the Inner Castle Cape Section** may be no more than 48-hours per week, and shall be based on the department's evaluation of the sockeye salmon run strength and the subsistence needs for Chignik Lake late-season sockeye salmon.

RE 15

Proposal 26

January ~~Dec~~ 11, 2008

Attn. Board of Fish

My name is Laura Stepanoff

This Proposal 26 was written so more residents can get their subsistence in early June. In the past, residents were able to Subsistence in late May and early June and have time to put up all the fish they need for the winter. Now, with the change in fisheries, we have to ask fish and game to give us time for subsistence in mid June to early July, and resident don't have enough time between fishing openings to put up the fish they use to. Chignik Lagoon and Chignik Lake residents have always subsistence in late May and early June. The escapement has been getting less each year and residents haven't been able to get their early subsistence. We are asking Fish and Game to adjust their fishing escapement for Subsistence use.

Laura Stepanoff
Chignik Lagoon Resident
Chignik Commial Fishermen
Chignik Lagoon Subsistence user

Miscellaneous Business
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Jan. 10-12, 2008
Chignik Finfish - Anchorage

Seward Lagoon fishery	[Campbell]
Resolution re funding for research	[Williams]
Resolution re placing sustainable salmon policy in statute	[Williams]
Resolution re habitat intervention for Black Lake	[Williams]
Letter re HB 267 (Wildlife Violators Compact)	[Marcotte]

Adjourn

DRAFT 01/11/08

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
Resolution in Support of Funding for Fisheries Research**

2008-xxx-FB

WHEREAS, the quality of decisions of the Alaska Board of Fisheries are dependent upon information, and

WHEREAS, the quality and completeness of that information are critically dependent upon research, and

WHEREAS, a billion-dollar commercial fishery and a billion-dollar sport fishery are at risk to the quality of decisions, and,

WHEREAS, subsistence fisheries are the livelihood of thousands, who depend upon a resource affected by Alaska Board of Fisheries decisions,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Board Fisheries requests and urges the Alaska State Legislature to make an annual ongoing investment in fisheries research each year, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these research monies should be directed in equal parts to Southeast, Bristol Bay/Aleutians, Cook Inlet, and Yukon River Fisheries.

ADOPTED this ___ day of January, 2008

Mel Morris, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Vote:

DRAFT 01/11/08

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
Resolution in Opposition to Placing Sustainable Salmon Policy in Statute**

2008-xxx-FB

WHEREAS, House Bill 189 (Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries) would place in statute a policy of the Alaska Board of Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222) placed in regulation, and

WHEREAS, this policy took over four years to properly and fully develop, and

WHEREAS, all interested and affected stakeholders actively participated in formulating the final wording, and

WHEREAS, since its passage, the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries has been actively and successfully used in helping to guide decisions of the Board of Fisheries, and

WHEREAS, as changes in usage may identify minor improvements to the language,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Board Fisheries is adamantly opposed to House Bill 189 and to any effort to reduce, constrain or otherwise handcuff the ability of the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Department of Fish and Game to make free, intelligent and wise decisions based on the best available current information.

ADOPTED this ____ day of January, 2008

Mel Morris, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Vote:

DRAFT 01/11/08

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
Resolution in Support of Habitat Intervention for Black Lake**

2008-xxx-FB

WHEREAS, the health of the environment and habitat for fish is critical to productivity and sustained yield and generational success of all fish stocks, and

WHEREAS, attention to habitat improvement or restoration can have a critical impact upon localized salmon stock wellbeing, and

WHEREAS, flooding has drastically altered the smolt-rearing habitat of Black Lake near Chignik, a condition that is correctable through intervention,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Board Fisheries strongly supports habitat interventions and urges the Alaska State Legislature to annually address habitat interventions using resource infrastructure investments in their capital projects budget,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an excellent candidate would be Black Lake, in the Chignik Management Area, where runs have declined by over 50 percent in recent years due to failures in the smolt-rearing habitat that may be correctable by habitat intervention.

ADOPTED this ____ day of January, 2008

Mel Morris, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Vote:

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME BOARD OF FISHERIES

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

ADF&G
P.O. BOX 115526
JUNEAU, AK 99801-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4110
FAX: (907) 465-6094

DRAFT 1/11/08

January 11, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
Mail Stop 3100
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Subject: Support of HB 267

Dear Representative Johnson:

Thank you for your presentation to the Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game on October 8, 2007 regarding the Wildlife Violators Compact. We appreciate your efforts, and feel the time has come to bring Alaska into the Compact, joining 26 other states. We recognize the benefits which will come to Alaska by its membership, and support House Bill 267 which will accomplish these goals. Passage of this legislation will provide a strong deterrence for the commission of serious fish and wildlife crimes in Alaska, and will remain a priority of our two Boards.

We applaud the main premise of the Compact which provides for a convicted poacher, whose license has been revoked in one member state, to be revoked in all member states. This sends a clear message that we value our fish and wildlife resources and are serious about protecting them. We also support increased revenues which the state will realize when non-residents who receive citations are more motivated to pay their fines, as opposed to having licenses revoked if they do not respond to citations.

Please let us know what further we may do to lend our voice in support of the successful passage of this needed legislation.

Sincerely,

Mel Morris, Chairman
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries

RC 17

January 11, 2008

TO: The Alaska Board of Fisheries, Mel Morris, Chairman

FROM: Jamie Ross, Chignik Salmon Seiner, from Homer (907) 235-2992

RE: Emergency Petition From Beaver Nelson regarding Corkline Border strips and Chafe strips in Purse Seine Leads (ADF&G Memorandum dated 12/5/07)

Mr. Chairman and fellow Board Members,

I wanted to submit some comments regarding Mr. Nelson's Emergency petition to the BOF regarding Salmon Seine Leads. I want to state that I TOTALLY support Beaver's petition, and that it is absolutely essential and correct.

However, while I don't want to upset or interrupt the process of the implementation of this Emergency Petition, I do believe that this is the perfect opportunity for the BOF to "kill two birds with one stone" when you consider this emergency petition.

I wanted to bring to the BOF's attention that typical modern seine construction employs the use of a "Corkline Border Strip," along the ENTIRE length of the seine, NOT just in the lead. Every seiner I know, in almost every fishery of the state, utilizes this seine construction technique, because it saves wear and tear on the gear, AND prevents fishermen from having to re-hang their corkline every year. It also makes your seine much stronger, and helps prevent ripping of your seine or lead web.

This innovation has lead to tremendous savings in gear and labor costs.

The issue that I would like to raise, is just like the lead issue – In order to be technically "legal" with regards to total mesh depth requirements, if a person has a Corkline Border strip that is 5 meshes, you would have to go to all the extensive labor of cutting 5 meshes off the top of you first "strip" (Salmon seine web is manufactured in 100 mesh strips, with the very top mesh having a double layer of twine known as "Salvage") Not only is it very time consuming and labor intensive to cut off the 5 meshes, (Remember, we're talking about cutting a mere *5 meshes* for over ¼ of a MILE of seine web! (225 -450 fathoms depending on the area.) Then to top it off, you lose the "Salvage", which is another important component of wear and tear on the top part of your seine. **(Corkline Border strips are typically manufactured in 2 ½ or 5 mesh "strips")**

This really is not a depth issue, or catching power issue, and is really just an innovation to save cost and wear and tear for all seiners.

I believe it makes sense to have a consistent regulation for the entire state, and I would like to see the BOF add language to this petition that addresses the issue of "Corkline Border Strips" not only on leads, but for the entire length of ones seine as well.

Some possible language to consider might be:

5AAC 39.260 (f)Corkline Border Strips not to exceed 5 meshes are allowed along the entire length of purse seines, including leads.

In addition, in the Prince William Sound and Kodiak areas, a Leadline Chafe strip not to exceed 25 meshes of less than seven inches stretch measure is allowed in the lead.”

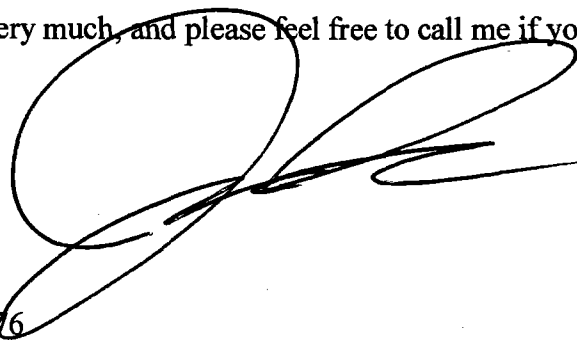
I'm not sure how to appropriately write this language, and which regulation number this should fit under, but I think you understand the problem here.

I have had discussions with Captain Cain from the Dept. of Public Safety, and he recognizes the concern, and did not seem to have a problem with the inclusion of this State wide language concerning Corkline Border Strips along the entire length of the seine, while dealing with this Emergency Petition.

Please take this opportunity to address all aspects of this issue while addressing this emergency petition.

Thank you very much, and please feel free to call me if you have further questions about this request.

Sincerely,



Jamie Ross
P.O. Box 3476
Homer, AK
99603 (907) 235-2292

Co-signers: