

Alaska Board of Fisheries Committee Summary

COMMITTEE A

Subsistence, Sport, Commercial Herring, and some Commercial Salmon
December 8 and 9, 2012

Board Committee Members:

1. Bill Brown, *Chair
2. Orville Huntington
3. Sue Jeffrey

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff Members:

1. Matt Miller, Sport Fish
2. Jason Dye, Sport Fish
3. Tim Sands, Commercial Fish
4. Davin Holen, Subsistence
5. Fred West, Commercial Fish
6. Craig Schwanke, Sport Fish
7. Ted Krieg, Subsistence
8. Sue Aspelund, Commercial Fish, Headquarters
9. Jim Hasbrouck, Sport Fish

Advisory Committee Members:

1. Mitch Seybert, Lower Bristol Bay (LBBAC)
2. Hans Nicholson, Nushagak (NAC)
3. Randy Alvarez, Lake Iliamna (LIAC)
4. Fred Pike, Naknek-Kvichak (NKAC)
5. Jonathan Forsling, Togiak (TAC)

Public Panel Members:

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|-------|-------------|
| 1. | Stan Small, | Self | Drift |
| 2. | Rolland Briggs | Self | Drift & Set |
| 3. | Courtney Gomez | BBNA | Subsistence |
| 4. | David Harsila | AIFMA | Drift |
| 5. | Frank Woods | BBNA | Subsistence |
| 6. | Gayla Woods | BBNA | Subsistence |

7.	Nancy Morris Lyon	Self	Sport/Subsistence
8.	Shelby Booth	Self	Sport
9.	Mark Carty	Self	Drift
10.	Robert Heyano	Self	Seine
11.	Joe Faith	Self	Drift
12.	Peter Christopher	Self	Subsistence
13.	Kenny Wilson	Self	Drift
14.	Moses Toyukak	Self	Subsistence
15.	Bill Munroe	North Pacific Seafoods	Processor
16.	John Parker	Self	Drift
17.	Norman VanVactor	Leader Creek	Processor
18.	Joe Klutsch	Self	Sport
19.	Dan O'Hara	Self	Subsistence
20.	Bob Dubey	Togiak Fisheries	Processor

Federal Subsistence Representative:

1. George Pappas

The Committee met December 8, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. and adjourned at 4:30 p.m. and December 9 at 9:00 a.m. and adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

PROPOSALS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE WERE: (20 total) Togiak Herring (10-14), Sport Fishing (2-9, 239), Subsistence (1), Fishing Gear Specifications and Operations (24, 25), and North Peninsula Fisheries (200, 203, 204)

PROPOSAL 10 – 5 AAC 27.865(b)(7). Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan. Allocate part of the unharvested herring spawn-on-kelp quota to the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery.

Comment Summary:

Department:

- Uncertainty due to genetics information as to whether the food and bait fishery near Dutch Harbor actually targets Togiak herring stocks.

Department of Law: None

Federal Subsistence Representative: None

Public Panel Comments:

- Nushagak AC opposed reallocation of Togiak herring stocks.
- Togiak fishery very dependent on weather; has started late in recent years due to later spring.
- If allocation is not met it is usually due to poor weather conditions.
- Fishery already fully allocated; no change needed.
- Fishery would add value to herring harvest, but requires shipping a large volume to interested buyers.
- Suggestion that food and bait fishery should occur near Togiak, not Dutch Harbor. This would require buyers to bring up tenders or processors.
- Food and bait fishery could expand and develop a market for fish not harvested in Togiak fishery.
- If quota is reallocated now it will be difficult to get allocation back in the future.

Public Panel Recommendation: No Consensus.

PROPOSAL 11 – 5 AAC 27.865(b)(8). Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan. Eliminate the requirement for the department to maintain 30% gillnet and 70% purse seine harvest percentages for the first 50% of the herring harvest.

Comment Summary:

Department:

- Clarified that each gear type needs to reach 50% of its quota before allocation goes away.
- A summary was given of how current allocation was developed; at one time trigger point was 85% of gear type quotas.

Department of Law: None

Federal Subsistence Representative: None

Public Panel Comments:

- Number of processors decreased from over 20 to 6.
- This proposal would impact processor ability to maximize capacity on a daily basis.
- Seine fishermen have cooperative shares among vessels to control amount delivered each day to provide desired processing capacity.
- Gillnetters fish different area than seiners and usually start later than seiners, so gillnetters fall behind on their allocation, causing seine fishery to close at times, sometimes when large numbers of fish are available.
- Gillnet fleet can fish later than seine fleet due to lower numbers of fish.
- Reiterated that gillnetters start later than seiners, creating limits on seine fishery.
- Managers should have to follow 70/30 allocation through entire season, not stop after 50% of gear quotas are met.
- Management for allocations results in much longer gillnet fishery since gillnetters continue to fish after seiners are complete.
- Togiak is a large district. Seiners take harvest throughout the district; gillnets, mainly in eastern area of district.
- Processors need to concentrate on seine-captured fish when available.
- Gillnets are only productive in small area of district, making it difficult for gillnet fleet to catch large numbers of fish.
- The current allocation worked in the past; however, not as effective now and reduces quality of harvest since seiners can't always catch them when available.
- 2013 forecast is for large quota.
- Gillnet fishery is regulated to fish eastern portion of the district unless weather prevents it, then gillnetters can fish to the west.
- In 2012, gillnetters did harvest early fish, which are prespawn and larger.
- At times it is difficult to catch the desired size fish for market with gillnet gear.
- Fish caught later are lesser quality and are often caught by gillnet fishery.
- Processors have capacity to handle 2,000 tons a day.
- At one time foreign processors bought gillnet caught fish; oftentimes other processors did not want gillnet-caught fish.

- Concern that this proposal would negatively impact gillnet fishery.
- Only 1 seiner of 16 is a watershed resident and 8 of 18 gillnetters are watershed residents.
- Gillnetters may miss early season opportunity on higher quality larger herring.

Public Panel Recommendation: No Consensus.

PROPOSAL 12 – 5 AAC 27.865. Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan. Change the herring sac roe purse seine/gillnet allocation percentages from 70/30 to 50/50.

Comment Summary:

Department:

- Clarified that no regulations limit gillnet fishery to specific areas. The eastern section, such as Kulukak, is more turbid and more effective for gillnets compared to water to the west.

Department of Law: None

Federal Subsistence Representative: None

Public Panel Comments:

- Fishery controlled by processors, who prefer seine fish.
- Not many locals participate in seine fishery; concern that less regulations would give processors more leeway to purchase what they want.
- Next year's forecast is large and gillnet fleet may not be able to get allocation.
- With a large quota it is impossible for gillnetters to catch their quota.
- If the total quota is lower and a 50/50 allocation is adopted, processors might question if they'd participate in the fishery.
- If not currently in fishery, very difficult to get a market, but new buyer might be starting in 2014 to provide additional opportunity for local fishermen.
- A quota of 60/40 was suggested as a compromise, but must be submitted as RC.
- Fishery driven by market and number of processors.
- In past, gillnet fishery had reached quota, but currently not possible due to tender availability from processors.
- Not enough gillnetters to catch a quota if a 50/50 allocation adopted.
- If quota was 50/50 might be difficult to maintain daily processing capacity.
- Different gillnet mesh size used early and late to take advantage of herring size (larger early).
- Seiners catch high volume of fish and reduce tender availability for gillnet-caught fish.
- Processors don't believe that lack of tenders is an issue.
- Largest issue is processing capacity.
- Pointed out that RCs 94 and 95 break down residency by gear type.
- Harvest is restricted by processors. Seiners don't fish unlimited due to processor capacity.
- Gillnet allocation was lower in the past (less than 30%), perhaps need to lower quota so gillnetters can actually meet quota and not limit seine fishery.

Public Panel Recommendation: No Consensus.

PROPOSAL 13 – 5 AAC 27.865. Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan. Close the Togiak sac roe commercial herring fishery through 2016.

Comment Summary:

Department:

- No longer a market for spawn on kelp, so department no longer conducts spawn-on-kelp surveys, but when conducted, usually found good quality product.
- RC 3, Tab 7 has map of spawn-on-kelp subsistence harvest areas.
- Subsistence Division research indicated shorter kelp and less dense kelp than past surveys.
- Less kelp may be due to ice scouring.

Department of Law: None

Federal Subsistence Representative: None

Public Panel Comments:

- Comparison of herring fishery to “Tragedy of the Commons”.
- Fishery no longer has many local participants.
- Current fishery negatively impacts marine ecosystem near Togiak.
- Climate change may impact herring fishery at some time in future.
- Resource has remained stable, so difficult to see any damage from the fishery.
- Processors hire mostly Alaska residents that would lose their jobs.
- Concern about declining sea mammal populations as observed by locals.
- Locals in support of closure.
- Perhaps another quota for locals is necessary.
- Need to incorporate TEK in decisions.
- Is there actual documentation of overharvesting of herring or lack of kelp, or just hearsay?
- Community of Togiak has 50% ownership of processing plant and plan to process herring in future.
- Management has provided a sustainable fishery with a forecast for very large biomass in 2013.
- Processors rely on management and data for business success.
- Herring fishery is tied to salmon fishery. Closing herring fishery would impact availability of employees for salmon fishery and ability to get plants running before salmon season.
- RC 61 provides past 20 years of data regarding biomass, harvest, etc.
- Population appears healthy and stable.
- Concern regarding availability of spawn on kelp.
- Herring roe on kelp difficult to market due to weather events that create a low quality product.

- Togiak Seafoods has paid higher prices for salmon and halibut since inception. Plan on buying herring in future, but still concerned about environment and waste of fish that only have sac roe removed and discarded.
- Hope to develop herring markets to sell entire fish for higher value.
- Quality of spawn on kelp down due to poor weather.
- Biomass estimates have historically been conservative.

Public Panel Recommendation: No Consensus.

PROPOSAL 14 – 5 AAC 27.850. Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan. Increase the areas closed by regulation to commercial harvest of herring in the Togiak District.

Comment Summary:

Department:

- A subsistence determination has been made for all finfish, other than salmon, in Bristol Bay, but not specifically for herring spawn on kelp for the Togiak District.

Department of Law: None

Federal Subsistence Representative: None

Public Panel Comments:

- State of Alaska has not specified amount of herring necessary for subsistence (ANS), despite regulations requiring a determination.
- Should be a preference for subsistence use.
- RC 89 provides new language for proposal that will provide for subsistence needs, allow for other user group participation and include environmental concerns.
- Many factors impact ability to find roe on kelp (weather, location, amount), but no management of resource for subsistence use.
- It is assumed that commercial fishery is having an impact.
- Roe on kelp important for Manokotak.
- Togiak villagers used to participate in commercial harvest of roe on kelp; no longer option without market.
- RC 89 provides a time and area closure and is thought to be a compromise to this proposal.
- Run timing is very important to fishery.
- Lack of kelp may be, in part, due to harvest of roe on kelp.
- There is a need for an ANS for roe on kelp.

Public Panel Recommendation: No Consensus.

PROPOSAL 2 – 5 AAC 67.022(g)(5). Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Prohibit harvest of rainbow trout upstream of the Chichitnok River in the Nushagak River drainage. Additionally, it would prohibit sport fishing with bait and multiple hooks upstream of the Chichitnok River.

Comment Summary:

Department: None

Department of Law: None

Federal Subsistence Representative: None

Public Panel Comments:

- Alignment of regulations is beneficial to users.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to Support.

PROPOSAL 3 – 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Require the use of barbless hooks in all unbaited, single hook, artificial fly waters in Bristol Bay.

Comment Summary:

Department:

- Studies of barbless hooks show no significant biological gain from the use of barbless hooks.
- Several states have, or are attempting to, rescind barbless hook regulations to make regulations less complex since there is no measurable biological gain.
- Proposal is for sport fishing; rod and reel not legal state subsistence gear in the Bristol Bay Management Area of the state, except through the ice.

Department of Law: None

Federal Subsistence Representative: None

Public Panel Comments:

- Many anglers harvest fish to provide their seasonal supply (as opposed to subsistence nets) and a barbed hook does aid in harvesting fish by angling.
- Proposal would add regulatory complexity.
- Hook marking is an issue; barbless may reduce scarring, improving aesthetics.
- Barbless hooks would need to be clearly defined in regulation for enforcement; RC 101 for substitute language.
- Not many hook manufacturers make barbless hooks.
- Some anglers voluntarily use barbless hooks, but should remain their choice.
- Concern that subsistence users that are angling might get in trouble if they don't use barbless hook.
- Barbless hooks may reduce handling time.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to Oppose.

PROPOSAL 4 – 5 AAC 67.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish. Change the definition of bait in the waters of Bristol Bay to include any substance placed in fresh water by a person for the purpose of attracting fish by scent.

Comment Summary:

Department:

- Difficult to enforce because need to prove intent; similar to snagging regulations.

Department of Law:

- Would require guidelines, definitions, and areas to aid in enforcement and prove intent.

Federal Subsistence Representative:

- Chumming is already illegal in National Park waters.
- Rod and reel is legal subsistence gear in waters of Bristol Bay within federally-managed lands under Federal Subsistence regulations.

Public Panel Comments:

- Unethical to chum.
- Concern regarding subsistence users cleaning fish and it being considered chumming.
- RC 97 was submitted to include only areas that are catch-and-release only and often by season. Lower Talarik Creek was used as an example.
- Iliamna Lake tributaries (Gibraltar and Copper) are heavily used for subsistence and should not be included if proposal passes.
- Subsistence users cleaning fish to discard waste and are not sport fishing; therefore, not impacted by chumming regulations.
- A desire to make rod-and-reel subsistence legal; must submit an RC to consider.
- Rod-and-reel subsistence legality would allow other Alaskan residents potentially unlimited harvest.
- Concern over discretion of enforcement officers that are enforcing regulation.
- Discarding fish waste in water is a common practice to avoid bear conflicts.

Public Panel Recommendation: No Consensus.

PROPOSAL 5 – 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area and 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. *(This proposal will be addressed in both the Bristol Bay and Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands meetings.)* Reduce the bag limit for coho salmon in the Ugashik, Dog Salmon, and King Salmon rivers from five per day, five in possession, to one per day, one in possession.

Comment Summary:

Department: None

Department of Law: None

Federal Subsistence Representative: None

Public Panel Comments:

- Issue specific to corporate lodges on Lower Ugashik Lake that host unguided anglers and harvest large numbers of coho salmon.
- Suggestion to require recording of harvested coho to aid enforcement.
- Subsistence permit allows the harvest of 50 coho for Ugashik District.
- They are claiming subsistence so not reporting in sport surveys, resulting in lost harvest data by those catching coho.
- Coho bag limits are too liberal for size of escapements.
- Guides have vested interest to manage fishery; corporate lodges do not have vested interest and therefore, allow liberal harvest.

Public Panel Recommendation: No Consensus.

PROPOSALS 6, 7, and 8 – 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Change the limits for king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, in the fresh waters between Cape Constantine and Cape Newenham.

- Proposal 6 would maintain the current bag and possession limit, but allow two king salmon over 28 inches or greater in length per day instead of one as currently in codified regulations.
- Proposal 7 would reduce the bag limit to two per day, two in possession, and maintain that only one may be 28 inches or greater in length.
- Proposal 8 would reduce the bag limit to one per day, three in possession, and maintain that only one may be 28 inches or greater in length in the Togiak and Kulukak rivers.

Comment Summary:

Department:

- Proposal 6 to bring discrepancy in regulation to board's attention.
- Seeking to align regulations for simplicity and clarity.

Department of Law: None

Federal Subsistence Representative:

- Support some type of restrictions to sport fishery if it will allow more opportunity for subsistence users that are unable to meet king harvest needs.

Public Panel Comments:

- Since no commercial king openings, need to regulate angling in rivers.
- Nushagak AC supported proposal 8, but wanted to include all waters between Cape Constantine and Cape Newenham.

Public Panel Recommendation: No Consensus.

PROPOSAL 239 – 5 AAC 67.022(g)(6). Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Prohibit the use of multiple hook lures and bait during the Nushagak River king salmon fishery.

(g) In the Nushagak River drainage, excluding the Wood River drainage, and unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 06.361 or 5 AAC 06.368, the following special provisions apply:

(6) only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used May 1 through July 31.

Comment Summary:

Department:

- Department already has ability to eliminate bait based on projected escapement in the management plan.
- Highest average daily CPUE in sport fishery for recent years was 8 in 2011.
- Data does not indicate that there is a biological need for restricting the fishery.

Department of Law: None

Federal Subsistence Representative: None

Public Panel Comments:

- Should not restrict bait on Nushagak River due to water clarity; would reduce catch rates significantly.
- Should not go to single hook for a king fishery.
- Many guides don't use treble hooks by choice.
- Against restricting a sport fishery if there is no biological concern.
- Nushagak AC supports status quo; no change to regulations.
- Single-hook restriction okay, but still allow bait.
- 2012 king salmon run exceeded goals.
- No significant difference in mortality between gear types to reduce catch-and-release mortality.

Public Panel Recommendation: No Consensus.

PROPOSAL 9 – 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Allocate time and area for sport fishing on the Naknek River drainage among user groups.

Comment Summary:

Department: None

Department of Law: None

Federal Subsistence Representative: None

Public Panel Comments:

- Proposer withdrew support of proposal (RC 100) because it may require a statutory change.
- Still concerned about congestion of sport fishery by out-of-state operations that are not educated on regulatory system.
- Mainly regarding sockeye sport fishery, which has become more popular in recent years.
- Anglers are trying to crowd out other anglers by sending boats and individuals out to reserve angling locations.
- History of sport fishermen regulating themselves on the Naknek River to conserve fish numbers.
- Observing more net-marked king salmon.

Public Panel Recommendation: No Consensus.

PROPOSAL 1 – 5 AAC 01.310. Fishing seasons and periods. Allow for a weekend opening for the subsistence fishery in the Nushagak District during the July 2–17 time frame. This proposal would replace the open period of the fishery from 9:00 a.m. Friday through 9:00 a.m. Saturday to 9:00 a.m. Saturday through 9:00 a.m. Sunday.

Comment Summary:

Department:

- Proposal does not include the commercial district, only Dillingham beaches, and does not include the Nushagak River starting just downriver of Lewis Point fish camps. Map included in staff comments.

Department of Law: None

Federal Subsistence Representative: None

Public Panel Comments:

- Similar issue in Egegik/Ugashik where locals have traditionally subsistence fished in commercial district. Would like to legalize subsistence fishing in the Egegik/Ugashik districts. It was suggested to submit an RC since request was for a different district.
- Does proposal include upriver of Dillingham including Lewis Point and villages along the Nushagak River?
- Additional time is needed so subsistence users can put up fish on weekends.
- Questioned whether this change in subsistence would affect other users.
- It was pointed out that the NKAC amended proposal to include Naknek River and allow subsistence fishing 7 days a week. It was suggested that an RC be submitted to change subsistence regulations on the Naknek River.
- It was clarified that subsistence is already open 7 days a week upriver of Dillingham.
- Concern that if conservation issues arise requiring subsistence restrictions, request that weekends remain open.
- No sport fishing occurs on Dillingham beaches.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to Support.

PROPOSAL 24 – 5 AAC 06.330. Gear. Allow use of a 75-fathom purse seine in Bristol Bay. Operation of seine gear would require the presence of two drift gillnet permits.

Comment Summary:

Department: None

Department of Law: None

Federal Subsistence Representative: None

Public Panel Comments:

- Should not allow any additional gear since fishery is fully allocated.
- Seining was tried at Middle Bluff in the past, but ineffective due to snags and current.
- Oppose since it would require separate allocation and openings.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to Oppose.

PROPOSAL 25 – 5 AAC 06.XXX. Bristol Bay commercial coho salmon troll fishery.

Authorize a directed fishery for coho salmon for residents of the Bristol Bay area using troll gear.

Comment Summary:

Department:

- Department would likely not authorize an experimental fishery since fisheries are fully allocated and trolling is not currently a legal gear in Bristol Bay.

Department of Law: None

Federal Subsistence Representative: None

Public Panel Comments:

- The fishery is already fully allocated and proposal would impact current gear-type allocations.
- Would be an intercept fishery before coho reached natal rivers.
- It was explained that the proposal is to troll outside of district for those interested in marketing their own fish.
- Proposal would allow current permit holders to troll during openers.
- Last season, Nushagak District had very large coho escapement with little effort in District after mid-August.
- If expanded for king salmon, it would provide an opportunity for a high quality product for market.
- It was suggested that if a troll fishery for king salmon is desired it should be submitted as an RC.
- Concern about board ability to start new fishery.
- Question if this proposal could start an experimental fishery.
- NAC opposed; fishery already allocated and it would create additional need for management and has potential to impact current fisheries.
- How much fishing occurs after 15 August?
- Most fishing occurs before 15 August, due to processors.
- This new fishery may impact subsistence users, as they sometimes harvest coho if there is a shortage of kings.
- Processors are not very interested in coho; perhaps self marketing needs to be researched by fishermen.
- Troll fishery on the eastside, such as Ugashik, would be difficult due to a lack of fish.
- Not many fishermen would participate, so impact on other fisheries would be low.
- Support was expressed to provide additional opportunity.
- Limit to only Bristol Bay residents.
- A test fishery might be needed to determine feasibility.
- Potential for small-scale high-value fishery.

Public Panel Recommendation: No Consensus.

PROPOSAL 200 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons; 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing Periods; 5 AAC 09.330. Fishing Gear; 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan; and 5 AAC 39.120. Registration of commercial fishing vessels. (*This proposal will be heard at the Bristol Bay meeting, but deliberated upon at the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands meeting.*). Allow Area M drift gillnet permit holders to commercially fish for 36 hours per week in the outer portion of the Cinder River Section from June 20 to July 31. This proposal would also change the fishing period in the entire Cinder River Section to 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Tuesday from June 20 to July 31. After July 31, the weekly fishing period will remain from 6:00 a.m. Thursday until 6:00 p.m. Saturday. Drift gillnet gear would also be the only gear allowed outside the Cinder River Lagoon, into which the Cinder River drains, from June 20 to July 31. This proposal would also change the management plan for the Cinder River Section so that commercial salmon fishing in the Cinder River Section may be modified based on conservation concerns for Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks.

Comment Summary:

- **Bill Brown: The board is not going to deliberate on Area M proposals at this time, but is seeking comments from public for Area M meeting in 2 months.** The committee chair emphasized importance of submitting these comments to the Area M meeting.

Department: None

Department of Law: None

Federal Subsistence Representative: None

Public Panel Comments:

- Multiple Bristol Bay fishermen on the committee had fished in the Cinder River area until market was lost.
- Concern about intercept of Ugashik and other Bristol Bay stocks, especially since larger boats are used and concern as to how it would impact Bristol Bay stocks.
- Area M boats can fish inside district despite larger boats.
- The Cinder and other rivers in the area are small and may not have a surplus of harvestable fish.
- The catch is mainly an intercept fishery of Bristol Bay stocks.
- Very difficult to fish the inner Cinder River District due to size of outlet and shallow water; therefore, most boats fish outer district where intercept is more of a concern.
- In 2008, Outer Port Heiden harvest was 80% Bristol Bay stocks as shown by WASSIP. Concerned about high intercept of Ugashik River sockeye salmon.
- Fish intercepted in Area M do not provide tax revenue for Bristol Bay and are lost opportunity for Ugashik fisherman.
- Area M fishermen want to fish out front, not in small terminal districts because boats are deep draft.

- Speculation as to how Area M rivers are making escapement with current effort and whether escapement numbers are accurate.
- Concern that Meshik and other rivers not getting enough escapement in recent years and witnessing a high proportion of net-marked fish.
- Concern that Port Heiden area managed for a few rivers and only sockeye, but not the smaller systems for other species, such as steelhead and kings.
- A pilot has observed few fish in Alaska Peninsula rivers such as the Meshik, Wildman, Muddy, Cinder, and Bear rivers.
- Area M boats may fish up to 13 miles from river.
- A belief that Alaska Peninsula rivers were overharvested and fleet is moving north where fish still exist.
- Alaska Peninsula rivers draw in migrating salmon from other stocks with tides and weather, making them susceptible to intercept harvest.

Public Panel Recommendation: No Consensus.

PROPOSAL 203 – 5 AAC 09.369(k) and (l). Northern District Salmon Fisheries

Management Plan. *(This proposal will be heard at the Bristol Bay meeting, but deliberated upon at the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands meeting.)* Increase the size of the Inner Port Heiden Section by closing the Outer Port Heiden Section and enlarging the size of Inner Port Heiden Section to a line one mile offshore to the southern boundary of Strogonof Point and to the northeast eight miles to a point on the beach near Reindeer Creek (Figure 203-1). The new expanded Inner Port Heiden Section would be open to commercial salmon fishing from May through October. This proposal would allow Area T (Bristol Bay) set and drift gillnet permit holders to fish in this area and be superexclusive for Area T permit holders.

Comment Summary:

Department: None

Department of Law: None

Federal Subsistence Representative: None

Public Panel Comments:

- Proposal seen as compromise to allow harvest on Area M river stocks.
- Port Heiden starting a small processing plant, but it has been delayed. This proposal would allow Ugashik fishermen to participate and take advantage with 2 processors at Ugashik.
- Interest in amending boundary; will submit RC.

Public Panel Recommendation: No Consensus.

PROPOSAL 204 – 5 AAC 09.369(k) and (l). Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. *(This proposal will be heard at the Bristol Bay meeting, but deliberated upon at the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands meeting.)* Increase the size of the Inner Port Heiden Section to a line one mile offshore to the southern boundary of Strogonof Point and to the northeast eight miles to a point on the beach near Reindeer Creek. The Outer Port Heiden Section would remain and still be open to Area M drift gillnet permits, but would be reduced in size because the proposed Inner Port Heiden Section would include only the one mile near shore waters. The newly-expanded Inner Port Heiden Section would be open to commercial salmon fishing during May through October to both Area M and Area T set and drift gillnet permit holders. However, this proposal would allow Area T (Bristol Bay) set and drift gillnet permit holders to fish in this area and be superexclusive for Area T permit holders from June 25 to July 31.

Comment Summary:

Department: None

Department of Law: None

Federal Subsistence Representative: None

Public Panel Comments:

- Would like to allow Port Heiden setnetters to fish near Port Heiden.
- Concern that fishery would still intercept Bristol Bay stocks.
- Emphasis on the importance of attending or submitting written comments for Area M meeting.
- Should consult WASSIP results to evaluate intercept stocks; if little interception occurs, then would support the fishery.

Public Panel Recommendation: No Consensus.