

It's Board of Fish Time Again!

Alaska Board of Fisheries AYK Meeting January 26-31, 2010

by Becca Robbins Gisclair, Policy Director

The Board of Fisheries Process

The Alaska Board of Fisheries will be meeting at the Princess Lodge in Fairbanks, January 26 – 31, 2010 to discuss and vote on Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) proposals. The Board of Fisheries process includes staff reports, public testimony, committee meetings and board deliberations, in that order.

First, the Board hears staff reports from ADF&G, who explain each proposal, describe how the proposal would change current regulations, provide any other relevant information, and present ADF&G's position on each proposal.

Next, public testimony is taken. This only occurs once—at the beginning of the meeting, for all proposals. Sign-ups to give public testimony are closed at some point during the first or second day of the meeting, so make sure you are there before that time to sign-up if you wish to provide public comments. Each person is given a limited time to speak.

After public testimony, committees consider the various proposals. Committees are designated for specific areas or types of fish (for example, AYK resident fish or Yukon Area salmon). Sign-ups for committees take place at the beginning of the board meeting. A limited number of people, usually representing different areas and user groups, are selected for each committee, along with several members of the Board of Fisheries. Committee meetings are open to the public, but only committee members are allowed to speak. Committee members discuss their opinions on each of the proposals assigned to that committee. The input of the committee is then summarized and presented to the full Board of Fisheries.

Once all of the committees have met, the Board of Fisheries reconvenes to deliberate on proposals. They discuss and take action on each proposal. Once the board begins deliberation there is no opportunity for the public to speak on the record.

The full Board of Fisheries meeting is open to the public. You can also listen to the meeting on-line. When the Board is in session a link will appear on their homepage—www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/fishinfo/index.php—which you can click to hear live streaming audio of the meeting. The audio is listen only, so you will not be able to speak to the Board, but you can follow the meeting.

The Board also accepts written comments. Written comments should be *received* by January 12, 2010 to be included in the Board's materials. Written comments are also accepted at the meeting, but Board members will not have the advantage of reading them beforehand. Please see below for specific instructions about how to comment.

The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the Board's website at:
www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/fishinfo/meetinfo/fcal.php.

YRDFA's Involvement

The YRDFA Board will be considering each of the proposals before the Board of Fisheries. YRDFA operates on a consensus basis, so all board members must agree for YRDFA to take a position on these proposals. The YRDFA Board consists of 16 members from each of the fishing districts on the Yukon River.

YRDFA staff and several board members will be at the Board of Fisheries meeting in January to participate in the Board of Fish process and provide YRDFA's comments.

How to Participate

Attend the Board of Fisheries Meeting, January 26-31, 2009 in Fairbanks:

- * Public testimony is usually taken starting midway through the first day of the meeting and continuing into the second day. Make sure you are there for the first part of the meeting if you wish to provide testimony.
- * If your travel budget or time is limited, it's most important to be there towards the beginning of the meeting if you wish to provide testimony or participate in the committees. You can listen to the board deliberations on-line if you're not able to stay for the full meeting.

Submit Written Comments

- * Written comments should be received two weeks before the meeting to be included in the Board's materials—by January 12.
- * If you are providing written comments, list the proposal number and state whether you SUPPORT or OPPOSE the proposal. If you support the proposal with a change, say you "SUPPORT AS AMENDED" and provide a short description of the change you support. Also briefly explain why you support or oppose the proposal—this will help the board in their deliberations. If you are submitting comments on more than one proposal list them in one letter. Do not use a separate sheet of paper for each proposal. Further instructions are provided at the beginning of the proposal book, which is available on the Board of Fish website.

- * Send written comments to:
 ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
 Boards Support Section
 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
 P.O. Box 115526
 Juneau, AK 99811-5526
 FAX: (907) 465-6094

Board of Fish Proposals 2009/10
Impacting Yukon River Salmon Fisheries

Proposal Number	Proposed By	Subject
81	ADF&G	Clarify the subsistence fishing schedule in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C. In Subdistrict 4-A, salmon may not be taken from 6:00pm Sunday until 6:00pm Tuesday. In Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C, salmon may not be taken from 6:00pm Friday until 6:00pm Sunday.
82	ADF&G	Modify subsistence fishing schedule in Subdistrict 4-A to allow subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 4-A to be open for two 48-hour periods during the commercial fishing season.
83	Fairbanks Advisory Committee (AC)*	Require recording subsistence harvest on catch calendars in ink, before concealing the fish from plain view, transported from the fishing site or off loaded from a vessel.
84	Middle Yukon AC	Extend Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C drift gillnet area for king salmon upriver into Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C to the mouth of the Yuki River.
85	Middle Yukon AC	Extend Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C drift gillnet area for king and fall chum salmon upriver into Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C to the mouth of the Yuki River.
86	E. Interior Regional Advisory Council (RAC) [†]	Allow setnets to be tied up during closures in Subdistrict 5-D (instead of requiring that setnets be pulled, as under current regulations).
87	ADF&G	Review the following items in the king salmon management plan: 1. Potential triggers and management tools for managing subsistence, commercial, personal use, and sport fisheries.

		<p>2. Review commercial guideline harvest ranges.</p> <p>3. Review subsistence fishing schedule.</p>
88	<p>Tanana Rampart Manley AC, Eastern Interior RAC, Fairbanks AC, Minto- Nenana AC, and Ruby AC</p>	<p>Prohibit subsistence and commercial driftnet fishing in the entire Yukon River drainage, including all upriver and downriver driftnet areas.</p>
89	<p>Tanana Rampart Manley AC, Eastern Interior RAC, Fairbanks AC, Minto- Nenana AC, and Ruby AC</p>	<p>Restrict depth of subsistence and commercial 6 inch mesh gill nets to a hung depth of no more than 15 feet or 35 meshes.</p>
90	<p>Tanana Rampart Manley AC, Eastern Interior RAC, Fairbanks AC, Minto- Nenana AC, and</p>	<p>Prohibit subsistence and commercial gillnets over 6 inch mesh size in the entire Yukon River drainage.</p>

	Ruby AC	
91	Eastern Interior RAC	Limit incidental catch of Chinook salmon during commercial chum directed fisheries to 3,000 Chinook salmon. Once 3,000 Chinook salmon have been caught as bycatch in the commercial chum salmon fishery, the commercial chum salmon fishery will be closed for the remainder of the season.
92	Tanana Rampart Manley AC, Eastern Interior RAC, Fairbanks AC, Minto-Nenana AC, and Ruby AC	Prohibit commercial sale of Chinook salmon caught in non-Chinook directed commercial fisheries in the entire Yukon River drainage. Chinook salmon caught as bycatch in non-Chinook fisheries can be kept for subsistence only.
93	Jude Henzler	Prohibit retention of king salmon during chum salmon directed fisheries in the mainstem of the Yukon River (Districts 1-5 of the Yukon River management district).
94	Fairbanks AC	Require windows schedule be implemented for subsistence fisheries even if commercial fisheries are allowed.
95	Eastern Interior RAC	<p>Reallocate the commercial king salmon harvest as follows (additions are in <u>bold and underlined</u>, deletions are in strikethrough):</p> <p>5 AAC 05.360(b)(2)the department shall manage the Yukon River commercial king salmon fishery for a guideline harvest range of <u>0-60,000</u> 67,350–129,150 king salmon, distributed as follows:</p> <p>(A) Districts 1 and 2: <u>0-26,700</u> 60,000–120,000 king salmon;</p> <p>(B) District 3: <u>0-8,000 set net only</u> 1,800–2,200 king salmon;</p> <p>(C) District 4: <u>0-8,000</u> 2,250–2,850 king salmon;</p> <p>(D) District 5:</p> <p>(i) Subdistrict 5-B and 5-C: <u>0-8,000</u> 2,400–2,800 king salmon;</p>

		<p>(ii) Subdistrict 5-D: 0-1,300 300-500 king salmon; and (E) District 6: 0-8,000 600-800 king salmon;</p> <p>(3) when the projected king salmon harvest range for Districts 1 - 6 combined is below the low end harvest level from zero to 60,000 67,350 fish, the department shall allocate the commercial harvest available by percentage for each district as follows:</p> <p>(A) Districts 1 and 2: 44.5 89.1 percent; (B) District 3: 13.33 2.7 percent set net only; (C) District 4: 13.33 3.3 percent; (D) Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C: 13.33 3.6 percent; (E) Subdistrict 5-D: 2.16 0.4 percent; and (F) District 6: 13.33 0.9 percent.</p>
96	Fairbanks AC	<p>Reallocate commercial summer chum salmon harvest as follows: 5 AAC 05.362(f)</p> <p>(1) Districts 1 and 2: 180,000-540,000 251,000-755,000 fish; (2) District 3: 24,000-72,000 6,000-19,000 fish; (3) Subdistrict 4-A: 120,000-360,000 113,000-338,000 fish; (4) Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C: 36,000-108,000 16,000-47,000 fish; (5) Subdistricts 5-B, 5-C, and 5-D: 4,000-12,000 1,000-3,000 fish; (6) District 6: 36,000-108,000 13,000-38,000 fish.</p> <p>(g) When the projected summer chum salmon harvest level for Districts 1 - 6 combined is 400,000 fish or less, the department shall allocate the commercial harvest available by percentage to each district or subdistrict as follows:</p> <p>(1) Districts 1 and 2: 45 62.9 percent; (2) District 3: 6 1.6 percent; (3) Subdistrict 4-A: 30 28.2 percent; (4) Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C: 9 3.9 percent; (5) District 5: 1 0.3 percent; (6) District 6: 9 3.2 percent.</p>

97	Fairbanks AC	<p>Reallocate commercial fall chum salmon harvest as follows: 5AAC 05.365(a)</p> <p>(1) Districts 1, 2, and 3: <u>21,825-96,000</u> 60,000 to 220,000 chum salmon; (2) District 4: <u>14,550-64,000</u> 5,000 to 40,000 chum salmon; (3) Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C and 5-D: <u>14,550-64,000</u> 4,000 to 36,000 chum salmon; (4) Subdistrict 5-D: 1,000 to 4,000 chum salmon; (5) District 6: <u>21,825-96,000</u> 2,750 to 20,500 chum salmon.</p>
98	KwikPak Fisheries	Open commercial fishing between Black River and Chris Point – fishing would be permitted for both drift and setnet between Chris Point and Black River (between statistical areas 334-11 and 334-12).
99	Fairbanks AC	Open Andreafsky River to commercial fishing.
100	ADF&G	Close the Tok River drainage to sport fishing for salmon.

* Advisory Committee (AC) refers to an Alaska Department of Fish & Game Advisory Committee

† RAC refers to a Regional Advisory Council to the Federal Subsistence Board

You can request a copy of the AYK proposals by calling 907-465-4110 or visiting www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/fishinfo/meetinfo/fprop.php.

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