

Seldovia AC Comments for the  
Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting January 31 – February 13, 2014

Meeting called to order 6:30 PM MPR on November 12, 2013

In attendance: Dave Chartier, Walt Sonen, Alvin Swick, Keith Swick, Jordan Cameron, Buck Brown, Keith Gain & Robert Purpura

Excused absence: Allison Miller, Bryan Chartier, Michael Opheim & Kelly Brennan

Unexcused absence: Mary Klinger

Keith Gain acting chair

Robert Purpura acting secretary

Proposal 79 Closed Waters

We were against this and addressed it at our LCI meeting but because it is being taken up at this meeting also we are again addressing it.

0 – 7 – 1 Opposed

105	<b>5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.</b> Amend management plan to establish a harvest allocation between commercial set and drift gillnet fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet.	7 – 1 – 0 Support  We view this as an allocation issue and would support it if it was to be amended that any adjustment doesn't result in a closure of the regular schedule drift fleet opener.  We are in agreement that expansion of set net time is desirable and historical harvest levels should be met but by closing the drift fleet only leads to over escapement. One solution is to open the drift fleet early and the set nets later to avoid this and by spreading the harvest over a longer period keeps a steady supply of fish to the processors which leads to a better quality product.  Alvin Swick was opposed to the proposal because the management plan already in place cover the issue.
107	<b>5 AAC 21.XXX. New Section.</b> Allow commercial set gillnet fishing to occur in areas where commercial drift gillnetting is allowed in the Central District of Upper Cook Inlet.	0 – 8 – 0 Oppose  It was our concern that this could come back to haunt us later if it resulting more closures.
108	<b>5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.</b> Allow commercial salmon fishing in the Central District to remain open until closed by emergency order (EO).	8 – 0 – 0 Support  To many mandatory closures as it is, scapegoating the commercial fisherman should not be managements first tool to reallocate fish stocks.
111	<b>5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.</b> Modify fishing seasons and remove restrictions on commercial set gillnet fishing in the Upper Subdistrict.	8 - 0 - 0 Support  There are to many arbitrary restrictions on the commercial fleet already.

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112	<b>5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.</b> Change the estimated number of sockeye salmon in the Kasilof River that allows the department to open the Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict to set gillnetting on or after June 25.	0 – 8 – 0 Oppose  Far too many restrictions on the set net fisheries already.
113	<b>5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.</b> Change the estimated number of sockeye salmon in the Kasilof River from 50,000 to 60,000, which allows the department to open the Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict to set gillnetting on or after June 25.	0 – 8 – 0 Oppose  The set net fisheries historically has only harvested 13% of the kings in Cook Inlet but yet are the first to get closed over king salmon issues. Redundant (proposal 112)
114	<b>5 AAC 31.320. Weekly fishing periods.</b> Allow weekly fishing periods for the set gillnet fishery in the Central District to end at 10:00 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m..	8 – 0 – 0 Support  We are in agreement that this is a good tool for the set net fishery.
115	<b>5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.</b> Change when the set gillnet fishery opens in the Kenai and East Forelands sections of the Upper Subdistrict from July 8 to July 1 and remove the reference that closes the fishery by emergency order (EO) under the "one-percent rule".	No Action  We are in favor of anything that would allow more time for the set net fishery.
116	<b>5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.</b> Remove provision where the set gillnet fishery in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands sections of the Upper Subdistrict will close after July if less than one percent of the total season's sockeye is harvested in two consecutive fishing periods ("one-percent rule") and end fishing season on August 15.	8 – 0 – 0 Support as Amended  Amend by removing the 1% rule.
119	<b>5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.</b> Change how the department determines if less than one percent of the season's total sockeye salmon harvest has been taken in the Upper Subdistrict.	8 – 0 – 0 Support  We would support this if proposal 116 does not pass.
120	<b>5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods.</b> Allow commercial salmon fishing in the Central District to remain open on Mondays and Thursdays until closed by emergency order (EO).	0 – 8 – 0 Oppose  Current restrictions unnecessary.
122	<b>5 AAC 31.320. Weekly fishing periods.</b> Allow weekly fishing periods for the drift gillnet fishery in the Central District to be moved up to 36 hours when the NOAA forecast for Area 140, Cook Inlet north of Kamishak Bay and English Bay, is calling for winds above 23 knots, including small craft advisory, and gale or storm force winds.	8 – 0 – 0 Support  Save lives and wear and tear on the gear.
123	<b>5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods.</b> Change regularly-scheduled fishing periods in the Kalgin Island and Western subdistricts to 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday and Saturday.	0 – 8 – 0 Oppose  Disrupts the harmony on Kalgan Island. Remain as is.

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125	<b>5 AAC 21.330. Gear.</b> Allow selective harvest modules (SHM), under certain specifications and operations, to be used to commercially harvest salmon in the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District.	8 – 0 – 0 Support  It is good that someone is trying to find an alternative method of solving the king salmon issue outside of just closing segments of the fishery.
126	<b>5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations and 5 AAC 21.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in the Cook Inlet Area.</b> Prohibit permit stacking in the commercial set and drift gillnet fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet.	1 – 7 – 0 Oppose  By stacking there is two less shackles of gear in the water than if the permit was fished openly by another person. Saves money... Carbon footprint less.  The one vote for does not like the concept of “Stacking”
127	<b>5 AAC 21.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in the Cook Inlet Area.</b> Allow one individual to hold two limited entry drift gillnet permits and fish both at the same time from the same vessel.	7 – 1 – 0 Support  From the same reasons we were against proposal 126 we are in support of proposal 127
128	<b>5 AAC 21.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in the Cook Inlet Area; 5 AAC 21.334. Identification of gear; and 5 AAC 21.345. Registration.</b> Amend references to registration requirements for set and drift gillnetting in Upper Cook Inlet.	8 – 0 – 0 Support  The proposal is good because it lessens the burden when stacking is necessary and keeps everyone legal.
130	<b>5 AAC 21.345. Registration.</b> Require CFEC setnet permit holders registered in the Upper Subdistrict to fish in only one section (Kasilof or Kenai) for the entire season.	8 – 0 – 0 Support as Amended  We would be in support of this proposal if it doesn’t include the Special Harvest Area. Allow the status quo to continue.
132	<b>5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters.</b> Close waters within one statute mile of the Little Susitna River to commercial fishing.	0 – 8 – 0 Oppose  Anti Set Netting... Allocation issue.
133	<b>5 AAC 21.355. Reporting requirements.</b> Require the number of commercially-harvested king salmon to be recorded by length (under 20" and over 20") on fish tickets.	8 – 0 – 0 Support  Jack Kings as are not reported as such and it makes the set net fishery appear to be harvesting more Kings then they actually are.
134	<b>5 AAC 21.368. Big River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.</b> Amend management plan to include all waters of the Kalgin Island Subdistrict and reduce fishing time from three days a week to two days a week.	8 – 0 – 0 Support as Amended  Amend to exclude “reduction of fishing time”
135	<b>5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.</b> Modify management plan to remove provisions 5 AAC 21.353(a)(2)(A), (B), and (C) in the management plan, as follows.	6 – 0 – 2 Support  No reason for arbitrary closures for reallocation purposes we are not the Northern Districts problem. This lets us fish.

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136	<b>5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.</b> Modify management plan to change dates of drift fishery to June 19-September 1 and run-strength trigger points for late-run Kenai River sockeye salmon; remove area restrictions in July; and modify provisions affecting additional fishing periods.	8 – 0 – 0  Same reasoning for proposal 135
138	<b>5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.</b> Restrict drift gillnet fishery to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections from June 19-August 10.	0 – 8 – 0 Oppose  This proposal wants to restrict the drift fleet to an all season corridor. Disrupts the flow of fish to the processors and reduces the quality of the product.
139	<b>5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.</b> Restrict drift gillnet fishery to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections.	0 – 8 – 0 Oppose  The same reason for proposal 138
141	<b>5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.</b> Modify management plan to provide reasonable opportunity for Northern District set gillnetters to harvest all salmon stocks.	8 – 0 – 0 Support as Amended  Amend to exclude the closure of the drift fleet as a tool to allow more time for the Northern District. Any other method of to allow more opportunity for the Northern Set Netters is something we would support.
142	<b>5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.</b> Amend management plan to provide Northern Cook Inlet Management Area subsistence users and personal use dipnetters a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon by restricting commercial gillnet fishing to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict from June 19 through August 10.	0 – 8 – 0 Oppose  Allocation Issue.
143	<b>5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.</b> Require drift permit holders to register to fish in one of two specific Central District drift fisheries.	0 – 8 – 0 Oppose  We feel as if this is “Drift Bashing” There are other tools at the department’s disposal to enhance coho runs other than closing the drift fleet as the first solution to the perceived problem.
147	<b>5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.</b> Amend management plan to reduce sport fish bag limit to two coho salmon in all sport fisheries on the west side of Cook Inlet and restrict drift gillnet fishing to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections, if sport fishing for coho salmon is restricted or closed in the Little Susitna River.	0 – 8 – 0 Oppose  Unnecessary

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153	<b>5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.</b> Amend management plan to allow set gillnets to be operated and restrict drift gillnets within 1,200 feet of the mean high tide mark in Kasilof River Special Harvest Area.	8 – 0 – 0 Support  Allows set netters to fish in a historical area and more elbow room for set net fishery and a fairer separation of gear types.
154	<b>5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.</b> Amend management plan to open the set gillnet fishery in the South K-Beach statistical area (244-10) when the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area is opened.	0 – 8 – 0 Oppose  Allocation Issue
159	<b>5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.</b> Modify management plan to change optimum escapement goal (OEG), inriver goals, and run-strength trigger points for late-run Kenai River sockeye salmon; and modify restrictions on the sport fishery when run strength is below 2,000,000 sockeye salmon.	8 – 0 – 0 Support  Treats Sport and Commercial more equally in sharing the burden of conservation on weaker runs.
161	<b>5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.</b> Amend management plan to change the upper end of the three inriver goals (tiers) for Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon to 1,500,000.	0 – 8 – 0 Oppose  Sets the goal to high somewhat like the government continuously raising the debt ceiling.
163	<b>5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.</b> Modify management plan to achieve late-run Kenai River sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 700,000-1,200,000 instead of the optimum escapement goal (OEG) of 700,000-1,400,000; modify the inriver goal; and remove some provisions in the plan.	8 – 0 – 0 Support  Returning to a more sensible approachable to management.
165	<b>5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.</b> Amend management plan to allow the 24-hour closure period (or "window") to be scheduled at any time during the week, and change the 36-hour closure period to 24 hours and allow it to be scheduled between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 11:59 p.m. Sunday.	8 – 0 – 0 Support  Windows at best was poorly conceived as a management tool and more often then not leads to over escapement. We are for anything that allows more time.
174	<b>5 AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan.</b> Modify pink salmon management and/or develop a new management plan to allow for harvests of earlier-arriving Northern pink salmon and later-arriving Kenai and Kasilof pink salmon.	8 – 0 – 0 Support  More fish time... Greater value for pinks now with little opportunity to capitalize on the market.

Robert Purpura will be attending both the LCI and UCI Board meeting.

Next Meeting is November 26 MPR 6 PM the agenda is to finish up addressing UCI proposals.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM