

2019-2021 Fisheries Proposals Tribal consultation summary June 7th.

Participants: Orville Lind NL OSM; Pippa Kenner Anthro OSM; Joshua Reams Anthro OSM; Donald Mike CC OSM; Frank Harris Fish OSM; Scott Ayers Fish OSM; George Pappas SL OSM; Jarred Stone Fish OSM, Intern student Elizabeth Lindley; Clarence Summers NPS; Karen Mouritsen BLM FSB and Thomas Doolittle DARD, OSM.

Online participants: Chief Gary Harrison Village of Chickaloon; Bonnie Yazzi Chitna Tribe; Gloria Stickwan Tazliina Village Tribe; Tanya Epchook Village of Kwethluk; Martin Andrew Village of Kwethluk; Victor of Kwethluk; Rhonda Pitka PM, FSB; Wayne Owen FS, FSB; Carol Damberg FWS FSB; Glen Chen BIA; Pat Pretrvilli BIA; Thomas Withford FS; Robert Cross B FS; Theresa Tanner B FS; Eva Patton CC OSM and Jennifer Hardin PC OSM.

Martin Andrew of Kwethluk asked for an overview of Fisheries Proposals 19-08 which was to specify restrictions to use of 6 inch or less mesh size in the Kuskokwim River drainage from June 1 to June 25, only in times of conservation of Chinook Salmon, only through rolling closures, and implemented by the Federal in season manger. and FP19-09 submitted by Rogers, was to allow use of 6 inch or less mesh size gillnets prior to June 1 in the Kuskokwim River drainage to provide Sheefish harvest opportunity. FP19-10 submitted by James Charles was to specify that non-salmon spawning tributaries of the Kuskokwim River be open to the harvest of fish 100 yards upriver from the confluence of the Kuskokwim River during times of closure to salmon fishing, and FP17-05 submitted by LaMonte Albertson which was a proposal to change federal fish regulation on federal public land for the 2017 to 2019 regulatory years. A brief overview was provided by Anthropologist Joshua Ream.

George Pappas OSM presented a brief overview of FP19-01 which was submitted by Mr. Jack Reakoff of Wiseman. This proposal was to mirror recent action by the Alaska Board of Fisheries which authorized in state regs the use of drift gillnets in 4B and 4C.

Frank Harris OSM presented all 5 Fisheries Proposals by Rogers FP19-02, which was to modify closures to subsistence salmon fishing before commercial season opening in the Yukon River districts. FP19-03, was to modify closures to subsistence salmon fishing before, during, and after commercial openings I the Yukon River districts 1,2,and 3. FP-1904, to remove closures to subsistence fishing before, during, and after commercial openings in the Yukon River Districts 1 ,2,and 3. and FP19-05.was to remove restrictions requiring fin-clipping of subsistence caught Chinook Salmon in Lower Yukon River Districts 1,2,and 3.

Chief Gary from village of Chicawa stated that the government should pay attention to the tribes more because Subsistence rights should be above and beyond all uses.

Jarred Stone OSM, presented a brief overview of FP19-06 submitted by Woodruff, which was for protection of the first pulse of Chinook Salmon in Federal waters of Yukon River Districts 1 through 5.

Frank Harris OSM gave an overview of FP19-07 which was submitted by Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council, to add dip net as a gear type for subsistence harvest of salmon for the Yukon River.

Scott Ayers OSM presented a brief overview of Ninilchik Traditional Councils FP19-12, to revise Kasilof experimental community gillnet fishery. NTC would like to provide reasonable choices to subsistence users participation in harvest efforts and areas. This language was fully supported by Chief Gary.

Mr. Ayers OSM also presented a overview of FP19-13 submitted by USDA-Forest Service to add current permit conditions to regulations. This proposal was also asking to take the longstanding traditions of the subsistence permit that's issued out of Cordova by the Forest Service and put those conditions into regulations. Mr. Ayers also presented FP19-14 submitted by Native Village of EEK for the Copper River Area was to lift restriction o the mainstream waters of the Copper River and allow a dip net and rod and reel fishery within ½ mile downriver of road crossings from the Million Dollar Bridge to mile 27 of the Copper River Highway.

Gloria Stickwan of Tazlina stated that it would be helpful to have staff analysis during tribal consultation so they would know how to address and make comments, because these proposals are confusing to them.

Mr. Ayers OSM replied that we try and have these consultations early on as we can so that tribes will have time to review and then ask questions or make comments, which will be incorporated into the analysis during the time frame before distribution. Then prior to the regional council meetings tribes can still make additional comments if needed. Ayers continued with FP19-15 which was submitted by Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve in Copper Center which is to move requirement to check fish wheel from fish wheel owner to fish wheel operator. FP19-16 also submitted by Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve asks that a slight modification under permitting that the regulation read only one unit of gear as its currently stated is says only one unit of gear may be operated at any time under a permit. And the request to change is only one unit of gear per person may be operated at any time.

Chief Gary stated that they should be allowed to have as many fish wheels as they need.

Pippa Kenner OSM presented FP19-17 submitted by Southeast regional advisory council to change the C&T for the Yakutat and the Southeast Alaska Region so that all residents of Southeast and Yakutat would have a positive C&T determination for all fish.

Rob Cross Forest Service gave a brief overview of FP19-18 which requests the gillnet stretched mesh size for this Stkine River Sockeye and Coho Salmon subsistence fisheries be changed from a maximum of 5.5 inches to a maximum of 6.25 inches. Proponent stated that 6.25 is standard gear for Coho Salmon, and larger mesh size is more efficient for catching Coho Salmon. This would allow and provide federally qualified subsistence users an opportunity to use their existing gear rather than buying new nets. Mr. Cross also presented FP19-19 which is to close the Federal waters of Neva Lake, Neva Creek and South Creek to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon by non-federally qualified subsistence users.

Joshua reams presented an overview of Non-rural Determination RP19-01 submitted by Jeffrey Bryden of Moose Pass to change Moose Pass from non-rural to rural status. He feels that the Moose Pass was improperly aggregated into the greater Seward area in order to make the area of Seward non-rural.

Richard Long of Kwethluk stated that he agreed with Chief Gary and Martin Andrew to have all commercial and sport fishing be closed.

Tanya Ipsuk of Kwethluk also stated that after local meetings there were six proposals submitted from Organized Village of Kwethluk and sent out couple of days after April 17th and is asking why those proposals never made it in to the 2019-2021 regulation book. OSM Pippa Kenner replied to Tanya that we are taking this very seriously and that she may need additional information so will contact her after the consultation.

Gloria Stickwan of Tazlina asked for transcripts from this consultation, Mr. Orville Lind stated that once the transcript is available to him, he begins the summary from notes taken from the consultation as well from the transcript itself. Once that summary is approved it will be available on the subsistence website and from Orville if requested.

Mr. Tom Doolittle DARD of OSM stated that for any analysis includes info from a variety of angles histories and comments to get a good sense on the final document. Its not just from transcripts, but reading through past analyses, referencing similar proposals that also anthropology group makes sure to double check for accuracy, on what communities are feeling and what new ideas may have come about.

Everyone was very appreciative of the opportunity for Consultation with the FSB and OSM staff.