



December 14, 2017

Dear CDFU Member,

We hope your winter season is going well and your holidays are filled with family and friends. With the board of fisheries meetings now behind us, we have provided you a summary of the five day meeting below. This board meeting cycle involved all user groups in Prince William Sound and the Copper River and took place in Valdez from December 1-5. You may review all proposals at www.cdfu.org or call our office at (907) 424-3447 for additional information. We will continue to monitor the Board of Fisheries and its upcoming meetings and workshops closely in the coming months in order to advocate for our membership and Area E fisheries.

Happy holidays and safe travels!

**NOTABLE CHANGES MADE AT DECEMBER BOARD OF FISHERIES
MEETING REGARDING AREA E COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

SUBSISTENCE

The Copper River District (CRD) subsistence fishery will now include Saturday openers. Proposal 19, submitted by John Whissel at the Native Village of Eyak, was amended and passed by the board to establish Saturday openers for the CRD subsistence fishery from May 15th to October 31st.

THE OEG vs. SEG DEBATE

The proposed attempts to established sockeye and Chinook salmon OEG's (optimal escapement goal) failed. Proposal 10, submitted by the Fairbanks AC, failed with a vote of 2-5. The board agreed with ADF&G management results from the past 37 years of sockeye escapement on the Copper River. However, CDFU anticipates the agenda to implement an OEG to continue behind the scenes. We are currently engaged in efforts to foster agreement amongst friendly user groups to oppose this effort at upcoming meetings and workshops. Proposal 32, Submitted by the Fairbanks AC, also failed. This proposal was amended through an RC (record comment) at the meeting in an attempt to establish a Chinook salmon OEG. This failed due to the consensus amongst board members that management and mandatory regulations should not be based on a preseason forecast. CDFU negotiated with several board members to champion an RC authored by CDFU (review RC 71 attached to this summary), which outlined our opposition to implementing



an OEG. CDFU's RC argued that the proposed OEG would disregard best available science, place unreasonable burdens upon user groups facing lost opportunity, and undermine ADF&G's management authority. You can review all RC's (and CDFU's submitted RC's) from the meeting at the Board of Fisheries page on the CDFU website. (See cdfu.org)

ADF&G's new SEG (sustainable escapement goal) range of (18,500-33,00) for Chinook salmon was not adopted. ADF&G submitted a new SEG and management plan at the Board of Fisheries work session in October (Oct. 17-19). If implemented, this SEG would have lowered our current SEG of 24,000 to a range of 18,500- 33,000. ADF&G revoked this recommendation and the current SEG of 24,000 remains in place for the next three years. This debate has inspired both the Board of Fisheries and ADF&G to foster improved outreach and community forum programming. CDFU will send you updates once more information becomes available.

AREA

Mandatory inside water closures remain in effect for Copper River District. Proposal 28, submitted by CDFU, sought a repeal of the mandatory inside closures. The board argued that ADF&G has the necessary tools and authority to open and close the fishery as need through emergency orders (EO).

The Kayak Island fishery will remain closed to commercial fishing. Proposal 37, submitted by Warren Chapel, sought to restore the Kayak Island fishing area to its original 1980's boundaries. The board argued that there was not enough information on this closed fishery to allow for its opening.

There will be no directed rockfish jig fishery outside of Area E waters. Proposal 4, submitted and supported by CDFU, which requested an established rockfish jig fishery, failed with a vote of 2-5. Debate on whether this was viable fishery occurred, which ultimately concluded with the consensus that there was not enough information available to establish this fishery. ADF&G indicated that additional research is currently underway regarding the viability of potential rockfish and other groundfish fisheries in Prince William Sound. CDFU will update you on this as additional data or information becomes available.

SEINE MODIFICATION OPTION

Purse seine nets now have the option to use standard seine mesh instead of lead web.



Proposal 38, submitted by Rob Nelson, provides seine fishermen the option to have a full 225 fathom seine (without lead mesh), or use a lead with seine size mesh (i.e. smaller mesh size is now allowable for the lead.) The aggregate of the seine cannot exceed 225 fathoms.

This summary represents only a portion of the proposals debated at the Board of Fisheries meeting earlier this month. Please note that CDFU has posted all Board of Fisheries materials at CDFU.org for your review, including a cheat sheet that outlines the final outcome of all proposals. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions whatsoever.

We are grateful to our board members and the the 45+ commercial fishermen who attended and testified on behalf of Area E fisheries in Valdez. That compelling testimony was invaluable to the overall understanding of the board members and we are so grateful for the time and efforts of this fishing fleet.

Thank you for your continued support of CDFU. We look forward to continuing this advocacy work on behalf of our fisheries in 2018, together.

Happy Holidays,

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F/V Shadow Dawn & F/V Never Enough
Curt Herschleb, Director
Gillnet & Groundfish Fisherman
F/V Chilkat

Gus Linville, Groundfish Division Representative
Seine, Tender & Groundfish Fisherman
F/V Frisian Lady

Robert Eckley, Groundfish Division Representative
Seine, Gillnet, Herring & Groundfish Fisherman
F/V Ariel, F/V Coghill, F/V Alaganik & F/V Cape Fear

Trae Lohse, Gillnet Division Representative
Gillnet & Groundfish Fisherman
F/V Catalyst

Vic Jones, Herring Division Representative
Seine, Gillnet & Herring Fisherman
F/V Valkyrie & F/V Chelsea Dawn

Mike Mickelson, Director
Gillnet & Seine Fisherman
F/V Amy & F/V Mariah

Ezekiel Brown, Director
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F/V Viking Maid & F/V Meshed Up

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