

On-Time Advisory Committee Comment List

Alaska Board of Fisheries Prince William Sound/Upper Copper and Upper Susitna Rivers Finfish and Shellfish | Cordova, Nov. 29-Dec. 6, 2021

Copper River / Prince William Sound Advisory Committee.....AC01
Fairbanks Advisory CommitteeAC02



Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Prince William Sound Proposals			
November 30 – December 6, 2021 Cordova, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support/ Support as amended/ Oppose/ No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (pros & cons), Voting Notes, Amendments
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
1	Establish a longline skate fishery in Prince William Sound, as follows:		
Support	9	1 abst.	Proposal is a good idea, skate is underutilized as a commercial species and would provide additional opportunity. Abstention: concerns with bycatch of nontarget species, and unfamiliarity with the particular fishery in concern.
2	Add a 6-hour prior notice of landing requirement for the Prince William Sound Area directed lingcod fishery, as follows:		
Neutral	10	0	No comment
3	Clarify possession and landing requirements for the parallel Pacific cod fishery in the Prince William Sound Area, as follows:		
Neutral	10	0	No comment
4	Clarify possession and landing requirements for the state-managed sablefish fishery in the Prince William Sound Area, as follows:		
Neutral	10	0	No comment
5	Establish an optimal escapement goal for Copper River king salmon, as follows:		
Oppose	0	10	This proposal is unsupported biologically and by ADFG, and would reduce fishery access for all user groups. It is unnecessary to change the escapement goal beyond what the Department has proposed.
6	Require inseason reporting of subsistence, sport fish, and personal use harvest and effort, as follows:		
Support	10	0	
7	Prohibit guiding in subsistence finfish fisheries, as follows:		
Support	9	0	Recent increases in upriver commercial industry are concerning to downriver users.
8	Prohibit dipnetting near tributary mouths of the Upper Copper River District, as follows:		



Support	9	0	CR/PWS AC shares concerns about wiping out smaller streams and impacts to all users.
9	Prohibit dipnetting from a boat in the Glennallen Subdistrict, as follows:		
Support	9	0	We are concerned with increased pressure on the resource, and the efficiency of dipnetting from boats. We share concerns with local users regarding the impact to the resource.
10	Prohibit dipnetting from a boat in the Upper Copper River District, as follows:		
Support	9	0	See above comments
11	Prohibit dipnetting from a moving boat in a portion of the Chitina Subdistrict, as follows:		
NA			No Action
12	Prohibit dipnetting from a boat when within 50 feet of a person dipnetting from shore in the Chitina Subdistrict, as follows:		
NA			No Action
13	Prohibit dipnetting from a boat within 75 feet of an operating fish wheel in the Glennallen Subdistrict, as follows:		
NA			No Action
14	Prohibit the use of gillnet mesh in dip nets, as follows:		
Support	9	0	We share concerns with upriver users about monofilament. The proposal would reduce fishery mortality.
15	Prohibit the use of gillnet mesh in dip nets, as follows:		
Support	9	0	See above comments.
16	Prohibit the use of depth or fish finders on boats in the Upper Copper River District, as follows:		
Support	9	0	This proposal would increase conservation of the fishery resource by limiting users who target holding fish, and would allow more spawners to reach the spawning grounds.
17	Establish specific permit and bag limits when dipnetting from a boat in the Glennallen Subdistrict, as follows:		
Support	9	0	This proposal could be complicated in implementation, but ultimately shares our conservation concerns, while providing opportunity for subsistence users.
18	Extend the lower boundary of the Chitina Subdistrict downstream ½ mile, as follows:		
Oppose	0	9	
19	Reduce the maximum harvest level in the Chitina Subdistrict Personal Use Fishery when the Copper River commercial fishery harvest is 50% below the 10-year average on June 1, as follows:		
Support	9	0	
20	Amend the annual limit for salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict, as follows:		



Support, with amendments	9	0	This proposal needs language added defining King retention. CR/PWS AC supports this proposal if amended with language to allow retention of 1 King.
21	Amend the opening date of the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery from June 7 to June 1, as follows:		
Oppose	0	9	It is important to allow early spawning Chinook adequate passage upriver, so that stocks that spawn in the farthest streams are not depleted.
22	Reverse the positive customary and traditional subsistence use determination for freshwater finfish within the Chitina Subdistrict, as follows:		
NA			No Comment
23	Reverse the positive customary and traditional subsistence use determination for rainbow and steelhead trout in the Prince William Sound Area, or establish amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence and bag and possession limits for rainbow and steelhead trout in the Prince William Sound Area, as follows:		
NA			
24	Add bag and possession limits for Dolly Varden in the Prince William Sound freshwater finfish subsistence fishery, as follows:		
NA			
25	Establish allowable gear in the Prince William Sound freshwater finfish subsistence fishery, as follows:		
NA			
26	Create a community subsistence salmon permit for Prince William Sound, as follows:		
Support, with amendments	11	0	CR/PWS AC supports this proposal. CR/PWS AC is supportive of the intent of this proposal, but has concerns about practicality and implementation.
27	Amend subsistence fishing season to remove linkage between subsistence salmon fishing opportunity and commercial salmon fishing periods, as follows:		
	0	11	CR/PWS AC's primary concerns with Proposal 27 are the increase in out of region users competing with local subsistence users, impacts to cost recovery and broodstock efforts within hatchery subdistricts, and enforcement concerns with such an unregulated, widespread fishery.
28	Amend household harvest limits for subsistence-caught salmon, as follows:		
Oppose	0	9	There is significant subsistence opportunity within Prince William Sound for many species, and the CR/PWS AC is concerned with increases to permit limits.
29	Allow use of drift gillnets to harvest salmon for subsistence uses throughout Prince William Sound, as follows:		
Oppose	0	9	CR/PWS AC is concerned with increased user group conflicts throughout Prince William Sound and currently sees



			significant subsistence harvest opportunity available in many areas within PWS and the Copper River.
30	Extend single-hook, artificial fly regulations in the Gulkana River to include the area under the Richardson Highway Bridge, as follows:		
Support	12	0	This proposal would provide clarity for fishery users.
31	Increase the possession limit for sockeye salmon in the Upper Copper River, as follows:		
Oppose	0	12	This is typically the same as the bag limit in many fisheries, and we share concerns with raising any harvest for any gear group on the upper Copper River. We are especially concerned about the Gulkana system being targeted, when this system has seen shortages in broodstock since 2013.
32	Allow harvest of rainbow trout 20 inches or less in a portion of the Gulkana River, as follows:		
Support	12	0	This proposal could potentially benefit sockeye resources, as it would provide additional sportfish opportunity upriver, while also potentially reducing predation.
33	Allow harvest of rainbow trout 18 inches or less in the Gulkana River, as follows:		
Support	12	0	See above comments.
34	Remove the 14-inch size limit for Gulkana River Arctic grayling, as follows:		
NA			
35	Amend bag and possession limits for Arctic grayling and methods and means in Moose Creek, as follows:		
NA			
36	Increase the bag and possession limit of lake trout in Crosswind Lake, as follows:		
Support	12	0	See comments on proposal 32.
37	Establish sport bag and possession limit for lake trout in the Prince William Sound area, as follows:		
NA			
38	Establish restrictions in the Copper River Delta coho salmon sport fishery based on the number of days the commercial fishery is closed, as follows:		
Support	11	1 abst.	In years of low abundance, we are concerned with meeting the SEG for Coho salmon. This paired restriction would allow escapement to be met, and reduce some of the barriers to EO restrictions in the sport fishery, while still allowing some opportunity for harvest.
39	Extend the area closed to sport fishing in Ibeck Creek, as follows:		
Support	9	1	Pro: This proposal would protect spawners within spawning beds.



			Cons: May concentrate sport fishermen into a smaller area and potentially impact other systems.
40	Close 18 Mile or Silver Creek to coho salmon fishing August 1 to November 1, as follows:		
Support	10	0	Federal subsistence users could still access this stream, which may create confusion for users, but this stream has struggled with escapement for many years now. Concerns with van loads of fishermen targeting this struggling system, and would like to ensure fish passage and recovery before it is completely wiped out.
41	Repeal mandatory closed waters from the Copper River King Salmon Management Plan, as follows:		
Support	11	0	This would remove regulatory burden, while still maintaining the Department's EO authority to effectively manage.
42	Amend the set gillnet group exvessel value percentage trigger point in the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan, as follows:		
NA			
43	Repeal the definition of enhanced salmon stocks, as follows:		
NA			
44	Amend allocation corrective action criteria for set gillnet gear under the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan, as follows:		
NA			
45	Increase minimum operation distance between set and drift gillnet gear in the Main Bay Subdistrict, as follows:		
NA			
46	Repeal limitations on use of deep gillnet gear, as follows:		
Support	11	0	Would allow for liberalized use of deep gear earlier in the season. Users could effectively harvest salmon and maintain quality of commercial catch.
47	Amend Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan to provide management guidance for reducing Coghill District harvest of salmon stocks bound for other districts, as follows:		
NA			
48	Amend Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan to provide management guidance for reducing Eshamy District harvest of salmon stocks bound for other districts, as follows:		
NA			
49	Amend the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan, as follows:		
Oppose	11	0	Hatchery production is governed through the RPT process, this is an unnecessary regulatory change, when the existing



			public and scientific process has been adequately addressing concerns over the last 40 years.
50	Amend the Armin F. Koernig Salmon Hatchery Management Plan to reduce straying of hatcheryproduced salmon, as follows:		
Oppose	11	0	See above.
51	Amend the Cannery Creek Salmon Hatchery Management Plan to reduce straying of hatcheryproduced salmon, as follows:		
Oppose	11	0	See above.
52	Amend the Solomon Gulch Salmon Hatchery Management Plan to reduce straying of hatcheryproduced salmon, as follows:		
Oppose	11	0	See above.
53	Amend the Wally Noerenberg (Esther Island) Hatchery Management Plan to reduce straying of hatchery-produced salmon, as follows:		
Oppose	11	0	See above.
54	Amend the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan to specify hatchery chum salmon production, as follows:		
Oppose	11	0	Hatchery production has remained relatively stable since 1990, and studies for the Alaska Hatchery Research Project have not yet been finalized. There is currently no biological evidence to support reduction of hatchery production.
55	Amend private-non-profit hatchery permits to decrease allowable hatchery production, as follows:		
Oppose	11	0	Hatchery production has remained relatively stable since 1990, and studies for the Alaska Hatchery Research Project have not yet been finalized. There is currently no biological evidence to support reduction of hatchery production.
56	Create requirements and specifications for use of 250 fathoms of seine gear in Prince William Sound, as follows:		
NA			
57	Create requirements and specifications for use of 250 fathoms of seine gear in Prince William Sound, as follows:		
NA			
58	Amend the Armin F. Koernig Salmon Hatchery Management Plan to provide daily fishing periods, as follows:		
NA			
59	Reduce waters closed to commercial salmon fishing, as follows:		
Support	11	0	This would provide an additional boost to the regional economy in years of high abundance of wild pink salmon.
60	Update closed waters defined in regulation by incorporating GPS locations to replace closed waters areas historically defined by physical markers, as follows:		



NA			CR/PWS AC has taken no action until concerns can be addressed with ADFG staff prior to and at the PWS meeting.
61	Establish a commercial fishery for sea cucumbers in Registration Area E, as follows:		
Support	10	0	This proposal would provide additional economic opportunity for regional residents and users. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there is a harvestable surplus of sea cucumbers within PWS.
62	Establish a commercial fishery for sea cucumbers in Registration Area E, as follows:		
Support	10	0	This proposal would provide additional economic opportunity for regional residents and users. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there is a harvestable surplus of sea cucumbers within PWS.
63	Amend Registration Area E king crab fishing seasons, guideline harvest level (GHL), and lawful gear regulations, as follows:		
Support	11	0	This proposal would provide regulatory framework for re-opening the Golden King Crab fishery after a 30 year closure, which would allow for additional access to the resource by residents and increased economic activity during the winter season.
64	Establish a fishing season for golden king crab in Registration Area E, as follows:		
Support	11	0	This proposal would provide regulatory framework for re-opening the Golden King Crab fishery after a 30 year closure, which would allow for additional access to the resource by residents and increased economic activity during the winter season.
65	Establish a department-issued permit for the commercial golden king crab fishery in Registration Area E, as follows:		
Support	11	0	This proposal would provide regulatory framework for re-opening the Golden King Crab fishery after a 30 year closure, which would allow for additional access to the resource by residents and increased economic activity during the winter season.
66	Amend guideline harvest range for golden king crab in Registration Area E, as follows:		
Support	11	0	This proposal would provide regulatory framework for re-opening the Golden King Crab fishery after a 30 year closure, which would allow for additional access to the resource by residents and increased economic activity during the winter season.
67	Establish a golden king pot limit in Registration Area E, as follows:		



Support	11	0	This proposal would provide regulatory framework for re-opening the Golden King Crab fishery after a 30 year closure, which would allow for additional access to the resource by residents and increased economic activity during the winter season.
68	Adopt amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence for Tanner crab in the Prince William Sound Area, outside the Valdez Nonsubsistence Area, as follows:		
NA			
69	Modify criteria for opening commercial Tanner crab fishery in Prince William Sound, as follows:		
Support	10	0	Provides regulatory flexibility for opening the Tanner crab fishery.
70	Modify criteria for opening commercial Tanner crab fishery in Prince William Sound, as follows:		
Support	10	0	Provides regulatory flexibility for opening the Tanner crab fishery.
71	Adopt a new Tanner crab harvest strategy for Prince William Sound, as follows:		
Support	10	0	Provides regulatory flexibility for opening the Tanner crab fishery.
72	Allow the department to issue a permit for Tanner crab fisheries closed more than one year, as follows:		
Support	10	0	Provides regulatory flexibility for opening the Tanner crab fishery.
73	Establish closed waters for commercial Tanner crab fishing in the Prince William Sound Area, Registration Area E, as follows:		
Oppose	0	9	We share concerns about the accuracy of trawl data in determining biomass assessment, and prefer to see the use of CPUE in managing Tanner fisheries in PWS.
74	Redefine and rename commercial Tanner crab districts in the Prince William Sound Area, and add one additional district, as follows:		
Support	9	0	The districts should be aligned with survey rotation, and this proposal seeks to do that.
75	Adopt a new a Prince William Sound Area (PWS; Area E) Tanner crab harvest strategy to align with new proposed districts, as follows:		
Oppose	0	9	CPUE should be used as a management strategy for the Tanner Crab fishery.
76	Repeal commissioner's permits for Tanner crab in the Eastern and Western Districts of Prince William Sound Area (PWS), as follows:		
Oppose	0	9	Commissioner's Permits in the Tanner fishery have allowed the biomass to be more fully assessed and provided



			additional opportunity for regional residents, and their use has been beneficial to both ADFG and users. Would like to see the Commissioner’s Permit available in all districts for Tanner crab.
77	Amend the Tanner crab registration deadline, as follows:		
Support	9	0	Supportive of ADFG’s suggested changes to registration.
78	Remove district references and include all districts in the Prince William Sound Area (PWS; Area E) and include a weather-delay provision for the opening date of the fishery, as follows:		
Support	9	0	Provides flexibility for fleet and fishery management.
79	Designate Registration Area E an exclusive registration area for Tanner crab, as follows:		

Minutes Recorded By: Chelsea Haisman, AC Secretary
 Minutes Approved By: John Renner and Dennis Zadra, AC Co-chairs
 Date: November 15, 2021



Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Interior Fish & Game Advisory Committees

Kirk Schwalm
Chairman
PO Box 83825
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Central
Delta Junction
Eagle
Fairbanks
GASH
Koyukuk River
Lake Minchumina
McGrath

Middle Nenana River
Middle Yukon River
Minto-Nenana
Ruby
Stony Holitna
Tanana-Rampart-Manley
Upper Tanana Fortymile
Yukon Flats

November 15, 2021

To: Alaska Board of Fisheries

Re: Comments on specific proposals for On-Time Public Comments
Copper River / Prince William Sound 2021

Dear Members, Alaska Board of Fisheries

The Fairbanks Advisory Committee (FAC) supports the following proposals, approved March 2021 and November 10, 2021 by the full AC:

- SUPPORT Proposal #5 CR King Salmon Management, precautionary escapement goal
- SUPPORT Proposal #18 CR Personal Use Fishing, extend lower boundary
- SUPPORT Proposal #21 CR Amend opening date
- SUPPORT Proposal #22 Reverse positive C&T determination for freshwater finfish
- SUPPORT Proposal #23 Reverse positive C&T determination for rainbow and steelhead
- SUPPORT Proposal #31 CR – Increase possession limit for sockeye in Upper Copper River
- SUPPORT Proposal #33 Gulkana River – Allow harvest of rainbow trout on the Gulkana
- SUPPORT Proposal #49 PWS Enhancement – amend as described
- SUPPORT Proposal #50 Amend AFK hatchery management plan to reduce straying
- SUPPORT Proposal #51 Amend Cannery Creek enhancement plan to reduce straying
- SUPPORT Proposal #52 Amend Solomon Gulch enhancement to reduce straying
- SUPPORT Proposal #53 Amend Walley Noerenberg enhancement plan to reduce straying
- SUPPORT Proposal #54 Amend PWS salmon enhancement to specific hatchery chum
- SUPPORT Proposal #55 Amend PNP hatchery permits to decrease allowable production

The Fairbanks Advisory Committee (FAC) opposes the following proposals:

- OPPOSE Proposal #6 CR require in-season reporting / changes as stated
- OPPOSE Proposal #8 CR Subsistence- prohibit dipnetting near tributary mouths
- OPPOSE Proposal #9 CR Prohibit dipnetter from boat in Glenallen District
- OPPOSE Proposal #10 CR Prohibit dipnetting from moving boat in described area
- OPPOSE Proposal #11 CR Prohibit dipnetting in a moving boat in portion of Chitina SD
- OPPOSE Proposal #12 CR Prohibit dipnetting from boat within 50’ of shore dip net
- OPPOSE Proposal #13 CR Prohibit dipnetting from a boat within 75’ of operating wheel
- OPPOSE Proposal #14 CR Prohibit use of gillnet mesh in dip nets
- OPPOSE Proposal #15 CR Eliminate monofilament in dip nets



OPPOSE Proposal #16 CR Prohibit use of depth or fish finders as described
OPPOSE Proposal #17 CR Establish permit and bag limits as described
OPPOSE Proposal #19 CR Reduce maximum harvest level as described
OPPOSE Proposal #20 CR Amend annual limit in Chitina SD as described
OPPOSE Proposal #41 CR Repeal mandatory closed waters /CR King Salmon Mgt plan

Further, the Fairbanks Advisory Committee supports the clarifying language submitted by the Chitina Dipnetters Association (CDA) on several proposals relating to the Copper River.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk Schwalm".

Kirk Schwalm

Chair Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee