

PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP SHEET

Agenda Item: C-6 Cooperative Reports / Salmon PSC

	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	TESTIFYING ON BEHALF OF:
1	Tim Thomas, AMERICAN SEAFOODS COMPANY	AMERICAN SEAFOODS COMPANY
2	Art Nelson	BSFA
3	ART IVANOFF	SNSAC
4	Becca Robbins Giselair	Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Assoc.
5	John Lamont	self
6	Julie Penny	AGDB
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NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(I) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person "to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 E. Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, AK 99503
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APR 03 2013

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Eric Olson, Chair
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

Subject: Chinook bycatch cap in non-pollock trawl fisheries

Dear Mr. Olson:

The Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Advisory Council (Council) is one of the ten regional councils formed under Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Section 805 of ANILCA and the Council's charter establish its authority to initiate, review, and evaluate regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters related to subsistence on Federal public lands and waters within the Western Interior Alaska region. The Council provides a forum for discussion and recommendations for subsistence fish and wildlife management in the region.

The Council met in Galena, Alaska, on March 5-6, 2013, and conducted a public meeting regarding subsistence issues. Among the topics discussed at this meeting were the recent Bering Sea salmon bycatch updates and the upcoming meeting of the NPFMC. The people of our region are deeply concerned about the bycatch levels, as the Western Alaska chum and Chinook salmon are essential resources we have been utilizing for generations. The low escapement levels in recent years and severely limited fishing openings have put a strain on our families and communities, many of which are not meeting their needs. Protection of these resources is critical to our way of life and all efforts should be made to rebuild and maintain our salmon stocks, including reducing direct impacts from the Bering Sea commercial fisheries.

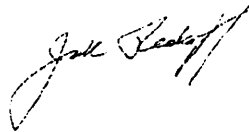
Our primary concern is the Chinook bycatch cap in the non-pollock trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska. We urge you to select the lowest proposed cap of 5,000 Chinook Salmon.

Eric Olson

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Thank you for the opportunity for this opportunity to provide input to your Council regarding critical issues of concern to our region; we look forward to continued discussions and dialogue. If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact me via Melinda Hernandez, Subsistence Council Coordinator with OSM, at (907) 786-3885.

Sincerely,



Jack Reakoff
Chair

cc: Kathleen M. O'Reilly-Doyle, Acting Assistant Regional Director, OSM
David Jenkins, Acting Deputy Assistant Regional Director, OSM
Steve Fried, Fisheries Division Supervisor, OSM
Carl Johnson, Council Coordination Supervisor, OSM
Melinda Hernandez, Council Coordinator, OSM
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