

December 31, 2015

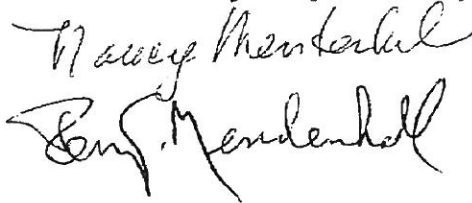
To: Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

COMMENT on PROPOSAL 129 -- 5 AAC 01.170 Lawful gear and gear specifications.  
(Amendment proposed regarding use of beach seines as an alternative gear.)

We agree there is a need to protect certain species when they are in short supply in certain times, and that beach seines are one way to do that. That can work for areas where there are adequate beach locations to seine for the number of people who customarily subsistence salmon fish in that area. However, the proposal needs clarification as it does not state what can happen for people whose fish camps are on the ocean with no access to usable beaches for seining, who normally fish in the ocean, and who do not have river boats etc. How will this proposal affect marine waters fishing?

Also there is limited beach space for beach seining on the Nome river, using today's open area, and some other nearby rivers are difficult to get to for people accustomed to fishing in ocean or river near Nome. Some rivers are closed to net fishing. Will access to seining beaches be realistic for the number of families who traditionally fish each year? How would beach space be apportioned out fairly? How would this impact the runs if everyone, for example, moves to the Pilgrim River because of lack of beach space near Nome. What about those who cannot? The amendment needs clarification.

Comment submitted by Perry and Nancy Mendenhall



Nancy Mendenhall  
Perry Mendenhall

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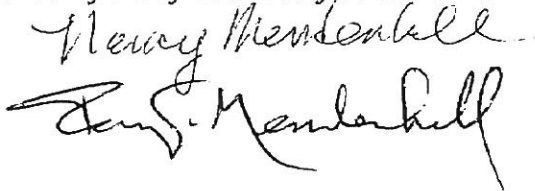
To: Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

Re: COMMENT on PROPOSAL 131--5 AAC 01.160. Fishing seasons and periods; and 5 AAC 01.170I Lawful Gear and gear specifications.  
Submitted by Thomas Sparks.

COMMENT: We agree with Mr. Spark's proposal for two related reasons, as it pertains to marine subsistence salmon fishing east and west of Cape Nome. We are directly familiar with the weather and sea conditions just west of the Cape and assume it is similar east of the Cape. First, the weather after July 5 has become increasingly rainy and windy in recent years, causing high surf almost all days for the rest of the summer. This makes it hard to launch a skiff from the beach and service a gillnet. The Nome port is too far away to be a practical place to go to and fro with a skiff. Second, regarding the fish caught, it has become increasingly difficult to dry salmon, a preferred way to process chums, after July 5 due to the weather. Although we caught chums in 2015 starting about June 23 we were unable to dry any of them completely. A solution is to provide more days to fish in June when the sea is calmer and the weather typically sunny with drying winds. There is no reason to believe the July-August weather will improve for summer 2016.

There has been no shortage of chums in recent years in this sub-district. Therefore this proposal should not affect the runs or any fishermen negatively.

Comment by Perry and Nancy Mendenhall

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is "Nancy Mendenhall" and the bottom signature is "Perry Mendenhall". Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.