

## GENE SANDONE: PUBLIC TESTIMONY

## Reference:

RC 2 starting on page 84;

PC11 starting on page 43: but I want to note that we commented on all proposals.

RC 23;

CFEC Supplement to December 28, 2015 comments on Proposal 126 for the 2015/2016 A-Y-K finfish meeting;

my comments are contained in RC XX

Good Afternoon, my name is Gene Sandone. I live in Wasilla, Alaska and I am representing YDFDA and Kwik 'pak fisheries.

1. We request to change the maximum mesh size in the beach seine specificity and the purse seine proposal, Proposal 118, 123, and 126, respectively to 4.0 inch, (RC 23). Accepting the maximum mesh size of 4.0 in all seine proposals will result in a decrease in the gilling of non-target species, particularly Bering cisco. Additionally, some fishers are currently using beach seines that have a mesh size of 4.0. Reducing the mesh size to 3.5 inch would require those people to re hang their beach seines.
2. In 2013, in response to an emergency regulation request, the BOF requested a "robust" test purse seine test fishery. I reference all the information contained in PC 11 starting on page 43 and most of the information contained in R2, staff comments. YDFDA conducted a purse seine test fishery in 2014 and 2015. The results of these test fisheries are summarized in PC 11 page 44. From these test fisheries we conclude that Chinook salmon can be released alive and in good condition from purse seines.
3. The process of Yukon River purse seine is similar to drift net fishing in the way the net is deployed and drifted downstream. We do not "power trawl". We corral fish. We use capstans to bring in the rings alongside the boat and dip nets to dip the fish out of the purse seine. We don't use a block and we don't use power skiffs. Both boats used in our test fishery were 24 ft Yukon boats and this would be the maximum size of the boats used in this fishery.
4. I urge you to specifically consider the information at the end of YDFDA comments (PC 11) on page 47. The authors of the USGS study regarding post release mortality on Chinook salmon from purse seines on the Columbia River using radio-telemetry state: ***WDFW estimated that steelhead survival after capture in a beach or purse seine ranged from 96 to 98 percent. Our data suggest that fall Chinook salmon and coho salmon survival during 2013 could be similar to steelhead survival in 2011 and 2012, if the potential limitations of the 2013 study are considered.***
5. We agree with most of the Department's comments regarding Proposal 126 found in RC 2. However, ADF&G states that mean retention time for chinook in the purse seine is 11.8 minutes. I disagree with their calculation because they considered the seine to be closed when the process of closing was initiated. At that time, the ends of the purse seine were more than a

football field apart. To me, that purse seine is not closed. Fish can easily swim out. My estimates of mean retention time of king salmon in the seine was 7.1 and 4.0 minutes, depending on the way you define the closure. Regardless, kings can be released from the purse seine quickly mainly because of their behavior in the purse seine.

6. I would like to point out the CFEC basically retracted their initial statement with the Supplement to December 28, 2015 comments on Proposal 126 for the 2015/2016 A-Y-K finfish. This supplement was dated January 8. I urge you to read this.
7. In closing, I would like to state that the prosecution of a commercial fishery 4 to 6 years in the future should not be burdened on the backs of the subsistence fishers today.