

Board of Fish Comments

Thank you Chairman and Board members, I'm Chariton Epchook, Chairman of Kwethluk Incorporated. I'm here to testify on proposals 275, 276 and 278 and to speak to a non-agenda item and present you a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of Kwethluk Incorporated regarding not issuing permits to Guides or Sports Fishing or Hunting Outfitters for a period of 5 years in order to rebuild chinook stalks on the Kwethluk River and its head waters.

Proposals 275 and 276: Kwethluk Incorporated is in opposition of these proposals which are not a customary practice of the people of the Kuskokwim River. If either one of these two proposals are passed/approved, they will create criminals under the eyes of the State since a few people will be selected to vie for any number of salmon that are allocated to them. Not all household members in the Kuskokwim River villages conduct fish camp activities during the summer. If those who just want to fill their freezers are selected, those that have fish camps may brake laws in order to feed their families and store dried salmon. These two proposals should not be passed.

Proposal 278: Kwethluk Incorporated is not in support of this proposal or any other proposal that limits to the use of 4" nets while chinook salmon are migrating to the head waters and tributaries of the Kuskokwim River. In most of the Board of Fish meetings, people from this area and upper Kuskokwim River have been trying to increase the size from 4" to 5 1/2" or 6" to catch Chee fish or larger white fish (Broad heads and Cisco).

Non-Agenda Item: Kwethluk Incorporated adopted Resolution Number 17-02 which requests USFWS, BLM and any other State Agency that issues permits for sports fishing, hunting or rafting on the Kwethluk River and its headwaters not to issue permits for a period of 5 years. Kwethluk Incorporated is seeking your support in our efforts to conserve and renew the numbers of Chinook Salmon that spawn in the head waters of the Kwethluk River.

Thank you for your time!

Attachment:

- Kwethluk Incorporated Resolution Number 17-02

Kwethluk Incorporated

P.O. Box 110

Kwethluk, AK 99621

Telephone: (907)757-6613; Fax: (907)757-6212; kwtdcorp@yahoo.com

Resolution Number: 17-02

A Resolution of the Kwethluk Incorporated Board of Directors requesting a five (5) year moratorium on issuing permits for "Guide Hunting/ fishing and Rafting" on the head waters of the Kwethluk River which is a prime spawning river for all species of Salmon.

Whereas, Kwethluk Incorporated is an ANCSA Village Corporation based in Kwethluk, Alaska; and,

Whereas, the Shareholders of Kwethluk Incorporated share concerns of having Chinook Salmon for the future shareholders; and,

Whereas, on the 25th of January 2017, the Organized Village of Kwethluk- Kwethluk IRA Council hosted a meeting with the USFWS employees who made presentations on their Telemetry and Weir Projects on the Kwethluk River; and

Whereas, the Kwethluk Joint Group for years have declared that the Kwethluk River is primarily a Subsistence River and that permits for sports fishing and rafting should not be issued due to declining Chinook Salmon; and,

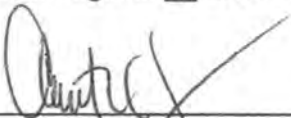
Whereas, the Board of Directors that were present provided testimony in opposition of USFWS, BLM or any other State Agency issuing permits to outfitters that provide this service to paying customers on the Kwethluk River and its tributaries; and,

NOW, Therefore Be It Resolved by the Kwethluk Incorporated Board of Directors that the United States Fish and Wildlife Services, Bureau of Land Management and any other State Agency that is in charge of issuing permits for sports hunting/ fishing and rafting puts a five (5) year Moratorium into place to protect the declining Chinook Salmon on the Kwethluk River and its tributaries; and,

Be It Further Resolved, that this resolution be mailed, faxed or emailed to the Organized Village of Kwethluk-Kwethluk IRA Council in Kwethluk and Alaska Regional Director of USFWS in Anchorage, Alaska and Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

Certification:

The above Resolution is passed and approved this 7 th day of February, 2017 in a duly called meeting of the Kwethluk Incorporated Board of Directors and voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, 0 excused, 0 abstaining and 0 absent.



Chariton Epchook, Chairman

ATTEST:



Sandra Nicori, Secretary/Treasurer