

(previous 98-02-FB)  
98-177-FB

**RESOLUTION**  
**BOARD OF FISHERIES**

WHEREAS, in December, 1997, during the course of its "in cycle" consideration of fisheries issues related to the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim area, the Board was presented with information which led the Board to consider the need for an thorough and complete examination of the subsistence fishery in Norton Sound, including consideration of a possible Tier II subsistence fishery, and conservation issues, particularly in the Nome Subdistrict; and

WHEREAS, the communities of Norton Sound were advised of the Board's concerns and the need for a special meeting as set forth in the special notice by which the Board informed the public of the meeting in Nome in March, 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Board conducted a public hearing in Nome on March 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1998, which included extensive staff reports on the subsistence issue as well as public testimony from over fifty (50) members of the public and advisory committees; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this public process, the Board was made aware that there is a lack of understanding and uncertainty among the subsistence users of Nome and other communities in Norton Sound, as well as considerable uncertainty by the staff of ADF & G as to how the fishery would be managed under a Tier II system; and

WHEREAS, it is the practice of the Board of Fisheries to give the stakeholders in a fishery the widest possible opportunity to address and to solve problems in their own fisheries with the assistance of staff of the Department of Fish and Game and the Board of Fisheries; and

WHEREAS, only a short period of time has passed between the Board's concerns arising in Fairbanks in December, 1997 and the public meeting in Nome in March, 1998, which time period has not allowed a full and complete exploration and discussion of the issues surrounding the subsistence and conservation concerns of the Board by the stakeholders in the fishery;

NOW, THEREFORE, after full consideration of all of the options and possibilities before the Board and after additional presentations by the Staff of ADF&G and the Department of Law,

THE BOARD OF FISHERIES RESOLVES as follows:

1) The Board hereby authorizes its Chairman, with the assistance of local Department staff and the public in attendance at this Board meeting, and subject to the approval of the full Board, to appoint a Workgroup of interested and qualified subsistence, sport and commercial users and residents of the Nome Subdistrict to consider all of the issues and options surrounding the conservation and subsistence issues in the Nome Subdistrict; and

2) The Workgroup is directed to work with ADF&G staff and the Department of Law, both of whom have expressed their commitments to this process, to develop a local Salmon Management Plan. The Management Plan shall be localized, shall have a broad range of management tools and practices for the Nome Subdistrict and shall address the following matters:

A) Conservation issues in the Nome Subdistrict; and

B) Issues of Tier I and Tier II subsistence fisheries in the Nome Subdistrict; and

C) Establishment of a criteria to differentiate among subsistence users in the event a Tier II fishery is required in the Nome Subdistrict; and

D) Consider restoration and enhancement options and possibilities in the Nome Subdistrict; and

E) Recommendations for research and funding for the Nome Subdistrict.

3) The Workgroup is to work with ADF&G Nome/Norton Sound staff before, during and after the 1998 season. If, in the determination of the Workgroup and with the concurrence of ADF&G staff, a closure of any river(s) or other area(s) is deemed appropriate, the Workgroup shall make a recommendation to the local Advisory Committee(s) to close such river(s) or area(s). In this regard, the Board authorizes the Chairman to work with the Commissioner to insure that the Advisory Committee(s) are given the appropriate authority under AS 16.05.260 and 5 AAC 97.010. Nothing set forth herein is intended, in any manner, to limit the Department's emergency order authority.

4) The Workgroup is directed to make an interim report at the Board of Fisheries work session in Juneau, Alaska in October, 1998. Further, the Workgroup is to complete its work and report to the full Board at its meeting in Nome, Alaska in March, 1999 at which time it will submit its localized Salmon Management Plan for the Nome Subdistrict.

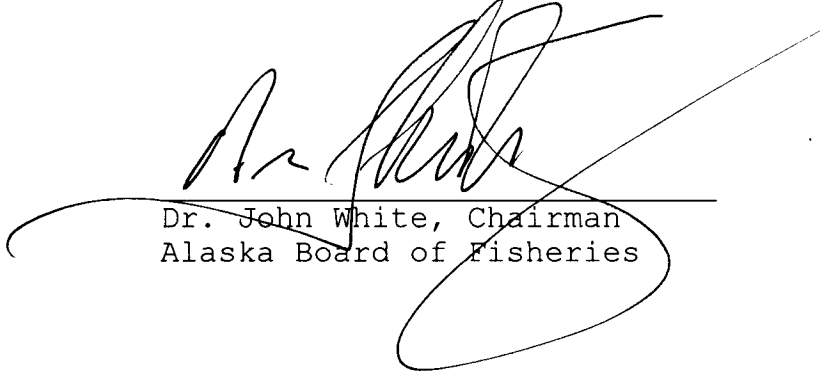
Previously  
(98-02-FB)

5) If, for any reason, the Workgroup fails to report as required in a timely fashion, the Staff of the Department is instructed to make the report to the full Board.

6) The Workgroup has selected and the full Board approves Caleb Pungowiyi as its interim chairman. He is instructed to work with Board Chairman White. The initial members of the working group have been selected and the full Board has approved these selections. The initial working group will hold a public meeting and expand its membership as it deems appropriate thereafter.

7) The Board expects that this Workgroup will confine its efforts to the development of a localized Management Plan.

DATED at Nome, Alaska this 5th day March, 1998.



Dr. John White, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Fisheries