



Reviewer Letter
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

September 2024

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) will consider this book of regulatory proposals at its meetings from October 2024 through March 2025. The proposals concern changes to the state's fishing regulations submitted timely by members of the public, organizations, advisory committees, and ADF&G staff. Proposals are published essentially as received, with the exception of minor edits and removal of graphics and web links. If you submitted a proposal and find the published version does not reflect your intent, please contact Boards Support as soon as possible.

Proposals. Proposals are often presented as brief statements summarizing intended regulation changes. Proposed changes are also often written in accordance with the Department of Law's drafting standards: additions are **bolded and underlined** while deletions are [BRACKETED AND CAPITALIZED].

Reading all proposals in this book is encouraged. Proposals may apply statewide, affect one region or fishery of the state, or recommend change to multiple fisheries within an area.

The proposals are grouped by board meeting (see the Proposal Index). Within each meeting, proposals are organized by region, fishery, or species. This book notes if a proposal will be heard at more than one meeting. About two weeks before each meeting, the board makes a "roadmap" with the tentative order proposals will be considered and deliberated on. This usually differs from the order of proposals in the book. The board also develops an agenda for each meeting to coordinate with the roadmap.

Public comment requested. The board relies on written comments and oral testimony. Public comment, in combination with advisory committee recommendations and ADF&G staff presentations, provide the board with useful biological and socioeconomic information. Written comments become public documents.

Submit your comments.

Online	boardoffisheries.adfg.alaska.gov
Fax	(907) 465-6094
Mail	P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526

More about public comments. Comments are encouraged to be submitted by each meeting's deadline (typically two weeks prior to a meeting - see the Tentative Meeting Schedule for the deadlines of each specific meeting). They are included as part of board member workbooks, listed in each meeting's Index of Comments, and posted on the Boards Support website in advance of the meeting. Requirements include:

- Submitted by mail, fax, in office, or through the Boards Support website.
- 100 single-sided pages or less from any one individual or group.
- Fits on 8½" x 11" paper with adequate margins for three-hole punching.
- Web links to external documents or multimedia are not accepted.
- Include the author's name and contact information.
- For charts or graphs, cite the source.

Record copies. Written materials received during board meetings, are termed "record copies". Requirements are the same as above, except:

- Comments are not accepted via email.
- Comments may be submitted by fax or hand delivered at the meeting.
- RECOMMENDED: Comments may be submitted via the online record copy submission form at the start of the meeting.
- Record copies are limited to 10 single-sided pages or less from any one individual or group per proposal until the board begins deliberations on proposals. Once deliberations start, no more than five single-sided pages are accepted.

Oral testimony. The board welcomes oral testimony at each regularly scheduled regulatory meeting. Testimony generally begins the first day of the meeting, extending as long as necessary. There is a sign-up period for testimony at each meeting, found on the meeting agenda. Each person who wishes to speak is generally allotted three minutes for testimony. Advisory committee, federal regional advisory council, and Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee representatives are generally allotted 10 minutes.

Updates related to public testimony will be provided via advisory announcement closer to the start of each meeting. Please watch the board's website for any updates or sign up to receive announcements via email at www.boardoffisheries.adfg.alaska.gov.

Tips for comments.

- Identify proposal(s). Clearly state the proposal number you wish to discuss and if you support or oppose the proposal. If the comments support a modification in the proposal, indicate "support as amended" with the preferred amendment in writing.
- Commenting on more than one proposal. If making comments on more than one proposal, simply list the next proposal number followed by your comments. There is no need for separate pages or to submit multiple comments.
- Explain why. Help the board understand your rationale by identifying factors to take into account when acting on a proposal.
- Keep comments brief and clear. Board members are extremely busy. Clearly stating proposal numbers and one's position with supporting rationale will assist board members.
- Follow the requirements. Pages in excess of the page limit and comments not in the proper format will be discarded. Testimony greater than the allotted time will be cut short.
- The sooner the better. As a practical matter, comments submitted after the board begins deliberations are likely to receive less consideration than comments submitted earlier.
- Write clearly. Whether typed or handwritten, use dark ink and write legibly.

- Use the committee process for detailed comments. The board considers specific proposals, grouped by subject, during committees as a way to receive much greater detail from the participating public. Public testimony should be tailored to encompass major items of importance. Fine details may be reserved for committee work.
- Be polite. Inflammatory material may be excluded or redacted, and public testimony may be cut short.

Advisory committees. Advisory committees written recommendations should be submitted in the format prescribed by the board; boards staff can provide the right form. Recommendations should note the number of committee members in attendance as well as other stakeholders in attendance during meetings. Remember, advisory committee recommendations must be developed at a meeting where the conditions of the Open Meetings Act (AS 44.62.310) were met. When providing public testimony, provide commentary and explain the committee's current discussion. Expressing minority opinions is helpful. Reading off proposal numbers and committee recommendations is difficult to follow; your written comments should cover this sort of summary. For additional information on providing public comment, refer to the Advisory Committee Manual.

Additional instructions for advisory committee chairs. Advisory committee chairs are responsible for calling committee meetings to review proposals and provide recommendations. In order to efficiently budget and provide for travel, pre-planning is essential. Chairs are to identify to Boards Support well in advance of each board meeting if they anticipate an advisory committee representative might attend one of the meetings. Failure to provide early notice may prevent the advisory committee from traveling should adequate funding be unavailable.

Special notes. The board applies various statutes and policies when considering proposals. When addressing proposals affecting subsistence uses, the board provides for a reasonable opportunity for subsistence consistent with Alaska Statute 16.05.258 and regulation 5 AAC 99.010(b). When addressing allocations among commercial, sport, guided sport, and/or personal use fisheries, the board applies its Allocation Criteria (AS 16.05.251(e)). When addressing salmon fisheries, it may apply the Mixed Stock Salmon Policy (5 AAC 39.220) and the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy (5 AAC 39.222). You may wish to review these statutes, regulations, and policies when preparing comments for the board. See the board's website or call Boards Support staff listed in this book to learn more about the board process.

Persons with a disability needing special accommodations in order to comment on the proposed regulations should contact the Executive Director at (907) 267-2292 no later than two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

Thank you for taking an active role in Alaska's fisheries management regulatory process.

Sincerely,



Art Nelson
Executive Director



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
 PO Box 115526
 Juneau, AK 99811-5526
 (907) 465-4110
 www.adfg.alaska.gov

AASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
2024/2025 Cycle
Tentative Meeting Schedule

**Prince William Sound and Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Finfish and Shellfish (except shrimp);
 Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish; and Statewide Shellfish, PWS Shrimp, and
 Supplemental Issues**

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Meeting Dates	Topics	Location	Comment Deadline
Oct. 29–30, 2024 [2 days]	Work Session ACRs, cycle organization, Stocks of Concern	Anchorage Egan Civic and Convention Center	October 15, 2024
Dec. 10–16, 2024 [7 days]	Prince William Sound and Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Finfish and Shellfish (except shrimp)	Cordova The Cordova Center	November 26, 2024
Jan. 28–Feb. 9, 2025 [13 days]	Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish	Ketchikan Ted Ferry Civic Center	January 14, 2025
March 11–16, 2025 [6 days]	Statewide Shellfish, PWS Shrimp and Supplemental Issues	Anchorage Egan Civic and Convention Center	February 25, 2025

Total Meeting Days: 28

Agenda Change Request Deadline: August 30, 2024 [60 days prior to fall work session]



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board of Fisheries
 P.O. Box 115526
 Juneau, AK 99811-5526
 (907) 465-4110
 www.adfg.alaska.gov

Long-Term Meeting Cycle

(Three-year cycle)

The board meeting cycle generally occurs from October through March. The board considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule. The fisheries include subsistence, sport, guided sport, personal use, and commercial. Special petition and agenda change request procedures are available for the board to consider out-of-cycle requests.

NOTES:

- 1) In the year preceding a board cycle, the board will announce a call for proposal that prescribes which regions, species, and fisheries are set for regulatory review.
- 2) The proposal deadline is April 10 every year. If April 10 falls on a weekend, the proposal deadline will be the Monday following that weekend.

Meeting Areas and Species
Prince William Sound Area all Finfish and Shellfish (except Shrimp) Southeast/Yakutat Areas all Finfish and Shellfish Statewide (except SE/Yakutat/PWS) Shellfish* Meeting Cycle Years: 2024/2025 2027/2028 2030/2031 2033/2034
Alaska Peninsula/Bering Sea-Aleutian Island/Chignik Areas all Finfish Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Areas all Finfish Bristol Bay Area all Finfish Statewide Provisions for Finfish Meeting Cycle Years: 2025/2026 2028/2029 2031/2033 2034/2035
Cook Inlet Area (Lower and Upper) all Finfish Kodiak Area all Finfish Meeting Cycle Years: 2026/2027 2029/2030 2032/2033 2035/2036

**Starting in 2021/2022, the Statewide (except Southeast/Yakutat/PWS Tanner Crab) King & Tanner Crab meeting will become part of Statewide (except SE/Yakutat/PWS) Shellfish.*

The meeting cycle repeats itself every three years. This schedule was adopted November 9, 1990 and revised based on workload and public participation.



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board of Fisheries
 P.O. Box 115526
 Juneau, AK 99811-5526
 (907) 465-4110
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Member List
 August 2024

NAME	TERM EXPIRES
Märít Carlson-Van Dort (Chair)	6/30/2027
Thomas Carpenter	6/30/2025
Mike Wood	6/30/2026
Gerad Godfrey	6/30/2026
Stan Zuray	6/30/2025
Curt Chamberlain	6/30/2027
Greg Svendsen	6/30/2026

Alaska Board of Fisheries members may be reached at:

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
 Boards Support Section
 P.O. Box 115526
 Juneau, AK 99811-5526
 (907) 465-4110 PHONE
 (907) 465-6094 FAX
www.boardoffisheries.adfg.alaska.gov
 Art Nelson, Executive Director, Alaska Board of Fisheries
 e-mail: art.nelson@alaska.gov



**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section**

P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
(907) 465-4110

<https://boardoffisheries.adfg.alaska.gov>

BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION STAFF LIST

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Southeast Region (South of Frederick Sound)

Vacant

Southeast Region (North of Frederick Sound)

Annie Bartholomew (see above contact info)

DRAFT
NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE
REGULATIONS OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

The Alaska Board of Fisheries proposes to adopt, amend, or repeal regulation changes in Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with fishery and aquatic plant resources in the areas designated below, including the following regulations:

1. IN THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND (INCLUDING UPPER COPPER RIVER, UPPER SUSITNA RIVER, PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND SALTWATER, AND COPPER RIVER DISTRICT) FINFISH FISHERIES; SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT FINFISH FISHERIES; CRAB, SHRIMP, AND MISCELLANEOUS SHELLFISH FISHERIES FOR ALL REGIONS STATEWIDE INCLUDING SOUTHEAST, YAKUTAT, PRINCE WILLIAMS SOUND, COOK INLET, KODIAK, WESTWARD, AND ARCTIC; AND STATEWIDE SHELLFISH GENERAL PROVISIONS OR OTHER POSSIBLE SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES, INCLUDING ISSUANCE OF BOARD FINDINGS, DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY FROM THE BOARD OF FISHERIES, OR HATCHERY PERMITTING AND OPERATIONS
 - A. In the **commercial, sport, guided sport, personal use, and aquatic plant fisheries:** fishing seasons, periods, and opening and closing times; bag, possession, size, sex, age, and harvest limits; harvest levels, thresholds, goals, and quotas; definitions; bycatch provisions; districts, subdistricts, sections, subsections, areas, and other management boundaries; locations open and closed to fishing; methods and means; gear and vessel restrictions, including marking and operational requirements; registration and permit requirements; registration areas (including nonexclusive, exclusive and superexclusive registration areas); recordkeeping and marking requirements; management plans for conservation and development, including escapement, inriver, and other management goals; landing requirements; provisions for development and allocation among beneficial uses; guiding principles; provisions to regulate, require, restrict or prohibit the retention, tendering, transportation, dispatch, possession, sale, release, or purchase of fish; methods of release; registration, licensing, reporting, and other requirements for sport fishing guides and operators, guided anglers, catchers, processors, buyers, and transporters; onboard observer requirements; fish storage and inspection requirements.
 - B. In the **subsistence fisheries:** identification or modification of customary and traditional subsistence uses and amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence; fishing seasons, periods, and opening and closing times; bag, possession, size, sex, age, and harvest limits; definitions; districts, subdistricts, sections, subsections, areas, and other management boundaries; locations open and closed to fishing; methods and means; gear and vessel restrictions, including marking and operational requirements; registration and permit requirements; recordkeeping and marking requirements; management plans for conservation and development, including escapement, inriver, and other management goals; regulations for the subsistence priority; landing requirements; provisions for development and allocation among beneficial uses and users, including creating and regulating tier II fisheries; guiding principles; otherwise establish, regulate, change, or adjust subsistence fisheries.

2. OTHER CHANGES TO TITLE 5 AS NECESSARY TO ACCOMMODATE ANY CHANGES TO TITLE 5 AS DESCRIBED ABOVE SUCH AS CROSS REFERENCES OR OTHER AFFECTED FISHERIES.

The proposed regulation changes are available on the Board of Fisheries meeting information website at www.boardoffisheries.adfg.alaska.gov or from the ADF&G Boards Support Section office at (907) 465-4110.

Anyone interested in, or affected by, the subject matter contained in this legal notice should make written or oral comments to have their views considered by the board. You may comment on the proposed regulation changes, including the potential costs to the private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written comments by the announced deadlines listed below, limited to no more than 100 single-sided or 50 double-sided pages.

Comments can be submitted on these proposals through the Board of Fisheries website at www.boardoffisheries.adfg.alaska.gov and navigating to the page for each specific meeting. The board does not accept written comments sent via email. Comments can also be sent by mail to ADF&G, Boards Support Section, at P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526 or by facsimile to (907) 465-6094.

Comments are generally due no later than two weeks prior to the meeting during which the topics are considered. The specific comment deadline for each meeting is listed below. Individuals and advisory committees directing public comment at an ADF&G office or personnel other than as prescribed above are advised that such comments will not be received and entered as public comment.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT STANDARD:

Once the meetings begin, comments will again be accepted online at www.boardoffisheries.adfg.alaska.gov, by hand delivery at the meeting, or via fax to 907-465-6094. Comments submitted during the meetings are limited to ten single-sided pages until proposal deliberations begin. At that time, the board will **ONLY** accept written comments that are not more than five single-sided pages unless specific information is requested by the board that requires more pages than allowed under this standard.

As a practical matter, comments submitted after the board begins deliberations on relevant proposals are likely to receive less consideration than comments submitted earlier. Additionally, groups of people submitting numerous, form-like comments containing similar language during the meeting is not advisable, and Boards staff will be unable to process and distribute the comments to the board during the meeting. These types of comments will be grouped together or summarized for the board in a single submission.

Each meeting will generally start at 8:30 a.m. on the first day of the meeting dates below unless the board directs a different start time. The public oral testimony period of each regulatory meeting begins after staff reports and continues until everyone who has signed up on a timely basis and is present at the meeting has an opportunity to be heard. The board will take oral testimony only from those who register before the cut-off time announced by the board chair at each meeting. The length of oral statements may be limited to three minutes or less for the public and 10 minutes or less for fish and game advisory committee and regional advisory council representatives. Updates related to public testimony and submitting public comments will be provided via advisory announcement closer to the start of each meeting. Please watch the board's website for any updates or sign up to receive announcements via email at www.boardoffisheries.adfg.alaska.gov.

Beginning last year, the board created a process to receive Traditional Knowledge reports. The Board endeavors to incorporate traditional knowledge by seeking and inviting traditional knowledge holders recognized by their community, tribe, or by an organization whose interests encompass the conservation, protection, restoration, or enhancement of fishery resources, to share their experiences, values, alternative and/or independent observations and data collections directly with the Board.

The board considers Traditional Knowledge to be knowledge, or a way of knowing, that is unique to a given culture or society, and, often through language, encompasses a worldview that defines specific relationships between humans and nonhuman attributes of the world. As knowledge that derives from both personal and the cumulative experiences of one's forbearers, it is grounded in generational knowledge but also subject to change and refinement. It is characterized by a long time scale. It is usually local in scale and often provides a counterpoint to more broad-based, scientifically produced knowledge.

Communities, tribes, or organizations interested in providing a Traditional Knowledge report to the board must provide their nomination to the board's executive director at least 3 days prior to the start of each regulatory meeting. Nominations are subject to approval by the board chair. For more information, contact Art Nelson at art.nelson@alaska.gov or (907) 267-2292.

TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE

Work Session

October 28–29, 2024

Egan Convention Center, Anchorage
Comment deadline: October 15, 2024

Prince William Sound and Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Finfish and Shellfish (except shrimp)

December 10–16, 2024

The Cordova Center, Cordova
Comment deadline: November 26, 2024

Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish

January 28–February 9, 2025

Ted Ferry Civic Center, Ketchikan
Comment deadline: January 14, 2025

Statewide Shellfish (including PWS shrimp)

February 23–March 6, 2024

Egan Convention Center, Anchorage
Comment deadline: February 25, 2025

Any changes to meeting locations, dates or times, or rescheduling of topics or subject matter will be announced by news release. Please watch for these announcements in the news media or call (907) 465-4110. Please carefully review the **PROPOSAL INDEX** available for the meeting for specific proposals to be addressed by the board. Copies of the proposal indices are in the proposal book,

available online at www.boardoffisheries.adfg.alaska.gov, and at the relevant meeting. Any additional proposals will be noticed and made available online and upon request.

Anyone interested in or affected by subsistence, personal use, commercial fishing, sport, guided sport, or aquatic plant regulations are hereby informed that the Board of Fisheries may consider any or all of the subject areas covered by this notice. Under AS 44.62.200(b), the board may review the full range of activities appropriate to any of the subjects listed in this notice. The board may make changes to the subsistence, personal use, sport, guided sport or commercial fishing regulations as may be required to ensure the subsistence priority in AS 16.05.258. On its own motion, after the public hearing, the board may adopt, amend, reject, supplement, or take no action on these subjects without further notice. In addition, the board may adopt other regulations necessary to implement, administer, or enforce the regulations adopted. **THE BOARD IS NOT LIMITED BY THE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE OR CONFINES OF THE ACTUAL PROPOSALS THAT HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC OR ADF&G.** The language of the final regulations may be different from that of the proposed regulations. **YOU SHOULD COMMENT DURING THE TIME ALLOWED IF YOUR INTERESTS COULD BE AFFECTED.**

If you are a person with a disability who needs special accommodation in order to participate in the proposed regulation process, please contact Art Nelson at (907) 267-2292 no later than two weeks prior to the beginning of each meeting to ensure necessary accommodations can be provided.

The ADF&G, Boards Support Section keeps a list of individuals and organizations interested in its regulations. Those on the list will automatically be sent a copy of all of the department's notices of proposed regulation changes. To be added to or removed from the list, send a request to the Department of Fish and Game Boards Support Section at P O Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811, by phone at (907) 465-4110, or via our website at www.boardoffisheries.adfg.alaska.gov giving your name, and either your e-mail address or mailing address, as you prefer for receiving notices.

Individuals can also sign up to receive automated notifications of all State of Alaska notices, including public notice for regulation changes, by subscribing to the Alaska Online Public Notices System here: <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Default.aspx>.

Statutory Authority: AS 16.05 - AS 16.20, AS 16.40

Statutes Being Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: AS 16.05 - AS 16.20, AS 16.40

Fiscal Information: The proposed regulatory actions are not expected to require an increased appropriation.

Art Nelson, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Date

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PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND (INCLUDING UPPER COPPER AND SUSITNA RIVERS) FINFISH AND SHELLFISH (EXCEPT SHRIMP) INDEX (102 PROPOSALS)

Groundfish (29 proposals)

Subsistence Groundfish (1 proposal)

PROPOSAL 1

5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications; 5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for season, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area; and 77.XXX. New Section.

Establish pot gear as legal gear for sablefish in PWS subsistence, sport, and personal use fisheries, as follows:

This proposal’s intent is to create a new addition in regulation for the PWS area that provides a legal means of fishing for Sablefish with pots. As far as regulation details, I suppose more information that I currently don't have would need to be researched and considered, such as the possibility of a size limit, catch limit, also the mortality rate of fish released from a pot. Also included, no doubt, would be the number of pots allowed and legal pot design. I would call on the assistance of the proper adfg staff for research data and regulation authorship.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Diverse methods (pot fishing in particular) for sport, personal use, and/or subsistence harvest of Sablefish in Prince William Sound. Currently, the only method available (sport fishing with line and pole) is arguably excessive in gear expense, relatively unpractical for more than one participant per boat due to extreme target depths when compared to other traditional sport fishing activities.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal has been drafted by myself only, but is based on discussions with many differed anglers that are interested in making this a possibility.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Phillips (EF-F24-024)

Commercial Groundfish (23 proposals)

PROPOSAL 2

5 AAC 5 AAC 28.250. Closed Waters in Prince William Sound Area.

Reopen waters closed to the harvest of groundfish in Prince William Sound, as follows:

5 AAC 28.250. Closed waters in Prince William Sound Area

~~(a) Groundfish may not be taken with pots in the waters enclosed by lines from Point Whitshed to Point Bentinck, from Cape Hinchinbrook Light to Seal Rocks Light to Zaikof Point at 60° 18.48' N. lat., 146° 55.10' W. long., and from a point at 60° 11' N. lat., 147° 20' W. long. on the northwest side of Montague Island, north to a point at 60° 30' N. lat., 147° 20' W. long., then east to a point at 60° 30' N. lat., 147° 00' W. long., then northeast to Knowles Head at 60° 41' N. lat., 146° 37.50' W. long., except that groundfish may be taken with pot. (1) within Orea Bay, east of 146° 37.50' W. long., excluding the waters of Port Gravina north of a line from Gravina Point to Red Head at 60° 40.25' N. lat., 146° 30.22' W. long.; (2) in waters not more than 75 fathoms deep within waters enclosed by a line from Johnstone Point Light to Montague Point at 60° 23' N. lat., 147° 06' W. long., to Middle Point at 60° 20.50' N. lat., 147° W. long. to Schooner Rock Light (Zaikof Point) to Cape Hinchinbrook Light.~~

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This will correct the action previously taken that closed one gear type out of waters of what is some of the most productive pcod grounds in Prince William Sound during some years. This regulation was passed under the guise of protecting juvenile tanner crab, however with new slinky pot technology crab bycatch is no longer a large issue. If anything, allowing pot harvest in this area will help the crab stocks by reducing predatory pcod biomass. This will also help to curb rockfish bycatch by incentivizing fisherman to fish with slinky pots opposed to hook and line. *Rev.*

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth B Jones (HQ-F24-008)

PROPOSAL 3

5 AAC 28.230. Lawful Gear for Prince William Sound Area.

Modify Prince William Sound groundfish pot specifications, as follows:

(c) A groundfish pot may be attached to a line connected to another groundfish pot. Groundfish pots may be connected if each end of the buoy line is marked as specified in 5 AAC 28.050. **Groundfish pots as defined in 5 AAC 28.050 may have individual tunnel eye openings with a perimeter greater than 36 inches in the Prince William Sound regulatory area if unused Halibut IFQ is on board.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Fishermen in the halibut fishery in Prince William Sound fish in the area using IFQ quota from the federal 3A region of which PWS is a part. Those fishermen may wish to fish for halibut with pots to avoid whale depredation issues and reduce bycatch both of which are problems in PWS. The removal of the maximum perimeter size for groundfish pot openings for the PWS area will allow fishermen to better and more effectively fish for halibut with pots and will have an additional benefit of reduced bycatch.

This issue was considered at the federal level recently for the halibut IFQ fishery and regulations there were changed to allow for larger pot openings when fishing for halibut. This change would bring regulations in PWS state waters into coordination with the new federal regulations in the halibut fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I discussed this issue with other some other fishermen and mentioned it to the area Fish and Game groundfish manager but did not discuss in detail.

PROPOSED BY: Brett Roth (HQ-F24-129)

PROPOSAL 4

5 AAC 28.265. Prince William Sound Rockfish Management Plan

Restrict gear in Prince William Sound relative to the rockfish guideline harvest level, as follows:

- (a) A vessel may not land or have on board more than a combined total of 3,000 pounds (round weight) of all rockfish species within five consecutive days.
- (b) In the Prince William Sound Area, when fishing in a directed fishery, other than for rockfish, a CFEC permit holder must retain all rockfish, except that
 - (1) unless otherwise specified in this section, all rockfish in excess of 10 percent, round weight, of all directed species on board the vessel must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket; any proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish shall be surrendered to the state;
 - (2) during the sablefish fishery, all rockfish in excess of 20 percent, round weight, of all sablefish on board the vessel must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket; any proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish shall be surrendered to the state;
 - (3) during a season for Pacific cod, all rockfish in excess of five percent, round weight, of all Pacific cod on board the vessel must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket; any proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish shall be surrendered to the state;
 - (4) during the directed walleye pollock pelagic trawl fishery, all rockfish in excess of one-half percent, round weight, of all walleye pollock on board the vessel must be weighed and reported as

bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket; any proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish shall be surrendered to the state.

(c) The guideline harvest level is 150,000 pounds (round weight) for all rockfish species combined.

(5) When the guideline harvest level has reached 80 percent of the 150,000-pound GHL auto-bait gear is prohibited within Prince William Sound

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In recent years the rockfish GHL has been approached or exceeded in the commercial fishery. Limiting the use of auto-bait gear in Prince William Sound when approaching the GHL would alleviate this and prove effective due to the sheer number of hooks an auto bait vessel can fish versus hand baited vessels.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Kalistrat Kuzmin (HQ-F24-132)

PROPOSAL 5

5 AAC 28.230. Lawful gear for Prince William Sound Area.

Adopt a provision to close waters to specific groundfish gear types for rockfish conservation, as follows:

5 AAC 28.230 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

...

(x) To conserve groundfish species, the commissioner may close areas to commercial fishing with specific gear types by emergency order.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The department has growing concerns about the status of rockfish stocks in Prince William Sound (PWS). Rockfish stock status is generally declining across most of the state and the department has restricted many directed rockfish fisheries to conserve these long-lived fish. In some areas of the state most of the rockfish harvest occurs as bycatch in fisheries targeting halibut or other groundfish species. The department has restricted state-managed commercial, sport, personal use, and subsistence fisheries for rockfish for conservation purposes. However, the department does not have authority to restrict the commercial halibut fishery to address rock fish bycatch concerns.

The *Prince William Sound Rockfish Management Plan* (5 AAC 28.265) establishes a rockfish guideline harvest level (GHL) of 150,000 lb and requires full retention of all rockfish caught when participating in a directed commercial groundfish or halibut fishery in the PWS Area. The plan also sets rockfish trip limits, by fishery, as a percentage of the round weight of the directed species on board the vessel. Any amount of rockfish that exceeds this bycatch limit is accounted for as overage and the proceeds from the rockfish overage sale are surrendered to the state.

To stay within the 2023 annual PWS rockfish GHL the department reduced rockfish bycatch limits and did not open the parallel Pacific cod season in PWS. The department further sought the assistance of participants in the halibut longline fishery to set gear away from aggregates of

rockfish. This proved ineffective and the GHL was exceeded when harvest in the halibut longline fishery was still expected to continue for another 2 months. In October 2023, the board adopted an emergency regulation to delegate authority to the department to close commercial fishing with specific gear types in areas of high rockfish bycatch. That emergency regulation has expired. The department has determined that the authority to close these areas is necessary for conservation of the resource and prevent overharvest of a bycatch rock fish species.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-138)

PROPOSAL 6

5 AAC 00.000. Regulation language goes here.5 AAC 28.265. Prince William Sound Rockfish Managent Plan.

Allow for release of rockfish in mechanical jig and hand troll fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 28.265. Prince William Sound Rockfish Management Plan

(b) In the Prince William Sound Area, when fishing in a directed fishery, other than for rockfish, a CFEC permit holder must retain all rockfish, except that

...

(5) In the directed Mechanical Jig and Hand Troll fisheries, rockfish may be released using an approved deepwater release mechanism.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently the retention of all rockfish is mandated in all commercial groundfish fisheries. This is due to the high prevalence of barotrauma and subsequent low survival rates in released rockfish. In recent years, the department has done a lot of work with deepwater release mechanisms to improve survivability of released rockfish in the sport fisheries, and those devices are now required for all participants in the saltwater sport fishery. In most commercial fisheries, these deepwater release mechanisms are not feasible, however I believe that in directed jig fisheries they could be incorporated fairly easily. Jig fisheries are not that different then the sport fishery in prosecution, each fish is handled individually, and it would be fairly straightforward to have release mechanisms in place on your jigging machines, which you could easily use to release rockfish on your next drop of your gear. Having the option to release rockfish in this manner would have all the same benefits that it does in the sport fishery. The ability to release long-lived but low-value non-pelagic rockfish, rockfish species that the department wanted to protect, or in the case of Prince William Sound all rockfish while jigging for other species; would have clear conservation and management benefits. I would like to see this put into regulation statewide, but I am aware that might not be possible during this Board cycle.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have discussed this proposal conceptually with multiple ADFG staff members and all indicated that it seemed potentially workable.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Person (EF-F24-068)

PROPOSAL 7

5 AAC 28.230. Lawful gear for Prince William Sound Area.

Establish gear specifications for directed lingcod fisheries in Prince William Sound, as follows:

5 AAC 28.230. Lawful gear for Prince William Sound Area

....

(l) in the directed fishery for lingcod, lingcod may be taken only by mechanical jigging machine or hand troll gear.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to see the directed fishery for lingcod in Prince William Sound be brought in line with similar fisheries in the rest of the state and restricted to Mechanical Jig or Hand Troll gear only. Currently Prince William Sound is one of the only directed Lingcod fisheries that allows for harvest using longline gear. In practice this just means that people longlining for other species (basically halibut) can also register for the lingcod fishery and deliver lingcod on their lingcod card without being subject to bycatch limits. This incentivizes fishing for halibut in areas and depths to maximize harvest of lingcod. The problem with this is that we have a significant issue with rockfish bycatch in the longline fishery in PWS whose preferred habitat coincides strongly with lingcod. I believe that bringing the directed lingcod fishery in line with regulations elsewhere in the state and restricting it to a jig fishery could help to reduce rockfish bycatch issues in PWS. Jig fisheries targeted on lingcod can avoid rockfish fairly well. By use of larger tackle used to target lingcod and the fact that in my experience one is highly incentivised to keep gear off the bottom rockfish impacts are very limited. Furthermore, in conjunction with this proposal, I have submitted another proposal requesting the usage of approved deepwater release mechanisms in directed jig fisheries in PWS. Unlike longlining, jig fisheries lend themselves very well to the release of rockfish via deepwater release mechanisms as part of the normal fishing process and the jig fishery has the potential to be almost perfectly clean in regards to rockfish bycatch.

It is likely that even in this case the majority of the lingcod GHM will be taken as longline bycatch, but I believe the removal of directed longline fishing for lingcod will produce some benefit in reducing rockfish bycatch. In both areas on either side of PWS (Lower Cook Inlet/SE Alaska) directed lingcod fisheries are restricted to jig gear types only.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have discussed the issue of rockfish bycatch in PWS with several different ADFG staff. While they appropriately remained neutral on the allocative aspects of this proposal; there definitely seems to be a general consensus that rockfish bycatch in PWS is a problem that needs addressed; and management actions taken recently reflect that.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Person

(EF-F24-070)

PROPOSAL 8

28.267. Prince William Sound Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Modify the Prince William Sound pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level, as follows:

Increase the pacific cod allocation from the Eastern gulf Federal TAC from 25% maximum now to 35% minimum 50% maximum. If the P.W.S. pacific cod state water harvest reaches 90% or

more increase 5% the following year if the harvest is less than 90% then it will decrease 5% the following year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The P.W.S. state waters pacific cod qouta is allocated 25% from the Eastern gulf Federal TAC. Most of the time the P.W.S. state water pacific cod qouta is harvested 90% or more but the Eastern gulf Federal pacific cod TAC has almost never been harvested more than 50% on average maybe 25% is being harvested.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Dia Kuzmin

(EF-F24-107)

PROPOSAL 9

5 AAC 28.267. Prince William Sound Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Combine the Pacific cod longline and pot gear allocations and close the longline fishery for Pacific cod when the commercial halibut fishery is closed, as follows:

Amend the PWS Cod management plan to:

1. Combine the allocation of longline and pot quota.
2. Eliminate longline fishing for pacific cod in state waters when the halibut IFQ fishery is not open

5 AAC 28.267. Prince William Sound Pacific Cod Management Plan as written is difficult to read and interpret. If the board is to pass this regulation we hope the department will take this opportunity to rewrite the regulation to be more accessible and clear.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Modify the Cod Management Plan to allow for the continued switch from longline gear to pot gear, which will result in reduced bycatch of rockfish and other non-target species. These regulatory changes will both incentivise pot use in the cod fishery while not disenfranchising current participants who catch cod alongside their IFQ halibut.

The regulatory change implemented by the Board of Fisheries in 2023 to allow the use of longlined slinky pots for cod was very successful and resulted in the pot allocation being fully harvested, for the first time in years, in 8 days. This success necessitates an adjustment to the allocation between pot and longline vessels. Because many of the boats participate in both the longline and pot fisheries, it makes little sense to split these quotas. We believe by simply combining the allocations for pots and longline, the fleet will switch to pot fishing on their own because it is less labor-intensive.

Additionally we propose an adjustment of the season for longline cod to coincide with the IFQ Halibut fishery. Many fishermen will combo fish both halibut and cod in the same trip and this should be encouraged. However, the current regulation opening the longline cod fishery when the halibut fishery is closed results in bycatch of halibut that must be released. This season date change will also further encourage the adoption of pots by cod fishermen who wish to fish for cod while the halibut fishery is closed.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU)

(EF-F24-136)

PROPOSAL 10

5 AAC 28.267. Prince William Sound Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Modify pot limit in the Prince William Sound Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 28.267 section (e) as follows:

(3) Pacific cod may be taken only with groundfish pots, mechanical jigging machines, hand troll gear, and longline gear, as follows:

(A) except as provided in (g) of this section, no more than 60 groundfish pots **heavier than 30lbs or 120 groundfish pots lighter than 30 lbs** may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for Pacific cod;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Encourage the adoption of slinky pot gear in the Pacific cod fishery by increasing the pot limit for the new lightweight longlined pots.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-137)

PROPOSAL 11

5 AAC 28.267. Prince William Sound Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Reduce the Prince William Sound Pacific cod jig/hand troll allocation and create a new, larger allocation for pot and longline gear, as follows:

5 AAC 28.267. Prince William Sound Pacific Cod Management Plan

(e) During a state-waters season,

(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Prince William Sound Area is 25 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area; mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear [and groundfish pot gear] is allocated **5 percent** [15 percent] of the guideline harvest level; **ground fish pot gear** and longline gear is allocated **95 percent** [85 percent] of the guideline harvest level, except that if.

(A)the guideline harvest level allocated to the mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear [and groundfish pot gear] is taken in any calendar year, the mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear [and groundfish pot gear] allocation will increase by five percent beginning the following calendar year to a maximum of **15 percent** [30 percent] of the guideline harvest level and the longline **and ground fish pot gear** allocation will decrease by a corresponding five percent the following calendar year to a minimum of **85 percent** [70 percent] of the guideline harvest level; and

(B) the guideline harvest level allocated to the mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear [and groundfish pot gear] is not taken in any calendar year, the mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear [and groundfish pot gear] allocation will decrease by five percent beginning the following calendar year to a minimum of **5 percent** [15 percent] of the guideline harvest level and

the longline **and ground fish pot gear** allocation will increase by a corresponding five percent the following calendar year to a maximum of **95 percent** [85 percent] of the guideline harvest level

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current regulation and allocation does not encourage use of pot gear for the majority of the GHL. Pot gear has been proven to reduce rockfish and halibut bycatch considerably. Recent out of cycle changes were passed at the 2023 AYK meeting, this change has allowed for long-lining of pots. This new change allowed for pot gear to harvest their allocation of the pacific cod GHL for the first time in over two decades, it has proven to be a very successful way to harvest pacific cod efficiently while also reducing bycatch of both halibut and rockfish. It is also a substantially more user friendly method of fishing.

Halibut and Rockfish bycatch in the pacific cod fishery can be greatly reduced if more of the fishery is conducted using slinky pots. Fisherman looking to fish a cleaner gear type and access more of the GHL should be celebrated and encouraged, unfortunately if left unchanged the current allocation plan greatly dis-incentivizes fisherman from pursuing a cleaner fishing gear type. This proposed change would not force anybody currently participating to switch from hook and line to pots, however it would allow pot fisherman to access more of the total GHL currently held exclusively for the hook and line fisherman.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have worked with multiple other permit holders and interested parties on this idea.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth B. Jones (HQ-F24-045)

PROPOSAL 12

5 AAC 28.267. Prince William Sound Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Increase Pacific cod allocation for jig and pot gear to 50%, as follows:

Increase the PWS state water pot and jig pacific cod qouta to 50% from 20%.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In P.W.S. state waters rock fish bycatch qouta has been exceeded last couple years. Currently the pacific cod hook and line allocation is 80% and pot and jig is 20%. Increase the pot and jig qouta to 50% from 20% that would reduce the rock fish bycatch. With recent opening of long lining slinky pots the cod qouta has been fully harvested and pots have less bycatch that would conserve more rock fish.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Dia Kuzmin (EF-F24-178)

PROPOSAL 13

5 AAC 28.267. Prince William Sound Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Increase bycatch limits for skates in the Prince William Sound Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

Allow 100% bycatch retention of long nose and big skate during the P.W.S. state water longline directed pacific cod and halibut fisheries until 25% of the Eastern gulf Federal TAC has been reached for skate. Before the federal pacific cod qouta reduction and with decreased skate bycatch

allowance from 20% to 5% now there is alot less skate being harvested. Most years the federal skate TAC is around 50% being harvested. With recent reduced pacific cod qoutas skate harvest is very minimal now. It would give more opportunities for the mostly small vessel boat fleet and the local economies a needed boost.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under current regulations there is very limited opportunity to harvest skate. Over the last several years some years large percentages of the Eastern gulf Federal TAC go unharvested. This is a very healthy resource that once supported a lucrative directed fishery. It currently is under utilized and could provide major economic benefits to coastal communities.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Dia Kuzmin (EF-F24-104)

PROPOSAL 14

5 AAC 28.263. Prince William Sound Walleye Pollock Pelagic Trawl Fishery Management Plan.

Close the Prince William Sound walleye pollock pelagic trawl fishery, as follows:

Add a new section to 5 AAC 28.263. PWS Walleye Pollock Pelagic Trawl Fishery Management Plan.

- x) A direct Alaska pollock Pelagic trawl fishery in PWS is prohibited unless;
 - 1) No part or attachment to the Pelagic trawl gear makes contact with the seafloor habitat.
 - 2) There is no bycatch of Chinook salmon in the PWS Pollock Pelagic trawl fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce the precipitous rise in Chinook salmon bycatch in PWS taken by the Pollock Pelagic Trawl fishery and reduce disturbances to the seafloor caused by trawling. Numerous Alaskans living in Interior and SouthCentral Alaska gather chinook salmon as part of their annual wildfood source from PWS, Protecting the habitat upon which our wildfood source depends has been the Alaska Outdoor Council's top purpose for decades.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The proposal was developed through the Alaska Outdoor Council member clubs who depend on wildfood stocks from PWS as part of their annual wildfood source.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Outdoor Council (EF-F24-106)

PROPOSAL 15

5 AAC 28.263 Prince William Sound Walleye Pollock Pelagic Trawl Fishery Management Plan

Modify bycatch limits in the Prince William Sound pelagic trawl fishery, as follows:

(d) During a directed walleye pollock pelagic trawl fishery, the total bycatch weight of all species combined may not exceed **an amount set by ADFG of xxx lbs** [FIVE PERCENT] **regardless** of the total round weight of the walleye pollock harvested.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current bycatch limits are set not to exceed five percent of the total round weight of the harvest. By putting a bycatch cap in regulations, it will make it so the bycatch amount doesn't increase if the GHL increases. This will help greatly in reducing bycatch. Additionally, it should be mandatory that bycatch is brought back to port and surrendered to ADFG.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: The Chenega IRA Council (HQ-F24-123)

PROPOSAL 16

5 AAC 28.263 Prince William Sound Walleye Pollock Pelagic Trawl Fishery Management Plan

Close the Prince William Sound pelagic trawl fishery, as follows:

Closure of the Prince William Sound Walleye Pollock Pelagic Trawl Fishery to preserve PWS.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? It is our belief that the Prince William Sound (PWS) Walleye Pollock Trawl Fishery is causing significant damage to the ecosystem in PWS and should be closed.

There is sufficient evidence of this by looking at the bycatch species they are harvesting. After discussions with local ADFG staff, it's been determined that the rockfish bycatch is predominantly shortraker rockfish. Shortraker rockfish are a deepwater fish living in depths typically greater than 800' and are considered bottomfish. While the PWS Walleye Pollock Trawl Fishery is supposed to be a midwater trawl fishery, evidence suggests they are dragging the bottom based on their bycatch. Repeated years of dragging the bottom causes serious damage by destroying the natural seafloor habitat and disrupting the ecosystem.

PWS holds many resources utilized by several user groups and it is in the best interest of all user groups to preserve the waters for current and future generations.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed in conjunction with The Chenega Corporation, Raymond Nix, and information obtained from ADFG.

PROPOSED BY: The Chenega IRA Council (HQ-F24-124)

PROPOSAL 17

5 AAC 28.263 Prince William Sound Walleye Pollock Pelagic Trawl Fishery Management Plan

Establish observer requirements in the Prince William Sound pelagic trawl fishery, as follows:

(h) The commissioner **shall** [MAY] require **100% onboard electronic observation and 50% physical** onboard observers on a vessel during fishing operations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Prince William Sound Walleye Pollock Trawl fishery is the only trawl fishery in the state with 0% observer coverage and is relying solely on the user group for accurate reporting. By requiring electronic and physical observation, this will allow verification of bycatch amounts and prevent over-fishing.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed in conjunction with The Chenega Corporation and ADFG for information.

PROPOSED BY: The Chenega IRA Council (HQ-F24-125)

PROPOSAL 18

5 AAC 28.210. Fishing seasons for Prince William Sound Area.

Extend the season dates in the Prince William Sound sablefish fishery, as follows:

Extend the fishery closer from August 31st through the end of October.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Would like the board to consider extending the fishing period for the Prince William Sound Sablefish fishery through October.

This would enable permit holders more opportunity to fish their quota and potentially afford greater market flexibility.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I consulted with the current ADFG management biologist.

PROPOSED BY: Brad von Wichman (EF-F24-086)

PROPOSAL 19

5 AAC 28.210. Fishing seasons for Prince William Sound Area. 5 AAC 28.206. Prince William Sound Area registration. 5 AAC 28.272. Sablefish harvest, possession, and landing requirements for Prince William Sound Area.

Modify the commercial fishing season for sablefish in Prince William Sound, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 28.210 to read:

(b) Sablefish may be taken in the Inside District **during the “A” Season** from april 15 through august 31 **and during the “B” season from September 15th - December 31st**. There is no open season for commercial sablefish fishing in the Outside District.

Amend 5 AAC 28.206 to read:

(c) In the Inside District, a Prince William Sound CFEC sablefish permit holder, or

The permit holder's agent must register for the commercial sablefish fishery before 5:00 p.m. April 1st. **Registration for “B” season will open September 1st and close September 7th at 5:00 pm.** Amend 5 AAC 28.272 to read

(c) In the Prince William Sound Area, the holder of a CFEC limited entry permit or interim-use permit to take sablefish may not take more than the [ANNUAL] **seasonal** amount specified by the department. The department will determine the [ANNUAL] **seasonal** amount as follows:

(1) the [ANNUAL] **“A” season** amount will be the sum of one-half of the annual harvest objective divided by the number of permit holders registered to fish in the commercial sablefish **“A” Season** fishery and one-half of the annual harvest objective multiplied by the average percentage of the harvest taken by the vessel category for which the CFEC permit was issued, as specified in 20 AAC 05.779, and divided by the number of permit holders registered to fish sablefish with the permits of that vessel category;

(2) the “B” Season amount will be the sum of one-half of the remaining annual harvest objective unharvested during the “A” Season divided by the number of permit holders registered to fish in the commercial sablefish “B” Season fishery and one-half of the annual harvest objective multiplied by the average percentage of the harvest taken by the vessel category for which the CFEC permit was issued, as specified in 20 AAC 05.779, and divided by the number of permit holders registered to fish sablefish with the permits of that vessel category;

(3)[(2)] the average percentages of harvest for the vessel categories described in (1) and (2) of this subsection are as follows:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sablefish in PWS are managed under an individual quota system with each registered permit holder given a share of the GHL each year. In recent years, this system has resulted in much of the GHL being unharvested due to either registered permits not actually participating in the fishery, or not catching their allocated share. In 2023 only 50% of the GHL was harvested.

We propose creating a fall "B" season that occurs every year after the close of the traditional fishery. Any share of the GHL unharvested during the traditional "A" Season would be redistributed and could be harvested by active permit holders during the "B" season. This change will not take anything away from existing permit holders, or change the existing allocation between permit types; it is simply giving more opportunity to fully utilize the resource. During the most recent 10 year period from 2014-2023, only 55% of the total GHL was harvested.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-130)

PROPOSAL 20

5 AAC 28.210. Fishing seasons for Prince William Sound Area. 5 AAC 28.206. Prince William Sound Area registration.

Modify the commercial fishing season for sablefish in Prince William Sound, as follows:
Amend 5 AAC 28.210 to read:

(b) Sablefish may be taken in the Inside District **beginning concurrent with the opening of the federal sablefish IFQ fishery** [FROM APRIL 15] through August 31 There is no open season for commercial sablefish fishing in the Outside District.

Amend 5 AAC 28.206 to read:

(c) In the Inside District, a Prince William Sound CFEC sablefish permit holder, or the permit holder's agent, must register for the commercial sablefish fishery before 5:00 p.m. [APRIL 1] **February 15th**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current season timing excludes many participants in PWS Salmon fisheries from participating in the PWS sablefish fishery. These expanded dates will better align with the federal fishery in the Gulf and will allow fishermen to get the most value from their catch. The GHL for Sablefish has not been fully harvested in recent years in part due to the overlap of the season with other fisheries.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-131)

PROPOSAL 21

5 AAC 28.230. Lawful Gear for Prince William Sound Area.

Allow the concurrent use of longline gear and sablefish pot gear in Prince William Sound, as follows:

5 AAC 28.230. Lawful gear for Prince William Sound Area.

(j) Except as provided in k **& 1** of this section, in a groundfish fishery, a person may have only one type of legal gear on board the vessel.

(k) In a groundfish fishery, mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear may be used at the same time. If mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear are being used under this subsection, only that gear may be on board the vessel.

(l) In the Prince William Sound Sablefish and IFQ Halibut fisheries, longlines and pots may be used at the same time. If longlines and pots are being used under this subsection, only longline and pot gear may be on board the vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Fishermen in the Prince William Sound Sablefish fishery, as well as sometimes in the IFQ Halibut fishery in PWS, encounter issues with whale depredation. Pots have shown themselves to be an effective method of avoiding whale depredation and many fishermen currently use them for this reason.

This change, or one similar, if adopted by the board would give important flexibility to operators seeking to harvest their quota and reduce costs and save time for those operators as well. Firstly, if a boat encountered whale depredation, they could still have a viable method of harvest on that trip with their pot gear until the quota is filled or the whale depredations conditions improve.

Without this change, vessels targeting sablefish and halibut with hooks can try fishing with pots but to do so not only do they have the expense of purchasing and setting up for the gear they also must return to port to switch gear types. This results in significant monetary and time costs to the fishermen and is a deterrent to trying to newer (to most) pot gear.

This change could result in additional benefits with fishermen such as being allowed to “try out” smaller sets of pot gear while longlining to see how it works for their vessel before committing to the substantial expense of buying a new gear type that they may not be familiar with. Pot gear will have additional benefits to the resource beyond avoidance of whale depredation, most notably reduced bycatch. Lastly, having and fishing both gear is currently legal in these fisheries in federal waters.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I discussed a similar and broader proposal with the Whittier AC, of which I am a member, who were in support of it and willing to submit it as an AC. This narrower proposal is modified from what they saw to be more specific to the Sablefish and Halibut fisheries due to my subsequent realization that PWS has separate longline and pot P. cod quotas and therefore the simple change to “groundfish” gear I had presented to them could create confusion in those fisheries. I also consulted the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commercial Fish Manager for PWS Groundfish who was very helpful.

PROPOSED BY: Brett Roth (HQ-F24-120)

PROPOSAL 22

5 AAC 28.230. Lawful gear for Prince William Sound Area.

Allow the concurrent use of longline gear and sablefish pot gear in Prince William Sound, as follows:

Amend the legislation to read:

(j) Except as provided in sections (k) and (l), in a groundfish fishery, a person may have only one type of legal gear on board the vessel.

(l) When participating in PWS sablefish fishery or Halibut IFQ, longline gear and sablefish pot gear (as defined in subsection c) may be used at the same time. If longline gear and sablefish pot gear are being used under this subsection, only that gear may be on board the vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow the combined use of pot gear and longline gear by fishermen participating in the PWS sablefish fisheries and the halibut IFQ fisheries. Currently a fisherman is not allowed to use both hooks and pots during the same trip in state waters. This needs to be changed to account for the recent adoption of black cod pots by the fleet. There isn't a restriction like this in the federal fishery, and because of this the fleet has been able to experiment with using pots to target black cod and halibut. Using pots reduces bycatch of non-target species like rockfish and also eliminates whale depredation. These are two things that should be encouraged in state waters.

Allowing both gear types to be used simultaneously in state waters will benefit fishermen and the resource in numerous ways: small boats could begin to use some pots, when normally they can only fish a limited number of sablefish pots and would fish hooks for combo black cod and halibut

trips; fishermen could to continue to experiment with using pots to harvest halibut, which will result in lowered bycatch of rockfish and whale depredation; and it will eliminate a legal gray area for fishermen transiting state waters with pots and hooks aboard after fishing federal waters.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-132)

PROPOSAL 23

5 AAC 28.272. Sablefish harvest, possession, and landing requirements for Prince William Sound Area.

Prohibit the retention of sablefish from state waters, as follows:

Modify subsection (g) of 5 AAC 28.272. Sablefish harvest, possession, and landing requirements for Prince William Sound Area.

(g) An operator of a vessel retaining sablefish in federal waters may not [OPERATE GEAR] **retain sablefish** in state waters of the Prince William Sound Area during the same trip.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations make it impossible for an operator who owns federal sablefish quota to move between federal and state waters during a halibut trip. This is because when fishing in federal waters, a fisherman is required to retain sablefish if they have quota shares aboard whether or not they are target sablefish. This creates a situation where once a trip is started halibut fishing in PWS, the operator is not able to move to federal waters if they find poor fishing or unacceptable amounts of bycatch without first making an expensive run back to port to deliver. We believe the intent of this regulation was to prevent sablefish caught in federal or state waters being sold as one or the other. However, that is not a realistic scenario and will still be prevented under our proposed language and under standwide regulation 5AAC 28.070. This simple change in regulatory language will increase efficiency for fishermen and also has the potential to lower rockfish bycatch in PWS.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-133)

PROPOSAL 24

5 AAC 28.210. Fishing Seasons for Prince William Sound Area

Lengthen the commercial fishing season for sablefish in Prince William Sound, as follows:

5 AAC 28.210. Fishing seasons for Prince William Sound Area

(b) Sablefish may be taken in the Inside District from **April 1 through October 31**. There is no open season for commercial sablefish fishing in the Outside District.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Changes to the PWS Sablefish season dates. The Season dates were originally kept short in an effort to avoid whale depredation

during spring and fall time when salmon were not running, however this regulation is now outdated with the invention of slinky pots and their effective reduction in the whale depredation. Adopting an expanded season will allow for fisherman to harvest earlier and later and participate in both the black cod and salmon fisheries. Further encouraging slinky pot adoption will reduce bycatch in the hook and line harvest methods. This idea came to the board in 2014 however that proposal only extended dates for pot fisherman, it was rejected at that time only because it did not include all gear types. While an expanded season will certainly incentivize pot fishing, this proposal if adopted would not prohibit somebody from fishing one gear type or another. During the COVID years ADFG expanded the season with little or no negative effects on the resource or participants.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have worked with multiple other permit holders on this idea, these dates represent a compromise between multiple viewpoints.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth B Jones

(HQ-F24-007)

Personal Use Groundfish (2 proposals)

PROPOSAL 25

5 AAC 77.XXX. New section.

Establish a personal use sablefish fishery in Prince William Sound, as follows:

Adapt current regulations from the SE personal use sablefish fishery into a new personal use permit program or adapt the existing permit to include PWS.

(Adapted from regulations for the Southeast Personal Use Groudfish Fishery)

Regulations Specific to Personal Use Sablefish Fishery

In the PWS Area, personal use sablefish may be taken as follows:

- A personal use fishing permit issued by the department is required to take sablefish; only one permit will be issued per household per year.
- Permit holder or a household member listed on the permit must have permit in possession when fishing.
- Pot gear may not exceed two pots per permit holder or eight pots per vessel when four or more permit holders are present.
- Personal use sablefish pots may not be longlined and a buoy is required for each pot.
- Pots must comply with escape mechanism requirements in 5 AAC 39.145.
- The personal use annual limit is 50 sablefish per household permit.
- No more than 200 personal use sablefish may be retained on board a vessel when four or more sablefish permit holders are present on board that vessel.
- A permit holder shall record fishing activity on the permit Fishing Report prior to leaving the fishing site.
- A vessel or person on board a vessel commercial fishing for sablefish in the PWS may not operate subsistence or personal use longline gear for bottomfish from that vessel until all commercial sablefish are offloaded from the vessel.

Note: Longline gear was excluded to address potential bycatch issues with sensitive non-pelagic rockfish species such as: shortraker, roughey and yelloweye rockfishes.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current personal use finfish regulations for Prince William Sound do not address opportunity for a personal use sablefish fishery similar to that in the Yakutat/SE Alaska areas. Data I was able to find from the ADF&G website indicate a 2023 GHF for PWS sablefish of 269000 lbs. with a harvest of 136000 lbs. This leaves a surplus of 133000 lbs. to support a personal use sablefish fishery in PWS. Sablefish are not split out from other groundfish in the PWS for personal and/or sport utilization. Current regulations for PWS personal and sport groundfish fisheries, for practical reasons, restrict the targeting of sablefish to hand rods and electric reels to reach sablefish in the depths they inhabit of 1000+ feet. With the limited number of hooks and the depth to be fished this becomes a very inefficient means of harvest. Allowing the use of slinky pots would give residents a more efficient means of harvest to access this under utilized resource. Overall harvest for this fishery is likely to be of minimal impact to commercial interests due to the amount and cost of specialized gear required.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was not developed in coordination with the local Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Swanson (EF-F24-016)

PROPOSAL 26

5 AAC 77.XXX. New Section.

Establish a Prince William Sound groundfish personal use fishery, as follows:

I would like to increase the ability of sport fisherman to target sablefish in Prince William Sound by designating pot fishing as a legal means of targeting this species. This could be under sport fish regulations or a personal use fishery. I would suggest a system like the current shrimp or tanner crab systems, allowing for two pots per person/two pots per vessel, with the same buoy marking requirements as the shrimp and tanner fisheries. Pot dimensions and escape mechanism requirements would have to be determined and include the use of slinky pots. Currently there is no bag limit or season restriction for sablefish in Prince William Sound. Due to the gear requirements of fishing these depths it is likely an increase in participation in this fishery would be limited and not require the introduction of a bag or possession limit. In any case a permit could be required like the shrimp and tanner fisheries, and catch could be limited and recorded on this permit as well. I would suggest it be open year-round as I specifically would like to be able to target these fish in the early spring and late fall when the sound isn't so busy.

Due to the depth required to fish sablefish and the unlikeliness of a deep-water release mechanism working at these depths, it would be best to allow for take of rockfish and octopus in this pot system, pursuant to the current bag limits already in place. The take of octopus is already allowed in the shrimp pot fishery. Incidental rockfish take would likely be minimal. Halibut could be released unharmed if captured.

Here is a possible change to the AAC:

(a)(13-new section) sablefish may be taken as follows:

(A) may be taken from January 1 - December 31; no bag and possession limit; no size limit;

(B) no more than 2 pots per person, with no more than 2 pots per vessel, may be used to take blackcod;

(C) all sablefish pots will follow standards determined by the department and include the use of slinky pots.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? According to current regulations in Prince William Sound, rod and reel are the only means sport fishermen have of targeting sablefish. In the sound most mature sablefish are found below 1400 feet water depth, making them very difficult to target with traditional rod and reel, and nearly impossible if the weather conditions are not perfect.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. ADF&G staff were contacted for guidance on how to structure this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Garrett McLean

(EF-F24-035)

Sport Groundfish (3 proposals)

PROPOSAL 27

5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

Modify rockfish bag and possession limits, as follows:

5 AAC 55.022(a)(9)(A) is amended to read:

...

(9) rockfish:

(A) may be taken from January 1 – December 31; bag limit of **three** [FOUR] fish; possession limit of **six** [EIGHT] fish, of which only one per day and in possession may be nonpelagic rockfish; no size limit; **yelloweye rockfish may only be retained from July 1 – December 31;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The harvest of rockfish in many areas of Alaska has been increasing and is assumed to be associated with a shifting of effort from Pacific halibut to other species by charter (guided) anglers due to reduced sport fishing opportunities associated with the Halibut Catch Sharing Plan. The anticipated continued shifting of effort and the late-maturing life history strategy of rockfish requires a precautionary management approach until better information is available.

Recognizing the increasing statewide harvest trends in rockfish, the department formed the Statewide Rockfish Initiative in September 2017 with a goal of developing strategies that will support long-term adaptive management for rockfish. Work towards stock assessments that include data from all fisheries has been ongoing. Most recently, stock assessments on yelloweye rockfish for Prince William Sound Inside waters have neared completion and management staff are working towards final development of sustainable harvest levels and are considering additional management tools to help manage these fish at a sustainable level.

In addition, sport fish rockfish bag and possession limits are not aligned between Prince William Sound (PWS) and Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay saltwater areas due to changes that took place at the November 2023 Lower Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting. During the Lower Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting the board took up multiple proposals to address the increasing rockfish harvest trends and declines in biological compositions, with a focus on pelagic species such as black rockfish. The board adopted Proposal 19 and reduced bag limits to three fish and possession limits to six fish, of which only one per day and two in possession could be a nonpelagic rockfish.

To maintain continuity between areas and taking proactive conservation measures, the department has determined that a bag limit of three and possession limit of six rockfish is necessary in Prince William Sound as well. Currently the possession limit for nonpelagic rockfish is only one, which should stay the same considering the higher harvest of nonpelagic rockfish, mainly yelloweye rockfish, in the PWS area. However, the Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay saltwaters do not have a seasonal closure for yelloweye rockfish due to lower harvest and no stock assessment information available. By adding a seasonal retention period for yelloweye rockfish that aligns with the lingcod open season in PWS, there will not only be an overall reduction of harvest of yelloweye rockfish, but also the timeframe would be considered a spawning closure. This closure time period is when yelloweye rockfish copulate, gestate, and majority release their larvae, based on studies conducted by the department for yelloweye rockfish in PWS. These proposed regulatory changes were put in place by emergency order during the 2022 and 2023 seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-165)

PROPOSAL 28

5 AAC 55.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

Modify the rockfish area, bag and possession limit, as follows:

Bag and possession limits for inside PWS waters should follow what the Department has recommended by emergency order in 2023 and 2024. However, outside waters should be 4 per daily bag limit and 8 in possession. In addition, outside waters nonpelagic possession should be the same as North Gulf Coast and allow for a double bag limit of 2.

(9) rockfish:

(A) Inside PWS Waters may be taken from January 1-December 31; bag limit of [FOUR] **three** fish; possession limit of [EIGHT] **six** fish, of which only one per day and in possession may be nonpelagic rockfish; no size limit **(B) Outside PWS Waters:** may be taken from January 1-December 31; bag limit of four fish; possession limit of eight fish, of which only one per day and **two** in possession may be nonpelagic rockfish; no size limit; **only one nonpelagic in possession may be a yelloweye rockfish**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current PWS rockfish regulation:

(9) rockfish:

(A) may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag limit of four fish; possession limit of eight fish, of which only one per day and in possession may be nonpelagic rockfish; no size limit; -In 2023 and 2024, ADFG has reduced the bag and possession limit by one fish and also closed the retention of yelloweye for 2-3 months.

My previous proposal was to break out the Prince William Sound sport fish management area. This proposal is to allow different bag limits for the inside and outside PWS areas for rockfish. As stated in the previous proposal, the area is so vast that regulatory and management requirements could be different in these different waters. The Department is already examining some rockfish species by inside and outside waters. I believe this will allow more effective management of PWS

inside waters and relaxed management of PWS outside waters. I believe it to be necessary to further regulate PWS inside rockfish regulations however PWS outside waters have far less effort and I believe populations are stronger outside therefore bag and possession limits could be higher without causing further damage to the inside waters.

In my experience as a charter operator for 13 years, I have noticed a decline in size and number of rockfish on inside waters and a more constant number and size on outside waters.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Consulted ADFG for information.

PROPOSED BY: Raymond Nix (HQ-F24-083)

PROPOSAL 29

5 AAC 55.xxx. Yelloweye rockfish delegation of authority and provisions for management for the Prince William Sound Area.

Create additional provisions for yelloweye rockfish management, as follows:

5 AAC 55.xxx is to create new language to read:

...

(a) The purpose of this delegation of authority is to stabilize the harvest of yelloweye rockfish in the waters of the Prince William Sound Area. Yelloweye rockfish will be managed for long-term sustainability of the stock. If the commissioner determines that the yelloweye rockfish sport fishing regulations must be modified to keep the sport fishery within a sustainable harvest level, the commissioner may, by emergency order, require one or more of the following management measures:

- (1) modify bag and possession limits for nonresident anglers;**
- (2) implement an annual limit for nonresidents;**
- (3) charter vessel operators and crewmembers may not retain rockfish while clients are on board the vessel;**
- (4) implement an annual limit for resident anglers;**
- (5) implement a size restriction.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Statewide Rockfish Initiative was established in September 2017 with a goal of developing strategies that will support long-term adaptive management for rockfish. Work towards stock assessments that include data from all fisheries have been ongoing, most recently for yelloweye rockfish in Prince William Sound Inside waters (PWSI). Department staff are working towards determining sustainable harvest levels and the Division of Sport Fish will need additional tools to manage yelloweye rockfish at a sustainable level and prioritize harvest opportunity for Alaska residents.

There are limited provisions for management of the yelloweye rockfish sport fishery in Prince William Sound, outside of existing emergency order authority. With the increases in the harvest of yelloweye rockfish and stock assessment data for PWSI yelloweye rockfish indicating that current harvest levels are not sustainable in the long-term, additional tools are needed to allow harvest opportunity while managing for sustainability in the sport fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-166)

Shellfish (14 proposals)

Subsistence Shellfish

PROPOSAL 30

5 AAC 02.207. Lawful gear for subsistence king and Tanner crab fisheries.

Increase subsistence Tanner crab pot limit in portions of Prince William Sound, as follows:

Increase current subsistence pot limits from two pots per vessel to eight pots per vessel in zones 466033, 466032, 466003, 466005, 466002, 466031, 456031, 456032, 456002, 4566003, 466001, 456001, 456004, and 446001.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Subsistence Tanner crab fishery's two pot limits across the sound does not allow a reasonably diligent person to acquire an adequate number of crab to meet their needs due to lower densities and longer distances to travel. Because crab densities are lower, but still harvestable is southeast PWS we do not believe a vessel pot limit is necessary in this area.

We propose to modify and increase Tanner Crab subsistence pot limits in southeast Prince William Sound. Currently, a vessel may only use two pots, even when multiple permit holders fish together. Allowing each permit holder their own two pot limit, up to eight total pots per vessel, would provide the opportunity to economically harvest crab whereas it is cost-prohibitive and impractical now. We do not believe individuals from northern and western PWS communities would travel to the southeastern crab fisheries to take advantage of this larger pot limit because they would be passing better crabbing grounds enroute where they could efficiently harvest their limits with only two pots per vessel.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Native Village of Eyak Cultural Department in collaboration with the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources. It was vetted through the Tribe's Natural Resources Advisory Council and recommended it to Tribal Council who unanimously approved this submission.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Eyak (HQ-F24-097)

PROPOSAL 31

5 AAC 02.236. Closed waters and 5 AAC 35.312. Closed waters in Registration Area E.

Repeal closed waters for the Prince William Sound subsistence and commercial Tanner crab fisheries, as follows:

Remove the closed waters regulation for both the subsistence and commercial fishery.

5 AAC 02.236. Closed waters.

(a) Shellfish may not be taken in the nonsubsistence area of Prince William Sound as described in 5 AAC 99.015(a)(5).

[(B) THE FOLLOWING WATERS ARE CLOSED TO THE TAKING OF KING AND TANNER CRAB FOR SUBSISTENCE PURPOSES:

(1) PORT VALDEZ: NORTH OF 61° 01.00' N. LAT.;

(2) GALENA BAY: EAST OF A LINE FROM 60° 57.63' N. LAT., 146° 45.17' W. LONG. TO 60° 58.41' N. LAT., 146° 43.34' W. LONG.;

(3) PORT FIDALGO: NORTH OF A LINE FROM PORCUPINE POINT AT 60° 44.62' N. LAT., 146° 42.08' W. LONG. TO BIDARKA POINT AT 60° 49.14' N. LAT., 146° 38.45' W. LONG.;

(4) PORT GRAVINA: NORTH OF A LINE FROM GRAVINA POINT AT 60° 37.37' N. LAT., 146° 15.22' W. LONG. TO RED HEAD AT 60° 40.25' N. LAT., 146° 30.22' W. LONG.]

[5 AAC 35.312. CLOSED WATERS IN REGISTRATION AREA E. THE FOLLOWING WATERS ARE CLOSED TO THE TAKING OF TANNER CRAB:

(1) PORT VALDEZ: NORTH OF 61° 01.00' N. LAT.;

(2) GALENA BAY: EAST OF A LINE FROM 60° 57.63' N. LAT., 146° 45.17' W. LONG., TO 60°

58.41' N. LAT., 146° 43.34' W. LONG.;

(3) PORT FIDALGO: NORTH OF A LINE FROM PORCUPINE POINT AT 60° 44.62' N. LAT., 146°

42.08' W. LONG., TO BIDARKA POINT AT 60° 49.14' N. LAT., 146° 38.45' W. LONG.;

(4) PORT GRAVINA: NORTH OF A LINE FROM GRAVINA POINT AT 60° 37.37' N. LAT., 146° 15.22'

W. LONG., TO RED HEAD AT 60° 40.25' N. LAT., 146° 30.22' W. LONG.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current closed water regulations were passed at the 2017 and 2021 board cycles and were not properly vetted at that time. A large amount of changes occurred in the Tanner Crab fishery during those board meetings. CDFU does not feel the public had ample time to digest and comment on the proposals.

Closed waters for Tanner Crab fisheries do not exist elsewhere in the state and should not exist here. In Kodiak and Southeast, both highly productive Tanner Crab fisheries, there are no closed waters for Tanner Crab fishing.

The department's justification for these closure areas was that they are "Tanner Crab nursery grounds". For many reasons, it does not make sense to close areas based on where juvenile crab might live. Tanner Crab populations do not stay in the same geographic location from month to month, or year to year. Areas where the department identifies as having high concentrations of female or juvenile crab during their summer trawl survey may look completely different by the time the winter fishery occurs. Additionally, where PWS juvenile crabs congregate can change from one board cycle to the next. It does not make sense for the department to examine and close PWS areas every time a new biomass of juveniles is found. It also does not make sense to reassess nursery closures each board cycle.

Finally, we should not create nursery closures because there is minimal potential harm to juveniles and females by crab pots. Undersized crab either escape out of the escape rings or are returned to the water unharmed. The department also does trawl surveys through these "nursery areas" and uses their catch to develop the GHL for the eastern district. This mismatch of using survey data to set a GHL from an area closed to harvest the GHL could be part of the reason the GHL was unattained in 2022.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-126)

PROPOSAL 32

5 AAC 02.215. Subsistence Dungeness Crab fishery, 5 AAC 32.210. Fishing seasons for Registration Area, and 5 AAC 32.290. Prince William Sound Dungeness Crab Fishery Management Plan.

Reopen the subsistence and commercial Dungeness crab fisheries in Prince William Sound, as follows:

In the subsistence taking of Dungeness crab in the Prince William Sound Area: [IS CLOSED UNTIL THE DUNGENESS CRAB STOCKS RECOVER ENOUGH TO PROVIDE A HARVESTABLE SURPLUS AND REGULATIONS ARE ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF FISHERIES THAT REOPEN THE FISHERY.]

1. **Dungeness Crab may be taken from March 20 through May 20 and from August 25 through December 31**
2. **the daily bag and possession limit is 5 crab per person**
3. **only male Dungeness Crab six and one-half inches or greater in shoulder width may be taken or possessed; male Dungeness Crab less than the minimum legal size and female Dungeness Crab that have been taken must be immediately returned to the water unharmed; for the purposes of this paragraph, the shoulder width measurement of Dungeness Crab is the straight-line distance across the carapace immediately anterior to the tenth anterolateral spine, not including the spines;**
4. **a pot used to take Dungeness Crab under this section must have at least two escape rings that each are not less than four and three-eighths inches, inside diameter; the escape rings must be located on opposite sides of the pot and the upper half of the vertical pane of the pot**
5. **no more than 10 ring nets or pots per person, with a maximum of 20 ring nets or pots per vessel, may be used to take Dungeness Crab.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Dungeness fishery in Area E closed in 1992 for reasons stated by the department as "low crab abundance". However, no other Dungeness Crab fishery in Alaska is managed based on abundance. Dungeness Crab fisheries from California to the Aleutian islands are managed by regulating size, sex, and season (3-S management) with no crab abundance estimates or GHs. 3-S management has proven to be extremely effective as it restricts harvest to large Dungeness males that have already had a chance to reproduce.

Incidental capture on the Copper River and by subsistence Tanner crabbers in Orca Inlet shows evidence of growing Dungeness populations in Area E; which is consistent with the recent statewide boom from Southeast to Area M. ADFG has not shared data to support their assertion of

low crab abundance. The last survey conducted by ADFG was in 2013 with only 13 pot lifts - not enough data to draw population conclusions.

We ask the board to open the commercial and subsistence Dungeness fisheries using the successful 3-S management employed elsewhere in Alaska.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-127)

PROPOSAL 33

5 AAC 02.XXX. New Section.

Adopt community-based subsistence harvest permits and reporting requirements for shellfish in the Prince William Sound Area, as follows:

- (a) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may, under this section and 5 AAC 92.052, issue community-based subsistence harvest permits and harvest reports for big game species AND SHELLFISH IN PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND ZONES in zones 466033, 466032, 466003, 466005, 466002, 466031, 456031, 456032, 456002, 4566003, 466001, 456001, 456004, and 446001 where the Board of Game (board) has established a community harvest hunt area under (b) of this section and 5 AAC 92.074

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Community Subsistence Harvest Permit to Include Shellfish

- (a) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may, under this section and 5 AAC 92.052, issue community-based subsistence harvest permits and harvest reports for big game species where the Board of Game (board) has established a community harvest hunt area under (b) of this section and 5 AAC 92.074.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Native Village of Eyak Cultural Dept. and Dept. of the Environment & Natural Resources, recommended by the Tribe's Natural Resources Advisory Council and unanimously approved by its Tribal Council.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Eyak (HQ-F24-096)

Tanner Crab (5 proposals)

PROPOSAL 34

5 AAC 35.308. Registration Area E Tanner crab harvest strategy.

Repeal the Registration Area E Tanner crab harvest strategy, as follows:

When the board adopted this harvest strategy in 2021 it chose to leave 5 AAC 35.311 "Commissioner's permits for Tanner Crab in Registration Area E" in regulation in case this new harvest strategy was not effective. We ask you to repeal 5 AAC 35.308 Registration Area E Tanner Crab harvest strategy in its entirety. A separate proposal we are submitting lays out a new harvest

strategy that we hope the board will adopt, or otherwise simply revert this fishery back to a Commissioner's permit fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Area E Tanner Crab management plan adopted in 2021 does not follow the Board's "Policy on King and Tanner Crab resource management" and should be repealed. Specifically management measure #5 which states: "A preseason estimate of the level of allowable King and Tanner Crab harvest is established for each fishery. In those fisheries with accurate population estimates the appropriate harvest rate is applied to the best point estimate to determine the GHL. For those fisheries without surveys or historical catch information adequate for estimating the population size, the GHL will be set based on historical fishery performance, catch, and population trend."

The adopted plan removes historic crab districts and instead splits Prince William Sound into five (5) non-traditional districts. Three of these non-traditional districts, according to the Department "...were aligned with historical statistical areas to develop a more accurate time series of statistical area-specific historical harvest and closely aligned to current statistical areas for management purposes". These areas are drawn with disregard to crab habitat. Currently they are arbitrary boundaries applied to a north-south and east-west grid that do not account for crab population, depth, migration or habitats.

Separate districts with distinct GHLs should be created only for distinct populations of crab. Instead, said plan creates a baseline estimate of abundance from 1983-1988 using imprecise and ill reported harvest data, by stat area, from the 1980's. It then extrapolates from those estimates for the next 25 years using trawl surveys, which do not occur in the newly drawn southwestern district. From these incomplete abundance estimates the GHLs are created for three of the new districts.

Unlike Kodiak or the Bering Sea, trawl surveys are ineffective for much of PWS. PWS more closely resembles Southeast Alaska, where said methods are not employed for Tanner crab population estimates. The variability of PWS seabed composition and geography, including glacial moraines, cause inaccuracy and inaccessibility via trawl. During the Commissioner's Permit Fishery of 2018-2021, as well as test fisheries conducted in 2016 and 2020-2022, biomass was discovered throughout PWS that was previously undetected by trawl surveys, including areas that were once devoid of crab. The densest crab populations were found in northwest PWS. The adopted plan closes that area indefinitely, claiming to "...not have sufficient trawlable habitat to develop an assessment". Furthermore, the adopted plan expanded the scope of these surveys creating unrealistic cost and management goals for the department. As it stands, ADFG can survey only one area per year.

Current harvest data clearly shows the crab population of this era bears little resemblance to the fishery of the 1980's. However, this data was not considered in the creation of the current management plan. It was instead built on trawl surveys of inadequate proportion, and fishery performance of more than 35 years ago. Because it was the only option for a tanner fishery, CDFU supported this plan, albeit modified, at the 2021 board cycle. After further evaluation it is deemed an unworkable model. We contend that this fishery is without an accurate population estimate, and therefore the GHL should be set based on fishery performance, catch, and population trend.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSAL 35

5 AAC 35.308. Registration Area E Tanner crab harvest strategy.

Modify the harvest strategy for Prince William Sound Tanner crab, as follows:

5 AAC 35.308 Registration Area E Tanner Crab harvest strategy

(a) Fishery performance based on logbook and inseason reported CPUE of legal male crab will be used to manage fishery area in season and postseason to set GH. The following reference points will be used to make these management decisions

1. Target CPUE of 15.25 legal male Tanner Crab
Trigger CPUE of 11.5 legal male Tanner Crab
Limit CPUE of 7.5 legal male Tanner Crab

(b) In Registration Area E, the GH will be set at 100,000 lbs but will be adjusted based on fishery performance determined from commercial fishermen logbook CPUE of legal male crab as follows:

1. The GH will be increased for the following season for any of the following reasons:
 1. If the most recent season CPUE is > than the most recent previous season and is > Target CPUE the GH will increase by 20% the following season.
 2. If the most recent logbook CPUE is > than the most recent previous season and \leq Target CPUE legal male crab and > Trigger the GH will increase by 10% the following season.
 3. If the most recent logbook CPUE is > than the most recent previous season and is \leq Trigger and > Limit the GH may increase up to a maximum of 5% the following season
2. The GH will be decreased for the following season for any of the following reasons:
 1. If CPUE is < than the most recent previous season and is > Limit CPUE and \leq Trigger CPUE GH may be reduced up to a maximum of 40% the following season
 2. If CPUE is < than the most recent previous season and is > Trigger Cpue and \leq Target CPUE the GH may be reduced up to a maximum of 20% the following season

(c) Fishery performance by statistical area will be assessed inseason with a minimum requirement of 300 pot lifts per statistical area before taking management action under the following guidelines:

1. If logbook CPUE is \geq Target manage to GH.
2. If logbook CPUE is \geq Trigger but < Target manage to GH and monitor closely
3. If logbook CPUE is \geq Limit and < Trigger close statistical area for remainder of season.

4. If logbook CPUE is < Limit close fishery statistical area remainder of season and subsequent closure of statistical area of 1 year for commercial fisheries the following season, depending upon a postseason review.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Create an Area E Tanner Crab harvest strategy with a conservative GHL that incorporates fishery performance to allow a fishery for the coming years much like the Commissioner’s permit fisheries that occurred from 2018-2021. This harvest strategy is very similar to the one presented by the department for Southeast Golden King Crab in “Recommended Harvest Strategy for Southeast Alaska Golden King Crab”. The Commissioner’s permit fisheries in southwest PWS conducted from 2018-2021 and the test fisheries in 2020, 2021 and 2022 were successful in discovering new Tanner Crab populations and a much needed winter fishery for the boats of Prince William Sound. Those fisheries, although limited in area and harvest allowance, resulted in an average harvest of 103,234 lbs per year with an average CPUE of 13 for the Commissioner's permit fishery and 15.25 for the test fisheries. These CPUE’s compare well with the historic fisheries’ catch rates. For the 1987 and 1988 years, the CPUE for the commercial fleet was 16 and 17 respectively for the western district and 11 and 17 for the northern district. With the larger 75 pot limit that was being fished in the 1980’s, we can assume longer soak time is most of the contributing factor to the slightly higher CPUE seen then. These are also very similar to the CPUE seen in the southeast Tanner Crab fishery which over the last 10 years has had an average CPUE range of 12-16.

We believe that CPUE is the only consistent data point the department has at this time to estimate population size and therefore must incorporate it into the harvest strategy. This proposed harvest strategy recommends a very conservative GHL of 100,000 lbs based on the average harvest during the Commissioner’s permit fishery and test fisheries. It also incorporates a CPUE target level based on the average CPUE for the PWS test fisheries that occurred in 2020, 2021, and 2022 of 15.25 and the Trigger and limit levels were set at 75% and 50% of the target rounded to the nearest quarter.

This low GHL combined with the CPUE trigger results in extremely low risk of harm to the stock but will allow a fishery to continue to be executed to the coming years and grow or shrink as we develop a better understanding of Tanner Crab populations in PWS.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-121)

PROPOSAL 36

5 AAC 35.325. Lawful gear for Registration Area E.

Increase the pot limit in the Prince William Sound Tanner crab fishery, as follows:

Reinstate the historic pot limit of 75. This pot limit is reasonable for the size of area and density of crab found in PWS and comparable to southeast Alaska's pot limit of 80.

5 AAC 35.325(d) is amended to read:

(d) The number of Tanner Crab pots that may be operated from a vessel will be

established by emergency order before the opening of each commercial Tanner Crab season, not to exceed [30] 75 Tanner Crab pots per vessel

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current pot limit was put into place in 2017 as part of the department's new Tanner Crab harvest strategy. In 2017 the department also created regulation allowing a Commissioner's permit fishery with a limit of 50 pots. The historic pot limit for this fishery before 2017 was 75 pots. A larger pot limit combined with reduced hauling hours will result in less handling of female and undersized crab because each pot is hauled less in any given time period. These longer soak times give small crab time to escape out of the pots on their own. When the department reopened this fishery, it did not enforce the daylight hauling hours regulation and drastically lowered the pot limit. This lower pot limit resulted in participants running their pots 2-3 times a day, which increased the handling of juvenile and female crab and lowered the economic viability of the fishery. The biomass of Tanner Crab in PWS is very spread out. It requires a lot of prospecting, which is extremely costly and time consuming with a small pot limit. In the 2022 commercial fishery the fleet was unable to harvest the GHF because it was not economically viable to prospect large areas in central PWS during small weather windows with only 25 pots.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-122)

PROPOSAL 37

5 AAC 35.325. Lawful gear for Registration Area E.

Establish a pot limit of 30 pots per vessel in the Prince William Sound Tanner crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 35.325(d) is amended to read:

d) The number of Tanner Crab pots that may be operated from a vessel will be [ESTABLISHED BY EMERGENCY ORDER BEFORE THE OPENING OF EACH COMMERCIAL TANNER CRAB SEASON, NOT TO EXCEED] 30 Tanner Crab pots per vessel. [IN DETERMINING THE ANNUAL POT LIMIT, THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONSIDER THE

- (1) TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED VESSELS;
- (2) ESTIMATED CATCH PER UNIT EFFORT; AND
- (3) THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Remove language allowing for an annual adjustment to pot limits that was put into place in 2017.

Adjusting gear limits based on registered participants is not a common practice in other Alaska commercial fisheries and there is no reason to do so in Area E. A known number of pots gives some consistency to the daily harvest a fisherman can expect to achieve each year they participate in the fishery. By lowering pot limits, the department decreases the daily harvest potential of participants, therefore increasing the cost to participate in the fishery. Pots are also expensive and sold in matching sets. If the pot limit increases from one year to the next, it can be extremely

difficult to find more pots that stack well with the ones a operator already owns. This results in an unsafe and inefficient load. We do not believe that changing pot limits on an annual basis is a necessary tool for the department because it currently manages all other Alaska crab fisheries without this regulation.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-123)

PROPOSAL 38

5 AAC 35.XXX. New section. Tenders for Tanner Crab.

Allow vessels participating in the Prince William Sound Tanner crab fishery to also tender Tanner crab, as follows:

Create new regulatory language to allow boats to act as tenders while also participating in the fishery. That way at the end of the season, fishermen could put all of their catch on one boat to take to a processor. Regulation like this is currently in place for the Kodiak District Dungeness fishery.

New text as follows:

Notwithstanding 5 AAC 35.033, in the Prince William Sound Area, a vessel registered to fish for Tanner Crab may tender Tanner Crab from other registered Tanner Crab vessels. A tender operator must be an authorized agent of a processor. Before using a vessel as a tender under this section, the tender operator shall register as a tender with the department at the department office. A tender operator shall complete an ADF&G fish ticket at the first point of delivery from the catcher vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Finding a market for a small-scale fishery such as Area E’s can be difficult and may require the crab be run far from the fishing grounds to Kodiak, Seward, or elsewhere. On a small quota year with a low price, it may not be economically viable for the few participants to hire a separate tender or for each participant to individually run a small load of crab across the Gulf of Alaska in the winter.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-125)

King Crab (4 proposals)

PROPOSAL 39

5 AAC 34.210 Fishing seasons for Registration Area E.

Establish season dates for a commercial golden king crab fishery in Prince William Sound, as follows:

Reinstate the historic season dates for Golden King Crab in PWS and instate gear limits.
5 AAC 34.210 Fishing seasons for Registration Area E.

(a) The commercial taking of **red king crab and blue king crab** in Registration Area E is closed until the king crab stocks have recovered enough for a harvest strategy to be developed by the department and adopted by the Board of Fisheries.

(b) **Golden King Crab may be taken from 12;00 Noon November 1 to December 20th and from 12:00 noon January 15 through March 31 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m**
5 AAC 34.225. Lawful gear for Registration Area E

(a) King crab may be taken only with king crab pots. **Except that Golden King Crab taken in Tanner Crab pots as described in 5 AAC 35.125(f) may be retained if the CFEC permit holder fishing for Tanner Crab is also registered to fish for Golden King Crab and both crab fisheries are open at the same time.** King crab taken by other means must be returned to the water without further harm.

(c) **The following king crab pot limits are in effect in Registration Area E:**

(1) when the commercial Golden King Crab season is open in Registration Area E, and the commercial Tanner Crab season is closed, no more than 30 king crab pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for king crab; (2) when the commercial Golden King Crab and Tanner Crab seasons are open in Registration Area E at the same time, an aggregate of no more than 75 king and Tanner crab pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for both king crab and Tanner Crab

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? End the continued closure of the Golden King Crab (GKC) fishery in Prince William Sound. The GKC fishery has been closed since the 1994–1995 season, despite evidence of a small but healthy stock. ADFG has little ability to assess GKC populations as they live on cliffs in deep water, which makes targeting them difficult - even to experienced fishermen. Widespread evidence of GKC throughout western Prince William Sound was seen in the recent Tanner Crab commercial and test fisheries, as well as ADFG’s own pot survey in 2005-2007 and the recent 2020 test fishery.

The GKC fisheries in the state of Alaska that remain open are in Southeast Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. Management in those areas relies heavily on commercial fisherman's catch rates and knowledge of the stock to inform the GHL. A management strategy such as the one outlined for Southeast Alaska by Andrew Olson and Katie Palof in 2023, “Recommended Harvest Strategy for Southeast Alaska Golden King Crab”, is the only path forward for a fishery in Prince William Sound. This is because it uses commercial fishermen’s CPUE to develop GHLs and collect data on stock health. ADFG in Southeast also partners with commercial fishermen to take size and sex data on undersize GKC to assist management. This kind of collaborative management is possible in PWS, but it requires the ability to open the fishery to be changed in regulation.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-128)

PROPOSAL 40

5 AAC 34.215. Guideline harvest levels

Adopt a harvest strategy for golden king crab in Prince William Sound, as follows:

5 AAC 34.215. Guideline harvest levels

[REPEALED 6/30/83]

(a) Fishery performance based on logbook and inseason reported CPUE of legal male crab will be used to manage the fishery area in season and postseason to set GHL. The following reference points will be used to make these management decisions

Target CPUE of 2 legal male Golden King Crab

Trigger CPUE of 1.5 legal male Golden King Crab

Limit CPUE of 1 legal male Golden King Crab

(b) In Registration Area E, the GHL will be set at 10,000lbs but will be adjusted based on fishery performance determined from commercial fishermen logbook CPUE of legal male crab as follows:

The GHL will be increased for the following season for any of the following reasons:

If the most recent season CPUE is > than the most recent previous season and is > Target CPUE the GHL will increase by 20% the following season.

If the most recent logbook CPUE is > than the most recent previous season and \leq Target CPUE legal male crab and > Trigger the GHL will increase by 10% the following season.

If the most recent logbook CPUE is > than the most recent previous season and is \leq Trigger and > Limit the GHL may increase up to a maximum of 5% the following season

The GHL will be decreased for the following season for any of the following reasons:

If CPUE is < than the most recent previous season and is > Limit CPUE and \leq Trigger CPUE GHL may be reduced up to a maximum of 40% the following season

If CPUE is < than the most recent previous season and is > Trigger Cpue and \leq Target CPUE the GHL may be reduced up to a maximum of 20% the following season

(c) Fishery performance by statistical area will be assessed inseason with a minimum requirement of 200 pot lifts per statistical area before taking management action under the following guidelines:

If logbook CPUE is \geq Target manage to GHL.

If logbook CPUE is \geq Trigger but < Target manage to GHL and monitor closely

If logbook CPUE is \geq Limit and < Trigger close statistical area for remainder of season.

If logbook CPUE is < Limit close fishery statistical area remainder of season and subsequent closure of statistical area of 1 year for commercial fisheries the following season, depending upon a postseason review.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish a GHL and Harvest strategy for Golden King Crab in PWS that uses commercial CPUE to trigger closures much like the strategy proposed for Southeast GKC by Andrew Olson and Katie Palof in 2023 "Recommended Harvest Strategy for Southeast Alaska Golden King Crab".

We set CPUE target levels based on input from crab fishermen with experience targeting Golden King Crab in PWS. These reference points compare well those in the Southeast fishery, which sets target CPUE at 1.6 - 4.1 legal males depending on the area. The Trigger and limit levels were set at 75% and 50% of the target. These CPUE ranges correspond well with what limited information we have about the CPUE in PWS in the 1980s and the recent test fishery for Golden King Crab.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-129)

PROPOSAL 41

5 AAC 34.XXX. New Section and 5 AAC 35.308. Registration Area E Tanner crab harvest strategy.

Adopt new Prince William Sound king and Tanner crab harvest strategies, as follows:

Establish harvest strategy for king and tanner consistent w/B.O.F. policy. See supporting document.

[A note from Boards Support: nine additional pages accompanied this faxed proposal and this was deemed too much to include in the proposal book. The authors of this proposal are encouraged to submit that as written comments for the Prince William Sound and Upper Copper/Upper Susitna finfish and shellfish meeting.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? ADF&G King & Tanner Crab harvest strategies are wildly inconsistent w/established policy.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. Since 1988 have tried to reestablish fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Robert A Smith and Warren Chappell (HQ-F24-137)

PROPOSAL 42

5 AAC 77.557. Personal use king crab fishery, 5 AAC 77. 558. Personal use Tanner crab fishery, and 5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

Open a sport king crab fishery and liberalize the personal use king and Tanner crab fisheries in Prince William Sound, as follows:

A person may fish for Tanner and Golden King Crab from April 15-September 15. People opting to fish during this season are ineligible to fish during the season from October 1-March 31. During this season, from April 15-September 15 a vessel may only have two pots of any kind on board. These can be two shrimp pots, two crab pots, or one crab and one shrimp pot. A crab pot can not be placed on the same long line as a shrimp pot. Additionally, only one permit can be fished from a vessel at a given time.

There will be an annual limit of:

50 male Tanner Crab

2 male Golden King Crab

And a daily limit of 10 male Tanner Crab.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Open an additional sport/personal use fishery for tanner and golden king crab in Prince William Sound from April 15-September 15. Currently a season is open from October 1-March 31 during the stormiest and

coldest portion of the year. This severely limits the opportunity to participate in the fishery. Having an additional season corresponding to the sport/personal use shrimp fishery would provide more people the opportunity to fish for crab. If a season as proposed below is adopted it would have the effect of reducing the effort in the shrimp fishery with limited to no effect on the health of the crab populations. There has been a commercial fishery for Tanner crab in the Prince William Sound for a number of years now. There is no reason a more viable sport/personal use fishery can not be implemented.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Discussed with friends who boat in Prince William Sound.

PROPOSED BY: Brian West (HQ-F24-056)

Miscellaneous Shellfish (1 proposal)

PROPOSAL 43

5 AAC 38.217. Registration Area E Octopus Management Plan.

Establish a directed octopus fishery in Prince Willilam Sound, as follows:

- (a) In Registration Area E, octopus may [ONLY] be taken as bycatch in pot, trawl, and longline gear fisheries as described in this section.
- (b) The guideline harvest range for octopus in Registration Area E is 0 - 35,000 pounds; when the guideline harvest level has been reached, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, Registration Area E to the retention of octopus.
- (c) Octopus may be retained as bycatch only in an amount not to exceed 20 percent, by weight, of the directed harvest on board the vessel, except that in a directed fishery for shrimp, octopus may be retained in an amount not to exceed 35 percent, by weight, of the shrimp on board the vessel.
- (d) Octopus may be harvested under a commissioner permit as a longline lair pot fishery to allow the guideline harvest of the 0-35,000 pounds; when the guideline harvest level has been reached, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, Registration Area E to retention of Octopus. Bycatch retention is prohibited in the Octopus longline lair pot fishery.**
- (e) Octopus retained for sale or for personal use shall be reported on a fish ticket as described in 5 AAC 39.130.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow guideline harvest of octopus in Area E under a commissioner permit.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-050)

Copper River Salmon (29 proposals)

Subsistence (7 proposals)

PROPOSAL 44

5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications.

Allow more than the legal limit of gillnet gear to be onboard a vessel used in the subsistence salmon fishery, as follows:

(j)

(4) A vessel engaged in subsistence gillnet may have extra gillnet gear on board the vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Interpretation that any vessel legally engaged in subsistence fishing cannot have extra gear on board to promote efficiency of harvest if the legal amount of gear being used is damaged during the subsistence activity . Being able to continue harvest having a spare amount on board does not harm anyone and is acknowledged by Subsistence regulations. further codifying this will more clearly define any misunderstanding by the public and ADFG to alleviate confusion and stress for subsistence participants.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Coordination with other subsistence users.

PROPOSED BY: Shawn Gilman

(EF-F24-027)

PROPOSAL 45

5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing.

Allow subsistence fishing for salmon in the Copper River inside closure area, as follows:

We recommend opening inside closure waters to subsistence fishing by adding new subsection 5 AAC 01.648 (c):

5 AAC 01.648(c). Prince William Sound Subsistence Salmon Fisheries Management Plans

(c) Salmon may be taken for subsistence purposes in the inside closure area described in 5 AAC 24.350(1)(B) unless all other Copper River Chinook fisheries have first been restricted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The regulations set forth in 5 AAC 24.361 that restrict fishing in the regulatory closed waters specified in 5 AAC 24.350(1) (B) for the conservation of king salmon should only be applied to Commercial and Sport fisheries (5AAC 24.361 (b)-(c)). This area restriction has been applied to the subsistence fishery. Because the subsistence fishery is catch-limited (5 king salmon per household limit), an area restriction provides no conservation benefit; however, it places an unnecessary burden on subsistence users to fish farther out, especially those in river skiffs coming down rivers who are more suited to fishing more protected waters.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Native Village of Eyak Department of the Environment and Natural Resources staff, recommended by the Native Village of Eyak’s Natural Resource Advisory Council and approved unanimously by Tribal Council.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Eyak

(HQ-F24-099)

PROPOSAL 46

5 AAC 01.630. Subsistence fishing permits.

Require harvest reporting within seven days of harvest in the lower Copper River district subsistence salmon fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 01.6xx new section

Subsistence harvest from the Copper River district must be reported within 7 days of harvest.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Subsistence fishing in the lower Copper River District, which occurs at the mouth of the Copper River, can provide valuable in season run strength information as it is open every Saturday and on Mondays and Thursdays when the commercial fishery is closed. However, the reporting requirements for subsistence permits do not require reporting harvest until October 31. We believe that weekly reporting will not place an undue burden on participants in this fishery as it can be easily done at the local ADF&G office in Cordova, where all subsistence trips for the lower copper are based out of, or online. Additionally weekly reporting will increase the accuracy of reports and reduce the likelihood of participants harvesting more fish than their bag limit.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This Proposal was discussed and submitted by the Copper River/Prince William Sound AC

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/PWS Advisory Committee

(HQ-F24-069)

PROPOSAL 47

5 AAC 01.630. Subsistence fishing permits and 5 AAC 77.5XX Personal use fishing permits.

Require inseason reporting in subsistence and personal use fisheries, as follows:

(6) subsistence fishing reports must be completed on forms provided by the department, or using an online app or phone call and submitted to the department office from which the permit was issued [at a time specified by the department] **within 5 days of harvest** for each particular area and fishery.

(6) personal use fishing permits must be completed on forms provided by the department, or using an online app or phone call and submitted to the department office from which the permit was issued [at a time specified by the department] **within 5 days of harvest** for each particular area and fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Require In-Season reporting of Subsistence and Personal Use Salmon within 5 days of harvest using an online app or phone call to the department.

Currently, participants in both fisheries are not required to report their harvest until well after the close of the season. Both fisheries take a substantial number of salmon, especially in low abundance runs. It is imperative that managers have real time data to use their EO authority to close fisheries when the security of the resource demands it. It is time for all users of these valuable resources to be accountable.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This Proposal was discussed and developed by the Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/PWS Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-034)

PROPOSAL 48

5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications.

Repeal the prohibition of subsistence guide services in the Glennallen Subdistrict, as follows:

Remove prohibition on subsistence guide services in the Glennallen subdistrict. Allow for subsistence guide services in the Glenallen subdistrict notwithstanding the prohibition

5 AAC 01.620 Lawful gear and gear specifications

[(L) SUBSISTENCE FISHING GUIDE SERVICES ARE PROHIBITED IN THE GLENNALLEN SUBDISTRICT. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION,

(1) "SUBSISTENCE FISHING GUIDE SERVICES" MEANS ASSISTANCE, FOR COMPENSATION OR WITH THE INTENT TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION, TO A SUBSISTENCE FISHERMAN TO TAKE OR TO ATTEMPT TO TAKE FISH FROM A VESSEL BY ACCOMPANYING OR PHYSICALLY DIRECTING THE SUBSISTENCE FISHERMAN IN SUBSISTENCE FISHING ACTIVITIES DURING ANY PART OF A SUBSISTENCE FISHING TRIP;

(2) "COMPENSATION" MEANS DIRECT OR INDIRECT PAYMENT, REMUNERATION, AND OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED IN RETURN FOR SERVICES, REGARDLESS OF THE SOURCE; IN THIS PARAGRAPH, "BENEFITS"

(A) INCLUDES

(I) WAGES AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS GIVEN DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY TO AN INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION; AND

(II) DUES, PAYMENTS, FEES, AND OTHER REMUNERATION GIVEN DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY TO A FISHING CLUB, BUSINESS, ORGANIZATION, OR INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES SUBSISTENCE FISHING GUIDE SERVICES;

(B) DOES NOT INCLUDE REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE ACTUAL DAILY EXPENSES FOR FUEL, FOOD, OR BAIT.]

In order to assess the significance of guide service use, consideration should also be given to updating the Glennallen Subdistrict Subsistence Permit Harvest ticket to provide a check box on the permit to indicate if commercial services were used.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A prohibition against subsistence guide services in the Glennallen Subdistrict was adopted at 2021 at the Prince William Sound/Upper Copper River Board of Fisheries meeting. This new regulation has unfairly and unnecessarily reduced opportunities for Alaskans and non-rural natives to harvest salmon for food in the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery. The prohibition has decreased opportunity for Alaskan households and increased competition for the extremely limited number of shore-based fishing sites that can be accessed via the public right of way.

The most reasonable access to this fishery for many subsistence users is by boat, but without an available transport or guide service, many subsistence users may find it very dangerous or are simply unable to participate and meet their subsistence needs. Many households rely on guides and transporters because the number of safe shore-based fishing sites is very limited; they are unwilling to attempt to wade into the dangerous river; they do not own a boat or are not comfortable driving a boat on the Copper River; they do not own, or are unable to afford build, maintain or operate a fishwheel; they do not know someone with a fishwheel to use; or they do not have access to shoreline to place a fishwheel.

The prohibition was aimed at commercial services but it is subsistence users that have been harmed. Guide services merely provide a safe and cost-effective means of accessing fish for personal and family consumption. Significant use of these services in this subsistence fishery very clearly demonstrates their utility and value.

There is no sustainability issue with allowing subsistence users access to salmon resources with the assistance of a guide service. The prohibition was allocative away from the subsistence fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed collaboratively by a group of Glennallen subsistence fishery participants.

PROPOSED BY: Marlene Bertie Irneraucin (HQ-F24-054)

PROPOSAL 49

5 AAC 01.620. Lawful Gear and Gear Specifications.

Prohibit transport services in the Glennallen Subdistrict, as follows:

5 AAC 01.620(l)(1)

(l) Subsistence fishing guide services are prohibited in the Glennallen Subdistrict. For the purposes of this subsection,

(1) "subsistence fishing guide services" means assistance, for compensation or with the intent to receive compensation, to a subsistence fisherman to take or to attempt to take fish from a vessel by accompanying or physically **transporting** [DIRECTING] the subsistence fisherman in subsistence fishing activities during any part of a subsistence fishing trip

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We want to clarify language to include the restriction of "transporting" subsistence fishermen in the Glennallen Subdistrict for

subsistence fishing. Monetary compensation for transporting service should not exist in a subsistence fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (HQ-F24-108)

PROPOSAL 50

5 AAC 1.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications. and 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Prohibit the use of chartplotters or fish finders in the Chitina and Glennallen Subdistricts, as follows:

5AAC 52.022 (a)(XX) Electronics including chart-plotters, depth finders, fish finders, or any other device that may aid in locating fish, depth, or paths of travel while fishing may not be used to aid in the taking of fish from a boat in the Chitina and Glennallen Subdistricts.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? “Fair chase” is an important concept that applies to hunting regulations. Many activities such as the use of drones, electronic calls, and even two-way radios are not allowed.

Electronics to aid in the taking of fish should be viewed in the same way.

We have seen increased fishing pressure when other places around the state such as the Kenai and the Yukon are closed. We are likely to see further increase as the Yukon has been closed for half a decade and the Kenai will see closures as well. Participation is only going to grow on the Copper River in years to come. The Copper River can’t feed the whole State.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No.

PROPOSED BY: Kirk Wilson (HQ-F24-109)

Salmon Management Plans (5 proposals)

PROPOSAL 51

5 AAC 24.360. Copper River District Salmon Management Plan.

Reduce commercial salmon fishing opportunity in the Copper River District, as follows:

To address this issue, we recommend that the *timing* of the commercial harvest be managed in a manner that avoids disproportionately high exploitation rates for early run Copper River salmon stocks, potential adverse effects on overall population diversity of Copper River salmon, and potential adverse impacts on food security for salmon-dependent subsistence users. To be clear and *sincerely respectful of all user groups* that are reliant on Copper River salmon, the solution that we propose is about *timing* of harvest *not allocation* of harvest among user groups with legitimate needs.

Specifically, we recommend that the board revise the Copper River District Salmon Management Plan, 5 AAC 24.360 as follows, with revised text **underlined in bold**, regulatory text to be deleted fully capitalized and enclosed in brackets, and explanatory comments (if any) *in italics* and enclosed in parentheses:

(a) The department shall manage the Copper River District commercial salmon fishery to achieve a sustainable escapement goal of 360,000 – 750,000 sockeye salmon into the Copper River.

(b) The department shall manage the Copper River District commercial salmon fishery to achieve an inriver goal of salmon, as measured at the sonar counter near Miles Lake, based on the total of the following categories:

Spawning escapement

Lower end of sockeye salmon escapement goal

17,500 other salmon

Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery 61,000 – 82,500 salmon

Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery 100,000 – 150,000 salmon

Sport fishery 15,000 salmon

Hatchery brood (sockeye salmon) estimated annually

Hatchery surplus (sockeye salmon) estimated annually

TOTAL announced annually

(c) Repealed 4/24/2009.

(d) Repealed 3/30/2000.

(e) The department shall manage the Copper River District commercial salmon fishery to conserve and avoid disproportionate exploitation of early-run Copper River sockeye and king salmon stocks by comparing cumulative sonar passage and management objectives by date, as follows:

(1) After two commercial drift gillnet openings, the Copper River District shall not open to commercial drift gillnet fishing when cumulative sonar passage is less than 70 percent of the cumulative management objective for the same date.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue is that management of the Copper River District commercial fishery by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) in five of the six most-recent years (2018-2023) resulted in disproportionately high harvest (exploitation) rates for early run Copper River salmon stocks. Without action by the board to mitigate this issue, persistent disproportionate exploitation of stocks with early migratory timing has the potential to diminish the overall population diversity of Copper River sockeye and king salmon while threatening food security for Copper River subsistence users, and particularly those who fish upstream of the Gakona River in the uppermost portion of the Glennallen Subdistrict. The 2023 season is most representative of this concern, when more than 387,000 salmon were harvested by the commercial fishery before cumulative salmon passage at Miles Lake had reached 50 percent of the department’s objective for cumulative inriver passage. (Note that this estimate for the degree to which Miles Lake salmon passage was lagging behind cumulative commercial harvest and management objectives accounts for the fact that the sonar sensor on the south bank was not operational for a full 24-hr period until 5/31.) Disproportionately high early season harvest

rates occurred to a lesser extent in 2021 and 2022, and also occurred in low-run years of 2018 and 2020 before low sonar counts triggered extended closures of the commercial fishery.

Management that results in a recurring pattern of disproportionately high exploitation rates for early run salmon stocks is inconsistent with two statewide fisheries management policies. These are the Policy for the Management of Mixed Stock Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.220), which specifies in part that "... conservation of wild salmon stocks consistent with sustained yield shall be accorded the highest priority;" and the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222), which specifies in part that "... salmon escapement should be managed in a manner to maintain genetic and phenotypic characteristics of the stock by assuring appropriate geographic and temporal distribution of spawners"

Management that has the potential to adversely affect population diversity of Copper River salmon would be contrary to the "portfolio-effect" principle, which holds that conservation of population diversity is an important means of enhancing the resilience of salmon populations and associated fisheries to changing environmental conditions (Hilborn et al. 2003, Schindler et al. 2010).

Management that results in disproportionately high harvest rates for early run stocks also may exacerbate known food-security concerns of upriver subsistence users. Because of their location in the watershed, subsistence users from headwater communities have access to the fewest spawning populations, some of which are characterized by early run timing. A preliminary National Park Service assessment of 2005-2021 harvest data found that year-to-year catch stability (one measure of food security, here estimated as interannual variability in catch-per-unit-effort) was lowest (interannual variability was highest) during this period for subsistence users who fished upstream of the Gakona River compared with downstream subsistence users who fished between the Chitina River bridge and the Gakona River. This pattern of low catch stability in the uppermost reach of the Copper River applied to participants in the state subsistence fishery and as well as the federal subsistence fishery and is consistent with findings for the Fraser River in Canada (Nesbitt and Moore 2016). Past research and Alaska Native traditional knowledge indicate that Copper River salmon stocks associated with headwater tributaries are among the earliest to enter the river. Since at least 2004 (board proposal 53 in 2005) and as recently as 2023 (RC019 submitted during the board's October 12-13, 2023 work session), subsistence users have repeatedly urged fisheries managers to allow more early run salmon to reach headwater spawning tributaries.

We considered an alternative solution to this issue, but rejected it in favor of this proposed solution after conferring with department staff from the Division of Commercial Fisheries and the Division of Sport Fisheries. The alternative solution would have required the department to (1) establish a program for post-season estimation and assessment of annual exploitation rates for distinct spawning stocks of Copper River sockeye and king salmon on the basis of genetic stock composition data and other appropriate information; (2) ensure, to the extent practicable, that exploitation does not place distinct stocks at elevated risk of extirpation; and (3) report assessment results to the board on a schedule that conforms to the board cycle. We rejected the genetics-based solution in favor of *this sonar-based solution, which is far simpler and less expensive to implement, thereby enabling immediate action during this board cycle*. Nevertheless, we believe that the use of genetic data to estimate stock-specific exploitation rates ultimately may be required for ensuring the long-term conservation of diversity of Copper River sockeye and king salmon populations and

the resilience of these populations and dependent fisheries, livelihoods, and cultural traditions in the context of changing environmental conditions.

We will provide further analyses and context for the issue and additional justification for the proposed regulatory change in a letter submitted to the board following issuance of the proposal book.

References

Hilborn, R., T.P. Quinn, D.E. Schindler, & D.E. Rogers. 2003. Biocomplexity and fisheries sustainability. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 100(11):6564-6568.

Nesbitt, H.K., and J.W. Moore. 2016. Species and population diversity in Pacific salmon fisheries underpin indigenous food security. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 53:1489-1499.

Schindler, D.E., R. Hilborn, B. Chasco, C.P. Boatright, T.P. Quinn, L.A. Rogers, & M.S. Webster. 2010. Population diversity and the portfolio effect in an exploited species. *Nature* 465:609-612

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Prior to submission of this proposal, we consulted with the following groups and benefitted from the perspectives that they offered: ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries staff, Cordova & Anchorage, ADF&G Division of Sport Fisheries staff, Glennallen & Fairbanks, Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Copper River / Prince William Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee, and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (HQ-F24-059)

PROPOSAL 52

5 AAC 24.360. Copper River District Salmon Management Plan.

Reduce commercial salmon fishing opportunity in the Copper River District, as follows:

5 AAC 24.360 (x) **Allow two Copper River District commercial salmon fisheries 12-hour openers during the week of May 15th, then delay openers by two weeks or until a daily management objective for fish passage is met at the Miles Lake Sonar.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Protecting genetic diversity of salmon in the Copper River Watershed.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) of Tribal citizens and accounts from local residents indicate the run timing of Copper River salmon has been delayed by about two weeks in recent years. These accounts are validated and quantified by various projects in the Copper River including radio telemetry studies, genetics and bioenergetics studies, Miles Lake Sonar passage, Tanada Creek Weir passage, and harvest data from subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries. Local managers and biologists have stated when the Copper River has a late ice-out, and when stream temperature remains cool late into the historical return time, salmon “mill” in the sound

where they are susceptible to disproportionately high catch rates. Among these cohorts are king salmon and sockeye salmon destined for the furthest reaches of the Copper River. TEK is science, and it has long documented that the earliest returning salmon are those that spawn furthest upstream. This knowledge is being reconfirmed by a multitude of studies around Alaska and in the Copper River Basin.

Uneven targeting of these specific stocks decreases the diversity of the Copper River salmon genetic portfolio. On top of this, the Gakona to Slana reach of the Glennallen Subdistrict Subsistence Area has failed to meet Amounts Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) 17 of the past 19 years. These are the early returning fish. By delaying the PWS commercial fishery by two weeks or until a daily management objective is met at the Miles Lake Sonar, we are taking a step in the right direction in protecting the diversity of Copper River salmon. If salmon returns are earlier than that of recent years (a daily management objective is typically met around June 1-4), and a daily management objective is met before this two-week period, then we would expect these upriver stocks to return in numbers and the ensuing commercial fishery will not be disproportionately impacting Chinook and upriver sockeye stocks.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Ahtna Intertribal Fish and Wildlife Committee and Ahtna Tene Nene' jointly recommended this change to address Tribal concerns of sustainability of Chinook and upper Copper River sockeye stocks. This change in management will help prevent future restrictions and closures.

PROPOSED BY: AITRC Fish and Wildlife Committee (HQ-F24-102)

PROPOSAL 53

5 AAC 24.360 Copper River District Management Plan.

Allow the Copper River District commercial salmon fishery to open for the first two periods, then close until the Copper River cumulative salmon management objective is met, as follows:

Allow commercial fisheries to open for the first two openers as a test fishery, then close until the Copper River cumulative management objective is met.

This will spread the commercial use throughout the season and allow earlier stock to go upstream.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We have concerns of early run wild stocks reaching the upper Copper River tributaries.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. We spoke with Wrangell St. Elias NPS and ADF&G about our concerns regarding Salmon in the Copper River and its tributaries.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-113)

PROPOSAL 54

5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan.

Restrict use of Copper River District inside closure area during statistical weeks 20 and 21, as follows:

(b) In the commercial fishery, during the statistical weeks 20 and 21, the commissioner may not **close** [open] more than **three** [ONE] 12-hour fishing periods within the inside closure area of the Copper River District described in 5 AAC 24.350(1)(B).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The 3 mandatory inside closures have been taken way too far by management. We no longer have an inside district fishery at all until July, even on years of Chinook abundance like 2023 we were shut out of our traditional fishing areas for far too long. This proposal would maintain the 3 inside closures currently in regulation but the change would require the opening of one inside district during a potential fourth fishing period during weeks 20 and 21, but only if there is an opener.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This idea is widely supported by the Cordova fleet.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth B. Jones (HQ-F24-011)

PROPOSAL 55

5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan and

Restrict commercial guide services in the Upper Copper River District when the Copper River District commercial fishery is restricted, as follows:

If the commercial fishery is closed for king conservation measures on the inside waters during the commercial season for more than two consecutive non-mandatory inside closures then the commercial guide services in the Upper Copper River drainage will be limited to at least one conservation measure listed below for a period of no less than one week.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The disconnect between conservation measures upriver and downriver. The commercial fisheries upriver and downriver should be tethered together in a way that promotes stewardship and shared conservation when necessary amongst commercial interest.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. In coordination with others in reviewing historical data.

PROPOSED BY: Shawn Gilman (EF-F24-026)

Commercial (2 proposals)

PROPOSAL 56

5 AAC 24.XXX. New Section.

Allow permit stacking by Prince William Sound commercial salmon drift gillnet permit holders, as follows:

5.AAC.24.3XX Requirements and specifications for use of 200 Fathoms of Drift Gillnet gear in Area E.

- (a) A CFEC permit holder who holds two Area E drift gillnet permits may operate 200 Fathoms of gear.
- (b) Two Area E drift gillnet CFEC permit holders may concurrently fish from the same vessel and jointly operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear under this section.
- (c) When two Area E drift gillnet CFEC permits are fished from the same vessel and jointly operate drift gillnet gear under this section, the vessel must display its ADF&G permanent license plate number followed by the letter "D" to identify the vessel as a dual permit vessel. The letter "D" must be removed or covered when the vessel is operating with only one drift gillnet CFEC permit on board the vessel. The identification number and letters must be displayed (1) in letters and numerals 12 inches high with lines at least one inch wide; (2) in a color that contrasts with the background; (3) on both sides of the hull; and (4) in a manner that is plainly visible at all times when the vessel is being operated.
- (d) When two permit holders jointly operate gear under this section, each permit holder is responsible for ensuring that the entire unit of gear is operated in a lawful manner.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow stacking of Copper River Drift permits like what has been successfully done in Bristol Bay and Cook Inlet.

The Copper River Drift Fleet has evolved into a more efficient fleet with improved hull and machinery and communication. This is not the same fleet that existed when limited entry was executed. The recent downturn of poor salmon runs, and poor prices has led to this fishery being barely financially viable. The average ex-vessel gross in 1990 was \$44,000 and in 2022 was \$29,000 adjusted for 1990 inflation. The ex-vessel gross is less than it was 32 years ago. Fuel prices, nets, and equipment have gone up dramatically in price the past 34 years while the overall gross has gone down.

The national average for a gallon of gas was \$1.05 in 1990 while in 2021 it was \$3.05.

The mean permit prices were \$159,797 in 1990 meanwhile in 2023 the mean permit prices adjusted for 1990 inflation was \$38,604. This is a complete collapse of permit values and the economic viability of this fishery.

This fleet is barely keeping its head above water, permit stacking would allow two things to happen.

1.) Allowing one vessel to operate two permits would be a fleet consolidation and allow this community fishery to be financially viable once again.

This is near a full participation fishery, allowing people to stack permits would reduce the amount of overall net in the water during commercial openers. This would reduce the overall harvesting efficiency of the fleet but would allow the remaining fishery participants more opportunity.

2.) Most importantly when comparing permit stacking to a buyback like was done in southeast seining permit stacking does not increase the difficulty for new entrants into the fishery. Permit stacking instead creates another path to ownership and experience in the fishery for deckhands

who can buy a permit and stack it on the boat they crew on until they can afford to buy their own operation.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This idea has been tossed around by members of the fleet as a potential solution to allowing more financial stability in this fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Darin Gilman (HQ-F24-002)

PROPOSAL 57

5 AAC 24.XXX. New Section.

Allow dual permit operations in the Prince William sound commercial drift gillnet salmon fishery, as follows:

5.AAC.24.3XX Requirements and specifications for use of 200 Fathoms of Drift Gillnet gear in Area E

(a) Two Area E CFEC Drift Gillnet permit holders may concurrently fish from the same vessel and jointly operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear, and a person holding two Area E CFEC Drift Gillnet permits may operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear, under this section. (b) When two Area E CFEC Drift Gillnet permit holders fish from the same vessel and jointly operate additional drift gillnet gear, and when a person holding two Area E CFEC Drift Gillnet permits operates additional drift gillnet gear, the vessel must display its ADF&G premanent license plate number followed by the letter "D" to identify the vessel as a dual permit vessel. The letter "D" must be removed or covered when the vessel is operating with only one Area E CFEC Drift Gillnet permit on board the vessel. The permanent license plate numbers and letters must be displayed in letters aInd numerals 12 inches high and at least one inch wide.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow two Area E Drift Gillnet CFEC permit holders to concurrently fish from the same vessel and jointly operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear, and a person holding two Area E Drift Gillnet CFEC permits may operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear under this new section. Often referred to as Permit Stacking.

This would be a fleet funded buyback program that would eliminate gear from the water, and would reduce boats in a now overcrowded fishery. For every nine boats that would stack permits it would be over a mile of gear out of the water. This would help with the up river escapement of Chinook and Sockeye on the Copper River, and would open up more fishing oppertunity for those participating in the fishery.

This proposal would also help in reducing conflicts between sport and commercial fishers in the Sound. With the increased number of Sport and Charter operators in the Sound, there have been an increased number of gear entanglements, and navigational issues. Less boats would mean less interactions.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have noted and experienced the succes of the Duel permit system in other fisheries in Alaska. I have also discussed this proposal with other members of the Area E Drift fleet.

PROPOSED BY: Fred Marinkovich

(EF-F24-014)

Personal Use (14 proposals)

PROPOSAL 58

5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Copper River King Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

5 AAC 24.361(d) is amended to read:

...

- (d) In the Chitina Subdistrict personal use dipnet salmon fishery,
 - (1) the annual limit for king salmon is one fish;
 - (2) if the commissioner determines that additional conservation measures are necessary to achieve the escapement goals, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Chitina Subdistrict personal use dipnet salmon fishery season and immediately reopen a season during which the retention of king salmon is prohibited; [.]
 - (3) if the commissioner projects that the upper bound of the escapement goal will be exceeded, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Chitina Subdistrict personal use dipnet salmon fishery season and immediately reopen a season during which the king salmon annual limit per household permit is increased.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In December 2021, the board adopted the current drainagewide sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 21,000–31,000 king salmon. Copper River spawning escapement exceeded 31,000 king salmon in 2023. To mitigate exceeding the escapement goal, the only management actions available inriver are limited to liberalizing the sport fisheries, which have limited harvest potential and fishing is concentrated to only three tributaries. Allowing an increase in the king salmon annual household limit for the personal use fishery provides the department a management tool to attempt to stay within the SEG, if needed, across all upper Copper River and upper Chitina River stocks.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F23-167)

PROPOSAL 59

5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Amend the *Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan*, as follows:

5 AAC 77.591(e) is amended to read:

...

- (e) The total annual limit for each personal use salmon fishing permit is **as follows**;
 - (1) 25 salmon for the head of household and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder, except that only one king salmon may be retained per household[.];**
 - (2) if the commissioner projects that the upper bound of the Copper River drainage sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal will be exceeded, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Chitina Subdistrict personal use dip net salmon fishery season and immediately reopen a season during which the annual limit for the head of household is increased by XX sockeye salmon with no increase in the king salmon**

annual limit established in 5 AAC 77.591(e)(1), or an increase in the king salmon annual limit by conditions specified in 5 AAC 24.361(d).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Since 2003, the Copper River sockeye salmon escapement goal has been exceeded 4 years, from 2012-2015. To mitigate exceeding the escapement goal, the only management actions available inriver are limited to liberalizing the sport fisheries, which have limited harvest potential and are concentrated to only two tributaries. Allowing an increase in the sockeye salmon annual household limit for the personal use fishery provides the department a management tool to attempt to stay within the SEG as well as distributing harvest across all upper Copper River and Chitina River stocks. The department will provide options and potential harvest from several scenarios of increased limits for the board to consider.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F23-168)

PROPOSAL 60

5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Modify the annual limit for the Chitina Subdistrict, as follows:

Section 5 AAC 77.591(e) The total annual limit for each personal use salmon fishing permit is **20** [25] salmon for the head of household and **5** [10] salmon for each dependent of the permit holder, except that only one king salmon may be retained per household.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Allocation

The Chitina Subdistrict Personal Use Fishery has between 6,000 and 8,000 participants each year. The past three years have gone over the allocated 100,000 – 150,000 salmon limit with a three-year average of 163,989 (an underestimation, based on preliminary 2023 data). Lowering the bag limit by 5 fish per household member will ensure all Personal Use fishermen a reasonable opportunity to participate while accounting for increased interest in the Copper River fishery, and still remain below the 150,000 fish threshold. Closures around the state have brought and will bring more participants to this fishery. Ensuring the sustainability of Copper River salmon is the responsibility of all user groups including the Personal Use.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Shirley Smelcer (HQ-F24-101)

PROPOSAL 61

5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Modify the annual limit and establish a supplemental permit for the Chitina Subdistrict, as follows:

5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan

(e) The total annual limit for each personal use salmon fishing permit is [25] **15** salmon for the head of household and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder, except that only one king salmon may be retained per household. **Supplemental permits for an additional 10 salmon for head of household will be allotted by EO authority if the in-river goal has a harvestable surplus.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The rationale to change the household limit to 25 salmon was in reflection of “like regulation” between the Upper Cook Inlet and Copper River drainages. However, the Copper River is a completely different watershed, and the historical PU bag limit was 15 for head of household compared to 25 salmon in the upper cook inlet fisheries. Currently the lower copper river subsistence fishery’s bag limit is 15 salmon. The increased bag limit was a reallocation away from the Commercial fishery in (2013). The past few seasons, this increased allocation has hamstrung the lower river biologist’s management due to less than stellar sockeye runs. The productivity of the Copper River differs from the Upper Cook Inlet systems; the bag limits initially reflected what the system could handle on normal run conditions.

The EO authority still allows for an increased bag limit when Copper River sockeye is in an above normal productivity cycle and there is a harvestable surplus.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Developed with other drift gillnetters in the fleet.

PROPOSED BY: Kalistrat Kuzmin (HQ-F24-076)

PROPOSAL 62

5 AAC 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Allow inseason adjustment of the Copper River personal use maximum harvest level, as follows:

5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

(f) The maximum harvest level for the Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishery is 100,000 - 150,000 salmon, not including any salmon in excess of the in-river goal or salmon taken after August 31.

IF THE COPPER RIVER DISTRICT COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHERY IS CLOSED FOR 13 OR MORE CONSECUTIVE DAYS, THE MAXIMUM HARVEST LEVEL IN THE CHITINA SUB DISTRICT IS REDUCED TO 50,000 SALMON

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current condition of the copper river salmon stock on years of low abundance is dire. Ever growing non limited populations of upriver users are pulling out salmon at their most fragile and critical adult stage, during their late stages of migration and pre spawning. These pre spawning salmon must be protected on years of low abundance and all user groups need to share equitably in these conservation measures. In December 2017 the board of fish adopted proposal 18 which repealed and replaced regulatory language and has put the copper river salmon runs at risk ever since. The action taken by the board

of fisheries to repeal what was known as the “shared burden” regulation resulted in the copper river nearly missing escapement during the 2018, and 2021 seasons, all despite unprecedented commercial closures. In 2020 despite achieving lower bound sonar goals the stock for the first time actually missed the in river escapement levels. During that year unprecedented commercial fishery closures also occurred, the lions share of the harvest in those low abundance seasons took place upriver, putting the runs at risk. Had this regulation been in place and enforced, the salmon runs would not have missed their escapement goals. It is essential that the burden of conservation is shared among all users not just placed solely on the historical commercial user which has been the case since 2017.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, other fisherman are overwhelmingly in support of this.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth B. Jones (HQ-F24-009)

PROPOSAL 63

5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Amend the opening date of the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 77.591 (b) Salmon may be taken from June 21 [7] or 2 weeks after a daily management of fish passage is met at Miles Lake sonar through September 30. The commissioner shall establish a preseason schedule, including fishing times, for the period June 21 [7] through August 31 based on daily projected sonar counts at the sonar counter located near Miles Lake. This abundance-based preseason schedule will distribute the harvest throughout the season. The commissioner must [MAY] close, by an emergency order effective June 21 [7], the Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishing season and shall reopen the season, by emergency order, on or before June 21 [15] depending on the run strength and timing of the sockeye salmon run. Adjustments shall be made to the preseason schedule based on actual sonar counts compared to projected counts. If the actual sonar count at Miles Lake is more than the projected sonar count, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the season and immediately reopen it during which additional fishing times will be allowed. If the actual sonar count at Miles Lake is less than the projected sonar count, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the season and immediately reopen it during which fishing times will be reduced by a corresponding amount of time.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Protecting genetic diversity of salmon in the Copper River Watershed.

Currently, the Personal Use (PU) fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict (CSD) may begin as early as June 7. Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) of Tribal citizens and accounts from local residents indicate the run timing of Copper River salmon has been delayed by two to three weeks in recent years, most likely due to changing environmental conditions i.e. late ice-out. Data from the Miles Lake Sonar and harvest analysis quantify and validate these accounts. The first fish to enter the river are typically Chinook and sockeye stocks that travel furthest upriver. With the PU fishery catching approximately 9.6% of the total sockeye and 4.4% of the Chinook run (most recent 5-year average), which is equivalent to approximately 164,000 total salmon reported (3-year

average), the fishery disproportionately impacts Chinook and upriver sockeye stocks in the beginning of the season. Chinook have failed to meet escapement goals four of the past 10 years, even despite lowering the escapement goal from 24,000 to a range of 21,000-31,000 in 2021. Protecting Chinook and the genetic diversity of Copper River sockeye is a proactive step to ensure robust populations.

While PU participants are only allowed one Chinook per household, there are approximately 6,000 permits issued annually. In addition to high participation, there is also undocumented en route mortality as a result of fish handling during catch and release while dipnetting.

Based on radio telemetry studies, it is understood that salmon migrating past the Miles Lake Sonar take between 7 and 14 days (based on environmental factors i.e. streamflow) to reach the CSD where the PU fisheries occurs. By delaying the fishery by two weeks, or until 2 weeks after a daily management objective for fish passage is met at the Miles Lake Sonar (which is met on average between June 1 and 4), we will protect the diversity of Copper River salmon by not disproportionately impacting early returning genetic stocks.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Ahtna Intertribal Fish and Wildlife Committee and Ahtna Tene Nene' jointly recommended this change to address Tribal concerns of the sustainability of Chinook and upper Copper River sockeye stocks. This change in management will help prevent future restrictions and closures.

PROPOSED BY: AITRC Fish and Wildlife Committee (HQ-F24-104)

PROPOSAL 64

5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Prohibit a household from possessing permits for multiple personal use salmon fisheries in the same year, as follows:

5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan

(a) Salmon may be taken in the Chitina Subdistrict only under the authority of a Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishing permit. Only one Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishing permit may be issued to a household per calendar year. A household may not be issued both a Copper River subsistence salmon fishing permit and a Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishing permit. **A household may not be issued a Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishing permit if the household has been issued an Upper Cook Inlet personal use salmon fishing permit in the same calendar year.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Personal Use bag limits reflect a user's household needs. However, the number of people participating in both Cook Inlet and Copper River PU fisheries is increasing. Four out of five PU Dip Net fisheries are operated under one permit and one bag limit in the Upper Cook Inlet PU Dip Net fisheries. We want to see a loophole closed to those taking advantage of multiple bag limits, by limiting a user to either a Chitina Sub district PU salmon fishing permit OR an Upper Cook Inlet PU salmon fishing permit in the same calendar year.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-112)

PROPOSAL 65

5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Require a weekly permit and inseason reporting in the Chitina Subdistrict, as follows:

5 AAC 77.591 **(x)**

A participant must purchase a one-week Personal Use dipnet permit from Alaska Department of Fish & Game. Reporting is required within one week of the expiration of the permit. If harvest bag limit is not reached, additional permits may be obtained upon satisfying reporting requirements.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In-season reporting for more accurate harvest assessment and for in-season decision making The Personal Use Fishery in the past three years has exceeded the allocated 100,000 – 150,000 limit with a three-year average of 163,989 (an underestimation, based on preliminary 2023 data). In-season reporting will help inform managers with responsible decision making

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Tene Nene' (HQ-F24-110)

PROPOSAL 66

5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Manage the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery to achieve the Gulkana Hatchery broodstock goal, as follows:

5 AAC 77.591 Add subsection (i) as written

(i) The department, in consultation with the hatchery operator, shall manage the Chitina Subdistrict Personal Use salmon fishing through restricting time and area by emergency order to achieve the Gulkana Brood Stock escapement goal.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Prince William Sound Aquaculture has failed to achieve its broodstock goal for the Gulkana hatchery for the 8 most recent years, despite ample escapement passing the lower Copper River sonar. Many of the fish necessary to achieve broodstock are caught in the personal use fishery. We ask the board to require the department to manage to achieve this goal with input from PWSAC and grant them the necessary tools to do so. Full utilization of the Gulkana Hatchery will benefit all users over the long term.

There is precedent set in other Prince William Sound fisheries in which hatchery operators and ADFG managers consult each other to restrict fishing time for broodstock escapements goals. One Example is in 5 AAC. 24.365 part (a).

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-113)

PROPOSAL 67

5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Prohibit removing king salmon from the water if it is to be released in the Chitina Subdistrict, as follows:

Add 5 AAC 77.591 (c) (1)

(c) Salmon may be taken only with dip nets.

(1) King salmon intended or required to be released may not be removed from the water.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Removing king salmon from the water, that are intended to be released, is not allowed in sport fisheries. This is because it severely impedes the ability for king salmon to complete their life cycle. Removing king salmon should not be allowed in personal use fisheries.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-114)

PROPOSAL 68

5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Prohibit dipnetting from a boat in the Chitina Subdistrict, as follows:

5 AAC 77.591 (c) Salmon may be taken only with dip nets **while not in a boat.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce undue stress on Copper River king and sockeye salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict

Being able to target holding areas during times of high water that are not accessible from shore enhances the ability to catch king salmon. Based on ADF&G data, average king harvest per permit from 2019 to 2023 is 0.4 from boat and 0.3 from shore. About 6,000 Personal Use permits are issued each year. Only one king salmon can be retained annually per household. Fishing from a boat increases the number of kings caught and released. En route mortality of king salmon due to catch and release stress is not documented and could be contributing to decreased escapements. Copper River king salmon have failed to meet escapement goals 4 of the last 10 years.

High stream flows have become more frequent in recent years, slowing the migration time by forcing fish to find refuge in eddies and pools until conditions are favorable for continued migration. Prior to use of boats for dipnetting, the salmon could seek this refuge in inaccessible areas to fishermen during times of high water. Now these areas are targeted.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Faye Ewan (HQ-F24-107)

PROPOSAL 69

5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Establish restrictions when dipnetting from a boat in the Chitina Subdistrict, as follows:

(C) Salmon may be taken only with dip nets. Salmon taken with a dipnet from a powerboat will be subject to more time and area restrictions to allow fish passage to return to a pattern that more closely resembles past practices in the fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The change in the nature, efficiency and scope of area not previously accessed by the Personal Use fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict. The use of power boats and especially the increase in charter power boats has allowed the take of fish holding on the bottom of the river during high water events and throughout the season in areas the were never before fished or exploited. This change in harvest method and area combined with increased commercialization is a drastic change that the Department has not fully recognized.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Coordinated with others watching the river activities.

PROPOSED BY: Shawn Gilman (EF-F24-028)

PROPOSAL 70

5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Extend the lower boundary of the Chitina Subdistrict, as follows:

The Chitina Dipnetters Assn. is requesting the BOF extend the lower boundary of the Chitina Personal Use Dipnet Fishery with new language in 5AAC 77.591(h) as defined below.

For the purpose of this section, the Chitina Subdistrict consists of all waters of the mainstream Copper River from the downstream edge of the Chitina-McCarthy Bridge downstream **to a line crossing the Copper River from a point just upstream of Canyon Creek on the east (lat. 61 deg 24'36.00"N – lon. 144 deg. 28'25.34"W) angling across the Copper River to the existing lower limit sign at Haley Creek** [to an east west line crossing the Copper River approximately 200 yds. Upstream of Haley Creek]

This extension would, at its longest point, increase the drift area by approximately .4 of a mile or 694 yds. and give boat dipnetters a longer continuous drift, allowing more spacing between boats and alleviate the dangerous congestion of boats that occurs now. The revised language would still give law enforcement a straight line sight of the entire boundary line as viewed from Haley Creek. This small increase in size of the Chitina Sub-district is unlikely to result in increased harvests, since the fishery is managed by emergency order to stay within the allocation contained in the management plan and because Personal Use dipnetters are held to an annual bag limit and once met they are done for the year.

A map identifying the existing and proposed lower boundaries will be submitted to the BOF prior to the December 2024 Copper River/Prince William Sound meeting.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the last 12 years, drift dipnetting from both personal and guided boats has substantially increased as a method of harvesting salmon in the Chitina Personal Use Dipnet Fishery (CPUDF). This is in large part due to the very limited number of suitable sites available for shore based dipnetting. Because much of the CPUDF lies within the deep turbulent waters of Woods Canyon on the Copper River, productive areas to dip from boats are very limited. A favorable and high use area for drift dipnetting from boats lies at the downstream end of Woods Canyon, on the east side of the Copper River, just upstream of the lower boundary of the CPUDF. This short drift area is only approximately 250 yards long, has a gravel bottom and stays relatively snag free saving the loss of \$150+ dipnets. This short drift area has become the go-to spot for boat dipnetters and often becomes very congested with up to and over 15 boats drifting the same area. This congestion of boats in this short drift area has created a very dangerous navigation hazard for these boaters within the swift waters of the Copper River and boat accidents are inevitable.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The Chitina Dipnetters Assn. and the Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee.

PROPOSED BY: The Chitina Dipnetters Assn. (HQ-F24-030)

PROPOSAL 71

5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Prohibit guiding in the Chitina Subdistrict, as follows:

5 AAC 01.620(x) Fishing guide services are prohibited in the Copper River Chitina Subdistrict Personal Use Fishery.

(x) "fishing guide services" means assistance, for compensation or with the intent to receive compensation, to a Personal Use Fishery participant to take or to attempt to take fish from a vessel by accompanying or physically directing the Personal Use Fishery participant in fishing activities during any part of a fishing trip

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Guided fishing from a boat is already not allowed in the Glennallen Subdistrict. We would like to expand this to apply to the Chitina Subdistrict Personal Use Fishery as well.

The Personal Use Fishery in the past three years has exceeded the allocated 100,000 – 150,000 limit with a three-year average of 163,989 (an underestimation, based on preliminary 2023 data).

Guided fishing from a boat provides expertise and allows targeting of holding areas especially during times of high water that are not accessible from shore and enhances ability to catch king salmon and sockeye salmon. Based on ADF&G data, average king harvest per permit from 2019 to 2023 is 0.4 from boat and 0.3 from shore. About 6,000 to 8,000 Personal Use permits are issued each year, many of which use guide services. Only one king salmon can be retained annually per household. Fishing from a boat increases the number of kings caught and released. En route mortality of king salmon due to catch and release stress is not documented and could be contributing to decreased escapements. Copper River king salmon have failed to meet escapement goals 4 of the last 10 years.

High water levels have become more frequent in recent years, slowing the migration time by forcing fish to seek refuge in eddies and pools until conditions are favorable for continued migration. Prior to use of boats for dip netting and guided fishing trips, the salmon could seek this refuge in inaccessible areas to fishermen during times of high water. Now these areas are targeted by guides.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Tene Nene’ (HQ-F24-112)

Sport (1 proposal)

PROPOSAL 72

5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

Close sport fishing for salmon based on water temperature in the Gulkana River, as follows:

5AAC 52.023 (9)(x) Close Gulkana River to fishing for Chinook and sockeye salmon by emergency order when water temperature at the Sourdough station exceeds 18 degrees Celsius (C) at any time during a 24-hour period for 3 consecutive days or exceeds 20 degrees C. Fishing may resume when stream temperature recedes and does not reach 18 degrees C at any time for 2 consecutive days.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Protect Gulkana River salmon from excessive effects of heat stress.

It is generally understood that heat stress causes increased en route, pre-spawn mortality of salmon when stream temperatures rise above 18 degrees Celsius (C) (von Biela et al. 2020). The following is largely based on studies conducted in the neighboring Yukon River drainage, a thermal, geomorphic regime that closely resembles the precipitation driven Gulkana River system. Not only does heat stress largely affect Chinook, female Chinook are susceptible to pre-spawn mortality at a rate approximately twice that of male Chinook (Hinch et al. 2021).

In Alaska, weir operations have already restricted handling of fish when critical water temperature thresholds are met. For example, at the Andreafsky Weir (a tributary to the Yukon River), sampling activity is suspended when daily mean water temperature readings are greater than or equal to 17 degrees Celsius for three consecutive days, or if high water temperature readings exceed 20 degrees Celsius (Shink, 2020).

The Gulkana River is a non-glacial, clearwater, precipitation driven river with pools, riffles, and runs. When stream temperatures rise, en route fish seek refuge and congregate in deep pools where they are targeted by fisherman. Once ready to spawn, fish seek suitable conditions typically in shallow water tail outs of pools to build redds. At this point they are subject to jet boats and rafts routinely interrupting the process and amplifying the effects of stress. When salmon become stressed they may die before successfully spawning.

In recent years the Gulkana River has seen increased fishing pressure. With closures around the state, this river will most likely witness increased fishing in future years. With Copper River Chinook failing to reach escapement goals in four out of the past 10 years, and a large population contribution from the Gulkana stock (19-27% based on telemetry studies) (Schwanke & Piche, 2023), it is imperative we be proactive to protect populations during times of environmental stress.

The USGS already has a 10-year index of real-time stream temperature with precision to 0.1 degree Celsius at the Gulkana River Sourdough station. Implementation of this proposal will not require additional resources. Link to USGS Gulkana River Station: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/15200280/#parameterCode=00010&period=P365D&showMedian=false>

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission, Fisheries Dept. (HQ-F24-105)

Commercial Fishing Permits, Allocation Plan and Hatchery Operations (9 proposals)

Commercial Fishing Permits (2 proposals)

PROPOSAL 73

5 AAC 24.333. Requirements and specifications for for use of 250 fathoms of purse seine gear in Area E.

Allow permit stacking by Prince William Sound commercial salmon purse seine permit holders, as follows:

5 AAC 24.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 250 fathoms of purse seine gear in Area E. (a) Two Area E purse seine CFEC permit holders may concurrently fish from the same vessel and jointly operate up to 250 fathoms in the aggregate of seine and lead, **and a person holding two Area E purse seine CFEC permits may operate up to 250 fathoms of seine and lead**, under this section, except that, in times of conservation, purse seine gear may be restricted by emergency order to an aggregate length of 225 fathoms of seine and lead. (b) When two Area E purse seine CFEC permit holders (**or one permit holder with two Area E purse seine CFEC permits**) fish

from the same vessel and jointly operate purse seine gear under this section, the vessel must display its ADF&G permanent license plate number followed by the letter "D" to identify the vessel as a dual permit vessel. The letter "D" must be removed or covered when the vessel is operating with only one purse seine CFEC permit holder on board the vessel. The identification number and letters must be displayed (1) in letters and numerals 12 inches high with lines at least one inch wide;(2) in a color that contrasts with the background; (3) on both sides of the hull; and (4) in a manner that is plainly visible at all times when the vessel is being operated. (c) When two permit holders jointly operate gear under this section, each permit holder is responsible for ensuring that the entire unit of gear is operated in a lawful manner.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the last board cycle, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted a regulation change to allow two permit holders to operate 250 fathoms of aggregate seine length on one vessel. I propose allowing a single permit holder, holding two S01E Seine permits to operate the same 250 fathoms of aggregate length similar to what was recently passed by the BOF for Cook Inlet drift gillnet fisheries. Current CFEC regulations already allow an individual to hold two S01E permits, but current regulations preclude that same permit holder from operating both.

I believe this proposal will help address the issue of congestion that the last "stacking" proposal attempted to address. While it helped, I believe there is plenty of room for continued improvement in alleviating congestion in the PWS seine fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This has been widely discussed amongst other members of the PWS purse seine fishery.

PROPOSED BY: James Burton (EF-F24-096)

PROPOSAL 74

5 AAC 24.333. Requirements and Specifications for Use of 250 Fathoms of Purse Seine Gear in Area E.

Allow permit stacking in the Prince William Sound commercial salmon purse seine fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 24.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 250 fathoms of purse seine gear in Area E

(a) Two Area E purse seine CFEC permit holders may concurrently fish from the same vessel and jointly operate up to 250 fathoms in the aggregate of seine and lead under this section, except that, in times of conservation, purse seine gear may be restricted by emergency order to an aggregate length of 225 fathoms of seine and lead. **And one person holding Two Area E purse seine CFEC Permits may operate up to 250 fathoms in the aggregate of seine and lead under this section, except that, in times of conservation, purse seine gear may be restricted by emergency order to an aggregate length of 225 fathoms of seine and lead.**

(b) When two Area E purse seine CFEC permit holders fish from the same vessel and jointly operate purse seine gear under this section, the vessel must display its ADF&G permanent license plate number followed by the letter "D" to identify the vessel as a dual permit vessel. The letter

"D" must be removed or covered when the vessel is operating with only one purse seine CFEC permit holder on board the vessel. The identification number and letters must be displayed

- (1) in letters and numerals 12 inches high with lines at least one inch wide;
- (2) in a color that contrasts with the background;
- (3) on both sides of the hull; and
- (4) in a manner that is plainly visible at all times when the vessel is being operated.

(c) When two permit holders jointly operate gear under this section, each permit holder is responsible for ensuring that the entire unit of gear is operated in a lawful manner.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulation allows one individual to own up to two permits, but precludes one individual from fishing those two permits and taking advantage of the stacking proposal passed last cycle. The stacking has done exactly what we designed it to do, it has helped with fleet congestion, however having one individual holding and fishing two permits could help to further lessen congestion and alleviate permit holder issues currently experienced under the existing regulation.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Developed with a group of other individual seine fisherman.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth B. Jones (HQ-F24-013)

Allocation Plan and Hatchery Operations (7 proposals)

PROPOSAL 75

5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan.

Amend the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan, as follows:

[Remove] and **add** the language in 5 AAC 24.370. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND MANAGEMENT AND SALMON ENHANCEMENT ALLOCATION PLAN. Under

(h) If the drift gillnet or purse seine gear group harvest value of enhanced salmon is **50 [45]** percent or less of the **[previous five-year]** average exvessel value comparison of the common property enhanced salmon stocks harvested **since inception starting in 2006**, as calculated by the department under (c) of this section, then in the year following this calculation the fishery shall be managed as follows:

(1) if the drift gillnet gear group harvest value is **50 [45]** percent or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the drift gillnet gear group shall have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 through July 30, during fishing periods established by emergency order; and

(2) if the purse seine gear group harvest value is **50 [45]** percent or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the purse seine gear group shall have exclusive access to the **[Esther Subdistrict] Port Chalmers Subdistrict** to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 through July 20, during fishing periods established by emergency order.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? (h) If the drift gillnet or purse seine gear group harvest value of enhanced salmon is 45 percent or less of the previous five-year average exvessel value comparison of the common property enhanced salmon stocks harvested, as calculated by the department under (c) of this section, then in the year following this calculation the fishery shall be managed as follows:

(1) if the drift gillnet gear group harvest value is 45 percent or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the drift gillnet gear group shall have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 through July 30, during fishing periods established by emergency order; and

(2) if the purse seine gear group harvest value is 45 percent or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the purse seine gear group shall have exclusive access to the Esther Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 through July 20, during fishing periods established by emergency order. The current plan incorporates a five-year rolling average when determining allocation values which determine which user group is allowed to fish in the allocation shared districts.

The current enhanced salmon allocation plan includes a five-year rolling average for determining PWSAC enhanced salmon value percentages for which user group is allowed access to the shared enhanced salmon districts of the Port Chalmers Subdistrict and the Esther Subdistrict. The Port Chalmers Subdistrict is a remote release chum fishery, and the Esther Subdistrict is the PWSAC hatchery that produces all the enhanced chum salmon in PWS.

The use of a five-year rolling average has resulted in denying the drift gillnet fleet their allotted 50% share of the PWSAC enhanced salmon value. Since the current enhanced salmon allocation plan was adopted in 2006 through 2022 the drift has been denied 65.4 million in PWSAC only value (COAR Report). That comes to an average of 3.85 million a year in lost revenue for the drift fleet. With the 65.4 million PWSAC enhanced salmon lost revenue and the 241.5 million VFDA enhanced salmon allocated to the seine fleet, the current plan has allocated 306.9 million dollars in enhanced salmon to the seine fleet over the drift fleet. This proposal requests that the five-year rolling average be replaced by an average since inception of the plan beginning in 2006. And reduce the plan to one shared fishing district by removing the Esther Subdistrict from the plan.

If the seine fleet were to gain access the Esther Subdistrict chum fishery while harvesting millions of VFDA enhanced pink salmon whose value is not included in the plan would be devastating for the drift and set net fisherman. VFDA is the largest and most successful pink hatchery in Alaska. The seine fleet would be allocated all the enhanced chums at the AFK Hatchery remote release, the Port Chalmers remote release and the Esther Hatchery chums returning to the Esther Subdistrict, along with all the enhanced pinks at Solomon Gulch Hatchery, AFK Hatchery, Cannery Creek Hatchery and shared access to the enhanced pinks at the Esther Hatchery. The drift fleet would have shared access to the Main Bay Hatchery and the Esther Hatchery enhanced pinks. The drift fleet does catch a small portion of enhanced red salmon on the Copper River returning to the Gulkana Hatchery which has been a bust for the last several years. And it's been discussed on shutting it down at PWSAC due to low returns. Basically, the seine fleet would have complete access to two remote release chum fisheries and one chum hatchery, three pink hatcheries and

shared access to another pink hatchery while the drift fleet would have shared access to one red salmon and one pink hatchery.

The first enhanced salmon allocation plan adopted by the BOF in 1990 was not fair to the seine fleet or the drift fleet. It included all wild and enhanced salmon and the promise that there would be no re-allocation and any shortfalls would be made in new production. It was bound to fail, and it did. PWSAC could never keep up with new production, with falling prices and other damage caused by the oil spill the seine fleet kept falling short. The drift fleet was opposed to it mainly because of the Exxon Valdez oil spill that had occurred the year before because the seine fishery was damaged a lot more than the drift fishery, but the main reason was why would anyone include wild stocks in an enhanced salmon allocation plan? All that did was make the plan that much harder to fulfill its goals. I served on the BOF subcommittee that worked on the current plan. The product that came out of the subcommittee was to **include all enhanced salmon** and remove wild stocks from the plan. VFDA enhanced salmon was removed from the plan at 10:00pm the night before vote the next morning. Yet again a fair enhanced salmon allocation plan slipped away from the drift fleet.

The drift fishery has been in deep decline the last four years. All you must do is look at the CEFC data. It looks like seine fishery did before 2006 when the current plan was adopted.

The drift fleet does not want more than what they were promised from the beginning of the enhanced salmon program in Area E. They want a fair allocation plan that protects the fishery and delivers on what it claims to do. After 19 years it's time to acknowledge the developments in the fisheries that have occurred since this plan went into effect in 2006.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Bowen (EF-F24-090)

PROPOSAL 76
5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan.

Amend the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan to increase access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict by drift gillnet permit holders, as follows:

- (h) If the drift gillnet or purse seine gear group harvest value of enhanced salmon is **50** [45] percent or less of the previous five-year average exvessel value comparison of the common property enhanced salmon stocks harvested, as calculated by the department under (c) of this section, then in the year following this calculation the fishery shall be managed as follows:
 - (1) if the drift gillnet gear group harvest value is **50** [45] percent or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the drift gillnet gear group shall have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 through July 30, during fishing periods established by emergency order; and
 - (2) if the purse seine gear group harvest value is **50** [45] percent or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the purse seine gear group shall have exclusive access to the **Port Chalmers Subdistrict** [ESTHER SUBDISTRICT] to harvest enhanced salmon

returns [FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH JULY 20, DURING FISHING PERIODS ESTABLISHED BY EMERGENCY ORDER]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Prince William Sound Enhancement Allocation plan is flawed. Currently it has a 5-year rolling average that is supposed to balance the percentages between the commercial fleets. This plan is ineffective in ensuring a 50/50 split between the Seine and Drift fleet. Since the inception of the plan in 2005 just on Prince William Sound Aquaculture (PWSAC) fish the drift fleet is behind the seine fleet by \$68,000,000. This data was derived from ADFG via the COAR report values of PWSAC enhanced salmon.

The plan has been in effect nearly 20 years without any updating or review to see it is working as intended. The drift fleet being behind \$68,000,000 shows that is currently flawed. My proposal would substitute the language in part (h) of the regulation known as the “allocation trigger” to allow the drift fleet additional access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict. Currently the drift fleet only has access to this district if we fall below 45 percent on the 5-year rolling average. Allowing the drift fleet access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict when they fall below 50 percent would alleviate some of this disparity.

Additionally, this substitute language would eliminate the possibility of the seine fleet having access to the Esther Subdistrict for Prince William Sound Aquaculture chums. The possibility that the seine fleet has access to harvest Esther chums via this enhancement plan is not conforming to the intent of parity, especially when the drift fleet is behind by such an exorbitant amount.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have worked with a few other drift gillnetters in drafting this regulation change.

PROPOSED BY: Darin Gilman (HQ-F24-017)

PROPOSAL 77

5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan.

Include salmon produced by Valdez Fishery Development Association in the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan, as follows:

Remove the language in 5 AAC 24.370. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND MANAGEMENT AND SALMON ENHANCEMENT ALLOCATION PLAN. Under

[(J) IN THIS SECTION, “ENHANCED SALMON STOCKS” MEANS SALMON PRODUCED BY THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AQUACULTURE CORPORATION”]

Or add the language to 5 AAC 24.370. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND MANAGEMENT AND SALMON ENHANCEMENT ALLOCATION PLAN. Under

5 AAC 24.370. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AQUACULTURE CORPORATION MANAGEMENT AND SALMON ENHANCEMENT ALLOCATION PLAN.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This regional plan does not include the value of all enhanced salmon produced in the Copper River/Prince William Sound region (Area E). The value of enhanced salmon production from the private non-profit corporation Valdez Fisheries Development Association's (VFDA) Solomon Gulch Hatchery is not included in the regional allocation management plan. The construction of the Solomon Gulch Hatchery was financed by funds from the State of Alaska, and it continues to use state financing. The original Solomon Gulch hatchery operational permit included chum production intended to benefit the drift gillnet fleet which was never accomplished.

5 AAC 33.364. Southeastern Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan includes the value of all enhanced salmon produced in the Southeastern Alaska region (Area A) that includes two regional hatchery associations and all independent private non-profit hatchery operators involving 17 hatchery facilities.

5 AAC 24.370. and 5 AAC 33.364. stated goals are to provide a fair and reasonable allocation of the harvest of enhanced salmon among the commercial fisheries.

State of Alaska regional enhanced salmon allocation plans should be based on the same criteria for all regions of the state. Which would include all enhanced salmon produced and all the user groups in the region as the starting point.

If 5 AAC 24.370. is the regional (Area E) enhanced salmon allocation plan then the plan should address and include all enhanced salmon produced in the region. If the BOF determines that a commercial user group deserves or is entitled to more enhanced salmon than the recognized historic average, then the percentage triggers can be adjusted to reflect that.

There cannot be a fair and reasonable enhanced salmon allocation plan when a large percentage of the enhanced salmon resource produced in Area E is not included in the regional plan. There is no difference between a hatchery built by the State of Alaska, PWSAC, VFDA and the 17 hatchery facilities located in SE Alaska. They all used public funds for their construction and startup operations and their purpose is to enhance regional fisheries for the benefit of all users. Both PWSAC and VFDA continue to use public funds for improvements and increase production. But VFDA use of public funds and increases in production only benefits one commercial user group.

If all the enhanced salmon value produced in the Prince William Sound region is not recognized and included in the Prince William Sound Enhanced Salmon Allocation Plan, then the enhanced salmon value will not be complete, accurate and accounted for. Since 2006 when the current allocation plan was adopted to 2021, VFDA has produced 233 million pink and 550 thousand coho salmon with a value of over 245 million dollars.

The current management plan has been in effect for 19 years. A review of the plan with stakeholder involvement to see if the plan can be updated and improved to meet its purpose and goals which states **“is to provide a fair and reasonable allocation of the harvest of enhanced salmon among the drift gillnet, seine, and set gillnet commercial fisheries, and to reduce conflicts between these user groups. It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries (board) to allocate enhanced salmon stocks in the Prince William Sound Area to maintain the long-term historic balance**

between competing commercial users that has existed since statehood, while acknowledging developments in the fisheries that have occurred since this plan went into effect in 1991”.

After 19 years it’s time to acknowledge the developments in the fisheries that have occurred since this plan went into effect in 2006.

This proposal does not propose to reallocate VFDA produced enhanced salmon to other commercial salmon user groups, but to only include the value of all enhanced salmon in the regional plan so that the plan is complete, inclusive and everyone will know the total value of all PWS enhanced salmon. And possibly all PWS commercial common property salmon fisheries can receive a benefit from the value of VFDA enhanced salmon production.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Bowen (EF-F24-078)

PROPOSAL 78
5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan.

Reduce Prince William Sound hatchery permitted pink salmon egg take level by 25%, as follows:

The solution is very simple. Reduce the permitted egg intake of each Prince William Sound Hatchery that produces pink and chum salmon by 25%. Then do an evaluation within five years.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce pink and chum hatchery egg takes in the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) and Valdez Fisheries Development Association (VFDA) by 25% of current permitting levels.

There is significant evidence that there is an ocean carrying capacity that is exacerbated by the proliferation of Alaskan and Asian hatchery releases into the North Pacific. This is particularly important to Chinook salmon as stocks have declined dramatically all over Alaska. Chinook decline is so critical that the Yukon River may lose discrete stocks. An emergency Agreement between Canada and Alaska was signed April 1, 2024, to impose a drastic Chinook harvest moratorium of at least seven years. Sadly, the situation with Chinook on the Yukon River is now becoming a statewide problem; the Nushagak, the Kenai and many other Alaskan rivers have conservation plans in action because of the declines. Emergency Orders to close Chinook sports fishing entirely in many of Alaska’s most iconic river systems have already been implemented. While hatcheries are not the only factor in salmon decline, they are among the top five, including climate change, bycatch, intercept, disease, hatcheries.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries has limited authority to provide injunctive relief on this issue but to the extent that they can reduce hatchery egg take permitting levels, this is the only venue open to public proposals.

For several years, different groups have been submitting proposals for hatchery egg take reduction. All those proposals have been refused on the basis of lack of conclusive evidence that there is a correlative relationship to detrimental impacts of hatchery production in wild stocks through competition for forage food and straying.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, which directs information to the Board of Fish, has been consistently reluctant to consider peer-reviewed research outside of the Department and to even evaluate their own internal research that indicates hatchery production can have an effect on the health of wild salmon stocks. The “iterative” process that the Department assures the public is watchdogging hatcheries is an inter-dependent process with hatcheries and therefore is not seen as sufficiently separated from hatchery production to apply significant oversight.

This is an extraordinarily frustrating situation to many who depend on wild salmon stocks and are outside of the hatchery management systems.

CONCLUSIONS: The goal of Alaska’s PNP hatchery system is economic, not conservation. In a 2011 international report *Shifting the Balance: Towards Sustainable Salmon Populations and Fisheries of the Future*, renown Canadian scientists Dr. Richard Beamish and Dr. Donald Noakes noted: “While Alaska’s large ocean-ranching program may have contributed to the observed increase in catch, there remain many unanswered questions about potential negative impacts on wild fish and deleterious effects on other Alaskan salmon fisheries (Hilborn and Eggers 2000; Clark et al. 2006; Knapp et al. 2007). As with most if not all large-scale hatchery programs, there is a lack of information to critically evaluate the program either with respect to its stated production objectives or other criteria (i.e., ecosystem interactions, etc.), and more research is clearly needed in that respect.”

In addition to on-going research on hatchery impacts, we also need an independent venue to review all the latest peer-reviewed science and to have an on-going dialogue on application of what we can have consensus on. The Board of Fish Hatchery Committee would be a good start as long as it is not an orchestrated situation.

Prior to the next Prince William Sound Board of Fish meeting, I will be working with many others to gather many supporting documents.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Reduction of hatchery egg take (and thus releases) has long been the goal of the Fairbanks Advisory Committee as it has researched the negative impacts of hatcheries for years. This includes conversations with some of the top salmon scientists in Alaska, Canada and the Pacific Northwest, as well as conversations with stakeholders in AYK river systems.

PROPOSED BY: Virgil Umphenour (HQ-F24-130)

PROPOSAL 79

5 AAC 24.367 Main Bay Salmon Hatchery Harvest Management Plan.; 5 AAC 55.023 Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.; and 5 AAC 01.610. Fishing Seasons.

Close Main Bay to all fishing during hatchery cost recovery operations, as follows:

5 AAC 24.367 Main Bay Salmon Hatchery Harvest Management Plan (NEW SUBSECTION (H))
No Common Property salmon fishing shall occur in the Main Bay Alternating Gear Zone (AGZ),

Special Harvest Area (SHA), or Terminal Harvest Area (THA) from the time Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation commences cost recovery operations until they cease efforts in the Main Bay Hatchery for the year.

If this language were to be adopted, it would alleviate the issue PWSAC has with completing its cost recovery goal in a timely and efficient manner.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is a rampant increase of boating traffic into Main Bay in the months of June and July interfering with cost recovery efforts. This is just the start of an immense issue at hand where Prince William Sound Aquaculture (PWSAC) is not able to meet their cost recovery goals effectively or efficiently, due to multiple vessels being in the way of the seiner trying to harvest these sockeye salmon. This is leading to a long delay in meeting cost recovery goals for PWSAC and directly affects quality with time degradation for much of the sockeye salmon due to the delay in harvesting these sockeye salmon. It is prudent for PWSAC to operate in an efficient and expedient manner while achieving their cost recovery goals. This will allow more opportunity to all user groups for the foreseeable future. We further request that the State make the necessary corresponding subsistence, personal use, and sport fishery regulatory changes to be consistent with the requested change to commercial fishery regulations.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by a committee of members of the CDFU Board of Directors, Prince William Sound Setnet Association, and the Native Village of Eyak Department of the Environment and Natural Resources staff where it was recommended by the Native Village of Eyak Resource Advisory Council and unanimously approved by Tribal Council

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Eyak (HQ-F24-098)

PROPOSAL 80

5 AAC 55.023 Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Prince William Sound Area.

Manage the Main Bay sport fishery based on the hatchery corporate escapement goal, as follows:

Alaska Administrative Code Number: 5 AAC 55.023

(10) in Main Bay, sport fishing is prohibited [FROM A VESSEL THAT IS]

(A) within **250** [60] feet of the Main Bay Hatchery barrier seine; and

(B) inside the Main Bay Hatchery barrier seine and shoreward to the head of the bay.

(C) (i) The department, in consultation with the hatchery operator, shall manage the Main Bay sport fishery salmon fishing through restricting time and area by emergency order to achieve corporate escapement goals.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Changing the sport fishing distance inside the Main Bay would mimic regulation 5 AAC 55.023 in part (3) for waters of Lake Bay's distance from Ester Hatchery to halt all interference with hatchery operations.

Removing the "From the Vessel" portion would also alleviate sport fishing from shore inside the AGZ and brood pen, which Hatchery Managers have voiced to PWSAC as a problem.

Overall this would eliminate a great deal of costly damage to the barrier seine from lost tackle and boats/motors, as well as alleviate the conflicts between user groups, hatchery staff, and cost recovery vessels during broodstock collection and cost recovery operations.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. We developed this proposal in collaboration with CDFU members and Prince William Sound Setnetters Association, and used PWSAC as a resource.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-111)

PROPOSAL 81

5 AAC 55.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

Modify the area open to sport fishing near the Main Bay Hatchery, as follows:

PWSAC recommends making Main Bay language consistent with Wally Noerenberg Hatchery but keep the distance closer for MBH and at the distance it has been as well as providing a visible cork line at the distance required. 5 AAC 55.023(3) the waters of Lake Bay of Esther Island inside ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 100 feet seaward of the Esther Hatchery broodstock holding pen are closed to sport fishing;

5AAC 55.023(10) the waters of Main Bay inside a line of buoys located approximately 60 feet seaward of the Main Bay Hatchery broodstock holding pen are closed to sport fishing;

[(10) IN MAIN BAY, SPORT FISHING IS PROHIBITED FROM A VESSEL THAT IS (A) WITHIN 60 FEET OF THE MAIN BAY HATCHERY BARRIER SEINE;AND (B) INSIDE THE MAIN BAY HATCHERY BARRIER SEINE AND SHOREWARD TO THE HEAD OF THE BAY.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 1) Snagging hooks are consistently becoming entangled in the Main Bay barrier seine compromising barrier seine integrity and usefulness. Through multiple tide series this causes additional mesh to become entangled with a snagging hook, resulting in lifting leadlines or sinking corklines eliminating barrier seine integrity and allowing unwanted fish passage behind the barrier seine.

2) Snagging hooks in the barrier seine pose a safety concern for personnel removing and cleaning the barrier seine.

3) Snagging of Main Bay sockeye intended for use as broodstock inside the barrier seine broodstock enclosure when not fishing from a vessel. The State of Alaska has strict sockeye salmon culture protocols that have allowed for the successful culture of this species. Culling broodstock with open wounds is part of the protocol to help minimize IHN transmission in brood holding areas. Snagging inside the barrier seine on fish intended as brood increases the number of wounded fish staff encounter and are required to cull and may increase the incidence of IHN in Main Bay Hatchery brood.

The barrier seine is designed and operated to protect salmon intended as brood and allow orderly fisheries on fish swimming outside the barrier seine to continue for all user groups. If nothing were changed, barrier seine integrity will continue to be compromised, whether by snagging tackle, boat or propellor damage, whereby tens of thousands of fish can be lost to all user groups. Until all Main Bay brood collection is secured in the freshwater brood pond, the barrier seine must remain in place. Barrier seine removal occurs as soon as all brood are secured in the freshwater brood pond and occurs on or before July 15th. When the barrier seine is not in the water, fishing is open to up to 300 feet from the fish ladder.

As a solution, barrier seine dive inspection frequency and snag hook removal was increased to weekly in 2023. This was at additional cost to PWSAC and the Main Bay operation but ultimately proved unsuccessful. Planning and coordinating dives after heavier weekend traffic was still not sufficient to remove problematic snagging gear and maintain barrier seine integrity.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The proposal was developed in consultation with Cordova Fishermen United and ADF&G Area Management.

PROPOSED BY: Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (HQ-F24-057)

Prince William Sound and Upper Copper and Upper Susitna Rivers Sport (13 proposals)

Prince William Sound (7 proposals)

PROPOSAL 82

5 AAC 55.005. Description of the Prince William Sound Area.

Modify the Prince William Sound management area marine waters into two units, as follows:

5 AAC 55.005 Description of the Prince William Sound Area. The Prince William Sound Area consists of all waters of the Gulf of Alaska and its drainages, west of the longitude of Cape Suckling (144° W. long.), and east of the longitude of Cape Fairfield (148° 50.25' W. long.), excluding the Copper River drainage upstream of a line crossing the Copper River between the south bank of the confluence of Haley Creek and the south bank of the confluence of Canyon Creek in Wood Canyon.

- (a) **Inside PWS waters defined as: all waters north of a line drawn from Cape Puget to the southwest tip of Montague Island at Cape Clear; a line drawn from the Northeast tip of Montague Island at Zaikof to the southwest tip of Hinchinbrook Island at Cape Hinchinbrook; and the southeast tip of Hinchinbrook Island at Point Bentinck to Point Whitshed.**
- (b) **Outside PWS waters defined as: all waters south of the lines drawn and identified for inside PWS waters.**

I am open to exactly where these lines should be drawn. These area definitions can be better defined by the Department based on the specific locations they use to define inside and outside waters in their assessment work.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 55.005 Currently reads “The Prince William Sound Area consists of all waters of the Gulf of Alaska and its drainages, west of the longitude of Cape Suckling (144° W. long.), and east of the longitude of Cape Fairfield (148° 50.25' W. long.), excluding the Copper River drainage upstream of a line crossing the Copper River between the south bank of the confluence of Haley Creek and the south bank of the confluence of Canyon Creek in Wood Canyon.”

The area is so vast that regulatory and management requirements are ineffective for tangible management. Prince William Sound should have regulatory defined Inside waters and Outside waters. The state has already utilized inside and outside delineation for rockfish observations/study. My thoughts are to utilize the following description to coincide with the rockfish observation/study boundaries. This will allow more effective management of PWS inside waters and relaxed management of PWS outside waters. In other words, I believe it to be necessary to further regulate PWS inside rockfish regulations however PWS outside waters have far less effort and populations are stronger outside therefore bag and possession limits could be higher without causing further damage to the inside waters. I believe rockfish surveys and data conducted by ADFG reflect this.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Consulted ADFG for information.

PROPOSED BY: Raymond Nix (HQ-F24-084)

PROPOSAL 83

5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

Allow a resident sport angler to use two rods when fishing for salmon, as follows:”)

A resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for salmon, a person using two rods under this regulation may only retain salmon. The bag limits stay the same.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In Southeast Alaska it is permissible for resident anglers to use two rods to troll for salmon. I would like to propose the same regulations for Prince William Sound and eventually the other marine areas in South Central Alaska. The reason why this is important is that it increases efficiency, saves fuel and potentially increases food security for resident anglers fishing alone.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I developed this proposal on my own because I am retiring and I know from my 30 years experience fishing in Southcentral Alaska that trolling with one rod is not very effective, which was fine when fuel was priced low, but high fuel prices make going fishing prohibitively expensive. This action will not result in additional harvest of Salmon but may reduce the cost of going out and catching a salmon for dinner. There should be no additional cost to this regulation and I cant think of anyone that would be harmed by this except the fuel dock might sell a few gallons less fuel.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Mezirow

(EF-F24-034)

PROPOSAL 84

5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

Prohibit charter operators and crew from retaining king salmon and rockfish while clients are on board the vessel, as follows:

Mirror Southeast and Kodiak Alaska sport regulations as well as the federal halibut regulation by prohibiting charter captain and crew from retaining sport caught king salmon or rockfish.

5 AAC 55.022.

(2) king salmon: may be taken from January 1 - December 31, as follows:

(A) in fresh waters, as follows:

(i) king salmon 20 inches or greater in length; bag limit of two fish; possession limit of four fish;

(ii) king salmon less than 20 inches in length; bag and possession limit of 10 fish;

(B) in the salt waters; bag limit of two fish; possession limit of four fish; no size limit;

(i)Charter operators and crew members may not retain king salmon while clients are on board the vessel.

(9) rockfish:

(A) may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag limit of four fish; possession limit of eight fish, of which only one per day and in possession may be nonpelagic rockfish; no size limit;

(i)Charter operators and crew members may not retain rockfish while clients are on board the vessel.

(B) repealed 3/29/2018;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sport harvest of saltwater king salmon and rockfish is ever increasing according to ADFG's sport fish harvest and effort estimates for North Gulf Coast/Prince William Sound. In 2022 the sport harvest of rockfish was 99,569 Fish and the saltwater sport harvest of king salmon was 7,113 fish. In 2012 the sport harvest of rockfish was 68,337 Fish and saltwater sport harvest of king salmon was 3,044 fish. This 45% increase in rockfish harvest and 130% increase in king salmon harvest in 10 years demands attention by the board. A portion of this increased harvest is the result of the ever-growing charter fleet. Currently the charter fleet captains, and crew are allowed to retain their own limit of sport caught rockfish and king salmon every trip they go on. Regulations forbidding charter captains and crew from retaining rockfish and king salmon have been put in place by this board in Southeast Alaska, Kodiak and on a federal level for halibut in the halibut fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This Proposal was discussed and submitted by the Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/PWS Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-070)

PROPOSAL 85

55.022 General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

Modify the bag and possession limit for coho salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 55.022 (a) (3)

3) salmon, other than king salmon: may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag limit of six fish; possession limit of 12 fish, of which only three fish per day and six [THREE] in possession may be coho salmon; no size limit

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current regulations in place read as follows in section 3 of the code:

(3) salmon, other than king salmon: may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag limit of six fish; possession limit of 12 fish, of which only three fish per day and in possession may be coho salmon; no size limit;

I believe the possession limit should be increased because the coho that are harvested by sport are predominantly terminal (hatchery) fish. Additionally, a high percentage of our clientele base is resident fishermen that are harvesting for their winter supply of salmon and book multiple day trips to capitalize on 2-day possession limits. Current regulations require a return to port which is in excess of 70 miles typically. Our company did approximately 120 days' worth of overnight or remote lodge stays last season as these types of trips are the most financially viable for Alaskans. A single day possession limit seems to make these trips almost punitive because there is not a return to port.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Consulted ADFG Staff for information.

PROPOSED BY: Raymond Nix (HQ-F24-085)

PROPOSAL 86

5 AAC 55.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Prince William Sound.

Modify the sport fishing area and season dates in Ibeck Creek, as follows:

On September 21st the Sport Harvest of Coho Salmon will be prohibited above a point 1.5 miles above the Copper River Highway.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to protect spawning Coho Salmon on Ibeck Creek on the Copper River Flats in late September after they have entered their spawning grounds.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was discussed and submitted by the Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/PWS Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-071)

PROPOSAL 87

5 AAC 55.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

Modify the sport fishing area and season in a Copper River Delta system, as follows:

On September 21st the Sport Harvest of Coho Salmon will be prohibited above a point 1 mile above the confluence with Alaganik Slough.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to close 18 Mile system on the Copper River Delta at a point 1 mile north of the confluence with Alaganik Slough on September 21st. This would protect spawning Coho Salmon from removal and catch and release mortality. There would still be sport fishing opportunity below this closure.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was discussed and submitted by the Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/PWS Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-072)

PROPOSAL 88

5 AAC 55.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sounds Area.

Modify coho salmon fishery bag limits and methods and means if the commercial fishery is closed, as follows:

New regulatory language to be added under 5 AAC 55.023 (XX) **In the Copper River Delta, in years with low run entry combined with low aerial survey counts and after seven consecutive days of commercial fishing closures, then the bag limits will be reduced to 2 fish and fishing with bait will be prohibited. If the commercial fishery is closed for 14 consecutive days combined with low aerial survey counts, then the bag limit will be reduced to one coho and catch and release will be prohibited.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish restrictions in the Copper River Delta coho salmon sport fishery based on the number of consecutive days the commercial fishery is closed.

Establish restrictions in the Copper River Delta coho salmon sport fishery based on the shared burden of conservation and the increased use and ease of access in the sport fishery. In 2018 we failed to achieve the SEG for the Copper River Delta due to delayed sport fishing restrictions.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This Proposal was discussed and developed by the Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/PWS Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-035)

Upper Copper and Upper Susitna River (6 proposals)

PROPOSAL 89

5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

Increase the bag and possession limit for burbot in Lake Louise, as follows:

5 AAC 52.023(13)(C) is amended to read:

(C) the bag and possession limit for burbot is **two** [ONE] fish, with no size limit;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Historically, Lake Louise burbot were overfished when both set lines and liberal bag limits were allowed prior to 1988. The lake has been closed or restricted to a bag limit of one burbot since 1991 to allow the population to recover. A 2023 population survey of Lake Louise burbot indicated the population has increased and recovered to a level that would sustain increased fishing mortality associated with a two fish bag and possession limit. Lake Louise is part of the Tyone River drainage, and this regulation would align burbot regulations among other lakes within the drainage.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F23-171)

PROPOSAL 90

5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

Modify bag and possession limits of burbot in Crosswind Lake, as follows:

To mimic the Tyone River Drainage regulations, which has a bag/possession limit of 2 burbot per person per day.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In Crosswinds Lake, anglers are allowed to set 5 lines with bait for burbot during winter. However, they often catch lake trout instead, which have a daily limit of 1 fish per person and suffer from high mortality rates after being released due to swallowing the hook and bait.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This was developed in coordination with local anglers and landowners who frequently fish at Crosswinds Lake and share concerns about lake trout bycatch.

PROPOSED BY: Butch Reinhart (HQ-F24-077)

PROPOSAL 91

5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

Modify seasons, bag, possession, and size limits for Arctic grayling in Mendeltna Creek, Moose Lake, and Our Creek, as follows:

5 AAC 52.023 (14), (15), and (17) are amended to read:

...

(14) in Mendeltna Creek drainage,

(A) in all flowing waters, including all waters within one-quarter mile of Mendeltna Creek’s confluence with Tazlina Lake,

(i) Sport fishing for salmon is closed; salmon may not be taken or possessed;

(ii) **repealed**[ARCTIC GRAYLING MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM JUNE 1 – MARCH 31, WITH A BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF TWO FISH, WHICH MUST BE GREATER THAN 12 INCHES IN LENGTH];

(15) in Moose Lake,

(C) **repealed**[ARCTIC GRAYLING MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM JUNE 1 – MARCH 31, WITH A BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF TWO FISH];

(17) in Our Creek,

(A) **repealed**[ARCTIC GRAYLING MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM JUNE 1 – MARCH 31, WITH A BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF TWO FISH];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Due to sustainability concerns, regulations for Arctic grayling were restricted for Mendeltna Creek (2000), Moose Lake and Our Creek (2003). Our Creek and Moose Lake had been used for Arctic grayling egg collection to support the regional stocking program, which potentially removed some unknown level of future production. Since 2000, angler effort on all these systems has greatly decreased and egg collections from Moose Lake and Our Creek were terminated after 2001. Changing these special regulations to general provisions for the Upper Copper and Upper Susitna River Area will simplify Arctic grayling regulations and provide additional fishing opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F23-169)

PROPOSAL 92

5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

Modify the seasonal bait closure in Paxson and Summit Lakes, as follows:

Extend the use of bait for taking Lake Trout and Burbot in Paxson and Summit Lakes for one more month. New reg. Would read as the existing regulation except the end date for bait would be *April 15*, rather than March 15. The bait extension would only apply to Paxson and Summit Lak

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase sport fish opportunity in Paxson and Summit Lakes for fishermen. Paxson and Summit Lake are under-utilized at the

present time. Over the past decade, sport fishing has diminished appreciably. Spring fishing is now almost completely utilized by Copper Basin residents.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Paxson AC

PROPOSED BY: Paxson Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-115)

PROPOSAL 93

5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

Modify area closed to sport fishing in Hungry Hollow Creek, as follows:

5 AAC 52.023(9)(E) is amended to read:

...

(E) in all waters of the Middle Fork of the Gulkana River from the outlet of Dickey Lake to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately three miles downstream, including Hungry Hollow Creek **downstream of the outlet of Wait-A-Bit Lake**, and Twelvemile Creek,

(i) sport fishing is allowed only from June 15 – April 14, except that sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed and must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A seasonal sport fishing closure (April 15 – June 14) was implemented in a section of the Middle Fork Gulkana River and Hungry Hollow Creek in 1997 to protect spawning rainbow and steelhead trout. Twelvemile Creek was included in the sport fishing closure regulations in 2003. Since 1997, several surveys and radiotelemetry work have failed to identify any rainbow trout presence in Hungry Hollow Creek above the outlet to Wait-a-Bit Lake. Hungry Hollow Creek extends upstream of Wait-A-Bit Lake and drains several road-accessible lakes along the Denali Highway including Octopus, Teardrop, and Ten Mile Lakes that support lake trout, Arctic grayling and whitefish populations. Removal of the sport fishing closure will allow additional angler opportunity for these waters.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F23-170)

PROPOSAL 94

5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

Repeal definition of “bow and arrow” in area regulations, as follows:

5 AAC 52.022(b) is amended to read:

...

(b) **repealed**[FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, “BOW” MEANS A LONG BOW, RECURVE BOW, COMPOUND BOW, OR CROSSBOW].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The board added the definition of “bow and arrow” to Statewide Provisions under 5 AAC 75.995 during the statewide meeting in March 2019. A portion of the bow and arrow language was removed from the Upper Copper Upper Susitna Management Area regulations, but the definition in the area regulations was not repealed. This proposal corrects that oversight.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F23-172)

Herring (9 proposals)

PROPOSAL 95

5 AAC 27.300. Description of Prince William Sound, 5 AAC 27.305. Fishing Districts, Subdistricts, and Sections, and 5 AAC 27.365. Prince William Sound Herring Management Plan.

Make numerous changes to management of commercial herring fisheries in Prince William Sound, as follows:

5 AAC 27.300. Description of Prince William Sound Area. The Prince William Sound Area **includes all waters of Alaska between 148° 50.25' W. long. (near Cape Fairfield) and 144° W. long. (near Cape Suckling)** [HAS AS ITS WESTERN BOUNDARY A LINE EXTENDING SOUTH FROM CAPE FAIRFIELD, AS ITS EASTERN BOUNDARY A LINE EXTENDING SOUTH FROM CAPE SUCKLING AND AS ITS SOUTHERN BOUNDARY 59° N. LAT.]

5 AAC 27.305. Fishing districts, Subdistricts and Sections.

(a) Prince William Sound District: all waters of the Prince William Sound Management Area, excluding the Kavak Island District. (b) Kavak Island District: all waters from a line from a point at 60° 01.16' N. lat., 144° 00.00' W. long., to a point at 59° 57.98' N. lat., 144° 00.00' W. long., to a point at 59° 44.29' N. lat., 144° 36.12' W. long., to a point at 60° 17.13' N. lat., 146° 15.02' W. long., to Hook Point at 60° 20.11' N. lat., 146° 15.02' W. long.
[REPEALED]

5 AAC 27.365. Prince William Sound District Herring Management Plan. (a) The purpose of the Prince William Sound **District** herring management plan in this section is to describe management strategies for all Prince William Sound **District** herring fisheries and to provide for an optimum sustained yield and an equitable allocation for all user groups. (b) The management plan for herring fisheries in **the** Prince William Sound **District** assumes that all of these fisheries use a single stock of herring which may be harvested at the rate of zero to 20 percent of the spawning biomass. The management year for herring is **January 1 through December 31** [JULY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30]. Guideline harvest levels are established before the **sac roe fisheries** [FOOD AND BAIT SEASON] in the **spring** [FALL] and are based upon the final spawning biomass estimate from the previous year, cohort analysis, and projected recruitment. The minimum spawning biomass threshold is **8400** [22,000] tons, and no fishery may be opened if the estimated spawning biomass is below this threshold level. The department may allow, based upon age class strength, a harvest of herring at an exploitation rate between zero and 20 percent of the projected spawning biomass when that biomass is between 8400 [22,000] tons and 42,500 tons. The

department may allow a harvest of herring at a maximum exploitation rate of 20 percent when the total projected spawning biomass is greater than 42,500 tons.

(c) The guideline harvest of herring is allocated by fishery as follows:

- (1) purse seine sac roe fishery: 58.1 percent;
- (2) gillnet sac roe fishery: 3.4 percent;
- (3) food and bait fishery: 16.3 percent;
- (4) spawn-on-kelp not in pounds: 8.0 percent; and
- (5) spawn-on-kelp in pounds: 14.2 percent.

(d) Harvest quotas for the spawn-on-kelp fisheries are derived as follows:

- (1) spawn-on-kelp not in pounds: one ton of spawn-on-kelp may be taken for every eight tons of herring allocated to this fishery;
- (2) spawn-on-kelp in pounds: the spawn-on-kelp in pounds harvest objective will be set based on the ratio of one ton of spawn on kelp for every 12.5 tons of herring allocated to this fishery; the commissioner, or an authorized designee, shall manage the fishery to achieve this harvest objective by restricting those persons holding a CFEC permit to participate in the fishery to a specified number of kelp blades annually based on the number of permit holders registered under 5 AAC 27.334(a) to fish with pounds, and to an equal portion of the guideline harvest of herring allocated in (c)(5) of this section based on the total number of permit holders.

(6) 80 percent of the unharvested remainder of spring sac roe fisheries may be allocated to the fall food and bait fishery.

5 AAC 27.XXX. Harvest strategies for the Kayak Island District. (a) this district does not have a history of commercial herring harvest and may be opened to fishing on an exploratory basis with no specified guideline harvest level; Prince William Sound Area herring fisheries CFEC permit holders may participate in this exploratory district using the gear standard specified on their permits; the district listed as exploratory under this paragraph may be opened or closed, based on inseason information such as observed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Updates to the PWS herring management plan and lowering GHJ back to historical levels. These levels were changed in the 1990s and the fishery has remained closed ever since, disenfranchising historic users and an entire generation of younger commercial fisherman who could use a spring fishery and income but have not been able to participate due to this change.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I utilized the language from an ADFG originated proposal for the majority, however modified the GHJ level back to the proper historical level.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Jones (HQ-F24-006)

PROPOSAL 96

5 AAC 27.365 Prince William Sound Herring Management Plan.

Change herring management year dates for the Prince William Sound District and create a new food and bait fishery allocation, as follows:

5 AAC 27.365. Prince William Sound **District** Herring Management Plan.

- (a) The purpose of the Prince William Sound **District** herring management plan in this section is to describe management strategies for all Prince William Sound **District** herring fisheries and to provide for an optimum sustained yield and an equitable allocation for all user groups.
- (b) The management plan for herring fisheries in **the** Prince William Sound **District** assumes that all of these fisheries use a single stock of herring which may be harvested at the rate of zero to 20 percent of the spawning biomass. The management year for herring is **January 1 through December 31** [JULY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30]. Guideline harvest levels are established before the **sac roe fisheries** [FOOD AND BAIT SEASON] in the **spring** [FALL] and are based upon the final spawning biomass estimate from the previous year, cohort analysis, and projected recruitment. The minimum spawning biomass threshold is 22,000 tons, and no fishery may be opened if the estimated spawning biomass is below this threshold level. The department may allow, based upon age class strength, a harvest of herring at an exploitation rate between zero and 20 percent of the projected spawning biomass when that biomass is between 22,000 tons and 42,500 tons. The department may allow a harvest of herring at a maximum exploitation rate of 20 percent when the total projected spawning biomass is greater than 42,500 tons.
- (c) The guideline harvest of herring is allocated by fishery as follows:
- (1) purse seine sac roe fishery: 58.1 percent;
 - (2) gillnet sac roe fishery: 3.4 percent;
 - (3) food and bait fishery: 16.3 percent;
 - (4) spawn-on-kelp not in pounds: 8.0 percent; and
 - (5) spawn-on-kelp in pounds: 14.2 percent.
- (d) Harvest quotas for the spawn-on-kelp fisheries are derived as follows:
- (1) spawn-on-kelp not in pounds: one ton of spawn-on-kelp may be taken for every eight tons of herring allocated to this fishery;
 - (2) spawn-on-kelp in pounds: the spawn-on-kelp in pounds harvest objective will be set based on the ratio of one ton of spawn on kelp for every 12.5 tons of herring allocated to this fishery; the commissioner, or an authorized designee, shall manage the fishery to achieve this harvest objective by restricting those persons holding a CFEC permit to participate in the fishery to a specified number of kelp blades annually based on the number of permit holders registered under 5 AAC 27.334(a) to fish with pounds, and to an equal portion of the guideline harvest of herring allocated in (c)(5) of this section based on the total number of permit holders.
- (3) 80 percent of the unharvested remainder of spring sac roe fisheries may be allocated to the fall food and bait fishery.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? CDFU and ADFG collaborated to adopt new language into the Herring Management Plan to define a Prince William Sound District, change the season start and end dates, and add a new subsection that will allow unharvested Sac Roe herring to be harvested in the fall food and bait fishery.

Changing the season start date will help ADFG open the fishery when the harvest threshold is reached. The July 1 start date hampers ADFG's ability to open the fishery for the fall food and bait fishery, because biomass estimates aren't available until late fall. Starting the season on January 1 will allow the department to open the sac roe fishery first based on a fall biomass estimate.

The rollover clause will allow unharvested sac roe to be harvested in a more valuable food and bait fishery. Commercial groundfish fishermen are paying exorbitant prices for bait. Allowing this

resource to be harvested locally in Area E will alleviate some of the cost burden on the groundfish fleet.

Recently the Board and CFEC formed a Herring Revitalization Committee. This rollover clause is a simple but effective way to achieve the State's intent to revitalize our once thriving local herring fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. We developed this proposal with ADFG.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-116)

PROPOSAL 97

5 AAC 27.365 Prince William Sound Herring Management Plan.

Reduce the minimum herring spawning biomass threshold, as follows:

(b) The management plan for herring fisheries in Prince William Sound assumes that all of these fisheries use a single stock of herring which may be harvested at the rate of zero to 20 percent of the spawning biomass. The management year for herring is July 1 through June 30. Guideline harvest levels are established before the food and bait season in the fall and are based upon the final spawning biomass estimate from the previous year, cohort analysis, and projected recruitment. The minimum spawning biomass threshold is **16,000** [22,000] tons, and no fishery may be opened if the estimated spawning biomass is below this threshold level. The department may allow, based upon age class strength, a harvest of herring at an exploitation rate between zero and 20 percent of the projected spawning biomass when that biomass is between **16,000** [22,000] tons and 42,500 tons. The department may allow a harvest of herring at a maximum exploitation rate of 20 percent when the total projected spawning biomass is greater than 42,500 tons.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 1994 the minimum herring biomass threshold was raised to 22,000 tons from 8,400 tons. Since this increase, there have been essentially zero commercial herring fisheries operating in Prince William Sound. The 8,400 minimum biomass was based on an aerial survey data biomass estimate. In 1994, the department switched to ASL sampling to build a model and used the data from a longer time series to establish a threshold. The current threshold is based on a 25 percent biomass. The time series used was based on 1980's herring biomasses, which was an above average level of herring productivity for the Prince William Sound Area. It is our understanding that if the department had switched the existing aerial survey model from the 8,400 ton threshold to ASL model, the threshold should have been closer to 16,000 tons. This 16,000 tons would reflect a biomass estimate without incorporating a longer time series of data and setting a threshold at 25 percent of unfished biomass. We would like the department to use a longer data set from 1980-2024 to establish a new minimum spawning biomass threshold. By using a longer time series, it reflects what the true unfished biomass is in Prince William Sound.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-119)

PROPOSAL 98

5 AAC 27.300. Description of Prince William Sound Area.

Align Prince William Sound herring and salmon management area descriptions, as follows:

5 AAC 27.300 is amended to read:

The Prince William Sound Area includes all waters of Alaska between 148° 50.25' W. long. (near Cape Fairfield) and 144° W. long. (near Cape Suckling). [THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA HAS AS ITS WESTERN BOUNDARY A LINE EXTENDING SOUTH FROM CAPE FAIRFIELD, AS ITS EASTERN BOUNDARY A LINE EXTENDING SOUTH FROM CAPE SUCKLING AND AS ITS SOUTHERN BOUNDARY 59° N. LAT.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Prince William Sound Area herring and salmon fisheries boundaries do not align. The current herring fishery management area east boundary overlaps the Yakutat Area western boundary, and its south boundary is outside of state managed waters.

Additionally, there is no geospatial reference in this regulation to accurately define the western and eastern boundaries of the Prince William Sound Area. Defining these boundaries along lines of longitude will allow for a consistent and repeatable point of reference for those involved in area fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-139)

PROPOSAL 99

5 AAC 27.305. Fishing districts, subdistricts and sections.

Define commercial herring fishery districts in Prince William Sound, as follows:

5 AAC 27.305. Fishing districts, subdistricts and sections.

(a) Prince William Sound District: all waters of the Prince William Sound Management Area, excluding the Kayak Island District.

(b) Kayak Island District: all waters from a line from a point at 60° 01.16' N. lat., 144° 00.00' W. long., to a point at 59° 57.98' N. lat., 144° 00.00' W. long., to a point at 59° 44.29' N. lat., 144° 36.12' W. long., to a point at 60° 17.13' N. lat., 146° 15.02' W. long., to Hook Point at 60° 20.11' N. lat., 146° 15.02' W. long.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently there is not a regulation defining the waters around Kayak Island within Area E to operate a herring fishery. This regulation will define the boundaries to allow the department to implement an exploratory fishery. Defining the Prince William Sound District apart from the Kayak Island subdistrict will allow managers to operate both fisheries effectively.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. We developed this proposal with ADFG.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-115)

PROPOSAL 100

5 AAC 27.XXX New Section.

Adopt a Kayak Island District herring management plan, as follows:

5 AAC 27.XXX. Harvest strategies for the Kayak Island District. (a) this district does not have a history of commercial herring harvest and may be opened to fishing on an exploratory basis with no specified guideline harvest level; Prince William Sound Area herring fisheries CFEC permit holders may participate in this exploratory district using the gear standard specified on their permits; the district listed as exploratory under this paragraph may be opened or closed, based on inseason information such as observed stock abundance, harvest levels, and changes in fish behavior or harvest patterns, including such changes in the adjacent Prince William Sound District;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? CDFU and ADFG collaborated to develop language for an exploratory herring fishery near Kayak Island. There is a biomass of herring that has been spawning near Kayak Island which has no historical harvest, but operates within the Area E region. We are unsure how a fishery would operate in this area. A good first step is language that defines that existing Area E herring permit holders are allowed to harvest these herring if the department decides to open the exploratory fishery. Breaking Kayak Island out of the existing management plan allows the department to execute a fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. We developed this proposal with ADFG.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-117)

PROPOSAL 101

5AAC 27.365. Prince William Sound Herring Management Plan.

Adopt a new exploratory fishery for herring in the eastern portion of the Prince William Sound Management Area, as follows:

5AAC 27.365 Prince William Sound Herring Management Plan

b) The management plan for herring fisheries in Prince William Sound assumes that all of those fisheries (ADD) (NORTH OF A LINE FROM CAPE PUGET TO CAPE CLEARE, FROM ZIAKOF POINT TO CAPE HINCHINBROOK AND FROM STRABERRY HILL TO WHITEHED) use a single stock of herring which may be harvested at the rate of zero to 20 percent of the spawning biomass. (Leave the remainder of (b) intact

ADD new (f) PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND WATERS SOUTH OF A LINE FROM CAPE PUGET TO CAPE CLEARE, FROM ZIAKOF POINT TO CAPE HINCHINBROOK AND FROM STRAWBERRY HILL TO WHITSHED WILL BE MANAGED AS EXPLORATORY IN COORDINATION WITH ADFG WITH A MINIMUM HARVEST OBJECTIVE OF 500 TONS WITH EXISTING GEAR REGULATIONS AND NO GEAR ALLOCATIONS.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently Prince William Sound Herring are all considered a single stock. About 15 years ago a significant biomass of herring has been spawning in the vicinity of Kayak Island. There has been samples collected and

sporadic aerial surveys conducted documenting this phenomenon. In 2023 over 32 miles of spawn was observed in this area. Unfortunately this population is not being considered part of the Price William Sound stock and is not included in the overall assessment of the Prince William Sound herring population even though it is within the defined boundaries of area E.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I had conversations with other interested parties as well as ADFG representatives

PROPOSED BY: Rob Nelson (EF-F24-043)

PROPOSAL 102

5 AAC 27.XXX. New section.

Allow commercial fishery permit holders to harvest herring for the own use as bait, as follows:

5 AAC 27.XXX. Harvest of bait by permit holders in Prince William Sound District. The holder of a valid Prince William Sound Herring permit may take but may not sell herring for use as bait.

- (1) herring may be taken at any time;**
- (2) herring may be taken by any gear specified in 5 AAC 39.105;**
- (3) in the 72 hours before and 72 hours after an open commercial herring sac roe fishing period in the Prince William Sound Area, a vessel, crewmember, or permit holder that participates in that commercial herring sac roe fishing period may not take herring under this section in any district in the Prince William Sound Area;**
- (4) a person or vessel may not take more than one ton of herring in a calendar year.**
- (5) any herring that is harvested under 5 AAC.27.XXX will be deducted from the Prince William Sound food and bait fishery allocation under 5 AAC 27.365**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is a consistent challenge and issue that there is a lack of bait access in Area E. Adopting this regulation would give the department a tool to allow a small harvest of bait in Area E if we are below the 22,000 ton threshold to execute a fall food and bait fishery. There are similar regulations in other areas that allow for 1 ton of bait to be harvested by permit holders.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-118)

PROPOSAL 103

5 AAC 27.332. Seine Specifications and Operations for Prince William Sound Area.

Allow dual permit commercial herring purse seine operations in Prince William Sound, as follows:

5 AAC 27.332. Seine specifications and operations for Prince William Sound Area. A person may not operate a purse seine that is more than 1,025 meshes in depth and more than 150 fathoms in length from April 15 through June 30.

Except. Two Prince William Sound sac roe herring seine CFEC permit holders may concurrently fish from the same vessel and jointly operate a single purse seine that is up to a maximum 1700 meshes in depth and 200 fathoms of length, and a person holding two Prince William Sound sac roe herring seine CFEC permits may operate a single purse seine that is a maximum 1700 meshes in depth and 200 fathoms of length, under this section. When two Prince William Sound sac roe herring seine CFEC Permit holders fish from the same vessel and jointly operate additional seine gear, and when a person holding two Prince William Sound sac roe herring seine CFEC Permits operates additional seine gear, the vessel must display its ADF&G permanent license plate number followed by the letter "D" to identify the vessel as a dual permit vessel. The letter "D" must be removed or covered when the vessel is operating with only one CFEC permit on board the vessel. The permanent license plate number and letters must be displayed.

- (A) in letters and numerals 12 inches high with lines at least one inch wide;
- (B) in a color that contrasts with the background;
- (C) on both sides of the hull; and
- (D) in a manner that is plainly visible at all times when the vessel is being operated;

When two CFEC permit holders jointly operate gear each permit holder

- (A) must be on board the fishing vessel and present
- (B) is responsible for ensuring that the entire unit of gear is operated in a lawful manner.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, there are way too many limited entry sac roe seine permits for the small quota that Prince William Sound can support. There is also a very limited market for herring and especially for sac roe products. Allowing for permit stacking of permits will help incentivize permit holders to group up on fewer participating vessels making it a tenable fishery for a few participants. In the 80s this fishery was known to be exceptionally congested and dangerous with many boats, tenders, and airplanes all crammed into very small areas for very few fish. Adopting this change will improve safety and viability for bringing back a small economically viable herring fishery in prince william sound.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. In coordination with other individual fisherman.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth B. Jones (HQ-F24-010)

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SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT FINFISH AND SHELLFISH

KING SALMON (31 proposals)

King Salmon Management Plan and Allocation

PROPOSAL 104

5 AAC 29.060. Allocation of King Salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area and 5 AAC 01.720. Lawful Gear and Gear Specifications.

Allocate 5,000 king salmon for the Alaska’s all gear quota to a king salmon subsistence fishery and establish provisions for king salmon subsistence fishery.

1. Modify 5 AAC 29.060 (King Salmon Management Plan) to add an “off-the-top” allocation of 5,000 fish or 5% of the total PSC harvest ceiling (whichever is greater), similar to those allocated to the net fisheries.

2. Establish a household subsistence permit for king salmon in marine waters in 5 AAC 01.745. The annual household limit may be set by the department to meet allocation goals. The daily limit of two king salmon in 5 AAC 01.730(j) shall not apply to a directed subsistence king salmon fishery in marine waters. Harvest reporting requirements shall be implemented to allow the department to monitor the fishery.

3. Modify 5 AAC 01.720 to permit use of rod and reel in a subsistence king salmon fishery in marine waters under a household permit.

4. Establish permit conditions that prohibit subsistence taking of king salmon in waters closed to sport retention of king salmon by resident anglers. This provision applies the conservation time and area closures used to protect Alaska stocks to the subsistence fishery. Subsistence king salmon fishing will be prohibited in non-subsistence areas. King salmon may not be taken under sport regulations and a subsistence permit on the same day.

5. Any unused harvest allocation shall be allocated to the troll fishery as in 5 AAC 29.060(b)(6).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the 2021-22 cycle, the Board approved a proposal (Proposal 125) to modify 5 AAC 01.730 to allow ADF&G to issue subsistence permits for king salmon. This proposal seeks to take the next step and outline the implementation of a subsistence king salmon fishery in marine waters.

In the staff comments on Proposal 125, ADF&G focused on potential subsistence fisheries on Alaska king salmon stocks, presumably as net fisheries in terminal areas, as is typical for subsistence fisheries. The continued low abundance of southeast Alaska king salmon stocks would severely limit the opportunity for such fisheries, at least in the foreseeable future. Currently, the

vast majority of king salmon taken by residents for noncommercial household use are taken in marine waters under sport regulations. Much of that harvest would be characterized as subsistence taking using the “8 factors” listed in 5 AAC 99.010, used by the Board to establish customary and traditional subsistence use. For example, king salmon have long been relied upon as the only available source of fresh salmon when other species are not available, and are harvested as food rather than strictly for recreation. The harvested fish are shared in traditional networks like other subsistence resources. This proposal seeks to establish a regulatory framework that recognizes and provides for the continued subsistence use of king salmon in marine waters.

Under the proposed framework, a separate subsistence allocation would provide for the continuation of subsistence use if resident sport fisheries were closed due to inseason management actions to stay within the sport allocation. It would also allow for a more efficient annual household harvest, as sport bag limits may require several trips to harvest the same number of fish, with each trip involving significant amounts of fuel and time. Most importantly, it would establish a regulatory structure for the long-standing and ongoing subsistence use of king salmon that currently occurs within the sport fishery regulations, a system with different practices and needs than subsistence users. While it may appear to add a user group to an already tightly allocated resource, the subsistence user group has long been using the resource – this proposal simply provides the Board an opportunity to create an effective management structure for a user group that is currently unrepresented in the existing system.

The proposal applies the time and area restrictions used in the sport fishery to protect Alaska stocks, so that only areas open to sport fishing for king salmon will be open to subsistence harvest. Finally, it provides for unused allocation to be rolled over to the commercial troll fishery, so that treaty fish are not left on the table.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council during their Winter 2024 meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (HQ-F24-016)

PROPOSAL 105

5 AAC 47.020 General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area, and 5 AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan..

Modify sport fishing regulations in salt waters subject to the Magnuson-Stevens Act by removing differential regulations for resident and nonresident anglers, as follows:

Regulations for federal fisheries must not vary between Alaska residents and nonresidents.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? King salmon and groundfish fisheries in Alaska are federal fisheries. State regulation of these federal fisheries must comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Fishery Management Act. Federal law prohibits management measures that distinguish between state residents and non-residents. 16 U.S.C. § 1851 (a)(4) (“Conservation measures shall not discriminate between residents of different states.”)

Discrimination among residents of different states. An FMP may not differentiate among U.S. citizens, nationals, resident aliens, or corporations on the basis of their state of residence. An FMP may not incorporate or rely on a state statute or regulation that discriminates against residents of another state.

50 C.F.R. § 600.325(b).

Alaska’s Administrative Code expressly discriminates against non-residents.

- King salmon. The Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan makes express an objective to favorably treat resident anglers. 5 AAC 47.055(b) (“The objectives of the management plan under this section are to . . . minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers.”)
- King salmon. The Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan contains numerous provisions constraining opportunities for nonresident anglers through reduced daily bag limits as well as an annual limit not applied to resident anglers. 5 AAC 47.055(c) through 5 AAC 47.055(i).
- King salmon. Nonresidents are obligated to complete a harvest record. 5 AAC 47.020(1).
- Demersal rockfish. resident: bag limit of one fish; possession limit of two fish; no annual limit; no size limit; nonresident: no open season; may not be taken or possessed. 5 AAC 47.020(8)(C).
- Sablefish. Unlike residents, nonresidents have an annual limit and are obligated to complete a harvest record. 5 AAC 47.020(17)(B).

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Marc Gorelnik

(EF-F24-109)

PROPOSAL 106

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Prohibit nonresidents on charter vessels that have taken fish in the EEZ from offloading those fish in state waters, as follows:

If vessels charter fishing in federal waters off SE Alaska in contravention of State of Alaska regulations for non-residents, such as using resident bag limits, they should be prohibited from landing their catch in State waters. Otherwise, limits would be unenforceable. Non-residents already catch 75% of the sport fishing quota. Allowing more liberal fishing rules for non-residents would result in the quota being caught before residents in inside waters have even begun to fish. The proposed activity shows a lack of respect that non-resident guides and anglers have for conservation of king salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? California charter vessels have expressed interest in fishing in federal waters off SE Alaska with non-resident anglers but using resident bag limits. This could create chaos with regard to enforcement.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsman Inc. and Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F24-020)

PROPOSAL 107

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Prohibit nonresidents that have taken fish in the EEZ from possessing or offloading those fish in state waters, as follows:”)

Add language to 5 AAC 47.020:

"Non-residents fishing in federal waters off SE Alaska, not following State of Alaska regulations for non-residents, are prohibited from landing their catch in the State or possessing fish caught in federal waters, in state waters."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Charter operators have expressed interest in fishing in federal waters off SE Alaska with non-resident anglers but using resident bag limits. This could create chaos with regard to enforcement. In addition, it would infringe on the State’s historic right to manage the sport salmon fishery statewide in both state and federal waters. If non-residents are allowed resident bag limits in federal waters, the sport fishery bag limits would be unenforceable. Non-residents already catch 75% of the sport fishing quota. Allowing more liberal fishing rules for non-residents would result in the quota being caught before residents in inside waters have even begun to fish.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. Territorial Sportsmen and Alaska Trollers Association asked the Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee to submit this proposal. The AC voted in support of submitting the proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Juneau Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F24-163)

PROPOSAL 108

5 AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

Modify management and allocation provisions of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

Reinstate the provisions of 5 AAC 47.055 King Salmon Management Plan that sunset March 31, 2025, with the following changes to maintain stability in the troll fishery and allow the sport fishery to achieve an average harvest of 20 percent:

- (b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to
 - (1) manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest of 20 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;
 - (2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the harvest ceiling;
 - (3) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; [and]

(4) allow for inseason transfer from the troll fishery to the sport fishery, not to exceed 5 percent of the troll/sport allocation for the year;

(5) [(4)] allow for the transfer of any projected unused balance in sport allocation to the troll fishery at a date determined by the department.

(n) The department shall implement the following reductions for nonresident anglers in waters not subject to wild stock closures in that year if the nine-year rolling average of the sport fishery harvest exceeds 22 percent on consecutive years; reductions will lift when the nine-year rolling average reduces to 20 percent or below; [The provisions of this section do not apply after March 31, 2025.]

(1) A nonresident bag limit of one king salmon;

(2) for tiers (c)(d)(e)(f)(g) and (h), from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) for tiers (c)(d)(e) and (f), from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit; from July 16 through December 31, retention of king salmon for nonresidents is prohibited;

(4) for tier (g), from July 1 through July 7, a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit; from July 8 through December 31, retention of king salmon for nonresidents is prohibited;

(5) for tier (h), from July 1 through July 7, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit; from July 8 through December 31, retention of king salmon for nonresidents is prohibited;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Changes in the 2019-2028 Pacific Salmon Treaty annex altered the landscape for the Southeast sport fishery by adding a payback provision that effectively prohibits longstanding historical management of the sport fishery to an average harvest. Managing on average made up for a lack of allocation in low abundance, and for the inability of the sport fishery to harvest its full allocation in high abundance. A fixed 20% allocation geared to in season management does not fit the dynamic of the fishery.

In the 2022 Southeast finfish meeting, the Board adopted a sport fishery management structure that addressed the problem by modifying limits for anglers that rearranged harvest opportunity across abundance levels to stabilize the fishery and target the historical 20% average harvest. The arrangement incorporates give and take from the troll fishery, conceptually similar to earlier management.

The idea behind the 2022 agreement adopted by the Board was sound, but there were unforeseen consequences (i.e., a severely truncated August king troll opening in 2023). This proposal adds necessary protections for the troll fishery to address seasonal stability and ensure an average troll harvest equivalent to 80% of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon

Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling.

If this proposal is not adopted, the sport fishery will face frequent in season management if held to a yearly 20% allocation target. This severely compromises harvest opportunity for anglers in low abundance, destabilizing the fishery. It also sets up the sport fishery to never achieve its allocation given it lacks power to harvest 20% in high abundance. In low abundance, cautious management to avoid overages will also add to the fishery falling short of allocation.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Guides Organization (HQ-F24-127)

PROPOSAL 109

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Modify the structure of the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* by removing management tiers and other provisions, as follows:

5 AAC 47.055 is amended to read:

5 AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

- (a) The commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, the king salmon sport fish bag and possession limits and all other necessary management measures based on the allocation to the sport fishery as determined by 5 AAC 29.060 The bag and possession limits and other management measures established by the commissioner will remain in effect until March 31 of the following year.

- (b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to:

- (1) manage the sport fishery to attain a [AN average] harvest of 20 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;

- (2) allow [UNINTERRUPTED] sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the harvest ceiling;

- (3) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; and

- (4) [ALLOW FOR THE TRANSFER OF ANY PROJECTED UNUSED BALANCE IN SPORT ALLOCATION TO THE TROLL FISHERY AT A DATE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.]

- (c) **The department shall manage the sport fishery to the annual sport harvest ceiling as follows:** [WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS ABOVE 67,505 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:]

(1) **the department shall manage the sport fishery;** [A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(2) **to take 70 percent of the sport fishery allocation between January 1 and July 1;** [A NONRESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(3) **to take the remaining 30 percent of the sport fishery allocation between July 1 and December 31;** [FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(4) **resident bag limit of 2 king Salmon, 28 inches or greater.** [FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(d) [WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 55,261 AND 67,505 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

(1) A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(2) A NONRESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(3) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(4) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY L THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER

IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(6) FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, A SPORT FISH ANGLER MAY USE TWO RODS WHEN FISHING FOR KING SALMON; A PERSON USING TWO RODS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY ONLY RETAIN SALMON.

(e) WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 43,644 AND 55,260 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

(1) A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(2) A NONRESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(3) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(4) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(6) FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, A RESIDENT SPORT FISH ANGLER MAY USE TWO RODS WHEN FISHING FOR KING SALMON; A PERSON USING TWO RODS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY ONLY RETAIN SALMON.

(f) WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 32,191 AND 43,643 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

(1) A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(2) A NONRESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(3) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(4) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(6) FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, A RESIDENT SPORT FISH ANGLER MAY USE TWO RODS WHEN FISHING FOR KING SALMON; A PERSON USING TWO RODS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY ONLY RETAIN SALMON.

(g) WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 22,388 AND 32,190 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

(1) A BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(2) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(3) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 7, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY THE NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARD THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(4) [FROM JULY 8 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) [A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH, WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN AREAS WHERE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT MEASURES HAVE PROHIBITED KING SALMON RETENTION OR CLOSED FISHING FOR KING SALMON FOR ALL ANGLERS ONCE THEY REOPEN.]

(h) [WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 19,752 AND 22,388 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:]

(1)[A BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(2)[FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(3)[FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(4)[A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH, WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN AREAS WHERE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT MEASURES HAVE PROHIBITED KING SALMON RETENTION OR CLOSED FISHING FOR KING SALMON FOR ALL ANGLERS ONCE THEY REOPEN.]

(i) [WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS LESS THAN 19,752 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS SPECIFIED IN (G) AND (H) OF THIS SECTION.]

(j) The commissioner may adopt regulations that establish reporting requirements necessary to obtain the information required to implement the management plan under this section.

(k) The commissioner may, by emergency order, establish that the nonresident harvest and annual limits for king salmon under this section do not apply in a hatchery terminal harvest area.

(l) A harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required for nonresidents.

(m)The department shall manage the resident sport fishery so that there are no closures for residents, unless the commissioner determines that additional harvest reduction to the resident bag limits is necessary to comply with the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

(n) [The provisions of this section do not apply after March 31, 2025.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Action on the Southeast King Salmon Management Plan is necessary since the existing regulation expire March 31 2025.

King salmon are a finite resource and it is crucial that the department have all tools available to manage each sector according to its allocation. One sector should be allowed to flourish to the

detriment of another. The King Salmon Management Plan agree to by stakeholders SEAGO, Territorial Sportsmen, and ATA at the 2022 Southeast Alaska Board of fish meeting (2022 meeting) in Anchorage, and then amended at the 2023 Lower Cook Inlet Board of fish sunsets in 2025. The agreement between stakeholders at the 2022 meeting did not work for two of the three parties. I was an original signatory at the 2022 meeting and attended the 2023 Lower Cook Inlet Board of Fish meeting as well. This proposal aims to give the Department all tools for managing king salmon to the rigid requirements of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, prioritize resident anglers, and keep all gear groups within their allocation.

Since the original agreement, the structure for determining the all-gear treaty harvest limit has changed to the detriment of Alaska’s share of treaty king salmon. It is highly unlikely that Alaska will be in moderate-high to high tier in the near future, making it very important that all king salmon harvesters and users have a reliable percentage. This proposal decouples Alaska King salmon management from the tier structure, models, and other moving targets of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, which reduces workload for both the Board of Fish and The Department.

This proposal prioritizes resident bag limits since the sport fishery is a quasi subsistence fishery in southeast Alaska. This resident sport harvesters faces increasing pressure from a heavily-capitalized guide sector. Food security is a critical issues for rural communities in Alaska in general and rural southeast Alaska specifically. Increasing food and fuel costs make local resources, such as king salmon, necessary for the economic stability of southeast Alaska residents.

From multiple conversations with the guide sector I learned that access to kings salmon prior to July 1 is important to their operation. It seeks to balance this desire with the needs of communities on inside waters who have only been allowed to harvest king salmon later in the summer, and have been restricted based on higher catch rates on the outer coast. This proposal gives The Department all tools necessary to manage the sport fishery to its allocation in they way that best suits the needs of the sport fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. While I developed this proposal on my own is it heavily influenced by my conventions at Board of Fish meetings with members of SEAGO and Territorial Sportsmen; resident sport fishermen in Sitka, rural subsistence users, and commercial trollers. I plan on taking this proposal to the Sitka AC prior to the 2025 southeast Alaska Board of Fish meeting in Ketchikan.

PROPOSED BY: Jacqueline Foss (HQ-F24-038)

PROPOSAL 110

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Manage the sport fishery inseason to achieve the annual king salmon allocation to the sport fishery as follows:

The solution is to adopt the below language which covers both the signed agreement and takes into account that the CPUE is no longer used as quota predictor.

5 AAC 47.055 is amended to read:

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

a) The commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, the king salmon sport fish bag and possession limits and all other necessary management measures based on the allocation to the sport fishery as determined by 5 AAC 29.060. The bag and possession limits and other management measures established by the commissioner will remain in effect until March 31 of the following year.

b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to

(1) manage the sport fishery to attain **an average** harvest of 20 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;

(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the **sport fishery** harvest ceiling;

(3) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; and

(4) allow for the transfer of any projected unused balance in sport allocation to the troll fishery at a date determined by the department.

(c) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is greater than 69,014 the **sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation. The** commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit;

(5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit;

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(d) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 55,421 and 69,014 fish the **sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation.** The commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit;
- (5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit;
- (6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(e) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 42,685 and 55,420 fish the **sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation.** The commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit;
- (5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit;
- (6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(f) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 34,303 and 42,684 fish the **sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation.** The commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit;
- (5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit;
- (6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(g) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 22,328 and 34,302 fish the **sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation.** The commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (3) from July 1 through July 7, a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by the nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply toward the two fish annual harvest limit;
- (4) from July 8 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through December 31 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit;
- (5) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, will be established in areas where Member Carlson-Van Dort RC063 conservation management

measures have prohibited king salmon retention or closed fishing for king salmon for all anglers once they reopen.

(h) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 19,381 and 22,327 fish the **sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation. The** commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from July 1 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit;

(4) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, will be established in areas where conservation management measures have prohibited king salmon retention or closed fishing for king salmon for all anglers once they reopen.

(i) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is less than 19,381 fish the **sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation. The** commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the provisions specified in (g) and (h) of this section.

(j) The commissioner may adopt regulations that establish reporting requirements necessary to obtain the information required to implement the management plan under this section.

(k) The commissioner may, by emergency order, establish that the nonresident harvest and annual limits for king salmon under this section do not apply in a hatchery terminal harvest area.

(l) A harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required for nonresidents.

(m) The department shall manage the resident sport fishery so that there are no closures for residents, unless the commissioner determines that additional harvest reduction to the resident bag limits is necessary to comply with the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

[(n) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER JULY 31, 2025.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This Proposal Restores the Original 2022 Stakeholder Agreement between Territorial Sportsmen Inc (TSI), Alaska Trollers Association (ATA), and Southeast Alaska Guides Organization (SEAGO), eliminates the Sunset Clause, and aligns with new requirements of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST).

5 AAC 47.055 (the SEAK King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan) was significantly altered by RC 063 which was passed at the Lower Cook Inlet BOF Meeting in Homer (11/30/23). **It removed limits on the SEAK Chinook non-resident annual sport harvest. It eliminated in-season management of the fishery. RC 063 also rewrote the difficultly negotiated and unanimously passed stakeholder Agreement (RC 178) adopted at the March 2022 Anchorage BOF meeting.**

RC 063 was submitted by BOF Member Carlson-Van Dort. It updated the SEAK management plan to align with recent PST modifications which changed the method Chinook availability was predicted from a CPUE (Catch Per Unit Effort) model to the Treaty's AI (Abundance Index) model. **Although correctly taking into account this PST modification language in RC 063 also caused significant problems.**

a) RC 063 creates a conservation issue by allowing non-resident sport anglers to fish with no in-season management. This is the consequence of eliminating the words "sport fishery" from the phrase "sport fishery harvest ceiling" in 5 AAC 47.055(b)(2). This elimination allows non-resident sport fishing to occur uninterrupted throughout a season, even if the sport fishery exceeds the 20% sport allocation set forth in 5 AAC 29.060(b)(1)-(5). Without in-season management it is possible for overages in the unlimited and growing non-resident sport sector to cause total harvest to exceed the entire SEAK Chinook allocation.

For example by late July of 2023 monitoring, although inadequate, informed the Department that the non-resident sport harvest would exceed allocation by at least 15,000 Chinook. Ir-regardless the Department took no action to slow or close the non-resident harvest. Instead, in an August 4th Press Release, the Department deducted the non-resident sport overage from the commercial troll allocation. Monitoring without corresponding action is not management.

b) In-season management is the cornerstone of Alaska's well-respected historic management practice. Its elimination is not only contrary to Alaska's Policy for the management of sustainable Salmon fisheries (5AAC 39.222), but RC 063 also ignores directives **laid out in the PST, which encourages parties to use "in-season indicators" (PST Chapter 3, paragraph 7(b), page 61.**

In 2022 it was **SEAGO** that requested that 'The Agreement (RC 178)' **eliminate the language; "PROVIDE STABILITY TO THE SPORTS FISHERY BY ELIMINATING INSEASON REGULATORY CHANGES, EXCEPT THOSE NECESSARY FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES"** from 5AAC 47.055 (b) (5). The intent here was to return to in-season management which is a cornerstone of Alaska's sustainable fisheries policy.

c) Besides eliminating all practical ADF&G in-season management of non-resident sport Chinook harvest in SEAK **RC 063 is out of compliance with the PST.** In 2023 non-resident sport went 17,000 kings over their harvest ceiling. The harvest of these 17,000 Chinook was moved from late Summer to the Spring. The process of moving Chinook harvest from one time of year to another targets different runs and is called 'Shaping'. **Shaping is not allowed under the PST.**

d) At 3 kings/fisher the non-resident Annual Chinook sport bag limit is too liberal for May and June. May and June are when mature Alaskan Stocks of Concern (SOC) are running.

Except in very limited hatchery access areas only outside sport harvesters are fishing Chinook at this time. In 2023 non-resident sport anglers significantly exceeded their allocation. The new language encourages non-resident sport anglers to target Alaska stocks at the entrances of SOC corridors when and where the historic commercial fishery no longer has access. The majority of Alaska resident sport fishermen live on inside waters that are closed to Chinook retention in Spring. The spring sport harvest dominated by guided non-resident visitors negatively impacts SEAK residents.

e) With high availability of Treaty Chinook, no in-season management, and an artificially low SEAK king quota, non-resident sport anglers can go well over their allocation as they did in 2023.

After predictable non-resident overages, to keep Alaska within the Treaty allocation, the 2023 commercial troll harvest was reduced by over 10%. 85% of troll fishers are Alaskan residents (CFEC) while 75% of SEAK sport harvest is by non-residents (ADF&G Special Publication No. 21-10, pg 23). RC 063 effectively transferred an important Alaska resource away from Alaska residents to non-resident sport fishers. **This is a violation of the Alaska Constitution's resident preference (Article 8, Section 2).**

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes with TSI as they were one of the other signers of the March 20, 2022 agreement between TSI ATA and SEAGO, also known as RC178

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F24-023)

PROPOSAL 111

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Modify the management provisions and target allocation for the king salmon sport fishery, as follows:

- (a)The commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, the king salmon sport fish bag and possession limits and all other necessary management measures based on the allocation to the sport fishery as determined by 5 AAC 29.060. The bag and possession limits and other management measures established by the commissioner will remain in effect until March 31 of the following year.
- (b)The objectives of the management plan under this section are to

- (1) manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest of 20 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission (**PSC**), after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;

- (2) Allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon while not exceeding the [HARVEST CEILING] **the annual management target percentages as outlined in (c) through (i) below, or the PSC harvest ceiling; and**

(3) Allow for a maximum nonresident annual harvest limit of 4 king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; and

(4) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; and

(5) allow for the transfer of any projected unused balance in sport allocation to the troll fishery at a date determined by the department.

(c) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is greater than 69,014 fish, **a management target of 19% after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling will be calculated and applied to the sport allocation and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:**

(1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [THREE] **TBD, (to be determined by department and sport representatives attending the meeting)** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [TWO] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the [TWO] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit;

(5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [ONE] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the [ONE] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit.

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(d) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 55,421 and 69,014 fish, a **19% management target after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 will be applied, and will be between 52,650 and 65,561 fish and** the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [THREE] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [TWO] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the [TWO] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit;

(5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [ONE] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the [ONE] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(e) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 42,685 and 55,420 fish, an **adjusted 20% management target between 42,685 and 52,649 fish will be applied and** the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [THREE] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [TWO] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the [TWO] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit;

(5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [ONE] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the [ONE] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(f) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 34,303 and 42,684 fish, **a 21% management target after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 will be applied, and will be between 36,018 and 42,684 fish and** the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [THREE] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [TWO] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the [TWO] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit

(5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [ONE] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the [ONE] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(g) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 22,328 and 34,302 fish, a **22% management target after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 will be applied, and will be between 24,561 and 36,017 fish and** the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a **resident and nonresident** bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [THREE]**TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from July 1 through July 7, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [TWO] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by the nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply toward the [TWO] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit;

(4) from July 8 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [ONE] **TBD**

(5) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, will be established in areas where conservation management measures have prohibited king salmon retention or closed fishing for king salmon for all anglers once they reopen.

(h) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 19,381 and 22,327 fish, a **22% management target after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 will be applied, and will be between 21,319 and 24,560 fish and** the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a **resident and nonresident** bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [THREE]**TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from July 1 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [ONE] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the [ONE] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit;

(4) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, will be established in areas where conservation management measures have prohibited king salmon retention or closed fishing for king salmon for all anglers once they reopen.

(i) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is less than 19,381 fish, **a 22% management target will be calculated and applied to the sport allocation after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 and** the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the provisions specified in (g) and (h) of this section.

(j) The commissioner may adopt regulations that establish reporting requirements necessary to obtain the information required to implement the management plan under this section.

(k) The commissioner may, by emergency order, establish that the nonresident harvest and annual limits for king salmon under this section do not apply in a hatchery terminal harvest area.

(l) A harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required for nonresidents.

(m) The department shall manage the resident sport fishery so that there are no closures for residents, unless the commissioner determines that additional harvest reduction to the resident bag limits is necessary to comply with the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

[(n) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER JULY 31, 2025.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The King Salmon Management Plan, (KSMP), has no mechanism to prevent the annual nonresident sport harvest from reaching levels that negatively impact other user groups. This proposal suggests management targets that range from 19-22 percent, with the intention of curbing extreme sport Chinook harvests that create several serious issues. If managed properly, this proposal avoids long term Chinook fishery problems, and results in the sport treaty Chinook harvest maintaining the objective of a 20 percent average after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060. The present KSMP, with the open-ended sport harvest regime, has complex problems that don't involve just a simple 20%average.

First and foremost, due to the terms of the 2019 Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) agreement which include new incidental mortality provisions, the current KSMP has potential to cause serious trouble for Alaska's Chinook fisheries.

In 2022, the Department commented on proposal 91 that would have allowed trollers to catch 100% of their allocation during the July opening in low abundance years. The Department stated that:

Under terms of the 2019 PST, the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) implemented guidelines for acceptable levels of incidental mortality in AABM fisheries and developed triggers for incidental mortality levels that would precipitate a discussion to determine if fishery adjustments were needed, and to recommend any appropriate remedial action to ensure that the parties do not exceed incidental mortality limits.

Additionally, the 2019 PST agreement includes a commitment to discuss within the Commission significant management changes that a Party is considering, that may alter the stock or age composition and incidental mortality of a fishery regime's catch.

The sport fishery under the current KSMP, has the ability to negatively impact other fisheries incidental mortality levels and stock compositions. In 2023, when the sport fishery harvested 28.9% it caused the troll Chinook opening in August to be restricted to just one day. Not only did that alter that fisheries stock and age composition, it increased the incidental mortality of the fishery. It is not inconceivable, that if we continue with this plan, the unrestricted sport fishery will have the potential to eliminate the troll August king opening altogether on similar to lower quota years.

Since the sport fishery is only restricted under the KSMP if in danger of forcing Alaska over its PST allocation, any unharvested Chinook allocation available to the net fisheries is susceptible to forfeit to the sport fishery as well. Even though the net fisheries are considered outside of the troll/sport treaty Chinook sharing agreement, if there is only net Chinook allocation available, the sport fishery could take it under this KSMP, whether the nets can harvest it or not. Again, possibly generating incidental mortality concerns with those fisheries as well. This proposal has management threshold targets that will prevent this from happening.

The second issue is that as far as Chinook fishery management as a whole, having one user group operating without in-season management creates problems when trying to achieve both management and allocation objectives. The commercial fishery managers have hard target percentages of treaty Chinook they are managing for, and having the sport fishery harvest constantly invade and change those targets can create chaos. This proposal puts all managers on the same playing field with concrete Chinook harvest targets to manage for.

The current KSMP generates tension and anxiety among the commercial user groups who depend on their harvest share of the treaty Chinook allocated to Alaska. Seiners, gillnetters and trollers should all be entitled to harvest their allocation of treaty Chinook salmon and the current plan jeopardizes that.

This proposal takes into account one of the main concerns expressed by the charter representatives, which is that in low abundances years, there aren't enough fish for the nonresident sport harvest to support a successful charter fishery. Although, I disagree with that, because the charter fishery was quite successful with a 20% hard cap in the past, I have proposed raising the sport management target to 22% for the three lowest abundance tiers. Yes, that will hurt the troll fleet in low abundance years, but I contend the fleet will recover those losses in the two upper tiers of abundances with a sport management target at 19%.

The current KSMP includes minor and, in my opinion, inconsequential changes to nonresident Chinook harvest during periods of low Chinook abundance. This proposal will require some adjustments to nonresident annual limits and ensure that nonresidents have a fair share of the conservation burden during those times.

I have left the annual limits for nonresidents to be determined by the department and sport representatives at the upcoming meeting. In the past when the sport fishery was managed to a cap

of 20%, the sport representatives met with the Department to configure the management of their fishery. That worked well then and will also work for this proposal.

This proposal has a maximum nonresident annual limit of 4 kings, 28 inches or greater in length. In the past when the sport fishery was capped at 20%, in high abundance years, nonresidents were taking home 5 and 6 king salmon apiece and I think that is excessive. Basically, it can lead to waste when you consider the amount of additional species of fish a nonresident typically harvests on a fishing trip to Alaska.

This proposal does not affect the resident sport Chinook fishery and I agree with section (m) of this proposal where the department shall manage the resident sport fishery so that there are no closures for residents, unless the commissioner determines that additional harvest reduction to the resident bag limits is necessary to comply with the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Steve Merritt (HQ-F24-028)

PROPOSAL 112

5 AAC 29.060 Allocation of king salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area and 5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

Modify the sport allocation of king salmon and provisions for management, as follows:

Each spring the Pacific Salmon Commission produces an annual abundance forecast for not just the upcoming summer season, but a separate forecast for the season that is still a year away (the one-year-out forecast). This proposal utilizes the current year abundance forecast *and* the one-year-out forecast to set a non-resident harvest target for the one-year-out season. The intent is that the average annual proportion of the hook-and-line Chinook allocation caught by sport fishermen (including residents) over the 6-year period that includes the previous 4 years, the current year and the season that is a year away, will be 20%. The first four numbers in the average are the known actual percentage of the hook-and-line allocation caught by sport fishermen in previous four years. The fifth number is the ADF&G-calculated estimate of the percentage of the hook-and-line allocation that will be caught by sport anglers in the season that is just getting underway with the non-resident annual limits that were set the year prior and using the updated abundance data.

The target harvest for the sport fishery in the season that is a year way would be whatever number would make the 6-year rolling average come out to 20%.

Staff would be directed to estimate the amount of non-resident effort and the likely harvest from that effort under different combinations of annual limits throughout the season. With input from the charter industry (similar to how the guided halibut regulations are crafted) ADF&G staff would establish non-resident annual limits for the one-year-away season. (In other words, set the limits for the 2026 summer season in the spring of 2025.) While the limits could not be such that the anticipated harvest would cause the 6-year average to exceed 20%, the charter industry could request that the limits be set conservatively, intending to “bank” some percentage for subsequent years while respecting the 20% average.

Example: If in the spring of 2025, the sport catches in 2021-2024 were known to have been 19.5%, 13.8%, 29.0%, and 17.0% of the hook-and-line allocation respectively, and given the updated abundance forecast the 2025 catch is anticipated to be 20.3%, then the 2026 target would need to be 20.4% of the hook-and-line allocation to make the 6-year average come out to 20.0%. (Since the average of 19.5, 13.8, 29.0, 17.0, 20.3 and 20.4 = 20.0) If in April of 2025, the one-year-away forecast for 2026 indicated that the hook-and-line allocation would be 180,000 fish in 2026, the non-resident annual limits for 2026 would be set such that the anticipated total sport harvest would be no higher than 20.3% of 180,000 or 36,540 kings.

This proposal does not seek to alter the existing resident bag limits which would continue to be set at the beginning of the current season, nor change the two-rod provisions of the current sport king salmon management plan. Neither the resident nor non-resident fisheries would be subject to in-season management for allocative reasons, but both could be closed if the SE all-gear harvest ceiling has been reached.

Accounting for past years' harvest when setting the annual limits provides the management tools necessary to achieve the 20% average goal, but by setting the annual limits more than a year in advance, charter clients will know how many kings they will be allowed to catch when they are considering booking a trip.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? One of the long-established goals of the SE Sport King Salmon management Plan has been to manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest of 20% of the hook-and-line allocation, but the word “average” has never been defined, leading to conflicting and ambiguous interpretations.

Furthermore, the current SE Sport King Salmon Management Plan contains a sunset clause which will cause the plan to expire in 2025 unless the BoF replaces it. Additionally, the current version of the plan as implemented by staff in 2022, eliminates all provisions to dynamically guide the sport harvest towards the long-standing goal of attaining the average harvest of 20% of the hook-and-line Chinook allocation. Without meaningful abundance-based adjustments to the non-resident annual limits, the proportion of the catch taken by sportfishermen has varied wildly from 14% in 2022 to 29% in 2023. This volatility combined with the absence of any corrective mechanism makes it very doubtful that the 20% goal will be attained.

Some sort of proactive management action is needed in order to achieve the 20% goal. The king salmon fishery is simply too dynamic to wait 3 years for the BoF to make adjustments. However, the charter industry has previously opposed efforts to use in-season management tools to achieve the 20% goal on the grounds that this can leave clients who have pre-booked their trip feeling short-changed.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The concept of utilizing the one-year-away forecast to set the non-resident annual limit for the season that is more than a year away was discussed at the March 2024 Sitka AC meeting, but the conversation did not progress to specific details.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka

(EF-F24-055)

PROPOSAL 113

**5 AAC 29.060 Allocation of King Salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area and
5 AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan**

Modify the provisions of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan and increase the sport allocation of king salmon, as follows:

Restore the 2022 Southeast king salmon management plan and adjust the allocation percentages between the troll and sport fisheries as follows to allow room for the sport fishery to achieve an average allocation of twenty percent without frequent in season management or long-term loss of allocation-

5 AAC 29.060

(b) The department shall manage the sport and commercial net and troll fisheries in accordance with the annual harvest ceiling established by the Pacific Salmon Commission. During a directed king salmon fishery in District 8 and District 11, an allowable catch above the baseline harvest level will not be counted towards the annual harvest ceiling. The annual harvest allocation of the annual harvest ceiling for each fishery is as follows:

- (1) purse seine fishery: 4.3 percent of the annual harvest ceiling;
- (2) drift gillnet fishery: 2.9 percent of the annual harvest ceiling;
- (3) set gillnet fishery: 1,000 king salmon;
- (4) troll fishery: 75 [80] percent, after the net fishery allocations in (1);
- (5) sport fishery: 25 [20] percent, after the net fishery allocations in (1);
- (6) if the projected annual Southeast Alaska all-gear harvest is below the annual harvest ceiling, any remaining allocation from those gear groups listed in (1) - (3) and (5) of this subsection may be allocated to the troll fishery beginning at a season date determined by the department and established by emergency order.

5 AAC 47.055

(b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to (1) manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest at or below 25 [OF 20] percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Southeast sport fishing for king salmon was managed for an average catch of 20% of the all-gear quota (less kings for the net fisheries) for almost two decades. Typically, sport allocation was left unharvested or harvested by other gear groups in high management tiers and the sport fleet took more than 20% in low management tiers which avoided the instability of in season management and afforded adequate fishing opportunity while staying within the sport allocation long-term.

That's no longer the exact case with recent changes in the Pacific Salmon Treaty without fresh approaches within the Southeast all-gear catch limit and between gear groups. If ADFG were to begin managing the sport fishery not to exceed its allocation on any year it would result in the sport harvest falling below 20% over time. This proposal revives the 2022 king salmon management plan and suggests a simple way to restore stability, flexibility, and fishing opportunity while targeting historical allocations.

Adjusting sport to 25% of the troll/sport allocation while using the bag and annual limits from the 2022 king management plan that target an average 20% harvest will give the sport fleet similar flexibility to harvest above its historic 20% in low abundance for sufficient opportunity while redirecting sport and net underage's to the troll fishery (under statute 5 AAC 29.060), allowing troll to meet or exceed its historical allocation of 80% over the time

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Insert the issue statement here.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Wedekind (HQ-F24-128)

PROPOSAL 114

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Reduce the nonresident annual limit in low allocation management tiers and other modifications to the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

(a) The commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, the king salmon sport fish bag and possession limits and all other necessary management measures based on the allocation to the sport fishery as determined by 5 AAC 29.060. The bag and possession limits and other management measures established by the commissioner will remain in effect until March 31 of the following year.

(b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to

(1) manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest of 20 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;

(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the harvest ceiling;

(3) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; and

(4) allow for the transfer of any projected unused balance in sport allocation to the troll fishery at a date determined by the department.

(c) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is greater than 69,014 fish the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit;

(5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit;

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(d) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 55,421 and 69,014 fish the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length
- (2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater
- (3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit;
- (5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit;
- (6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(e) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 42,685 and 55,420 fish the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length.
- (2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater
- (3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit;
- (5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit;
- (6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(f) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 34,303 and 42,684 fish the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in
- (2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater
- (3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (4) from July 1 through July 7 [15], a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit;
- (5) from July 8 [16] through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 7 [15] will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit;

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(g) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 22,328 and 34,302 fish the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a **resident and nonresident** bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of **two** [THREE] king salmon,

(3) from July 1 through **December 31** [JULY 7], a nonresident annual harvest limit of **one** [TWO] king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by the nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply toward the **one** [TWO] fish annual harvest limit;

[(4) FROM JULY 8 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(5) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, will be established in areas where conservation management measures have prohibited king salmon retention or closed fishing for king salmon for all anglers once they reopen.

(h) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is **less than 22,328** [BETWEEN 19,381 AND] fish, the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a **resident and nonresident** bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) from January 1 through **December 31** [JUNE 30], a nonresident annual harvest limit of **one** [THREE] king salmon,

[(3) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

[(4) A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH, WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN AREAS WHERE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT MEASURES HAVE PROHIBITED KING SALMON RETENTION OR CLOSED FISHING FOR KING SALMON FOR ALL ANGLERS ONCE THEY REOPEN.]

[(i) WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF TREATY KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS LESS THAN 19,381 FISH THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT [THE PROVISIONS SPECIFIED IN (G) AND (H) OF THIS SECTION.]

(j) The commissioner may adopt regulations that establish reporting requirements necessary to obtain the information required to implement the management plan under this section.

(k) The commissioner may, by emergency order, establish that the nonresident harvest and annual limits for king salmon under this section do not apply in a hatchery terminal harvest area.

(l) A harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required for nonresidents.

(m) The department shall manage the resident sport fishery so that there are no closures for residents, unless the commissioner determines that additional harvest reduction to the resident bag limits is necessary to comply with the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

[(n) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER JULY 31, 2025.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current King Salmon Management Plan (KSMP) does not adequately address nonresident harvest in years of low treaty Chinook salmon abundance.

Even though they are responsible for the bulk of the sport caught Chinook in Southeast Alaska, there is very little change in nonresident annual harvest limits throughout the plan. There is a minimal sacrifice of one king from their annual limit in the three lower management tiers, one to two weeks in July, but nonetheless, their burden of conservation needs to be more.

Commercial users have lower quotas during times of low treaty Chinook abundance and are managed accordingly. Resident sport anglers daily bag limits, in general, are also lowered throughout the KSMP.

There are reasons other than simple fairness to decrease nonresident annual harvest limits in the lower tiers of abundance. A Department announcement on March 28, 2024 states:

The preseason outlook is for continued poor production of SEAK Chinook salmon stocks, including seven stocks (Chilkat, Taku, King Salmon, Stikine, Unuk and Chickamin Rivers and Andrew Creek) as Stocks of Management Concern. Although the Chilkat, Taku, Unuk stocks are projected to meet their escapement goals given no or little harvest occurring, run forecasts are still well below long-term average production. **This will necessitate a management regime aimed at minimizing catches of these stocks** in accordance with Board adopted action plans. [Emphasis added]

Several Southeast Alaska (SEAK) runs are currently managed under Stock of Concern (SOC) action plans to help them recover. Lower 48 and Canadian Chinook abundance often does not coincide with the abundance of SEAK runs. In most cases, the **lower** treaty Chinook abundance goes, SEAK runs become more susceptible to being caught. That is because the surrounding population of other stocks insulating them from harvest is down. When SEAK runs are in their lower cycle of abundance the matter of their conservation becomes more serious. SEAK Chinook are most prevalent in the local waters May and June, and in this case, increased SEAK harvest risks ruination of the SOC action plans advances. This is why the KSMP nonresident annual limit of 3 kings before July 1st, should be altered during low treaty Chinook abundances.

Since these SOC plans reopen areas near the river terminal area the middle of June, it is prudent, in the very lowest tier of treaty fish abundance, to change the resident bag limit in section (h)(4) to one king instead of two. The tail end of the SEAK runs are still in those surrounding waters and

increasing the resident bag limit for those areas also poses a risk of reducing the gains attained by the SOC action plans. See Department run timing graph below. The graph lines from left to right show Taku, Stikine, Situk, Chilkat, Unuk and Chickamin Chinook runs.

The KSMP nonresident annual harvest limit of 3 kings through June 30th itself, is creating a client race to fish Alaska before July 1st. Tour ships begin visiting Southeast towns in May bringing more potential clients to fish in the areas that are not under SOC action plans. In Craig, the majority of charter lodges are running at a moderate to high level by mid-June. All of these factors result in pressure building on the harvest of king salmon by nonresidents before July 1st.

During low treaty Chinook abundances, not only do we have to consider SEAK runs, but also must address the fact that other treaty Chinook are in need of stricter conservation measures. Our KSMP needs to facilitate the recovery of those Chinook stocks simultaneously and it is lacking.

This proposal eliminates section (i) because it does not make rational sense. Why have a tier regarding sport harvest during the lowest abundance levels that instructs the commissioner to implement the harvest measures from two higher abundance tiers? In this proposal, any sport fishery allocation, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060 to be less than 22,328 fish, results in a nonresident annual limit of one king and resident anglers will have a daily bag limit of one king.

The charter operators will be impacted by this proposal on the lower tiers of abundance. This proposal keeps the basic foundation of the nonresident harvest plan intact with meaningful conservation measures in place. It also allows charter operators to entice clients with the prospect of harvesting at least one king in the very lowest abundance situation.

The current KSMP set nonresident annual harvest limits to aid the business plan of the charter industry, but business plans should never supersede conservation of the resource. If we start superseding conservation to the impacts on business plans, the best business plans of the future will fail because there won't be any salmon left to facilitate them.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Steve Merritt (HQ-F24-033)

PROPOSAL 115

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to one fish, as follows:

The retention of 1 (one) Chinook Salmon for Nonresidents per year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We should allow the retention of ONLY 1 (one) Chinook Salmon for Nonresidents instead of 3 (three). The detrimental effects of unregulated numbers of charter fishing vessels has greatly impacted the ability for residents to fulfill their need of retaining Chinook Salmon within Southeast Communities.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. This proposal was discussed and agreed upon resident sport fishers in Ketchikan, Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Cody Cowan (EF-F24-058)

PROPOSAL 116

5 AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to two fish prior to July 1 and one fish after July 1, as follows:

Amend Language in 5 AAC 47.055

(c) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is equal to or greater than 20.5, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index greater than 2.2, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 69,000 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (3) a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon from January 1 through June 30th;**
- (4) a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon from July 1 through December**

[(3) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(4) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(d) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 20.5 and equal to or greater than 8.7, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 2.2 and greater than 1.8, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 61,900 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (3) a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon from January 1 through June 30th;**
- (4) a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon from July 1 through December 31;**

(3) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(4) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(e) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 8.7 and equal to or greater than 6.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index less than or equal to 1.8 and greater than 1.5, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 49,300 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon from January 1 through June 30th;

(4) a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon from July 1 through December 31;

(3) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(4) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(f) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 6.0 and equal to or greater than 3.8, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 1.5 and greater than 1.2, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 37,900 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon from January 1 through June 30th;

(4) a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon from July 1 through December 31;

[(3) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(4) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(g) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 3.8 and equal to or greater than 2.6, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 1.2 and greater than 1.0, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 25,800 treaty king salmon and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon from January 1 through June 30th;

(3) a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon from July 1 through December 31;

[(2) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(3) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 7, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY THE NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARD THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(4) FROM JULY 8 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(5) if the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 3.8 and equal to or greater than 2.0, a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, will be established

in areas where conservation management measures have prohibited king salmon retention or closed fishing for king salmon for all anglers once they reopen.

(h) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 2.6 and equal to or greater than 2.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 1.0 and greater than or equal to 0.875, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 20,600 treaty king salmon and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1)** a bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2)** a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon from January 1 through June 30th;
- (3)** a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon from July 1 through December 31;

[(2) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(3) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(4) if the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 3.8 and equal to or greater than 2.0, a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, will be established in areas where conservation management measures have prohibited king salmon retention or closed fishing for king salmon for all anglers once they reopen.

(i) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 2.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than 0.875, the all-gear catch limit will be determined by the Pacific Salmon Commission, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the provisions specified in (g) and (h) of this section.

(j) The commissioner may adopt regulations that establish reporting requirements necessary to obtain the information required to implement the management plan under this section.

(k) The commissioner may, by emergency order, establish that the nonresident harvest and annual limits for king salmon under this section do not apply in a hatchery terminal harvest area.

(l) A harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required for nonresidents.

(m) The department shall manage the resident sport fishery so that there are no closures for residents, unless the commissioner determines that additional harvest reduction to the resident bag limits is necessary to comply with the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

(n) The provisions of this section do not apply after March 31, 2025.

5 AAC 47.057. Stikine River King Salmon Management Plan.

(a) The objective of this management plan is to allow for an additional sport harvest opportunity on Stikine River king salmon when the projected preseason or inseason abundance level indicates the presence of an allowable catch for the Stikine River king salmon as determined under the provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 47.055 , if an allowable catch is available, the commissioner will open, by emergency order, on May 1 or as soon as the available catch has been announced, a directed king salmon sport fishery in District 8 with the following provisions:

- (1)** sport fishing for king salmon may be conducted with the use of two rods per angler;

(2) a resident bag limit of three king salmon 28 inches or greater in length, and a possession limit of six king salmon;

(3) a nonresident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, and a possession limit of two king salmon; an annual limit of six king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length.

(c) When no allowable catch exists for the Stikine River king salmon, the king salmon sport fishery in District 8 will be managed as specified in 5 AAC 47.055 .

(d) For the purposes of this section, District 8 is the salt waters of Frederick Sound south of a line from Wood Point to Beacon Point, excluding Wrangell Narrows, Sumner Strait east of a line from Point Alexander to Low Point, Stikine Strait north of the latitude of Round Point, Zimovia Strait north of the latitude of Nemo Point and Eastern Passage west of a line from Hour Point to Babler Point.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? For most of the past 20+ years of king salmon fisheries management in Southeast Alaska, the annual sport limit for nonresidents prior to July 1 has been three king salmon. There have been some, but few, variations to that limit. During the same 20+ year period, the commercial troll and resident sport fisheries have been restricted by US-Canada Treaty reductions and by severe local stock of concern measures. Since residents and nonresidents share one sport quota, the biggest threat to the stable resident sport king salmon fishery is the unlimited unrestricted nonresident king salmon fishery.

More than 75 percent of the sport harvest was taken by nonresidents in 2023, and the fishery exceeded its quota by 17,000 fish. The non-resident fishing power in outside waters is now capable of catching the entire sport quota before the end of June. Residents in inside waters can't begin fishing until mid-June or even July because of stock of concern restrictions on local runs. A review of the allocation criteria argues for residents, as the troll and resident sport fisheries are long-standing and stable, while the non-resident sport fishery has no participation limit and, in 2023, no in-season management. The resident food fishery and the commercial troll fishery both have history, personal use for sustenance, and local economic importance on their side.

In 2023, the unmanaged nonresident sport fishery, primarily in outside waters, overharvested the sport quota by 17,000 fish. The constitutional resident priority for king salmon was violated. It is time that the nonresident sport fishery join in conservation and respect for an iconic Alaskan fish and a most valuable but declining coastwide resource.

King salmon today are far more valued than they were 20 or 30 years ago when abundance was varying within degrees of normalcy. The troll price of king salmon in 2003 was \$1.35 per pound, while in the past two or three years the winter troll caught chinook price sometimes exceeded \$10 per pound to the fisherman. For a resident to purchase fresh king salmon in January 2024 the market price in Juneau has exceeded \$23/lb. During the same past 20 years, the price per pound to fishermen of salmon species other than king salmon has not increased beyond normal inflation, if at all. It is clear that king salmon are highly treasured by residents of Alaska.

Charter boats today employ better technology (better communication, better fish finders, high resolution GPS mapping software) increasing the CPUE of all anglers aboard. Charter boats are generally larger and more seaworthy, decreasing the number of days that they are unable to fish. The charter season has gotten longer, in particular starting earlier in the season- when troll and inside waters sport opportunity has been severely limited due to concerns for local wild stocks. The resident sport fishery is stable. The commercial troll fishery is stable. The non-resident sport fishery can be made stable by an annual limit reduction to two king salmon.

This action is expected to result in a full normal season for all users. The value to the non-resident or guided sport sector is not expected to be diminished as the industry will likely realize the same income from two king salmon as they do now from three.

There are no guarantees in fishing, and since a three fish annual king salmon limit has been shown to be destructive to quota management, the reduction to two fish is fully warranted.

We propose a two fish annual sport king salmon limit for non-residents prior to July 1 and one fish limit thereafter.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. Territorial Sportsmen and Alaska Trollers Association asked the Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee to submit this proposal. The AC voted in support of submitting the proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Juneau Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F24-166)

PROPOSAL 117

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salom Management Plan.

Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to two fish prior to July 1 and one fish after July 1 as follows:

For most of the past 20+ years of king salmon fisheries management in Southeast Alaska, the annual sport limit for nonresidents prior to July I has been three king salmon. There have been some, but few, variations to that limit. During the same 20+ year period, the commercial troll and resident sport fisheries have been restricted by US-Canada Treaty reductions and by severe local stock of concern measures. Since residents and nonresidents share one sport quota, the biggest threat to the stable resident sport king salmon fishery is the unlimited unrestricted nonresident king salmon fishery.

More than 75 percent of the sport harvest was taken by nonresidents in 2023, and the fishery exceeded its quota by 17,000 fish. The non-resident fishing power in outside waters is now capable of catching the entire sport quota before the end of June. Residents in inside waters can't begin fishing until mid-June or even July because of stock of concern restrictions on local runs. A review of the allocation criteria argues for residents, as the troll and resident sport fisheries are long-standing and stable, while the non-resident sport fishery has no participation limit and, in 2023, no in-season management. The resident food fishery and the commercial troll fishery both have history, personal use for sustenance, and local economic importance on their side.

In 2023, the unmanaged nonresident sport fishery, primarily in outside waters, overharvested. the sport quota by 17,000 fish. The constitutional resident priority for king salmon was violated. It is time that the nonresident sport fishery join in conservation and respect for an iconic Alaskan fish and a most valuable but declining coast wide resource.

King salmon today are far more valued than they were 20 or 30 years ago when abundance was varying within degrees of normalcy. The troll price of king salmon in 2003 was \$1.35 per pound, while in the past two or three years the winter troll caught chinook price sometimes exceeded \$10 per pound to the fisherman. For a resident to purchase fresh king salmon in April 2024 the market price in Juneau was \$24/lb. During the same past 20 years, the price per pound to fishermen of

salmon species other than king salmon has not increased beyond normal inflation, if at all. It is clear that king salmon are highly treasured by residents of Alaska.

Charter boats today employ better technology (better communication, better fish finders, high resolution GPS mapping software) increasing the CPUE of all anglers aboard. Charter boats are generally larger and more seaworthy, decreasing the number of days that they are unable to fish. The charter season has gotten longer, in particular starting earlier in the season-when troll and inside waters sport opportunity has been severely limited due to concerns for local wild stocks. The resident sport fishery is stable. The commercial troll fishery is stable. The non-resident sport fishery can be made stable by an annual limit reduction to two king salmon.

This action is expected to result in a full normal season for all users. The value to the non-resident or guided sport sector is not expected to be diminished as the industry will likely realize the same income from two king salmon as they do now from three.

There are no guarantees in fishing, and since a three fish annual king salmon limit has been shown to be destructive to quota management, the reduction to two fish is fully warranted,

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We propose a two fish annual sport king salmon limit for non-residents prior to July 1 and one fish thereafter.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No.

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsman Inc. and Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F24-022)

PROPOSAL 118

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

The nonresident annual limit for king salmon shall not exceed three and nonresident annual limits will not apply in terminal harvest areas, as follows:

The annual harvest of king salmon in the Southeast & Yakutat finfish management area by nonresident sport fisherman shall be no more than three (3) fish. King Salmon caught within THA's shall not count towards this annual limit.

Sunset Date: By end of the 2028 Southeast Finfish BOF meeting.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? King Salmon (also known as sgaawahl in Haida, t'a in Tlingit, and yeeh in Tsimshian) is an important resource to many people within southeast Alaska. As a tribal government, we take responsibility in pursuing equitable access to all cultural food resources that our tribal citizens need access to sustain their lives and their culture. Natural king salmon stocks all across the Pacific northwest are not what they used to be, and supplemental production of kings is something that we are hesitant to rely on. The State of Alaska has an obligation to take care of those who call Alaska home, first. Now that the State of Alaska has recognized federally recognized tribes, it also has an obligation to meet the needs of Indigenous Peoples around the state.

Without negatively impacting other local Alaskan people, the tribe finds it necessary to restrict access to nonresident sport harvesters first. We understand the importance of the charter fisheries around the state of Alaska and the impact it has on local economies and families. However, resources are becoming more and more scarce for our people, and we must continue to be creative in ensuring our people have enough. While this will have some impact on the nonresident charter fleet, we do not feel it will have detrimental ramifications on that sector. King salmon is not the only species of fish in the ocean. There are four other species of salmon, various types of rockfish, halibut, cod, ling cod, etc. that people have opportunities to go harvest. To the average charter fisherperson, people do not care about the difference between catching a 7-pound coho vs an 18-pound king salmon. Based on what we have heard with bookings, the installation of a restrictive limit on nonresident sport harvest of king salmon has not impacted charter business scheduling

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Ketchikan Indian Community Tribal Government, with much of the work done by the Our Way of Life Committee with deals with issues pertaining natural resources in Alaska that impact our tribal citizens and the ecosystem as a whole.

PROPOSED BY: Ketchikan Indian Community (HQ-F24-094)

PROPOSAL 119

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon for 2 days per week, as follows:

The nonresident king salmon sport fishery, both guided and non-guided, will close two days a week, which these days shall not coincide with Pacific Halibut closures for nonresidents, except within terminal harvest areas.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? King Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) (also known as sgaawahl in Haida, t'a in Tlingit, and yeeh in Tsimshian) is an important resource to many people within southeast Alaska. As a tribal government, we take responsibility in pursuing equitable access to all cultural food resources that our tribal citizens need access to sustain their lives and their culture. Natural king salmon stocks all across the Pacific northwest are not what they used to be, and supplemental production of kings is something that we are hesitant to rely on. The State of Alaska has an obligation to take care of those who call Alaska home, first. Now that the State of Alaska has recognized federally recognized tribes, it also has an obligation to meet the needs of Indigenous Peoples around the state.

Without negatively impacting other local Alaskan people, the tribe finds it necessary to restrict access to nonresident sport harvesters first. To take stress off of the wild run king salmon in southeast Alaska, we propose that king salmon harvested be restricted by time to allow for salmon to better escape back to their natal streams. This is done for the nonresident sport fishery for Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) and has shown to have positive impacts for the residents of southeast Alaska. The idea here is to have two days a week throughout the week be non-retention days for king salmon.

In order to alleviate concerns that the charter fleet may have, we would propose that the non-retention days do not overlap with that of Pacific halibut. This will allow ample opportunity for nonresidents to sport fish for different things if they plan on fishing on consecutive days. There are plenty of species to fish for throughout the year. While some may consider kings to be highly sought out after, we firmly believe that we need to be able to conserve for local Alaskans during times of reduced abundance.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Ketchikan Indian Community Tribal Government, with much of the work done by the Our Way of Life Committee with deals with issues pertaining natural resources in Alaska that impact our tribal citizens and the ecosystem as a whole.

PROPOSED BY: Ketchikan Indian Community (HQ-F24-095)

PROPOSAL 120

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon on weekends, as follows:

The nonresident king salmon fishing power is such that the 20 percent sport quota can be taken before the end of June. With no in season management, this means the sport quota is meaningless and the excess fish has to come out of the troll quota. A two day per week closure is a 28% reduction in fishing time, which is exactly what is needed to bring the sport catch back within its intended limit. A side benefit is that the resident sport fishers will have much less competition on weekends.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal seeks to reduce weekly king salmon sport fishing time for nonresidents from seven days per week to five days per week by prohibiting nonresident king salmon fishing on Saturdays and Sundays. This proposal is intended to be effective Jan 1, 2026.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F24-018)

PROPOSAL 121

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Extend the sunset provisions in the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 47.055(n) is amended to read:

...

(n) The provisions of this section do not apply after July 31, **2028** [2025].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* directs the management of the king salmon sport fishery in Southeast Alaska. The current language of the plan includes a sunset clause meaning the management plan will cease to exist after July 31, 2025. This sunset clause was initially established to allow the board to review the performance of the management plan with consideration towards the allocation of king salmon to the sport fishery as guided by 5 AAC 29.060 *Allocation of king salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area*. Action by the board is required to continue the sport fishery for king salmon and the management provisions prescribed by 5 AAC 47.055. This would extend the sunset clause for another three years, corresponding with the next regularly scheduled Southeast Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting. While the department brings this provision to the board's attention, it is in the discretion of the board to adopt a different sunset date or remove this clause entirely.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-177)

King Salmon-Sport SOC action plans

PROPOSAL 122

5 AAC 47.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.

Prohibit the removal of king salmon from the water when retention is not allowed, as follows:

Add language to the Southeast King Salmon Management Plan that states:

"King salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately when king salmon retention is not allowed."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce incidental mortality of king salmon, especially for stocks of concern, when king salmon retention is prohibited by requiring anglers to release king salmon in the water immediately. This will reduce the handling of the fish and prevent anglers from removing the fish from the water. When king salmon retention is not allowed it is because the stocks need to rebuild and every effort should be made to ensure the king salmon that are caught are released unharmed.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. Territorial Sportsmen and Alaska Trollers Association asked the Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee to submit this proposal. The AC voted in support of submitting the proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Juneau Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F24-162)

PROPOSAL 123

5 AAC 47.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish.

Prohibit netting or handling king salmon when catch-and-release fishing is implemented, as follows:

In areas and times where catch and release fishing is the only method for capturing king salmon, prohibit netting or handling the fish. This will reduce incidental mortality, especially for stocks of concern.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Prohibit handling of king salmon in catch and release fisheries.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsmen Inc and Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F24-019)

PROPOSAL 124

5 AAC XX.XXX.000. New Section.

Modify resident sport fishing opportunity prescribed by Southeast Alaska king salmon action plans, as follows:

In years when the ADF&G pre-season forecast for the Chilkat, Taku, Stikine or Unuk River Chinook run is anticipated to exceed the lower bound of the escapement goal, the sportfishery in the related saltwater district(s) or affected portions of those district(s) including SHA/THA opportunities, shall re-open for residents one week earlier than the re-opening dates established in the current SOC Action Plans. The non-resident sportfishery shall continue to adhere to the dates in the existing Action Plans until the SoC status is lifted or other change to the SoC plan is made.

Stock Related District(s) or portions of District(s)

Unuk 1-2

Stikine 5- 10

Taku 11

Chilkat 12-15

For example, if the Taku run is predicted to exceed 19,000 large Chinook, the Juneau area District 11 sport king fishery would reopen to residents on June 7 and reopen to non-residents on June 14 with the DH SHA reopening for residents on May 25 and to non-residents on June 1.

Alaska is required under the Treaty to manage our king fisheries in a manner that respects the escapement goals. Since this provision would only trigger in years when the escapement goal is expected to be met, and would only result in a very small harvest of wild Chinook, Alaska would remain in compliance with our Treaty obligations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Stock of Concern restrictions that closed sport king fishing in the inside waters while spring spawners are present have placed a particularly heavy burden on resident sport fishermen, as the spring time has historically been the most productive time of year. Residents who live and work in the communities affected by the closures are not as mobile as commercial fishermen or non-resident sportfishermen. These latter user groups that can fairly easily relocate their fishing efforts to outside waters that remain open, but resident sport fishermen generally have work or school obligations that make traveling to distance waters not only expensive, but also impractical.

The dates of the closure were established when the stocks were at their lowest points and hence were set to be highly conservative. By the time all of the wild stocks leave the saltwater and the sport fisheries reopen, the hatchery fish are past their prime. In years when runs are partially recovered, but not yet to the point where all restrictions can be rescinded, these dates could be slightly relaxed for resident sportfishermen and still provide sufficient adequate protection for wild stocks while giving better access to hatchery kings while they remain bright.

As SE residents have only token access to officially-designated Chinook subsistence fisheries, SE residents meet their subsistence king salmon needs primarily through the sportfishery. As a quasi-subsistence fishery, the resident sportfishermen should have priority above other user groups, but the original SOC Action Plans did not provide for any degree of resident sport priority. Instead, the inside resident sportfishery has been proportionally the most affected of any of the directed Chinook fisheries.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have spoken with other resident sportfishermen about this concept, but have not brought it to any ACs. It would be considered out of area for my local AC.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka (EF-F24-037)

PROPOSAL 125

5 AAC 47.XXX. New Section.

Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A when a stock of concern exists for king salmon stocks in Northern Southeast Alaska, as follows:

Add Language to 5 AAC 47.055

"When there are stocks of concern in Northern Southeast Alaska, excluding the Alsek & Situk River, Close District 14A to King Salmon sport fishing from April 1 through June 14."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? District 14A is the Cross Sound area at the western entrance to Icy Strait. All other migration corridors for northern Southeast stocks of concern are closed in the spring to protect Taku, Chilkat and Stikine chinook. This last zone also needs to be closed in alignment with the troll closure during the same time in the same area. In inside waters the important chinook stocks are managed on the basis that every fish counts. This migration corridor needs to be treated the same.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. Territorial Sportsmen and Alaska Trollers Association asked the Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee to submit this proposal. The AC voted in support of submitting the proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Juneau Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F24-167)

PROPOSAL 126

5 AAC 47.XXX. New Section.

Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A, as follows:

District 14A is the Cross Sound area at the western entrance to Icy Strait. All other migration corridors for northern Southeast stocks of concern are closed in the spring to protect Taku, Chilkat and Stikine chinook. This last zone also needs to be closed in alignment with the troll closure during the same time in the same area. In inside waters the important chinook stocks are managed on the basis that every fish counts. This migration corridor needs to be treated the same.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Close district 14 A to King Salmon sport fishing from April 1 through June 14.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsman Inc. and Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F24-021)

PROPOSAL 127

5 AAC 47.XXX.New Section.

Allow residents to retain king salmon in the month of April near Ketchikan, as follows:

Personal use (residents) may retain king salmon 28" or greater for the full month of April. One king salmon per day per personal use angler of legal size.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Return the retention of 28" plus king salmon in unit 1A for year round Alaska residents for the full month of April. This has been a time frame to feed ourselves, children and grandchildren for years with high quality feeder kings.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, this proposal was presented to the Ketchikan Advisory Committee and is being put forth as an AC generated proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Ketchikan Advisory Committee (EF-F24-013)

PROPOSAL 128

5 AAC 47.XXX. New Section.

Allow residents to retain king salmon in the month of April in the Ketchikan area.

Personal use [residents] may retain King Salmon in unit 1A for the full month of April. One King per day, 28" or more per personal use angler.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Return the retention of King Salmon in unit 1A for year round residents in the full month of April. This has been a time frame to feed our selves, children, and grandchildren for years of high quality 28" plus, feeder Kings.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No but I presented it to the AC in Ketchikan and they agreed to send this proposal in.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Jahnke (EF-F24-067)

King Salmon-Commercial

PROPOSAL 129

5 AAC 29.090. Management of the spring troll fishery.

Increase the number of days open in the Yakutat Bay spring troll fishery from 1 day to 2 days.

Execute the fishery on 2 separate days, rather than one 24 hour opener per week. This would increase the opportunity for trollers to harvest and would not change the overall 1000 fish allocation here so it won't affect other users.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently and since implementation the one day per week troll allocation has never been caught. Most years the catch is less than half. This allocation and economic potential for the community of Yakutat is not being fully utilized.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No, I am a resident of Yakutat and am submitting this on my own behalf.

PROPOSED BY: Casey Mapes (HQ-F24-029)

PROPOSAL 130

5 AAC 29.100. Management of the summer troll fishery.

Allow for remaining troll king salmon allocation after winter and spring troll fisheries to be harvested during a single retention period beginning July 1.

Solution: A single uninterrupted summer king troll retention period beginning July 1.

We respectfully request a change in regulatory language enabling the troll fleet to harvest its entire summer king salmon quota share (its annual harvest allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060) starting with the July 1st king opener and continuing uninterrupted until concluded. Rather than two separate summer troll king openers as presently conducted, we propose one uninterrupted troll king opener during the summer king troll season, excepting any coho closure necessary to achieve escapement goals (during which all troll king salmon retention -- except as otherwise noted by the department -- would cease until the conclusion of the coho closure and king retention would resume immediately upon the resumption of coho retention).

This proposed solution greatly simplifies the regulations governing the summer king troll harvest, it assists the department in achieving its mission to apportion the troll fleet its mandated 80 percent share of the king allocation (after the nets' portion is assigned), and it obviates the necessity of regulatory language whose sole purpose is to address "what-ifs" and "what-thens" related to a second (separate) summer king troll harvest retention period in August.

Draft regulatory language:

5 AAC 29.100. remains unchanged except where formatting protocols indicate below and where repeated sequential deletions are noted (proposed deletions pertain to regulations governing a separate second troll king salmon opener in August).

5AAC 29.100. Management of the summer salmon troll fishery

-----start proposed changes/deletions-----

(A) to take **100 percent** [70 PERCENT] of the remaining troll king salmon harvest allocation, calculated as the annual troll harvest allocation minus the winter and spring troll harvests of treaty king salmon, in an [INITIAL] opening beginning July 1; **areas of king salmon high abundance shall remain open for the entirety of the summer king salmon troll harvest allocation except as ordered by emergency order.**

[SEQUENTIALLY DELETE THE FOLLOWING IN THEIR ENTIRETY: (B), (i), (ii), (2), (A), (B)]

(B) if summer harvest retention of king salmon is still on-going at the start of any closure of the coho salmon troll fishery (to achieve escapement goals), troll king fishing shall cease during the coho closure -- except where explicitly specified -- and shall resume immediately upon the reopening of coho retention. King salmon retention shall remain open until the king salmon troll quota share (80 percent of the king salmon allocation once the nets' share has been deducted as prescribed in 5 AAC 29.060) is harvested or Sept. 20, whichever comes first.

-----end-----

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The troll fleet wishes to secure the fairest opportunity to harvest its legally allocated share of king salmon without drama or rancor or uncertainty. But complications exist, which include:

* The relatively low Southeast Alaskan king salmon quota share awarded at Treaty (with little optimism for future improvement) presents challenges for the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game (ADFG) to fulfill its role as the executor of allocative apportionment among the affected gear groups.

* The vast majority of the king salmon harvested by non-resident sports (the charter fleet and bare boats -- whose numbers are unrestricted and growing) occur in the spring and early summer, compounding ADFG's apportionment challenges. (The majority of the troll fleets' king harvest occurs much later in July and August.)

* In August of 2023, ADFG revealed a regulatory change (as-then unknown to all stakeholders) which inscrutably abandoned in-season management for the non-resident sport fleet, resulting in an allocated overage by the sport sector of 17K kings. This led to a direct unrecoverable loss of 15.5K kings from the troll fleet's share to ensure that Alaska did not exceed its quota (gillnetters lost 1.5K kings from their allocative share as well).

* The troll fleet (as well as the resident-sport sector, whose participation and king harvest have remained remarkably consistent for the last 20 years) unwittingly finds itself in a "race to the fish" that no one knew existed until the regulatory change and an allocative transfer was made known to all by ADFG in August of 2023.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. This proposal enjoys the support of the ATA board.

PROPOSED BY: David Richey and Ken McGee, ATA board members (EF-F24-168)

PROPOSAL 131

5 AAC 29.100 Management of the summer troll fishery.

Establish criteria for establishing a limited harvest troll fishery in August and allow for more than one limited harvest fishery to occur.

5 AAC 29.100 (D) if the department determines that the number of king salmon remaining on the annual troll king salmon harvest allocation is not sufficient to allow a competitive fishery, **of at least 3 days**, the commissioner may, by emergency order, reopen the troll fishery to the taking of king salmon during a limited harvest fishery, subject to the following conditions:

(i) a limited harvest fishery may be opened for up to 10 days;

(ii) more than one limited harvest fishery may occur in the same season if unharvested allocation remains.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current summer troll king salmon management begins with a competitive July opener targeting 70% of the summer quota, followed by a competitive August opener targeting the remainder of the quota and if necessary, a September equal share fishery to "sweep up" any kings that are left on the quota. While the July and August openings are long-established, the regulations governing the sweep up fishery were added much more recently. At the time of adoption, the regulation included many restrictions limiting this management tool while management and industry were getting accustomed to it. Now that it has been used a couple of times, trollers that were initially uncertain how it would work have become more comfortable with this sort of opening and would like to see it used in more situations.

This desire was precipitated by the 2023 August opening which was only 1 day long. The coho troll fishery is required to close for two days ahead of a competitive king opening to ensure a fair start, but this closure is not required for an equal share fishery. When the August king opener is only one or two days long for all but the most highly-productive king producers, the benefits of a competitive opening are outweighed by the costs of the two-day coho closure and need for immediate offloading of kings following the short opener.

This proposal would give the department more latitude to utilize the equal share fishery as a tool in more scenarios, thus avoiding the need for unnecessary fair-start closures and artificially shortened trips in situations when competitive openings are too inefficient to justify

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I was motivated to submit this proposal after several other trollers expressed their dissatisfaction to me with the inconvenience and inefficiency associated with the 2023 August opener that lasted only one day.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka

(EF-F24-039)

PROPOSAL 132

5 AAC 29.140 Size limits, possession, and landing requirements.

Establish a minimum size limit for Chinook salmon of 26 1/2 inches from snout to fork of tail in the spring troll fisheries.

5 AAC 29.140 (f) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, in the spring troll fisheries, the minimum size limit for Chinook shall be 26-1/2” from snout to fork of tail.

(Note that if ADF&G data shows a different fork length to be the equivalent of 28” overall for immature kings, I would support using that length, but my observations indicate that an immature 28” king is about 26-1/2” in fork-length).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? It can be difficult to precisely determine if a close-to-long-enough king salmon meets the current minimum size limit of 28" as measured from snout to tip of the tail. Sometimes the fish flex or point their tails as they are being measured, thereby changing their length by up to half an inch. While trollers try to compensate for this distortion, we have to take the measurement quickly in order that the fish can be released

unharmful if it is too short. As king salmon have gotten smaller over the years, there are more fish that need to be measured every year, and a corresponding increase in the likelihood that a fish caught by well-intended fishermen is considered too short by enforcement personnel. Changing from an overall length measurement to a fork-length measurement would make it much easier to quickly obtain an accurate and consistent measurement since the fork-length doesn't change when the fish's tail changes posture. This will reduce stress on the released fish and cut down on disagreement with enforcement personnel when a fish goes into rigor mortis with their tail in a different position than when it was initially measured.

Utilizing a fork-length measurement during the spring season when the troll fishery is targeting Alaska hatchery kings would be particularly beneficial. Mature kings tend to be slightly larger than immature kings of the same age. This difference is the reason that the 28" minimum length was adopted decades ago. It protects immature king salmon that should be released to grow bigger, while allowing the harvest of precocious "jack" spawners- fish that while small, will nonetheless soon spawn and die. However, using a fork-length measurement is a better way to distinguish between maturing Chinook and immature kings than an overall length.

As salmon mature, their tails become less forked, so while an immature king that has a fork-length of 26-1/2" is about 28" overall, a mature king with the same fork-length is about an inch shorter in overall length. Under the current regulations, the immature fish is borderline-legal to keep, but the mature king is not. By changing the measurement method from 28" overall to 26-1/2" fork-length during the spring season when trollers are targeting mature Alaska hatchery fish the spring troll catch of Alaska hatchery Chinook will increase without measurably increasing the catch of Treaty Chinook since the Treaty kings in the region are predominately immature during the spring troll season. This is an unmitigated benefit since the Alaska hatchery kings do not count against the quota imposed by the Treaty.

While this change might mean that very occasionally a mature "jack" SE wild Chinook would be caught and retained rather than released, the BoF should keep in mind that such a fish would be a "medium", not "large" size fish. Thus, even if it reached the river, it would not have counted towards escapement goals. These "jack" kings are typically surplus to reproductive needs, hence ADFG has long encouraged their harvest dating back to the work of pioneering SE Chinook ADF&G researcher Paul Kissner in the 1970's at a time when local wild runs were at even lower levels than they are now.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The Sitka AC has previously endorsed the concept of changing the minimum size limit in some spring fisheries to a fork length measurement multiple times in the past 4 years, and has submitted a Sitka-area-only proposal to do so in this board cycle. This proposal is similar but would apply to all spring troll fisheries instead of just the Sitka area.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka

(EF-F24-038)

PROPOSAL 133

5 AAC 29.140. Size limits, possession, and landing requirements.

Allow for king salmon of 26 1/2 inches snout to fork length be retained in District 13 spring troll fisheries.

In the District 13 spring troll fisheries, the minimum size limit for Chinook shall be 26-1/2” from snout to fork. Permit holders must offload all Chinook salmon that are less than 28 inches prior to fishing in areas where retention of Chinook salmon less than 28 inches is prohibited.

(Or, if ADF&G data shows a different fork length to be the equivalent of 28” overall for immature kings, use that length).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

1. There are two issues that can be addressed with a single solution. In recent years more than half of NSRAA Chinook that are returning to the Sitka area have spent only 2 years in saltwater. About 30% of these young kings are less than the troll fishery minimum size limit of 28” as measured from snout to tip of tail. However, about half of these “shakers” are within an inch of meeting the minimum length. The 28” minimum is a conservation measure intended to allow immature kings to grow bigger before being harvested, but it is an imperfect tool since a small mature NSRAA king that is released in May or June will not live long enough to grow significantly larger.

Maturation changes Chinook in many ways. One of the physical changes is that the “vee” in the Chinook’s tail fills in and the previously forked tail becomes nearly “square”. In other words, an immature king that is 28” in overall length would measure about 26-1/2” from snout to the fork of the tail, but a mature 28” king will be nearly 27-1/2” in fork-length. So, changing the minimum size limit from 28” overall to 26-1/2” from snout to fork of tail would allow trollers to keep more mature NSRAA kings while continuing to protect the small immature Treaty fish.

This should increase the spring troll catch of NSRAA Chinook by about 15% without increasing the catch of Treaty Chinook since the Treaty kings in the Sitka spring troll districts are immature at that time of year.

The spring troll fisheries targeting NSRAA Chinook are isolated from other spring Chinook troll fisheries by nearly 100 miles. In the last three years, 18,783 kings caught in the Sitka spring fisheries were sampled by ADFG personnel. Only 5 of these fish were landed at a port other than Sitka. Similarly, of the 18,778 spring kings sampled by ADFG in Sitka in the past three years, none of them were caught outside of Districts 12 or 13. Hence there should be no enforcement issues with having a different minimum length measurement in the Sitka area.

The Sitka area is also over 100 miles away from the nearest wild Chinook system, so there should be minimum concern for SE wild stocks; furthermore, even if a mature SE wild Chinook was caught due to this Proposal, it would be a “medium”, not “large” size fish and hence would not have counted towards escapement goals even it had not been caught.

The second issue that this proposal addresses is that the flexibility of a king salmon’s tail creates inconsistent measurements. Some fish naturally point their tails so that they are longer than 28” when they come aboard, but measure short after they have died and their muscles relax. Fishermen, plant workers, and Wildlife troopers can measure the same fish and each get slightly different lengths depending upon how the tips of the tail lay on the table. These inconsistencies are not an issue when measuring to the fork of the tail since the fork length doesn’t change when the fish’s tail changes posture. Thus, crew and skippers landing king salmon have a much quicker and consistent measurement resulting in less handling and higher survival of those released.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The Sitka AC is sponsoring this proposal. We have previously

endorsed the concept of changing the spring fishery to fork length multiple times in the past 4 years, most recently on January 17, 2024.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka AC

(EF-F24-021)

PROPOSAL 134

5 AAC 33.392. Size limits and landing of king salmon.

Expand landing and retention requirements for king salmon by purse seine permit holders and establish penalties for violating landing requirements.

5AAC33.XX Unlawful Possession of King Salmon

(A) A Southeast Alaska Purse Seine permit holder shall not have king salmon retained, in their possession, or on board their purse seine vessel any king salmon unless permitted by emergency order. All king salmon not being retained, must be immediately returned unharmed to the water.

(B) If permitted under an emergency order, king salmon can be retained during an open fishing period. The king salmon must be offloaded and documented on an ADFG fish ticket under 5AAC39.130. All king salmon must be offloaded prior to participating in a future salmon purse seine open fishing period.

(C) The seine vessel or SE Alaska purse seine permit holder can not participate in a future SE Alaska purse seine salmon fishery for the statistical year unless subsection (B) is complied with. Violation of subsection (A) is punishable as a violation with a set fine on the Alaska Court Bail schedule of \$150 plus restitution of \$150 for each king salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial Southeast Alaska(SE AK) salmon purse seine operators continue to catch and retain large numbers of illegal and undocumented king salmon.

Currently, it's illegal for purse seine operators to retain king salmon greater than 28 inches in length except for an opener or two during the summer. King salmon under 28 inches can be retained as personal use fish by emergency order.

Purse seiners do not specifically target a certain species of fish. They catch everything and its up to the crew of the seine vessels to sort the unwanted species (bycatch) such as steelhead and king salmon. Many crews sort the bycatch from going into the fish hold, some do not. The crews who do sort the fish effectively, take great pride in the fact that they can routinely conduct an offload of their catch and not have one illegal fish.

In areas of higher king salmon abundance such as the west side of Prince of Wales Island (PoW) and the lower east side of PoW, seiners can catch hundreds of king salmon during an opener. As one seine tender(buyer) reported, a single seine vessel during a 2023 offload had over 300 king salmon during a non-retention period. The tender captain was upset because the seine crew tossed all 300+ king salmon into the ocean during the offload. This type of event is routine. Fish processors instruct the tenders who purchase fish for them on the fishing grounds to toss all king salmon and steelehead onto the seine vessel or into the ocean.

One local processor in Craig during 2023 was educated by ADFG during mid-summer about donating king salmon. ADFG began to allow processors to take king salmon into the fish plants to be processed for donation only. The local Craig plant donated approximately 1000 king salmon to the communities on PoW. This was after Alaska Wildlife Troopers monitored seine offloads and the fleet was aware of the enforcement activities.

Residents of PoW are very aware and concerned about king salmon and the seine caught bycatch. Residents fish for king salmon during seine openings. They see one seine vessel haul its net and several king salmon will be instantly sorted and tossed back into the ocean while the vessel right next to the first vessel tosses nothing back. Residents watch these seine vessels return to the harbors and offload carts of king salmon. The local custom fish processors pick up the fish from the crew in direct view of the public eye. Almost all of these king salmon have not been reported on an ADFG fish ticket and are undocumented.

The East PoW AC discussed solutions to this issue. Several salmon studies were reviewed regarding the survival rates of net caught salmon. We also reviewed Washington State's regulation requiring Puget Sound seine boats to use a recovery box prior to releasing king salmon. We learned that recovery boxes do increase survival rates even if the fish are injured but even without the use of recovery boxes, king salmon greater than 28" that were immediately released from a seine net still have decent survival rates.

During a East PoW AC meeting, a local SE AK salmon seine permit holder expressed his concerns about recovery box requirements. They would be burdensome to install and take alot of room on the deck if they had to be big enough to hold all the fish they catch. They can catch a large number of kings at once so this would be impractical. The group agreed recovery boxes in SE AK were not a good solution. The local SE AK permit holder did agree that the best solution would be to set a penalty for every illegal king salmon of \$150/fish to deter this conduct.

The PoW Court has consistently issued the lowest fines to seine permit holders even though the PoW area has a real issue with seine vessels retaining illegal king salmon. Other courts issue fines up to 10 times higher than the PoW Court. It was agreed there should be a set fine per king salmon retained. The penalty should be a violation and not hold demeritus points. The recommended fine should be \$150 plus \$150 restitution for each king salmon.

The SE AK seine fleet is sloppy when they sort king salmon until Alaska Wildlife Troopers begin to monitor offloads. The local SE AK seine permit holder stated that it is very practical to sort kings and toss them overboard alive UNLESS they slow down a few extra minutes as they roll thousands of pounds of salmon on the deck and allow their crew the necessary time needed to release the kings alive. In years past, the whole seine fleet does this once enforcement begins monitoring the offloads.

If this regulation is passed, the AK Court Bail Schedule, Alaska Wildlife Troopers and the Alaska Court System can easily issue violations with set fine amounts to those who retain illegal king salmon. The option of a court issuing extremely small fines will no longer be a factor and the extra few minutes of releasing king salmon alive will be worth it to the seine boat captains. The fine is set equal to the sport fishing fine for illegal retention of a king salmon.

If passed, this will also show that Alaskans are doing our part to conserve king salmon, eliminate bycatch and preserve our fisheries.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The East PoW AC.

PROPOSED BY: East PoW AC

(EF-F24-135)

***SOUTHEAST AREA AND YAKUTAT AREA SUBSISTENCE,
PERSONAL USE, AND SPORT SALMON AND OTHER NON-
GROUND FISH FINFISH (21 proposals)***

Southeast Subsistence Salmon

PROPOSAL 135

5 AAC 01.720. Lawful Gear and Gear Specifications, 5 AAC 01.760. Redoubt Bay and Lake Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Only allow for the use of seine gear in the Redoubt Bay subsistence fishery when the escapement is projected to be greater than 40,000 sockeye salmon.

5 AAC 01.720. Lawful gear and gear specifications

Fish may be taken by gear listed in 5 AAC 01.010(a) except as may be restricted under the terms of a subsistence fishing permit and except as follows:

(1) in District 13, Redoubt Bay, gillnet [OR SEINE] gear may not be used to take salmon in any waters of the bay closed to commercial salmon fishing;

Section 5 AAC 01.760 - Redoubt Bay and Lake Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management Plan

(5) in addition to the provisions of (4) of this subsection, when the projected total escapement level of sockeye salmon is greater than 40,000 fish, the commissioner may

(A) open portions of Redoubt Bay to a commercial fishery on sockeye salmon returning to Redoubt Lake;

(B) issue community subsistence permits under the provisions of (e) of this section.

(C) allow the subsistence use of seine gear in the waters of Redoubt Bay north (seaward) of a line approximately 100 yards from the base of the falls as marked by ADF&G regulatory markers;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal is to allow the use of seine gear for subsistence fishing in Redoubt Bay when the projected escapement of sockeye salmon is over 40,000 fish. Currently, seine gear can only be used in the outer bay, where fish are too spread out for it to be effective. Recent escapements have consistently exceeded the escapement goal range of 7,000 – 25,000 fish; and have been over 40,000 fish for the last seven years. The most recent record escapement of 153,000 fish has led to concerns about reduced productivity from overescapement. Currently, the majority of sockeye are taken using dipnets at the base of the falls, where the limited space does not provide enough fishing power for an effective and efficient harvest. While there may be concerns with gear conflicts, the use of seine gear in years with large returns would actually reduce conflicts by providing for a more effective means to quickly harvest sockeye, reducing the time spent fishing. The proposed regulation would bar seines from the area near the falls to prevent direct conflict with dipnetters.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The proposal was developed in a Regional Advisory Council meeting at the request of a member from the Sitka area.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory Council

(HQ-F24-015)

PROPOSAL 136

5 AAC 01.745. Subsistence bag and possession Limits; Annual Limits.

Increase sockeye salmon possession and annual limits at Basket Bay.

5 AAC 01.745. Subsistence bag and possession limits; annual limits

(h) In the Juneau Management Area, in waters open to subsistence salmon fishing under a household subsistence salmon fishing permit, the possession and annual limits for salmon per household are as follows:

- (A) District 12: in the following waters, the following possession and annual limits apply:
 - (i) Basket Bay: the possession limit is **20** [15] sockeye salmon, with an annual limit of **40** [30] sockeye salmon;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Basket Bay (Kook Lake) is an important source of sockeye for subsistence users from Angoon, Hoonah, and other nearby communities. The current possession and annual limits for sockeye at Basket Bay are 15 fish possession / 30 fish annual, which is lower than most other systems of similar size in the area. A stock assessment program operated between 2005-2007 and 2010-2017 showed that escapement to Kook Lake was stable at higher subsistence harvest levels than have been seen in recent years. The current harvest limits, especially the 15 fish possession limit, make it necessary for subsistence users to make several trips across Chatham Strait to meet their sockeye needs. The proposed harvest limit increase would allow users to meet their sockeye needs more efficiently with less risk and use of gas, time, and effort.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The proposal was developed by the Council following public testimony requesting an increase in the harvest limits at Basket Bay

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (HQ-F24-014)

PROPOSAL 137

5 AAC 01.745. Subsistence bag and possession limits; annual limits.

Increase the possession limit of sockeye salmon for Basket Bay from 15 to 30 sockeye salmon.

Modify sockeye possession limits for Basket Bay as follows;

(h)(1)(A)(i) Basket Bay: the possession limit is 30 sockeye salmon, with an annual limit of 30 sockeye salmon;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The remoteness of the area combined with high fuel prices and rough weather in Northern Chatham Strait make it difficult for subsistence harvesters to access Basket Bay. Low possession limits force users to make multiple trips to meet their subsistence sockeye harvesting needs. Increasing the possession limit from 15 to 30 sockeye allows subsistence users of the Hoonah, Tenakee, and Angoon communities opportunity to harvest their limit in fewer trips, without increasing overall harvest of the Basket Bay stock.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Hoonah Indian Association - Environmental Department in coordination with staff from the USDA Forest Service, Juneau Ranger District

PROPOSED BY: Hoonah Indian Association (EF-F24-010)

Southeast Sport Salmon and Trout

PROPOSAL 138

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area

Prohibit snagging in the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge, as follows:

Solution: Within the boundaries of the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge, snagging is prohibited. Fish caught elsewhere than the mouth (snagged) must be released immediately. The use non tradition gear including lead weighted and/or lead wrapped treble hooks is prohibited. Regional freshwater regulations apply, except bait is legal year-round.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Problem: A portion of the chinook and silver salmon returning to the McCauley fish hatchery enter the Gastineau Channel/Mendenhall Refuge from the northeast end and use the high tide cycle to cross the Refuge to return to the hatchery. During the low tide cycle, the waters within the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge drain and flow like a stream or river. During the low portion of the tide, the salmon tend to concentrate in pools just the same as if they are in a stream or river. This creates a superb shore-based sport angling opportunity for people using traditional sport fishing and flyfishing gear. Anglers using non-traditional methods (snagging) often disrespect and interfere with anglers using traditional means creating an unpleasant and unsporting fishing atmosphere.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I brought it up to the Juneau Advisory Committee for discussion and endorsement which passed for endorsement. I've submitted a refined version which I will bring up at the fall committee meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Cole (HQ-F24-111)

PROPOSAL 139

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Prohibit snagging within Don D. Statter harbor, as follows:

For the safety of our patrons, I ask that the board consider prohibiting snagging on and around CBJ Docks and Harbors property within Statter Harbor. Please see proposal below:

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(d) In the Juneau vicinity: in the waters that are adjacent to the Juneau City and Borough road system to a distance one-quarter mile offshore:

(1) rainbow and cutthroat trout, in combination, must be no less than 14 inches and no greater than 22 inches in length;

(2) the bag and possession limit for Dolly Varden is two fish;

(3) in the waters of Auke Bay, east of a line from Waydelich (Wadleigh) Creek to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one-quarter mile south of the mouth of Auke Creek,

(A) sport fishing for sockeye salmon is closed;

(B) Dolly Varden may be taken only from June 1 - March 31;

(C) snagging or attempting to snag is prohibited within a 200-yard radius seaward of ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 200 feet downstream of the Auke Creek weir; a fish hooked anywhere other than the mouth must be released immediately back into the water;

(D) snagging or attempting to snag is prohibited on the docks, launch ramps, shoreline property, and on the water within Don D. Statter Harbor;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations allow snagging in Auke Bay except for a small area around Auke Creek. In 2021 Juneau Docks and Harbors extended the Statter Harbor floats to accommodate whale watching vessels and tourism in Auke Bay into an area commonly used by locals for snagging King salmon in a terminal fishery. Fisherman casting heavy snagging hooks from the shore towards the docks has created a safety concern for CBJ Harbors, patrons, vessels, and the 220,000 tourists who used the area in 2023. There have been several incidents where a vessel or person has been hit by a snagging hook since the construction of these docks. We have posted "no snagging" signs in the area, but the practice continues because we have no way to enforce the rule. We in no way want to prohibit fishing in general in the area, just the method of snagging.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I did not

PROPOSED BY: CBJ Docks and Harbors

(EF-F24-007)

PROPOSAL 140

5 AAC 47.XXX. New section

Sport fishing may only be conducted with a single barbless circle hook between April 1 and June 14, as follows:

Sport Fishing : For ALL areas outside hatchery THA zones - 1 (one) Circle-Barbless-Hook per line, between April 1st through June 14th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To immediately STOP the use of traditional "open-tip", "straight-shank", or "J" style hooks for ALL Sport Fishing between the dates of April 1st through June 14th. Instead, the use of 1 (one) "Circle-Barbless-hook" per line should be required between April 1st through June 14th for insuring the CRUCIAL survival of our Chinook Stocks of Concern. The damaging, unsafe, detrimental, and injurious, effects to Chinook Salmon in ALL "Catch and Release" practices of Sport Fishing continues to devastate Chinook within our Stocks of Concern. This new law will greatly reduce the HIGH accidental death

numbers amongst Southeast Transboundary Chinook Stocks of Concern. This new law will NOT stop Catch and Release "Photo Op" Sport Fishing, it will only EHANCE the SAFTEY of Catch and Release Sport Fishing practices in ALL Southeast Transboundary areas between April 1st through June 14th.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. This proposal was discussed amongst resident sport fishers in Ketchikan, AK. It has been agreed that this proposal will greatly help solve the accidental death brought upon our Transboundary Chinook Stocks, particularly during the "Clover Pass" catch and release fishery in Ketchikan, Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Cody Cowan (EF-F24-056)

PROPOSAL 141

5 AAC 47.XXX. New section.

Prohibit the use of bait in sport fisheries between April 1 through June 14, as follows:

Sport Fishing: Baited hooks are NOT permitted outside hatchery THA Zones between April 1st through June 14th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The use of "baited" hooks should Not be permitted for Salmon targeted Sport Fishing between the dates of April 1st through June 14th. The use of baited hooks during ALL catch and release Sport Fisheries cause catastrophic harm to Chinook. Salmon "swallow" baited hooks deeper, causing severe damage to their organs, greatly lessening their chance for survival. In order to help achieve the best survival rate for ALL Stocks of Concern, we must STOP the use of baited hooks during ALL catch and release Sport Fisheries "outside of hatchery THA zones" between April 1st through June 14th.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. This proposal was discussed and agreed on by resident sport fishers in Ketchikan, Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Cody Cowan (EF-F24-057)

PROPOSAL 142

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Open Ketchikan Creek to sport fishing year-round and establish bag and possession limits for king salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023(i)(6) is amended to read:

...

- (6) in Ketchikan Creek, excluding City Park Ponds,
 - (A) only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;
 - (B) sport fishing is allowed **year round** [ONLY FROM SEPTEMBER 15 - MAY 31];

- (C) the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon,
 - (i) 16 inches or greater in length, is two fish in combination;
 - (ii) less than 16 inches in length, is 10 fish in combination;
- (D) repealed 7/1/2015;
- (E) **the bag and possession limit for king salmon is,**
 - (i) two fish any size;**
 - (ii) a king salmon taken by a nonresident will not count toward the nonresident annual limit as established by 5 AAC 47.055;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A seasonal sport fishing closure from June – September has been in regulation since 1986 to allow for broodstock collection that previously occurred at Deer Mountain Hatchery (DMH). In 2013, the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) assumed ownership of the hatchery. King salmon are produced at DMH, though broodstock collection for SSRAA’s king salmon program occurs at Whitman Lake Hatchery. This regulation change would eliminate the need for the department to issue an annual emergency order to open the creek to sport fishing and set limits for king salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-176)

PROPOSAL 143

5 AAC 47.022. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Increase the bag and possession limit for trout in Southeast Alaska, as follows:

Change the general provisions for seasons and bag possession, annual and size limits for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska area.

Rainbow and cutthroat trout, in combination, bag and possession limit of 4 fish; no annual limit. Must be no less than 11 inches and no greater than 22 inches in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The cutthroat trout/rainbow trout (trout) of Prince of Wales Island (PoW) are not targeted species. There are many lightly fished/unfished watersheds on PoW that hold large numbers of these species and in some drainages, they are causing significant predation to the Sockeye salmon, specifically the Klawock lake drainage. The farmed salmon net pens located in the Klawock Lake attract hungry trout daily when the uneaten fish pellets fall through the net and are eaten by the trout. These large aggressive trout impact the Sockeye and other salmon that spawn in the tributaries and cause significant predation to the salmon eggs, fry and smolt. Many locals have discussed the need to liberalize the bag/size limits not just in the Klawock River/Lake drainage but island wide.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. This proposal was developed in the Klawock AC.

PROPOSED BY: Klawock AC (EF-F24-059)

PROPOSAL 144

5 AAC 47.022 General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Increase harvest opportunity for trout in Southeast Alaska, as follows:

Change the general provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual and size limits for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska area.

Rainbow and cutthroat trout, in combination, bag and possession limit of 4 fish; no annual limit. Must be no less than 11 inches and no greater than 22 inches in length. Min of 11" & Max of 22".

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The cutthroat trout/rainbow trout (trout) of Prince of Wales Is.(PoW) are not targeted species. There are many lightly fished/unfished watersheds on PoW that hold large numbers of these species and in some drainages, they are causing significant predation to different salmon species. Many locals have discussed the need to liberalize the bag/size limits on PoW and Southeast Alaska wide.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The Klawock AC.

PROPOSED BY: Klawock AC

(EF-F24-089)

PROPOSAL 145

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Increase harvest opportunity for trout in Klawock Lake drainage, as follows:

Create a special use freshwater regulation for the Klawock Lake drainage on Prince of Wales Island.

Klawock Lake:

Only unbaited, artificial lures or flies may be used year round. The use of bait is prohibited. Rainbow and cutthroat trout, in combination, bag and possession limit of 4 fish; no annual limit. Must be more than 11 inches and no greater than 22 inches in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The cutthroat trout/rainbow trout (trout) of Prince of Wales Island (PoW) are not targeted species. There are many lightly fished/unfished watersheds on PoW that hold large numbers of these species and in some drainages, they are causing significant predation to the Sockeye salmon, specifically the Klawock Lake drainage. The farmed salmon net pens located in the Klawock Lake attract hungry trout daily when the uneaten fish pellets fall through the net and are eaten by the trout. The trout also ram the net and knock the coho fry out of the net and eat them. These large aggressive trout impact the Sockeye and other salmon that spawn in the tributaries and cause significant predation to the salmon eggs and juvenile salmon. Many locals have discussed the need to liberalize the bag/size limits in the Klawock Lake drainage for food security reasons as well as reducing the predation on the coveted Sockeye salmon.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The Klawock AC.

PROPOSED BY: Klawock AC

(EF-F24-088)

PROPOSAL 146

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Increase the bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout in 108 Creek drainage, as follows:

Change the current special use freshwater regulation for 108 Creek drainage on Prince of Wales Island.

108 Creek Drainage-Including Twin Island Lake and Cavern Lake.

Only unbaited, artificial lures or flies may be used year round. The use of bait is prohibited. Steelhead: catch and release fishing only, all steelhead caught must be released immediately. Rainbow and cutthroat trout, in combination, bag and possession limit of 4 fish; no annual limit. Must be less than 11 inches and no greater than 22 inches in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would include the entire 108 Creek system including Twin Island Lake and Cavern Lake at the headwaters. Cutthroat trout/rainbow trout (trout) are present year round and abundant in this drainage. They are smaller fish, mostly under 15 inches in length. Increasing the harvest level in this lightly used fishery would be beneficial to locals and other anglers. Trout fishing is a great way to introduce young/new anglers to fishing and is a good opportunity for families to get out and spend time outdoors. Increasing the bag limit helps food security, offsets the rising cost of fuel/groceries and is easier to justify spending the day fishing.

Currently, there is a freshwater special regulation for the 108 Creek steelhead run. This would add a line for trout and its new bag limit. It would also clarify/include the Twin Island and Cavern Lakes into the system since 107 Creek runs through those lakes.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The residents of Whale Pass in conjunction with the East PoW AC developed this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: East POW AC

(EF-F24-032)

PROPOSAL 147

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Increase the bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout and prohibit the use of bait in Neck Lake, as follows:

Create a special use freshwater regulation for the Neck Lake drainage on Prince of Wales Island. Only unbaited, artificial lures or flies may be used year round. The use of bait is prohibited. Rainbow and cutthroat trout, in combination, bag and possession limit of 4 fish; no annual limit. Must be less than 11 inches and no greater than 22 inches in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would include the entire Neck Lake system and its tributaries on Prince of Wales Island. Cutthroat trout/rainbow trout (trout) are present year round and abundant in this drainage. They are smaller fish, mostly under 15 inches in length. Increasing the harvest level in this lightly used fishery would be beneficial to locals and other anglers. Trout fishing is a great way to introduce young/new anglers to fishing and is a good opportunity for families to get out and spend time outdoors. Increasing the bag limit helps food security, offsets the rising cost of fuel/groceries and is easier to justify spending the day fishing.

This would create a new special use freshwater regulation since it currently falls under the general freshwater regs.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The residents of Whale Pass in conjunction with the East PoW AC developed this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: East POW AC (EF-F24-033)

PROPOSAL 148

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Modify Eagle Lake cutthroat trout bag and possession and size limit, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023(h)(6) is amended to read:

...

(h) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity:

(6) **repealed** / / [IN EAGLE LAKE,

(A) ONLY UNBAITED, ARTIFICIAL LURES MAY BE USED;

(B) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR CUTTHROAT TROUT IS ONE FISH, WHICH MUST BE 25 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eagle Lake is currently identified as a trophy lake for cutthroat trout and has a bag and possession limit of one fish, which must be 25 inches or greater in length. In 2023, the department assessed the cutthroat trout population in Eagle Lake and found an abundant population although after sampling more than 1,100 individual fish, no cutthroat over 25 inches was found. The current regulations are unnecessarily conservative and additional harvest opportunity could be provided. By rescinding this special provision, the regional bag and possession limit of two fish (rainbow and cutthroat trout in combination) and 11 inch minimum and 22 inch maximum size limit will now apply in Eagle Lake. These management provisions are consistent with 5 AAC 75.220 *Statewide management standards for wild trout*.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-178)

PROPOSAL 149

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area

Prohibit the use of bait and establish a catch-and-release fishery with single barbless hooks in Petersen Creek, as follows:

Year-round catch and release, single-barbless hook, artificial lure regulations for trout on Petersen Creek will help protect genetic diversity necessary to rebuild steelhead stocks in this popular road system fishery.

We considered catch and release regulations for rainbow trout alone, but this adds a layer of regulatory complexity, and requires anglers to be able to quickly differentiate between cutthroat and rainbow trout.

We also considered total catch and release regulations for Petersen Creek, as coho fishing has also been closed by emergency order in recent years, but the dolly varden and pink salmon numbers do not warrant a move to such a move.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The popular Juneau road-system steelhead fishery on Petersen Creek has been closed by Emergency Order each season since 2019. As an ADFG index stream, we have reliable data on run size; recent snorkel surveys have shown that run sizes are depressed below long-term averages. As the April 1, 2024 Emergency Order (No. 1-SH-E-06-24) notes:

"overall production of steelhead in Peterson Creek has declined in recent years. For the last 9 years (2015–2023), snorkel survey index counts conducted each spring have been below the 1997–2014 average of 28 fish (equivalent to 116 fish), when steelhead abundance in the creek appeared to be relatively stable. In 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 the snorkel survey counts were 6, 3, 11, 24, 18, and 27 fish, respectively. Continued low escapements require this closure to conserve the Peterson Creek steelhead stock."

There are only a handful of opportunities for steelhead anglers on the Juneau Road system, so revitalizing this run is of high importance. Studies across the range of steelhead and rainbow trout have shown contribution of resident rainbows to steelhead population genetics (McPhee et al). State agencies across the Pacific Northwest have begun to reconcile the management strategy of rainbow trout to reflect the importance of resident rainbow trout in steelhead recovery (Marshall, NMFS). Limiting the Peterson Creek fishery to year-round catch and release, single barbless hook and an artificial lure regulations will provide recreational opportunity with minimal impact on the resident rainbow population which could be critical for the continued recovery of its steelhead component. In other words, conservative regulations will ensure that rainbow trout populations remain robust to bolster steelhead production, while also protecting smolt and rearing juvenile steelhead.

References:

NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service). 2019. ESA Recovery Plan for the Puget Sound Steelhead Distinct Population Segment (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). National Marine Fisheries Service. Seattle, WA.

Marshall, A.R., Small, M., Foley, S., 2006. Genetic relationships among anadromous and resident *Oncorhynchus mykiss* in Cedar River, Washington: Implications for steelhead recovery planning, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, WA. Final report to Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee and Seattle Public Utilities.

McPhee, M.V., Utter, F., Stanford, J.A., Kuzishchin, K.V., Savvaitova, K.A., Pavlov, D.S., Allendorf, F.W. 2007. Population structure and partial anadromy in *Oncorhynchus mykiss* from

Kamchatka: relevance for conservation strategies around the Pacific Rim. Ecology of Freshwater Fish 16, 539-547.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was approved and vetted by the Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee at our April 8, 2024 meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee (EF-F24-110)

Yakutat Area

PROPOSAL 150

5 AAC 01.660. Fishing season and periods.

Change the weekly subsistence fishing periods in the Yakutat Area from 6:00 a.m. to 12:01 a.m. start time and 6:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. end time.

5 AAC 01.660

Subsistence and Personal Use Salmon Fishing Permit Conditions in Yakutat, AK

Unless extended by emergency order, from the beginning of the commercial salmon set net season through the end of the commercial salmon net season, the weekly subsistence fishing period is from 12:01 am Friday to 11:59 pm Saturday.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the Subsistence and Personal Use Salmon Fishing Permit Conditions for the Yakutat area allow fishing from 6am Friday to 6pm Saturday, beginning with commercial salmon net openers through the end of the commercial salmon net season. During public comment sessions held in Yakutat, tribal members and residents expressed they do not have enough fishing opportunity to harvest adequate fish for the year with the current subsistence openings. We propose extending these times to allow fishing from 12:01am Friday to 11:59pm Saturday. The Situk River has over escaped sockeye ten of the last fifteen years, and providing more opportunity for subsistence fishing should be priority over other fisheries to manage for this over escapement.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was written by the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (YTT) Fisheries Committee and approved by the YTT Tribal Council. The Yakutat Advisory Committee has not reached quorum to hold meetings.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (EF-F24-084)

PROPOSAL 151

5 AAC 47.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

and 5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Modify the nonresident annual limit for king salmon in the freshwaters of the Yakutat management area and the Situk River, as follows:

5 AAC 47.022(c)(1)(C) is amended to read:

...

[THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH, BY EMERGENCY ORDER,] the nonresident annual limit **is two** [FOR] **king salmon, 20** [28] inches or greater in length, [AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 47.055] **and does not count toward the nonresident annual harvest limit established under 5 AAC 47.055**; a harvest record is required for a nonresident as specified in 5 AAC 75.006;

5 AAC 47.023(b)(6)(A) is amended to read:

...

repealed / / ; [A KING SALMON 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH TAKEN BY A NONRESIDENT WILL NOT COUNT TOWARD THAT NONRESIDENT'S ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT ESTABLISHED UNDER 5 AAC 47.055;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The nonresident annual limit for king salmon in the fresh waters of the Yakutat Area currently mirrors those established by the provisions of 5 AAC 47.055 *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* which directs the management of Southeast Alaska king salmon sport fishery in marine waters. Under this management plan, nonresident annual limits are established according to the allocation of king salmon to the sport fishery under the terms of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and may not be appropriate management measures for king salmon runs in the Yakutat Area freshwaters. The freshwater harvest of king salmon in the Yakutat Area occurring on non-transboundary rivers is not subject to the terms of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Establishing a nonresident annual limit of two king salmon, 20 inches or greater, provides a consistent management regime while continuing to limit the harvest potential for nonresident anglers on these relatively small king salmon systems. This would not impact the department's ability to use emergency order authority to restrict the sport fishery for conservation purposes.

This would remove the special provision for the Situk River which currently directs the department not to apply the nonresident annual limit established under 5 AAC 47.055 to the Situk River. Due to the small run size and large proportion of nonresident anglers on the Situk River, applying a nonresident annual limit allows for a controlled harvest opportunity. This would apply the nonresident annual limit of 2 king salmon over 20 inches to the Situk River unless otherwise called for under 5 AAC 30.365 *Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Management Plan*.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-173)

PROPOSAL 152

5 AAC 30.365. Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Amend the *Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* to reflect recent management strategies, as follows:

5 AAC 30.365 is amended to read:

(a) The purpose of the management plan in this section is to provide for the biological escapement goal requirements of spawning king salmon to the Situk-Ahrnklin River systems. This

management plan provides guidelines to the department in an effort to preclude allocation conflicts between the various user groups of the king salmon resource. Action points and associated ranges within the plan are intended to be based on the current king salmon escapement goal ranges for the Situk River system.

(b) The biological escapement goal for the Situk River king salmon is 730 three ocean age and older fish, with a range of 450 - 1,050 fish.

(c) The department shall manage the commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries as follows:

(1) **until at least 450 three ocean age or older king salmon have passed the Situk River weir located approximately 2 miles upstream of the mouth** [IF THE PROJECTED ESCAPEMENT IS LESS THAN 350 THREE OCEAN AGE AND OLDER FISH, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL CLOSE, BY EMERGENCY ORDER,] the king salmon **fisheries are to be managed as follows:**

(A) **the sport fishery for king salmon in the Situk River shall be closed;**

(B) **retention of king salmon in the** subsistence, personal use, and commercial set gillnet fisheries in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River **shall be prohibited;** and

(C) **the** commercial troll fishery **shall be closed** in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the [SEAWARD LIMIT OF THE] three-nautical-mile **limit of the** territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59° 30.49' N. lat., 139° 46.58' W. long. [(OCEAN CAPE)] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 28.44' N. lat., 139° 51.68' W. long.** [59° 28.65' N. lat., 139° 51.17' W. long.] and on the south by a line extending seaward from **59° 21.07' N. lat., 139° 19.73' W. long.,** [59° 20.30' N. LAT., 139° 16.50' W. LONG.] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 19.08' N. lat., 139° 24.98' W. long.** [59° 18.25' N. lat., 139° 21.94' W. LONG.];

(D) **weekly fishing periods in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River set gillnet fisheries may be restricted;**

(2) **when at least 450 three ocean age or older king salmon have passed the Situk River weir located approximately 2 miles upstream of the mouth** [IF THE PROJECTED ESCAPEMENT IS 350 - 450 THREE OCEAN AGE OR OLDER FISH THE COMMISSIONER] **the king salmon fisheries are to be managed as follows:**

(A) **the subsistence fishery will have priority over sport and commercial fisheries and may open for retention of king salmon prior to the sport and commercial fisheries;**[SHALL, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, CLOSE THE SPORT FISHERY FOR KING SALMON IN THE SITUK RIVER; AND]

(B) **retention of king salmon in the commercial set gillnet fisheries in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River may be allowed;** [MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES:]

(i) **repealed / /** [ESTABLISH A NONRETENTION KING SALMON SEASON IN THE SITUK-AHRNKLIN INLET AND LOST RIVER SET GILLNET FISHERIES;]

(C)[(II) CLOSE] the commercial salmon troll fishery **may open** in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the [SEAWARD LIMIT OF THE] three-nautical-mile **limit of the** territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59° 30.49' N. lat., 139° 46.58' W. long. [(OCEAN CAPE)] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 28.44' N. lat., 139° 51.68' W. long.** [59° 28.65' N. lat., 139° 51.17' W. long.] and on the south by a line extending seaward from **59° 21.07' N. lat., 139° 19.73' W. long.** [59° 20.30'

N. LAT., 139° 16.50' W. LONG.] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 19.08' N. lat., 139° 24.98' W. long.** [59° 18.25' N. LAT., 139° 21.94' W. LONG.; **and**

(iii) **repealed** / / RESTRICT THE WEEKLY FISHING PERIODS IN THE SITUK-AHRNKLIN INLET AND LOST RIVER SET GILLNET FISHERIES]; **and**

(D) the sport fishery for king salmon in the Situk River may open downstream of the weir located at approximately river mile 2;

(3) when at least 730 three ocean or older king salmon have passed the Situk River weir located approximately 2 miles upstream of the mouth the king salmon fisheries are to be managed as follows: [IF THE PROJECTED ESCAPEMENT IS 451 - 730 THREE OCEAN AGE OR OLDER FISH], the commissioner shall, [BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES]:

(A) **allow retention of king salmon in the subsistence fishery;** [ESTABLISH A NONRETENTION KING SALMON SEASON IN THE SITUK-AHRNKLIN INLET AND LOST RIVER SET GILLNET FISHERIES:]

(B) the commercial salmon troll fishery **will open** in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the [SEAWARD LIMIT OF THE] three-nautical-mile **limit of the** territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59° 30.49' N. lat., 139° 46.58' W. long. [(OCEAN CAPE)] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 28.44' N. lat., 139° 51.68' W. long.** [59° 28.65' N. lat., 139° 51.17' W. long.] and on the south by a line extending seaward from **59° 21.07' N. lat., 139° 19.73' W. long.** [59° 20.30' N. LAT., 139° 16.50' W. LONG.] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 19.08' N. lat., 139° 24.98' W. long.** [59° 18.25' N. LAT., 139° 21.94' W. LONG.;

(C) **manage the commercial set gillnet fisheries in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River based solely on the sockeye salmon run strength, while allowing for the retention of king salmon; and** [RESTRICT THE WEEKLY FISHING PERIODS IN THE SITUK-AHRNKLIN INLET AND LOST RIVER SET GILLNET FISHERIES; AND]

(D) **open the sport fishery for king salmon in the Situk River in the section of river located downstream of the weir located at approximately river mile 2;** RESTRICT THE SPORT HARVEST OF KING SALMON IN THE SITUK RIVER BY IMPLEMENTING ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

(I) CLOSE PORTIONS OF THE SITUK RIVER TO SPORT FISHING FOR KING SALMON;

(II) ESTABLISH A CATCH AND RELEASE SPORT FISHERY ONLY FOR KING SALMON 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH];

(4) **repealed** / / [IF THE PROJECTED ESCAPEMENT IS GREATER THAN 730 THREE OCEAN AGE AND OLDER FISH BUT LESS THAN 1,050 FISH, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL,

(A) MANAGE THE COMMERCIAL SET GILLNET FISHERIES IN THE SITUK-AHRNKLIN INLET AND LOST RIVER BASED ON THE SOCKEYE SALMON RUN STRENGTH;

(B) MANAGE THE COMMERCIAL SALMON TROLL FISHERY AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 29.100 IN THE WATERS OF ALASKA BOUNDED ON THE WEST BY THE SEAWARD LIMIT OF THE THREE-NAUTICAL-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND ON THE NORTH BY A LINE EXTENDING SEAWARD FROM 59° 30.49' N. LAT., 139° 46.58' W. LONG. (OCEAN CAPE) AND INTERSECTING THE THREE-NAUTICAL-

MILE LIMIT AT 59° 28.65' N. LAT., 139° 51.17' W. LONG. AND ON THE SOUTH BY A LINE EXTENDING SEAWARD FROM 59° 20.30' N. LAT., 139° 16.50' W. LONG. AND INTERSECTING THE THREE-NAUTICAL-MILE LIMIT AT 59° 18.25' N. LAT., 139° 21.94' W. LONG.];

(5) [IF THE PROJECTED ESCAPEMENT IS GREATER THAN 1,050 THREE OCEAN AGE AND OLDER FISH] **when 1,050 three ocean or older king salmon have passed the Situk River weir located approximately 2 miles upstream of the mouth**, the department shall manage the commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries as necessary to harvest large king salmon in excess of the biological escapement goal range; to achieve this goal the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement one or more of the following management measures:

(A) liberalize seasons, areas, and method and means in the Situk River under 5 AAC 75.003(2)(A);

(B) increase the **sport fish** bag, [AND] possession, **and/or annual** limits for king salmon **20** [28] inches or greater in length [TO THREE FISH PER DAY AND SIX IN POSSESSION WITH NO ANNUAL LIMIT];

(C) repealed 7/13/2012;

(D) manage the commercial set gillnet fisheries in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River based on the sockeye salmon run strength;

(E) in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River set gillnet fisheries, allow the use of one additional gillnet that is no more than 20 fathoms in length and no more than 45 meshes in depth, with a mesh size of no less than seven and one-half inches, for the directed taking of king salmon during periods when sockeye salmon may or may not be retained.

5 AAC 47.023 (b)(6)(A) is amended to read:

(A) **sport fishing for king salmon is closed unless specified by 5 AAC 30.365** [A KING SALMON 28 inches or GREATER IN LENGTH TAKEN BY A NONRESIDENT WILL NOT COUNT TOWARD THAT NONRESIDENT'S ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT ESTABLISHED UNDER 5 AAC 47.055];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This would revise the *Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* by establishing management actions based on the number of king salmon that pass the Situk River weir rather than the projected escapement. In recent years, the department has been more conservative in the early season than the management plan calls for, given the period of low productivity observed for king salmon across Southeast Alaska. This has included being more conservative in the management of the subsistence and commercial gillnet fisheries and using emergency order authority to proactively close the sport fishery for king salmon to ensure the biological escapement goal is met. This would more closely align the management plan with the management actions the department has implemented in recent years. The Situk River king salmon run is relatively small in numbers and fish often pass the weir in pulses. This can create a highly variable projected escapement as the basis of management actions. Basing management actions on the number of king salmon that pass the weir is a more reliable management approach that will better align harvest opportunity with abundance of king salmon returning to the Situk.

This would also update the southern boundary of the Situk River troll fishery closure area to provide consistency with 2018 BOF action taken on 5 AAC 29.100, which addressed a change in

the location of the terminus of the river mouth. Due to an oversight, similar changes to 5 AAC 30.365 were not addressed at that time. The proposed change to 5 AAC 30.365 is consistent with annual changes made by the department under emergency order authority and also includes updates for the location of coordinates along the three-nautical-mile limit line.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-174)

PROPOSAL 153

5 AAC 30.365. Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Close a portion of the Situk River to sport fishing until the escapement goal for king salmon is met, as follows:

Section 5 AAC 47.023 –Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

In the Situk River – within 50 yards of the 9-Mile Bridge on Forest Highway 10, sport fishing is closed June 1 – August 15 unless the upper end of the escapement goal of 1050 is met for chinook.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Chinook salmon in the Situk River have struggled to reach minimum escapement since 2008, with eight of the past sixteen years being below minimum. To address conservation concerns, we propose closing a popular chinook holding hole, which consequently receives high sport fishing pressure. 9-mile Bridge is an easy vehicle access fishing site that receives high fishing pressure and chinook interactions. We considered closing this location year-round, but we prefer the least restrictive action to focus this effort on chinook conservation.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was written by the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (YTT) Fisheries Committee and approved by the YTT Tribal Council. The Yakutat Advisory Committee has not reached quorum to hold meetings.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (EF-F24-083)

PROPOSAL 154

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Close sport fishing in a portion of the Situk River between April 15 and May 15, as follows:

Section 5 AAC 47.023 –Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(B) from ADF&G regulatory markers located at the West Fork of the Situk confluence to ADF&G regulatory markers located at the outlet of Situk Lake, sport fishing is allowed only from May 16 - April 14

Alternative option:

From ADF&G regulatory markers located at the top end of the island 1.5 miles above 9-Mile Bridge to ADF&G regulatory markers located at the outlet of Situk Lake, sport fishing is allowed only from May 16 - April 14

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Steelhead in the Situk River have experienced poor returns in the last three years. To address this conservation concern, we propose expanding closures to alleviate fishing pressure on spawning grounds. Education and signage bringing awareness to redds has not been a successful tool on the Situk River. Although steelhead spawn throughout the Situk River, above 9-Mile Bridge receives heavy foot traffic that often hike in river, which impacts redds. We propose expanding the current steelhead closure downstream to the West Fork of the Situk, specifically at 59.590685, -139.492510 and to the outlet of Situk Lake, at 59.631606, -139.410053.

Alternative option: Close at 59.597200, -139.479092 to the outlet of Situk Lake at 59.631606, -139.410053.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was written by the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (YTT) Fisheries Committee and approved by the YTT Tribal Council. The Yakutat Advisory Committee has not reached quorum to meet.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (EF-F24-085)

PROPOSAL 155

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Increase the sport fish bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in the fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023(b)(8) is amended to read:

...

[IN THE LOST RIVER AND AHRNKLIN RIVER AND ALL DRAINAGES FLOWING INTO OR BETWEEN THE LOST RIVER AND AHRNKLIN RIVER, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS FOR SOCKEYE SALMON IS A BAG LIMIT OF THREE FISH AND A POSSESSION LIMIT OF SIX FISH.] **repealed / / ;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2009, the Board of Fisheries reduced the bag and possession limit of sockeye salmon in fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary from six per day, twelve in possession, to three per day, six in possession. In the 15 years since 2009, the Situk River has exceeded the upper end of its escapement goal (30,000 – 70,000) in 10 of those years. In 9 of the 10 years the escapement goal was exceeded, emergency order authority was used to increase the bag and possession limit to six fish per day, twelve in possession on an average date of July 11 when approximately 54% of the run has passed the Situk River weir. Increasing the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary would aid the department in managing the sockeye salmon to within levels of the escapement goal range of 30,000 – 70,000 by starting the season at a higher harvest rate.

ENHANCEMENT AND TERMINAL HARVEST AREAS (9

proposals)

PROPOSAL 156

5 AAC 33.364 Southeastern Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan.

Reduce Southeast Alaska hatchery permitted pink and chum salmon egg take level by 25%, as follows:

The solution is very simple. Reduce the permitted egg take of pink and chum salmon of each applicable Southeast hatchery for pink and chum salmon by 25%.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 25% reduction of current permitting levels of pink and chum hatchery egg takes in the applicable Southeast hatcheries.

There is significant evidence that there is an ocean carrying capacity that is exacerbated by the proliferation of Alaskan and Asian hatchery releases into the North Pacific. This is particularly important to Chinook salmon as stocks have declined dramatically all over Alaska. Chinook decline is so critical that the Yukon River may lose discrete stocks. An emergency Agreement between Canada and Alaska was signed April 1, 2024, to impose a drastic Chinook harvest moratorium of at least seven years. Sadly, the situation with Chinook on the Yukon River is now becoming a statewide problem; the Nushagak, the Kenai and many other Alaskan rivers have conservation plans in action because of declines. Emergency Orders to close Chinook sports fishing entirely in many of Alaska’s most iconic river systems have already been implemented. While hatcheries are not the only factor in salmon decline, they are among the top five, including climate change, bycatch, intercept, disease, hatcheries.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries has limited authority to provide injunctive relief on this issue but to the extent that they can reduce hatchery egg take permitting levels, this is the only venue open to public proposals.

For several years, different groups have been submitting proposals for hatchery egg take reduction. All those proposals have been refused on the basis of lack of conclusive evidence that there is a correlative relationship to detrimental impacts of hatchery production in wild stocks through competition for forage food and straying.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, which directs information to the Board of Fish, has been consistently reluctant to consider peer-reviewed research outside of the Department and to even evaluate their own internal research that indicates hatchery production can have an effect on the health of wild salmon stocks. The “iterative” process that the Department assures the public is watchdogging hatcheries is an inter-dependent process with hatcheries and therefore is not seen as sufficiently separated from hatchery production to apply significant oversight. This is an extraordinarily frustrating situation to many who depend on wild salmon stocks and are outside of the hatchery management systems.

CONCLUSIONS: The goal of Alaska’s PNP hatchery system is economic, not conservation. In a 2011 international report *Shifting the Balance: Towards Sustainable Salmon Populations and Fisheries of the Future*, renown Canadian scientists Dr. Richard Beamish and Dr. Donald Noakes noted: “While Alaska’s large ocean-ranching program may have contributed to the observed increase in catch, there remain many unanswered questions about potential negative impacts on wild fish and deleterious effects on other Alaskan salmon fisheries (Hilborn and Eggers 2000; Clark et al. 2006; Knapp et al. 2007). As with most if not all large-scale hatchery programs, there is a lack of information to critically evaluate the program either with respect to its stated production objectives or other criteria (i.e., ecosystem interactions, etc.), and more research is clearly needed in that respect.”

In addition to on-going research on hatchery impacts, we also need an independent venue to review all the latest peer-reviewed science and to have an on-going dialogue on application of what we can have consensus on. The Board of Fish Hatchery Committee would be a good start as long as it is not an orchestrated situation. Prior to the next Southeast Board of Fish meeting, I will be working with many others to gather many supporting documents.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Reduction of hatchery egg take (and thus releases) has long been the goal of the Fairbanks Advisory Committee as it has researched the negative impacts of hatcheries for years. This includes conversations with some of the top salmon scientists in Alaska, Canada and the Pacific Northwest, as well as conversations with stakeholders in AYK river systems.

PROPOSED BY: Virgil Umphenour (HQ-F24-131)

PROPOSAL 157

5 AAC 33.3XX. New Section.

Establish a terminal harvest area and associated management plan for harvesting hatchery produced salmon at Burnett Inlet.

5AAC 33.3XX. New Section

Create a management plan for hatchery returns to Burnett Inlet, as follows:

5AAC 33.3XX. Burnett Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

- (a) **This management plan distributes the harvest of hatchery produced chum salmon in the Burnett Inlet Terminal Harvest Area (THA) between the purse seine, troll and drift gillnet fleets.**
- (b) **The department, in consultation with the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA), shall manage the Burnett Inlet Terminal Harvest Area from June 01 through November 10 for troll, purse seine and drift gillnet gear to provide for the harvest of hatchery- produced chum salmon, unless closed earlier by emergency order.**
- (c) **The Burnett Inlet THA, consists of water of Burnett Inlet north of 56.04.65’ N. lat.**

(d) A drift gillnet operated in the THA may not exceed 200 fathoms in length
(1) The maximum mesh size is six inches.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) is a non-profit regional salmon enhancement association headquartered in Ketchikan, Alaska. SSRAA owns and operates the Burnett Inlet Hatchery (BIH), situated on Etolin Island. BIH is a broodstock collection site for summer and fall chum, which are also released at BIH. The adult chums return to BIH through numerous common property fishery corridors, notably in Districts 6 and 8, and enter Burnett Inlet in mid to late June. These chum are well segregated from natural stocks when they are in the terminal area with the exception of pink salmon in Navy Creek. Although SSRAA typically takes all chum salmon returning to Burnett Inlet for broodstock and cost recovery, there are years when there are chum salmon in excess to broodstock and cost recovery needs. Establishing a THA in regulation for this situation allows for common property fisheries to harvest excess fish.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The proposal was reviewed and edited by the ADF&G SE Salmon/Herring Fisheries Management Coordinator and Regional Area Management Biologist.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA)(HQ-F24-044)

PROPOSAL 158

5 AAC 33.374 District 12: Hidden Falls Hatchery Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan. and 5 AAC 40.042. Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association Special Harves Areas.

Modify boundaries of the Hidden Falls terminal harvest area (THA) for chum, king and coho salmon and the Hidden Falls special harvest area (SHA) for chum and king salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 33.374(a) is amended to read:

(a) The Hidden Falls Terminal Harvest Area for chum, king, and coho salmon consists of the waters of District 12 [WITHIN TWO NAUTICAL MILES OF THE BARANOF ISLAND SHORELINE] south of the latitude of South Point at 57° 16.28' N. lat., north of 57° 06.76[83]' N. lat., and west of a line from a point offshore at 57° 16.28' N. lat., 134° 48.00' W. long., to a point offshore at 57° 06.76' N. lat., 134° 43.00' W. long., excluding the waters of Kelp Bay.

5 AAC 40.042(a)(5)(A) is amended to read:

(A) for chum and king salmon: the waters of District 12 [WITHIN TWO NAUTICAL MILES OF THE BARANOF ISLAND SHORELINE] south of the latitude of South Point at 57° 16.28' N. lat., north of 57° 06.76[83]' N. lat., and west of a line from a point offshore at 57° 16.28' N. lat., 134° 48.00' W. long., to a point offshore at 57° 06.76' N. lat., 134° 43.00' W. long., excluding the waters of Kelp Bay, will be open for harvest by the hatchery permit holder from 12:01 a.m. June 1 until 11:59 p.m. August 15;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This seeks to modify the boundaries of the Hidden Falls THA and SHA currently in regulation to be the same as what is currently implemented annually through emergency order. The overall area of the THA/SHA would not significantly change.

PROPOSAL 159

5 AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan

Modify the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

- (a) This management plan distributes the harvest of Crystal Lake Hatchery king and coho salmon returns to the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows in Section 6-A south of 56°46' N. lat. and north and east of the northern tip of Woewodski Island at 56° 36' N. lat., 132° 59' W. long and the fresh waters of Blind Slough upstream [OF A LINE BETWEEN BLIND POINT AND ANCHOR POINT] among fisheries while protecting hatchery broodstock.
- (b) **Creates a Blind Slough sport area between a line between Blind Point and Anchor Point upstream to a line at 132°53'28"W 56°37'58"N to 132°53'38"W 56°37'58"N**
- (c) **Creates a closed area in the freshwater upstream from a line 132°53'28"W 56°37'58"N to 132°53'38"W 56°37'58"N upstream to a line 132°49'24"W 56°36'52"N to 132°49'24"W 56°36'49"N from June 1 – July 15.**
- (d) The harvest of Crystal Lake Hatchery king salmon in the terminal harvest area will be distributed between the sport and commercial fisheries as follows when the projected adult return of king salmon to the terminal harvest is
 - (1) below 1,000 fish, sport and commercial salmon fisheries in the terminal harvest area will be closed **to king salmon fishing** from June 1st through July 31st;
 - (2) At least 1,000, but less than 2,000 fish, the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows to sport fishing for king salmon with a **resident** daily bag and possession limit of **one** king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] **any length, and a nonresidents daily bag and possession limit one king salmon any length** from June 1 through July 15 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be closed. **Blind Slough sport fishery will be open to residents only, with a daily bag and possession limit of one king salmon any length from June 1 to July 15;**
 - (3) at least 2,000 but less than **3,000** fish the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows to sport fishing for king salmon, with a **resident** daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] **any** length and a nonresidents daily bag and possession limit **one** king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] **any**

length from June 1 through July 15 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be closed **Blind Slough sport fishery will be open with a resident daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon any length and a nonresident daily bag and possession limit of one king salmon any length from June 1 to July 15;**

(4) **at least 3,000 but less than 4,000 fish the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows to sport fishing for king salmon, with a resident daily bag and possession limit of three king salmon any length. Nonresidents daily bag and possession limit two king salmon any length from June 1 through July 31 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be closed. Blind Slough sport fishery will be open with a resident daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon any length and a nonresident daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon any length from June 1 to July 15;**

(5) more than 4,000 fish the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal harvest area to sport fishing for king salmon, **with a resident daily bag and possession limit of four king salmon and a nonresidents daily bag and possession limit three king salmon any length** from [DURING WHICH TIME A DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT MAY BE MORE THAN TWO KING SALMON 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND MORE THAN TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] June 1 through July 31 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be open to harvest 50% of the projected return over 4,000 fish. **Blind Slough sport fishery will be open with a resident daily bag and possession limit of four king salmon any length and a nonresident daily bag and possession limit of three king salmon any length from June 1 to July 15.**

(e) **Regional Alaska Fish & Game managers shall have authority to close fishing during periods of drought and warm water conditions to reduce stress on king salmon holding in the slough prior to reaching the hatchery. Daily closure authority will also be allowed for the hatchery to collect broodstock in the lower Blind Slough**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) is proposing amendments to the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough king salmon management plan. The goal of these amendments is to:

- ensure the full collection of broodstock for the hatchery, which has not been met in 10 of the last 20 years under this plan.
- distribute harvest opportunities across multiple user groups, while recognizing that this fishery is a critical resource to local Alaskan residents and provides economic benefits to the community.

The previous plan written in 1997 is in desperate need of updating to the current times. Several new factors have emerged in recent years that are jeopardizing the full collection of broodstock and disproportionately affecting certain user groups over others. These factors include:

- an increase in nonresident users. Fishing lodges and boat rentals have increased significantly and nonresident anglers greatly outnumber residents fishing this resource.
- the current plan allows the same nonresident take in lower fish return years while eliminating the freshwater Blind Slough fishing area. This puts the burden on local Alaskan residents that do not have access to a boat, especially the youth, elderly, and less advantaged.
- warmer weather patterns and warming waters of the Blind Slough. Summertime water temperatures are at the top extent for king salmon survival causing die off events before the adults can return to the hatchery.

Amendments to the plan include:

- Closing a portion of the Blind Slough area (the portion of Blind slough above the Forest Service boardwalk “lagoon” to the hatchery). This area should be considered a refuge for king salmon to spawn. The vast majority of legally caught kings are below the “lagoon” where king salmon rest in deeper pools and can escape with the changing tides. Above the lagoon they are exposed and more susceptible to the stresses of warm water. Fishing in these areas where fish hold and wait for desirable water conditions causes stress on king salmon staging their way up to the hatchery.
- removing size restrictions and shortening the length of the season. Implementing this is intended to reduce the number of kings caught and released, which will reduce stress, mortality, and increase egg quality.
- Shortening the season in fresh water to reduce pressure on king salmon when they are most vulnerable.
- Reducing the overall bag and possession limits while allowing for residents an opportunity to harvest king salmon where the current management plan does not allow.

Note: This amendment is not intended to prohibit opportunities for disabled individuals to fish for king salmon where the Blind Slough Rapids trail accesses fresh water at the point 132°53'29"W 56°37'57"N.

Note: These amendments work in conjunction with amendments to 5AAC 47.023 to ensure the protection of broodstock to the Crystal Lake Hatchery

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, SSRAA worked with members of the Petersburg Advisory Committee to develop this plan. The provisions in 5AAC 47.023 were not known prior to the AC meeting, and a proposal had not been developed to address this new information, so the Petersburg proposal extended the open time period in order to not revert to the provisions in 5AAC 47.023. SSRAA only supports the July 15 dates in this proposal if amendments to 5AAC 47.023 are also adopted by the BOF.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA)(HQ-F24-122)

PROPOSAL 160

5 AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Modify the *Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

5 AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

- (e) This management plan distributes the harvest of Crystal Lake Hatchery king and coho salmon returns to the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows in Section 6-A south of 56°46' N. lat. and north and east of the northern tip of Woewodski Island at 56° 36' N. lat., 132° 59' W. long and the fresh waters of Blind Slough upstream [OF A LINE BETWEEN BLIND POINT AND ANCHOR POINT] among fisheries while protecting hatchery broodstock.
- (f) **Creates a Blind Slough sport area between a line between Blind Point and Anchor Point upstream to a line at 132°53'28"W 56°37'58"N to 132°53'38"W 56°37'58"N**
- (g) **Creates a closed area in the freshwater upstream from a line 132°53'28"W 56°37'58"N to 132°53'38"W 56°37'58"N upstream to a line 132°49'24"W 56°36'52"N to 132°49'24"W 56°36'49"N from June 1 – August 15.**
- (h) The harvest of Crystal Lake Hatchery king salmon in the terminal harvest area will be distributed between the sport and commercial fisheries as follows when the projected adult return of king salmon to the terminal harvest is
 - (2) below 1,000 fish, sport and commercial salmon fisheries in the terminal harvest area will be closed **to king salmon fishing** from June 1st through [July 31st] **August 15th**;
 - (2) At least 1,000, but less than 2,000 fish, the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows to sport fishing for king salmon with a **resident** daily bag and possession limit of **one** king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] **any** length, **and a nonresidents daily bag and possession limit one king salmon any length** from June 1 through July 31 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be closed. **Blind Slough sport fishery will be open to residents only, with a daily bag and possession limit of one king salmon any length from June 1 to August 15;**
 - (3) at least 2,000 but less than **3,000** fish the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows to sport fishing for king salmon, with a **resident** daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] **any** length and a nonresidents daily bag and possession limit **one** king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] **any** length from June 1 through July 31 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be closed **Blind Slough sport fishery will be open with a resident daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon any length and a nonresident daily bag and possession limit of one king salmon any length from June 1 to August 15;**

(4) at least 3,000 but less than 4,000 fish the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows to sport fishing for king salmon, with a resident daily bag and possession limit of three king salmon any length. Nonresidents daily bag and possession limit two king salmon any length from June 1 through July 31 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be closed. Blind Slough sport fishery will be open with a resident daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon any length and a nonresident daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon any length;

(5) more than 4,000 fish the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal harvest area to sport fishing for king salmon, **with a resident daily bag and possession limit of four king salmon and a nonresidents daily bag and possession limit three king salmon any length** from [DURING WHICH TIME A DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT MAY BE MORE THAN TWO KING SALMON 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND MORE THAN TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] June 1 through July 31 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be open to harvest 50% of the projected return over 4,000 fish. **Blind Slough sport fishery will be open with a resident daily bag and possession limit of four king salmon any length and a nonresident daily bag and possession limit of three king salmon any length;**

(e) Regional Alaska Fish & Game managers shall have authority to close fishing during periods of drought and warm water conditions to reduce stress on king salmon holding in the slough prior to reaching the hatchery. Daily closure authority will also be allowed for the hatchery to collect broodstock in the lower Blind Slough.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Petersburg Advisory Committee is proposing amendments to the Wrangell Narrows- Blind Slough king salmon management plan. The goal of these amendments is to:

- ensure the full collection of broodstock for the hatchery,
- distribute harvest opportunities across multiple user groups, while recognizing that this fishery is a critical resource to local Alaskan residents and provides economic benefits to the community.

The previous plan written in 1997 is in desperate need of updating to the current times. Several new factors have emerged in recent years that are jeopardizing the full collection of broodstock and disproportionately effecting certain user groups over others. These factors include:

- an increase in nonresident users. Fishing lodges and boat rentals have increased significantly and nonresident anglers greatly outnumber residents fishing this resource.
- the current plan allows the same nonresident take in lower fish return years while eliminating the freshwater Blind Slough fishing area. This puts the burden on local Alaskan residents that do not have access to a boat, especially the youth, elderly, and less advantaged.
- warmer weather patterns and warming waters of the Blind Slough. Summertime water temperatures are at the top extent for king salmon survival causing die off events before the adults can return to the hatchery.

Amendments to the plan include:

- Closing a portion of the Blind Slough area (the portion of Blind slough above the Forest Service boardwalk “lagoon” to the hatchery). This area should be considered a refuge for king salmon prior to spawning. The vast majority of legally caught kings are below the “lagoon” where king salmon rest in deeper pools and can escape with the changing tides. Above the lagoon they are exposed and more susceptible to the stresses of warm water. Fishing in these areas where fish hold and wait for desirable water conditions causes stress on king salmon staging their way up to the hatchery.
- removing size restrictions and shortening the length of the season. Implementing this is intended to reduce the number of kings caught and released, which will reduce unnecessary stress.
- Reducing the overall bag and possession limits while allowing for residents an opportunity to harvest king salmon where the current management plan does not allow.

Note: This amendment is not intended to prohibit opportunities for disabled individuals to fish for king salmon where the Blind Slough Rapids trail accesses fresh water at the point 132°53'29"W 56°37'57"N

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Petersburg AC in coordination with members of the public, SSRAA and ADFG department staff.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-080)

PROPOSAL 161

5 AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Reduce the sport fish bag limit for king salmon in the Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area, as follows:

I would like to recommend lowering the possession & daily limit of King Salmon in Blind Slough Terminal harvest area.

- 1) Resident daily limit is 2 fish over 28” and 2 fish under 28” for a total season of 6 fish in possession.
- 2) Non-resident daily limit is 1 fish over 28” and 1 fish under 28” for a total of 3 fish for the season in possession.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Blind Slough terminal harvest area, Petersburg, AK area. Retention of King Salmon.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Only from my personal household.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Dreisbach, Charlene Dreisbach

(HQ-F24-133)

PROPOSAL 162

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means, for fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Reduce king salmon sport fish bag limits outside of the time when the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Management Plan is in effect, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 47.023

(h) (1) (C) king salmon may be taken from January 1- **May 31** [December 31]; bag and possession limits, as follows:

- (i) [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENTH,] bag and possession limit of two fish
- (ii) [LESS THAN 28 INCHES IN LENGTH, BAG AND POSSISSION LIMIT OF TWO FISH;]

(D) a king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH] harvested by a nonresident counts toward the annual harvest limit established under 5AAC 47.055

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The ability to take 4 king salmon in the Blind Slough area after July 31st each year has contributed to Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture (SSRAA) not obtaining the necessary broodstock for all its programs in 10 of the last 20 years. Additionally, having a bag limit of (2) fish over 28 inches and (2) under 28 inches creates a catch and release scenario which is detrimental to egg viability and survival of especially female salmon. Recent returns to the hatchery have been disproportionately males.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. SSRAA worked with the Petersburg Advisory Committee to amend 5AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan. It was during their meeting to adopt a proposal for submission that we were advised of this special provisions regulation that would revert into effect as soon as the THA management plan ended. The Petersburg AC had not advertised for this to be on the agenda, and as a result, they had to amend the desired closure dates we had agreed upon as the only course of action they could take by the proposal deadline

PROPOSED BY: Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA)(HQ-F24-121)

PROPOSAL 163

5 AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Nonresident annual limits for king salmon will apply in the Blind Slough terminal harvest area, as follows:

King salmon caught in the Blind Slough THA should be counted towards a non-residents annual bag limit. The new regulation shall read:

5ACC 33.381

(b)

(5) King salmon harvested in the Bind Slough THA shall count towards a non-residents annual King salmon bag limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Crystal Lake Hatchery is repeatedly failing to meet its King Salmon Broodstock goals in recent years. This has coincided with the massive growth in the non-resident unguided sport fish industry. There are now four fishing lodges at the mouth of Blind Slough with over 50 unguided skiffs for non-residents. Current regulations allow non-residents to keep an unlimited amount of King salmon during their stay as the Blind slough THA is excluded from annual bag limit regulations. This is a finite resource that has become over exploited. This has resulted in fishery closures and less fish available for resident sport fishermen and broodstock collection.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I discussed this proposal with several of my local AC members and they encouraged me to submit it.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Kittams (EF-F24-082)

PROPOSAL 164

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Modify king salmon bag and possession limits in the terminal harvest area near Juneau, as follows:

Make the non-resident king salmon limit in the Terminal Harvest Area effectively half of the resident limit.

"When the resident king salmon daily limit in the Juneau THA greater than 2, the non-resident daily limit shall be 2. When the resident king salmon daily limit in the Juneau THA is 2, the non-resident daily limit shall be 1. When the resident king salmon daily limit in the Juneau THA less than 2, the non-resident daily limit shall be 0."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Non-resident king salmon limits in the Juneau Terminal Harvest Areas. King Salmon resources across Alaska continue to face severe shortages with restricted harvest opportunities for Alaska residents. The visitor industry continues to experience significant growth, which increases non-resident impact on king salmon resources. Hatchery kings are the only viable harvest opportunity for many Juneau residents and applying bag limits equally to non-residents while also exempting non-resident annual harvest limits puts residents at a distinct disadvantage.

Non-residents hire professional guides who have the best equipment and fish every day to develop heightened knowledge of fish movement and feeding, so the chances of limiting out are higher. There are a limited number of hatchery kings returning each year and Alaska residents should have the primary opportunity to harvest them. If the charter fleet in the Juneau area were to invest in creating a significantly increased hatchery king salmon harvest opportunity, that could justify a more favorable allocation for them and their non-resident clients.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Submitted via Territorial Sportsmen Inc

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsmen Inc (EF-F24-103)

COMMERCIAL SALMON (6 proposals)

PROPOSAL 165

5 AAC 33.310. Fishing seasons and periods.

Change the start time of weekly drift gillnet fishing periods from Sunday to Monday.

SE gillnet weeks would start on Monday.

my understanding is....our fishery managers can set start & end times already? Encouraging them to start mornings would be beneficial.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change start day & time of SE weekly gillnet openings to Mondays between 6-8 am. (Time to be determined by fishery managers)

Why....it would reduce dramatically the conflicts with recreational boaters & sport fishermen. (Running nets over) Would also benefit permit holders to have more time with they're families & be on abit more regular schedule with work/ school schedules. (this was done successfully with king salmon gillnet opening in the past)

Opening in the mornings, would not waste days like noon openings do. The seine fishery does this. The halibut fishery just switched to 6am from noon, for the same reason. Not wasting a day.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This has been talk amongst permit holders for years. I think the majority of permit holders want this. I've talked extensively with the fisheries managers in my area. They have had nothing negative to say about this proposal. In fact agree that Mondays would have less conflict with recreational users.

PROPOSED BY: Robert T. Mosher (EF-F24-044)

PROPOSAL 166

5 ACC 33.331. Gillnet specifications and operation.

Allow for drift gillnets to be up to 90 meshes deep in District 11 beginning statistical week 34.

b) In the Southeastern Alaska Area, a drift gillnet may not be more than 60 meshes in depth, except that there is no maximum depth restriction for a gillnet operated for king salmon cost recover by a private nonprofit haatchery operator or under contract to a regional aquaculture association in a special harvest area described in 5 ACC 40.081

(1) in district 11, beginning statistical week 34, at the departments discretion, by emergnecy order, a drift gill net may not be more than 90 meshes in depth.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The United States has shown an inability to harvest their allowable catch afforded them by the Pacific Salmon Commission Treaty Annex for coho on the Taku River. The current tools only allow increased time and area, which is useful, but use of these tools has not increased catches significantly, as coho tend to travel

deeper in the water column. Having deeper nets may increase stakeholders ability to harvest these valuable fish. Adoption of this proposal will give the department a valuable tool for harvesting the United States gillnet allowable catch of PSC treaty coho in times of high abundance.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (EF-F24-060)

PROPOSAL 167

5 AAC 33.332. Seine specifications and operations.

Increase the legal length of purse seine by 50 fathoms.

No purse seine may be less than 150 meshes or more than 450 meshes in depth, or less than 150 fathoms or more than 300 [250] fathoms in length, hung measure.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the legal length of a seine net from a legal length of no less than 150 fathoms and no more than 250 fathoms in length, hung measure, to no less than 150 fathoms and no more than 300 fathoms in length, hung measure. This would allow fishermen, if they choose, to add an additional 50 fathoms of length to their nets, increasing fishing efficiency for those vessels. We have seen a slow decline in participation of the Southeast Alaska purse seine fishery and with less nets in the water, we believe that it is justifiable to allow for the remaining fishermen to use larger nets, if they choose, to increase their personal efficiency.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-064)

PROPOSAL 168

5 AAC 33.398. Use of aircraft unlawful. .

Modify regulations to make it unlawful to use aircraft for locating salmon during any open commercial purse seine fishing period.

5 AAC 33.398 (b) during an open commercial purse seine fishing period, [FOR AN AREA OTHER THAN A TERMINAL HARVEST AREA,] a person may not use an aircraft to locate salmon for the commercial taking of salmon or to direct commercial salmon fishing operations one hour before, during, and one hour after an open commercial purse seine fishing period.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Make the use of aircraft spotting/directing illegal, during all active fishing periods, in the Southeast Alaska salmon purse seine fishery. Currently, unmanned aircraft are illegal in all areas of SEAK for the use of fish spotting and manned aircraft are illegal in all areas except for hatchery THAs. This creates a loophole where a plane that was flying and legally spotting at a THA, could fly back to town to refuel or grab parts, but on the way, spot for vessels that are fishing in non-THA areas. This is

currently unenforceable and allows for gray area within the regulations. The use of aircraft for spotting fish during all commercial purse seine fishing periods should not be allowed.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-060)

PROPOSAL 169

5 AAC 29.120. Gear specifications and operations.

Allow use of two fishing rods used in conjunction with a down rigger or hand troll gurdy to be used during the spring and summer troll fisheries.

The regulations should state: “An aggregated of two rods with fishing lines extending from the rods and connected to two downriggers or hand troll gurdies using a quick release devise designated to release line from the downrigger line, that maybe used spring, summer, and winter during scheduled commercial troll openings.”

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow two rods with downriggers or two hand gurdies with quick release for hand trolling.

I own a home in Yakutat and it makes no sense that this method can only be used during the winter months.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No, I am a 70 year resident of Southeast Alaska and have commercial fished most of my life.

PROPOSED BY: Max Mielke (HQ-F24-053)

PROPOSAL 170

5 AAC 30.350. Closed Waters.

Add waters closed to commercial fishing in Sudden Stream and Malaspina Lake, as follows:

5 AAC 30.350 is amended to read:

(13) waters of Sudden Stream including all waters of Malaspina Lake upstream of a line from 59° 48.26' N. lat., 139° 59.35' W. long. to 59° 48.33' N. lat., 139° 59.24' W. long.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, there are no closed waters in Sudden Stream to prevent commercial fishing at sockeye and coho salmon spawning grounds. Closing this area to commercial fishing will help ensure successful spawning and the sustainability of the stock.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-154)

HERRING (20 proposals)

Sitka Herring

PROPOSAL 171

5 AAC 27.160. Quotas and guideline harvest levels for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Modify spawning biomass threshold minimum and maximum harvest rates for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B, as follows:

5 AAC 27.160(g) is amended to read:

(g) The guideline harvest level for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B shall be established by the department and will be a harvest rate [PERCENTAGE] that is not less than **10**[12] percent, not more than **15**[20] percent, and within that range shall be determined by the following formula:

$$[\text{Harvest Rate Percentage} = 2 + 8 \left(\frac{\text{Spawning Biomass (in tons)}}{20,000} \right)]$$

$$\text{Harvest Rate} = (0.000002 * \text{Forecast}) + 0.048$$

The fishery will not be conducted if the spawning biomass is less than **26,000**[25,000] tons.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The department completed an analysis to update the estimated unfished spawning biomass for Sitka Sound herring, upon which the threshold is based, using data through 2022. Based on recent research, and as a precaution recognizing that a harvest rate strategy evaluation has not been completed for Sitka Sound herring, the department proposes a threshold based on 30% of unfished spawning biomass (26,000 tons) and a sliding scale harvest rate of 10-15% (15% maximum at 51,000 tons).

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-152)

PROPOSAL 172

5 AAC 27.190. Herring Management Plan for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Reduce upper end of sliding scale harvest rate for Southeast Alaska commercial herring fisheries from 20 to 15 percent, as follows:

5 AAC 27.190(4) is amended to read:

(4) except as provided elsewhere, may allow a harvest of herring at an exploitation rate between 10 percent and **15**[20] percent of the estimated spawning biomass when that biomass is above the minimum threshold level;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Based on recent research, and as a precaution recognizing that harvest rate strategy evaluations have not been completed for Southeast Alaska herring stocks, the department recommends a sliding scale harvest rate of 10 to 15 percent (15 percent maximum).

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-153)

PROPOSAL 173

5 AAC 27.160. Quotas and guideline harvest levels for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Eliminate provisions to establish a guideline harvest level for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe herring fishery under 27.160.

To accomplish this, we recommend revision of 5 AAC 27.160 as follows:

Under the authority of 16.05.251(a)(2.6) and 16.05.258(b)(3) and consistent with 5 AAC 01.716 (a)(11)(D)(ii) herring aggregating nearshore in preparation for spawning and spawning herring should be considered fully-utilized for subsistence purposes.

[.(G) THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL FOR THE HERRING SAC ROE FISHERY IN SECTIONS 13-A AND 13-B SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND WILL BE A HARVEST RATE PERCENTAGE THAT IS NOT LESS THAN 12 PERCENT, NOT MORE THAN 20 PERCENT, AND WITHIN THAT RANGE SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE FOLLOWING FORMULA:

HARVEST RATE PERCENTAGE = $2 + 8 \text{ [SPAWNING BIOMASS (IN TONS)] / 20,000}$

THE FISHERY WILL NOT BE CONDUCTED IF THE SPAWNING BIOMASS IS LESS THAN 25,000 TONS.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sitka Sound is home to the largest spawning population of Pacific herring in Southeast Alaska and is a critical site for the subsistence harvest of herring roe on hemlock branches and kelp. Herring are also valuable to the Southeast Alaska marine ecosystem as a food source for salmon, halibut, whales, sea lions, birds, and other species; these dependent species are also economically important through direct exploitation or ecosystem benefits including eco-tourism. Successful herring spawning in Sitka is necessary to maintain the health of all fisheries in Sitka Sound and Southeast Alaska more broadly; successful and undisturbed herring spawning in Sitka is necessary to ensure a consistent (i.e. met every year) reasonable opportunity for subsistence of herring roe.

The commercial sac roe fishery in Sitka disrupts spawning patterns and interferes with traditional corridors affecting subsistence harvest. Lingít people have managed a herring/roe fishery in Sitka Sound since time immemorial. It is part of the Lingít way of life and is vital to our culture and traditions. The seine fishery interferes with this many-thousand-year-old subsistence fishery and way of life. A living subsistence fishery of ancient provenance and based on reciprocity and deep knowledge and respect for life must take priority over the perpetuation of sac roe fishing. This is also in alignment with the Department's mandate to prioritize subsistence needs.

Under the authority of 16.05.251(a)(2.6), pre-spawn and spawning herring should be designated as subsistence fish and utilized only for subsistence purposes. The traditional subsistence harvest of roe on hemlock branches and kelp, historically practiced in communities across Southeast Alaska, relies on minimal disturbance to pre-spawn and spawning herring. That condition cannot be met by a seine fishery targeting the oldest, most fecund roe-bearing herring in the days immediately preceding the subsistence harvest.

Alaska waters will be more alive with wild abundance for the benefit of all by leaving spawning aggregations undisturbed by commercial pressure.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. We developed the proposal in consultation with a small group of harvesters and elders and informed by prior conversation with many others.

This proposal was informed by the establishment of the Herring Revitalization Committee.

PROPOSAL 174

5 AAC 27.160. Quotas and guideline harvest levels for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Establish a maximum guideline harvest level and minimum spawning biomass to conduct fisheries for the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery.

If the Sitka Sound sac roe fishery is to exist, it must be at a much lower intensity to reduce disturbance to spawning herring. 5AAC 27.160(G) should be revised as follows:

(G) The maximum Guideline Harvest Level for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B (combined) is 5,000 tons. In years where the spawning biomass is less than 100,000 tons, the guideline harvest level is 2,500 tons. The fishery will not be conducted if the spawning biomass is less than 50,000 tons.

[(G) THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL FOR THE HERRING SAC ROE FISHERY IN SECTIONS 13-A AND 13-B SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND WILL BE A HARVEST RATE PERCENTAGE THAT IS NOT LESS THAN 12 PERCENT, NOT MORE THAN 20 PERCENT, AND WITHIN THAT RANGE SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE FOLLOWING FORMULA:

HARVEST RATE PERCENTAGE = $2 + 8 \text{ [SPAWNING BIOMASS (IN TONS)] / 20,000}$

THE FISHERY WILL NOT BE CONDUCTED IF THE SPAWNING BIOMASS IS LESS THAN 25,000 TONS.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Between 1979 and 1995, the average commercial harvest of herring during the sac roe seine fishery in Sitka Sound was 5,490 tons. In the years since, the average commercial harvest has been 11,560 tons. Economic value has declined over this same period as catch has increased.

The doubled average annual catch since that earlier stage of the fishery has involved a commensurate increase in fishing pressure and disruption to spawning herring with known consequences for subsistence harvest success and unquantified consequences for other species and the marine ecosystem.

The Board of Fisheries has received complaints from subsistence users in Sitka in each board cycle since 1997.

Biomass estimates for earlier years in the time series are deflated due to inadequate sampling capabilities. Recognizing that historical biomass exceeded estimates means that the GHl in previous decades was likely much lower than 12-20% of the actual biomass; thus, fishing at 12-20% of today's more accurate biomass estimates results in unprecedented and dangerous pressure on spawning populations.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. We developed the proposal in consultation with a small group of harvesters and elders and informed by prior conversation with many others.

PROPOSAL 175

5 AAC 27.195. Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery.

Establish a 15,000 ton harvest limit for the Sitka Sound sac roe fishery.

5 AAC 27.195. Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery. (a) In managing the commercial sac roe herring fishery in Section 13-B north of the latitude of Aspid Cape (Sitka Sound), the department shall (1) manage the fishery consistent with the applicable provisions of 5 AAC 27.160(g) and 5 AAC 27.190;

ADD THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE:

a) Sitka Herring Fishery will have a 15,000 ton harvest cap

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Sitka commercial seine herring fishery is a "sacroe fishery" because of the historical focused on sac-roe markets. There is a great deal of controversy regarding the herring fishery because it targets a fish that is low on the food chain that feeds a large number of other commercially valuable fish species that are sought after in the Sitka Sound area-- especially king and coho salmon. The fishery is also controversial because it targets the fish when they are breeding and aborts the unlaidd eggmass inside female fish. All herring that are not females at full-term, or have "mature roe," (generally 10% to 15% of the fish are at full-term with mature roe with the rest being not adequate for the sac-roe product), are by-catch which could be up to 90% of the fish caught. These fish are either discarded, ground-up into fish meal, sold to pig farms, or sold to feed fish farm salmon.

This fishery has been tolerated in the community because of the lucrative Japanese market for Sac-Roe Kazunoko. The community could at least feel somewhat good about harvesting spawning herring because we were supplying a higher-end market of a product that had cultural significance in Japan. That market however has been in decline as population ages in Japan and traditions are changing. (It must be noted that herring eggs also have a tremendous cultural significance in Sitka for Alaska Natives and especially the Kiksadi Clan who have traditionally stewarded the Sitka Sound Herring. Only relatively recently has the Alaska ADFG begun to recognize the cultural significance of herring for Alaska Natives).

As markets for herring change, the community is re-evaluating the herring fishery. The Sitka Sound "biomass" is a remnant herring spawning population/area that once happened throughout all of Southeast Alaska. Now there are only a few places with robust herring spawn after impacts of widespread commercial harvesting and herring rendering operations pre-statehood. With an increased understanding of the uniqueness of the spawning population in Sitka Sound, and the need to conserve this species for the health of the rest of the Sitka Sound Marine ecosystem and fisheries-- and the need to bring herring populations back to their historic levels across Southeast Alaska-- the Sitka spawning herring harvest is being questioned by the community of Sitka and a reevaluation is needed.

The core questions that need to be considered are:

- a) Is this fish more valuable left in the ocean than harvested?
- b) If we are not harvesting the fish for a specialized market, should we harvest it at all?
- c) Is it okay to harvest herring in Sitka Sound to be ground up and used for pig feed, fish food for salmon farming operations, fish meal, rendered product, or protein slurry manufacture?
- d) As the Sitka Sound Herring population increases while the sac-roe market decreases, should the GHF still look to harvest 20% of the total population? Or would the reality be that the majority of those fish harvested (even beyond the 90% bycatch of non-full-term-females with mature eggs,

juvenile fish, and all males) will be destined for other markets that may include fish food for fish farms?

This proposal is written because the proposer believes that herring are indeed more valuable left in the ocean to feed populations of marine life and the fisheries higher up the food chain, and that the Sitka Sound population should be left to increase and hopefully spread to other parts of SE Alaska (Hoonah Sound, Peril Straight, South Baranof, West Chichagof, etc.), and that there should be no scenario where these fish that are low on the food chain should not be used as a base commodity to feed pigs or farmed fish.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have consulted many fishermen, AC members, experts in herring, fisheries specialists, culture bearers, Kiksadi leaders, and community members.

I know that there are many people who think that this cap is too high and should be lower and question if we should even have a herring fishery. This cap has only been exceeded three times in the history of the sacroe fishery since 1980. The Sitka AC and BOF can decide if it is too high and should be lowered to 10,000 tons or 5000 tons or make further recommendations on the fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Thoms (EF-F24-108)

PROPOSAL 176

5 AAC 27.160. Quotas and guidelines harvest levels for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Reduce the maximum harvest rate from 20 percent to 10 percent for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery.

We recommend a harvest rate cap of 10%.

(g) The guideline harvest level for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B shall be established by the department and will be a harvest rate percentage that is [NOT LESS THAN 12 PERCENT,] not more than 10 [20] percent.[, AND WITHIN THAT RANGE SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE FOLLOWING FORMULA:

$$\text{HARVEST RATE PERCENTAGE} = 2 + 8 \left[\frac{\text{SPAWNING BIOMASS (IN TONS)}}{20,000} \right]$$

The fishery will not be conducted if the spawning biomass is less than 25,000 tons

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Herring are a forage fish and keystone species. Alaskan fisheries and tourism businesses rely directly on animals that feed heavily on herring. Pacific herring are critical for the north Pacific ecosystem. For example, gray whales recently experienced an Unusual Mortality Event linked to malnutrition and have been coming to Sitka Sound in increasing numbers in recent years, likely preying heavily on Sitka herring. Marine heat waves have seen disruptions in energy transfer from forage fishes in the Gulf of Alaska to upper trophic levels (von Biela et al. 2019; Arimitsu et al. 2021). Robust forage fish populations are critical to withstand climate change impacts and other ecosystem perturbations. Reducing the maximum allowable harvest rate on herring will help ensure forage fish populations are able to support ecosystem needs.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka Tribe of Alaska (HQ-F24-040)

PROPOSAL 177

5 AAC 27.160. Quotas and guidelines harvest levels for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Reduce the minimum harvest rate to 10 percent and increase the threshold that allows for a fishery from 25,000 tons to 50,000 tons for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery.

In 2021, Sitka Tribe of Alaska updated the methodology ADF&G used to develop the harvest control rule (Supplemental Comments to PC329 from 2022 Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting). The proposed harvest control rule below is based on the findings of that report. Please note that the 2021 analysis does not include data from 2021-2023; those data would likely make the average unfished biomass larger and the resultant harvest control rule would be even more conservative.

(g) The guideline harvest level for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B shall be established by the department and will be a harvest rate percentage that is not less than **10** [12] percent, not more than 20 percent, and within that range shall be determined by the following formula:

$$\text{HARVEST RATE PERCENTAGE} = 2 + 8 [\text{SPAWNING BIOMASS (IN TONS)}] / 20,000]$$

Harvest Rate Percentage = 8 + 2 [Spawning Biomass (in tons)] / 50,000

The fishery will not be conducted if the spawning biomass is less than **50,000** [25,000] tons.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The harvest control rule for the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery is based on an outdated analysis of the average unfished biomass (AUB; Carlisle 1998) and should be updated to better reflect nearly thirty years of additional data. Sitka Tribe of Alaska followed the methods of Carlisle (1998) with data through 2020 and found an updated AUB between 109,000 and 136,000 tons. STA suggests using the mid-point of this range (rounded to nearest 5,000 tons) for an updated AUB of 125,000 tons. STA also suggests a threshold of 40%, close to the 37% threshold ADF&G has stated they are using (ADF&G 2021) and equal to the threshold recommended to ensure ecosystem needs for forage fishes are met (Pikitch et al. 2012). Lastly, STA suggests reverting from the aggressive “2+8” harvest control rule used only in Sitka Sound to the more conservative “8+2” rule used by all other Southeast Alaska herring populations, including populations that have not been able to sustain commercial fisheries or subsistence harvests. Please see Sitka Tribe of Alaska’s Supplemental Comments to PC329 from the 2022 Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting for detailed methods and results on the update to the average unfished biomass.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSAL 178

5 AAC 27.150. Waters closed to herring fishing in Southeastern Alaska Area.

Expand waters closed to commercial sac roe herring fishery to include the majority of waters herring having historically spawned in and the fishery has historically occurred.

To accomplish this, we recommend that section 27.150 be revised as follows:

27.150: Herring may not be taken in (7) District 13 (A), in the waters enclosed by a line extending from a point on the Baranof Island shore at the O'Connell Bridge at 57° 02.87' N. lat., 135° 20.33' W. long., to the northernmost point of Aleutski Island at 57° 02.74' N. lat., 135° 20.46' W. long., to the westernmost point of Makhnati Island at 57° 02.40' N. lat., 135° 23.48' W. long., to Bieli Rocks at 57° 05.42' N. lat., 135° 29.98' W. long., to the northwestern point of Crow Island at 57° 06.96' N. lat., 135° 28.57' W. long., to the westernmost point of Big Gavanski Island at 57° 08.11' N. lat., 135° 26.13' W. long., to the northernmost point of Big Gavanski Island at 57° 08.49' N. lat., 135° 25.21' W. long., to the Baranof Island shore at Harbor Point at 57° 07.59' N. lat., 135° 23.37' W. long. (B) **In the months of February, March, and April, North of the latitude of Goddard Hot Springs, Sitka Sound is designated a herring reserve area for spawning herring.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under the authority of 16.05.251(a)(1), Sitka Sound should be considered a herring reserve area during the months of herring pre-spawning aggregation and spawning.

Sitka Sound is home to the largest spawning population of Pacific herring in Southeast Alaska and is a critical site for the subsistence harvest of herringroe on hemlock branches and kelp. Herring are also valuable to the Southeast Alaska marine ecosystem as a food source for salmon, halibut, whales, sea lions, birds, and other species; these dependent species are also economically important through direct exploitation or ecosystem benefits including eco-tourism. Successful herring spawning in Sitka is necessary to maintain the health of all fisheries in Sitka Sound and Southeast Alaska more broadly; successful and undisturbed herring spawning in Sitka is necessary to ensure a consistent (i.e. met every year) reasonable opportunity for subsistence of herring roe. Commercial herring fisheries that target aggregating pre-spawn and spawning herring exploit the population at their time of greatest population-scale vulnerability and may have broad-reaching and as of yet unquantified negative impacts on the Southeast Alaska marine ecosystem. Locally, commercial herring fisheries that coincide with herring spawning disrupt spawning patterns and interfere with traditional corridors affecting subsistence harvest. . Declaring Sitka Sound a herring reserve area during the months of herring aggregation and spawn will ensure successful undisturbed spawning to maintain healthy fisheries across the region and ensure reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvest.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. We developed the proposal in consultation with a small group of subsistence herring egg harvesters and community elders and were informed by prior conversations with many others.

This proposal was informed by the establishment of the Herring Revitalization Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Herring Protectors

(EF-F24-171)

PROPOSAL 179

5 AAC 27.150. Waters closed to herring fishing in Southeastern Alaska Area.

Expand waters closed the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery to include Promisla Bay.

Add to the conservation area. Point to point 57.09.511 135.29580 to 57.08.470 135.30.478

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Add Promisla Bay in Sitka Sound to the subsistence conservation zone. The bay has been a leading producer of herring spawn on branches and important to harvesters.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Individual AC Members and fellow harvesters.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Johnson

(HQ-F24-051)

PROPOSAL 180

5 AAC 27.110. Fishing seasons for Southeastern Alaska Area districts.

Correct latitude of Aspid Cape for the southern boundary of the Section 13-B purse seine sac roe herring fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 27.110(b)(1)(E) is amended to read:

(E) Section 13-B, north of the latitude of Aspid Cape (56° 41.14[75]' N. lat.), except for Whale and Necker Bays;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current description of Aspid Cape in this regulation is incorrect. This seeks to correct the description of Aspid Cape to the actual location.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-151)

PROPOSAL 181

5 AAC 27.195. Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery.

Establish provisions for conducting test setting in the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery.

The recommended solution is to limit the number of test sets and released sets and require the Department to keep a log of the number and size of released sets during commercial openings. In 2022, the Department used a “three strikes and you’re out” strategy to close the fishery on one occasion but appears to have subsequently moved away from that strategy.

Suggested limits for test fishing below are derived from long-term medians of available test set data (1995-2023) for the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery.

5 AAC 27.195 – Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery

(a) In managing the commercial sac roe herring fishery in section 13-B north of the latitude of Aspid Cape (Sitka Sound), the department shall

(1) manage the fishery consistent with the applicable provisions of 5 AAC 27.160(g) and 5 AAC 27.190;

(2) distribute the commercial harvest by fishing time and area if the department determines that it is necessary to ensure that subsistence users have a reasonable opportunity to harvest the amount of herring spawn necessary for subsistence uses specified in 5 AAC 01.716(b).

(3) allow no more than three test sets per day.

(4) limit the number of test sets over the season to 29 sets or an estimated biomass of no more than 2,600 tons.

(5) test fishing must be conducted via jig sampling until the average mature roe content is at least 10%. If the average mature roe content falls below 10% during subsequent test samples collected via seine or during commercial openings, test fishing must revert to jig sampling until the average mature roe content reaches 10%.

(6) maintain a log of number, size, and location of released sets and allow no more than three released sets in one day during a commercial opening

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The number and magnitude of test sets and released sets prior to Sitka Sound sac roe herring openings has increased in recent years. In 2022, there were 26 test sets totaling an estimated 1,275 tons (roughly 8% of the record-high harvest). In 2023, there were 51 test sets totaling an estimated 6,425 tons (roughly 59% of the harvest). In other words, in 2023, the fleet had to catch and release at least three herring for every five they kept. In 2000, the estimated volume captured and released during test sets exceeded the total harvest! **Currently, the Department does not keep data on sets released during commercial openers, so the values above are minimum estimates of the volume of herring handled and released.** The test sets and released sets can needlessly stress sensitive fish preparing to spawn and cause direct or indirect mortality. Released sets or “slips” can cause high (though variable) direct mortality rates and induce behaviors that are detrimental to the long-term health and well-being of small pelagic fishes (Anders et al. 2019). Unnecessary handling of herring should be minimized.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka Tribe of Alaska (HQ-F24-043)

PROPOSAL 182

5 AAC 27.XXX. New section.

Establish provisions for a herring sac roe purse seine permit holder participating in the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery to use open pound instead of purse seine fishing gear.

5 AAC 27.XXX. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in open pound fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B.

(a) In section 13-A south of the latitude of Point Kakul (Saulisbury Sound) and in Section 13-B north of the latitude of Aspid Cape (Sitka Sound), a CFEC permit holder in the G01A fishery may

choose to operate an open pound instead of purse seine gear during the current regulatory year under provisions of this section;

(b) Prior to the open season, permit holders who choose to participate in the spawn on kelp fishery must register with the department by March 1. Permit holders may only fish with one gear type in a given season.

(c) A permit holder may operate up to four open pound structures as specified in 5 AAC 27.130.

(1) only two pound structures per registered permit holder may be fished in the waters described in 5 AAC 27.150(7);

(2) open pound structures located in the waters described in 5 AAC 27.150(7) may only be allowed one line to shore.

(d) The annual GHL for the Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery shall be reduced by dividing the current years GHL by the number of CFEC permits eligible to participate in the G01A fishery, multiplying that total by the number of permit holders registered to fish open pound gear and then subtracting that total from the GHL. The maximum GHL reduction for each registered open pound is 200 tons per registered permit holder.

(e) The maximum allowed harvest of spawn on kelp product is 100,000 pounds in aggregate. Any spawn on kelp product in excess of this limit may be utilized toward another permit holders harvest until the raft of product is empty. Any additional excess spawn on kelp product shall remain in the water.

(f) Spawn on kelp pound structures and other equipment used in a spawn on kelp pound fishery must be marked as follows:

(1) before kelp is added to a pound, a permit holder must plainly and legibly mark the permit holder's first and last name and five digit CFEC permit number in a conspicuous place on the pound; the sign must be vertical, and the markings must be clearly visible and above the surface of the water at all times; the letters and numbers used to identify a pound must be at least six inches high with lines at least one-half inch wide and must contrast with the background; the sign must be left on the pound structure the entire time any part of the pound or pound system is in the water;

(g) A permit holder may place the permit holder's kelp in no more than four pounds. Before kelp is introduced into the spawn on kelp pound, a permit holder must store the kelp in a manner that prevents herring from spawning on the kelp.

(h) A permit holder must be physically present at the permit holder's pound fishing site during operation of the pound. For the purpose of this subsection, "operation of the pound" means:

(1) when an open pound is being moved; and

(2) when kelp product is being collected from the pound.

(i) A permit holder must be physically present when the permit holder's herring spawn on kelp product produced in the pound is being landed.

(j) A permit holder shall completely remove all pounds and associated equipment from the waters by 12 noon June 10 through March 1 of the following year;

(k) An open pound is considered to be fishing once kelp has been attached to the open pound structure and is considered to have stopped fishing once all of the spawn on kelp product has been removed from the open pound structure.

(l) Each permit holder is responsible for all operations of the pound and pound system.

5 AAC 27.130(c)-(d) are amended to read:

5 AAC 27.130. Lawful gear for Southeastern Alaska Area. (a) Herring may be taken during the open season by purse seines and gillnets.

.....

- (c) Herring pounds for the taking of spawn on kelp in pounds may be operated only under terms of a permit issued by the commissioner and as provided in 5 AAC 27.185 **and 5 AAC 27.XXX.**
- (d) A herring pound for the herring spawn on kelp pound fishery may be a closed pound or open pound and may be operated only as provided in 5 AAC 27.185 **and 5 AAC 27.XXX.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Herring roe product markets are still declining and have been for years. The Sitka sac roe seine fishery once had participation from all permit holders, many more tenders, spotter pilots, and other support skiffs because there was enough value in the fishery to justify the expense. There used to be some money in sac roe. Today, due to continued declining market conditions, there are fewer permit holders participating, far fewer tenders, and no spotter pilots or many additional support skiffs because the economies of the fishery are in such decline. The prices paid today are a far cry from what they were in the heyday...in fact, the price paid this year for the fish was less than 10% of the peak values seen in the mid 1990's. The product form coming from the fishery is only sac roe and the fishery would benefit by encouraging different uses, product forms, and harvest methods to be developed by existing permit holders who have invested in the fishery. I propose allowing existing G01A (Sitka sac roe seine) permit holders to choose between seining sac roe or using the alternative gear of open pounds to harvest roe on kelp. In past years this would have been a good thing for the permit holders who were unable to participate in the fishery due to continued constrained and devalued markets for sac roe. It also would be good for those who participated and wish to gain more value for their efforts beyond the traditional seine fishery. Additionally, there is no mortality associated with open pound roe on kelp fisheries so the value of the resource would be increased while removing less fish from the biomass.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal has been brought before the Board of Fisheries for quite some time now and the current state of herring markets should make it clear that it should be approved. Something needs to be done as status quo has not made any forward progress.

PROPOSED BY: Ryan Kapp (EF-F24-049)

Herring Spawn on Kelp

PROPOSAL 183

5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-B, 12-A, 13-C, and District 7.

Add the Sitka Sound area in Sections 13-A and B as open area to northern spawn on kelp permit holders and limit pound type to open pounds.

5 AAC 27.195 Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery, add a section (c) to include open pounding in the Sitka area for all Northern Southeast Herring Pond Permit holders.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 27.195 Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery. Northern Southeast Herring pounding has been closed since 2014, this has had a huge economic impact on all permit holders for the Northern Southeast Herring Pounding. Many bought into this fishery for over \$50,000, now the permit is worthless, you can't sell them or use them. This year the quota for Sitka Sac Roe was 80,000 ton, with only 12,000

ton taken. As Sitka is in the Northern Southeast Region, it would make sense to allow open ponding to the Northern Southeast Herring Ponding permit holders.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Northern Southeast permit holders

PROPOSED BY: John Johanson (EF-F24-134)

PROPOSAL 184

5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-B, 12-A, 13-C, and District 7.

Expand open area in Section 3-B for placement spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds.

5 AAC 27.185 (c) Section 3B open pound area. Extended to Miraballes and including Doyle Bay, expanding open area - Point Amargura to Point Providence.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Herring Ponding has been open in Southern Southeast Alaska for over twenty years, this past two years (2022 and 2023) a majority of the groups were NOT able to fill their pens, this has caused a major financial problem for many. The State did observe 20-30 miles of span, the herring just did not go to the areas that they historically have and that are open to commercial fishing.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Several groups have expressed support over expanding fishable areas.

PROPOSED BY: Roseann Demmert and John Johanson (EF-F24-124)

PROPOSAL 185

5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-B, 12-A, 13-C, and District 7..

Expand open area in Section 3-B for spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds, as follows:

Expand the area in the Craig/Klawock herring spawn on kelp fishery open to operation of pounds and taking of herring.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The inability to access the large amount of fish in district 3B during the Craig, Klawock herring spawn on kelp fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, local residents, permit holders, and Ketchikan Commercial Fisheries personnel.

PROPOSED BY: James Quigley (HQ-F24-052)

PROPOSAL 186

5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-8, 12-A, and 13-C, and District 7.

Expand open area in Section 3-B for spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds.

A proposal to open an area south of town:

5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-8, 12-A, and 13-C, and District 7.

(f)

(1) in Section 3-B, in the waters of the Gulf of Esquibel, San Alberto Bay, Shinaku Inlet, and San Christoval Channel south of the latitude of the northernmost tip of St. Phillips Island at 55° 39.31' N. lat., 133° 25.12' W. long., east of a line from the northernmost tip of St. Phillips Island to the northernmost tip of Point Garcia at 55° 33.65' N. lat., 133° 26.47' W. long., and north of a line from Entrance Point to the southernmost tip of Clam Island **and from the southern most tip of Clam Island to southernmost tip of Parida Island at 55° 31.047' N. lat., 133° 14.4190' W. rong., to Balandra Island at 55° 27.219' N. lat., 133° 13.149' to Port Bagial Island 55° 27.480' N. lat., 133° 08.5251' W. long., to Point Miraballes at 55° 25.856' N.lat., 133° 05.257' W. long., to Culebrina Island 55° 25.004' N. lat., 133° 04.824' W. long., to southern tip Doyle Bay 55° 24.4151.' N. lat., 133° 03.311' W. long., all waters of Trocadero Bay will be open Bucareli Bay and Ursua Channel will be open East of a line at Providence Point at 55°21.604' N. lat., 133° 16.18,2' W.long., to Amargura Point 55° 27.0U' N. rat., 133° 21.643' W. long.;** in Section 3-B, the following waters are closed to herring spawn-on-kelp pounds and to seining for taking herring for pounds:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue is herring are spawning south of town, and our fishing area is north of town.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Not in coordination. People were talking that this year is when the Board of Fish will be in southeast. Perfect timing for a proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Nik Nebl (HQ-F24-134)

PROPOSAL 187

5 AAC 27.130. Lawful gear for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Allow the use of large mesh webbing to surround spawn on kelp pound structure to protect structure and spawn on kelp product, as follows:

5 AAC 27.130 (e)(1)(E) **webbing of no less than 7 inches that allows the free movement of herring through the web may be used to surround pound structure for protecting the pound structure and spawn on kelp product.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? After herring are introduced to a closed pound, sea lions can tear holes in the pound webbing releasing herring. In addition they may enter the pound chasing herring and destroying spawn on kelp product. We would like to be

able to surround the pound structure with a larger mesh net to provide additional protection to the pound structure, spawn on kelp product, and retain the herring in the pound until released. An additional net would also prevent sea lions having access inside the pound once the pound net is lowered to release herring

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Derek Thynes (EF-F24-161)

All Commercial Herring
PROPOSAL 188

5 AAC 27.190. Herring Management Plan for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Limit the number days and limit the number of hours in a day commercial herring activity may occur, require observers for commercial herring fishing, require reporting of bycatch in fishery announcements, and limit the overall commercial harvest of herring in Southeast Alaska to 15,000 tons.

27.190 would be revised with the following additions designed to avoid extreme pressure on herring stocks during commercial fishing activity:

For the management of herring fisheries in the Southeastern Alaska Area, the department:

1. **Shall manage commercial herring fisheries to reduce fishing pressure as follows:**
 1. **Commercial herring fishing activity may not occur on a third consecutive day at any time or on more than 7 days in any 30-day period in any management area.**
 2. **Herring fishing activity may not take place for more than 8 hours on any given day in any management area.**
 3. **All herring fishing activity must be in line of sight of observers monitoring for excessive high-grading, responsible test-setting, or excessive disturbance, corralling, and manipulation of herring schools.**
 4. **Total commercial catch of herring in Southeast Alaska shall not exceed 15,000 tons per year.**
 5. **Bycatch from herring fisheries must be recorded and reported in fishery announcements.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sustained sac roe seine fishing activity in localized areas causes depletion of aggregating pre-spawn herring in those areas and leads to reduced spawn in adjacent bays and shorelines. This impacts reasonable opportunity for subsistence and has possible long-lasting impacts on herring recruitment in specific areas of Sitka Sound, as herring are known to return to their natal grounds to spawn with high fidelity. Additionally, ADF&G vessel sounding activities on pre-spawning herring in pursuit of higher-value herring schools contribute to large scale-disturbance on spawning grounds from this fishery, including increased reporting of "false spawn" events in fishing-adjacent areas, wherein stressed males release milt in the absence of eggs and therefore fail to reproduce.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. We developed the proposal in consultation with a small group of harvesters and elders and informed by prior conversation with many others.

This proposal was informed by the establishment of the Herring Revitalization Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Herring Protectors (EF-F24-175)

PROPOSAL 189

5 AAC 27.132. Seine specifications and perations for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Reduce by half the length limit of purse seine net for commercial herring harvest.

To accomplish this, we recommend revising 5 AAC 27.132 as follows:

- (a) A herring purse seine may not be more than **100** [200] fathoms in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Too many herring are being set on during a season. Part of the problem is that the nets deployed by the commercial fishery are massive. A smaller net would allow for more precise fishing and less catch-and-release, and thus lower scale loss, disease, mortality, stress, etc.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. We developed the proposal in consultation with a small group of subsistence herring egg harvesters and community elders and were informed by prior conversations with many others

PROPOSED BY: Herring Protectors (EF-F24-176)

PROPOSAL 190

5 AAC 27.190. Herring Management Plan for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Provide for co-management of herring fisheries with tribal governments.

27.190 would be revised as follows:

For the management of herring fisheries in the Southeastern Alaska Area, the department:

1. **Shall develop a consent-based co-management framework to allow for collaborative management efforts with appropriate local sovereign Tribal Government(s). This co-management framework would be applied to a) determine minimum spawning biomass thresholds below which fishing will not be allowed, b) determine circumstances in which fishing would be allowed, c) determine methodology for other population assessments, including of mortality and of considerations for opening and closing the fishery, and of apt determinants of local herring population health, d) other considerations as appropriate.**
2. **The appropriate Tribal Government may call for an emergency closure at any time if in-season indications make such closure necessary. Such calls will result in immediate closure lasting no less than 48 hours unless the call is rescinded.**

[(1) SHALL IDENTIFY STOCKS OF HERRING ON A SPAWNING AREA BASIS;(2) SHALL ESTABLISH MINIMUM SPAWNING BIOMASS THRESHOLDS BELOW WHICH FISHING WILL NOT BE ALLOWED;(3) SHALL ASSESS THE ABUNDANCE OF MATURE HERRING FOR EACH STOCK BEFORE ALLOWING FISHING TO OCCUR;(4) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED ELSEWHERE, MAY ALLOW A HARVEST OF HERRING AT AN EXPLOITATION RATE BETWEEN 10 PERCENT AND 20 PERCENT OF THE ESTIMATED SPAWNING BIOMASS WHEN THAT BIOMASS IS ABOVE THE MINIMUM THRESHOLD LEVEL;(5) MAY IDENTIFY AND CONSIDER SOURCES OF MORTALITY IN SETTING HARVEST GUIDELINE;(6) BY EMERGENCY ORDER, MAY MODIFY FISHING PERIODS TO MINIMIZE INCIDENTAL MORTALITIES DURING COMMERCIAL FISHERIES.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Management practices by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in the sac roe era have resulted in herring population collapses in multiple areas, only some of which have begun to recover. These collapses were foretold by various individuals and entities who warned the Board of Fisheries of impending collapse in multiple instances. The warnings were not heeded.

Current GHs are unreasonably high, recklessly exceeding the years of highest harvest of the harmful herring reduction fishery era. As one example, in recent years, unprecedentedly high-GH fisheries have resulted in greater spatial and temporal pressure on herring in Sitka Sound than ever before.

ADF&G must evolve the management strategy to a consent-based co-management framework with appropriate local Tribal Government wherever commercial herring fishing is being considered.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. We developed the proposal in consultation with a small group of subsistence herring egg harvesters and community elders and were informed by prior conversations with many others.

This proposal was informed by the establishment of the Herring Revitalization Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Herring Protectors (EF-F24-169)

COMMERCIAL, SUBSISTENCE, SPORT, PERSONAL USE

GROUND FISH (21 proposals)

General Groundfish

PROPOSAL 191

5 AAC 28.175. Logbooks for the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Amend logbook requirements for vessels fishing for groundfish with pot and longline gear, as follows:

5 AAC 28.175 (b) is amended to read:

(b) A logbook described in (a) of this section

(1) for longline **and pot** gear must include **permit holder name, vessel information, trip target species, port of landing, date left port, date of landing, crew size, bait used, and**

gear specifications. Additionally for each [BY] set, the set target species, the date and time the set was deployed and hauled, the specific location of harvest by latitude and longitude, in degrees and decimal minutes, for start and ending positions, the amount of gear (number of hooks, **skates, or pots**) used, **the amount of gear lost (number of skates or pots lost)**, the depth of each set, the **number or** estimated weight, **in round pounds,** of all target species **retained and released at sea,** [TAKEN,] **the number or** [AN] estimated weight, **in round pounds,** of the bycatch retained or discarded at sea, [AND] the tag number of any tagged fish **captured, if gear is impacted by depredation, the amount of gear (number of skates or pots impacted) must be recorded, and any other information that the commissioner determines necessary** [LANDED]; [FOR THE NORTHERN SOUTHEAST INSIDE SUBDISTRICT AND THE SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST INSIDE SUBDISTRICT SABLEFISH FISHERIES, A LOGBOOK MUST INCLUDE A RECORD OF THE ROUND WEIGHT DELIVERED, THE PURCHASING PROCESSOR, AND DATE OF EACH DELIVERY DURING THAT SEASON IF MULTIPLE LANDINGS HAVE BEEN MADE;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current logbook regulations do not include all the information that is necessary for management and stock assessment. Logbooks provided to fishery participants contain some fields that are not specified in regulation. Also, with the increased use of pots in groundfish fisheries, logbooks need to be specific to fishing gear; to do this the department needs to distribute gear specific logbooks. During inseason management, staff are forced to delay important decisions while waiting for fishers' clarification regarding missing logbook information. This proposal will shorten the amount of time staff spend processing logbook data, increase the accuracy of logbook information, and create consistency of reporting between gear types.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-143)

PROPOSAL 192

5 AAC 77.674 Personal use bottomfish fishery.

Allow pots used in the personal use bottomfish fishery to be longlined.

5 AAC 77.674. Personal use bottomfish fishery
Section (6 - E - ii)
ii) may be longlined

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Single pots are a lot of work for what can be a minimal return. We propose being able to longline pots. The remainder of the current regulations would still apply -- namely the 200 fish limit per boat and the portion reading "may not exceed more than 2 pots per permit holder or eight pots per vessel when four or more permit holders are present." Each pot that is added to a longline potentially removes 1,800' or more of ground line and a buoy from the water, reducing the impacts of lost gear, bycatch, and the chance of marine mammal entanglement.

It is our understanding that the author of the original proposal to allow black cod pots intended for the regulation to allow for longlining -- hence the "2 pots per permit holder or eight pots per vessel when four or more permit holders are present". It doesn't make sense that a personal use vessel

would have eight shots of +1800' of line, but it does make sense that they might have 8 collapsible pots.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This is a joint proposal submitted by Territorial Sportsmen Inc of Juneau and the Juneau-Douglas Advisory Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsmen Inc / Juneau-Douglas Advisory Committee (EF-F24-100)

PROPOSAL 193

5 AAC 28.171. Rockfish possession and landing requirements of Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

In state waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, allow CFEC permit holders fishing for groundfish or halibut with mechanical jig and hand troll gear to use a deepwater release mechanism to return rockfish to the ocean, as follows:

5 AAC 28.171. Rockfish possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area

(a) In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, a CFEC permit holder fishing for groundfish or halibut must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish and thornyhead rockfish caught. Except as provided in (b) of this section, all demersal shelf rockfish in excess of 10 percent, round weight, of all target species on board the vessel must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All rockfish and thornyhead rockfish in excess of allowable bycatch limits shall be reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish and thornyhead rockfish bycatch shall be surrendered to the state. Based on harvest data, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close a fishing season or a bycatch season and immediately reopen a fishing season or a bycatch season during which a different rockfish or thornyhead rockfish bycatch level is allowed.

(1) Except that, in directed Mechanical Jig and Hand Troll fisheries, rockfish may be released using an approved deepwater release mechanism.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently the retention of all rockfish is mandated in all commercial groundfish fisheries. This is due to the high prevalence of barotrauma and subsequent low survival rates in released rockfish. In recent years, the department has done a lot of work with deepwater release mechanisms to improve survivability of released rockfish in the sport fisheries, and those devices are now required for all participants in the saltwater sport fishery. In most commercial fisheries, these deepwater release mechanisms are not feasible, however I believe that in directed jig fisheries they could be incorporated fairly easily. Jig fisheries are not that different then the sport fishery in prosecution and each fish is handled individually and it would be fairly straightforward to have release mechanisms in place on your jigging machines, which you could easily use to release rockfish on your next drop of your gear. Having the option to release rockfish in this manner would have all the same benefits that it does in the sport fishery. The ability to release long-lived but low-value non-pelagic rockfish, rockfish species that the department wanted to protect, or in the case of Prince William Sound all rockfish while jigging for other species; would have clear conservation and management benefits.

I would like to see this put into regulation statewide, but I am aware that might not be possible during this Board cycle. I personally have only fished jig fisheries in Prince William Sound and Lower Cook Inlet waters and will submit equivalent proposals in those areas and Statewide Finfish,

but am submitting this proposal to the Southeast meeting with the hope that it may foster some discussion and be considered. I am aware that jigging in SE Alaska is more likely to be done on a somewhat larger scale and that it is possible that fishermen consider deepwater release to be less feasible than it is in the regions and fisheries that I am more familiar with. It is worth noting that I am not suggesting mandatory release, only that it be a legal option available to fishermen.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Person

(EF-F24-069)

Sablefish

PROPOSAL 194

5 AAC 01.720. Lawful gear and gear specifications; 5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area; and 5 AAC 77.674. Personal use bottomfish fishery.

Reduce the minimum inside diameter of circular escape rings from three and three-fourths inches to three and one-half inches on pots used to take sablefish in the subsistence, commercial, and personal use sablefish fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 01.720 (5) is amended to read:

(5) in the Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict and Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict, a sablefish permit holder's pot gear must have at least two circular escape rings with a minimum inside diameter of three and **one-half** [THREE-FOURTHS] inches installed on opposing vertical or sloping walls and must have individual tunnel eye openings with perimeters of 36 inches or less.

5 AAC 28.130 (f) is amended to read:

(f) In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, pots may not be longlined, except that pots may be longlined in the Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict and Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict sablefish fishery. In a directed fishery for sablefish, pots used to take sablefish must have at least two circular escape rings with a minimum inside diameter of three and **one-half** [THREE-FOURTHS] inches installed on opposing vertical or sloping walls.

5 AAC 77.674 (6)(E)(iii) is amended to read:

(E) a permit holder's pot gear

(iii) must have, for each pot, at least two circular escape rings with a minimum inside diameter of three and **one-half** [THREE-FOURTHS] inches installed on opposing vertical or sloping walls and must have individual tunnel eye openings with perimeters of 36 inches or less.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reducing the escape ring size to three and one-half inches would base the ring size on sablefish maturity information. Estimated length at 50% maturity (L_{50}) of sablefish is 63 cm in the Northern and Southern Southeast Inside Subdistricts. Escape rings of three and one-half inches would continue to minimize catch of immature fish, reduce discard mortality, and maximize catch of larger, more desirable fish. The use of properly sized escape rings results in low catches of immature sablefish while maintaining high catch per unit of effort (CPUE) of mature sablefish. Incorporating an escape ring size of three and one-half inches into subsistence and personal use pot gear would also be consistent with the legal description of

commercial sablefish pot gear, if all three changes are adopted. The proposed gear modification is a slight reduction from changes made during the previous board cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-141)

PROPOSAL 195

5 AAC 28.110 Sablefish fishing seasons for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Change the Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistrict sablefish fishery season opening and closing dates to be concurrent with the federal Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) sablefish fishery season dates.

5 AAC 28.110 (2) in the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict would amended to say, Clarence Strait Black Cod will be opened and closed the same time as the Federal IFQ Black Cod in the ocean.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Would like to see Clarence Strait Black cod season open up as the same time as the Federally operated Black cod in the ocean. This would allow a bigger market for fresh local Black cod to the tourism industry.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: John Johanson (EF-F24-164)

PROPOSAL 196

5 AAC 28.130 Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Reduce the minimum inside diameter of escape rings in commercial sablefish pots to three and three-eighths inches, as follows:

5 AAC 28.130 (f) is amended to read:

(f) In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, pots may not be longlined, except that pots may be longlined in the Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict and Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict sablefish fishery. In a directed fishery for sablefish, pots used to take sablefish must have at least two circular escape rings with a minimum inside diameter of [THREE AND THREE-FOURTHS] **three and three-eighths inches** installed on opposing vertical or sloping walls.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Escape ring size for sablefish pots: The ADFG has conducted escape ring studies aimed at minimizing bycatch of small immature sablefish to reduce discard mortality and maximize catches of larger, more economically desirable fish. From this research, ADFG has identified 3 and ½ inches as biologically optimal. While we prefer a 3 and ½ inch escape ring specification over the existing regulation, from an economic perspective 3 and ½ inches is not small enough. Both the existing regulation and the size proposed by the Department still allow too many sablefish to escape, given the current size composition of the resource and state of the sablefish markets, to maintain the economic viability of the fishery. By way of background: strong year classes from the late 90s are aging out of the population and three (possibly four) historically large year classes now comprise 75% of the sablefish spawning stock biomass (fishery wide). Rapid increases in coastwide sablefish quotas (quadrupled since 2016) based on these large year classes of small fish have collapsed the sablefish market, reducing prices paid to fishermen across all size categories. To maintain the economic

viability of the fishery, fishermen want to retain some sablefish smaller than will remain in a pot with a 3 ½ or 3 and 3/4 inch escape rings. Since current regulations allow hook and line fishermen to release or retain sablefish at the surface without specifying a release or retention length, it seems rational and equitable to allow pot fishermen to also self-identify the appropriate release size via escape ring specifications. ALFA and SEAFSA request consideration by the Board of the smaller escape ring size while the population is composed of small fish and market conditions are weak.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes-- The proposal was requested by a group of fishermen who participate in the State waters sablefish fishery and discussed with representatives from other Southeast AK fishermen organizations. After considerable vetting and discussion with ADFG, ALFA and SEAFSA decided to submit the proposal and we will discuss the proposal with local ACs at upcoming meetings.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association and Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (EF-F24-062)

PROPOSAL 197

5 AAC 01.714. Limitations on participation in subsistence finfish fisheries; 5 AAC 28.180. Prohibitions for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area; and 5 AAC 77.674. Personal use bottomfish fishery.

Clarify and amend existing regulations regarding subsistence, personal use, and commercial groundfish fisheries in the Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict and the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict, as follows:

5 AAC 01.714 (b) is amended to read:

(b) A **vessel or a** person on board a vessel from which **subsistence fishing gear** [A LONGLINE] is used to take groundfish for subsistence uses in the Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict or the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict, described in 5 AAC 28.105, may not operate commercial **fishing** [LONGLINE] gear **to take groundfish for commercial uses** [FOR GROUND FISH] from that vessel until all subsistence-taken groundfish are offloaded from the vessel **and is subject to the restrictions in 5 AAC 28.180.**

5 AAC 28.180 (a) and (b) are amended to read:

(a) A vessel or a person on board a vessel from which commercial, subsistence, or personal use [LONGLINE] fishing gear was used to take **groundfish** [FISH] in the Northern or Southern Southeast Inside Subdistricts during the 72-hour period immediately before the start of the commercial sablefish fishery in that subdistrict, or from which that gear will be used during the 24-hour period immediately after the closure of the commercial sablefish fishery in that subdistrict, may not participate in the taking of sablefish in that subdistrict during that open sablefish fishing period. A vessel or a person on board a vessel who has harvested and sold that vessel or person's entire equal quota share before the final day of the sablefish season in that subdistrict is exempt from the prohibition on fishing [LONGLINE GEAR] during the 24-hour period immediately following the closure of the sablefish fishery in that subdistrict.

(b) A vessel or person on board a vessel commercial fishing for sablefish in the Northern or Southern Southeast Inside Subdistricts may not operate subsistence or personal use **fishing**

[LONGLINE] gear for groundfish from that vessel until all commercial sablefish are offloaded from the vessel.

5 AAC 77.674 (4) is amended to read:

(4) A vessel or a person on board a vessel from which personal use fishing gear is [A LONGLINE] WAS] used to take bottomfish for personal use in the Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict or the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict, described in 5 AAC 28.105, may not operate commercial fishing gear to take groundfish for commercial uses from that vessel until all personal use-taken bottomfish are offloaded from the vessel and is subject to the restrictions in 5 AAC 28.180;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This would prohibit operation of all subsistence groundfish and personal use bottomfish gear from vessels that are commercial fishing for groundfish until all commercially harvested groundfish are offloaded from the vessel and would prohibit operation of commercial gear from vessels that are subsistence groundfish or personal use bottomfish fishing until all subsistence or personal use fish are offloaded from the vessel. The language is updated to include all allowable gear types under subsistence, personal use, and commercial groundfish fisheries given recent regulatory gear changes. Current regulations are designed to prevent subsistence and personal use-caught fish from being commercially sold by requiring that groundfish taken with longline gear for subsistence and personal use purposes be offloaded from a vessel before that vessel is used to take groundfish in a commercial fishery with longline gear. In recent years there has been an increase in the use of groundfish pot gear including slinky pots, in subsistence, personal use, and commercial groundfish fisheries. Current regulations allow subsistence and personal use groundfish, caught with gear other than longline gear, to be onboard a vessel engaged in commercial groundfish fisheries. By removing the word “longline” from these regulations, the regulations would accurately include all forms of legal gear. Legal gear for the subsistence sablefish fishery includes pot, longline, and mechanical jigging machines; legal gear for the personal use sablefish fishery includes pot, longline, and handheld line; and legal gear for the commercial fisheries includes pot and longline. The department would like to provide clarification to prevent overlap in retention of groundfish species among fisheries and to improve management of groundfish by extending regulatory restrictions to all legal gear types in these fisheries. This proposal also streamlines regulatory wording for consistency among all three fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-24-142)

PROPOSAL 198

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Increase the daily bag limit for sablefish in the sport fishery, as follows:

Increase daily bag limit by two from four to six fish per day.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Black Cod/Sablefish harvest: Increase black cod/Sablefish harvest for residents from 4 fish to 6 fish per day for resident sport fishing. The populations of this species has been increasing while halibut has been decreasing.

This would allow local resident rod and reel sport fishers to target a more sustainable resource while the halibut is at a 30 year low.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, multiple local rod and reel sport fishers have been agreeable to this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Mattle (EF-F24-177)

Lingcod
PROPOSAL 199

5 AAC 28.111. Demersal shelf rockfish fishing seasons for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. and 5 AAC 28.113. Lingcod fishing seasons for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Add a weather delay provision that would postpone the opening date of the directed demersal shelf rockfish and directed lingcod fisheries if weather forecast meets gale warning or higher criteria in management areas in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, as follows:

5 AAC 28.111 (c) is added to read:

(c) For all Eastern Gulf of Alaska demersal shelf rockfish fishing periods, the season opening shall be delayed if the National Weather Service forecast for the management area(s) eligible to be opened contains gale force winds of 35 knots or higher in the forecast 24 hours preceding the season opening or 24 hours after the season opening, in which case, the season opening shall be delayed 24 hours and announcement of this delay will be issued at least 24 hours before the start of the fishery. If after the initial delay gale force winds of 35 knots or higher continue, the season opening shall be delayed an additional 24 hours and may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis as necessary. For the purposes of this paragraph, the corresponding National Weather Service forecast areas for the sections of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska are as follows:

- (1) East Yakutat (EYKT) Section: Cape Fairweather to Icy Cape;**
- (2) Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section: Cape Edgumbe to Cape Spencer and Cape Spencer to Cape Fairweather;**
- (3) Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section: Cape Decision to Cape Edgumbe and Cape Edgumbe to Cape Spencer;**
- (4) Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO) Section: Dixon Entrance to Cape Decision;**
- (5) Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict: Cross Sound, Glacier Bay, Icy Strait, Northern Lynn Canal, Southern Lynn Canal, Northern Chatham Strait, Southern Chatham Strait, Stephens Passage, and Frederick Sound;**
- (6) Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistrict: Dixon Entrance to Cape Decision, Clarence Strait, and Sumner Strait.**

5 AAC 28.113 (b) (1) is added to read:

(1) For all Eastern Gulf of Alaska directed lingcod fishing periods, the season opening shall be delayed if the National Weather Service forecast for the management area(s) eligible to be opened contains gale force winds of 35 knots or higher in the forecast for May 15 or May 16, in which case the season opening shall be delayed 24 hours and announcement of this delay will be issued at least 24 hours before the start of the fishery. If after the initial delay

gale force winds of 35 knots or higher continue, the season opening shall be delayed an additional 24 hours and may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis as necessary. For the purposes of this paragraph, the corresponding National Weather Service forecast areas for the sections of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska are as follows:

(A) Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS): Icy Cape to Cape Suckling;

(B) East Yakutat (EYKT) Section: Cape Fairweather to Icy Cape;

(C) Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section: Cape Edgecumbe to Cape Spencer and Cape Spencer to Cape Fairweather;

(D) Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section: Cape Decision to Cape Edgecumbe and Cape Edgecumbe to Cape Spencer;

(E) Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector: Dixon Entrance to Cape Decision.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? If the season opening for the directed demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) or directed lingcod fishery occurs during a period of poor weather (i.e., a gale warning), larger, more sea-worthy vessels are at an advantage to travel to the fishing grounds and begin fishing first. Opening the fishery during poor weather conditions puts vessels and permit holders at risk because of the pressure to fish as soon as the fishery opens. Adding a weather delay provision provides for a safe and fair start to the directed DSR and lingcod fisheries that have had diverse participation in terms of vessel size and port of departure. Additionally, a weather delay may aid management by reducing the likelihood of effort being concentrated in a single area due to weather conditions. Similar weather delay provisions are in place for many other fisheries across the state.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-140)

PROPOSAL 200

5 AAC 28.173. Lingcod possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Adopt a catch reporting requirement for directed lingcod fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 28.173 (h) is added to read:

(h) In a directed lingcod fishery, CFEC permit holders shall contact the department at a telephone number or other means specified by the department at the time of registration and provide the following information to the department as required :

(1) the CFEC permit holder's name;

(2) the name of the vessel;

(3) the groundfish management area(s) in which they are fishing;

(4) the number of lingcod retained in each management area;

(5) the number of hours fished in each management area; and

(6) other information requested by the department for the purpose of managing and conserving lingcod resources.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The directed fishery for lingcod is fast paced. The East Yakutat Section directed lingcod fishery has the largest allocation (111,000 round lb) and this has been harvested in three days or less on average. The department must make quick decisions on closures based on the approximate catch from each fishing vessel, typically within the first 24 hours of fishing. The department currently asks permit holders to report their catch every

12 to 24 hours for most management areas but compliance is inconsistent and sometimes low. This has resulted in underharvest and overharvest in the directed fisheries. This proposal seeks to implement a catch reporting requirement to assist with lingcod management and promote lingcod conservation by preventing overharvesting.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-144)

PROPOSAL 201

5 AAC 28.173. Lingcod possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Clarify lingcod bycatch overage requirements in the Southeast District fisheries for longline halibut and salmon troll fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 28.173 (a) (1) is amended to read:

(a) In the Southeast District, a vessel fishing for

(1) halibut with longline gear may not land or have on board lingcod in excess of the **allowable bycatch limit** [BYCATCH PERCENTAGE] , specified in the first emergency order of the season, based on the round weight of all halibut on board the vessel[;]. **Lingcod caught in excess of this allowable bycatch limit, based on the weight of halibut on board, must be immediately released at sea. At the time of landing, all lingcod in excess of the allowable bycatch limit must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. Lingcod bycatch taken in excess of the allowable bycatch limit must be forfeited to the State of Alaska and is subject to law enforcement action.** B[b]ased on harvest, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the bycatch season and immediately reopen a bycatch season during which a different lingcod bycatch level is allowed;

5 AAC 28.173 (a) (3) is amended to read:

(a) In the Southeast District, a vessel fishing for

(3) halibut and sablefish at the same time **must immediately release at sea lingcod bycatch caught** [MAY NOT LAND OR HAVE ON BOARD LINGCOD] in excess of the **allowable bycatch limit** [BYCATCH PERCENTAGE] [,] specified in the first emergency order of the season, by round weight of all halibut on board the vessel. [;] **Vessels must weigh and report all lingcod in excess of the allowable bycatch limit as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. Lingcod bycatch taken in excess of the allowable bycatch limit must be forfeited to the State of Alaska and is subject to law enforcement action.** B[b]ased on harvest, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the bycatch season and immediately reopen a bycatch season during which a different lingcod bycatch level is allowed;

5 AAC 28.173 (a) (5) is added to read:

(a) In the Southeast District, a vessel fishing for

(5) salmon with troll gear must immediately release at sea lingcod bycatch caught in excess of the allowable bycatch limit specified in the first emergency order of the season, by round weight of all salmon on board the vessel. Vessels must weigh and report all lingcod in excess of the allowable bycatch limit as bycatch overage on an

ADF&G fish ticket. Lingcod bycatch taken in excess of the allowable bycatch limit must be forfeited to the State of Alaska and is subject to law enforcement action. Based on harvest data, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the bycatch fishing season and immediately reopen a bycatch season during which a different lingcod bycatch level is allowed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This would provide clarity regarding lingcod bycatch in excess of the allowable bycatch limit. Also, these regulations would clarify that all lingcod caught above the bycatch limit must be immediately released at sea. There is no mandatory retention requirement for lingcod because unlike rockfish, lingcod do not have a closed swim bladder which allows a higher chance of survival when released immediately at sea. If the allowable bycatch limit for lingcod is exceeded and landed, proceeds from the overage must be forfeited to the State of Alaska and permit holders may be subject to law enforcement action.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-145)

PROPOSAL 202

5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Clarify that only one line can be used for dinglebar gear in the lingcod fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.130 (h)(1) is amended to read:

(h) In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area,

(1) **an operational unit of** dinglebar troll gear [IS GEAR THAT] consists of a single line, **referred to hereafter as a “train,” to which one or more leaders, lures, or baited hooks are attached,** that is **fastened to a single troll wire, and is deployed and** retrieved [AND SET] with a **single power** troll gurdy or **single** hand troll gurdy with a terminally attached weight [FROM WHICH ONE OR MORE LEADERS WITH ONE OR MORE LURES OR BAITED HOOKS] pulled through the water while a vessel is making way; only one **operational unit of dinglebar troll gear** [TROLL GURDY LINE OR HAND TROLL GURDY LINE] may be **onboard a vessel or** deployed **from the vessel at or below the surface of the sea** [IN THE WATER] at any time; **all weights, including dinglebars, cannon balls, and other fishing weights must be disconnected from the troll wires of all other gurdies that are mounted on the vessel, and additional trains may not be trailed behind the vessel at any time.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Vessels participating in the directed lingcod fishery with dinglebar gear are operating multiple lines at the same time leading to increased harvest rates; because of this, permit holders are exceeding guideline harvest levels. There is confusion within the fleet over what constitutes operation of a single line as well as what dinglebar gear is, and reports have suggested that some vessels may be deploying a second line once retrieval of the first line has begun. Vessels fishing in this manner have an advantage over vessels exclusively operating a single line because it takes time to haul gear to the surface, pull the train in, bring lingcod aboard, and then redeploy the gear back to depth. The intent of the original regulation was for fishers to have only one troll wire with one train on board and available to fish, establishing a pace for the fishery as fishers must remove fish from hooks and get the train ready to be deployed again. The amended language serves to clarify the intention of this regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-148)

PROPOSAL 203

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area and 5 AAC 47.060. Lingcod delegation of authority and provisions for management.

Establish unguided nonresident lingcod regulations, as follows:

SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST AREA: Alaska Residents: 1 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit. Nonresidents: **Unguided anglers: 1 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit. There is an annual limit of 4 fish. Harvest record is required. Guided anglers:** 1 per day, 1 in possession; 30-35 inches or 55 inches and longer. There is an annual limit of 2 fish, 1 of which is 30-35 inches in length, and 1 that is 55 inches or greater in length, harvest record is required

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the Board to look at the nonresident ling cod regulations. I would like to see the size restrictions removed for unguided anglers on ling cod and to be more in line with resident regulations. I would like to see unguided anglers have more fishing opportunities.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I came up with my idea talking with others about limits and opportunity to retain certain types of fish as an unguided angler that goes to Southeast Alaska every year.

PROPOSED BY: Justin Orr

(EF-F24-023)

Pacific cod

PROPOSAL 204

5 AAC 28.130 Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Allow pots to be longlined in the state waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska commercial Pacific cod fishery.

In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, pots may not be longlined, except that pots may be longlined in the Pacific Cod fishery and in the Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict and Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict Sablefish fishery. In a directed fishery for Sablefish pots used to take Sablefish must have at least two circular escape rigs with a minimum inside diameter of three and three-fourths inches installed on opposing vertical or sloping walls.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area longlining pots for Pacific cod is currently not allowed. Longlining pots have proved to be a very efficient, low bycatch way of harvesting Sablefish in both the Federal and State fisheries. I would like the opportunity to use the same gear in the Pacific Cod fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Through conversations with fishery managers and fellow fisherman.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright

(EF-F24-097)

PROPOSAL 205

5 AAC 77.674. Personal use bottomfish fishery.

Allow personal use retention of Pacific cod and rockfishes, including thornyhead rockfish, in pot gear, as follows:

5 AAC 77.674 (2) is amended to read:

In the personal use taking of bottomfish,

(2) [EXCEPT SABLEFISH] bottomfish may be taken for personal use only by longline or hand held line, **except sablefish, Pacific cod, rockfish, and thornyhead rockfish may be taken for personal use only by longline, hand held line, or pot gear**; for all bottomfish, unattended gear must be marked as described in 5 AAC 77.010(d);

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? With the recent increase in pot gear use in the personal use sablefish fisheries, Pacific cod and rockfishes caught as bycatch in pot gear must be released. Pacific cod and most rockfish species have a closed swim bladder and suffer embolism mortality when brought to the surface. Current regulations do not allow retention of Pacific cod or rockfishes in personal use pot gear; therefore, these bycatch species are discarded at sea. Allowing retention of Pacific cod and rockfishes will reduce waste and mirror subsistence and commercial pot gear retention regulations for these species.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-147)

Rockfish

PROPOSAL 206

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Reopen yelloweye sport fishery for residents, as follows:

5 AAC 47.020-General provisions for season, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and method and means for the salt waters of SE Alaska Area.

(8) rockfish may be taken from January 1-December 31 as follows:...

C) demersal shelf rockfish, as defined in [5 AAC 39.975](#):

i.[EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN (D) OF THIS PARAGRAPH,] resident: bag limit of one fish; possession limit of two fish; no annual limit; no size limit;

ii.nonresident; no open season; may not be taken or possessed;

D) yelloweye rockfish: [NO OPEN SEASON; MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED]

i.resident: bag limit of one fish; possession limit of two fish; no annual limit; no size limit;

ii. nonresident; no open season; may not be taken or possessed

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Starting in 2020, the department closed all directed harvest of yelloweye rockfish in Southeast, citing a sharp decline that had occurred twenty years prior. This closure occurred despite the population having been stable for several years prior to the closure. Since 2015 yelloweye abundance has been increasing, yet all directed harvest remains closed. The increasing biomass combined with the recent closures

have combined to leave the majority of the already highly-conservative TAC unharvested in several of the past years

It is time to reopen the resident sport yelloweye fishery which (prior to the closure) was a long-established fishery with a small and consistent harvest for locals to enjoy an occasional fresh yelloweye. The resident sport fishery has historically accounted for only about 2% of the TAC. With over 25-50% of the TAC consistently going unharvested, it is fully appropriate for resident sport fishermen to again be given access to this under-utilized resource.

Contrary to sensationalized accounts, the December 2022 NOAA *Assessment of the DSR Stock Complex in SE Outside Subdistrict of the GOA* shows that SE yelloweye population was healthy prior to the 2020 closure and continue to be healthy. Specifically:

- All three NOAA models show a consistent upward trend in yelloweye biomass since at least 2013 (See Table 14.8)
- Average length of both male and female yelloweye has been increasing in all SE subdistricts (East Yakutat, Northern SE Outside, Central SE Outside and Southern SE Outside) since at least 2010 (See figures 14.13 -14.16)
- The yelloweye catch has been consistently managed to a level well below the Over Fishing Limit for about 2 decades, with a typical year's catch being only about 50% of this threshold. (See Fig 14.5)
- The Yelloweye CPUE in the 2021 IPHC longline survey was up in all SE subdistricts (East Yakutat, Northern SE Outside, Central SE Outside and Southern SE Outside) compared to 2016. (See Table 14.3)

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The Sitka AC supported proposal 230 in 2022 which was very similar.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka (EF-F24-020)

PROPOSAL 207

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents, as follows:

Establish a bag and possession limit for Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) for Non-Residents. Non-Resident bag limit of one fish; possession limit of two fish; annual limit of two fish; no size limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish in regulation a bag, possession and annual limit for DSR species (Quillback, Copper, Canary, China and Tiger).

There is no survey and/or data that shows a conservation concern for the DSR species. Anglers commonly catch all species of rockfish in SE AK and the inability to harvest these species is a lost opportunity to the sport fishery. Most anglers agree that all the DSR rockfish are excellent table fare and readily abundant. The mandatory use of deep water release mechanisms has significantly reduced release mortality.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, but this prop is being submitted on behalf of myself. A daily bag limit of 1 fish and an annual bag limit of 2 fish is very reasonable.

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Whitehead (EF-F24-029)

PROPOSAL 208

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents, as follows:

Establish a bag and possession limit for Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) for Non-Residents.

Non-Resident bag limit of one fish; possession limit of one fish; annual limit of one fish; no size limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, non-residents cannot harvest any DSR species (Quillback, Copper, Canary, China and Tiger).

There is no survey and/or data that shows a conservation concern for the DSR species. Anglers commonly catch all species of rockfish in Southeast Alaska and the inability to harvest these species is a lost opportunity to the sport fishery. Most anglers agree that all the DSR rockfish are excellent table fare and readily abundant. The mandatory use of deep water release mechanisms has significantly reduced release mortality.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. This prop was developed in the Craig AC.

PROPOSED BY: Craig AC (EF-F24-031)

PROPOSAL 209

5 AAC XX.XXX New Section. Pelagic rockfish delegation of authority and provisions for management.

Establish provisions for a resident priority within emergency order authority for pelagic rockfish, as follows:

Direct the department to confine EO restrictions to non-resident anglers and hold resident anglers harmless unless residents are harvesting at least half of the sport catch:

5 AAC 47.020-General provisions for season, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and method and means for the salt waters of SE Alaska Area.

(8) rockfish may be taken from January 1-December 31 as follows:

1. pelagic rockfish: bag limit of five fish, possession limit of 10 fish, no annual limit; **Unless the resident harvest of pelagic rockfish has exceeded 50% of the sport harvest for 2 consecutive years, the department shall not use EO authority to reduce resident limits or season length.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In response to a decade-long trend of increasing harvest of pelagic rockfish by non-residents, beginning in 2016 ADFG repeatedly used EO authority to reduce bag limits for non-residents and residents in Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) alike. In 2018, the BoF specifically refuted that practice by amending ADFG-sponsored proposal 127 which would have permanently reduced the bag limit for all anglers from 5 fish to 3 fish, with RC406 which affirmed the historic 5 fish limit for residents while dropping the non-resident limit to 3.

However, lacking the authority to hold resident anglers harmless as the increase in non-resident harvest resumed, in 2023 ADFG again used EO authority to reduce the CSEO resident and nonresident bag limits. The Sitka AC would like the BoF to authorize the department to prioritize resident access of pelagic rockfish and to direct the department to refrain from reducing resident limits of pelagic rockfish as a means of addressing increased harvest by non-residents.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The Sitka AC supported proposal 127 in 2018 which was very similar.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka AC (EF-F24-019)

PROPOSAL 210

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Reduce the bag and possession limit for pelagic rockfish in Southeast Alaska, as follows:

5 AAC 47.020(8)(A) is amended to read:

...

- (A) pelagic rockfish: bag limit of **three** [FIVE] fish; possession limit of **six** [10] fish; no annual limit; no size limit;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The sport harvest of pelagic rockfish has been on an increasing trend in the Southeast Alaska region and is assumed to be associated with shifting patterns of effort by charter (guided) anglers as restrictions on Pacific halibut and king salmon have been in effect. The department is currently working to develop a stock assessment for black rockfish in Southeast Alaska through the Statewide Rockfish Initiative. The anticipated continued increase in harvest and the potential for overexploitation of pelagic rockfish warrants a precautionary management approach.

The harvest of pelagic rockfish has increased in Southeast Alaska despite recent action to reduce harvest opportunity in the Sitka area where the majority of pelagic rockfish have historically been harvested. Rockfish harvest in the vicinity of Prince of Wales Island and the Ketchikan Areas have continued to increase and are now nearing the levels of pelagic rockfish harvest observed in the Sitka Area before management action was taken.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-179)

PROPOSAL 211

5 AAC 28.171. Rockfish possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Clarify regulations regarding fish ticket documentation of rockfish overages in the groundfish and halibut fisheries. Also, add a demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) overage reporting requirement for the Eastern Gulf of Alaska salmon troll fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.171 (a) is amended to read:

(a) In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, a CFEC permit holder fishing for groundfish or halibut must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish and thornyhead rockfish caught. Except as provided in (b) of this section, all demersal shelf rockfish in excess of 10 percent, round weight, of all target species on board the vessel must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All rockfish and thornyhead rockfish in excess of allowable bycatch limits shall be reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. **Rockfish and thornyhead rockfish exceeding bycatch limits may be retained for personal use or donation and must be documented as overage on the fish ticket.** All proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish and thornyhead rockfish bycatch shall be surrendered to the state. Based on harvest data, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close a fishing season or a bycatch season and immediately reopen a fishing season or a bycatch season during which a different rockfish or thornyhead rockfish bycatch level is allowed.

5 AAC 28.171 (i) is added to read:

(i) In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, a CFEC salmon troll permit holder operating hand or power troll gear during an open commercial salmon fishing period is not required to retain incidental rockfish caught while fishing for salmon but must weigh and report, on an ADF&G fish ticket, all demersal shelf rockfish retained in excess of bycatch limits established by emergency order, based on the round weight of all salmon on board the vessel, and must report it as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. Rockfish bycatch taken in excess of allowable limits may be retained by the permit holder for personal use or donation and must be documented as overage on the fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish bycatch shall be surrendered to the state. Based on harvest data, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close a fishing season or a bycatch season and immediately reopen a fishing season or a bycatch season during which a different rockfish bycatch level is allowed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This clarifies that rockfish, including thornyhead rockfish, bycatch overages may be retained for personal use or donation by CFEC permit holders fishing for groundfish or halibut. Current regulations only specify that rockfish overages may be sold but they do not explicitly state that overages may be retained for personal use or donation which has been standard practice. This would clarify regulations for processors, permit holders, managers, and enforcement. Also, this proposal would establish that rockfish must be reported on a fish ticket and clarify the regulations regarding overages in the salmon troll fishery. At present, the salmon troll fishery does not have full retention requirements for any groundfish species and DSR are the only rockfish restricted to a bycatch allowance. However, because there are bycatch allowances for DSR species but no full retention requirements, regulations do not support that DSR bycatch overage may be retained for personal use or donation and therefore must be discarded at sea or subject to law enforcement action if landed. This would improve consistency on how DSR bycatch

overages are managed across the region and among fisheries and would assist groundfish staff in accounting for DSR bycatch in the salmon troll fishery by reducing DSR discards at sea.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-146)

SUBSISTENCE SHELLFISH, COMMERCIAL AND SPORT SHRIMP, COMMERCIAL AND SPORT OTHER MISCELLANEOUS SHELLFISH (21 proposals)

Geoduck clam

PROPOSAL 212

5 AAC 38.142 Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.

Allow the number of geoduck permit holders able to fish from one vessel to be increased from two to four by emergency order.

Add the following language to 5 AAC 38.142 (p)

The commissioner may by emergency order modify the number of CFEC geoduck permit holders able to be onboard or fish from a registered vessel to four divers when the total area trip limit is four hundred pounds or less.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the geoduck clam fishery only 2 divers can fish from one vessel (5 AAC 38.142 (p)). However, it is often difficult to harvest the GHF in remote areas when the remaining GHF is small. It is not cost-effective to travel long distances for a limited harvest. We would like to have up to four CFEC geoduck permit holders conduct fishing operations from a vessel that is registered to commercially fish for geoducks to make it more economical to harvest the remaining GHF. This would be done when an area has a trip limited harvest of 400 or less pounds per dive harvester.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Insert the issue statement here.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F24-086)

PROPOSAL 213

5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.

Modify how geoduck guideline harvest levels are calculated.

5 AAC 38.142 Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan. (g) The guideline harvest level for each area will be calculated as two percent of the most recent estimated biomass, **using the mid-point of the one-sided 90 percent confidence interval**, per year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFFA) would like to have ADF&G establish the Guideline Harvest Level for the geoduck clam fishery using the mid-point of the one-sided 90 percent confidence interval based on their assessment surveys. This would allow for a higher GHF while maintaining a conservatively managed fishery.

- What would happen if nothing is changed?

There would remain annual confusion as to whether ADF&G is managing for the lower end of the confidence level or the mid-point. Also, in commercial areas where there is not significant sea otter predation, whenever these areas are re-surveyed, the GHl has increased. We believe using the lower bound of the one-sided 90% confidence interval is overly conservative and using the mid-point would enable fuller utilization of the resource while still adequately conserving the geoduck stock.

- What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them?

It is possible to discuss on an annual basis the department's management goal, however SARDFa believes this would eliminate any confusion on how the fishery is being managed.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The SARDFa geoduck committee which is comprised of 20 CFEC permit holders worked on developing this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Fisheries Association (HQ-F24-087)

PROPOSAL 214

5 AAC 38.142 Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Management Plan.

Allow for areas that have been closed for 5 years as a result of the estimated geoduck biomass dropping below 30% of the original biomass estimate to be resurveyed and potentially reopened.

At the end of paragraph (h) of 5AAC 38.142 add:

Once an area is closed for a period of 5 years due to exceeding the 30% threshold of the original biomass estimate, the Commissioner may direct the department to conduct a stock assessment and determine a new biomass estimate on which to base a new GHl for a resumption of fishing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under the current geoduck management plan once a commercial harvest area's population estimate goes below the 30% threshold of the original biomass estimate, the area is closed to commercial harvesting. Given significant ecosystem changes, it is very difficult to reopen areas once they meet this threshold. In many areas being closed, it does not mean overfishing has occurred; rather it is a reflection of environmental changes since the original biomass estimate was conducted. In these areas, use of an original biomass estimate is not reflective of current conditions. As a reference, in areas without drastic environmental changes, geoduck biomass and GHl have increased on re-survey.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed in conjunction with the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association geoduck committee, which is comprised of 20 CFEC geoduck permit holders.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F24-088)

PROPOSAL 215

5 AAC 38.142 (h). Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.

Give the department the authority to experiment with reduced guideline harvest levels in sea otter impacted areas where the current biomass estimate is less than 30 percent of the original biomass estimate.

At the end of 5AAC 38.142(h) added:

As part of a pilot project, the commissioner may allow the department to use a current biomass estimate to create a new GHL to allow for reduced harvest in sea otter impacted areas. The pilot project will be closely monitored to determine if harvest and sea otter predation are sustainable for the geoduck biomass.

The commissioner may not open the commercial geoduck fishery in an area if the estimated biomass of the geoduck stock in that area is less than 30 percent of the original biomass determined by the first stock assessment conducted by the department on that stock. The commissioner may modify this percentage if the department receives information about geoduck productivity that supports a modification.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The management plan for geoduck clams has remained unchanged since the inception of the fishery. The fishery itself has changed dramatically and not in positive ways. In the past several years, the fishery has had a steady decline in its GHL and has had several areas closed to commercial fishing all together. In the 2024-2025 fishing season, for example, we will have the smallest annual GHL in over a decade. Geoducks have become increasingly valuable with an ex-vessel value of over \$10/pound in the 2023-2024 season. Approximately 55 CFEC limited entry permit holders participate in the fishery. The losses in this fishery are occurring only in areas where there are sea otters present. In areas without sea otters, GHLS are actually increasing when they are re-surveyed. Otters are moving into these areas and if similar trends happen in inside waters, we will lose the geoduck fishery all together.

In 5 AAC 38.142 (h) it states: The commissioner may not open the commercial geoduck fishery in an area if the estimated biomass of the geoduck stock in that area is less than 30 percent of the original biomass determined by the first stock assessment conducted by the department on that stock. The commissioner may modify this percentage if the department receives information about geoduck productivity that supports a modification.

We believe this original biomass threshold is erroneous in ecosystems drastically changed over the past few decades. ADFG itself uses various biomass estimates based on changes in the fishing areas or new data derived from logbooks. The original biomass estimate therefore changes in ADFG application as conditions change; we would like to see this change to address significant loss of access to fishing grounds due to sea otters.

There is precedence for using a current biomass estimate in areas impacted by otters. In British Columbia, in areas impacted by otters, the commercial dive industry and the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans are collaborating on an altered management plan that replaces the original biomass estimate with a current biomass estimate. In a few areas they have been doing this for several years and have data that indicates a balance between harvest and sea otter pressure. We would like to work with ADFG in 2-3 areas recently closed to commercial harvest to determine if this approach would allow a reduced level of harvest in the presence of otter predation pressure. SARDFFA will work cooperatively with ADFG and support more frequent biological assessments to ensure stocks are healthy.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association after several meetings with our commercial counterpart in British Columbia, the Underwater Harvester’s Association.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F24-092)

PROPOSAL 216

5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.

Clarify that only aquatic farm sites approved for the culture of geoduck clams are closed to commercial harvest of geoduck clams.

If (l) 4 were changed to read:

waters identified as a permitted mariculture site **for culture of geoduck;**
that would correct the issue.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? (l) 4: waters identified as a mariculture site.

In the geoduck management plan section l defines areas closed to the commercial taking of geoducks. Number 4 indicates all mariculture sites are closed to geoduck fishing but this is incorrect; it is only mariculture sites approved for geoduck cultivation that this applies to

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. In coordination with ADFG Ketchikan and ADFG permit coordinator and SARDFFA geoduck committee.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F24-091)

Sea cucumber

PROPOSAL 217

5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.

Allow weekly fishing periods to begin on Sundays, as follows:

Allowing weekly openers to include Sundays from 8 to 3 would allow flexibility in the event of seasonal storms, limitations of smaller vessels in relation to weather events, and the aging of the dive personnel, many over 60 years of age. The quota per opener would remain at 2000 pounds.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A change to the days each weekly opener would include. This would consolidate the season to the benefit of the fleet, canneries, and enforcement personnel. An informal survey of divers, particularly in the high sea otter populated areas, indicate an inability to reach the weekly quota in the time allotted. This would drive a completion of the fishery prior to the short winter days and closure of the canneries/buyers.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was discussed with multiple dive fishery permit holders.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Cloose

(EF-F24-041)

PROPOSAL 218

.5 AAC 38.140 Southeast Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.

Extend sea cucumber fishing season beyond March 31.

5 AAC 38.140

(b) Sea cucumbers may be taken from the first Monday in October through March 31 during the weekly fishing period established by emergency order. The weekly fishing period will occur on Mondays from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and on Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, except that (1) during the week of Thanksgiving, the weekly fishing period will occur on Sunday from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and on Monday from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon; (2) beginning in November, the commissioner may, by emergency order, extend or shorten a weekly fishing period in an area in order to obtain the guideline harvest level in that area; (3) during the week of Christmas and New Year's Day, the department may modify the days of the weekly fishing period by emergency order so that the fishing period does not fall on the holiday and does not add additional days to the weekly fishing period.

(4) regional ADFG managers may allow weekly fishing extentions past March 31st to finish GHL.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Address:

(b) of the Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan

(b) Sea cucumbers may be taken from the first Monday in October through March 31

Why?

Allow regional ADFG mangers the ability to allow weekly extentions in areas with remaining guideline harvest levels(GHLs) past March 31st in order to reach the seasons GHL.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. There has been some discussion about extensions. This proposal is submitted as an individual.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Carruth

(EF-F24-009)

PROPOSAL 219

5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.

Clarify when a sea cucumber permit holder is in possession of the product they harvested.

Draft language: **Divers engaged in commercial dive harvest fisheries do not have to be in immediate possession of the harvested product during or after an opener until the vessel has departed the specific open fishing area.**

Adding this clarification of possession will better fit the operation of the commercial dive fisheries and reduce ticketing due to application of general possession regulations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? General regulations of possession of harvested product are not aligned with practices related to commercial dive harvesting of sea cucumbers. In sea cucumber harvesting several different methods are employed. In some cases, divers are attached via their breathing line to a surface skiff that follows the diver along the surface. As the dive harvester fills their cucumber bags, they attach flotation to the line and send the line to the surface for later retrieval by the larger dive boat. In other instances, divers do not have breathing lines but use free tanks. In these instances, the dive vessel may drop a diver off in one bay and then drop the other diver in another bay. The vessel would then travel back and forth between divers to collect cucumber harvest bags and provide fresh scuba tanks.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. SARDFa sea cucumber committee, SARDFa Board of Directors and Ketchikan ADFG biologists.

PROPOSED BY: Seth Rockwell

(HQ-F24-078)

PROPOSAL 220

5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.

Allow crew members to be in possession of sea cucumbers harvested by the sea cucumber permit holder.

Draft language: **Crew member of a registered dive vessel may be in possession of legally harvested product even when the permit holder (diver) is neither on nor attached to nor in the immediate vicinity of the vessel. This would apply during or after an opener until the vessel has departed the specific open fishing area.**

Adding this clarification of possession will better fit the operation of the commercial dive fisheries and reduce ticketing due to application of general possession regulations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? General regulations regarding possession of harvested product are not aligned with practices related to commercial dive harvesting of sea cucumbers. In sea cucumber harvesting several different methods are employed. In some cases, divers are attached via their breathing line to a surface skiff that follows the diver

along the surface. As the dive harvester fills their cucumber bags, they attach flotation to the line and send the line to the surface for later retrieval by the larger dive boat. In other instances, divers do not have breathing lines but use free tanks. In these instances, the dive vessel may drop a diver off in one bay and then drop the other diver in another bay. The vessel would then travel back and forth between divers to collect cucumber harvest bags and provide fresh scuba tanks.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. SARDFa sea cucumber committee, SARDFa Board of Directors and Ketchikan ADFG biologists.

PROPOSED BY: Seth Rockwell (HQ-F24-079)

PROPOSAL 221

5 AAC 41.285 Aquatic stock acquisition on an aquatic farm site and 5 AAC 41.235 Determination of insignificant population.

Prohibit harvest of naturally occurring sea cucumbers on aquatic farm sites by farm operator in areas where there are commercial sea cucumber fisheries.

In areas where there are limited entry CFEC Q11A fisheries that are subject to fisheries management plan, sea cucumbers cannot be added as a species of culture and must be allowed to escape into benthos.

[5AAC 41.285. AQUATIC STOCK ACQUISITION ON AN AQUATIC FARM SITE. WILD STOCK OF THE SPECIES IDENTIFIED FOR CULTURE IN THE OPERATION PERMIT THAT SETTLE ON AN AQUATIC FARM, HATCHERY SITE OR CULTURE GEAR BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE AQUATIC FARM OR HATCHERY OPERATION PERMIT HOLDER AS A CONDITION OF THE OPERATION PERMIT.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Aquatic farms that are permitted to operate in areas where the limited entry CFEC commercial sea cucumber fishery (Q11A) occurs have added sea cucumber to their permitted species culture using 5AAC 41.285. A very specific instance occurred with a farm permitted in a commercial sea cucumber fishing area that began as an oyster farm and then added sea cucumbers to its cultured species list. This farm is only using naturally settling sea cucumbers directly removing those sea cucumbers from settling to the bottom and becoming part of the common property resource.

Very little is known about sea cucumber settlement patterns in SE Alaska so it is unclear how this practice could affect the commercial fishery over time. We believe allowing a farm to add sea cucumbers as a cultivation species in an area known to already support a commercial fishery is allocating sea cucumbers to a private farm and away from a CFEC limited entry fishery.

Further under 5AAC 41.235 the commissioner must determine that the wild stock is not of a nature significant enough to attract or support a commercial fishery. In this case the wild stock is already supporting a commercial fishery. Further the sale of the shellfish will not result in the alteration in traditional fisheries or other uses of fish and wildlife resources if the population is included within the aquatic farm. How can privatizing sea cucumbers out of the common property not alter the commercial fishery in that area.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. SARDFa has geoduck, sea cucumber and sea urchin committees. This idea was discussed with ADFG Ketchikan biologists.

PROPOSED BY: Dale Stanley (EF-F24-017)

Shrimp
PROPOSAL 222

5 AAC 02.110. Subsistence Shrimp Fishery; 5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area; and 5 AAC 77.660 Personal Use shrimp fishery.

Adopt seasonal closures for subsistence, sport, and personal use shrimp fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 02.110 is amended to read:

(6) Shrimp may only be taken May 1 through Feb 28.

5 AAC 47.020 (16) is amended to read:

(16) shrimp: may **only** be taken from **May 1** [JANUARY 1] – **February 28** [DECEMBER 31] only under a permit issued by the department; a harvest recording form under 5 AAC 75.016 is required; bag and possession limit of three pounds or three quarts; no annual limit.

5 AAC 77.660 (1) is amended to read:

(1) **Season and possession limit**

(A) Shrimp may only be taken from May 1 through Feb 28.

(B) Except as provided in (7) and (8) of this section, there **are** [IS NO CLOSED SEASON AND] no bag and possession limits;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? March and April compose a biologically sensitive period for pandalid shrimp when eggs mature and hatch. Best fishing practices dictate that fishing during such periods should be avoided to enhance long term stock resilience. For this reason, the regional commercial shrimp pot fishery has had season closures during this time for many years. The magnitude of the regional subsistence, sport, and personal use harvest of spot shrimp was largely unknown until 2018 when permit and harvest reporting was required for these fisheries . Recent harvest data show that collectively these fisheries make up between 19% and 26% of the total annual spot shrimp harvest. Implementing a seasonal closure during this biologically sensitive period is likely to benefit the sustainability of Southeast shrimp pot fisheries and is especially pertinent given recent regional declines in spot shrimp abundance.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-150)

PROPOSAL 223

5 AAC 02.110. Subsistence Shrimp Fishery; 5 AAC 47.035; Methods, means, and general provisions - Shellfish; and 5 AAC 77.660. Personal Use Shrimp Fishery.

Increase the tunnel size for sport, personal use, and subsistence shrimp pots.

Proposal:

Change the wording in the following sections of 5 AAC to change the permitted size of openings in shrimp pot tunnels in the Southeast Alaska Area.

Subsistence Shellfish:

5 AAC 02.110. Subsistence shrimp fishery

In the subsistence taking of shrimp,

(1) a pot used to take shrimp must have

(A) no more than four tunnel eye openings; a tunnel eye opening may not exceed (15) **16** inches in perimeter;

(B) a bottom perimeter of no more than 153 inches; and

(C) a volume of no more than 25 cubic feet;

Sport Fish:

5 AAC 47.035 (k)1 Subsistence shrimp fishery

In the subsistence taking of shrimp,

(1) a pot used to take shrimp must have

(A) no more than four tunnel eye openings; a tunnel eye opening may not exceed (15) **16** inches in perimeter;

(B) a bottom perimeter of no more than 153 inches; and

(C) a volume of no more than 25 cubic feet;

Personal Use Shellfish:

5 AAC 77.660 (5)(5) a pot used to take shrimp under this chapter must have

(A) no more than four tunnel eye openings; no tunnel eye opening may exceed (15) **16** inches in perimeter;

(B) a bottom perimeter of no more than 153 inches; and

(C) a volume of no more than 25 cubic feet;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations discriminate against fishers that harvest shrimp with rigid mesh pots by limiting the area tunnel openings may have compared to non-rigid pots. This is because a circular opening found on non-rigid pots allows for a greater area than a rectangular opening of the same perimeter or circumference commonly found in a rigid pot.

We would like to have the openings allowed in rigid mesh pots closer in size to non-rigid pots. Current regulations allow openings of up to 17.9 square inches for non-rigid pots. Rigid pots are currently limited to 10 square inches if the pot tunnel has standard 1" mesh. Many rigid pots are already manufactured with openings that measure 2" by 6" which equals 16" of perimeter. We are proposing making the perimeter of the opening one inch larger than the current regulation, 16".

This change would allow the opening in a rigid pot to be exactly the same as the biological escape mechanism required for the pots. The funnel openings on non-rigid pots already exceed the escape mechanism size. Therefore, there should not be a concern with increased bycatch with rigid pots.

The Math:

Present regulations:

Circumference of circle (C) = 2πr

15” = 2(3.14)r

radius = 2.38 inches.

(The new radius could be up to 2.54”.)

Maximum area of a (current) non-rigid pot tunnel opening.

Area of a circle with a 15” perimeter (circumference) (A) = πr²

A = 3.14(2.38)(2.38) = **17.9 square inches**

(The new area could be up to 20.25 square inches.)

Maximum area of the proposed rigid pot tunnel opening.

Area of a rectangle = base x height

Proposed size:

A = 6” x 2” = 12 square inches

Perimeter = 16”

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The EPOW discussed and submitted this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: East Prince of Wales Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-027)

PROPOSAL 224

5 AAC 31.110. Shrimp pot fishing seasons and periods for Registration Area A.

Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 opening date back to October 1.

My solution is... to return the spot shrimp pot season back to the traditional October first opening date.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the spot shrimp season in southeast back to its historical October first opening date.

Why...flawed bof Covid decision, after multiple venue changes. There was no general knowledge that this proposal was out there among spot shrimp permit holders. This proposal would have been fought tooth & nail if meeting was held on schedule. In southeast.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I developed this proposal with consultation with all the other longtime spot shrimp pot permit holders in southeast that I know. No one that I'm aware of that's participated in the October fishery was in favor of changing to a may opening & completely loosing the fishery for 2022.

The local advisory committee is not knowledgeable on this issue.

PROPOSED BY: Robert T. Mosher (EF-F24-042)

PROPOSAL 225

5 AAC 31.110. Shrimp pot fishing season and periods for Registration Area A.

Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 opening date to October 1 or to another start date in late summer/early fall.

Change the start date back to October 1. Alternatively, September 15, September 1 and August 15 would also be acceptable dates.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The change in season start date from Oct 1 to May 15 in the 2022 Board of Fisheries meeting effectively transferred the entire shrimp fishery over to commercial users. Many Sport and Personal Use fisherman are not able to go prior to the May 15th opening, after which shrimp numbers are dramatically lower as the commercial fishery is executed very quickly. Furthermore, the rationale that taking of females when they don't have eggs is beneficial to the population is not sound logic, as it is the taking of females **at any time** that is detrimental to the population. Taking females without eggs in May lowers the reproductive capacity of the population the same as the taking of females with unreleased eggs in October.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Submitted via Territorial Sportsmen Inc of Juneau

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsmen Inc (EF-F24-101)

PROPOSAL 226

5 AAC 31.115. Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A and 5 AAC 31.124 Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A..

Provide for further conservation in the shrimp pot fishery by reducing all GHLS by 20%, reducing the number of pots allowed by 40–50%, and eliminating the large pot size.

Reduce ALL area GHLS 20 %
gear reduction of 40-50 % per permit , (eliminate the large pot size over a 3 yr period)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? It's clear that the SE pot shrimp stocks are in stress as evidenced by small shrimp carrying eggs and the survey results. Having fished this fishery since the 90s.I have seen the steady decline in size and health of stocks. I feel a more aggressive conservation effort needs implemented.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. For many years I have had discussions with other fishermen about the health of the stocks, in general the longer participation fishers have seen dramatic negative changes in the stocks and feel the fleet is too large and fishing the same grounds too hard for the available resource.

I have spoken to many managers over the years about my one other's concerns.

I do not feel shutting the fishery down is the right option, gear reduction along with permits stacking seems a better option.

PROPOSED BY: Mark Hofmann

(EF-F24-061)

PROPOSAL 227

5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A.

Allow for more than one CFEC shrimp pot permit holder to fish from the same vessel and jointly operate pot gear in aggregate of no more than 50% allowed gear for the additional permit.

Allow stacking of permits to eventually reduce the overall number of pots fishing while leaving reasonable access/ entry for single permit /new entrants.

the stacked permit would have a pot value of no greater than 50% of the base permit

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Over capacity of pot shrimp permits. The stocks are at a low level and need less pressure.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Discussed with other fisherman

PROPOSED BY: Mark Hofmann

(EF-F24-063)

PROPOSAL 228

5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for registration Area A.

Redefine legal shrimp pot requirements to allow for the use slinky pots.

5AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A

(a) Shrimp may be taken with pots in Registration Area A only as specified in this section. A shrimp pot may be a traditional cone style pot or a coil spring style pot, commonly known as slinky pot.

(b) A cone style shrimp pot

(1) may not have

(A) more than one bottom;

(B) a vertical height of more than 24 inches;

(C) more than four tunnel eye openings which individually do not exceed 15 inches in perimeter;

or

(D) a bottom perimeter exceeding a perimeter specified in (e) of this section

(2) the sides of a cone style shrimp pot may only be

(A) at a right angle to the plane of the bottom of the pot; or

(B) slanted inward toward the center of the pot in a straight line from the bottom of the pot to the top of the pot.

(c) a slinky pot style shrimp pot

(1) may not have

(A) a vertical diameter of more than 24 inches;

(B) a horizontal length of more than 48 inches;

(C) more than two tunnel eye openings which individually do not exceed 15 inches in perimeter

(d) a shrimp pot must be entirely covered with net webbing or rigid mesh. At least two adjacent sides or 50 percent of the vertical or near-vertical sides must be covered with net webbing or rigid mesh that allows the passage of a seven-eighths inch diameter by 12 inch long wooden dowel,

which upon insertion into the web, must drop completely through by its own weight, without force. In the waters of Lituya Bay, enclosed by a line from the easternmost tip of Harbor Point to the Southernmost tip of LaChaussee Spit there is no minimum mesh size.

(e) Shrimp pots may be operated only as follows:

(1) repealed 7/18/2003

(2) the number of shrimp pots that may be operated from a registered shrimp fishing vessel is 140 slinky pots, 140 small pots, or 100 large pots; for the purposes of this section,

(A) a "slinky pot" style shrimp pot conforms with (c) of this section;

(B) a small pot has a bottom perimeter of no more than 124 inches;

(C) a "large pot" has a bottom perimeter of more than 124 inches, but not more than 153 inches;

(3) if all pots on board a vessel or operated from a vessel are of the same type and of the same size as defined in (2)(A) or (2)(B) of this subsection 140 pots may be operated from the vessel, if any of the pots on board or operated from a vessel are of the same type and size as defined in (2)(C) of this subsection only 100 pots may be operated from the vessel;

(4) a vessel operator may have only shrimp pot gear owned by that person on board the vessel at any time;

(5) shrimp pot gear may be deployed or retrieved only from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. each day; the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the fishing season in a district or a portion of a district and immediately reopen the season during which the time period allowed to deploy and retrieve shrimp pot gear may be increased or decreased to achieve the guideline harvest range;

(6) all shrimp pots left in saltwater unattended longer than a two-week period must have all bait containers removed and all doors secured fully open.

(f) A registered shrimp vessel may not have, at anytime in the aggregate, more than the legal limit of shrimp pot gear on board the vessel, in the water in fishing condition, and in the water in nonfishing condition, including commercial and non commercial shrimp pots as described in 5 AAC 31.128(b).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The regulation defining legal pot gear for shrimp in Registration Area A is very detailed and specific. It details a traditional cone style shrimp pot and makes other types of pots unlawful if they do not conform. My company has been selling a coil spring shrimp pot, commonly known as a slinky pot, for use in the Personal use shrimp fishery and have received interest in the slinky shrimp pot from commercial users, but as written 38.124 makes them unlawful for commercial use.

The slinky shrimp pot collapses flat and is very light weight making it an ideal pot for small vessels. In writing this regulation I also adjusted (e)(3) to allow a vessel to use a portion of their gear as slinky pots and a portion as cone pots so they did not have to invest in an entire new string of gear to enjoy the space and weight benefits of a slinky type pot.

The slinky type shrimp pot we currently sell for personal use is 18 inches in diameter and 36 inches in length and has a volume of 9,160 cubic inches. I have set the size limit of the commercial slinky shrimp pot at 24 inches in diameter and 48 inches in length which gives it a volume of 21,715 cubic inches. This is still well below the volume of the small shrimp pot at 26,507 cubic inches, so I have put the pot limit of slinky type shrimp pots at 140 pots.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Conversations with ADF&G staff and SE shrimp permit holders.

PROPOSAL 229

5 AAC 31.105. Description of Registration Area A districts and sections 5 AAC 31.115. Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A, 5 AAC 33.200. Fishing districts and sections, 5 AAC 32.105. Description of Registration Area A districts, 5 AAC 38.076. Alaska Scallop Fishery Management Plan, and 5 AAC 38.105. Description of Registration Area A districts and sections.

Repeal redundant descriptions of Southeast Alaska districts and sections in 5 AAC 31.105, update 33.200 with District 10 section descriptions, add Section 6-E to District 6 shrimp pot fishing areas, and update regulations that refer to 5 AAC 31.105, as follows:

5AAC 31.105 is amended to read:

5 AAC 31.105. Description of Registration Area A districts and sections. **Registration Area A districts and sections are described in 5 AAC 33.200.**

[(A) DISTRICT 1: WATERS EAST AND NORTH OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF CAAMANO POINT AT 55° 29.85' N. LAT., 131° 58.21' W. LONG., THEN SOUTH TO A POINT IN DIXON ENTRANCE AT 54° 40.00' N. LAT., 131° 45.00' W. LONG., AND WATERS NORTH OF A LINE RUNNING FROM 54° 40.00' N. LAT., 131° 45.00' W. LONG., TO 54° 42.48' N. LAT., 130° 36.92' W. LONG.

(B) DISTRICT 2: WATERS SOUTH OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE EASTERNMOST TIP OF NARROW POINT AT 55° 47.00' N. LAT., 132° 28.23' W. LONG., TO LEMESURIER POINT, AT 55° 46.02' N. LAT., 132° 16.94' W. LONG., WATERS WEST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF CAAMANO POINT AT 55° 29.85' N. LAT., 131° 58.21' W. LONG., THEN DUE SOUTH TO A POINT IN DIXON ENTRANCE AT 54° 40.00' N. LAT., 131° 45.00' W. LONG., AND WATERS EAST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM POINT MARSH LIGHT AT 54° 42.70' N. LAT., 132° 17.72' W. LONG., THEN DUE SOUTH TO A POINT IN DIXON ENTRANCE AT 54° 40.00' N. LAT., 132° 17.50' W. LONG.

(C) DISTRICT 3: WATERS NORTH AND WEST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM POINT MARSH LIGHT AT 54° 42.70' N. LAT., 132° 17.72' W. LONG., THEN DUE SOUTH TO A POINT IN DIXON ENTRANCE AT 54° 40.00' N. LAT., 132° 41.29' W. LONG., AND ENDING AT THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF CAPE MUZON, AND WATERS EAST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF EAGLE POINT ON DALL ISLAND AT 55° 14.53' N. LAT., 133° 13.28' W. LONG., TO THE WESTERNMOST TIP OF POINT ARBOLEDA AT 55° 19.10' N. LAT., 133° 27.81' W. LONG., TO THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF POINT SAN ROQUE AT 55° 20.13' N. LAT., 133° 32.70' W. LONG., TO THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF CAPE ULITKA AT 55° 33.76' N. LAT., 133° 43.73' W. LONG., TO CAPE LYNCH LIGHT AT 55° 46.87' N. LAT., 133° 42.10' W. LONG., AND ENDING AT THE SOUTHWEST ENTRANCE POINT OF HALIBUT HARBOR ON KOSCIUSKO ISLAND AT 55° 54.99' N. LAT., 133° 47.64' W. LONG., AND WATERS SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF ANESKETT POINT AT 56° 08.85' N. LAT.;

(1) SECTION 3-A: WATERS OF DISTRICT 3 SOUTH AND EAST OF A LINE THROUGH TLEVAK NARROWS BEGINNING AT THE EASTERNMOST TIP OF TURN POINT AT 55° 15.74' N. LAT., 133° 07.33' W. LONG., TO A POINT ON PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND AT 55° 15.75' N. LAT., 133° 06.43' W. LONG., INCLUDING SODA BAY AND ITS

CONTIGUOUS WATERS, BUT EXCLUDING ALL WATERS OF MEARES PASS AND ITS CONTIGUOUS WATERS;

(2) SECTION 3-B: WATERS OF DISTRICT 3 SOUTH OF POINT SWIFT AT 55° 45.78' N. LAT., 133° 19.57' W. LONG., INCLUDING ALL WATERS OF WARM CHUCK INLET, IPHIGENIA BAY SOUTH OF CAPE LYNCH LIGHT AT 55° 46.87' N. LAT., 133° 42.10' W. LONG., EXCLUDING ALL WATERS OF TUXEKAN PASSAGE AND ITS CONTIGUOUS WATERS, AND WATERS OF DISTRICT 3 NORTH OF A LINE THROUGH TLEVAK NARROWS BEGINNING AT THE EASTERNMOST TIP OF TURN POINT LOCATED AT 55° 15.74' N. LAT., 133° 07.33' W. LONG., TO A POINT ON PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND AT 55° 15.70' N. LAT., 133° 06.53' W. LONG., INCLUDING ALL WATERS OF MEARES PASS AND ITS CONTIGUOUS WATERS, BUT EXCLUDING ALL WATERS OF SODA BAY AND ITS CONTIGUOUS WATERS;

(3) SECTION 3-C: WATERS OF DISTRICT 3 NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF POINT SWIFT AT 55° 45.78' N. LAT., 133° 19.57' W. LONG., INCLUDING ALL WATERS OF TUXEKAN PASSAGE AND ITS CONTIGUOUS WATERS, BUT EXCLUDING ALL WATERS OF WARM CHUCK INLET, IPHIGENIA BAY SOUTH OF CAPE LYNCH LIGHT AT 55° 46.86' N. LAT., 133° 42.10' W. LONG.

(D) DISTRICT 4: WATERS NORTH OF THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF CAPE MUZON AT 54° 39.82' N. LAT., 132° 41.29' W. LONG., WEST OF DISTRICT 3, AND SOUTH OF A LINE FROM HELM POINT ON CORONATION ISLAND AT 55° 49.59' N. LAT., 134° 16.19' W. LONG., TO CAPE LYNCH LIGHT AT 55° 46.87' N. LAT., 133° 42.10' W. LONG.

(E) DISTRICT 5: WATERS OF SUMNER STRAIT THAT ARE NORTH AND EAST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM CAPE DECISION TO HELM POINT, TO CAPE LYNCH, AND ENDING AT THE SOUTHWEST ENTRANCE POINT OF HALIBUT HARBOR, AND WATERS NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF ANESKETT POINT, WEST OF A LINE FROM POINT BAKER TO POINT BARRIE, AND SOUTH OF A LINE RUNNING FROM POINT CAMDEN TO SALT POINT LIGHT IN KEKU STRAIT.

(F) DISTRICT 6: WATERS OF CLARENCE STRAIT NORTH AND EAST OF A LINE FROM NARROW POINT AT 55° 47.45' N. LAT., 132° 28.57' W. LONG., TO LEMESURIER POINT AT 55° 46.02' N. LAT., 132° 16.93' W. LONG., TO ERNEST POINT AT 55° 51.00' N. LAT., 132° 22.21' W. LONG., TO THE MOST SOUTHERLY POINT ON ETOLIN ISLAND AT 55° 54.79' N. LAT., 132° 21.24' W. LONG., WATERS OF STIKINE STRAIT SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF ROUND POINT AT 56° 16.65' N. LAT., 132° 39.44' W. LONG., WATERS OF SUMNER STRAIT WEST OF A LINE FROM POINT ALEXANDER AT 56° 30.54' N. LAT., 132° 56.94' W. LONG., TO LOW POINT AT 56° 27.18' N. LAT., 132° 57.17' W. LONG., AND EAST OF A LINE FROM POINT BAKER AT 56° 21.52' N. LAT., 133° 37.58' W. LONG., TO POINT BARRIE AT 56° 26.18' N. LAT., 133° 39.27' W. LONG., WATERS OF WRANGELL NARROWS SOUTH AND WEST OF A LINE FROM PROLEWY POINT AT 56° 50.12' N. LAT., 132° 56.45' W. LONG., TO THE NORTHERN TIP OF MITKOF ISLAND AT 56° 49.38' N. LAT., 132° 56.31' W. LONG., AND ALL WATERS OF DUNCAN CANAL;

(1) SECTION 6-A: WATERS NORTH OF A LINE FROM POINT COLPOYS AT 56° 20.17' N. LAT., 133° 11.90' W. LONG., TO MACNAMARA POINT AT 56° 19.85' N. LAT., 133° 04.00' W. LONG., WEST OF A LINE FROM LOW POINT AT 56° 27.18' N. LAT., 132° 57.17' W. LONG., TO POINT ALEXANDER AT 56° 30.54' N. LAT., 132° 56.94' W. LONG., AND EAST OF A LINE FROM POINT BARRIE AT 56° 26.18' N. LAT., 133° 39.27' W. LONG., TO POINT BAKER AT 56° 21.52' N. LAT., 133° 37.58' W. LONG.;

(2) SECTION 6-B: WATERS SOUTH OF A LINE FROM POINT COLPOYS AT 56° 20.17' N. LAT., 133° 11.90' W. LONG., TO MACNAMARA POINT AT 56° 19.85' N. LAT., 133° 04.00' W. LONG., AND NORTH AND WEST OF A LINE FROM LUCK POINT AT 55° 59.04' N. LAT., 132° 44.07' W. LONG., TO POINT STANHOPE AT 56° 00.69' N. LAT., 132° 36.46' W. LONG., TO LINCOLN ROCK LIGHT AT 56° 03.40' N. LAT., 132° 41.85' W. LONG., TO KEY REEF LIGHT AT 56° 09.61' N. LAT., 132° 49.78' W. LONG., TO NESBITT REEF LIGHT AT 56° 13.22' N. LAT., 132° 51.83' W. LONG., TO POINT NESBITT AT 56° 13.88' N. LAT., 132° 52.33' W. LONG.;

(3) SECTION 6-C : WATERS ENCLOSED BY A LINE FROM LINCOLN ROCK LIGHT AT 56° 03.40' N. LAT., 132° 41.85' W. LONG., TO THE WESTERNMOST POINT OF SCREEN ISLANDS AT 56° 05.54' W. LAT., 132° 42.60' W. LONG., TO THE WESTERNMOST POINT OF MARSH ISLAND AT 56° 06.94' N. LAT., 132° 43.15' W. LONG., TO THE WESTERNMOST POINT OF STEAMER ROCKS AT 56° 08.41' N. LAT., 132° 43.64' W. LONG., TO MARIPOSA ROCK BUOY AT 56° 10.67' N. LAT., 132° 44.35' W. LONG., TO THE TIP OF POINT NESBITT AT 56° 13.88' N. LAT., 132° 52.33' W. LONG., TO NESBITT REEF LIGHT AT 56° 13.22' N. LAT., 132° 51.83' W. LONG., TO KEY REEF LIGHT AT 56° 09.61' N. LAT., 132° 49.78' W. LONG., TO LINCOLN ROCK LIGHT AT 56° 03.40' N. LAT., 132° 41.85' W. LONG.;

(4) SECTION 6-D: ALL WATERS OF DISTRICT 6 NOT INCLUDED IN (1) - (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(G) DISTRICT 7: WATERS OF ERNEST SOUND AND BRADFIELD CANAL THAT ARE EAST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM LEMESURIER POINT TO ERNEST POINT, AND ENDING AT THE MOST SOUTHERLY POINT OF ETOLIN ISLAND, WATERS OF ZIMOVIA STRAIT THAT ARE SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF NEMO POINT, AND WATERS OF EASTERN PASSAGE AND BLAKE CHANNEL THAT ARE EAST OF A LINE FROM BABBLER POINT TO HOUR POINT (56° 27.80' N. LAT., 132° 16.63' W. LONG.).

(H) DISTRICT 8: WATERS OF FREDERICK SOUND SOUTH OF A LINE FROM WOOD POINT AT 56° 59.47' N. LAT., 132° 56.97' W. LONG. TO BEACON POINT AT 56° 56.36' N. LAT., 132° 59.74' W. LONG., WATERS OF SUMNER STRAIT EAST OF A LINE FROM POINT ALEXANDER AT 56° 30.54' N. LAT., 132° 56.94' W. LONG., TO LOW POINT AT 56° 27.18' N. LAT., 132° 57.17' W. LONG., WATERS OF STIKINE STRAIT NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF ROUND POINT AT 56° 16.65' N. LAT., 132° 39.44' W. LONG., WATERS OF ZIMOVIA STRAIT NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF NEMO POINT AT 56° 17.00' N. LAT., 132° 21.94' W. LONG., AND WATERS OF EASTERN PASSAGE WEST OF A LINE FROM HOUR POINT AT 56° 27.72' N. LAT., 132° 16.79' W. LONG., TO BABBLER POINT AT 56° 29.08' W. LAT., 132° 17.36' W. LONG.;

(1) SECTION 8-A: WATERS NORTH OF A LINE FROM BLAQUIERE POINT AT 56° 35.06' N. LAT., 132° 32.54' W. LONG., TO KAKWAN POINT AT 56° 41.62' N. LAT., 132° 13.12' W. LONG.;

(2) SECTION 8-B: WATERS SOUTH OF A LINE FROM BLAQUIERE POINT AT 56° 35.06' N. LAT., 132° 32.54' W. LONG., TO KAKWAN POINT AT 56° 41.62' N. LAT., 132° 13.12' W. LONG.

(I) DISTRICT 9: WATERS OF FREDERICK SOUND AND CHATHAM STRAIT THAT ARE SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF POINT GARDNER, WATERS THAT ARE SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF ELLIOTT ISLAND AND THAT ARE WEST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE

SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF ELLIOTT ISLAND TO THE WESTERNMOST TIP OF POINT MACARTNEY, WATERS THAT ARE NORTH AND WEST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF POINT CAMDEN TO SALT POINT LIGHT, AND WATERS THAT ARE NORTH AND EAST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF CAPE DECISION TO THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF HELM POINT, TO THE WESTERNMOST TIP OF HAZY ISLANDS, AND ENDING AT CAPE OMMANEY LIGHT.

(J) DISTRICT 10: WATERS OF FREDERICK SOUND, STEPHENS PASSAGE, AND CONTIGUOUS WATERS NORTH OF A LINE FROM BEACON POINT AT 56° 56.36' N. LAT., 132° 59.74' W. LONG., TO WOOD POINT AT 56° 59.47' N. LAT., 132° 56.97' W. LONG., EAST OF A LINE FROM POINT MACARTNEY AT 57° 01.49' N. LAT., 134° 03.51' W. LONG., TO THE SOUTHERN TIP OF ELLIOTT ISLAND AT 57° 15.20' N. LAT., 134° 03.72' W. LONG., AND NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF THE SOUTHERN TIP OF ELLIOTT ISLAND AT 57° 15.20' N. LAT., 134° 03.72' W. LONG., WATERS OF SEYMOUR CANAL SOUTH OF 57° 37.00' N. LAT., AND WATERS OF STEPHENS PASSAGE SOUTH OF A LINE FROM POINT LEAGUE AT 57° 37.76' N. LAT., 133° 40.47' W. LONG., TO POINT HUGH AT 57° 34.21' N. LAT., 133° 48.58' W. LONG.;

(1) SECTION 10-A: WATERS WEST OF LINE FROM PINTA POINT AT 57° 05.90' N. LAT., 133° 53.40' W. LONG., TO A POINT AT 57° 12.60' N. LAT., 133° 53.25' W. LONG., TO THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF AKUSHA ISLAND AT 57° 18.40' N. LAT., 133° 39.28' W. LONG., TO MCDONALD ROCK LIGHT AT 57° 25.10' N. LAT., 133° 37.82' W. LONG., TO A POINT AT 57° 36.00' N. LAT., 133° 44.76' W. LONG.;

(2) SECTION 10-B: WATERS NORTH OF A LINE FROM PINTA POINT AT 57° 05.90' N. LAT., 133° 53.40' W. LONG., TO CAPE FANSHAW AT 57° 11.12' N. LAT., 133° 34.40' W. LONG., AND EAST OF A LINE FROM PINTA POINT AT 57° 05.90' N. LAT., 133° 53.40' W. LONG., TO A POINT AT 57° 12.60' N. LAT., 133° 53.25' W. LONG., TO THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF AKUSHA ISLAND AT 57° 18.40' N. LAT., 133° 39.28' W. LONG., TO MCDONALD ROCK LIGHT AT 57° 25.10' N. LAT., 133° 37.82' W. LONG., TO A POINT AT 57° 36.00' N. LAT., 133° 44.76' W. LONG.,

(3) SECTION 10-C: WATERS EAST OF A LINE FROM PINTA POINT AT 57° 05.90' N. LAT., 133° 53.40' W. LONG., TO CAPE FANSHAW AT 57° 11.12' N. LAT., 133° 34.40' W. LONG.

(K) DISTRICT 11: WATERS OF STEPHENS PASSAGE THAT ARE NORTH OF A LINE FROM POINT LEAGUE TO POINT HUGH, WATERS OF SEYMOUR CANAL THAT ARE NORTH OF 57° 37' N. LAT., AND WATERS THAT ARE SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF LITTLE ISLAND LIGHT AND EAST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM LITTLE ISLAND LIGHT TO POINT RETREAT LIGHT;

(1) SECTION 11-A: WATERS OF THE DISTRICT THAT ARE NORTH AND WEST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM A POINT AT 58° 12.33' N. LAT., 134° 10' W. LONG., TO THE COAST GUARD MARKER AND LIGHT ON POINT ARDEN;

(2) SECTION 11-B: WATERS OF THE DISTRICT THAT ARE NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF MIDWAY ISLAND LIGHT AND SOUTH AND EAST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM A POINT AT 58° 12.33' N. LAT., 134° 10' W. LONG., TO THE COAST GUARD MARKER AND LIGHT ON POINT ARDEN;

(3) SECTION 11-C: WATERS OF THE DISTRICT THAT ARE SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF MIDWAY ISLAND LIGHT AND NORTH OF A LINE RUNNING FROM POINT LEAGUE TO POINT HUGH;

(4) SECTION 11-D: ALL WATERS OF SEYMOUR CANAL THAT ARE NORTH OF 57° 37' N. LAT.

(L) DISTRICT 12: WATERS OF LYNN CANAL AND CHATHAM STRAIT THAT ARE SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF LITTLE ISLAND LIGHT, NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF POINT GARDNER, WEST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM LITTLE ISLAND LIGHT TO POINT RETREAT LIGHT, EAST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM POINT COUVERDEN TO POINT AUGUSTA, AND EAST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM POINT HAYES TO POINT THATCHER.

(M) DISTRICT 13: WATERS THAT ARE NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF HELM POINT AND WEST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF HELM POINT TO THE WESTERNMOST TIP OF HAZY ISLAND, AND ENDING AT CAPE OMMANEY LIGHT, WATERS THAT ARE SOUTH OF A LINE RUNNING WEST FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF CAPE SPENCER, WATERS THAT ARE WEST OF A LINE FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF CAPE SPENCER THROUGH YAKOBI ROCK, AND ENDING AT YAKOBI ISLAND, WATERS THAT ARE SOUTH OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF SOAPSTONE POINT TO THE WESTERNMOST TIP OF COLUMN POINT, AND WATERS THAT ARE WEST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF POINT HAYES TO THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF POINT THATCHER;

(1) SECTION 13-A: WATERS THAT ARE NORTH OF 57° 16' N. LAT. AND THE WATERS OF PERIL STRAIT THAT ARE SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF POGIBSHI POINT (57° 30.50' N. LAT.);

(2) SECTION 13-B: WATERS THAT ARE SOUTH OF 57° 16' N. LAT.;

(3) SECTION 13-C: WATERS OF THE DISTRICT THAT ARE NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF POGIBSHI POINT AND WEST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF POINT HAYES TO THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF POINT THATCHER IN PERIL STRAIT.

(N) DISTRICT 14: WATERS OF ICY STRAIT THAT ARE WEST OF A LINE FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF POINT COUVERDEN TO POINT AUGUSTA LIGHT, EAST OF A STRAIGHT LINE RUNNING FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF CAPE SPENCER THROUGH YAKOBI ROCK, AND ENDING AT YAKOBI ISLAND, AND WATERS THAT ARE NORTH OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE NORTHERNMOST POINT OF SOAPSTONE POINT TO THE WESTERNMOST POINT OF COLUMN POINT.

(O) DISTRICT 15: WATERS OF LYNN CANAL THAT ARE NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF LITTLE ISLAND LIGHT.

(P) DISTRICT 16: WATERS THAT ARE NORTH OF A LINE RUNNING WEST FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF CAPE SPENCER AND SOUTH OF A LINE RUNNING SOUTHWEST FROM THE WESTERNMOST TIP OF CAPE FAIRWEATHER.

(Q) DIXON ENTRANCE DISTRICT: WATERS THAT ARE EAST OF 138° 45.33' W. LONG., SOUTH OF THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARIES OF DISTRICTS 1, 2, 3, AND 4, AND WATERS THAT ARE NORTH OF A LINE RUNNING FROM 54° 43.50' N. LAT., 130° 37.62' W. LONG., TO 54° 43.40' N. LAT., 130° 37.65' W. LONG., TO 54° 43.25' N. LAT., 130° 37.73' W. LONG., TO 54° 43' N. LAT., 130° 37.92' W. LONG., TO 54° 42.97' N. LAT., 130° 37.95' W. LONG., TO 54° 42.78' N. LAT., 130° 38.10' W. LONG., TO 54° 42.37' N. LAT., 130° 38.43' W. LONG., TO 54° 41.15' N. LAT., 130° 38.97' W. LONG., TO 54° 39.90' N. LAT., 130° 38.97' W. LONG., TO 54° 39.23' N. LAT., 130° 39.30' W. LONG., TO 54° 39.80' N. LAT., 130° 41.58' W.

LONG., TO 54° 40.05' N. LAT., 130° 42.37' W. LONG., TO 54° 40.70' N. LAT., 130° 44.72' W. LONG., TO 54° 40.68' N. LAT., 130° 44.98' W. LONG., TO 54° 40.77' N. LAT., 130° 45.85' W. LONG., TO 54° 41.10' N. LAT., 130° 48.52' W. LONG., TO 54° 41.08' N. LAT., 130° 49.28' W. LONG., TO 54° 41.35' N. LAT., 130° 53.30' W. LONG., TO 54° 41.43' N. LAT., 130° 53.65' W. LONG., TO 54° 42.45' N. LAT., 130° 56.30' W. LONG., TO 54° 42.57' N. LAT., 130° 57.15' W. LONG., TO 54° 43' N. LAT., 130° 57.68' W. LONG., TO 54° 43.77' N. LAT., 130° 58.92' W. LONG., TO 54° 44.20' N. LAT., 130° 59.73' W. LONG., TO 54° 45.65' N. LAT., 131° 03.10' W. LONG., TO 54° 46.27' N. LAT., 131° 04.72' W. LONG., TO 54° 42.18' N. LAT., 131° 13' W. LONG., TO 54° 40.87' N. LAT., 131° 13.90' W. LONG., TO 54° 39.15' N. LAT., 131° 16.28' W. LONG., TO 54° 36.87' N. LAT., 131° 19.37' W. LONG., TO 54° 29.88' N. LAT., 131° 33.80' W. LONG., TO 54° 30.53' N. LAT., 131° 38.02' W. LONG., TO 54° 28.30' N. LAT., 131° 45.33' W. LONG., TO 54° 26.68' N. LAT., 131° 49.47' W. LONG., TO 54° 21.85' N. LAT., 132° 02.90' W. LONG., TO 54° 24.87' N. LAT., 132° 23.65' W. LONG., TO 54° 24.68' N. LAT., 132° 24.48' W. LONG., TO 54° 24.68' N. LAT., 132° 24.58' W. LONG., TO 54° 24.65' N. LAT., 132° 26.85' W. LONG., TO 54° 24.57' N. LAT., 132° 38.27' W. LONG., TO 54° 24.90' N. LAT., 132° 39.77' W. LONG., TO 54° 26' N. LAT., 132° 44.20' W. LONG., TO 54° 27.12' N. LAT., 132° 49.58' W. LONG., TO 54° 27.12' N. LAT., 132° 50.70' W. LONG., TO 54° 28.42' N. LAT., 132° 55.90' W. LONG., TO 54° 28.53' N. LAT., 132° 56.47' W. LONG., TO 54° 30.05' N. LAT., 133° 07' W. LONG., TO 54° 30.17' N. LAT., 133° 07.72' W. LONG., TO 54° 30.70' N. LAT., 133° 11.47' W. LONG., TO 54° 31.03' N. LAT., 133° 14' W. LONG., TO 54° 30.10' N. LAT., 133° 16.97' W. LONG., TO 54° 22.02' N. LAT., 133° 44.40' W. LONG., TO 54° 20.55' N. LAT., 133° 49.35' W. LONG., TO 54° 15.67' N. LAT., 134° 19.82' W. LONG., TO 54° 12.95' N. LAT., 134° 23.78' W. LONG., TO 54° 12.75' N. LAT., 134° 25.05' W. LONG., TO 54° 07.50' N. LAT., 134° 56.40' W. LONG., TO 54° 00.02' N. LAT., 135° 45.95' W. LONG., AND ENDING AT 53° 28.45' N. LAT., 138° 45.33' W. LONG.]

5 AAC 31.100 is amended to read:

Registration Area A (Southeastern Alaska) has as its southern boundary the International Boundary at Dixon Entrance and as its northern boundary a line **extending seaward** [RUNNING SOUTHWEST] from the western[MOST] tip of Cape Fairweather **at 58° 47.89' N. lat., 137° 56.68' W. long., to the intersection with the seaward limit of the three-nautical-mile territorial sea at 58° 45.96' N. lat., 138° 01.40' W. long.**

5AAC 31.115(a)(6) is amended to read:

(6) District 6: Sections 6-B, 6-C, [AND] 6-D, **and 6-E** combined: 0 - 60,000 pounds of spot shrimp;

5AAC 32.105 is amended to read:

The districts for Registration Area A for Dungeness crab are the same as the districts that are described in **5 AAC 33.200** [5 AAC 31.105].

5 AAC 33.200 (j) is amended to read:

1) Section 10-A: waters west of line from Pinta Point at 57° 05.96' N. lat., 133° 52.82' W. long., to a point at 57° 13.08' N. lat., 133° 52.82' W. long., to the northernmost tip of Akusha Island at 57° 18.37' N. lat., 133° 39.48' W. long., to McDonald Rock Light at 57° 25.10' N. lat., 133° 37.83' W. long., to a point at 57° 35.92' N. lat., 133° 44.71' W. long.;

(2) Section 10-B: waters north of a line from Pinta Point at 57° 05.96' N. lat., 133° 52.82' W. long., to Cape Fanshaw Light at 57° 11.12' N. lat., 133° 34.43' W. long., and east of

a line from Pinta Point at 57° 05.96' N. lat., 133° 52.82' W. long., to a point at 57° 13.08' N. lat., 133° 52.82' W. long., to the northernmost tip of Akusha Island at 57° 18.37' N. lat., 133° 39.48' W. long., to McDonald Rock Light at 57° 25.10' N. lat., 133° 37.83' W. long., to a point at 57° 35.92' N. lat., 133° 44.71' W. long.,

(3) Section 10-C: waters east of a line from Pinta Point at 57° 05.96' N. lat., 133° 52.82' W. long., to Cape Fanshaw Light at 57° 11.12' N. lat., 133° 34.43' W. long.

5 AAC 38.076 (b)(1) and (2) are amended to read:

(1) Scallop Registration Area A (Southeastern Alaska) is Registration Area A, described in 5 AAC 38.100, except for all waters of District 16 as described in **5 AAC 33.200(p)** [5 AAC 31.105(P)];

(2) Scallop Registration Area D (Yakutat) is Registration Area D, described in 5 AAC 38.160, and all waters of District 16 as described in **5 AAC 33.200(p)** [5 AAC 31.105(P)];

5 AAC 38.105 is amended to read:

Registration Area A districts and sections are as described in **5 AAC 33.200** [5 AAC 31.105].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are currently two descriptions for Southeast Alaska region districts and sections: 5 AAC 31.105 and 33.200. The majority of regulations (29 regulations in total) refer to 5 AAC 33.200, including all salmon (5 AAC 29 and 33), subsistence (5 AAC 01 and 02), personal use (5 AAC 77), sport fish (5 AAC 47), herring (5 AAC 27), tanner crab (5 AAC 35), and king crab regulations (5 AAC 35) as well as regulations in 3 AAC and 20 AAC. The only regulations (4 total) that refer to 5 AAC 31.105 are found in shrimp (5 AAC 31) and miscellaneous shellfish (5 AAC 38). Removing district and section descriptions found in 5 AAC 31.105, adding District 10 section descriptions to 5 AAC 33.200 to accommodate the pot shrimp fishery, and making associated changes to other regulations would have no impact on fisheries management and would eliminate any confusion with any unintended differences between the descriptions. Both 5 AAC 31.105 and 33.200 were established prior to 1985. The department is unaware of why there was a need for two descriptions of the region's districts and sections.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-155)

Miscellaneous shellfish

PROPOSAL 230

5 AAC 38.XX Southeast Alaska Magister Squid Jig Fishery.

Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid.

A commercial automated squid jig fishery that would have little or no bycatch would open in Southeast Alaska (season to be determined by department. Fishing may be restricted to one of two spawning events, either winter or summer, if it was felt there might be a biological concern regarding the volume of squid harvest). An annual stock report would be provided by the Department from which an annual TAC (Total Annual Catch) would be announced based on catch data provided by commercial logbooks as is done in most squid fisheries. Squid are very short lived (B.Magister in SEAK only live a year) and the biological risk from overharvesting is minimal

as this species reproduces quickly and would be resilient to any discovered overharvest. The Department would have the authority to level fees to this fishery if it were deemed necessary to cover any expenses to oversee the fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Open a directed commercial jig fishery for Squid (*Berryteuthis Magister* Armhook Squid) in Southeast Alaska coastal waters. Magister squid is an underutilized species that not only could provide a source of revenue for dwindling commercial fishermen, but also provide a mechanism to control their predation on other economically important commercial species such as all species of salmon, cod fish, and herring.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee voted unanimously to submit this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Yamada & Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee (EF-F24-076)

PROPOSAL 231

5 AAC 38.XXX. New Section.

Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid.

A commercial automated squid jig fishery that would have little or no bycatch would open in Southeast Alaska (season to be determined by department. Fishing may be restricted to one of two spawning events, either winter or summer, if it was felt there might be a biological concern regarding the volume of squid harvest). An annual stock report would be provided by the Department from which an annual TAC (Total Annual Catch) would be announced based on catch data provided by commercial logbooks as is done in most squid fisheries. Squid are very short lived (B.Magister in SEAK only live a year) and the biological risk from overharvesting is minimal as this species reproduces quickly and would be resilient to any discovered overharvest. The Department would have the authority to level fees to this fishery if it were deemed necessary to cover any expenses to oversee the fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Open a directed commercial jig fishery for Squid (*Berryteuthis Magister* Armhook Squid) in Southeast Alaska coastal waters. Magister squid is an underutilized species that not only could provide a source of revenue for dwindling commercial fishermen, but also provide a mechanism to control their predation on other economically important commercial species such as all species of salmon, cod fish, and herring.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. In coordination with Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Yamada (HQ-F24-032)

PROPOSAL 232

5 AAC 38.090 (d). Unlawful Possession of Miscellaneous Shellfish Aboard a Vessel.

Allow for the concurrent possession of red and green urchin aboard.

The commissioner may allow the retention of red and green sea urchins concurrently on the same vessel to explore the possibility of a viable combined sea urchin fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 38.090 (d) prohibits a person on a vessel registered to fish for miscellaneous shellfish to possess more than one species of miscellaneous shellfish at any one time. There is interested in red sea urchin harvesters to be able to retain green sea urchins while they are fishing for red sea urchins. The rationale for this is red sea urchin prices are low, red sea urchin populations are declining due to increased sea otter populations and declines in kelp abundance. Due to sky rocketing fuel and supply costs in the past few years, it is becoming cost-prohibitive to fish solely for red sea urchins. If divers were allowed to harvest red and green sea urchins concurrently, it may make the fishery viable again. Green sea urchins are highly valuable species in other areas (Maine and Japan for example) and allowing retention of green urchins along with reds would allow dive harvesters to see if a green urchin fishery is viable in SE Alaska.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, the SE Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association Sea Urchin committee and Ketchikan ADFG management biologists.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F24-093)

COMMERCIAL AND SPORT CRAB (30 proposals)

Golden king crab

PROPOSAL 233

5 AAC 34.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.

Change the criteria for setting the season start date for the Registration A golden king crab commercial fishery to fall within the smallest set of falling tides between February 10 and 17.

Set the season start date for golden king crab in Southeast Alaska to the smallest set of falling tides between the 10th and 17th of February.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Set the season start date for the golden king crab fishing season on the smallest set of falling tides between the 10th and 17th of February. This will allow fishermen to start fishing before the tides have started rising and finish the season\ before the peak of the tide cycle. Tides are a significant challenge at times in the golden king crab fishery in Southeast Alaska, with fishermen often having to wait for their buoy bags to “pop up” to the surface when the tide lets off and no longer holds them under water. By starting the season before the tides start rising again, the relatively short golden king crab season in some areas could be finished before the tides get strong again, making gear retrieval more difficult. This will allow for easier pot retrieval, less risk of gear interaction, and less potential gear loss.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-119)

PROPOSAL 234

5 AAC 34.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.

Change the start time for the Registration Area A commercial golden king crab fishery from 12:00 noon to 8:00 a.m. on the day the fishery opens.

The commercial golden king crab fishery in Southeast Alaska will begin at 8 am.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the start time for the Southeast Alaska commercial golden king crab fishery start time from 12 noon to 8 am. By changing the start time, it will allow for more daylight hours for fishermen to set their pots on the first day. Weather is generally marginal at best during the golden king crab fishery in Southeast Alaska, reducing the number of pots vessels can carry as well as the speed the vessel can travel at. Vessels often have to return to a bay that they have pots stored in to bring back out to the fishing grounds. By opening the fishery start time 4 hours earlier, it will allow vessels to operate in more daylight hours, increasing the safety for the vessel and crew.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-063)

PROPOSAL 235

5 AAC 34.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.

Add freezing spray to the criteria that would delay the start date of commercial golden king crab fishery in Registration Area A.

The commercial golden king crab fishery in Southeast Alaska season start date can be delayed for freezing spray conditions.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow for a delayed season start to the Southeast Alaska golden king crab for freezing spray warnings concerns. Currently there is a regulation that allows for a delayed start to the golden king crab season for high winds, by also allowing for freezing spray conditions, it creates a safer environment for fishermen to start the fishery in.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-062)

PROPOSAL 236

5 AAC 34.127. King crab pot storage requirements for Registration Area A.

Increase the depth that Registration Area A commercial king crab fishery pots can be stored to 20 fathoms.

Allow for commercial fishing pot storage out to 20 fathoms in depth for the Southeast Alaska commercial golden king crab fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the storage depth for golden king crab pots from 10 fathoms to 20 fathoms in Southeast Alaska. With rising interest in the Southeast Alaska golden king crab fishery, there is a growing issue of limited pot storage in specific stat areas. Fishermen currently can store their pots near the fishing grounds in depths up to 10 fathoms. This has lead to fishermen having to store their gear vert close to one another, as well as limiting vessels ability to anchor up out of the bad weather because the anchorages are filled with stored gear.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-061)

PROPOSAL 237

5 AAC 34.107. Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A.

Expand the defined Lower Chatham Strait Area in the golden king crab commercial fishery in Registration Area A to include a portion of District 5.

5AAC 34.107 – Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A

(a) Northern Area: all waters of Section 11-A, Section 13-C, and Section 13-A in Peril Strait east of Point Kakul at 57° 21.83' N. lat., 135° 41.42' W. long., and all waters of Districts 12 and 15.

(b) Icy Straits Area: all waters of District 14.

(c) North Stephens Passage Area: all waters of Sections 11-B and 11-C.

(d) East Central Area: all waters of Section 11-D, District 10, and District 9 east of a line from Kingsmill Point at 56° 50.00' N. lat., 134° 25.17' W. long. to Point Gardner at 57° 01.00' N. lat., 134° 37.00' W. long., all waters of District 8 north of the latitude of Blaquiere Point at 56°35.00' N. lat., all waters of Section 6-A, and all waters of District 5 north of the latitude of Point Baker at 56° 21.53' N. lat.

(e) Mid-Chatham Strait Area: all waters of District 9 north of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56°33.67' N. lat. and west of a line from Kingsmill Point to Point Gardner.

(f) Lower Chatham Strait Area: all waters of District 9 south of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56° 33.67' N. lat., and that portion of District 13-B south of the latitude of Redfish Cape at 56°18.67' N. lat. **And all waters of District 5 south of the latitude of Point Baker at 56° 21.53' lat.**

(g) Southern Area: all waters of District 1 and District 2, all waters of District 6 south of a line from Point Colpoys at 56° 20.18' N. lat., 133° 11.90' W. long., to Macnamara Point at 56°20.18' N. lat., 133° 03.54' W. long., and all waters of District 7 south of the latitude of Point Warde at 56° 10.43' N. lat.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? When the current golden king crab fishing areas were developed, core fishing areas were captured but some grounds that were open and previously fished got left out as they were less utilized areas. The status of the areas

being incorporated in a fishing area are not listed as closed waters but they are also not listed in a fishing area open to fishing for Golden King Crab. Capturing these historical fishing grounds will provide more opportunities and area to fish, possibly leading to less congestion in some areas. At the last Board of Fish meeting some of these undesigned fishing grounds were added to the Southern Area.

This proposal adds in the waters of District 5 south of the latitude of Point Baker into the Lower Chatham Strait Area.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Developed proposal with help of SEAFA but without enough time for them to agree to be a sponsor.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Thomassen (HQ-F24-024)

PROPOSAL 238

5 AAC 34.107 Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A.

Expand the defined Southern Area in the golden king crab commercial fishery in Registration Area A to include all waters of Section 3-A.

5AAC 34.107 Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A.

(a) Northern Area: all waters of Section 11-A, Section 13-C, and Section 13-A in Peril Strait east of Point Kakul at 57° 21.83' N. lat., 135° 41.42' W. long., and all waters of Districts 12 and 15.

(b) Icy Straits Area: all waters of District 14.

(c) North Stephens Passage Area: all waters of Sections 11-B and 11-C.

(d) East Central Area: all waters of Section 11-D, District 10, and District 9 east of a line from Kingsmill Point at 56° 50.00' N. lat., 134° 25.17' W. long. to Point Gardner at 57° 01.00' N. lat., 134° 37.00' W. long., all waters of District 8 north of the latitude of Blaquiere Point at 56° 35.00' N. lat., all waters of Section 6-A, and all waters of District 5 north of the latitude of Point Baker at 56° 21.53' N. lat.

(e) Mid-Chatham Strait Area: all waters of District 9 north of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56° 33.67' N. lat. and west of a line from Kingsmill Point to Point Gardner.

(f) Lower Chatham Strait Area: all waters of District 9 south of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56° 33.67' N. lat., and that portion of District 13-B south of the latitude of Redfish Cape at 56° 18.67' N. lat.

(g) Southern Area: all waters of District 1 and District 2, **all waters of Section 3-A**, all waters of District 6 south of a line from Point Colpoys at 56° 20.18' N. lat., 133° 11.90' W. long., to Macnamara Point at 56° 20.18' N. lat., 133° 03.54' W. long., and all waters of District 7 south of the latitude of Point Warde at 56° 10.43' N. lat.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? When the current golden king crab fishing areas were developed, core fishing areas were captured but some grounds that were open and previously fished got left out as they were less utilized areas. The status of the areas being incorporated in a fishing area are not listed as closed waters but they are also not listed in a fishing area open to fishing for Golden King Crab. Capturing these historical fishing grounds will provide more opportunities and area to fish, possibly leading to less congestion in some areas. At

the last Board of Fish meeting some of these undesignated fishing grounds were added to the Southern Area. This proposal includes the waters of Section 3A Baker into the Southern Area.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Developed proposal with help of SEAFA but without enough time for them to agree to be a sponsor.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Thomassen (HQ-F24-025)

PROPOSAL 239

5 AAC 34.107 Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A and 5 AAC 34.115 Guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A.

Divide the defined Northern Area of the golden king crab fishery in Registration Area A into two areas and split the current guideline harvest level between the two new areas, as follows:

5AAC 34.107 Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A

(a) Upper Northern Area: All waters of Section 11-A, the waters of District 12 North of East Point at 57° 48.34' N., 134° 57.01' W. long to 57° 48.34' N lat., 134° 48.65' W long, and west of a line from 57° 48.34' N lat., 134° 48.65' W long and north of a line at 57° 55.70' N lat, 134° 49.54' W long and all waters of District 15.

(b) Lower Northern Area: Waters of Section 13-C and Section 13A in Peril Strait east of Point Kakul at 57° 21.83' N. lat., 135° 41.42' W. long., and waters of District 12 South of East Point at 57° 48.34' N., 134° 57.01' W. long to 57° 48.34' N lat., 134° 48.65' W long, and east of a line from 57° 48.34' N lat., 134° 48.65' W long and north of a line at 57° 55.70' N lat, 134° 49.54' W long

[(a) NORTHERN AREA: ALL WATERS OF SECTION 11-A, SECTION 13-C, AND SECTION 13-A IN PERIL STRAIT EAST OF POINT KAKUL AT 57° 21.83' N. LAT., 135° 41.42' W. LONG., AND ALL WATERS OF DISTRICTS 12 AND 15.]

(c) [(b)] Icy Straits Area: all waters of District 14.

(d) [C] North Stephens Passage Area: all waters of Sections 11-B and 11-C.

(e) [D] East Central Area: all waters of Section 11-D, District 10, and District 9 east of a line from Kingsmill Point at 56° 50.00' N. lat., 134° 25.17' W. long. to Point Gardner at 57° 01.00' N. lat., 134° 37.00' W. long., all waters of District 8 north of the latitude of Blaquiere Point at 56° 35.00' N. lat., all waters of Section 6-A, and all waters of District 5 north of the latitude of Point Baker at 56° 21.53' N. lat.

(f) [E] Mid-Chatham Strait Area: all waters of District 9 north of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56° 33.67' N. lat. and west of a line from Kingsmill Point to Point Gardner.

(g) [(F)] Lower Chatham Strait Area: all waters of District 9 south of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56° 33.67' N. lat., and that portion of District 13-B south of the latitude of Redfish Cape at 56° 18.67' N. lat.

(h) [(G)] Southern Area: all waters of District 1 and District 2, all waters of District 6 south of a line from Point Colpoys at 56° 20.18' N. lat., 133° 11.90' W. long., to Macnamara Point at 56° 20.18' N. lat., 133° 03.54' W. long., and all waters of District 7 south of the latitude of Point Warde at 56° 10.43' N. lat.

And

5 AAC 34.115 Guideline Harvest ranges for Registration Area A

b) In Registration Area A, the guideline harvest ranges for the taking of golden king crab in the following areas are:

(1) Upper Northern Area: 0- 72,500 pounds;

(2) Lower Northern Area: 0-72,500 pounds;

[(1) NORTHERN AREA: 0-145,000 POUNDS;]

(3) [(2)] Icy Strait Area: 0- 55,000 pounds;

(4) [(3)] North Stephens Passage Area: 0-25,000 pounds;

(5) [(4)] East Central Area: 0-225,000 pounds;

(6) [(5)] Mid-Chatham Strait Area: 0-150,000 pounds;

(7) [(6)] Lower Chatham Strait Area: 0-50,000 pounds;

(8) [(7)] Southern Area: 0-25,000 pounds.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Split the golden king crab Northern Area into two fishing areas. An Upper Northern Area and a Lower Northern Area and divide the GHR between the two fishing areas. We have included the two regulation changes together in one proposal as they are linked such that you need both regulation changes to address this intertwined issue. The reason behind the request to split the area into two areas is it is an extremely large area. It appears to the fishermen fishing this area that the timing of the crab is different due to the extreme distance. When the Lower Northern Area is having very good catch per unit of effort at the beginning of the season, by the time the Upper Northern Area catches increase, and the GHL/length of the season is changed the timing for the Lower Northern Area peak catchability has decreased. The division of areas was based on maintaining intact sub-district area boundaries. The Upper Northern Area would encompass the District 12 subdistricts of 112-13; 112-14; 112-15; 112-16; 112-50; 112-61; 112-63; and 112-65. The Lower Northern Area would encompass the District 12 subdistricts of 112-11; 112-12; 112-17; 112-18; 112-19; 112-21; 112-22; 112-41; 112-42; 112-43; 112-44; 112-45; 112-46; 112-47; 112-48; 112-67; 112-71; 112-72; 112-73; 112-80 and 112-90.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Consulted with other fishermen and Southeast Alaska Fishermen’s Alliance.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Thomassen and Bae Olney Miller (HQ-F24-026)

PROPOSAL 240

5 AAC 35.106 Area A registration.

Allow participants in the Registration Area A Tanner and golden king crab fisheries to have Tanner crab aboard their vessel while fishing for golden king crab in a closed commercial Tanner crab area.

A vessel registered to fish both Golden King crab and Tanner crab in Registration are A may have baited Golden King crab gear in a portion of Registration Area A that is closed to commercial Tanner crab fishing but may not haul Golden King crab gear in a portion of Registration Area A

that is closed to commercial Tanner crab fishing until all Tanner crab are removed from the vessel and the vessels Tanner crab registration is invalidated. Once the vessels Tanner crab registration is invalidated, Tanner crab may not be retained on or sold from that vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The way the regulation is currently written a vesse that is dual registered for Golden King crab and Tanner crab may not have baited gear in the water in an area closed to commercial Tanner crab fishing. There are several portions of registration Area A that have both Golden King crab and Tanner crab. Under the current regulation a Vessel fishing both Golden King crab and Tanner crab has 2 choices:

- 1) Quit Tanner crabbing early to ensure all Tanner crab are removed from the vessel and the vessel registration is invalidated before the close time.
- 2) Remove all the bait containers and tie open the pot doors while the vessel is in town unloading Tanner crab and invalidating their registration.

Either of these options costs a vessel dual registered for Golden King crab and Tanner crab time and money. I believe the rewrite of this regulation mantains the intent not allow the hauling of pots by a dual registered vessel in an area that is closed to Tanner crab, but allows the vessel to leave those pots baited and fishing while unloading and invalidating the Tanner crab registration.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Through conversations with fishery management and fellow permit holders.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright

(EF-F24-094)

Red king crab

PROPOSAL 241

5 AAC 34.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A king crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait.

5 AAC 34.128(c)

(c) a person or vessel may operate coil spring groundfish pots, commonly known as slinky pots, for bait during an open King crab season in Registration Area A.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like a vessel fishing for Golden King or Red King crab in Southeast Alaska to be able to use coil spring groundfish pots, commonly known as slinky pots, for bait in accordance with 5 AAC 28.190 without having to reduce the number of pots used to fish for Golden King or Red King crab.

Currently a vessel fishing Golden King or Red King crab may use slinky pots for bait but must give up an equal number of King crab pots from his limit(80 for golden King crab and 20 for Red King crab)for every slinky pot the vessel uses.

If the vessel was so inclined, they could use longline skates of gear for bait without giving up any pots. Slinky pots are much less cumbersome to use and also have the benefit of less bycatch.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Conversations with Department staff and fellow permit holders.

PROPOSAL 242

5 AAC 34.111 Section 11-A Red and Blue King Crab Management and Allocation Plan.

Allocate 100% of the Section 11-A red king crab guideline harvest level to the personal use fishery, 70% for summer harvest and 30% for fall/winter harvest.

We propose that the Board of Fish repeal and readopt 8 AAC 34.111 as follows:

5 AAC 34.111

(a) The Board of Fisheries (Board) finds that red and blue king crab in Section 11A of the Southeastern Alaska Area shall be allocated at 100% to personal use. The Board finds that commercial red/blue king crab harvest in Southeastern Alaska has led to severe reductions in red/blue king crab stocks since the 2005/06 season, such that personal use and commercial seasons for red/blue king crab have been closed or significantly restricted for multiple seasons following a commercial season. The Board finds that commercial red/blue king crab seasons in 2005/06 resulted in a 4-year commercial closure, in 2011/12 resulted in a 4-year commercial closure, and in 2017/2018 resulted in a 4-year commercial closure as of 2023/24. The Board finds that commercial red/blue king crab season in 2005/06 led to personal use red/blue king crab season closures in Section 11A for 2007/08 Winter, 2008/09 Summer/Winter, and 2009/10 Summer/Winter and that the commercial red/blue king crab season in 2011/12 led to personal use red/blue king crab season closures in Section 11A for the 2012/12 through 2016/17 seasons. The Board finds that 13 of the red/blue king crab commercial permit holders fished for 24 hours in Section 11A in 2017/18 and that the commercial harvest reduced crab stocks such that there has been zero economic benefit from red/blue king crab harvest in Section 11A or anywhere else in Southeastern Alaska through the 2023/24 season. The Board finds that, particularly when measured over the years of closure following the last two openings, that the commercial red/blue king crab fishery in Section 11A is not economically significant and that due to the demand for personal use harvest in Section 11A, the section can no longer support both a personal use and commercial red/blue king crab fishery. The Board finds that significant portions of Section 11A have been completely closed to commercial red/blue king crab harvest (i.e. Auke Bay, Gastineau Channel, etc.) with little to no economic impact. The Board finds that many personal users residing in the vicinity of Section 11A do not have capabilities to safely fish for king crab outside of Section 11A (particularly in winter) and that commercial vessels and gear allow safer king crab fishing outside Section 11A in any season. The Board finds that nearly 100% of brown king crab in Southeastern Alaska are primarily harvest by commercial permit holders and that other species of king crab should be prioritized for personal users over commercial permit holders. The Board finds that protecting red/blue king crab stocks from commercial harvest in Section 11A will help to simplify management and ensure a more sustainable resource for personal users.

(b) When managing red/blue king crab in Section 11A, the Board authorizes the department to conduct the personal use fishery as follows:

1. July 1 through September 30 (Summer Season) - 70% of the red/blue king crab guideline harvest level
2. October 1 through March 31 - 30% of the red/blue king crab guideline harvest level

(c) The personal use red/blue king crab fishery should be conducted so that the established seasons last as long as possible within the allocation plan described in (b) of this section. To accomplish

this, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, a personal use red/blue king crab season, an immediately reopen a personal use red/blue king crab season, during which any of the following restrictions, selected at the discretion of the commissioner, are in effect:

1. The daily bag and possession limit is between one and three male king crab per person
2. No more than one pot per personal use permit holder may be used to take king crab
3. No more than two pots per personal use permit holder may be used to take king crab
4. No more than three pots per vessel may be used to take king crab
5. A seasonal per household limit for king crab is established by the commissioner

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like the Board of Fish to provide enhanced protection of red and blue king crab stocks in Section 11A of Southeastern Alaska by prohibiting commercial fishing in Section 11A. Section 11A is the area immediately surrounding the community of Juneau and is subject to limited personal use seasons of just a few days with extremely limited daily and seasonal bag limits. Based on data presented in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Fishery Management Report No. 21-08, "Management Report for Southeast Alaska and Yakutat Red and Blue King Crab Fisheries, 2017/18 - 2019/20" (copy attached), commercial red/blue king crab openings in Southeastern Alaska have historically (starting with the 1984/85 season) led to closures in the year(s) immediately following the commercial opening (see Table 1.1, p. 13). The impact of commercial red/blue king crab fisheries has become even more clear over the past two decades, as each commercial opening has been followed by multi-year closures after the 2005/06, 2011/12 and 2017/18 seasons. In fact, the commercial red/blue king crab fishery has not opened since the 2017/18 season and personal use red/blue king crabbing has also been closed or severely restricted in areas throughout Southeastern Alaska since that season.

Personal use limit reductions following commercial openings have been the most severe in Section 11A. Shortly after the 2005/06 commercial red/blue king crab season, personal use limits were reduced from 40 per household per year for the summer and winter seasons to 26 in 2006/07, 10 in 2007/08, 10 in 2008/09, and then to zero for two years until 2010/11 when the season was reopened with a 4 crab per year household limit (see Table 1.4, p. 16). Then the personal use annual limit for red/blue king crab was reduced to zero for four seasons following the 2011/12 commercial red/blue king crab opening. The annual household personal use limit for red/blue king crab has remained dismally low to the present date in Section 11A. This data illustrates the devastating impact of commercial red/blue king crabbing in Southeastern Alaska.

It is also noteworthy that the economic impact of the commercial red/blue king crab fishery has been significantly reduced since the 2011/12 commercial season. Only 7 commercial permits were fished in 2011/12 with a catch representing about 6% of the total harvest and just 13 permits were fished in 2017/18 with a catch representing about 19% of the total harvest. Nearly all of the harvestable brown king crab stocks in Southeastern Alaska are taken by commercial interests and it is unlikely that this will change due to limitations in sport gear/vessels to effectively participate in brown king crab fisheries.

With the increased personal use demand in Section 11A, the waning economic value of the red/blue king crab commercial fishery in Section 11A, and the need to provide improved protection for red/blue king crab stocks, it makes sense to restrict commercial king crabbing in section 11A and manage it solely for personal use.

This proposal does not aim to shut down commercial red/blue king crabbing in Southeastern Alaska. All of the remaining sections will be eligible for commercial blue/red king crab harvest in the event the crab populations meet the guideline harvest levels.

Another aspect of this proposal is to change the way the commissioner limits the number of pots that can be fished. Current regulation directs the commissioner to restrict the number of pots per vessel. It should be based on the permit holder. Restricting the number of pots based on the vessel forces unnecessary inefficiencies and reduced catch rates. It would be more cost efficient if a few friends who each have a household permit were allowed to coordinate their resources on a single vessel. Not only would this allow for savings associated with fuel, vessel wear and tear, etc., it would increase safety by reducing the inherent risks of having each household permit holder run their own boat out to check a single pot. If the pot gets flipped on its side, as many lightweight sport pots do, the trip is wasted. The personal use annual limit has been set at one or two crab per household; why not allow for the most cost-efficient harvest? This proposal aims to allow each personal use household permit holder to fish a pot while maintaining a reasonable 3-pot limit per vessel. ADF&G staff may say that having more pots would be difficult to police and that there are stories of personal users calling friends to come out with their permit when they get a good haul of king crab, but ADF&G staff have also said that Section 11A has some of the best numbers for new recruits of anywhere in Southeastern Alaska, so the management is working. If personal use was having a major impact on crab populations, Section 11A, which has the highest number of personal users anywhere in Southeastern would not be such a success story.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal is submitted via Territorial Sportsman Inc.

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsmen Inc (EF-F24-102)

PROPOSAL 243

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan; 5 AAC 34.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A; 5 AAC 34.126. King crab pot marking requirements for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 77.664 Personal use king crab fishery.

Adopt a biologically based harvest strategy for the commercial red and blue king crab fishery along with a bag and possession limit maximum for the personal use fishery and adopt new management measures for the red and blue king crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan is repealed and readopted to read:

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red and Blue King Crab Harvest Strategy.

(a) The commissioner may, by emergency order, open the red and blue king crab fishery only if the department's preseason biomass estimate of legal male red and blue king crab equals at least 50 percent of the median biomass estimate of legal males.

(b) If the commercial red and blue king crab fishery is open under (a) of this section, and the preseason biomass estimate of legal males is:

(1) at least 50 percent but less than 100 percent of the median biomass

estimate of legal males, then the biomass of legal males available for harvest will not exceed $0.1 \times \text{LMB} \times (\text{LMB}/\text{LMB}_{\text{MED}})$, where “LMB” is equal to the current year preseason biomass estimate of legal males, and “LMB_{MED}” is equal to the median biomass estimate of legal males;

(2) equal to or greater than the LMB_{MED}, the biomass of legal males available for harvest will not exceed 10 percent of the preseason estimate of LMB.

(c) In implementing this harvest strategy, the department shall consider the reliability of biomass estimates of red and blue king crab, the manageability of the fishery, and other factors the department determines important to manage the fishery consistent with sustained yield principles; and shall use the best scientific information available and consider all sources of uncertainty as necessary to avoid overfishing.

(d) In Registration Area A, the holder of a CFEC permit for red and blue king crab may not retain more king crab in the directed fishery than the annual amount of king crab individual catch limit (ICL) that is specified by the department. The department shall determine the annual amount of king crab ICL by dividing the annual total allowable catch by the number of CFEC permits eligible to be fished in the fishery. The department shall use the best available information, including harvest rate and biological data, to set the total allowable catch.

(e) Any commercial and personal use harvest that exceeds the permit holder’s ICL established under (d) of this section will be reported as an overage on an ADF&G fish ticket at the time of delivery and immediately surrendered to the state. All proceeds from the sale of excess king crab shall be surrendered to the state.

(f) Except as provided in (a) – (e) of this section, when the biomass of legal males available for harvest is equal to or greater than 200,000 lb, a competitive fishery may open.

(g) If multiple CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel the maximum number of king crab pots that may be operated may not exceed pot limits as described in 5 AAC 34.125(b)(1).

(h) Based on inseason information, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close a fishing season.

(i) For the purposes of this section,

(1) “preseason biomass estimate” means the sum of surveyed and non surveyed biomass estimates of legal male red and blue king crab present at the time of the preseason survey as estimated directly by the catch survey analysis method from annual pot survey data;

(2) “legal males” means all male red and blue king crab at least 7 inches or greater in width of shell.

(2) “ICL” means individual catch limits.

(j) The provisions of this section do not apply after January 24, 2028.

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan. Repealed __/__/__. [(a) THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA RED KING CRAB FISHERY SHALL BE MANAGED CONSISTENTLY WITH THE BOARD’S “POLICY ON KING AND TANNER CRAB RESOURCE MANAGEMENT” (90-04-FB, MARCH 23, 1990), ADOPTED BY THIS REFERENCE, AND ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN THIS SECTION.

(b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CLOSE AN AREA IF THE ABUNDANCE OF VARIOUS SIZES OF MALE AND FEMALE CRABS IS INADEQUATE TO PROVIDE FOR A SUSTAINED HARVEST, OR WHEN POTENTIALLY HIGH EFFORT PRECLUDES AN ORDERLY FISHERY.

(c) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CLOSE THE FISHERY IF THE DEPARTMENT'S ESTIMATE OF THE AVAILABLE HARVEST IS BELOW THE MINIMUM THRESHOLD OF 200,000 POUNDS OF LEGAL MALE RED KING CRAB.

(d) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DETERMINE AN APPROPRIATE HARVEST RATE BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE FISHERY. THE HARVEST RATE IS THE PERCENTAGE OF THE LEGAL MALES THAT CAN BE HARVESTED WHILE PROVIDING FOR THE LONG-TERM REPRODUCTIVE VIABILITY OF RED KING CRAB STOCKS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BASE THE HARVEST RATE ON ESTIMATES OF ABUNDANCE OF THE VARIOUS SIZE CLASSES OF MALE AND FEMALE CRABS, AND ON FACTORS AFFECTING THE REPRODUCTIVE VIABILITY OF THE STOCK.

(e) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DETERMINE THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL BEFORE EACH FISHING SEASON. THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL IS THE SUM OF THE ESTIMATES OF SUSTAINABLE HARVEST FOR EACH FISHING DISTRICT. IF STOCK ASSESSMENT DATA ARE NOT AVAILABLE, THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL WILL BE BASED ON HISTORICAL FISHERY PERFORMANCE, CATCH, AND POPULATION INFORMATION. A LACK OF ADEQUATE INFORMATION WILL RESULT IN CONSERVATIVE MANAGEMENT.]

5 AAC 34.125(b)(1)(A) is amended to read:

5 AAC 34.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.

...

(b) The following king crab pot limits are in effect in Registration Area A:

(1) during the commercial red king crab season, the maximum number of king crab pots that may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for king crab is as follows:

(A) **through January 24, 2028**, no more than 20 king crab pots when the guideline harvest level is less than 399,999 [AT LEAST 200,000 BUT NOT MORE THAN 399,999] lb;

5 AAC 34.126(b) is amended to read:

5 AAC 34.126. King crab pot marking requirements for Registration Area A.

...

(b) If multiple CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel simultaneously for **the red and blue king crab fishery**, [OR FOR] the golden king crab **fishery, or the** [AND] Tanner crab [FISHERIES] **fishery**, the tags are issued to the vessel for the duration of the fishing season.

5 AAC 77.664 Personal use king crab fishery.

...

(b) Except as specified in (e) of this section, and through January 24, 2028, the daily bag and possession limit is three male crab per person; if the **preseason biomass estimate of legal**

male [REGIONWIDE HARVESTABLE BIOMASS OF MATURE] red and blue king crab is less than 50 percent of the **median** surveyed and non-surveyed biomass estimate of legal males [BELOW 200,000 POUNDS], the commissioner may, by emergency order, reduce the bag and possession limit of red and blue king crab.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, a commercial red and blue king crab fishery will not open in Southeast Alaska if the estimated biomass of legal male red king crab is below 200,000 lb. This threshold was developed so that the department could manage the fishery without exceeding the guideline harvest level (GHL). At lower abundance levels, prosecuting a fishery where registered permit holders could not exceed an individual catch limit (ICL) would allow the department to conduct a modest fishery with little risk while targeting a GHL less than 200,000 lb; the GHL would continue to be developed from the annual crab surveys conducted around Southeast Alaska, which have been done for more than 40 years. In tandem with the commercial elements, the personal use fishery would not have a 200,000 lb trigger. This proposal seeks to provide the department with a mechanism to adjust the bag limit based on preseason estimates of biomass that are the same as used in the commercial fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-149)

Tanner crab

PROPOSAL 244

5 AAC 35.110. Fishing season for Registration Area A.

Change the criteria for setting the season start date for the Registration Area A Tanner crab commercial fishery to fall within the smallest set of falling tides between February 10 and 17.

Set the season start date for Tanner crab in Southeast Alaska to the smallest set of falling tides between the 10th and 17th of February.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Set the season start date for the Tanner crab fishing season on the smallest set of falling tides between the 10th and 17th of February. This will allow fishermen to start fishing before the tides have started rising, and finish the season, when participating in core areas, before the peak of the tide cycle. This will allow for easier pot retrieval, less risk of gear interaction, and less potential gear loss.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-118)

PROPOSAL 245

5 AAC 35.110. Fishing season for Registration Area A.

Change the start time for the Registration Area A commercial Tanner crab fishery from 12:00 noon to 8:00 a.m. on the day the fishery opens.

The commercial Tanner crab fishery in Southeast Alaska will begin at 8 am.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the start time for the Southeast Alaska commercial Tanner crab fishery start time from 12 noon to 8 am. By changing the start time, it will allow for more daylight hours for fishermen to set and haul their pots on the first day.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-067)

PROPOSAL 246

5 AAC 35.110 Fishing season for Registration Area A.

Add freezing spray to the criteria that would delay the start date of commercial Tanner crab fishery in Registration Area A.

The commercial Tanner crab fishery in Southeast Alaska season start date can be delayed for freezing spray conditions.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow for a delayed season start to the Southeast Alaska Tanner crab for freezing spray warnings concerns. Currently there is a regulation that allows for a delayed start to the golden king crab season for high winds, by also allowing for freezing spray conditions, it creates a safer environment for fishermen to start the fishery in.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-066)

PROPOSAL 247

5 AAC 35.127. Tanner crab gear storage requirements for Registration Area A.

Increase the depth that Registration Area A commercial Tanner crab fishery pots can be stored to 20 fathoms.

Allow for commercial fishing pot storage out to 20 fathoms in depth for the Southeast Alaska commercial Tanner crab fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the storage depth for Tanner crab pots from 10 fathoms to 20 fathoms in Southeast Alaska. This will allow more space for fishermen to store their gear so that they do not have to have stored gear near other vessels gear.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-065)

PROPOSAL 248

5 AAC 35.053 Operation of other pot gear.

Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A Tanner crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait.

5 AAC 35.053(c)

(c) a person or vessel may operate coil spring groundfish pots, commonly known as slinky pots, for bait during an open Tanner crab season in Registration Area A.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like a vessel fishing for Tanner crab in Southeast Alaska to be able to use coil spring groundfish pots, commonly known as slinky pots, for bait in accordance with 5 AAC 28.190 without having to reduce the number of pots used to fish for Tanner crab.

Currently a vessel fishing for Tanner crab may use slinky pots for bait but must give up an equal number of Tanner crab pots from his limit(80 pots)for every slinky pot the vessel uses.

If the vessel was so inclined, they could use longline skates of gear for bait without giving up any pots. Slinky pots are much less cumbersome to use and also have the benefit of less bycatch.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Conversations with Department staff and fellow permit holders.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright (EF-F24-150)

PROPOSAL 249

5 AAC 35.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow Tanner crab commercial fishery participants to operate pot gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport fisheries after unregistering from the commercial fishery, as follows:

- (1) May not use Tanner crab gear for commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use fishing in the registration area during the 14 days immediately following the closure of the tanner crab fishery unless**
 - (A) the person removes all commercial Tanner crab pots from the water or puts the pots in storage, and contacts, in person, the local representative of the department in the registration area and makes a request that the vessel's Tanner registration be canceled and the department cancels the vessel's Tanner registration; or**
 - (B) commercial Tanner pots are lawful gear for another fishery, the person who operates the pots holds a valid ADF&G or CFEC permit for the other fishery, and the person contacts, in person, the local representative of the department and makes a request that the vessel's Tanner crab registration be canceled and the department cancels the vessel's Tanner registration; or**

(2) may not operate, for commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use fishing in that registration area during the 14 days immediately following the close of the Tanner crab fishery, a vessel that was used or operated by the person or by another person in the commercial Tanner crab fishery in the Tanner crab registration area unless

(A) the person who used or operated the vessel in the commercial Tanner crab fishery removes all commercial Tanner crab pots from the water or puts the pots in storage, and contacts, in person, the local representative of the department in the registration area and makes a request that the vessel's Tanner crab registration be canceled, and the department cancels the vessel's tanner crab registration; or

(B) commercial Tanner crab pots are lawful gear for another fishery, the person who operates the pots holds a valid ADF&G or CFEC permit for the other fishery, and the person who used or operated the vessel contacts, in person, the local representative of the department and makes a request that the vessel's Tanner crab registration be canceled and the department cancels the vessel's tanner crab registration.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow for fishermen to use pot gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport without having to wait 14 days after the closure of the Southeast Alaska commercial Tanner crab fishery. Currently, by regulation, the commercial Tanner crab fishery in Southeast Alaska ends on March 31st and fishermen are not allowed to use any form of pot gear for the 14 days following the March 31st closure. Most fishermen that participate in the fishery are done after the “core” season, which is normally open for 5-7 days depending on the stock assessment. Even if the season starts on February 17th, those fishermen are done before the end of February, but must wait until mid-April before they are allowed to use pot gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport purposes.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-068)

Dungeness crab

PROPOSAL 250

5 AAC 02.115. Subsistence Dungeness crab fishery and 5 AAC 77.662. Personal use Dungeness crab fishery.

Reduce the minimum size limit for male Dungeness crab from six and one-half inches to six and one-quarter inches in the Registration A subsistence and personal use fisheries.

Reduce the minimum size limit for male Dungeness crab from 6 ½ inches to 6 ¼ inches in subsistence and personal use fisheries.

5 AAC 02.115. Subsistence Dungeness crab fishery.

In the subsistence taking of Dungeness crab,

(2) only male Dungeness crab is **six and one-quarter** [SIX AND ONE-HALF] inches or greater in shoulder width may be taken or possessed; male Dungeness crab less than the minimum legal size and female Dungeness crab that have been taken must be immediately returned to the water unharmed; for the purposes of this paragraph, the shoulder width measurement of Dungeness crab

is the straight-line distance across the carapace immediately anterior to the tenth anterolateral spine, not including the spines;

5 AAC 77.662. Personal use Dungeness crab fishery.

In the personal use taking of Dungeness crab,

(3) the minimum legal size for male Dungeness crab is **six and one-quarter** [SIX AND ONE-HALF] inches in shoulder width; male Dungeness crab less than the minimum legal size and female Dungeness crab that have been taken must be immediately returned to the water unharmed; for the purposes of this paragraph, the shoulder width measurement of Dungeness crab is the straight-line distance across the carapace immediately anterior to the tenth anterolateral spine, not including the spines;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In some areas, mature male crab 6 ½ inches or greater are in limited abundance from season to season or during certain times of the year. There are mature Dungeness crab less than legal size limit that available for harvest. Reducing the size limit for residents Alaska would help meet their needs and may alleviate the need for commercial closures. Along the Pacific coast, size limits for non-commercial harvest are less than for commercial harvest. A 6 ¼ inch Dungeness is still a mature male.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Derek Thynes

(EF-F24-151)

PROPOSAL 251

5 AAC 32.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.

Change the start date of the Registration Area A Dungeness crab commercial fishery's summer season from June 15 to July 1.

5 AAC 32.110 Fishing seasons for Registration Area A

In Registration Area A, male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed only as follows: (1) From 8:00 a.m. **July 1** [June 15] through 11:59 p.m. August 15 and from 8:00 a.m. October 1 through 11 :59 p.m. November 30, in all waters of Registration Area A other than those waters specified in (2) and (3) of this section;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the start of the Dungeness crab season from 8:00 a.m. June 15 to 8:00 a.m. July 1.

The problem is that crabs are often still in a soft-shell condition at the beginning of the season. Moving the season opening to July 1 will give them more time to fill out into a much more marketable condition and will greatly reduce handling mortality in this vulnerable state.

ADF&G is not allowed to delay the start of the season, only to close it early if certain catch thresholds are not met. It takes 10 to 14 days for ADF&G to gather information on the fishery to determine if the season will be shortened. The minimum threshold policy is for a gauge of abundance, not shell condition. There is no mechanism to close the season based on shell condition.

If the shell condition is soft, we continue to fish regardless to the detriment of the resource.

An example of this was the 2021 season, the crabs were very soft on opening day and for a large portion of the summer season. The summer season saw record high prices and increased effort from the fleet. Gear was being hauled and turned over as quickly as possible with the high market conditions. The crabs were abundant and soft. The catch rates were good and thresholds were met. We fished a full season and pounded the resource due to the high dollar value. Fishermen and processors understood we were fishing and selling a poor-quality product. Many processors were willing to risk buying "lite" crab from fishermen as the market demand was high. This practice is not healthy for the resource nor to the fishermen in the long run. Unfortunately, this came back to bite us in the butt.

It is well documented that soft crab experience much greater handling mortality than "hard" crab. (ADF&G; Handling Increases Mortality of Soft-Shell Dungeness Crabs, 1993 Gordon H. Kruse) Soft, unmarketable crabs that crawl into the pots are tossed back into the water and are repeatedly caught. The consequences of this was a high mortality of soft crab due to handling. Not just legal, but sub-legal as well.

The summer 21 season resulted in a great number of recruits and sub-legal recruits being killed due to high handling mortality. This showed up in the fall '21 season and in the 2022-23 season. The '22-23 season harvest was 2 million lbs., 45% lower than the 3.7 million lbs. in the '21-22 season. Also, the market value dropped almost 2/3rds, from \$15.7 to \$5.4 M. This was the result of fishing on soft crab the previous year and a sub-standard product making it to the market. Processors were stuck with a bunch of "lite" crab, ie soft, in storage and the market responded with rejecting the high prices that processors sought, after paying top dollar for soft, "lite" crab. This resulted in the dock price being cut from \$4.25/lb in '21, to \$2.60/lb. in the summer and \$2.00 in the fall of the '22/23 season. Further, the summer '22/23 season was also closed two and a half weeks early due to lack of abundance (the recruits that did not survive handling from the fishery from the 2021 season). These poor market conditions held through the year and the 2023-24 season dock price for fishermen was \$2.00/lb. By fishing on soft crab in summer 2021 we basically sacrificed the next two seasons at least.

As I recall, back in the late '70s or early '80s, the BOF changed and reduced the Dungeness season from a year-round fishery to June 1 through February 28. In the mid '80s, BOF again changed the season to July 1 through February 28. On the next cycle, the BOF once again changed the season and split it to the current June 15- August 15, October 1- November 30. All these changes and reduced seasons were met with opposition from the crab fleet and processors.

In summary, moving the start of the season to July 1 will greatly help the condition of the crab and reduce the high mortality rate due to handling. Thus, resulting in a higher quality product and much less chance of devastating the stock for future seasons. The boom-and-bust cycle will be greatly reduced and healthier for the resource.

Many will oppose this, but I think it is more important to manage the resource and not the fishermen. With every change to a given fishery, fishermen always seem to adjust. Statistics are from ADF&G website.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. My proposal developed with talking to other Dungeness crabbers.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Traibush (HQ-F24-100)

PROPOSAL 252

5 AAC 32.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A Dungeness crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait.

5 AAC 32.128(d)

(c) a person or vessel may operate coil spring groundfish pots, commonly known as slinky pots, for bait during an open Dungeness crab season in Registration Area A.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like a vessel fishing for Dungeness crab in Southeast Alaska to be able to use coil spring groundfish pots, commonly known as slinky pots, for bait in accordance with 5 AAC 28.190 without having to reduce the number of pots used to fish for Dungeness crab.

Currently a vessel fishing for Dungeness crab may use slinky pots for bait but must give up an equal number of Dungeness crab pots from his limit (300, 225, 150, or 75 pots depending on the permit size) for every slinky pot the vessel uses.

If the vessel was so inclined, they could use longline skates of gear for bait without giving up any pots. Slinky pots are much less cumbersome to use and also have the benefit of less bycatch.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Conversations with Department staff and fellow permit holders.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright (EF-F24-152)

PROPOSAL 253

5 AAC 32.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a person or vessel to participate in the Registration Area A commercial Dungeness crab fishery if they operated commercial shrimp pots during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery, as follows:

A permit holder intending on fishing Dungeness crab on June 15 is allowed to keep spot shrimp pot fishing until then. By informing F&G that is what they're doing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change rule about not being able to run pots (ie commercial spot shrimp fishery) 2 weeks before commercial dungeness crab fishery opens (June 15).

Why...Many commercial spot shrimp fishermen, are also commercial dungeness card holders. The recent regime change in the spot shrimp fishery (opening May 15 instead of October 1) has had the unintended consequence of mandating that a person stop shrimp pot fishing by June 1, if they intend to dungeness fish on June 15.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. After talking extensively with F&G managers about this (yet again) unintended consequence of changing the spot shrimp pot fishery from October 1 to May

15.....they explained to me that this is a change that's out of they're hands & requires BOF house cleaning.

PROPOSED BY: Robert T. Mosher

(EF-F24-045)

PROPOSAL 254

5 AAC 32.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a person or vessel to participate in the Registration Area A commercial Dungeness crab fishery if they operated commercial shrimp pots during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 32.128. Operations of other gear in Registration Area A.

(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 32.053, person or vessel that operates commercial king crab pots in waters deeper than 100 fathoms, or commercial shrimp pots during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A, may participate in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Intent to remove regulation that complicates fishing between crab and shrimp, due to season changes.

The current regulation is now outdated and there is no biological reason to prevent the operation of commercial shrimp pots before the Dungeness crab season.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes with other commercial Dungeness crab and shrimp fisherman. Due to season changes we have experienced financial distress because we are unable to properly conduct both fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Chris McMurren

(EF-F24-079)

PROPOSAL 255

5 AAC 32.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a person or vessel to participate in the Registration Area A commercial Dungeness crab fishery if they operated commercial, personal use, or subsistence shrimp pots during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

Allowing the shrimp pot fishery **Only** for subsistence and commercial use in the 2 week time period prior to the Commercial Dungeness season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? My proposal is in regards to the shrimp season getting cut short for individual that both crab and shrimp. The 14 day no pots of any kind prior to Dungeness has hampered the ability to shrimp a full season. I fully understand no other crab gear of any kind 14 days prior to the commercial season, but in 5 years of commercial pot shrimping I have never caught a crab. It's a costly process to stack out when there is open area to shrimp.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This has been the most talked about topic between fishermen

with both crab and shrimp permits and we have all agreed on wanting to see a change. It would benefit these small communities and small business families immensely.

I had a personal phone call from ADFG telling me there was quota left on the grounds in an area I fish and he recommended keeping the gear in the water, but I couldn't do to the overlap with the gear cut off for Dungeness season. It was costly, but it's a new gamble we take with the season change as fishermen in hopes of a good crab season.

PROPOSED BY: Dawson Miller

(EF-F24-081)

PROPOSAL 256

5 AAC 32.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a person or vessel to participate in the Registration Area A commercial Dungeness crab fishery if they operated commercial shrimp pots during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery. In addition, permit holders may not register and participate in the Dungeness and shrimp pot commercial fisheries concurrently.

5 AAC 32.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 32.053, a person or vessel that operates commercial king crab pots in waters deeper than 100 fathoms during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A, may participate in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

(b) A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may not register a vessel for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery and the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery at the same time. A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may cancel a vessel's registration for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery and register a vessel for the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery if

(1) the person removes from the water the pots that are used and marked for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery, or stores the pots as specified in 5 AAC 32.052; and

(2) the vessel owner, or the owner's agent, contacts a local representative of the department, in person, and requests that the department cancel the vessel's commercial Dungeness crab registration.

(c) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 32.053(d), 5 AAC 34.053(2), and 5 AAC 35.053(2), a person or vessel may operate commercial king crab or Tanner crab pots during an open Dungeness crab season in Registration Area A if a commercial king crab or Tanner crab season is open in Registration Area A at the same time as the commercial Dungeness crab season.

(d) Notwithstanding 5AAC 32.053 a person or vessel that participates in the commercial pot shrimp fishery in Registration Area A during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A may cancel their pot shrimp registration and register for and participate in the Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A if

(1) the person removes from the water the pots that are used and marked for the commercial pot shrimp fishery; and

(2) the vessel owner, or the owner's agent, contacts a local representative of the department, in person, and requests that the department cancel the vessel's and permit holder's commercial pot shrimp registration.

5AAC 31.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A

(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 31.053(d), 5 AAC 34.053(2), and 5 AAC 35.053(2), a person or vessel may operate commercial king crab or Tanner crab pots during an open pot shrimp season in Registration Area A if a commercial king crab or Tanner crab season is open in Registration Area A at the same time as the commercial pot shrimp season.

(b) In an area open to fishing for shrimp, a vessel operator may not operate more than the number of pots specified in 5 AAC 31.124(e), including commercial, sport, personal use, and subsistence shrimp pots.

(c) A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may not register a vessel for the commercial shrimp pot fishery and the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery at the same time. A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may cancel a vessel's registration for a shrimp fishery and register for a different shrimp fishery by contacting a local representative of the department, in person, and providing all requested information.

(d) A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may not register a vessel for the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery and the commercial Dungeness crab fishery at the same time. A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may cancel a vessel's registration for the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery and register a vessel for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery by contacting a local representative of the department, in person, and providing all requested information.

(e) A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may not register a vessel for the commercial pot shrimp fishery and the commercial Dungeness crab fishery at the same time. A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may cancel a vessel's registration for the commercial pot shrimp fishery and register a vessel for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery by contacting a local representative of the department, in person, and providing all requested information.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to allow a person holding a pot shrimp permit and Dungeness pot permit to be able to fish longer than the first 15 days of the shrimp fishery and still be able to participate in the Dungeness crab fishery if they remove all their shrimp pots from the water, cancel their registration from the shrimp fishery, and then register for the Dungeness crab fishery.

A legal Dungeness crab is unlikely to be caught in a shrimp pot with the definitions provided in regulation in SE Alaska for legal shrimp pots and legal Dungeness crab pot gear (5AAC 32.050 & 5AAC 32.125 (f))

With the change in the shrimp pot fishery to a springtime start, a Dungeness crab pot and shrimp pot permit holder wishing to participate in both fisheries may only participate in the shrimp pot fishery until May 31st as they may not have any pot gear of any type in the water 14 days prior to the start of the Dungeness crab fishery on June 15 (5AAC 32.053). This means a permit holder or vessel participating in both the shrimp pot and Dungeness pot fishery is only allowed to participate

in the shrimp fishery the first 14 or 15 days. It was also unclear when the 14 day standdown period starts and is dependent upon individual Alaska Wildlife Trooper's interpretation to whether it is 8:00 am June 1st or 12:59 pm on May 31. Both fisheries require registration and have regulations in place for de-registering when a fisherman is done participating.

5AAC 31.053 (d) Operation of Other pot gear (SE Shrimp regulations) allows a person and or vessel to stop participating in a commercial shrimp fishery and instead operate other commercial pots if they remove all the gear and contacts a representative of the Dept in person and de-registers.

We considered an alternative solution to achieve this goal by changing

5AAC 32.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A

(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 32.053, a person or vessel that operates commercial king crab pots in waters deeper than 100 fathoms, **or operates commercial shrimp pots,** during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A, may participate in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

We went with the proposed option because fishermen tend to read the section of the regulation book for the area they fish and don't always catch statewide regulations, so thought our proposed language similar to language proposed more recently in the shrimp fishery made it clearer to the fishermen all the responsibilities of having the pots out of the water and canceling the registration in one fishery before activating the registration for the next fishery

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fisherman Alliance (HQ-F24-081)

PROPOSAL 257

5 AAC 32.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a person or vessel to participate in the Registration Area A commercial Dungeness crab fishery if they operated commercial shrimp pots during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

The solution is to include in **5 AAC 32.128**, language that will allow pot shrimpers to fish in the 14 days immediately before the opening of the Dungeness crab fishery.

Please amend 5 AAC 32.128 to read;

5 AAC 32.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 32.053, a person or vessel that operates commercial king crab pots in waters deeper than 100 fathoms, **or operates commercial shrimp pots,** during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A, may participate in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The problem is, those who have both SE Dungeness crab and SE pot Shrimp permits are not allowed the opportunity to fully utilize their permits. Currently, anyone who participates in both the pot shrimp and Dungeness

crab fisheries is required to have all shrimp gear out of the water 14 days before the start of the Dungeness fishery.

The pot shrimp season opens May 15th and closes by regulation on July 31st. The more productive districts are closed before July 31 by emergency order from ADF&G as GHLL's for each district are caught. Districts that have remaining GHLL at the end of the summer season may or may not re-open Oct. 1 by emergency order from ADF&G. The Dungeness season is open June 15 thru August 15, and opens again in the fall on Oct. 1st. The current Regulations force those fishermen who have both permits to either give up an entire Dungeness season, (June 15-Aug.15) or give up 2 weeks of shrimp fishing in June.

There is no gear conflict between the two fisheries, as the definitions and regulations on gear are clear and unique to each of the fisheries.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal is my own. With the change of the commercial shrimp season by the BOF last cycle, from Oct 1 to May 15, I was forced to be done shrimp fishing by the 1st of June in order to participate in the Dungeness fishery. Some productive areas remained open into June but I chose to fish Dungeness and therefore was required to stop fishing shrimp.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Traibush

(EF-F24-064)

PROPOSAL 258

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Open some or all areas closed to commercial Dungeness fishing in Registration Area A, as follows:

Rescind some if not all closed areas to commercial Dungeness fishing and adopt proposal reducing minimum size limit for Alaska residents. [*Note from Boards Support: this author's proposed changes to size limits can be found in Proposal 250 (EF-F24-151)*]

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

In Registration Area A, the following waters are closed to the taking of Dungeness crab:

(1) waters of Section 11-A that are

(A) north of a line from Marmion Island Light to the easternmost tip of Point Salisbury and east of a line extending from the northernmost tip of Outer Point to the southernmost tip of Portland Island to the northernmost tip of Portland Island to the southernmost tip of Point Louisa; and

(B) off the mainland shore enclosed by a line from the northernmost tip of the peninsula at the Shrine of St. Terese to Gull Island, extending to the Sentinel Island Light, and east to the mainland at the latitude of the Sentinel Island Light;

(2) waters of Tenakee Inlet west of Corner Bay Point at 135° 06.50' W. long. and east of the Crab Bay log transfer facility at 135° 18.18' W. long.;

(3) waters of Port Althorp enclosed by a line from Point Lucan to 58° 09.71' N. lat., 136° 19.67' W. long.;

(4) waters of Merrifield Bay and Port Protection enclosed by a line extending west from Protection Head (56° 18.83' N. lat., 133° 39.77' W. long.) to 133° 40' W. long., then north to 56° 22' N. lat., then east to 133° 34' W. long., then south to a point on Prince of Wales Island at 56° 21.05' N. lat., 133° 34' W. long.;

- (5) waters of Thorne Bay west of the longitude of the easternmost tip of Thorne Head;
- (6) waters of Icy Passage enclosed by a line starting from the northernmost end of the Gustavus Dock to the southernmost end of the Gustavus Dock to the navigational buoy off the mouth of the Salmon River to an (ADF&G) marker on the shoreline directly north of the buoy and then along the shoreline to the starting point;
- (7) waters of Blank Inlet north and west of a line from Blank Point to Blank Island Light to the easternmost point tip of Gravina Point;
- (8) waters of Bostwick Inlet north and west of a line from Bostwick Point to an unnamed point at 55° 12.83' N. lat., 131° 43.92' W. long.;
- (9) waters of Mud (Flat) Bay west of the longitude of a point at 59° 09.03' N. lat., 135° 19.97' W. long.;
- (10) from December 1 through September 30, the waters of District 13-B that are in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area, which is that area of Sitka Sound enclosed on the north by lines from Kruzof Island at 57° 20.50' N. lat., 135° 45.17' W. long. to Chichagof Island at 57° 22.05' N. lat., 135° 43' W. long., and from Chichagof Island at 57° 22.58' N. lat., 135° 41.30' W. long. to Baranof Island at 57° 22.28' N. lat., 135° 40.95' W. long., and on the south and west by a line running from the southernmost tip of Sitka Point at 56° 59.38' N. lat., 135° 49.57' W. long. to Hanus Point at 56° 51.92' N. lat., 135° 30.50' W. long. to the green day marker in Dorothy Narrows to Baranof Island at 56° 49.28' N. lat., 135° 22.60' W. long.;
- (11) [WATERS OF TWELVE-MILE ARM WEST OF A LINE FROM 55° 30.01' N. LAT., 132° 35.22' W. LONG., TO 55° 28.61' N. LAT., 132° 34.62' W. LONG., AND NORTH AND EAST OF A LINE FROM 55° 26.41' N. LAT., 132° 40.05' W. LONG., TO 55° 26.33' N. LAT., 132° 39.53' W. LONG.]
- (12) waters east of a line from Indian Point at 55° 36.85' N. lat., 131° 42.02' W. long., to the northeasternmost tip of Betton Island at 55° 31.95' N. lat., 131° 46.37' W. long. to the southeasternmost tip of Betton Island at 55° 29.90' N. lat., 131° 48.18' W. long., to Survey Point at 55° 28.07' N. lat., 131° 49.87' W. long.;
- (13) waters east of a line from Point Lena at 58° 23.73' N. lat., 134° 46.67' W. long., north to 58° 25.05' N. lat., 134° 46.25' W. long., north to 58° 25.65' N. lat., 134° 46' W. long. (a point in upper Tee Harbor);
- (14) waters east of a line in Bridget Cove from 58° 37.05' N. lat., 134° 56.60' W. long., north to 58° 38.20' N. lat., 134° 57.10' W. long.;
- (15) repealed 7/29/2009;
- (16) repealed 7/29/2009;
- (17) waters of Port Frederick enclosed by a line from a point on Chichagof Island at 58° 05.18' N. lat., 135° 28.15' W. long. to the westernmost tip of Long Island at 58° 05.81' N. lat., 135° 28.56' W. long. to a point south of Hoonah Point at 58° 07.13' N. lat., 135° 27.52' W. long.;
- (18) waters of Favorite Bay enclosed by a line from a point at 57° 28.91' N. lat., 134° 32.21' W. long. to a point at 57° 29.05' N. lat., 134° 31.17' W. long.;
- (19) the waters near and surrounding Klawock enclosed by a line from a point east of Entrance Point at 55° 31.20' N. lat., 133° 07.63' W. long., extending to a point in Shinaku Inlet at 55° 34.72' N. lat., 133° 13.38' W. long.;
- (20) in the waters of Whale Pass north and west of a line extending from a point at 56° 05.81' N. lat., 133° 06.52' W. long., to a point located at 56° 05.62' N. lat., 133° 07.33' W. long.;
- (21) Sukwaan Strait from Saltery Point at 55° 10.95' N. lat., 132° 48.02' W. long., to a point on Sukkwan Island at 55° 10.40' N. lat., 132° 48.62' W. long., north to the head of Natzuhini Bay,

extending west to the openings of North Pass from a point on Prince of Wales Island at 55° 12.61' N. lat., 132° 57.68' W. long., to a point on Goat Island at 55° 12.43' N. lat., 132° 56.30' W. long., and South Pass from a point on Goat Island at 55° 10.11' N. lat., 132° 53.60' W. long., to a point on Sukkwan Island at 55° 09.78' N. lat., 132° 53.43' W. long.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The area available for commercial Dungeness crab fishing is has drastically been reduced over the past decade by sea otters and closures. The productive area available for harvest is too small making it increasingly difficult to have an economically viable fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Derek Thynes (EF-F24-147)

PROPOSAL 259

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Open all waters closed to commercial Dungeness fishing in Registration Area A between October 1 and November 30, annually.

5 AAC 32.150. Would read;

Closed waters in Registration Area A, the following waters are closed to the taking of Dungeness crab from Jan 1st-September 30th and from December 1st -31th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To better comply with the State Constitution to make resources available for maximum use consistent with the public interest, all closed areas in Registration area A should remain closed for 10 months of the year, but commercial opportunity available during the fall season.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No.

PROPOSED BY: Todd Bailey (EF-F24-148)

PROPOSAL 260

5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A.; 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A; 5 AAC 34.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A; 5 AAC 35.XXX. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Close George Inlet, Carroll Inlet, and Thorne Arm in District 1 to the commercial harvest of shrimp and crab.

All waters East of a line from Mountain Point Light to the northernmost tip of Bold Island, then from the southernmost tip of Bold Island to Cone Point, permanently closed to the commercial taking of any species of crab or shrimp.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the board to consider closing the waters of Carroll Inlet, George Inlet, and Thorne Arm to the commercial taking of crab and shrimp. These areas are being overfished by the commercial fleet to the point that, as local residents of the area, we are hard pressed to catch these species for personal, sport, or subsistence use. Every season commercial vessels from other Southeast communities, along with vessels based in Ketchikan, move in to these bays and deploy hundreds and hundreds of pots and leave nothing but undersize and female crab, and make it very hard to catch any shrimp for the rest of us. I see no reason these areas should be open to commercial crab and shrimp fishing. There are plenty of areas they could fish other than in our backyard. Most of us local non commercial users can't afford to, or aren't equipped to go much further than these particular inlets. The commercial fleet can fish elsewhere so that we may have better access to these species in these areas.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have not coordinated with others, but I have talked to several local people who adamantly agree with this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Mark R Hoyt (EF-F24-011)

PROPOSAL 261

5 AAC 31.136 Closed waters in Registration Area A.; 32.150 Closed waters in Registration Area A.; 35.XXX Closed waters in Registration Area A.; 34.150 Closed waters in Registration Area A.; and 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area
Close Traitors Cove to commercial and sport shellfish harvest.

Close Traitors Cove from the mouth of the Cove, East of longitude 131 degrees 41.96 minutes to all shellfish harvest other than personal use and subsistence.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Access to shrimp and crab in Traitors Cove: The shrimp and crab populations in Traitors Cove have diminished. This area is highly important to the local residence of Ketchikan do to the safe moorage at the dock and relatively close proximity to Ketchikan. Do to the safe harbor of the dock it allows local residence to be able to transit to the cove, set pots, spend the night and work the gear without the worry of inclement weather creating a danger to personal use harvesters. A limited number of commercial harvesters and non resident yachters may be affected by the change. It is requested that Traitors Cove be limited to personal use and subsistence shell fish harvesting only.

On a side note the dock allows access to multiple miles of USFS maintained roads that accesses a fresh water lake, berry picking, mushroom harvesting, deer and waterfowl hunting.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, other personal use harvesters have expressed support.

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Mattle (EF-F24-174)

PROPOSAL 262

5 AAC 47.021 - Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Close sport fishing for Dungeness crab in Thorne Bay, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021 - Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area

(h) Repealed 5/12/2011.

(i) In the Prince of Wales Island vicinity,

(1) all waters of Klawock Harbor south of a line from the Klawock blinker light to the Klawock Cannery Dock are closed to

(A) snagging; a fish hooked anywhere other than the mouth must be released immediately;

(B) sport fishing for sockeye salmon;

(2) shrimp may not be taken in the waters of Twelve-Mile Arm west of a line from Prince of Wales Island at 55° 29.07' N. lat., 132° 37.60' W. long., to the northeastern most tip of Loy Island at 55° 29.07' N. lat., 132° 36.70' W. long., to the easternmost tip of Cat Island at 55° 27.80' N. lat., 132° 39.08' W. long., to Prince of Wales Island at 55° 27.80' N. lat., 132° 40.93' W. long., including the waters of Hollis Anchorage;

(3) Dungeness crab may not be taken in the waters of Klawock Inlet, Shinaku Inlet or Big Salt Lake, northeast of a line from Prince of Wales Island at 55° 31.20' N. lat., 133° 07.63' W. long., to Prince of Wales Island at 55° 34.72' N. lat., 133° 13.38' W. long.;

(4) Dungeness crab may not be taken in the waters of Coffman Cove south and west of a line extending from a point at 56° 01.35' N. lat., 132° 49.67' W. long., to a point located at 56° 01.71' N. lat., 132° 51.01' W. long.;

(5) Dungeness crab may not be taken in the waters near Whale Pass north and west of a line extending from a point at 56° 05.81' N. lat., 133° 06.52' W. long., to a point located at 56° 05.62' N. lat., 133° 07.33' W. long.;

(6) Dungeness crab may not be taken in the waters of Thorne Bay west of a line from a point at 55° 39.92' N lat.,

132° 29.73' W. long., to a point located at 55° 39.80' N lat., 132° 29.59' W. long.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Thorne Bay, located on the east side of Prince of Wales Island was created as a logging camp back in the times of intense logging on the island. Today it is a small community that is popular during the fishing and hunting seasons for visitors to the lodges around the bay. Many of them are unguided anglers who rent skiffs to fish, shrimp and crab in the local waters.

Even though there is a reduced daily possession limit of five crabs for residents and three for non-residents in Thorne Bay, populations continue to decrease. Crabbing used to be good all year long, now even in the spring before the lodges open, the crabbing is difficult. Residents often are unable to catch enough crabs for a dinner without running pots for days.

Both Coffman Cove and Whale Pass, also on the east side of the island, got changes to the regulations through the Board of Fish during the last cycle which limited crabbing to personal use. Thorne Bay is asking for the same thing. There will still be many areas for non-residents to go outside Thorne Bay for crab.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The East Prince of Wales AC.

PROPOSED BY: East Prince of Wales Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-114)

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STATEWIDE SHELLFISH, PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND SHRIMP, AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES

Miscellaneous Subsistence, Sport, Personal Use Shellfish (9 proposals)

Dungeness (3 proposals)

PROPOSAL 263

5 AAC 02.315. Subsistence Dungeness Crab Fishery.

Open the Cook Inlet subsistence Dungeness crab fishery, as follows:

In that portion of the Cook Inlet Area outside the nonsubsistence area described in 5 AAC 99.015(a)(3), in the subsistence taking of Dungenous crab, we propose opening the subsistence Dungenous crab fishery at a very small-scale with the following provisions:

- (1) male Dungenous crab may be taken only from July 1st through September 30th
- (2) before harvesting Dungenous crab, a person must obtain a subsistence permit; upon taking Dungenous crab, and before concealing the Dungenous crab from plain view or removing the Dungenous crab from the fishing site, the person must enter the catch information requested on the permit;
- (3) the daily bag and possession limit is five male Dungenous crab and the seasonal limit is 40 male Dungenous crab;
- (4) only male Dungenous crab six inches or greater in width of shell may be taken or possessed (or whatever size the department defines as a legal mature male in Lower Cook Inlet); no more than one pot or ring net per person with a maximum of three pots or rings net per vessel may be used to take Dungenous crab.

***We are requesting a summer Dungenous crab fishery because we consulted with knowledge bearers in Port Graham and Nanwalek and they have traditionally only harvested Dungenous crabs from July-Sept because 1) The Dungenous crab come closer to shore to feed on pink salmon eggs/carcasses and generally feed in shallower waters during this time and 2) the waters are safer for the smaller skiffs these communities own and are only able to drop crab pots during these months.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Section 5 AAC 02.315 - Subsistence Dungeness crab fishery

In the Cook Inlet Area, a person may not take Dungeness crab for subsistence purposes.

This fishery has been closed since 1998 but continues to be a very important subsistence resource for the Lower Cook Inlet Tribes: Specifically Nanwalek and Port Graham. These two small, remote Alaska Native communities that are in subsistence zoning and off the road system would like the opportunity to try and harvest Dungenous crab for subsistence purposes. There is limited data and information on the Dungenous crab population in Lower Cook Inlet. The last year Dungenous crab surveys were conducted is 2009 by the department. Currently the state has no program to assess Dungenous crab abundance, as stated by ADFG Fish Biologist Jan Rumble during her report of proposal 260 at the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Westward, Arctic Shellfish and Shellfish General Provisions, and Prince William Sound Shrimp Board of Fish meeting (March 26 - April 2, 2022). Ms. Rumble also stated at this meeting that “the board should consider reopening a subsistence

fishery before opening a commercial fishery for Dungenous crab in the Cook Inlet Southern Region” (03/29/22 meeting audio records). The subsistence Dungenous crab fishery is currently closed mostly due to a lack of survey information, but there was consideration at the same Statewide Shellfish Board of Fish meeting from past Board Member Israel Payton who stated that “even before these potential surveys get done, if the department feels they want to do some exploring a little, it's up to the board but issuing subsistence permits through a strict permit tracking progress would be one way to gather some citizen science, and I would be supportive of that moving forward” (03/29/22 meeting audio records).

Since this board of fish meeting in 2022, the department has made no progress towards applying for grants with Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC) as a partner to conduct Dungenous crab surveys in the Lower Cook Inlet, as proposed by the department as a solution during the 2022 meeting. CRRC is an organization that supports and protects the subsistence resources of Port Graham and Nanwalek, and we have limitations to our capacity to apply for grant funding for every subsistence resource. Therefore, we strongly agree with Mr. Payton that issuing subsistence permits that would collect data on the Dungenous crab fishery would be an efficient and effective way to fill in data gaps and inform the department with harvest data on the Lower Cook Inlet Dungenous crab population. We have spoken with the Chiefs and community members of Port Graham and Nanwalek to learn more about the local and traditional knowledge of the Dungenous crab populations in English Bay and Port Graham Bay. The Native Village of Nanwalek has reported an abundance of mature Dungenous crab returning to the shallow waters of English Bay. The Native Village of Port Graham reported that they are not seeing Dungenous crabs in the shallow waters near their beaches like they used to. Both communities have a long history of harvesting Dungenous crabs for subsistence use. Nanwalek and Port Graham would both like to have the regulations changed to open the Cook Inlet subsistence Dungenous crab fishery under specific guidelines, as listed below in question 3. Both communities are committed to participating in citizen science programs to collect survey data (e.g. size, sex, location) on Dungenous crabs to inform fisheries management in collaboration with Chugach Regional Resources Commission

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. We talked and worked with the Native Village of Port Graham and Native Village of Nanwalek. Chugach Regional Resources Commission worked with the ADFG Division of Subsistence to conduct subsistence household surveys in Port Graham where we asked household members questions about subsistence use of the Dungenous crab resource in Port Graham Bay (Jan 22-26,2024). CRRC also hosted a Board of Fish Proposal Writing workshop in Cordova (Feb 27-28, 2024) where the second Chief of Nanwalek and Nanwalek Tribal Members attended and discussed this proposal as a group.

PROPOSED BY: Chugach Regional Resources Commission (HQ-F24-075)

PROPOSAL 264

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Regulation language goes here. Allow harvest of Dungeness crab in the Cook Inlet sport Tanner crab fishery, as follows:

This would give a limited harvest opportunity for large male dungeness.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Modify Cook Inlet sport Tanner crab. Limited fishery bag limit to include Dungeness crab at no more than one legal crab 7 inch male day and a total of five per season limit.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas Hagberg (HQ-F24-116)

PROPOSAL 265

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

Establish season, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for Dungeness crab in Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay, as follows:

Dungeness Crab: October 1 – February 28; bag and possession limit of 1 male crab, annual limit of 5 male crab; minimum size of six and one-half inches; no more than 1 pot or ring net per vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Dungeness sport fishery has been closed many years without any recent surveys done in many years. Many of us that fish the Tanners out of Kachemak Bay have been seeing good numbers of Dungeness in our pots as well. A small opening for Dungeness crab could give people another harvest opportunity while also giving fish and game some insight on the stock of the fishery. This opening would mirror the Limited Tanner Crab opening for Cook Inlet and North Gulf Coast. It could be its own sport permit or just added to the Tanner Crab permit. This would make enforcement and ease of implementation quite simple. The Tanner crab harvest records since 2017 have been around 6k to 8k crabs. Predicting similar effort in the Dungeness fishery you could expect harvest levels to be around 1500 to 2000 crab.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Josh Wickboldt (EF-F24-105)

Tanner (3 proposals)

PROPOSAL 266

5 AAC 77.010. Methods, means, and general restrictions.

Allow additional gear types in the personal use crab fishery, as follows:

crab may be taken only with pots, ring nets, diving gear, dip nets, hooked or hookless handlines, **CRAB LOOP TRAPS "SNARES", FOLDABLE CRAB NET**, or by hand; **A LINE ATTACHED TO A POLE OR ROD MAY BE USED TO REEL OR CAST CRAB GEAR. [A LINE ATTACHED TO A POLE OR ROD MAY BE USED IN THE BERING SEA ONLY WHEN FISHING A LINE THROUGH THE ICE];**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? "crab may be taken only with pots, ring nets, diving gear, dip nets, hooked or hookless handlines, or by hand; a line attached to a pole or rod may be used in the Bering Sea only when fishing a line through the ice;"

The restriction on gear types for crabbing is unnecessarily restrictive and eliminates ethical methods of take that are utilized in other states. Crab snares and foldable crab nets allow for the take of crabs without posing harm to crab populations or pose a significant risk of continued catch if gear is unrecoverable. Many Alaskans own a fishing rod, but not a boat. Widening the regulations would allow for increased access to crabbing as both a hobby and as a source of food.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I did not, hence the need for editing.

PROPOSED BY: Zach Taylor (EF-F24-040)

PROPOSAL 267

5 AAC 35.408. Registration Area H Tanner crab harvest strategy.

Modify the noncommercial Tanner crab fishery thresholds, as follows:

5 AAC 35.408 is amended to read:

...

(d) The noncommercial Tanner crab fisheries in the Cook Inlet Area will be managed as provided in **5 AAC 58.022(a)(11)(A)** [5 AAC 58.022(11)(A)] and 5 AAC 02.325(a) when the most recent [CONSECUTIVE THREE-YEAR AVERAGE OF] legal male stock abundance estimated from the Kachemak Bay trawl survey is greater than or equal to 200,000 crab [AND THE ANNUAL ESTIMATE FOR THE MOST RECENT YEAR IS AT LEAST 100,000 CRAB]. The harvest rate is not expected to exceed approximately 10 percent of legal male Tanner crab abundance managed under this section.

The noncommercial Tanner crab fisheries in the Cook Inlet area will be managed as provided in **5 AAC 58.022(a)(11)(B)** [5 AAC 58.022(11)(B)] and 5 AAC 02.325(b) in the absence of a trawl survey, or if the most recent [CONSECUTIVE THREE-YEAR AVERAGE OF] legal male stock abundance estimated from the Kachemak Bay trawl survey is less than 200,000 crab [OR THE ANNUAL ESTIMATE FOR THE MOST RECENT YEAR IS BELOW 100,000 CRAB]. The harvest rate is not expected to exceed approximately 10 percent of legal male Tanner crab abundance managed under this section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations for the noncommercial Tanner crab fisheries require three years of trawl survey data to be used to open the standard noncommercial Tanner crab fishery. The Kachemak Bay trawl survey has not been conducted since 2019. This proposal would provide harvest opportunity directly following a single year of the trawl survey, given a legal male abundance estimate that exceeds the threshold. Only requiring one survey would provide the department with a more cost-effective approach to providing additional subsistence and sport harvest opportunity for Tanner crab.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-180)

PROPOSAL 268

5 AAC 58.035. Methods, means, and general provisions – Shellfish.

Prohibit harvest of Tanner crab from a charter vessel, as follows:

Stop allowing commercial operators to include Tanner crab access as part of their service. No commercial charter or related commercial activity type will be allowed to transport persons for the purpose of harvesting Tanner crab in Kachemak Bay or Cook Inlet and their surrounding waters.

Add a new section: A person may not harvest Tanner Crab from a sport chartered vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I'm concerned about the excess pressure on tanner crab in Kachmak Bay and Cook Inlet due to Charters selling combo fishing trips while also including Tanner crab access. Unnecessary commercial pressure is being applied to this fishery because of this type of access. This crab fishery was closed for several years due to lack of mature crab and it seems unrealistic to encourage and allow access from commercial charter boats and any other commercial access providers. I would encourage you to limit all types of commercial access to this subsistence/sport Tanner crab fishery. It appears non-residents are increasingly participating in the fishery is likely due to charger provide access.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes I requested help from Fish and Game for assistance with the specifics of this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Green

(EF-F24-012)

Razor Clam (3 proposals)

PROPOSAL 269

5 AAC 58.026. Shellfish harvest recording form required. and 5 AAC 77.507. Shellfish harvest recording form required.

Implement a permit for harvesting razor clams in Cook Inlet sport and personal use fisheries as follows:

5 AAC 58.026 is amended to read:

...

(a) Before harvesting shellfish with pots **or razor clams**, a person must obtain a sport fishing shellfish harvest recording form, described in 5 AAC 75.016 and provided by the department. Upon taking shellfish with pots, and before concealing the shellfish from plain view or removing the shellfish from the fishing site, the person must enter the harvest and catch information requested on the form. A person who fails to comply with the requirements of this subsection or 5 AAC 75.016, including any requirement to return harvest and catch information to the department, may be ineligible to obtain a shellfish harvest recording form during the following season in the fishery for which the form was required, unless the permit applicant demonstrates to the department that failure to report was due to unavoidable circumstances.

5 AAC 77.507 is amended to read:

...

5 AAC 77.507. Shellfish harvest recording form required. A person must obtain a personal use shellfish permit described in 5 AAC 77.015, from the department before harvesting shellfish with pots or razor clams in the Cook Inlet Area. Upon taking shellfish and before concealing the shellfish from plain view or removing the shellfish from the fishing site, the person must enter the catch information requested on the personal use permit. **A person who fails to comply with the requirements of this subsection or 5 AAC 77.015, including any requirement to return harvest and catch information to the department, may be ineligible to obtain a shellfish harvest recording form during the following season in the fishery for which the form was required, unless the permit applicant demonstrates to the department that failure to report was due to unavoidable circumstances.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The sport and personal use Cook Inlet razor clam fisheries are concurrent and identical in regulation and managed in unison except that only Alaska residents can participate in the personal use fishery. Because of this, only sport harvest data is collected. Currently, harvest data for razor clam sport fisheries in Cook Inlet is available from the Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS), but the number of responses for shellfish fisheries in the SWHS has been low, which results in imprecise harvest estimates. Implementing a razor clam harvest reporting form would be consistent with other sport shellfish fisheries such as Prince William Sound shrimp and Cook Inlet Tanner crab and would provide more accurate and timely harvest information. The east Cook Inlet razor clam fishery was closed from 2015 through 2022 and opened in 2023 to a limited fishery in the Ninilchik area, requiring intensive creel surveys to provide timely harvest estimates. A permit would also provide more robust harvest data for the razor clam fisheries open in the remainder of Cook Inlet year-round, which are difficult to monitor given their remote locations in west Cook Inlet. Requiring a permit for harvesting razor clams in Cook Inlet is a precautionary management approach that is appropriate given the decline in Cook Inlet shellfish stocks.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-181)

PROPOSAL 270

5 AAC 58.040. East Cook Inlet Razor Clam Sport Fishery Management Plan. and 5 AAC 77.519. East Cook Inlet Razor Clam Personal Use Fishery Management Plan.

Modify the East Cook Inlet Razor Clam Sport and Personal Use Fishery Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 58.040(b)(2) is amended to read:

...

(2) if the estimated adult clam abundance is greater than or equal to 50 percent of the average 1989 – 2012 abundance but the population does not meet the criteria outlined in (1) of this subsection, then razor clams may be taken from **either July 1 through July 31 or August 1 through August 31** [MAY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30] and the bag and possession limits are the first **15** [30] clams taken or possessed; the combined harvest rate of the sport and personal use fisheries is not expected to exceed 10 percent of the adult clam abundance.

5 AAC 77.519(b)(2) is amended to read:

...

(2) if the estimated adult clam abundance is greater than or equal to 50 percent of the average 1989 – 2012 abundance but the population does not meet the criteria outlined in (b)(1) of this subsection, then razor clams may be taken from **either July 1 through July 31 or August 1 through August 31** [MAY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30] and the bag and possession limits are the first **15** [30] clams taken or possessed; the combined harvest rate of the sport and personal use fisheries is not expected to exceed 10 percent of the adult clam abundance.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The East Cook Inlet razor clam management plans were adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries at the March 2022 Miscellaneous Shellfish meeting. Razor clam abundance surveys in 2023 estimated adult clam abundances met the threshold to open the limited fisheries outlined in 5 AAC 58.020(b)(2) and 5 AAC 77.519(b)(2). This opening provided an opportunity to assess harvest and effort for the first time in nearly a decade. The department issued a preseason emergency order to ensure a conservative harvest as expected effort was unknown. Resulting harvest estimates from extensive creel surveys during the fishery indicate the current regulations would result in harvest of over 10 percent of the adult clam abundance. These proposed modifications provide a harvest opportunity that is better aligned with a harvest of less than 10 percent of adult razor clam abundance and gives the public and board the opportunity to decide a preference for season.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-182)

PROPOSAL 271

5 AAC 58.040. East Cook Inlet Razor Clam Sport Fishery Management Plan and 5 AAC 77.519. East Cook Inlet Razor Clam Personal Use Fishery Management Plan.

Reduce the East side razor clam bag limit, as follows:

When and if we can open a fishery, we need to be very conservative with bag limits.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce the East Side Cook Inlet Sport and Personal Use Razor Clam Limited Fishery Bag Limit to 15 Clams.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, Homer AC

PROPOSED BY: Thomas Hagberg (HQ-F24-117)

Commercial Shellfish (27 proposals)

Crab (26 proposals)

PROPOSAL 272

5 AAC 34.910. Fishing seasons for Registration Area Q.

Modify the start of the fishing season to open July 1 instead of June 15.

(d) In the Norton Sound Section of the Northern District, male red king crab, male blue king crab, and male Hanasaki king crab may be taken only as follows:

(1) during a fishing season established by emergency order to open on or after **July 1** [JUNE 15] and close 12:00 noon September 3 (summer season); and

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The start date for the Norton Sound summer king crab fishery is too early and often results in lower quality crab with poor meat fill. Since this fishery's GHF is in pounds, this also results in more individual crab being harvested when the crab weigh less.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Adem Boeckman (EF-F24-165)

PROPOSAL 273

5 AAC 34.910. Fishing seasons for Registration Area Q.

Modify the start of the winter fishing season to open by emergency order on or after February 1 instead of opening on February 1, as follows:

34.910 (d) (2) through the ice only, during a fishing season established by emergency order to open on or after February 1 and to close no later than April 30;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently the winter season opens on February 1 regardless of weather or ice conditions. Most fisheries allow the manager some discretion to adjust the openings to address unforeseen issues which would affect the safety or conservation. This fishery has a history of pot loss due to unstable ice and even a few people in need of rescue. Pot loss and ghost fishing by lot pots is poorly documented but is generally frowned upon. Programs to retrieve lost pots have been conducted in multiple locations with limited success. The best idea is to avoid pot loss.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, this proposal was proposed to the NNSAC and passed unanimously.

PROPOSED BY: Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-073)

PROPOSAL 274

5 AAC 34.920. Size Limits for Registration Area Q. and 5 AAC 34.925. Lawful gear for Registration Area Q.

Increases the legal size of male red king crab from four and three-quarter inches to five inches and increase size of pot escape mechanisms, as follows:.

34.920 (d)(1) male red king crab five inches or greater in width of shell;
Escape mechanism regulations are tied to legal size generally. In this case the need for adjusting the escape mechanisms does not seem needed. The current regulations will be adequate since these fisheries have short soak times with little time for bait spoilage or for crab seek egress. The

current regulation reads: 34.925 (b)(3) (d)(4) must have at least four circular escape rings with a minimum inside diameter of four and one-half inches... or an escape mesh of six and one-half inch stretched mesh webbing.... (no change regarding escape mechanisms)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the late 1970s, the legal size of Norton Sound red king crab was set at 4.75 inches in width based on a now obsolete estimate of maturity and by adding a year's growth. This maturity estimate is now thought to be too large making the current size limit a couple years beyond male sexual maturity. The fact that the Norton Sound population has been allowed more time for reproduction has not resulted in any perceived detriment to the population, rather it may be more resilient than populations to the south which have legal size determinations close to maturity plus one year. Crab in the 4.75-5 inch size range have relatively lower mortality and higher growth rates than crabs a year older. High volume sorting is reducing long term harvest due to handling mortality. The half year of negligible mortality for mature crab that the legal-size increase allows is not likely to produce any detrimental biological effects.

This proposal would raise the legal threshold to five inches to make the harvested crab more marketable. The single buyer has required a five-inch threshold for deliveries at their buying stations for over five years. They plan on continuing the practice. The management of the fishery still estimates the biomass of the less desirable small crab along with the desired crab. When a cohort of crab are recruiting to the fishery this provides a misleading biomass of marketable crab resulting in greater handling mortality as crab are sorted. The misleading expectations of marketable crab causes the season to drag on with marginal rates of marketable crab harvest.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, this proposal was proposed to the NNSAC and passed unanimously.

PROPOSED BY: Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-074)

PROPOSAL 275

5 AAC 34.816 Bristol Bay red king crab harvest strategy.

Update Bristol Bay red king crab harvest strategy used to set annual harvest limits, as follows

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current Bristol Bay red king crab (BBRKC) harvest strategy was last updated in the mid-1990s and is composed of three components, minimum stock size thresholds to ensure for conservation of the stock, an abundance-based harvest control rule used to set an exploitation rate when stock size thresholds are met, and a maximum harvest cap on legal males. Over the last decade, the BBRKC stock has undergone a broad decline. During this time the fishery has occurred under reduced harvest limits or was closed because estimated abundance of mature female crab was below regulatory thresholds established in the harvest strategy.

Minimum stock size thresholds established in the harvest strategy are derived, in part, from the BBRKC stock assessment model. Assessment methodology has changed and improved over time and this proposal would update elements of the BBRKC regulatory harvest strategy to reflect

current assessment and management practices. Proposed changes will focus on updating the minimum stock size thresholds that must be met before a fishery can occur. Additional recommendations will include options for transitioning from a stair step to a sloping harvest control rule. Updating the harvest strategy will address conservation of the stock and fishery stability for stakeholders during a period of high uncertainty.

Full analysis and recommended harvest strategy updates will be provided by the department prior to the 2025 Statewide shellfish meeting.

The BBRKC harvest strategy is a Category 2 management measure under the federal Fishery Management Plan for Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs (FMP; FMP Section 8.2.5 Fishing Seasons). Changes to Category 2 management measures occur at the discretion of the board but should be consistent with the criteria set out in the FMP and the Magnuson – Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act National Standards.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-162)

PROPOSAL 276

5 AAC 34.627. King crab storage requirements for Registration Area O.

Amend longline king pot storage depth from 75 to 100 fathoms or less, as follows:

Golden king crab storage depths 100 fathoms or less.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Would like to change the storage depth from 75 fathoms or less to 100 fathoms or less.

Due to ship jogging during storms and loosing are buoy ends. As a result have to drag up our stored gear which is very dangerous.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Myself

PROPOSED BY: Mark Medjo (EF-F24-077)

PROPOSAL 277

5 AAC 34.6XX. New Section.

Establish Aleutian Islands state-waters golden king crab fishery, as follows:

5AAC 34.6XX State waters Aleutian Islands golden crab Harvest strategy

Points to be included

- State waters east of 169 deg**
- Vessels 58' and under**
- Fishing hours 8:00 AM to 7:59 PM**
- 90 pot limit**
- Single pot only**
- Close east of 169 deg to longline crab pot gear**
- Season, Sept 1 – Apr 30**

GHL set annually by ADF&G, not to exceed 100,000 pounds
Size limit, 6" male crab
Daily reporting

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Create a single pot golden crab fishery for vessels 58' and under with its own allocation. Currently, area O golden crab is fully rationalized and allocated to the federal fishery. There exists, however, an open access parallel State fishery that if prosecuted would create uncertainty for management, possibly forcing closure to the State waters of area O where 10% of existing quota is traditionally caught. A dedicated allocation for vessels 58' and under would reduce uncertainty and retain opportunity for smaller local boats.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. A few local fishermen have talked about this potential for several years.

PROPOSED BY: Roger Rowland (HQ-F24-004)

PROPOSAL 278

5 AAC 34.625. Lawful gear for Registration Area O

Establish pot limit for the Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 34.625 is amended by adding subsection (h) to read as follows:

(h) In the Registration Area O commercial golden king crab fishery established under 5 AAC 34.610(b), the following pot limits are in effect:

1. An aggregate of no more than 2,500 pots may be operated from a validly registered king crab vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are currently no pot limits in this longline pot crab fishery. Vessels have historically utilized as many pots as needed in order to work the gear every 20-25 days, and this has been less than 2,000 pots. Recently, a few vessels have been setting gear far in excess of this amount in order to pre-empt the fishing grounds and they are unable to clear the pots in a reasonable amount of time. While this is an allocative issue, there is also a conservation element of concern. Pots are not being worked and sit for a significant amount of time before being pulled, if they are pulled at all during the season. This can result in unnecessary deadloss for the resource.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal is presented on behalf of the owners of the golden king crab harvester vessel, F/V Alaska Trojan.

PROPOSED BY: F/V Alaska Trojan (HQ-F24-036)

PROPOSAL 279

5 AAC 39.670. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Crab Fisheries Management Plan.

Amend vessel gear sharing and transfer provisions in the rationalized Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery west of 174° W. longitude, as follows:

5 AAC 39.670 is amended by adding subsections (c)(2)(A)(i) and (c)(3)(A)(i) to read as follows:

(c) The following provisions apply to the fisheries specified in this section:

1. a vessel participating in an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ), Community Development Quota (CDQ), or the Adak community allocation crab fishery must have on board the vessel an activated vessel monitoring system (VMS) approved by NMFS;

2. a vessel operator who is registered for one of the fisheries listed in (b) of this section may (A) authorize other vessel operators who are registered for the same fishery to operate crab pot gear registered to that vessel; before a vessel operator may operate crab pot gear registered to another vessel, the registered operator of the pot gear must file a cooperative gear authorization form with the department authorizing other vessels to operate the crab pot gear;

(i) vessel operators participating the WAG fishery may only authorize other vessel operators to operate pot gear registered to that vessel after the vessel has checked out of the fishery under 5 AAC 39.670(c)(3)(G);

3. each crab pot deployed must bear the ADF&G number of the vessel that initially registers the crab pot, and if deployed in a fishery with a crab pot limit, each pot must bear a buoy tag registered to the vessel registering that pot; in addition, A. an active vessel may collectively operate and transport crab pot gear of another registered and active vessel;

(i) vessel operators participating the WAG fishery may only authorize other vessel operators to operate pot gear registered to that vessel after the vessel has checked out of the fishery under 5 AAC 39.670(c)(3)(G);

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery participants are currently allowed to share gear with other vessels. This gear sharing provision in the Western Aleutians (WAG) is being abused by vessels sharing gear with another vessel in order to pre-empt the fishing grounds. The result is that much of the gear is not being actively worked, but simply sitting on the fishing grounds creating a conservation concern for crab dead loss, as well as inhibiting other vessels from participating in the fishery in an efficient and productive manner. This issue would be resolved by only allowing the gear sharing provision to apply at the end of a vessel’s activity in this area.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal is presented on behalf of the owners of the golden king crab harvester vessel, F/V Alaska Trojan.

PROPOSED BY: F/V Alaska Trojan (HQ-F24-037)

PROPOSAL 280

5 AAC 39.645. Shellfish onboard observer program.

Amend contracting agent performance standards, as follows:

5 AAC 39.645 is amended to read:

(j) An independent contracting agent that provides onboard observers under this section shall

(13) ~~repealed~~ / / [ENSURE THAT NO LESS THAN 65 PERCENT OF OBSERVER DEPLOYMENT DAYS PER YEAR PER CONTRACTOR ARE PERFORMED BY CERTIFIED OBSERVERS.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Onboard observer deployment practices have evolved over time. The performance standard specifying certified observers must account for least 65 percent of all deployment days is not achieved most years and this issue has been recently compounded by unpredictability in Bering Sea crab fisheries and labor market constraints. Most observer deployments now occur under the provisions of a contract between observer provider companies and the State of Alaska. Observer performance standards are best administered under conditions of contracts guided by the State procurement process rather than in regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-163)

PROPOSAL 281

5 AAC 39.646. Shellfish onboard observer trainee program qualifications and requirements.

Amend observer trainee minimum qualifications, as follows:

5 AAC 39.646 is amended to read:

(a) To qualify as a crab onboard observer trainee, an applicant must have one of the following:

(1) a Bachelor degree or higher from an accredited college or university with a major in the sciences of biology, any branch of biology, or limnology that includes a minimum of 30 semester hours in applicable biological sciences with use of dichotomous keys in at least one course, and the successful completion of at least one course [EACH] in mathematics [AND STATISTICS WITH A MINIMUM OF FIVE SEMESTER HOURS TOTAL FOR BOTH]; or

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In practice, specifying minimum course requirements to the level currently in regulation is not critical to the observer performing their duties and creates an unnecessary burden for observer provider companies when recruiting candidates for the observer program.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-164)

PROPOSAL 282

5 AAC 35.525. Lawful gear for Registration Area J..

Amend escape mechanism requirements for Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab gear., as follows:

Bolded language is additive.

PROPOSAL XXX

5 AAC 35.525. Lawful gear for Registration Area J. Amend lawful gear for Tanner crab in Kodiak District of Registration Area J, as follows:

(a) Tanner crab may be taken only with Tanner crab pots. Tanner crab taken by other means must be returned to the water without further harm.

(b) The following Tanner crab pot requirements are in effect in Registration Area J:

(1) to permit the escapement of undersize *C. bairdi* Tanner crab, pots used to take *C. bairdi* Tanner crab in

(A) Registration Area J, except the **Kodiak and Bering Sea Districts**, must have at least one-third of one vertical surface of the pot composed of not less than six and three-quarter inch stretched mesh webbing or have no less than four circular escape rings of no less than five inches inside diameter installed on the vertical surface of the pot;

(B) the Bering Sea District, must have at least one-third of one vertical surface of the pot composed of not less than six and one-half inch stretched mesh webbing or have no less than four circular escape rings of no less than four and one-half inches inside diameter installed in a manner on the vertical surface of the pot so that the bottom of a ring is no higher on the vertical surface than the first full mesh from the bottom of the pot; [AND]

(C) the Kodiak District, rectangular and pyramid pots must have at least one-third of one vertical surface of the pot composed of not less than six and three-quarter inch stretched mesh webbing; cone pots must have at least one-third of one vertical surface of the pot composed of not less than six and three-quarter inch stretched mesh webbing or have no less than eight circular escape rings of no less than five inches inside diameter installed on the vertical surface of the pot.

Original Language:

5 AAC 35.525. Lawful gear for Registration Area J.

(a) Tanner crab may be taken only with Tanner crab pots. Tanner crab taken by other means must be returned to the water without further harm.

(b) The following Tanner crab pot requirements are in effect in Registration Area J:

(1) to permit the escapement of undersize *C. bairdi* Tanner crab, pots used to take *C. bairdi* Tanner crab in

(A) Registration Area J, except the Bering Sea District, must have at least one-third of one vertical surface of the pot composed of not less than six and three-quarter inch stretched mesh webbing or have no less than four circular escape rings of no less than five inches inside diameter installed on the vertical surface of the pot;

(B) the Bering Sea District, must have at least one-third of one vertical surface of the pot composed of not less than six and one-half inch stretched mesh webbing or have no less than four circular escape rings of no less than four and one-half inches inside diameter installed in a manner on the vertical surface of the pot so that the bottom of a ring is no higher on the vertical surface than the first full mesh from the bottom of the pot; and

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Handling of sublegal and female tanner crab in the Kodiak District. This proposal would allow additional escapement of

both sublegal and female of tanner crabs and reduce mortality associated with sorting. The new language would improve conservation.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Was discussed with F&G staff and other Kodiak Area Tanner Crab fishermen

PROPOSED BY: Ron Kavanaugh (EF-F24-008)

PROPOSAL 283

5 AAC 35.525. Lawful gear for Registration Area J.

Allow longlining of Bering Sea District commercial snow and Tanner crab pot gear, as follows:

Language would mirror current Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery regulations which allows for longlining of pots.

35.525. Lawful gear for Registration Area J.

(b)(3) In the Bering Sea District, Tanner crab pots may be operated from a shellfish longline; a buoy is not required for each pot, but each end of the longline must be marked by a cluster of four buoys; one buoy in the cluster must be marked in accordance with 5 AAC 35.051 and have the initials "SL" to identify it as a shellfish longline; for purposes of this subsection "a shellfish longline" is a stationary, buoyed, and anchored line with at least 10 shellfish pots attached;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow longlining of pot gear during rationalized Bering Sea snow crab and C. bairdi Tanner crab fisheries. Longlining of pots in these fisheries would have numerous efficiencies as well as potential increased safety impacts.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Met with regional ADFG staff to discuss proposal prior to submitting.

PROPOSED BY: Gabriel Prout (EF-F24-025)

PROPOSAL 284

5 AAC 35.5XX. New section.

Allow catcher vessels to operate as tenders during the Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab fishery, as follows:

If adopted, I recommend the board utilize the same regulatory language used to amend the Kodiak Area Dungeness fishery in recent years. Substitute language as follows:

5 AAC 35.5XX. Tenders for Tanner crab in the Kodiak District

Notwithstanding 5 AAC 35.033(a), in the Kodiak District, a vessel registered to fish for Tanner crab may tender Tanner crab from other registered Tanner crab vessels. A tender

operator must be an authorized agent of a processor. Before using a vessel as a tender under this section, the tender operator shall register as a tender with the department at the department office in Kodiak. A tender operator shall complete an ADF&G fish ticket at the first point of delivery from the catcher vessel.

Below are three sections of regulation for reference:

1. 32.033 is a general reg that says you *can't* fish and tender Dungeness at the same time.
2. 32.460 is an Area J reg that says, despite what 32.033 says, you *can* fish and tender Dungeness in the Kodiak District
3. 35.033 is a general reg that says you *can't* fish and tender Tanners at the same time. This is the reg your new language needs to reference to carve out an exemption in the Kodiak District similar to what's on the books for Dungeness.
4. Below is the language used in the Dungeness fishery. *[Note from Boards Support: the author of this proposal attempted to submit a photo to accompany this proposal, however we do not publish photos in the proposal book]*

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? For the Kodiak area Tanner crab fishery, I would like to see Kodiak area Tanner crab catcher vessels be allowed to also be a tender vessel for Kodiak Tanner crab during and after the fishery. This practice is already being utilized in the Kodiak Dungeness fishery proving it can work and provide a benefit to the fisherman. A catcher vessel could tender crab from another vessel during the Tanner fishery and after the closure of a section. This change would be valuable to the fishery and permit holders in a variety of ways. It would allow smaller vessels a chance to harvest more crab with the potential to offload crab to a larger participating catcher vessel. It would also allow Kodiak tanner crab fisherman greater opportunity to bring the crab to another port for an opportunity at higher ex-vessel prices and likely decrease the offload wait times we have experienced in recent years. This reduced wait time would lessen the likelihood of deadloss related to vessels holding the crab too long. This change would also likely decrease the cost of tender related fees recently experienced in the fishery and allow other catcher vessels in the fleet to benefit through the shared value, overall allowing more money to stay with participating permit holders and vessels.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

I spoke with participating fisherman and permit holders in the Kodiak Area tanner fishery and department staff assisted with developing the substitute regulatory language.

PROPOSED BY: Kevin Abena (EF-F24-036)

PROPOSAL 285

5 AAC 35.507. Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula Districts *C. bairdi* Tanner crab harvest strategies.

Repeal and replace the South Peninsula District Tanner crab harvest strategy, as follows:

We would like the Area J South Peninsula District tanner crab fisheries to be managed with the same management guidelines as Southeast Alaska tanner crab fisheries. Maintain the current South Peninsula pot limit and vessel length limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under utilization of mature tanner crab in the South Peninsula District. Reduced opportunity to find and utilize the resource outside of the core area.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed with other fishermen from the region.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Manos, Kiley Thompson, Ben Ley, Julian Manos & Ken Mack
(EF-F24-091)

PROPOSAL 286

5 AAC 35.507. Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula Districts *C. bairdi* Tanner crab harvest strategies.

Repeal South Peninsula District Tanner crab harvest strategy and replace with size, sex, and season management, as follows:

We would like the Tanner crab fisheries in the South Peninsula of Area J to be managed similar to South Peninsula Dungeness crab fisheries size, sex and season. Maintain the South Peninsula Tanner crab pot and vessel length limits.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Underutilization of the Tanner crab resource in the South Peninsula District of Area J.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The proposal was developed with other fishermen from the region.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Manos, Kiley Thompson, Ben Ley, Julian Manos Ken Mack
(EF-F24-092)

PROPOSAL 287

5 AAC 35.508. Bering Sea District *C. bairdi* Tanner crab harvest strategy.

Amend definition of preferred sized males in the commercial Bering Sea District Tanner crab harvest strategy, as follows:

5 AAC 35.508. Bering Sea District *C. bairdi* Tanner crab harvest strategy. Revise the harvest strategy definition of “ELME” and “ELMW” to allow for flexibility in the size of exploited legal males to be set each season, as follows (additions noted with bold and underlining, deletions in caps and brackets):

...

(e) In this section,

(6) "ELME" means 100 percent of the new-shell male *C. bairdi* Tanner crab in the portion of the Bering Sea District that is east of 166° W. long. that are at least **legal size** [127 MM (FIVE INCHES) CARAPACE WIDTH], including lateral spines, plus a percentage of old-shell male *C. bairdi* Tanner crab that are at least **legal size** [127 MM CARAPACE WIDTH] estimated at the time of the preseason survey; the percentage of old-shell male *C. bairdi* Tanner crab will be based on the expected fishery selectivity for old-shell versus new-shell male *C. bairdi* Tanner crab; **ELME size will be based on landing sizes from the previous open season's fishery harvest;**

...

(9) "ELMW" means 100 percent of the new-shell male *C. bairdi* Tanner crab in the portion of the Bering Sea District that is west of 166° W. long. that are at least **legal size** [127 MM (FIVE INCHES) CARAPACE WIDTH], including lateral spines, plus a percentage of old-shell male *C. bairdi* Tanner crab that are at least **legal size** [127 MM CW] estimated at the time of the preseason survey; the percentage of old-shell male *C. bairdi* Tanner crab will be based on the expected fishery selectivity for old-shell versus new-shell male *C. bairdi* Tanner crab. **ELMW size will be based on landing sizes from the previous open season's fishery harvest.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The basic framework of the Bering Sea bairdi crab harvest strategy applies an exploitation rate to the estimated mature male biomass or a percentage of exploited legal males (i.e., industry-preferred size) to establish annual harvest limits. Currently, the legal minimum size for Bering Sea bairdi crab (*C. bairdi* Tanner crab) is 4.8 inches east of 166° longitude and 4.4 inches west of that line. However, the fishing industry generally targets a larger preferred size of 5-inch male crab both east and west of 166° (defined as ELME and ELMW in the harvest strategy for "exploited legal males" east (E) and west (W)). Retaining crab at the industry preferred size provides for better product recovery and market yield relative to smaller sized legal crab. Several factors highlight the possible need to consider a smaller industry preferred size and build flexibility into the harvest strategy.

During the TAC setting process, harvest limits are scaled to the abundance of exploitable legal males to avoid overharvest of the largest crab in the population. Recent information shows that some *Chionoecetes* crab may reach maturity and terminal molt at smaller sizes. For bairdi, the crab in the west are more likely to be affected by colder water temperatures affecting size at maturity. *Chionoecetes* crab are being impacted, in part, by the effects of climate change and growing environmental uncertainties. To the extent it is causing a shift in the size at maturity, the harvest strategy should be flexible enough to adapt between years while also maintaining safeguards to prevent the overharvest of large males in the population. Further, bairdi is not consistently marketed as a distinct crab species in US markets. It is often sold to consumers in US markets as snow crab alongside smaller snow crab that include Canadian product at 95 millimeters (3.74 inches).

Revising the definitions of "ELME" and "ELMW" to anything above the legal size as the industry preferred size in the harvest strategy creates interannual flexibility that can be more responsive to the biology of the resource and to markets. Each year, ADFG could define ELME and ELMW during TAC setting by using information from landed sizes from the previous open season's fishery harvest. This revision is expected to result in benefits to the Alaskan bairdi crab resource

consistent with Magnuson-Stevens Act National Standards and the *Board's Policy on King and Tanner Crab Resource Management*. Specifically, these benefits include but are not limited to: 1) increased abundance of exploited legal males available to the fishery resulting in higher TACs in some years, and potentially reduced inter-annual variation in TAC levels; 2) improved vessel harvest efficiency; 3) reduced discard mortality of legal bairdi crab (adding to conservation of the stock); and 4) harvest pressure distributed among multiple cohorts of legal bairdi crab. Reducing the size of exploited males and, therefore, re-directing some current exploitation pressure away from larger bairdi crab is consistent with the Board's policy that seeks to maintain crab stocks comprised of various age classes and sizes of mature animals to maintain long-term stock reproductive potential and reduce inter-annual dependency on annual recruitment pulses.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers (EF-F24-156)

PROPOSAL 288

5 AAC 35.517. Bering Sea *C. opilio* Tanner crab harvest strategy

Amend definition of preferred sized males in the commercial Bering Sea District snow crab harvest strategy, as follows:

5 AAC 35.517. Bering Sea *C. opilio* Tanner crab harvest strategy. Revise the harvest strategy definition of "exploited legal males" to allow for periodic changes in the size of exploited legal males, as follows (additions noted with bold and underlining, deletions in caps and brackets):

...

(d) For the purposes of this section,

(5) "exploited legal males" means 100 percent of the new-shell male *C. opilio* Tanner crab that are at least **95 millimeters (3.74 inches)** [102 MILLIMETERS (FOUR INCHES)] in width of shell, plus a percentage of old-shell male *C. opilio* Tanner crab that are at least **95 millimeters** [102 MILLIMETERS] in width of shell estimated at the time of the survey; the percentage of old-shell male *C. opilio* Tanner crab will be based on the expected fishery selectivity for old-shell verses new-shell male *C. opilio* Tanner crab; **the size of exploited legal males will be based on landing sizes from the previous open season's fishery harvest;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The basic framework of the Bering Sea snow crab harvest strategy applies an exploitation rate to the estimated mature male biomass or a percentage of exploited legal males to establish annual harvest limits. Currently, the legal minimum size for Bering Sea snow crab (*C. opilio* Tanner crab) is 3.1 inches. However, historically an industry preferred size of 4 inches or larger is used to prosecute the fishery, thus, 4 inch or larger male snow crab are defined as "exploited legal males" in the harvest strategy. Retaining crab at the industry preferred size provides for better product recovery and market yield relative to smaller sized legal crab. Several factors highlight the possible need to consider a smaller industry preferred size.

During the TAC setting process, harvest limits are scaled to the abundance of exploitable legal males to avoid overharvest of the largest crab in the population. Recent information is showing that some *Chionoecetes* crab may reach maturity and terminal molt below 4 inches, meaning they

would never enter the fishery under the current definition of exploited legal males. Further, smaller snow crab at 95 millimeters (3.74 inches) is already in US markets largely from imports from Canada.

Revising the definition of “exploited legal males” in the harvest strategy to 95 millimeters remains above the minimum legal male size of 3.1 inches. Each year, ADFG could change the exploited legal male size for the harvest strategy calculation during TAC setting by using information from landed sizes from the previous open season’s fishery harvest. This lower industry preferred size is expected to result in benefits to the Alaskan snow crab resource consistent with Magnuson-Stevens Act National Standards and the *Board’s Policy on King and Tanner Crab Resource Management*. Specifically, these benefits include but are not limited to: 1) increased abundance of exploited legal males available to the fishery resulting in higher TACs in some years, and potentially reduced inter-annual variation in TAC levels; 2) improved vessel harvest efficiency; 3) reduced discard mortality of legal snow crab <4 inches (adding to conservation of the stock); and 4) harvest pressure distributed among multiple cohorts of legal snow crab. Reducing the size of exploited males and, therefore, re-directing some current exploitation pressure away from ≥ 4 inch snow crab is consistent with the Board’s policy that seeks to maintain crab stocks comprised of various age classes and sizes of mature animals to maintain long-term stock reproductive potential and reduce inter-annual dependency on annual recruitment pulses.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers (EF-F24-157)

PROPOSAL 289

5 AAC 35.525. Lawful Gear for Registration Area J.

Amend pot limit for the Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab fishery, as follows:

(1) in the Kodiak District, **an aggregate of no more than 20 pots may be operated from a validly registered Tanner crab vessel** [WHEN THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL FOR C. BAIRDI TANNER CRAB IS

(A) LESS THAN 5,000,000 POUNDS, AN AGGREGATE OF NO MORE THAN 20 POTS MAY BE OPERATED FROM A VALIDLY REGISTERED TANNER CRAB VESSEL;

(B) AT LEAST 5,000,000 POUNDS, AN AGGREGATE OF NO MORE THAN 30 POTS MAY BE OPERATED FROM A VALIDLY REGISTERED TANNER CRAB VESSEL;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Kodiak Tanner Crab fishery currently has a tiered pot limit based on a GHF set by ADF&G. This fishery will always be able to reach its GHF with a 20 pot limit. With over 170 permits available for the Kodiak Tanner Crab Fishery, the GHF will still always be achieved quickly.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Reducing the pot limit has been discussed amongst members of the fleet since the last Board of Fish cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Raymond May

(HQ-F24-039)

PROPOSAL 290

5 AAC 35.510. Fishing seasons for Registration Area J .

Change season opening date for the Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab fishery from January 15 to February 20, as follows:

The only change in regulation we need is the opening date to the season. Everything else can stay exactly as is.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We the Homer small boat fleet would like to propose a change in the Kodiak Bairdi crab fishery opening from January 15 to February 20. We propose this because of extreme cold temperatures and ice that engulfs the harbor and surrounding waters. There has been seasons our small fleet were unable to participate in the season due to the circumstances. There has also been seasons we had to spend lots of money to deal with the ice just to make it out of the harbor, setting us back on profits or even putting us in the red after fishing a full season.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: David Ivanov

(HQ-F24-103)

PROPOSAL 291

5 AAC 35.535. Closed waters in Registration Area J.

Formalize the closure of Bristol Bay waters east of 163°W. long. to directed Tanner crab fishing, as follows:

5 AAC 35.535 is amended by adding a new subsection (b) as follows:

(a) The waters of Alaska surrounding St. Matthew Island, Hall Island, and Pinnacle Island are closed to the taking of Tanner crab.

(b) The waters of the Bering Sea District east of 163° W long., are closed to the taking of Tanner crab, except as incidental harvest in the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery as specified in 5 AAC 35.506(i)(2).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The eastern boundary of the Bering Sea Tanner crab fishery (EBT) east of 166° W. long. is not currently defined in regulation. Current and historical Tanner crab management in the Bering Sea precludes a directed fishery for Tanner crab east of 163° W. long. due to high bycatch of female red king crab; incidental retention of Tanner crab east of 163° W. long. is allowed during the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery. The proposed regulatory changes would formalize the boundaries of the directed EBT fishery as the Bering Sea waters between 163° W. long. and 166° W. long. to reflect current management practices. Closed waters are a Category 2 management measure under the federal Fishery

Management Plan for Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs. Changes to Category 2 management measures occur at the discretion of the board but should be consistent with the criteria set out in the FMP and the Magnuson – Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act National Standards.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-160)

PROPOSAL 292

5 AAC 35.556. Landing requirements for Registration Area J.

Amend Tanner crab landing requirements for Registration Area J, as follows:

5 AAC 35.556 is amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided in (b) of this section, the landing provisions of 5 AAC 35.031 apply to all districts within Registration Area J.

(b) The landing provisions of 5 AAC 35.031(c) do not apply to [THE BERING SEA, WESTERN ALEUTIAN, AND EASTERN ALEUTIAN DISTRICTS OF] Area J.

[(c) NOTWITHSTANDING 5 AAC 35.031(c), FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE OF REGISTRATION AREA J, OR A PORTION OF REGISTRATION AREA J, TO THE TAKING OF A SPECIFIED SPECIES OF TANNER CRAB, A VESSEL VALIDLY REGISTERED FOR THAT AREA MAY NOT HAVE THAT SPECIES OF TANNER CRAB ON BOARD THE VESSEL IN WATERS SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE STATE, IF DELIVERY IS MADE

(1) IN THE DISTRICT OR SUBDISTRICT THAT THE TANNER CRAB WERE TAKEN, OR TO A FLOATING PROCESSOR AT ST. MATTHEW OR THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS IF THE TANNER CRAB WERE TAKEN IN THE WESTERN SUBDISTRICT OF THE BERING SEA, AFTER 24 HOURS FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE;

(2) TO DUTCH HARBOR, AKUTAN, OR KING COVE FROM THE

(A) EASTERN ALEUTIAN DISTRICT, AFTER 24 HOURS FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE;

(B) WESTERN ALEUTIAN DISTRICT, AFTER 72 HOURS FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE, EXCEPT THAT THE OWNER, OR THE OWNER'S AGENT, OF A VESSEL DELIVERING TO KING COVE MAY REQUEST ADDITIONAL TIME TO DELIVER TANNER CRAB USING THE PROCEDURE SPECIFIED IN (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION;

(C) EASTERN SUBDISTRICT OF THE BERING SEA DISTRICT, AFTER 24 HOURS FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE, EXCEPT THAT A OWNER, OR THE OWNER'S AGENT, OF A VESSEL DELIVERING TO KING COVE MAY REQUEST ADDITIONAL TIME TO DELIVER TANNER CRAB USING THE PROCEDURE SPECIFIED IN (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION;

(D) WESTERN SUBDISTRICT OF THE BERING SEA DISTRICT, AFTER 72 HOURS FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE;

(3) TO ADAK OR A LOCATION EAST OF KING COVE, OR IF THE VESSEL OWNER, OR THE OWNER'S AGENT, WISHES TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL TIME TO DELIVER TANNER CRAB UNDER (C)(2)(B) OR (C)(2)(C) OF THIS SECTION,

(A) THE VESSEL OWNER, OR THE OWNER'S AGENT, SHALL CONTACT, BY RADIO OR TELEPHONE, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT IN DUTCH HARBOR WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER THE CLOSURE;

(B) THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT IN DUTCH HARBOR SHALL GRANT A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL TIME FOR THE VESSEL TO REACH THE PORT OF DELIVERY; THE AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL TIME SHALL BE DETERMINED UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE VESSEL DEPARTED THE FISHING GROUNDS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CLOSURE AND PROCEEDED DIRECTLY TO THE PROCESSING LOCATION, EXCEPT THAT A VESSEL MAY STOP EN ROUTE AND OFFLOAD POTS AT A STORAGE FACILITY IF THE VESSEL OPERATOR FIRST CONTACTS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT IN DUTCH HARBOR AND PROVIDES INFORMATION ON THE LOCATION OF THE STORAGE FACILITY, THE EXPECTED TIME OF GEAR PLACEMENT AT THAT FACILITY, AND THE EXPECTED TIME THE VESSEL WILL DEPART THE STORAGE FACILITY EN ROUTE TO THE PORT OF DELIVERY.]

(c) In the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula Districts, or a section of those districts, when the Tanner crab fishery is closed, [AND GEAR HAS BEEN STORED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 35.527(6),] a vessel with Tanner crab on board may not be used for any purpose, except to travel to the port of delivery to offload the Tanner crab. The vessel operator may not pull any gear, baited or stored, or place any gear in storage. [ONCE THE TANNER CRAB ON BOARD THE VESSEL HAS BEEN OFF-LOADED TO THE PORT OF DELIVERY, THE VESSEL OPERATOR SHALL IMMEDIATELY REMOVE ANY POT GEAR REMAINING ON THE FISHING GROUNDS AND RETURN ANY CRAB CAUGHT TO THE WATER WITHOUT FURTHER HARM. ALL POT GEAR MUST BE PLACED IN STORAGE OR ON BOARD THE VESSEL WITHIN THREE DAYS FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE OF A SECTION OR DISTRICT.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Modern advancements in at-sea communication, vessel location monitoring, and inseason harvest tracking have made many Registration Area J Tanner crab landing requirements obsolete. The department proposes to streamline these regulations by clarifying the portions that are still useful for fishery management and removing portions that are no longer needed. The simplified regulations would be easier to communicate and enforce without adversely affecting fishery management or catch accounting.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-161)

PROPOSAL 293

5 AAC 32.410. Fishing seasons for Registration Area J.

Amend season dates for the Kodiak District commercial Dungeness crab fishery , as follows:

Bracketed language is removed and bolded language is additive

PROPOSAL XXX

5 AAC 32.410. Fishing seasons for Registration Area J. Amend Dungeness crab season dates for Registration Area J, as follows:

In the [KODIAK,] Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, and Aleutian Districts, male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed only from 12:00 noon May 1 until 11:59 p.m. October 31; [EXCEPT THAT IN THE WATERS OF THE KODIAK DISTRICT SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF BOOT POINT AT 56° 49.98' N. LAT., AND EAST OF LONGITUDE OF BOOT POINT AT 153° 46.10' W. LONG. AND WATERS SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF CAPE IKOLIK AT 57° 17.40' N. LAT., AND WEST OF THE LONGITUDE OF BOOT POINT AT 153° 46.10' W. LONG., MALE DUNGENESS CRAB MAY BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED ONLY FROM 12:00 NOON JUNE 15 UNTIL 11:59 P.M. OCTOBER 31.]

(b) In the North Peninsula District, male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed from 12:00 noon May 1 until 12:00 noon October 18; [.]

(c) In the Kodiak District, male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed from 12:00 noon June 1 until 12:00 noon November 30.

Original Language:

(a) In the Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, and Aleutian Districts, male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed only from 12:00 noon May 1 until 11:59 p.m. October 31, except that in the waters of the Kodiak District south of the latitude of Boot Point at 56° 49.98' N. lat., and east of longitude of Boot Point at 153° 46.10' W. long. and waters south of the latitude of Cape Ikolik at 57° 17.40' N. lat., and west of the longitude of Boot Point at 153° 46.10' W. long., male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed only from 12:00 noon June 15 until 11:59 p.m. October 31.

(b) In the North Peninsula District, male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed from 12:00 noon May 1 until 12:00 noon October 18.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to address the dungeness season start and end dates in the Kodiak district. A later start date will avoid the abundance of soft shell crab early in the season. Aligning the Kodiak area opening dates will spread the fleet out more evenly and reduce gear conflict,

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I let fish and game know we were going to submit the proposal and received advice on where to insert the new language. I brought this forward after a group of active dungeness fishermen requested it.

PROPOSED BY: Garrett Kavanaugh

(EF-F24-006)

PROPOSAL 294

5 AAC 32.4XX. New section.

Establish 58-foot vessel length limit for Alaska Peninsula District commercial Dungeness crab fishery, as follows:

I would like a 58 feet length overall vessel length limit for the Alaska Peninsula Dungeness crab fisheries participants, similar to the South Peninsula Tanner crab fishery vessel length limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Size limit on vessels participating in the Dungeness crab fishery for the Alaska Peninsula District of Area J. Vessel size limit should be uniform for all the state-waters crab fisheries in the area.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed with other fishermen from the region.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Mack (EF-F24-095)

PROPOSAL 295

5 AAC 32.410. Fishing seasons for Registration Area J.

Amend Dungeness crab season dates for the North Peninsula District of Registration Area J, as follows:

5 AAC 32.410 is amended to read as follows:

(a) In the Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, **North Peninsula**, and Aleutian Districts, male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed only from 12:00 noon May 1 until 11:59 p.m. October 31, except that in the waters of the Kodiak District south of the latitude of Boot Point at 56° 49.98' N. lat., and east of longitude of Boot Point at 153° 46.10' W. long. and waters south of the latitude of Cape Ikolik at 57° 17.40' N. lat., and west of the longitude of Boot Point at 153° 46.10' W. long., male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed only from 12:00 noon June 15 until 11:59 p.m. October 31.

(b) **repealed** / / [IN THE NORTH PENINSULA DISTRICT, MALE DUNGENESS CRAB MAY BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED FROM 12:00 NOON MAY 1 UNTIL 12:00 NOON OCTOBER 18.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The North Peninsula District Dungeness crab season currently closes at 12 noon on October 18, whereas all other Dungeness crab districts in Area J (Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, and Aleutian Islands) close at 11:59 p.m. on October 31. The current closure date of October 18 in the North Peninsula District is based on a regulation specifying that Area J Dungeness crab seasons close 14 days prior to the November 1 opening of the Bering Sea Tanner crab season. The Bering Sea Tanner crab season last opened on November 1 in 1996 and has since transitioned to a rationalized fishery (2005) with a fixed season opening date of October 15. The intent of closing Area J Dungeness crab seasons 14 days prior to the opening of the Tanner crab season was to clear the fishing grounds for orderly Tanner crab openings. Current overlap between Bering Sea Tanner and North Peninsula Dungeness crab fisheries is minimal and not expected to change if this proposal is adopted. All other Area J Dungeness crab districts have had a season closure date of October 31 since 2015. Changing the North Peninsula Dungeness crab season closure from October 18 at 12:00 noon to October 31 at

11:59 p.m. would align it with other all other Area J Dungeness crab fisheries, provide consistency in management, and allow additional harvesting opportunity for fishery participants.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-157)

PROPOSAL 296

5 AAC 32.440 Registration Area J inspection points.

Amend Registration Area J Dungeness crab vessel inspection requirements, as follows:

Repeal and readopt 5 AAC 32.440 as follows:

(a) Unless required under (b) of this section, a vessel fishing for Dungeness crab in Registration Area J is not required to undergo a vessel inspection, as specified in 5 AAC 32.030.

(b) The commissioner, by announcement, may require that vessels fishing for Dungeness crab in Registration Area J be inspected as specified in 5 AAC 32.030.

(c) If the commissioner requires a vessel inspection under (b) of this section, the inspection points for Registration Area J are at Kodiak, Sand Point, and Dutch Harbor, and at other locations that may be specified by the commissioner.

[THE INITIAL INSPECTION POINTS AND REINSPECTION POINTS FOR REGISTRATION AREA J ARE AT KODIAK, SAND POINT, AND DUTCH HARBOR, AND AT OTHER LOCATIONS THAT MAY BE SPECIFIED BY THE COMMISSIONER.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Preseason vessel inspections, commonly referred to as “tank checks,” were historically used to verify that vessels did not have crab onboard prior to the opening of a commercial crab season. Advancements in at-sea communication, vessel location monitoring, and inseason harvest tracking have substantially reduced the likelihood of a vessel fishing prior to the season opening without being detected. Thus, the department has been waiving vessel inspections annually for Area J commercial Dungeness crab fisheries for the last 15 years. This proposal aims to align regulation with current management practice by clarifying that inspections are not required for Area J Dungeness crab vessels; however, if the department deems it necessary, vessel inspections may still be required by emergency order.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-158)

PROPOSAL 297

5 AAC 32.053. Operation of other pot gear.

Amend Dungeness crab pot gear operation requirements for Registration Area J, as follows:

5 AAC 32.053 is amended by expanding subsection (e) and adding subsection (f) to read as follows:

(e) The provisions of (b) of this section do not apply to a person or vessel participating in the commercial Pacific cod fisheries described in 5 AAC 28.467 (Kodiak Area), 5 AAC 28.537 (Chignik Area), [OR] 5 AAC 28.577 (South Alaska Peninsula Area), **5 AAC 28.647 (Aleutian Islands Subdistrict), or 5 AAC 28.648 (Dutch Harbor Subdistrict).**

(f) The provisions of (b–d) of this section do not apply to a person or vessel participating in commercial sablefish fisheries in Registration Area J, as described in 5 AAC 32.400.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial Dungeness crab regulations prohibit vessel operators from 1) operating any pot gear in the 14 days prior to a Dungeness crab season opening and 2) from operating any pot gear, other than Dungeness crab pots, during the Dungeness crab season.

An exemption exists in regulation to allow vessel operators in the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula Areas to operate pot gear for Pacific cod in the 14 days prior to the Dungeness crab season opening, in recognition that the Pacific cod pot gear and Dungeness crab fisheries both occur at the same time of year (spring) and that some vessels have historically participated in both fisheries. This proposal would extend this exemption to all state-waters Pacific cod pot gear fisheries in Dungeness crab Registration Area J. The current exemption for Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula Areas has not led to management or enforcement issues; therefore, the department believes that extending this exemption to all districts of Registration Area J would provide additional flexibility to vessel operators and consistency in regulation without adversely affecting fishery management or catch accounting.

Regulations prohibiting the operation of pot gear, other than Dungeness crab pots, by a vessel participating in a Dungeness crab fishery are intended to aid fishery management and catch accounting by allowing a vessel to participate in only one pot gear fishery at a time. These regulations were adopted prior to the advent of pot gear being used in directed sablefish fisheries. Some vessel operators who have historically participated in both Dungeness crab and directed sablefish fisheries concurrently are now unable to use sablefish pot gear due to these regulations. Little spatial overlap exists between Dungeness crab and sablefish habitat and the department believes allowing vessel operators to operate both types of pot gear concurrently in Registration Area J would provide additional flexibility to individual fishing operations without adversely affecting fishery management, bycatch, or catch accounting.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-159)

Scallops (1 proposal)

PROPOSAL 298

5 AAC 38.078 State-Waters Weathervane Scallop Management Plan

Amend the State-Waters Weathervane Management Plan to ban scallop dredges, allow pots and other gear types to be used, impose trip limits, require observers, and eliminate the VMS requirement.

- 1.) Ban scallop dredges in state waters.
- 2.) Allow pots or other non bottom scraping gear to fish scallops only.

- 3.) impose weekly trip limits of 800 pounds.
- 4.) eliminate observer coverage if gear is shown to fish with no bycatch.
- 5.) no VMS (Vessel monitoring system) required.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 1.) In the state waters weathervane scallop fishery, eliminate the preseason registration deadline. Allow registration anytime during the scallop fishing season.

- 2.) Eliminate big trips of scallops coming from state waters.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I approached Kodiak F&G scallop management leader. He said he wasn't interested in any new scallop gear type.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas J Gilmartin Jr (EF-F24-087)

Shrimp (13 proposals)

Management Plan (6 proposals)

PROPOSAL 299

5 AAC 31.XXX. New Section. and 5 AAC 55.055 - Prince William Sound Noncommercial Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.

Develop a Prince William Sound pot shrimp management plan, as follows:

Board action to compel the Department to develop a comprehensive PWS pot shrimp management plan in accordance with 5 AAC 39.200. For example, reference the SE Alaska pot shrimp management plan and the Regional Information report(1J06-08), both Department generated documents.

As a secondary measure, Consider reinstatement of 5 AAC 31.260 Prince William Sound commercial pot shrimp management plan to define management goals.

Implement a shrimp task force similar to the SE Alaska pot shrimp task force approved by the Board of Fish in 2003 (accepted in 2006 _RIR 1J06-08), which remains un-amended. The purpose of this panel would be to develop and maintain a comprehensive management plan. Having a comprehensive plan would lead to proactive management, in contrast to the current historical reporting method used for regulatory changes, which is reactive (managed by EO).

With a comprehensive Management plan, guidance to fishery managers will exist and can be in place before there is negative resource impact. This will limit the Emergency Order process, resulting in proactive, not a reactive, sustained yield management of PWS pot shrimp.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, there is no comprehensive Prince William Sound pot shrimp management plan. The intent of this proposal is to compel the Board of Fisheries and the department of fish and game to develop a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) as supported by regulation.

To date, The PWS pot shrimp fishery is managed and guided by the regulations cited above. These regulations are useful, but not refined enough, which results in management reliance on emergency orders to operate.

These regulations are vague in the context of a FMP and do not define the specific parameters needed to effectively support the Maximum Sustained Yield (MSY) of the resource.

The existing regulations fail to address concerns such as stock assessment, reporting measures, in-season management, conservation goals, and resource access that may not be appropriately weighted, specifically given the intent or involvement of particular user groups. The goal of a comprehensive plan would be to define a framework that outlasts management changes.

A consistent definition (plan) for conservation and MSY management of this precious resource is more than appropriate.

It is necessary to develop a standing body of regulation that considers all aspects of the PWS pot shrimp fishery, for all user groups, and provide guidance for ADF&G management into the future while prosecuting the fishery in perpetuity.

We Are Addressing the Board of Fish to direct the ADF&G to support achievement of the goal defined regulation as follows.

5 AAC 39.200 - Application of fishery management plans

(a) The Board of Fisheries has implemented by regulation fishery management plans that provide the Department of Fish and Game with guidelines to be followed when making management decisions regarding the state's subsistence, commercial, sport and personal use fisheries. The primary goal of these management plans is to protect the sustained yield of the state's fishery resources while at the same time providing an equitable distribution of the available harvest between various users. The regulations contained in this section are intended to aid in the achievement of that goal and therefore will apply to all fishery management plans contained in 5 AAC 03 - 5 AAC 39.

If a Fishery Management Plan is not considered, developed, and implemented for the harvest of PWS spot shrimp, the fishery will continue to be managed in a reactionary fashion, instead of being proactive for conservation and MSY goals. Continuing to operate the fishery in this way will prevent the progressive management of this stock.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed at length and with considerable input by fishery participants, The Valdez ADF&G Advisory Committee, The Whittier ADF&G Advisory Committee, the staff of the Department of Fish and Game, and ShrimpPros Association.

PROPOSED BY: PWS/Valdez and Whittier Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-047)

PROPOSAL 300

5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan.

Modify the Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan, as follows:

Split the TAH for noncommercial into the same areas used as harvest areas for the commercial spot fishery and manage the noncommercial fishery to achieve these individual harvest limits. This will force the noncommercial users to spread their harvest throughout the sound which is what needs to happen if the TAH is to be based on the Sound-wide population.

Modify as follows:

5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan:

(a) The department shall manage the sport and other noncommercial shrimp fisheries in the Prince William Sound Area as follows:

(1) the guideline harvest level for shrimp taken by pot gear in noncommercial fisheries is calculated as 60 percent of the total allowable harvest for the area. **This GHL will be divided between the districts described in 5 AAC 31.210(a) annually based on the pot survey CPUE for each district.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like the department to create three areas for sport fish. The spot shrimp population is in trouble with decreasing survey results and a large drop off in CPUE in both the commercial and noncommercial fishery. We believe this is in part due to the GHL/TAH being based on the population of shrimp in the entire area, but the majority of the harvest occurring in only small sections of the area. Because the noncommercial sector harvests the majority of the shrimp, it is imperative that regulation is in place to prevent this harvest from occurring in too small of an area. We believe this has been happening for years as we've seen evidence of localized depletion of shrimp near ports in areas most accessible to noncommercial users.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-142)

PROPOSAL 301

5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan.

Modify the Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan, as follows;

Modify 5 AAC 55.055 section (a) by adding:

(4) The estimated total allowable harvest for the waters described in 5 AAC 31.210(a) must be more than 110,000 pounds of spot shrimp by round weight before a sport or personal use shrimp pot fishery may be opened.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current spot prawn management plan closes the commercial fishery when the total allowable harvest for both commercial and noncommercial falls below 110,000lbs. It does not have a similar closure requirement for noncommercial, even though they harvest a larger share of the TAH. Allowing sport and personal use harvest when the population is depressed below that which could support a commercial fishery should not be allowed because these user groups have the same priority under

law. We propose an identical closure of sport and PU as is regulated for commercial use if the shrimp stocks fall below the 110,000 lb threshold.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-139)

PROPOSAL 302

5 AAC 31.214. Shrimp pot guideline harvest level for Registration Area E.

Modify the Prince William Sound shrimp pot fishery guideline harvest level, as follows

5 AAC 31.214. Shrimp pot guideline harvest level for Registration Area E

~~[The estimated total allowable harvest for the waters described in 5 AAC 31.210(a) must be more than 110,000 pounds of spot shrimp by round weight before a commercial shrimp pot fishery may be opened.]~~ **The total allowable harvest for the waters described in 5 AAC 31.210(a) is set at 150,000 pounds of spot shrimp by round weight.** The guideline harvest level for the commercial pot gear fishery in the waters described in 5 AAC 31.210(a) is 40 percent of the total allowable harvest for the area. The department will, to the extent practicable, manage the fishery to allow no more than 50 percent of the guideline harvest level to be taken from any one statistical area. The commissioner will open and close fishing seasons by emergency order, during which pot limits, time, or area may be adjusted to achieve the 50 percent statistical area harvest target.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the PWS total allowable harvest (TAH) is determined each year by a surplus production model. This is difficult to encapsulate in a proposal and I am sure it will be explained and discussed in detail during the Board meeting. The impetus of this proposal is that the model for the TAH is using only as variable inputs 1) Catch per unit effort (CPUE) from the department annual survey, 2) Total Harvest in the Recreational Fishery, and 3) Total harvest in the Commercial Fishery. While at first glance this seems reasonable, a closer investigation reveals that the two most impactful inputs to the model (Recreational and Commercial Harvest) are in fact determined by the model. Theoretically, the model estimates a surplus production, sets a TAH, the fishery is then actively managed to achieve that TAH, which then puts back into the model exactly what it puts out. This is reflected in the TAHs that we have had over the years being remarkably consistent. They seem to be mostly unaffected by changes in survey cpue and in fact almost all the fluctuations in TAH year to year correspond with harvest levels in the previous year sport fishery. This is because the non-commercial fishery is not able to be managed as precisely and consequently fluctuates a good bit. These fluctuations seem to be the primary influence in the TAH. This is problematic as the non-commercial harvest is not really an indice of abundance. It is an indice of angler days on the water which is heavily influenced by weather, fishing opportunities elsewhere in the state, and socio-economic factors. CPUE is consistent year to year for the most part and harvest is subsequently largely a function of effort.

I am not complaining about the model. I have intense investment in this fishery and want it to be managed to the best degree possible in order to preserve the fishery and the resource for years to come. It has been the best available science, and I have always supported it. Recently, fluctuations in the cpue of the department annual survey that have not been observed in the cpue or harvest of

the sport and commercial fisheries, along with other existing factors like the one I mentioned in the previous paragraph, have led to discussions with multiple staff members where they have expressed dissatisfaction in the current method of assigning the TAH. It is my hope that by the time of the meeting we will have some sort of an idea as to a better way of assessing shrimp populations in PWS and can move forward with the best available science.

I am putting this proposal in largely as a "placeholder" in the hope that a new and better method for setting the TAH will be brought forward by the department by the time of the meeting. However, if the department no longer has confidence in the current model and a new method has not been decided upon; the best course of action seems to be to set a fixed GHL the same way we do in most other small state waters fishery without accurate enumeration. This is very common and almost all small state waters fin fish fisheries have GHLS set in this fashion. Usually this has been done by assessing historical harvests. Fortunately in the PWS shrimp fishery historical harvests have been overall fairly consistent. We can see that setting a TAH of 150,000 pounds, which would then be allocated 60% to the sport fishery and 40% to the commercial fishery as it currently is, would be in line with historical harvests that have been sustainable for the 14 years since the fishery reopened.

In general, this fishery is currently in a state of flux and there is a lot of uncertainty surrounding many aspects of it. I have participated extensively in this fishery since its reopening in 2010 and have been heavily involved with the board of fish process regarding the current management plan. This proposal is part of a suite of proposals in which I attempt to anticipate potential issues that exist currently, may arise during the 2024 season or ongoing CFEC process regarding potential limited entry for this fishery, continued uncertainty from the department regarding the current survey and biometric surplus population model, and narratives coming into the 2025 regulatory meeting. I feel that there is significant likelihood of the need to review and adapt much of the current regulatory plan and am submitting proposals concerning several aspects of the plan in order to foster discussion, and serve as a starting point if the need for serious revision of the plan is thought necessary.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have discussed the management of this shrimp fishery with multiple ACs, other participants in both the recreational and commercial fisheries, and ADFG staff many times and will continue to do so leading up to the 2025 meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Person

(EF-F24-073)

PROPOSAL 303

5 AAC 31.214. Shrimp pot guideline harvest level for Registration Area E.

Modify the Prince William Sound shrimp pot fishery guideline harvest level, as follows:

5 AAC 31.214. Shrimp pot guideline harvest level for Registration Area E

~~The estimated total allowable harvest for the waters described in 5 AAC 31.210(a) must be more than 110,000 pounds of spot shrimp by round weight before a commercial shrimp pot fishery may be opened.~~ The guideline harvest level for the commercial pot gear fishery in the waters described in 5 AAC 31.210(a) is 40 percent of the total allowable harvest for the area. The department will, to the extent practicable, manage the fishery to allow no more than 50 percent of the guideline harvest level to be taken from any one statistical area. The commissioner will open and close

fishing seasons by emergency order, during which pot limits, time, or area may be adjusted to achieve the 50 percent statistical area harvest target.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the total allowable harvest (TAH) must exceed 110,000 lbs in order for the commercial fishery to open, but the recreational fishery is prosecuted at all levels of the TAH. The Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy offers a good template for all fisheries with multiple user groups when it states " the burden of conservation shall be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to each fisheries' respective use". This is easily achieved withing the directed shrimp fisheries by merely maintaining the same allocation levels at all TAH levels. If there are available surplus shrimp for harvest, then the commercial fishery should be able to harvest their share of them. Management in the commercial fishery is extremely precise and has a very good track record of managing to their guideline harvest level (GHL). There is no reason why in times of low abundance a smaller more restricted fishery could not take place to harvest the commercial share of the TAH.

The commercial shrimp fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) is a very unique entry level small boat fishery, and a majority of harvesters direct market their shrimp or otherwise move them through non traditional value added markets. Very few are sold to large scale processors. It would be extremely damaging to these market streams to have a closed season with zero product available. Being able to offer limited supply to markets during a reduced GHL season in times of lower abundance would be very valuable.

In general this fishery is currently in a state of flux and there is a lot of uncertainty surrounding many aspects of it. I have participated extensively in this fishery since its reopening in 2010 and have been heavily involved with the board of fish process regarding the current management plan. This proposal is part of a suite of proposals in which I attempt to anticipate potential issues that exist currently, may arise during the 2024 season or ongoing CFEC process regarding potential limited entry for this fishery, continued uncertainty from the department regarding the current survey and biometric surplus population model, and narratives coming into the 2025 regulatory meeting. I feel that there is significant likelihood of the need to review and adapt much of the current regulatory plan. Consequently, am submitting proposals concerning several aspects of the plan in order to foster discussion, and serve as a starting point if the need for serious revision of the management plan is thought necessary.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have discussed the contents of this proposal with multiple ACs, other participants in both the recreational and commercial fisheries, and ADFG staff many times and will continue to do so leading up to the 2025 meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Person

(EF-F24-074)

PROPOSAL 304

5 AAC 55.055 Prince William Sound Noncommercial Shrimp Fishery Management Plan, 5 AAC 55.022 General Provisions for Seasons, Bag, Possession, and Size Limits, and Methods and Means for the Prince William Sound Area, 5 AAC 31.210 Shrimp Pot Fishing Seasons for Registration Area E.

Delay the season opening by two weeks in the noncommercial and commercial shrimp fisheries, as follows:

A delayed opening of two weeks would bring the percentage of egg-bearing shrimp to the target 5% ratio. This would allow more shrimp eggs to be released, enhance recruitment and increase brood stock, thereby improving the shrimp fishery. This opening date would apply to all user groups to avoid the harvest of egg bearing shrimp. To achieve this, open all pot shrimp fisheries in Prince William Sound on May 1st by regulation.

- 5 AAC 55.055(a)(3)(A) only from May 1st [APRIL 15] through September 15;
- 5 AAC 55.022(b)(5)(A) may be taken from May 1st [APRIL 15] - September 15;
- 5 AAC 31.210(a) ..., shrimp may be taken from May 1st [APRIL 15] through September 15,

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current regulatory shrimp season opening date of April 15 allows a significant number of egg-bearing females to be harvested early in the season. This practice may be a significant contributor to the current declines of PWS spot shrimp numbers.

Field observations show a high percentage of egg-bearing shrimp are caught early in the season and late in the season. The data shows a significant harvest of egg-bearing shrimp in the beginning of the season that exceeds the desired levels. A two-week delay will bring this number down to a target level of less than 5% ratio, as a suggested guideline. Supporting this proposal will create an increased shrimp spawn release before the shrimp fishing season opens by regulation. This provides increased biomass of shrimp over time by not harvesting the spawning females.

Without implementing this change, there will be continued harvest of egg-bearing female shrimp, thereby reducing the amount of shrimp that would ever be able to be harvested.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. ShrimpPros Association members have worked independently and with Department of Fish and Game staff to verify the sampling methods, collect samples and compile data about the number of egg-bearing shrimp that are being harvested. As long term participants in this fishery, ShrimpPros has taken a leadership role and supports regulatory protection for this resource by working with ADF&G staff, and other stakeholders, encouraging changes that demonstrate good resource stewardship and conservation.

PROPOSED BY: ShrimpPros Association (HQ-F24-050)

Noncommercial (3 proposals)

PROPOSAL 305

5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan.

Prohibit noncommercial shrimp participants from carrying additional shrimp gear, as follows:

Modify 5 AAC 55.055 section (a) (3) as follows:

- (3) shrimp may be taken with pots as follows:
 - (A) only from April 15 through September 15;
 - (B) no bag, possession, or size limit;
 - (C) no more than five pots per vessel may be used to take shrimp.

(D) no more than the regulatory number of pots allowed to be used per person and per vessel may be aboard a vessel while participating in the noncommercial shrimp fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The noncommercial shrimp pot fishery is managed in part by a pot limit per vessel set at the beginning of each season based on the GHL. However, shrimpers are allowed to carry "spare pots" in excess of the pot limit aboard their vessel. This allowance for spare pots makes enforcement of the pot limit extremely difficult: a trooper cannot simply board a vessel and count how many pots are aboard when they depart or return to port. Shrimp fishermen in PWS have started exploiting this "spare pot" loophole in order to drastically increase the number of pots fished per vessel. Now vessels are regularly heading out with multiple permit holders aboard and multiple limits of shrimp pots which they call "spares". Once the vessel sets one permit holder's limit worth of shrimp pots, they simply add marked buoys to their "spare pots" for the next permit holder on board and go set those. In this way they are capable of fishing far more gear per boat than was ever intended by the regulations.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-138)

PROPOSAL 306

5 AAC 31.245. Reporting requirements for Registration Area E.

Modify the Prince William Sound shrimp pot reporting requirements, as follows:

Add additional section (f) to 5 AAC 31.245

5 AAC 31.245. Reporting requirements for Registration Area E:

...

(f) An owner or operator of a vessel registered to fish in the commercial Shrimp pot fishery must report each day to the department as specified on registration:

(1) the number of pot lifts;

(2) the round weight of all shrimp taken by species and statistical area for the 24-hour fishing period preceding the report;

(3) any other information that the commissioner determines is necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The lack of inseason reporting requirements in the PWS spot shrimp fishery forces the department to have long closures in the middle of season to get harvest information. Long closures in the middle of a season are not commonplace in fisheries unless there is a biological concern, as they add to the expenses incurred by commercial fishermen in fuel, insurance, crew and opportunity cost. Daily reporting requirements are no longer a burden on fishermen. Cell phone coverage is available almost everywhere in the Sound. Satellite texting devices such as inreaches are affordable options. We used the inseason reporting regulatory language already in place for Tanner Crab in Prince William sound to draft the proposed regulation.

It is our hope that with this change in regulation the department can manage this fishery like it does almost every other pot fishery in the state, including the Southeast shrimp pot fishery, and

manage with a single open period. This will reduce the cost to participate in the fishery because participants will not have to retrieve their pots and return to port mid-season.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-145)

PROPOSAL 307

5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area, 5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound Noncommercial Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.

Align the season start time of the Prince William Sound noncommercial and commercial shrimp fisheries, as follows:

Open all pot shrimp fisheries in Prince William Sound at the same time by regulation.

5 AAC 55.022(b)(5)(A) may be taken from April 15 **at 8:00AM through** [-] September 15;

5 AAC 55.055(a)(3)(A) only from April 15 **at 8:00AM** through September 15;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? All shrimp fishing in Prince William Sound starts on the same regulatory day, but only the start time for the commercial fishery is specified in regulation;

5 AAC 31.223 - Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area E

(e)(3) shrimp pot gear may be deployed or retrieved only from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. each day;

This has led to a situation where enforcement of the regulatory commercial start time is difficult due to sport gear in the water ahead of the season opener for commercial shrimp gear. Safety concerns related to the derby start time for the commercial season and interaction with recreational vessels operating in the designated commercial area could be mitigated. This has also led to gear conflicts between non-commercial and commercial operators on opening day. These conflicts are avoidable by coordinating the PWS shrimp season start time for all stakeholders.

Failure to implement these changes will result in continued gear conflict, inability to enforce opening times, and general confusion with gear in the water. There will continue to be challenges to safety, enforcement, and regulatory compliance without a standard time for all participants in the season openings.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed at length and with considerable input by fishery participants, The Valdez Advisory Committee, The Whittier Advisory Committee, the staff of the Department of Fish and Game, and ShrimpPros Association.

Commercial (4 proposals)

PROPOSAL 308

5 AAC 31.223. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area E.

Reduce the total number of shrimp pots allowed in the Prince William Sound shrimp pot fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 31.223. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area E

...

(e) Shrimp pots may only be operated as follows:

(1) the department will announce annually, before the opening of the commercial shrimp pot fishery season, the number of shrimp pots that may be operated from a vessel in the commercial shrimp pot fishery for that season, not to exceed [100] **25** shrimp pots per vessel; in determining the annual pot limit, the department will consider the

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently vessel pot limits in the Prince William Sound commercial shrimp fishery management plan are set to a maximum of 100 pots per vessel. This is a small fishery in a relatively restricted fishing area with very high levels of participation. Department managers have never set a pot limit over 60 pots and we have not had a pot limit of over 40 pots since 2015. In three of the last 5 years we have had a pot limit of 25 pots and the fishery prosecuted quite successfully. Despite the lower pot limits, during the first opening when up to 60+ vessels participate, it feels like there are shrimp pots at every conceivable place you might think to set a shrimp pot. It is often very crowded and complaints about gear conflict are quite common. In areas 1 and 2 the commercial fishery overlaps heavily with the recreational fishery and there are even more pots in the water. Smaller pot limits requiring more targeted fishing are workable in this fishery, and small pot limits allow the department to more precisely target the GHJ as potential volatility in harvest levels is greatly reduced. It goes without saying that higher pot limits also would lead to more lost gear and bottom impacts from pots which is unnecessary in a fishery with a remarkably low social and environmental impact. In general, I think that this fishery has found a healthy, unique, niche as a low barrier to entry introductory fishery. Slower paced fishing more amenable to direct marketing practices has greatly increased the per pound value by over double relative to other spot prawn fisheries elsewhere in the state. Management practices over the last few years have worked very well, the fishery has thrived, and multiple participants have developed business models working within its unique constraints and still maintaining profitability. I think that moving the regulatory maximum pot limit to numbers more in line with the limits actually used in the modern day fishery is warranted. The current unrealistic maximum pot limit in regulation leads to unknown expectations on gear requirements to participate in the fishery as the first announcement setting pot limits comes out very shortly before the fishery begins. Furthermore the unrealistically high maximum pot limit set in regulations contributes to disruptive efforts to 'over commercialize' and disrupt the orderly operation of this fishery and the unique, high value, low impact advantages that it has by repeated requests from some sectors of the fishery to allow much higher pot limits. I think the BoF should make clear and confirm the unique role this fishery has in the greater overall fisheries eco-system as a low barrier to entry, small boat, low pot limit, direct market fishery.

In general, this fishery is currently in a state of flux and there is a lot of uncertainty surrounding many aspects of it. I have participated extensively in this fishery since its reopening in 2010 and have been heavily involved with the board of fish process regarding the current management plan. This proposal is part of a suite of proposals in which I attempt to anticipate potential issues that exist currently, may arise during the 2024 season or ongoing CFEC process regarding potential limited entry for this fishery, continued uncertainty from the department regarding the current survey and biometric surplus population model, and narratives coming into the 2025 regulatory meeting. I feel that there is significant likelihood of the need to review and adapt much of the current regulatory plan and am submitting proposals concerning several aspects of the plan in order to foster discussion, and serve as a starting point if the need for serious revision of the plan is thought necessary.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have discussed the management of this shrimp fishery with multiple ACs, other participants in both the recreational and commercial fisheries, and ADFG staff many times and will continue to do so leading up to the 2025 meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Person

(EF-F24-072)

PROPOSAL 309

5 AAC 31.510. Fishing Seasons for Registration Area J.

Change season dates for Registration Area J commercial shrimp fishery, as follows:

In Registration Area J, shrimp may only be taken from **April 1 through December 31** [JUNE 1 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28] and only under the terms of a permit issued by the department. In the permit, the department may specify

- (1) fishing area;
- (2) logbook requirements;
- (3) biological sample collection requirements;
- (4) reporting requirements;
- (5) time-period specific harvest limits (trip limits); and
- (6) any other conditions that the department determines as necessary for conservation or management of the fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal addresses a season timing issue for the commercial shrimp fishery in Registration Area J to improve market development, safety, and diversification opportunity. The current fishing season begins at the same time as the salmon fishery, so the small boat fleet that participates in salmon is only able to participate in this shrimp fishery in the fall and winter months with more inclement weather. Moving the start and stop dates forward allows for smaller boats that are busy in the summer months to explore this experimental fishery when the weather is better resulting in increased safety conditions and seasonal opportunity. Furthermore, the current season timing in regulation focuses harvest of shrimp when they are often full of eggs. Developing markets have indicated more demand for shrimp with no or fewer eggs due to meat retention issues, so this proposal change would assist in meeting that demand by working in harmony with processor interest.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Christopher Johnson (HQ-F24-055)

PROPOSAL 310

5 AAC 31.210 Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E.

Remove the Prince William Sound shrimp pot fishing area rotation, as follows:

We propose doing away with the tri annual rotation and instead opening all three areas each year each with their own separate harvest limits.

5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E

(a) ...Fishing in this area will be [ROTATED ON A TRI-ANNUAL BASIS BETWEEN THE FOLLOWING WATERS] **divided into the following districts**

5 AAC 31.214. Shrimp pot guideline harvest level for Registration Area E

...The guideline harvest level for the commercial pot gear fishery in the waters described in 5 AAC 31.210(a) is 40 percent of the total allowable harvest for the area. **This GHL will be divided between the districts described in 5 AAC 31.210(a) annually based on the pot survey CPUE for each district.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like the department to stop the rotation of commercial areas. The spot shrimp population in PWS is in trouble, with decreasing survey results and a large drop off in CPUE in both the commercial and noncommercial fishery. We believe this is in part due to the area rotation on a tri-annual basis that this regulation requires. Under current regulation, the department sets a total allowable harvest every year based on their population model for the entire Sound. It then allows that entire harvest to come from one of three small areas each year. This results in heavy fishing pressure on the less productive areas like area 3 which currently does not have 1/3 the shrimp biomass. Opportunity to best protect the resource is being missed when the department is using this system to set the harvest/ limit the same for the less productive southwestern part of the Sound as it does for the northern areas with robust shrimp populations. The shrimp population would be better protected by taking a small harvest in each area every year, instead of a large harvest in one area every three years.

We hope the department uses this opportunity to propose a more appropriate shrimp management plan with areas based on shrimp population densities and habitat, not the crude square boxes currently being used.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-141)

PROPOSAL 311

5 AAC 31. 2XX. New section.

Allow vessels participating in the Prince William Sound shrimp pot fishery to also operate as tenders, as follows:

Create new regulatory language that allows boats to act as tenders while also participating in the fishery. That way fishermen could put all of their catch on one boat to take to a processor. Regulation like this is currently in place for the Kodiak District Dungeness fishery.

5 AAC 31.2XX Tenders for Shrimp

Notwithstanding 5 AAC 31.033, in the Prince William Sound Area, a vessel registered to fish for shrimp may tender shrimp from other registered shrimp vessels. A tender operator must be an authorized agent of a processor. Before using a vessel as a tender under this section, the tender operator shall register as a tender with the department at the department office. A tender operator shall complete an ADF&G fish ticket at the first point of delivery from the catcher vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow vessels that are participating in the shrimp fishery to also be used as tender vessels to transport shrimp back to port. Fresh shrimp need to be frozen or sold within three days of harvest. It doesn't make sense for 50 shrimp boats to all run back and forth to town every three days when they could simply consolidate their catch on one boat. The low volume in these fisheries make it difficult to afford a dedicated tender vessel. Allowing participants to tender would greatly increase the profitability of this fishery. It would also enable more access to this resource for local Prince William Sound communities and processors.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU)

(EF-F24-140)
