

RC 93

POLL VOTE

Date: May 16, 2011

Name of AC: Southern Norton Sound

5 AAC 97.010. ADVISORY COMMITTEE EMERGENCY CLOSURES. 5 AAC 97.10 (c) An emergency closure initiated by a committee must be based on sound conservation reasoning and the sustained-yield principle. An emergency closure initiated by a committee must be necessary for the immediate protection of a stock, species, or population, and may not be initiated for the purpose of achieving primarily social, economic, or other non-biological goals. The commissioner or his authorized representative shall review the emergency closure initiated by a local advisory committee to ensure compliance with these standards. 5 AAC 97.10 (d) At least 48 hours before an emergency closure is to become effective, the chairman of a committee voting to initiate an emergency closure must (1) notify the commissioner by telegram, telephone, or in writing of (A) the decision to initiate the emergency closure; (B) the time, area, and species involved; (C) which committees the initiating committee contacted; and (D) the vote of each committee regarding the closure; and (2) deliver to the department office nearest the affected area a signed affidavit identifying the roll call vote of the committee, and a written emergency order, following the format specified in the *Advisory Committee Emergency Order Manual* printed by the department, stating the findings of fact made by the committee to justify the closure, and specifying the evidence relied upon by the committee.

Subdistrict 6 (Unalakleet) Chinook Salmon, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* in the Norton Sound were classified "as a stock of concern" by Alaska Board of Fish on January of 2004; specifically, a yield of concern. A "yield of concern" is defined as, "a concern arising from a chronic inability, despite the use specific management measures, to maintain expected yields, or harvest surplus above a stock's escapement needs;

Since, the Alaska Board of Fish classification of Chinook Salmon as a stock of concern, subsistence users in Unalakleet have endured repeated closures on subsistence take because escapement goals were not met or appeared weak to ensure escapement of 1,200 to 2,500 Chinook Salmon. The last definite commercial targeted take of Chinook salmon occurred in 1998.

Question:

Based on the evidence in the report, Norton Sound Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts Chinook Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan. 2007; A report to the Alaska Board of Fish, Special Publication Number 06-37 by Scott M. Kent and Daniel J. Bergstrom, and Table 6.-Subdistricts (Shaktoolik) and (Unalakleet) historical management actions provide insight and justification for such measures, do you as member of the Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (SNSAC) under **Article 2 Emergency Closures 5 AAC 97.010. Advisory committee emergency closures.** (c) support your chairman to initiate an emergency closure on Chinook salmon?