
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish

Ketchikan | January 28 – February 9, 2025

On-Time Public Comments

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Craig AC Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Nov. 6, 2024-Craig City Hall**Call to Order:** 6:03pm**Roll Call:****Members present: 12****13 total Members & 1 alternate****Number needed for a quorum: 7**

Craig AC Members	Officer	Designation	Present	Absent	Expiration
Ellen Hannan	Chair	Hunting	x		June 2026
Mike Douville	Vice Chair	Longline	x		June 2025
Kurt Whitehead	Secretary	Hunting Guide	x		June 2026
Mike Sheets		Trapping	x		June 2026
Dave Creighton		Charter	x		June 2027
Ray Douville		Shellfish		x	June 2027
Braden Harding		Charter	x		June 2025
Mike Kampnich		Gillnet	x		June 2025
Joel Steenstra		Herring Pound	x		June 2027
Derek Anderson			x (online)		June 2027
Julie Yates			x (online)		June 2027
Sandra Marker			x		June 2025
Clinton Cook		Subsistence		x	June 2026
Madison Stumpf		Charter	x (online)		June 2026
Kirk Agnitsch		Alternate		x	June 2025

ADFG Staff present: Craig Schwanke (ADFG sport fish), Bo Meredith (ADFG comm fish-online), Kristy Tibbles (ADFG board support-online)

Guests present: Patrick Baum (online), Forrest Braden (SEAGO-online), Julie Yates (online)

Approval of Agenda:

Moved and seconded to approve the agenda for 11.6.2024.

Vote: Unanimous approval

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Moved/seconded to approve the previous meeting minutes from 4.2.24

Vote: Unanimous approval

Reports:

Public: Forrest Braden (SEAGO) props 140 & 141 would have negative consequences to all of us in SE. They are written very broadly and would have far reaching implications

Chair: BOF props need our attention and there will be call for BOG props this spring

ADFG:

Mike D.: The SE AK RAC met and the Ketchikan request was that they want to be allowed to fish/hunt under subsistence regs. The SE AK RAC voted to oppose the request mainly b/c the resources in Unit 2 are fully utilized and the additional burden would have a negative impact to all the locals in Unit 2 that depend on our food security.

Kurt: Rep. Himschoot got reelected and will reintroduce our Seasonal Resident bill in the new legislature so we need to write a letter of support for it once we get the new bill number. The bill will have the same requirements as the perm fund but it will also have a 1 yr grace period to allow folks to get their affairs in order. When this bill passes it will have a huge positive effect on all our fish/game resources statewide. About the only ones opposed to the bill are folks that currently exploit the loophole of purchasing a resident hunting/fishing/trapping license while their true residence is down south somewhere.

Old Business: None

New Business: Elections & SE AK Finfish/Shellfish Proposals

Elections:

Dave Creighton, Derek Anderson, Joel Steenstra, Ray Douville, Kirk Agnitsch are all expiring and Sandra Marker and Julie Yates have expressed interest in joining.

Sandra Marker wants to be on the AC and has been a power troller for over 35yrs. Julie Yates wants to be on the AC and was raised in a power troller family.

All expired seats were unanimously voted back on the AC and new members, Julie and Sandra, were unanimously elected to the AC.

BOF Props:**Prop 140: Sportfishing with a single barbless circle hook b/n April 1 and June 14**

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG studies have shown there are virtually no benefits to barbless regs and they do not support this prop. This will complicate the regs plus it is too broad. It seems the maker is intending to target saltwater kings but this will apply to all sport fishing state wide.

Vote; Fail; Oppose Unanimously

Prop 141: Prohibit use of bait in sport fisheries b/n April 1 and June 14

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This would prohibit the use of bait in all sport fishing. It is too broad and will have too many negative consequences as well as complicate regs and negatively impact all anglers.

Vote; Fail; Oppose Unanimously

Prop 143: Increase the bag/possession limit for trout in SE AK

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This would change regs in all of SE AK but the intent of the prop was just for POW island and Prop 144 is a duplicate and will likely be withdrawn.

Vote; Fail; Oppose Unanimously

Prop 144: Increase the bag/possession limit for trout in SE AK

No Action

Prop 145: Increase the bag/possession limit for trout in Klawock Lake; POW

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This prop will increase food security and will hopefully increase participation in trout fishing. ADFG notes a significant decline in trout fishing participation area wide and most drainages have a healthy population of trout. The factors for low participation is likely the high cost of traveling to FS cabins as well as the competition/draw from the saltwater fisheries plus the regs are restrictive and complex. There are good reasons for the size limits and ADFG put a lot of effort/thought into the current size limits. ADFG's long range goal is to do more surveys over the next 3 yrs then present findings and possible reg changes at the next board cycle. ADFG did some surveys this past year on some of the lakes but are looking for more complete data. They do NOT have biological concerns for trout at this time. Some folks say the trout are significant predators on the salmon eggs/fry and many folks feel the trout numbers are abundant in almost every drainage that has a lake system. The subsistence regs are much more liberal but they are not catch/release. There are a tremendous amount of trout in the Klawock Lake drainage.

Vote; Pass; Split; 12-Yes/1-No(Ellen)

Prop 146: Increase the bag/possession limit for trout in 108 Creek drainage; POW

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: 108 Ck drainage include Cavern Lake and Twin Island Lake and is a more extensive drainage that has a good mix of rainbow and cutthroat and it's safe to say there is likely a good population but ADFG has not done any studies and it is a big drainage. ADFG still has a few questions regarding the drainage and aren't as comfortable with this prop b/c it is such a large area. There have not been any studies done on this drainage.

Vote; Fail; Split; 12-No/1-Yes(Kurt)

Prop 147: Increase the bag/possession limit for trout in the Neck Lake drainage; POW

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG has done 2 extensive trout studies on Neck Lake and found a very healthy cutthroat population and appears to only be cutthroat trout and no rainbow trout but there are Dollies and Kokanee. The barrier falls prevents sea run trout from coming upstream and the population is isolated. There are Dolly Varden in all these drainages even though no sea run trout can advance to Neck Lake and there are even landlocked Kokanee in Neck Lake that are only about 6" long. They are a remnant population from prior to the barrier falls geology. Neck Lake used to have a hatchery operation in there for many years but hasn't operated for awhile.

Vote; Pass; Split; 12-Yes/1-No(Ellen)

Prop 156: Reduce SE hatchery pink/chum salmon egg levels by 25%

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: We've all seen some of the info saying there are too many fish and not enough feed in the ocean but it's hard to find scientific data backing the argument. Pink salmon are the most aggressive eaters and there is a lot of interception from Russia fisheries. The pollack fishery in the Bering Sea is crashing due to Trawlers/Dragners and that is a huge food source for juvenile kings, halibut, cohos, etc. and this creates a huge food void for the salmon. **The Trawlers need to be reined in or stopped. They are negatively impacting all Alaskans.** Russia and Japan are also producing a tremendous amount of fish. **Are juvenile chum salmon competing for food with kings, sockeyes and cohos? Bo Meredith: "No, the juvenile chums are more closely related to sockeye and eat coco pods and zooplankton and later will eat baitfish but not nearly to the extent of kings/cohos."**

No Action but Ellen is opposed to the prop

Prop 157: Establish a THA mgt. plan for harvesting hatchery produced salmon at Burnett Inlet

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This would allow seiners, trollers and gill netters to harvest excess fish in Burnett Inlet and would benefit those user groups. Currently, it is just a cost recovery operation but if there is excess fish, those three gear groups could have a rotational fishery. This will help SSARA and the three gear groups when there is excess.

Vote; Pass; Support Unanimously

Prop 165: Change the start time of weekly drift gillnet fishing periods from Sunday to Monday

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Starting on Mondays could affect a few.

No Action

Prop 166: Allow drift gill nets to be up to 90 meshes deep in District 11

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This would give them almost 50% more area to catch and the dept is generally opposed when it is such a large increase. The nets are currently 24' deep and if passed, they would be 32' deep.

No Action

Prop 167: Increase the length of purse seine nets by 50 fathoms (300')

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Seiners are more efficient than any fish trap. They can move overnight almost anywhere with the increased horsepower. **No fish are safe.** Spectra webbing/line allows them to tow twice as fast, advanced electronics and side scan/forward scan sonar allows them to find fish so much faster/easier not to mention the increase in boat width/depth/carry capacity and their massive \$350K seine skiffs. They don't need to be anymore efficient. The purse nets are already 1500' and if passed this would increase to 1800'. ADFG doesn't take into account all this new technology and doesn't seem to take this into consideration. They are so good at catching fish they can pretty easily catch all of them. There's not the same amount of fish as in years past. Seining is a deadly fishery.

Vote; Fail; Opposed Unanimously

Prop 168: Modify regulations to make it unlawful to use aircraft for locating salmon during any open commercial purse seine fishing period

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: The Petersburg fleet put this prop in b/c they are disgruntled with one plane in particular.

No Action

Prop 169: Allow use of two fishing rods in conjunction with a down rigger or hand troll curdy in the spring & summer troll fisheries

Moved/seconded to adopt

No Action

Prop 212: Allow the number of geoduck permit holders able to fish from one vessel to be increased from two to four

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: It costs a lot of money to prosecute a fishery so this would save the divers money.

Vote: Pass; Support Unanimously

Prop 213: Modify how geoduck GHL's are calculated

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG is hesitant b/c if passed this would basically double the GHL to about 3% which is not how they currently manage the fishery plus many of the geoducks on the west coast are all disappear from sea otters anyway but that doesn't mean ADFG can deviate from their sustained yield management. Average range of harvested individual clams are 8-9 yrs old up to 70 yrs old and the avg is likely 30-40 yrs old. Mariculture of geoducks is a lot harder than previously thought.

Vote: Fail; Opposed Unanimously

Prop 214: Allow for areas that have been closed for 5 yrs as a result of the estimated geoduck biomass dropping below 30% of the original biomass estimate

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This prop violates the departments sustained yield policy. Sea otters don't have to stick with the 30% biomass estimate but the state does. SARDFA submitted these proposals in 2015 and the BOF reprimanded them pretty good. This doesn't make biological sense.

Vote: Fail; Opposed Unanimously

Prop 215: Give ADFG the authority to experiment with reduced GHL's in sea otter impacted areas where the current biomass estimate is less than 30%

Discussion: See comments above

Vote: Fail; Opposed Unanimously

Prop 216: Clarify that only aquatic farm sites approved for the culture of geoduck clams are closed to comm harvest of geoduck clams

Discussion: This came about b/c there have been negative interactions b/n divers and aquatic farm sites. There is one geoduck mariculture site in the middle of the the Slate Is. geoduck fishery. Now there are different guidelines to issue mariculture site permits.

No Action

Prop 217: Allow weekly fishing periods to begin on Sundays

Discussion: This would complicate the seasons. After November, ADFG can extend the fishery another day.

Currently the only time divers fish Sunday is during the Thanksgiving holiday. This is an allocative issue b/c it would potentially shorten the season and go from a Mon/Tues fishery to a Sun/Mon/Tues fishery.

Moved/seconded to adopt

No Action

Prop 218: Extend sea cucumber fishing season beyond Mar. 31

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG is concerned b/c this would extend the season into their spawning season and staff is also very busy with herring fisheries. Some divers have started to market their own products and it is very hard to find processors that want to buy them during this time b/c they are full of guts/dirt and the prime harvest time is the end of the year. Direct marketers want a longer season. Biologically this could compromise the resource.

Vote: Fail; Opposed Unanimously

Prop 219/220: Clarify when a sea cucumber permit holder is in possession of the product they harvested

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This is confusing and divers operate differently. Many are on scuba or huka and the tenders grab their bag so they are not in possession of their product. There is a separation b/n product and diver. There's never been an issue about this in SE AK but has surfaced on Kodiak.

No Action

Prop 221: Prohibit harvest of naturally occurring sea cucumbers on aquatic farm sites by farm operators in areas where there are commercial sea cucumber fisheries

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Two of the five approved farm sites in SE AK have sold sea cucumbers and the conflict is b/n the divers and the farm sites. Currently, they can sell naturally occurring cucs that grow/come up on their oyster gear. This prop seeks to get ahead of the issues.

Vote: Pass; Support Unanimously

Mike D.: Clarification on being able to harvest sea otters. In years past individuals had to be at least 25% blood quantum but the new requirement is 'If you belong to a federally recognized AK Coastal tribe you can harvest otters.' Last year there were only 35 individuals in all of SE AK that harvested/tagged sea otters so this new clarification should help. USFS thinks we have about 22,500 otters in SE AK. They think the carrying capacity is about 48,000 which is worrisome b/c we feel like we are beyond our carrying capacity now. POW has more otters than the Sitka area due to our long sloping beaches and good shellfish habitat. Some of the bigger otters can dive deeper than 50 fathoms but most are going to be less than that.

Next meeting: Nov. 20, 2024

Meeting adjourned: 8:42pm

Minutes recorded by: Kurt Whitehead

Minutes approved by: Ellen Hannan/Kurt Whitehead

Date: Jan. 13.202

Craig AC Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Nov. 20, 2024-Craig City Hall

Call to Order: 6:05pm

Roll Call:

Members present: 10

13 total Members & 1 alternate

Number needed for a quorum: 7

Craig AC Members	Officer	Designation	Present	Absent	Expiration
Ellen Hannan	Chair	Hunting	x		June 2026
Mike Douville	Vice Chair	Longline	x		June 2025
Kurt Whitehead	Secretary	Hunting Guide	x		June 2026
Mike Sheets		Trapping	x (online)		June 2026
Dave Creighton		Charter	x (online)		June 2027
Ray Douville		Shellfish	x		June 2027
Braden Harding		Charter	x		June 2025
Mike Kampnich		Gillnet	x		June 2025
Joel Steenstra		Herring Pound	x		June 2027
Derek Anderson			x		June 2027
Julie Yates			x		June 2027
Sandra Marker			x		June 2025
Clinton Cook		Subsistence		x	June 2026
Madison Stumpf		Charter	x (online)		June 2026
Kirk Agnitsch		Alternate		x	June 2025

ADFG Staff present: Craig Schwanke (ADFG sport fish), Alex McCarrel (ADFG comm fish-online), Rhea Ehresmann (ADFG comm fish-online), Kristy Tibbles (ADFG board support-online)

Guests present: Kim Landeen-SEAGO(online),

Approval of Agenda:

Moved and seconded to approve the agenda for 11.20.2024.

Vote: Unanimous approval

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Moved and seconded to approve the meeting minutes from 11.6.2024

Vote: Unanimous approval

Reports:**Public:** None**Chair:** None**ADFG:** None**Old Business:** None**New Business:** SE AK Finfish/Shellfish Proposals**Prop 183: 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 to northern spawn on kelp pounds.

No Action. Not in our area.**Prop 184: Expand open area in Section 3-B for spawn on kelp pounds.**

Too big of a local area. Very exposed to weather and disruptive to local subsistence in this area.

Unanimous opposition.**Prop 185: Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-B, 12-A, 13-C and District 7.**

No defined area of expansion. Could be too big an area. Very exposed to weather and disruptive to local subsistence in this area.

Unanimous opposition.**Prop 186: Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-B, 12-A, 13-C and District 7.**

Too big of a area. Very exposed to weather and disruptive to local subsistence in this area.

Unanimous opposition.**Prop 187: Lawful gear for Southeastern Alaska Area.****No Action.****Prop 188: Herring Management Plan for Southeastern Area.****No action.****Prop 189: Seine specifications and operations for Southeastern Alaska.****No action.****190: Herring Management Plan for Southeastern Area.****No Action****Prop 191:**

Housekeeping

No Action

Prop 192: Allow pots used in the personal use bottom fish fishery to be longlined.
Moved and seconded to adopt prop 192.

Discussion:

ADFG:

Less complex regs. Allowed in Personal Use fishery.

Unanimous support.

Prop 193:

This would undo the regulation and complicate the regs. Enforcement problems and possible negative impacts on the fishery.

Unanimous opposition.

Prop 194:

Reduce the minimum inside diameter of escape rings.

Federal fisheries, where most of the Sablefish are fished, do not have escape rings. This should not significantly affect the fishery.

Unanimous support.

Prop 195:

Conflict with ADFG stock assessment survey timing.

No Action

Prop 196:

Reduce escape rings in commercial Sablefish Pots to 3-3/8". **Unanimous support.**

Prop 197:

Clarifies legal gear.

Unanimous support.

Prop 198:

Sablefish sport fishery increase in bag limit.

Amended to increase the resident sport fish bag limit from 4 to 6/day.

Amended that this prop is only for resident sport anglers. The annual take by guided anglers is very high in some areas of Southeast.

Unanimous support.

Unanimous support as amended.

Prop 199:

Passes: 10-3

opposed: Mike, Braden, Raymond

Prop 200:

Unanimous support

Prop 201:

Unanimous opposition. 'May be subject to law enforcement action' is the issue. Clarifies the law.

Prop 202:

Clarifies the law.

Unanimous support.

Prop 203:

Could result in overharvest.

Unanimous opposition.

Prop 204:

No Action

Prop 205:

Clarification of bycatch in personal use pot fishing.

Unanimous support

Prop 206:

Resident bag limit of one Yellow Eye Rockfish. No Non resident season.

Unanimous support

Prop 207:

Those opposed express biological concern.

Those in support express there is no data to show biological concern. Those on the water will state the population is abundant.

Biological concerns noted in discussion. NPMC sets limits and those could be exceeded.

Support: 4: Kurt, Derek, Madison, Dave

Opposed: 9: Ellen, Mike K., Mike S., Mike D., Ray, Julie, Sandra, Braden, Joel

Prop 208:

Those opposed express biological concern.

Those in support express there is no data to show biological concern. Those on the water will state the population is abundant.

Staff comments of the bag limit analysis put the catch over the NPMC limits. Biological concerns.

Support: 7: Derek, Kurt, Dave, Madison, Ray, Joel, Braden

Opposed: 6: Mike D., Mike K., Mike S., Ellen, Julie, Sandra

Prop 209:

As written the proposal seems to apply for Sitka Sound only. We support the continued resident harvest.

Unanimous support

Prop 210:

The age of black rockfish in the fishery requires careful management with increasing sport/charter harvest.

Support: 9: Mike D., Mike K., Ellen, Julie, Sandra, Joel,

Oppose: 4: Kurt, Derek, Dave, Mike S.

Prop 211:

Clarification

Unanimous support

The committee will continue to monitor the progress of the seasonal resident bill in legislation.

Adjourned until next meeting.

Craig AC Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes December 2, 2024-Craig City Hall**Call to Order:** 6:00pm**Roll Call:****Members present: 10****14 total Members & 1 alternate****Number needed for a quorum: 7**

Craig AC Members	Officer	Designation	Present	Absent	Expiration
Ellen Hannan	Chair	Hunting	x		June 2026
Mike Douville	Vice Chair	Longline	x		June 2025
Kurt Whitehead	Secretary	Hunting Guide	x		June 2026
Mike Sheets		Trapping	x		June 2026
Dave Creighton		Charter		x (excused)	June 2027
Ray Douville		Shellfish	x		June 2027
Braden Harding		Charter		x (excused)	June 2025
Mike Kampnich		Gillnet	x		June 2025
Joel Steenstra		Herring Pound	x		June 2027
Derek Anderson			x		June 2027
Julie Yates				x (excused)	June 2027
Sandra Marker			x		June 2025
Clinton Cook		Subsistence		x	June 2026
Madison Stumpf		Charter		x (excused)	June 2026
Kirk Agnitsch		Alternate		x	June 2025

ADFG Staff present: Craig Schwanke (ADFG sport fish), Joseph Stratman (ADFG-comm fish), Kristy Tibbles (ADFG board support-online)

Guests present: None

Approval of Agenda:

Moved and seconded to approve the agenda for 12.2.2024.

Vote: Unanimous approval

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Meeting minutes from previous meeting are not complete but will have them prior to our next meeting.

Reports:**Public:** None**Chair:** None**ADFG:** None**Old Business:** None**New Business:** SE AK Finfish/Shellfish Proposals**Prop 250: Reduce min size limit for male Dungeness crab from 6.5" to 6.25" all across SE AK**

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG: Is opposed. The minimum size has been 6.5" since 1963. The 6.5" protects mature males to spawn at least once prior to possible harvest. If passed this would not allow them to spawn at least once. The population of sea otters is increasing but they do not manage them. Sea otters are forcing the crab fleet to fish in smaller and smaller areas and there are many areas that are no longer commercial viable. This would negatively impact the resource.

Vote: Fail; Opposed Unanimously**Prop 251: Change start date from June 15 to July 1 for comm fishery in all of SE AK**

Adopted and later withdrew the motion to adopt.

Joseph: This would make the summer season 16 days shorter. The current season is June 15-Aug. 15 and slightly overlaps the molt so there may be handling loss of soft shell crab but crab molt at different times in different areas so most folks move to a different area if the crab are soft shell b/c they do not want to catch them. If passed this would also negatively impact some of the comm folks that both crab and troll.

No Action**Prop 252: Allow a vessel participating in the SE AK dungeness crab fishery to operate slinky pots to catch bait****Discussion:** The majority of participants don't use pots to catch their bait.**No Action****Prop 253/254/256/257: Allow a person or vessel to participate in the SE AK comm dungeness crab fishery if they operated comm shrimp pots during the 14 days immediately prior to opening of the comm crab fishery**

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: These 4 are identical props. They seek to end the prohibition on the comm dungeness crab fishery prior to the shrimp fishery. In 2022 the season was changed to a fall shrimp season. 40 permit holders hold both crab/shrimp permits. Prior to 2022 they could all fish both fisheries but have not been able to do so since then.

Vote: Pass; Support Unanimously**Prop 255: Allow a person or vessel to participate in SE AK comm crab fishery if they operated comm, P/U or subsistence shrimp pots during 14 days prior to the comm crab fishery**

Discussion: This would also allow the comm fishery to proceed as the previous props but will add P/U and subsistence fishing as well. This could allow cheating and there are enforcement concerns with this prop. P/U and subsistence pot requirements are different from comm pot requirements. This would allow folks to modify their shrimp pots and test fish for crabs but it would preclude folks from catching shrimp for themselves prior to the crab season. **Ray pointed out that this should pass and the cheating aspect would be very hard to do and it currently precludes a family from going shrimping for subsistence within 14 days prior to the season.**

Moved/seconded to adopt.

Vote: Pass; Support Unanimously

Prop 258: Open some or all areas closed to comm dungeness fishing

Moved/seconded to adopt.

Discussion: This would open areas that are currently closed to protect the subsistence/PU fishing for the locals. This prop is also too broad and too complicated. The sea otters are negatively impacting locals and most of these closed areas are for local food security.

Vote: Fail; Opposed Unanimously

Prop 259: Open all closed waters to comm fishing in SE AK b/n Oct. 1 and Nov. 30 annually

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Almost identical to 258, same comments above apply.

Vote: Fail; Opposed Unanimously

Prop 260: Close George Inlet, Carroll Inlet and Thorne Arm to comm harvest of shrimp and crab

Moved/seconded to adopt.

Discussion: Comm crabbers are getting shoved into smaller and smaller areas due to sea otter predation. There are areas nearby the above areas for local harvest. This is an important comm shrimp pot area. This is a very large area.

Vote: Fail; Opposed Unanimously

Prop 261: Close Traitors Cove to commercial and sport shellfish harvest

Moved/seconded to adopt.

Discussion: This is similar to the areas we've already closed on PoW that protect locals but it displaces comm fishers and pushes them into smaller areas.

Vote: Fail; Split; Opposed: 7-Yes/2-Abstain (Kurt/Ellen)

Prop 262: Close sport fishing for dungeness crab in Thorne Bay

Moved/seconded to adopt.

Discussion: If passed this will still allow locals to fish under P/U regs. There is a lot of competition for crab between locals and non-res and is already closed to comm crabbers. It is a small area and allows for food security. This prop addresses the issue of seasonal residents and non-res that compete with the locals for food security. It was put forth at the last BOF cycle but has a technical issue on boundary description so it didn't pass at that time.

Vote: Pass; Support unanimously

Prop 222: Adopt season closures for subsistence, sport and P/U shrimp fisheries in March & April.

Moved/seconded to adopt.

Discussion: We would support this if it excluded subsistence folks. We don't like it because it condenses locals down to the two weeks prior to the comm season and comm anglers won't like it and it affects the real residents that are all here at this time. The rationale for the new comm fishery is to allow the shrimp to spawn as well as catch the shrimp that will die after spawning since 30% of the shrimp will die after spawning. Many of us also like the eggs.

We would support it if it only closed sport fishing and not subsistence & P/U.

Vote: Fail; Oppose unanimously

Prop 223: Increase the tunnel size for sport, personal use and subsistence shrimp pots

Discussion: The issue is that rigid pots are built differently from round pots and the rigid pots have rectangular openings vs round openings. These pots can fold flat, take up less room and are easy to ship and use. This prop would allow folks to use these pots. It is currently legal to use them if zip ties are used to block off the opening by 1". This prop is addressing the 1" in question. The reg currently is quantified as "perimeter".

No Action

Prop 224: Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 back to the Oct. 1

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: We need more time to see if the shrimp stocks have rebounded since it's only been 2 years to see how it worked. It added about 20+ boats to the fishery here on PoW by allowing the dive boat operators to enter the fishery since they are diving in October. The season lasted about 10 days this past year. Not sure how long it will take to see if the shrimp stocks rebound. **We want to see more data for a longer time before changing the season again.**

Vote: Fail; Opposed unanimously

Prop 225: Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 to Oct. 1 or another start date in late summer/early fall

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Opposed for same reasons as above

Vote: Fail; Opposed unanimously

Prop 226: Provide for further conservation in the shrimp pot fishery by reducing all GHL's by 20%, reducing the number of pots by 40-50% and eliminating the large pot size.

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: When you reduce the number of pots, then comm anglers will likely double-pick their pots which leads to increased mortality of small shrimp and this will promote double picking of pots and increase the harvest of small shrimp. Also, there has only been 2 seasons since the reg change to see if stocks rebound. Small shrimp get in the pots, get some food, then crawl out after larger shrimp start coming so double picking pots leads to increased mortality of small shrimp. The first season after it passed, the shrimping was very poor but the past season was very good so there is hope the fall season works. There is not enough data to see if it works. Plus there are many moving parts to this prop.

Vote: Fail; Opposed unanimously

Prop 227: Permit stacking in the shrimp fishery.

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: See comments above

Vote: Fail; Opposed unanimously

Prop 228: Allow slinky pots in comm shrimp fishery

Discussion: This prop would allow slinky pots. We are unclear if it is for the comm fishery or all the fisheries.

No Action

Prop 229: Repeal redundant descriptions of SE AK

No Action

Prop 230, 231: Establish a comm squid fishery

Discussion: If passed this would NOT affect other comm fisheries.

No Action

Prop 232: Allow red & green urchins to be possessed concurrently aboard

No Action

Next meeting: Jan. 8, 2025

Meeting adjourned: 8:51pm

Minutes recorded by: Kurt Whitehead

Minutes approved by: Ellen Hannan/Kurt Whitehead

Date: 12.2.2024

Craig AC Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes January 8, 2024-Craig City Hall**Call to Order:** 6:01pm**Roll Call:****Members present: 12****14 total Members & 1 alternate****Number needed for a quorum: 8**

Craig AC Members	Officer	Designation	Present	Absent	Expiration
Ellen Hannan	Chair	Hunting	x		June 2026
Mike Douville	Vice Chair	Longline	x		June 2025
Kurt Whitehead	Secretary	Hunting Guide	x		June 2026
Mike Sheets		Trapping	x		June 2026
Dave Creighton		Charter	x		June 2027
Ray Douville		Shellfish	x		June 2027
Braden Harding		Charter	x		June 2025
Mike Kampnich		Gillnet		x (excused)	June 2025
Joel Steenstra		Herring Pound	x (online)		June 2027
Derek Anderson			x (online)		June 2027
Julie Yates			x (online)		June 2027
Sandra Marker			x		June 2025
Clinton Cook		Subsistence	x		June 2026
Madison Stumpf		Charter		x	June 2026
Kirk Agnitsch		Alternate		x	June 2025

ADFG Staff present: Craig Schwanke (ADFG sport fish), Patrick Fowler (ADFG), Kristy Tibbles (ADFG board support-online)

Guests present: Harriet Wadley(online), Kim Landeen (SEAGO-online), Jim Farmer, Bill Farmer, Cody Cowan (ATA-online)

Approval of Agenda:

Moved and seconded to approve the agenda for 1.8.2024.

Vote: Unanimous approval

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Meeting minutes from previous meeting are not complete but will have them prior to deadline.

Reports:**Public:** None**Chair:** None**ADFG:** None**Old Business:** None**New Business:** SE AK Finfish/Shellfish Proposals**Prop 104: Allocate 5000 king salmon for the AK all gear quota to a king salmon subsistence fishery and establish provisions for king salmon subsistence fishery**

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This will be a new fishery. The Treaty will have concerns and fish need to be sealed and need to meet treaty obligations. It creates problems for the dept to prosecute the fishery. This creates complexity for the regs and for the anglers. If passes the BOF the Treaty must then approve. The sampling of the fishery is the hardest thing for ADFG to prosecute. The only other subsistence fishery in SE AK to use a rod/reel is the sockeye fishery near Sitka. This allocation would come off the top as well as the comm net fisheries afterwards the troll gets 80% and sport fishery gets 20%.

TAC breakdown:

4.3%-seine

2.9%-gillnet

1000 fish-set gillnet

The remainder is split 80%-20% to troll vs sport fishery.

Majority/against: There is a potential for abuse. There is large loophole for cheating. There's a lot of concern for kings and creating another fishery isn't good timing. The majority of the 5000 fish will come from the troll fleet and this would equate to losing 1 day of our fishery and we are already losing fish to the sport fleet. Trollers live here and they need to fish to eat but they also need to pay bills. This is an honest good effort to help locals but there might be a better way to do it. We support subsistence and resident protections but this is a difficult fishery to pull off. One of the major issues the past few years is the model used for king abundance is flawed. Lobbying the treaty to negotiate to increase AK's harvest is possible but very difficult. AK already has a target on our back at the treaty negotiations so there will likely be opposition to increase our harvest share and Canada will be pushing hard to lower our treaty share. None of us agree with resident priority. **Bill Farmer:** As a troller, I can't afford to give up those fish.

Minority/for: This will create complexity for regulations. Looks more opportunity for food security. This will be a household permit like other subsistence fisheries. Many locals need food security and this will be a huge benefit for real residents. Subsistence is a priority by the state and hopefully this will generate meaningful discussion and the hope is that we can achieve it without it coming out of the troll fleet. The treaty doesn't care how the pie is cut, that's up to the state. The tribes buy alot of fish from trollers and distributes to its members.

Vote: Fail: Opposed split: 8-No/4-Yes(Ellen, Mike D., Clinton, Mike S.)**Prop 105: Modify sport fishing regulations in the EEZ**

Discussion: State has authority to manage its fishery in state water within 3 miles and beyond in the EEZ. The state needs to align state waters with federal waters so we don't loose its delegation authority so we are forced into this. We can't have different bag limits for res vs non-res in federal waters due to federal law. Halibut regs can use a guided angler bag limit vs non-guided hence the disparity in halibut regs. The state prefers to use the non-res bag limits in the EEZ. One of our big issues in SE AK is that feds don't differentiate b/n residency with halibut regs and the unguided boats are able to fish under resident bag limits thereby creating the incentive for these anglers. This will impact resident anglers fishing in the EEZ.

No Action

Prop 106/107: Prohibit non-res on charter vessels that have taken fish in the EEZ from offloading fish in state waters**Discussion:** See above**No Action****Prop 108: Modify mgt. and allocation provisions of the SE KSMP**

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: The number of charter vessels has remained static or is decreasing other than in KTN but there has been a increase in the number of trips per vessel. There is no cap on the number of vessels that can get a guides license through the state but the main limiting factor with charter vessels is the Charter Halibut Permit (CHP) which was capped in 2007 and has decreased due to the retirement of the non-transferable permits. When permit holders of non-transferable permits die, only the transferable permits will remain which is why there has been a decrease in the number of CHP holders. The charter industry doesn't have limited entry. The state needs a Task Force to study the entire sport fishing industry and recommend management strategies. The treaty allocation reduction is one of the largest hurdles for all of us. CHP holders are not tied to homeports so we have the ability to move around SE AK. The pie is getting smaller and more people are cutting it up. The metric currently used to forecast the king salmon abundance level has been indicating there are fewer fish than what has been showing up so that forces all of us into the lower abundance level which is hard for all of us.

Majority(Opposed): The rolling 9 year avg is an issue with this prop. There is an increase in charters that don't guide for halibut and an increase in the DIY boats that are contributing to the overages. The increase in the DIY boats, seasonal residents and all the sport anglers are driving the increase in the sport numbers. There is no rolling avg. with the troll industry. The sport fleet might need a limited entry system. There can't be unlimited numbers on a fixed amount of fish. The charter fleet pays nothing into salmon enhancement. The troll fleet needs stability as well.

Minority(Supported): For the 25 yrs the state has operated under a KSMP the sport fleets avg is 20.2%. This prop would offer paybacks if the sport fleet is over 22%. In tiers of high and mid abundance, the troll fleet has no concerns and receives fish from the sport fleet. It's only in low abundance that troll has issues. Kim Landeen: There is a need for both short & long term protections for the troll fleet since we are not allowed to go over the TAC with the treaty will allowing some allocations shift so the 9 yr rolling avg is used and the sport fleet can't exceed 22% in two successive years or there is a payback provision and this is a mechanism that will prevent it. There's not sufficient allocation to provide for residents and minimal opportunity for non-res. There is regional growth in KTN but there is not overall growth in the charter fleet. Saying there is unlimited exponential growth in the sport fishery, historically that just isn't true. One of the main issues is the treaty has reduced the total TAC to AK and the pie isn't as big as it used to be and the entire sport fleet fishes under the 20%, not just guided anglers. All resident harvest, unguided harvest and guided harvest come out of the 20% so the charter fleet is much closer to 12% than 20%. 20% is not sufficient to feed residents and non-res in the sport fleet. CHP's are further limited to the number of rods they can fish on the boat; there are 4 rod, 5 rod and 6 rod permits. The charter fleet does not currently have enough allocation to manage the sport fishery @ 20%. If troll demands we stay at 20%, that will force us to ask for more allocation. We all want resident protections. The state provides for the utilization of its resources for the maximum benefit of its people. King salmon are worth much more to the charter fleet than they are to the troll fleet and the charter fleet contributes a significant amount of sales tax to the city of Craig. Without the economic impact of the charter fleet this island and the community of Craig will be severely impacted. If the charter fleet is tied to 20% it will negatively impact many of our small businesses.

Vote: Fail: Split: Opposed 7-no/5-yes(Kurt, Dave, Joel, Derek, Braden)**Prop 109: Modify the structure of the KSMP by removing mgt. tiers**

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This prop attempts to front load our king salmon and without that the sport fleet will take heavy losses. We aren't sure why the sport fleet keeps going over their cap. In low abundance, there are about 20,000 fish for the entire sport fishing fleet. The vast majority of our clients won't come up for 1 or even 2 annual kings in June. The 3 annual kings in the month of June allows them the **opportunity** to fish. There is not sufficient allocation in low abundance and the 20% hard cap doesn't work for the charter fleet.

Question for Patrick Fowler: What does the 20% hard cap do to the sport fleet in years of low abundance? ADFG has a good indicator in early to mid June which would force ADFG to restrict non-res to 1 or 2 annual fish and this is

the kiss of death for the charter fleet since we don't have other salmon to fish on in June/early July and our clients will not come back and be very upset with the Emergency Order mandate.

Vote: Fail; Split; Opposed 11-1(Yes-Mike S.)

Prop 110: Manage the sport fishery in-season to achieve the annual king salmon allocation to the sport fishery

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Patrick Fowler: We can't go over our TAC with the treaty so there are basically 2 types of management; EO to make sure we don't go over or borrowing quota from other gear types to prevent using EO measures. Instability in the season will reduce marketability. The charter fleet is taking cuts in the lingcod, black rockfish and DSR/Yelloweye so at some point the clients either go somewhere else or they just don't travel to AK. This will manage the sport fishery to 20%. The Ketchikan(KTN) fleet has a different business model than the lodges on the outer coast of PoW & Northern SE b/c we book multi-way groups and don't have access to 10,000+ cruise ship passengers/day. The 1 annual king in June would severely negatively impact the guides on the outer coasts. POW's business models are completely different than the KTN charter business models. We don't have all the info on any RC's.

Vote: Fail; Split; Opposed(6-no/5-yes Ray, Julie, Sandra, Clinton, Mike) Joel Steenstra signed off

Prop 111/112: KSMP

No Action

Prop 113: Modify the provisions of the SE AK KSMP and increase the sport allocation of king salmon

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This will be a higher allocation shift and damaging to trollers.

Vote: Fail; Split; Opposed (7-no/4-yes Kurt, Dave, Derek, Braden)

Prop 114: Withdrawn

No Action

Prop 115: KSMP

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion:

Vote: Fail; Split; Opposed (8-no/3-yes Julie, Sandra, Ray)

Prop 116/117: KSMP

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: These props remove the ability to stay within the 20%.

Amended to include both props in one vote

Vote; Fail; Split; Opposed (9-no/2-yes Sandra, Ray)

Prop 118: KSMP

No Action

Prop 119/120: Close non-res sport fishery for kings 2 days/week

Moved/seconded to include both props in one vote

Discussion: Mike: **ADFG has the ability to manage the sport fleet to its 20%. The trollers want to see whatever prop is chosen keeps the sport fleet to 20%.** If approved, this would help the sport fleet stay under 20%. This is not the best mgt. tool and will negatively impact charter businesses and result in a re-allocation shift. This will also create negative consequences for the staffs of the businesses. With all the reductions we've taken the past many years we have reached rock bottom regarding marketability. We have to have opportunity for our anglers. The positive economic impacts of the sport fishing industry cannot be overstated. Flight services, sales taxes, lodging, groceries, retail, employment, fuel, etc. The benefits of the sport fishing services to our island and community is huge.

Vote: Fail; Split; Opposed (9-no/2-abstain Ray/Julie)

Prop 121: ADFG's bookkeeping prop so at the very least there will be a king salmon fishery

No Action

Prop 122/123/124/125/126/127/128/129:

Discussion: Charter captains and trollers generally shake kings immediately and get them back in the water.

If 122 passes, anglers could get cited by removing the fish from of the water. How do you measure the fish and make sure it is 28" without removing it from the water.

No Action

Prop 130: Allow for remaining troll king salmon allocation after winter and spring troll fisheries to be harvested during a single retention period starting July 1

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This would front load the troller season. There is low king escapement during the troll fisheries and it will impact the stocks that are passing during that time. No other fishery has a split season and most trollers want to fish their kings in one shot then switch their gear over to cohos.

Vote: Pass; Split; Support (7-yes/4-no Kurt/Dave/Derek/Braden)

Prop 131: Establish criteria for establishing a limited harvest troll fishery in August and allow for more than one limited harvest fishery

Discussion: This would limit opportunity for trollers that have bigger boats that can fish kings more effectively than smaller boats. The proposer has a smaller boat, promotes hi-grading and takes away opportunity from other trollers. It's good to see trollers managing trollers.

Vote: Fail; Split; Opposed (7-no/4-yes Kurt/Dave/Derek/Braden)

Prop 132: Establish a min size limit for king salmon of 26.5" from snout to fork of tail in the spring troll fishery

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This would change a long standing reg that is uniform across the fisheries. Don't retain fish unless they are 28.25" long. This would be a more defined way to measure fish.

Vote: Fail; Split; Opposed (8-no/3-yes Mike S./Julie/Ray)

Prop 134: Expand landing and retention requirements for king salmon by purse seine permit holders and establish penalties for violating landing requirements

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: There is a loophole in the regs that allows the judge to fine seiners who illegally retain kings over 28" during non-retention periods to be fined \$150 per offense instead of \$150/fish. This prop would close the loophole. There are just a few members of the fleet that habitually retain kings during non-retention periods and this will help prevent it as well as help our king salmon. A long standing seiner of POW was consulted and he said this will help curtail the illegal activity and preserve our resources. **Ray:** It is morally criminal to toss a dead fish overboard.

Vote: Fail; Split; Opposed (5-yes/2-no (Mike D./Clinton)/4-abstain(Braden/Ray/Julie/Sandra)

Ellen is unanimously elected to be the Craig AC rep @ the BOF

Meeting Adjourned @ 10:18pm

Minutes recorded by: Kurt Whitehead

Minutes approved by: Ellen Hannan

Date: Jan. 14.2025

East POW AC Fish & Game Advisory Committee Agenda 11.23.2024-Thorne Bay @ 1 pm**Call to Order: 1:00 pm****Roll Call:****Members present: 12****14 Members total****Number needed for quorum: 8**

East POW AC Members	Officer	Designation	Present	Absent	Expiration
Amy Jennings	Chair	Thorne Bay	x		June 2025
Kim Redmond		Thorne Bay	x		June 2026
William Pattison	Vice Chair	Whale Pass	x		June 2027
Matt Beck		Whale Pass	x		June 2026
John Ryan		Hollis	x		June 2027
Lew Hiatt		Hollis	x		June 2026
Doug Rhodes		Coffman Cove	x		June 2027
Sara Yockey		Coffman Cove		x (excused)	June 2027
Della Colburn		Kasaan		x (online but no participation)	June 2025
		Kasaan		vacant	
Kurt Whitehead	Secretary		x		June 2025
Dave Egelston			x		June 2025
Dave Roberts			x (online)		June 2025
Glen Holt			x (online)		June 2026
Auggie Dunne			x		June 2026

ADFG Staff Present: Craig Schwanke (sport fish biologist), Savanna Hollingsworth (ADFG board support-online)**Guests present: Auggie Dunne, Jeffrey ? (online)****Approval of Agenda:**

Moved/seconded to approve the agenda for 11.23.24.

Vote: Unanimous approval**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:****Reports:****Chair:** Amy J. gave a great welcome!**ADFG: Craig S.:** King abundance was good the past two years. Sport fish went over their allocation last year by 14,000 fish which came from the troll fleet so this will be a contentious issue at the BOF meeting. Coho returns

looked good at average to above average. Studies included Klawock R., Luck Lake, Wilson Lake and the trout populations look good and healthy.

Kurt: Our Seasonal Resident bill will be introduced in legislation again by Rep. Himschoot. Rep. McCabe torpedoed our bill and didn't let it get out of the House Resources committee but it did pass the Senate 15-5 so we are hopeful to get the bill across the finish line in this session. The new bill will give a 1 yr grace period once it passes so folks can get their affairs in order and decide if they want to live in the state of AK for more than 6 months so they can purchase a resident hunting, fishing, trapping license.

Glen Holt/group: Glen attended the wolf management meetings on PoW this past year. ADFG will continue to manage conservatively to protect genetic diversity. They have increased their hair board collections. The call for Board of Game proposal deadline is mid-March and many folks want to roll back the start date of wolf trapping season to Dec. 1 or later b/c of the deer/bear bycatch in wolf snares. Nov. is the peak of the rut for deer and there are still bears running around so it would be more ethical to delay trapping season until Dec. 1 or later.

Public: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

Elections:

There are 4 expired seats available and 5 communities have 2 designated seats per community.

John Ryan is nominated/elected/appointed to the designated Hollis seat

Lew Hiatt is nominated/appointed to the designated Hollis seat

Kris Anderson resigned.

Ray Slayton's seat is expired and is he not present so will be removed from the membership.

Will Pattison is nominated and appointed to the designated Whale Pass seat.

Matt Beck is the other Whale Pass seat.

Doug Rhodes is nominated/appointed to the Coffman Cove seat.

Sara Yockey is the other Coffman Cove seat.

Kim Redmond/Amy Jennings are the Thorne Bay designated seats.

Auggie Dunne is nominated and elected to one of the vacant AC seats. He spoke on why he is qualified. It is great to see a younger person involved in this AC.

BoF proposals:

Prop 140: Sport fishing may only be conducted w/ a single barbless circle hook b/n April 1-June 14.

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This is very restrictive. On PoW the majority of folks here at that time are residents. If it was a barbless J hook, we might be inclined to support it. We are opposed to this for many reasons.

Vote: Fail-Unanimous opposition

Prop 141: Prohibit the use of bait in sport fisheries b/n April 1-June 14

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: We are opposed to this for the same reasons as above plus we wouldn't be able to use a piece of cut bait to jig halibut/rockfish/lingcod/etc.

Vote: Fail-Unanimous opposition

Prop 143: Increase bag/possession limit for trout in SE AK

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Terminology of "farmed salmon" is wrong. There are 3 mistakes on this prop as written, the term "farmed salmon" should read "hatchery raised" and the area's intent was for just PoW island. SE AK is too broad of an area at this time.

Vote: Fail-Unanimous opposition

Prop 145: Increase harvest opportunity for trout in Klawock Lake drainage.

Moved/seconded to adopt with an amendment to strike the words “farmed salmon”.

Discussion: This prop was at the request of the Dennis Nickerson, the chair of the Klawock AC, to help limit the predation on sockeye salmon in Klawock Lake. Trout feed on salmon smolt but the majority of eggs eaten by trout won't survive anyway b/c they weren't deposited under the rocks and are not viable. Hatcheries have also changed feeding techniques so there isn't as much wasted feed that makes it under the net. Trout are very abundant in this system and access is limited. ADFG doesn't have historical data but they have been conducting surveys in the system. There is a lack of effort of trout fishing throughout SE AK. ADFG's game plan is to conduct more studies and return to the next board cycle with a suite of area wide trout proposals. Klawock Lake will receive a more in depth study this coming year by ADFG and they don't have the Klawock Heenya data on sockeye predation at this time. *It is a common misconception that trout eat the salmon food. Cutthroat trout rarely have pellets in their bellies b/c they are normally in the top 6' but Dollies had some due to their depth in the water column. There is a lot of predation from trout when they release the smolt. The new protocols by the hatcheries of trickle feeding has address this issue. Cutthroat are voracious predators.* We support this prop mainly for the increased opportunity of an underutilized resource and it will increase food security.

Vote: Pass-Unanimous support with the amendment to strike the words “farmed salmon”

Prop 146: Increase the bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout in 108 creek

Moved/seconded to adopt with the amendment to fix the typo and insert the word “no” in the reg so it reflects the current reg.

Discussion: There's two typos in the prop but we shouldn't be concerned b/c the intent is the keep the size limits the same. These 3 props on PoW only address the bag/possession limits.

Vote: Pass-Unanimous support with the amendment to add the word ‘no’ to fix the typo

Prop 147: Increase the bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout and prohibit the use of bait in Neck Lake drainage

Moved/seconded to adopt with the amendment to fix the typo and insert the word “no” in the reg so it reflects the current reg.

Discussion: Residents of Whale Pass who take their kids fishing asked Will if we could submit this prop. Neck Lake is outside Whale Pass, it is accessible and a great place to take kids fishing. Food security is always and issue on PoW and this would help. Very few folks trout fish in the area other than local residents. ADFG did a size/composition study on Neck Lake when net pens were first introduced. 20 years later they did the same study and it showed an abundant population of trout. ADFG supports this b/c of their supporting data/studies and shows a lot of small trout. The typo in the prop shouldn't be an issue b/c the intent of all the trout props is to the keep the current size limits and only address the bag/possession limits.

Vote: Pass-Unanimous support with the amendment to add the word ‘no’ to fix the typo

Prop 156: Reduce SE AK hatchery permitted pink and chum salmon egg take level by 25%

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: SSRAA does not rear any pink salmon in SE AK. Most of the pink salmon in AK are raised in PWS. Hatcheries lose money on Coho/King so Chum salmon pay the bills. Fish feed is currently \$100/bag. Just the feed food expense @ Nackett Inlet for 4 months is 1/2 million dollars. Coho are 45cents to raise, Chum are 3cents to raise and kings are the most expensive. The fisheries tax barely pays operating costs so without Chum salmon, SSARAA would cease to operate. The DiPac hatcheries do not produce pink salmon. They produce Chum, Sockeye and Chinook. Blaming failed fisheries on hatcheries while the draggers kill huge numbers with their bycatch is irresponsible. If the number of boats fishing on hatchery returns declines, that means those boats will instead fish in Clarence on wild stocks so its good to spread the fleet out on hatchery returns. The last 4 year avg chum return for the Nackett release site is 600,000 fish which is above all the other sites and they release 12 million to get that 600,000 summer chum return when they actually quit counting so not sure on exact number of return adults but it is the best. The chums make \$ while the cohos/kings lose \$. Only two hatcheries in SE AK rear pink salmon; the Sheldon Jackson hatchery in Sitka rears 3 million and Pt. Armstrong on S. Baranof Island.

Vote: Fail-Unanimous opposition

Prop 157: Establish a terminal harvest area for harvesting hatchery produced salmon @ Burnett Inlet on S. Etolin Is.

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: It is important to have a Terminal Harvest Area. This will create an area for cost recovery and allow the seine, troll and gillnet fleets to fish the area. Burnett is the backup site to Neets Bay and Port Ascumcion sites. This would benefit SSRAA as well as commercial fleets. Burnett inlet raises 80 million eggs of summer chum of which 20 million goes to Pt. Ascumcion.

Vote: Pass-Unanimous support

Prop 165: Change the start time of weekly drift gillnetter fishing periods

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: It will work either way so our gillnet rep doesn't mind either way but if he had to vote he would oppose it. Petersburg gillnetters would have to run in the dark but the main issue is likely a conflict with anglers from Juneau.

Vote: No Action

Prop 166: Allow drift gill nets to be up to 90 meshes deep

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Currently the reg is 60 meshes deep which is 24' so this will increase the depth of the net to 36'. The bottom end of the net catches more coho b/c they run deeper. If approved to 90 meshes deep, you should do it region wide so regs aren't complex. Enforcement of split areas would be a nightmare. Many folks in district 11 would be cited. There have been a lot of folks in district 11 cited for deeper nets and is a very competitive area. ADFG has other tools to manage the district and this change is not necessary.

Vote: Fail-Unanimous opposition

Prop 167: Increase the legal length of purse seine by 50 fathoms

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This will increase the net length from 1500' to 1800'. There is no restriction on the depth or width of seine boats and they are already so wide/deep/pack so many fish and are amazingly efficient. The side scan and forward sonar, state of the art electronics, spectra webbing so they can tow faster, the size/horsepower of their seine skiffs has increased as well as the boats all of which makes them incredibly more efficient that just 10 years ago. In one day, they can catch 120,000 pounds. **Why do they need more efficiency?** Silver Bay Seafoods plants in Sitka and Craig can individually process 1 million fish/day at their plants. When there's a seine opening, the fish are totally knocked down in those areas and all sport anglers immediately feel the result.

Vote: Fail-Unanimous opposition

Prop 168: Modify regs to make it unlawful to use aircraft for locating salmon during any open seine period

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This should be amended to include ***"airplanes cannot aid in any way with purse seine fisheries"***.

The pilots deny they are spotting fish and say they are just running parts yet they fly multiple loops over common property areas during open retention times. The prop was proposed by the Petersburg Vessel Owners Assoc. who know the boats fishing for Silver Bay Seafoods(SBS) are not playing by the rules. The red/white floatplane in Craig is employed by SBS and it flies all morning long during open seine retention periods in common property fisheries and is routinely seen flying loop after loop yet when asked what they are doing, they answer they are just running parts to boats. The current regulation was passed after members of the seine fleet proposed it and the fish spotting has not ceased. Now they just claim to be running parts. ***The owner of SBS has a floatplane, the owner of AGS has a floatplane and they are both flying during every open fishery. Also, the Craig floatplane is employed by SBS. When questioned, they all say "We are just flying parts". The Craig floatplane flies all day, never loads parts into his plane and yet still claims he is "just flying parts"***. Prop 168 as worded, won't close the loophole b/c the current reg is **NOT** enforceable which is why the amendment is suggested. All the seiners know what's going on. We support this prop but it is unenforceable as written. This activity negatively impacts our resources and is an unfair advantage for the boats linked to those planes. The safety issue of delivering parts legally is valuable but they are

Vote: Tabled until the next meeting

Prop 169: Allow use of two fishing rods used in conjunction with a down rigger or hand troll curdy to be used during the spring and summer troll fisheries.

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This prop is all about allowing anglers to catch kings with a fishing rod while onboard a troller and not have a bag limit. Folks are charting trollers in the summer and the "crew" is catching as many kings as possible with no bag limit and many non-res are exploiting this loophole. There are lots of folks that use this loophole to exploit the resource. There are enforcement issues with this prop.

Vote: Pass-Unanimous support

Prop 212: Allow the number of geoduck permit holders able to fish from one vessel to be increased from 2 to 4 by emergency order

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: SARDFA has a tremendous amount of control over their fishery and the state seems to continue to allow it. If there is a small quota in an area, it costs a lot of \$ to sample/open an area. They have never been allowed more than 2 divers/boat. Small quotas tend to favor local divers vs the non-res divers which is what this prop is all about. SARDFA used to be in charge of their own testing but they shot themselves in the foot by sending hot clams to China years ago resulting in China banning the importation of geoducks.

Vote: Fail-Unanimous opposition

Prop 213: Modify how geoduck guideline harvest levels are calculated

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG comm biologist explained at a previous meeting: If they use the midpoint confidence interval, they can end up harvesting greater than 2% which is the current recommended guideline harvest level. Using the midpoint, they can harvest 3-4% which the department feels is not sustainable. Many geoduck beds are going away already due to sea otter predation. Harvestable clams need to be 12-14 years old which is 3+ lbs. Geoducks live over 100 years old. Once a geoduck is blasted out of the mud, they can't dig back in the mud b/c they don't have a foot so after a dive fishery is conducted, there is usually broken clams left on the seafloor so the number of clams harvested is actually higher than the 2%. ADFG does a much better job of managing the sampling than SARDFA. If passed this would double the harvest.

Vote: Fail-Unanimous opposition

Prop 214: Allow for areas that have been closed for 5 years as a result of the estimated geoduck biomass dropping below 30% to be resurveyed and reopened

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Currently it takes 12 years before a harvested area is reopened. ADFG is required to resurvey after 12 years. ADFG: they are not in support and said this prop was submitted previously to the BOF by SARDFA and they were reprimanded by BOF.

Vote: Fail-Unanimous opposition

Prop 215: Give ADFG authority to experiment with reduced GHG in sea otter impacted areas

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG: This would make no biological sense and the same comments apply as the previous prop

Vote: Fail-Unanimous opposition

Prop 216: Clarify that only aquatic farm sites approved for the culture of geoduck clams are closed to comm harvest of geoduck clams

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG: This came about from the interactions b/n commercial and mariculture. Geoduck aquaculture farms are allowed to harvest as long as the boat is anchored on the exact aquaculture site but they are harvesting clams as far away as their 600' dive hose will allow. The divers are playing games. This is not a responsible prop for our resources.

Vote: Fail-Unanimous opposition

Prop 217: Allow weekly fishing period to begin on Sundays

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This would add an extra day for them to get their quota and the current regs are two days; Mon/Tues. and has been that way for years. The dive fishery continually generates the most citations in the state per permit holder, year after year. Divers are notorious for playing all kinds of games.

Vote: Fail-Unanimous opposition

Prop 218: Extend sea cucumber fishing season beyond March 31

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG: They are concerned b/c this will encroach on their spawning season. Divers do not want to dive beyond Christmas and the issue is there are very few buyers after Christmas and the likely goal with this prop is to be able to direct market their product. This is not responsible b/c of the spawning season.

Vote: Fail-Unanimous opposition

Prop 219: Clarify when a sea cucumber permit holder is in possession of the harvested product

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: The proposer has a big boat and is also a buyer and he has lots of divers onboard and this will create a loophole. The boats are supposed to be in the immediate area supporting divers and this will result in safety concerns and possible illegal activity.

Vote: Fail-Unanimous opposition

Prop 220: Allow crew members to be in possession of sea cucumbers harvested by the sea cucumber permit holder

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This would create a loophole for possible illegal activity and is not how the industry should be operated.

Vote: Fail-Unanimous opposition

Prop 221: Prohibit harvest of naturally occurring sea cucumbers on aquatic farm sites by farm operator in areas where there are comm sea cucumber fisheries

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This prop will prevent a problem before it occurs and will close a loophole. If they want to farm sea cucs, they should have them inside a net so they don't crawl off. They will keep harvesting cucs b/c they will keep crawling onto the farm site. This will be a benefit to the resource.

Vote: Pass-Unanimous support

Prop 222: Adopt seasonal closures for subsistence sport and p/u shrimp fisheries

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Having the comm shrimp fishery in the fall is unsustainable. BC has as sustainable fishery b/c it is a spring fishery. We are willing to give up 2 mos. as long as the comm fishery is a spring fishery. Since the comm fishery has changed seasons we have noticed an increase in the shrimp population and increase size of shrimp.

Vote: Pass: Split: Yes-10/No-2 (Doug/Amy) Support with amendment: Shrimp may only be taken May 1-Feb. 28 "as long as the current commercial SE shrimp season stays with the May 15 opener"

Prop 223: Increase the tunnel size for sport, personal use and subsistence shrimp pots

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This is our proposal. This will allow anglers to buy AK made shrimp pots that are designed for the current shrimp regs in Prince William Sound. This will simplify the regs and reduce bycatch b/c the vertical bars in the opening prevent as much bycatch as the standard round openings. We will provide the actual pots at the BOF.

Vote: Pass-Unanimous support

Election of Officers:

**Moved/seconded to elect Amy Jennings as Chair, Will Pattison as Vice Chair and Kurt Whitehead as Secretary
(with help from Matt Beck)**

Vote: Pass-Unanimous support

Next meeting: 1pm on Saturday Dec. 14 in TBY @ City Hall

Adjourned: 5:04pm

Minutes recorded by: Kurt Whitehead-Secretary

Minutes approved by: Kurt Whitehead/Amy Jennings-Chair

Date: 11.23.2024

East POW AC Fish & Game Advisory Committee Agenda Dec. 14.2024-Thorne Bay @ 1 pm

Call to Order: 1:02 pm

**Roll Call:
Members present: 13
14 Members total**

Number needed for quorum: 8

East POW AC Members	Officer	Designation	Present	Absent	Expiration
Amy Jennings	Chair	Thorne Bay	x		June 2025
Kim Redmond		Thorne Bay		x (excused)	June 2026
William Pattison	Vice Chair	Whale Pass	x		June 2027
Matt Beck		Whale Pass	x		June 2026
John Ryan		Hollis	x		June 2027
Lew Hiatt		Hollis	x		June 2026
Doug Rhodes		Coffman Cove	x		June 2027
Sara Yockey		Coffman Cove		x (excused)	June 2027
Della Colburn		Kasaan		x	June 2025
Vacant		Kasaan			
Kurt Whitehead	Secretary		x		June 2025
Dave Egelston				x (excused)	June 2025
Dave Roberts			x (online)		June 2025
Glen Holt				x (excused)	June 2026
Auggie Dunne			x		June 2026

ADFG Staff Present: Craig Schwanke (sport fish biologist), Savanna Hollingsworth (ADFG board support-online) Joe Stratman(online),

Guests present: Eric Hammar, Rose Ruel,

Approval of Agenda:
Moved and seconded to approve the agenda for 12.14.24.
Vote: Unanimous approval

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:
Chair approves minutes and doesn't need to be voted on

Reports:

Chair: Amy gave a welcome

ADFG: Craig S. gave report on King Salmon abundance.

Kurt: Update on Seasonal Resident bill by Rep. Himschoot

Glen Holt: Gave report on current wolf management.

Public: None

Old Business: Prop 168

New Business:

Elections: Special election for Kasaan reps at our Jan. 4 meeting

Prop 191: Amend logbook requirements for vessels fishing for ground fish with pot and longline gear

Moved/seconded

Discussion: ADFG: This will provide info to include pots which aren't currently part of the data. This appears to be a housekeeping prop

Vote: Pass; Support unanimously

Prop 192: Allow pots used in the P/U bottom fish fishery to be longline

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG: No concerns and would streamline regs. Group: It will reduce gear loss, lower cost of purchasing gear, reduce whale entanglement.

Vote: Pass; Support unanimously

Prop 193: Deep water release mechanism on comm boats

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This would complicate regs. and would only affect a few fishers but it will be an option, not a requirement. It has value especially regarding lingcod. If boats actually stopped and used down riggers to release rockfish it would be reasonably easy to reduce mortality of rockfish by allowing deepwater descenders.

Vote: Fail; Split; 11-no/2-yes(Kurt-Doug)

Prop 194: Reduce min. diameter of escape rings to 3.5"

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG: supports Group: This would be the minimum so fishers wouldn't need to change their pots.

Vote: Pass; Support unanimously

Prop 195: Change black cod dates in SSEI waters

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG: Opposed Group: Sampling is a big hurdle and this will move season into the spawning season. Many good reasons to oppose.

Vote: Fail; Oppose unanimously

Prop 196: Reduce min. diameter of escape rings to 3 3/8"

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This would apply only to comm pots. If we adopt it will contradict 194 so we will be opposed based on support for 194

Vote: Fail; Oppose unanimously b/c of vote on 194

Prop 197: Clarify regs regarding P/U, subsistence, comm ground fish

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This will clarify the reg for better enforcement. Concerned with the short time limit and will support with an amendment of 72hrs.

Vote: Support unanimously with amendment to change the time limit to 72hrs.

Prop 198: Increase daily bag limit for black cod from 4 to 6/day for residents only

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG: Support Group: Concern that increase harvest will not be in best interest of resource and place pressure on fishery. This will increase food security.

Vote: Pass; Split; (5-yes/4-No-John, Dave, Doug, Will)

Prop 199: Wx delay if forecast meets gale warning or higher for comm fishery

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG prop to promote safety in a derby fishery. Good commonsense prop.

Vote: Pass; Support unanimously

Prop 200: Adopt catch reporting requirement for directed lingcod fishery

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG prop that will give accurate data

Vote: Pass; Support unanimously

Prop 201: Clarify lingcod bycatch overage requirements for comm fishery

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG prop that is housekeeping. Good prop that will reduce lingcod bycatch.

Vote: Pass; Support unanimously

Prop 202: Clarify that only one line can be used for dinglebar lingcod fishery

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG prop. Good prop.

Vote: Pass; Support unanimously

Prop 203: Change unguided non-res lingcod regs

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This would negatively affect the resource, guides, residents and comm fishers. This is a terrible prop and is a way for DIY boats to fish under resident bag limits. The DIY boats continue to grow unchecked and are harming residents and the resource. The guided and unguided non-res bag limits should all be the same and the disparity in the halibut regs is the main driver of the DIY boat explosion.

Vote: Fail; Oppose unanimously

Prop 204: Allow long lining of pots in P-cod fishery

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG: No concerns Group: Less bycatch/easier to release/less gear for whale entanglement/less cost to fishers are all positive reasons to pass.

Vote: Pass; Support unanimously

Prop 205: Allow retention of P-cod/rockfish with pot gear in comm fishery

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG: No concerns Group: This will reduce waste of bycatch and increase food security.

Vote: Pass; Support unanimously

Prop 206: Reopen Y/E sport fishery for residents

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Yelloweye stocks have improve over the last 5 yrs of closure. Concern if passed if it will be sustainable but we can always revert in 3 or 6 yrs if it doesn't seem sustainable. Residents only and a minimal bag limit are both positive measures. Desending rockfish is important for the resource.

Vote: Pass; Support unanimously

Prop 207: Allow retention of DSR by non-res

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion:

Majority: We see a large population of these fish and see no reason non-res can't harvest a limited amount. The charter fleet needs fishing opportunity to survive and we are currently fishing on about the bare minimum. None of us target them, but we see no reason for non-res to retain some when they are all over SE AK. ADFG does not have good data but our collective TK shows they are everywhere. This is the exact same prop submitted 3yrs ago by the Craig AC. If ADFG shows Y/E on the upswing, common sense would tell us the same for the DSR fish. It makes no sense prohibiting non-res from retention when they are so abundant and the increased opportunity would help the charter fleet.

Minority: There are too many DIY boats already and cruise ship numbers are growing. There could be a fishery with EO requirements if needed.

Vote: Pass; Split; 5-Yes (Kurt, Matt, Will, Dave, Auggie)/4-No (John, Doug, Lew, Amy)

Prop 208: Allow retention of DSR by non-res

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Same prop as 207 but an annual bag limit of 1, see above.

Vote: Pass; Split; 6-Yes/3-No (John, Doug, Lew)

Prop 209: Establish provisions for resident priority with EO authority for pelagic rockfish

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This prop would allow EO authority of non-res regarding pelagic rockfish

Vote: Pass; Split; 7-Yes/1-No(Kurt)/1-Abstain

Prop 210: Reduce bag/possession limit for pelagic rockfish in SE AK

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG: Has conservation concerns even though they do not have any studies but they feel this is important. They will reduce harvest by about 20%. Group has concerns this would affect residents as well. Suggested reducing non-res to 3 and leave residents at 5. Another thought was to reduce non-res to 4 which would be more palatable to the charter fleet that have taken many cuts the past few years.

Vote: Pass; Split; (8-Yes/1-No(Kurt) with the amendment to remove "resident" from the prop so it only pertains to non-res

Prop 211: Clarify regs for fish ticket documentations of rockfish overages

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG to allow overage of allowed bycatch so it can be used for personal use or donated. Current regs don't allow for this.

Vote: Support unanimously

Prop 250: Reduce the min size of male Dungeness crabs to 6.25"

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This would affect P/U and subsistence fisheries. 6.5" crabs have the opportunity to breed once prior to being caught. Reducing it to 6.25" will not allow them to breed and will negatively impact the resource. The current size limit has been set since the '60's.

Vote: Fail; Oppose unanimously

Prop 251: Change the start date of the comm Dungeness crab fishery from June 15 to July 1

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG: There is less than 1% of soft shell crab brought to the dock since the majority are returned to the water. Fishers do not want to catch them and when they encounter them, they usually leave the area since crab molt at different times in different areas. This prop would reduce the season by 15 days. The fishery doesn't support it.

Vote: Fail; Oppose unanimously

Prop 252: Allow slinky pots in comm crab fishery to catch bait

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This will negatively affect other fisheries, there will be more gear in the water, make enforcement difficult and doesn't define where, how deep or how large these pots can be. Bycatch of black cod is a concern.

Vote: Fail; Oppose unanimously

Prop 253, 254, 257:

No action

Prop 255: Allow Personal use/subsistence shrimp and crab pots to be used at the same time

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: With simple modification to the shrimp pot, it could be fished in shallow water to prospect for crab prior to the opening and has enforcement concerns.

Vote: Fail; Oppose unanimously

Prop 256: Allow comm shrimp pots to be operated 14 days prior to the dungy crab season

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: By allowing only comm gear in the water, 256 addresses 253/254/257 but is the best one. This prop addresses the changes to shrimp season allowing comm fishing for crab prior to the shrimp season. Unlike 255 this will reduce enforcement issues.

Vote: Pass; Support unanimously

Prop 257: No action**Prop 258: Open some or all waters currently closed to comm crab fishing in SE AK**

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Unclear on season dates and what waters would be opened. This would open waters near our communities on PoW that were just closed to protect food security due to sea otter predation.

Vote: Fail; Oppose unanimously

Prop 259: Open all waters closed to comm dungy crab fishing in SE AK b/n Oct. 1 and Nov. 30

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: See comments above

Vote: Fail; Oppose unanimously

Prop 260/261: No action**Prop 262: Close sport fishing for dungy crab in Thorne Bay**

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Many locals have seen a huge decline in legal crabs and think this is b/c the large numbers of sport anglers in Thorne Bay. This would result in a small closed area for locals to ensure food security.

Vote: Pass; Support unanimously

Prop 168: Modify regs to make it unlawful to use aircraft for locating salmon during any open seine period

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This should be amended to include *"airplanes cannot aid in any way with purse seine fisheries"*.

The pilots deny they are spotting fish and say they are just running parts yet they fly multiple loops over common property areas during open retention times. The prop was proposed by the Petersburg Vessel Owners Assoc. who know the boats fishing for **Silver Bay Seafoods(SBS)** are not playing by the rules. The red/white floatplane in Craig is employed by SBS and it flies all morning long during open seine retention periods in common property fisheries and is routinely seen flying loop after loop yet when asked what they are doing, they answer they are just running parts to boats. The current regulation was passed after members of the seine fleet proposed it and the fish spotting has not ceased. Now they just claim to be running parts. *The owner of SBS has a floatplane, the owner of AGS has a*

floatplane and they are both flying during every open fishery. Also, the Craig floatplane is employed by SBS. When questioned, they all say "We are just flying parts". The Craig floatplane flies all day, never loads parts into his plane and yet still claims he is "just flying parts". Prop 168 as worded, won't close the loophole b/c the current reg is **NOT** enforceable which is why the amendment is suggested. All the seiners know what's going on. We support this prop but it is unenforceable as written. This activity negatively impacts our resources and is an unfair advantage for the boats linked to those planes. The safety issue of delivering parts legally is valuable but they are taking advantage of the situation.

Moved/seconded to adopt

Vote: Pass; Support unanimously with notes about illegal activity

Next meeting: Jan. 11 @ 10am

Meeting adjourned: 4:58pm

East POW AC Fish & Game Advisory Committee Agenda Jan. 11, 2025-Thorne Bay

Call to Order: 10:00 am

Roll Call:

Members present: 12

14 Members total

Number needed for quorum: 8

East POW AC Members	Officer	Designation	Present	Absent	Expiration
Amy Jennings	Chair	Thorne Bay	x		June 2025
Kim Redmond		Thorne Bay	x		June 2026
William Pattison	Vice Chair	Whale Pass	x		June 2027
Matt Beck		Whale Pass	x (online)		June 2026
John Ryan		Hollis	x		June 2027
Lew Hiatt		Hollis	x		June 2026
Doug Rhodes		Coffman Cove		x (excused)	June 2027
Sara Yockey		Coffman Cove	x (online)		June 2027
Della Colburn		Kasaan		x	June 2025
Eric Hamar		Kasaan	x		
Kurt Whitehead	Secretary		x		June 2025
Dave Egelston			x (online)		June 2025
Dave Roberts				x	June 2025
Glen Holt			x		June 2026
Auggie Dunne			x		June 2026

ADFG Staff Present: Craig Schwanke (sport fish biologist), Savanna Hollingsworth (ADFG board support-online)

Guests present: Eric Hamar, AST Trooper Dodd,

Approval of Agenda:

Moved and seconded to approve the agenda for 1.11.25.

Vote: Unanimous approval

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

11.23.25 by Chair Amy Jennings

Elections:

Kasaan Seat Election: Kurt nominated Eric Hamar as the Kasaan rep; Eric is a past gillnetter/seiner/oyster farmer, raised in logging camps/Kasaan, practices Customary & Traditional uses and is a very knowledgeable hunter/angler.

Vote: Unanimous approval

Reports:**Chair:** None**ADFG:** Craig gave report on King Salmon abundance.**Kurt:** Gave update on Seasonal Resident bill and once Rep. Himschoot introduces the bill and when we get a bill number we can then write a letter of support. This legislative session Rep. Himschoot will be in the majority so that will really help get our bill passed.**Glen Holt:** Gave report on current wolf management.**Public:** None**Old Business:** None**New Business:** BOF Props

Props:

104-133

134, 223

184-190

224-249

266,281,298

Prop 134: Illegal seine caught king salmon**Review:** One of the longtime PoW residents advised us on this prop and thought the best way to ensure kings don't get retained during non-retention periods was to make sure the fine is tied to individual fish not per occurrence which has been the case previously. All kings under 28" are legal. Kings over 28" on all seine boats during non-retention periods are all illegal. But, code 86 was created by ADFG so the fish buyers in possession of 28"+ fish can donate them to elders/retirement homes/etc. so they don't have to throw them dead over the rail. Only Silver Bay Seafoods has been using code 86 which was the intent of the exemption and keeps the fish from being wasted. This prop was submitted with a lot of insight from a current seiners input and he thought it is reasonable easy to grab the fish when they hit the deck and toss them over the rail and many of the fish swim off. A different longtime local seiner was on another meeting online and he said their crew is very tuned into releasing kings and when its a priority on the boat they whole crew can get those fish back over in short order and the fish swim off. Sure, a few might be lost but thats better than the alternative of all of them die b/c the boat captain didn't want to spend the extra 2-3 minutes and do the right thing.**Prop 223: Shrimp pot tunnel size change****Review:** New diagram for BOF is needed to streamline the talking points.

This rectangular opening with crossbars decrease bycatch significantly and it will allow AK made pots to be purchased/used.

Prop 104: Allocate 5000 king salmon for the AK all gear quota to a king salmon subsistence fishery and establish provisions for king salmon subsistence

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This is complex and would allow rod/reel in a subsistence fishery which would only be the 2nd subsistence fishery in SE AK to allow rod/reel in the state and it would be very difficult for ADFG to collect samples and will take away from the fully allocated sport fishery. The treaty would also have to sign off on it and the state will have difficulty prosecuting it. Seasonal Residents will love this reg certainly take advantage of it plus it will be very difficult for enforcement. All user groups are united in Resident protections. This doesn't seem to be the best vehicle for it. The majority of these fish will come from the troll fleet. **ADFG: How to sample the fishery is a big hurdle.****Doug R.: Opposed****Vote: Fail; Split; 10-No/2-Yes(Auggie/Lew)****Prop 105: Modify sport fishing regs in salt waters subject to Magnuson-Steven Act by removing differential regs for res/non-res anglers**

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This will prohibit fishing under resident bag limits in the EEZ. This is the states best solution from ADFG to become compliant. Enforcement nightmare and many phones/chart plotters will be seized if AST needs prosecute. The proposer is an attorney from CA:) **Doug: Opposed**

Vote: Fail; Unanimous opposition

Prop 106/107: EEZ props

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Enforcement nightmare and many phones/chart plotters will be seized if AST needs to prosecute.

Vote: Fail; Split 0-11; Abstain(Eric)

Prop: 122: Prohibit the removal of king salmon from the water when retention is not allowed

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG is opposed and prefers education/outreach. It is almost impossible to measure a king salmon accurately without removing it from the water. Fish in saltwater are more resilient b/c they don't need the slime coating like freshwater fish. Anglers also want a photo and if done properly this only takes a few seconds but they would be in violation. This is a good time to educate folks that the new coated nets are much better on all fish than the knotted poly nets that knock off lots of scaled and remove the slime coating. Plus fish laying on their sides are almost stunned and it's easier to remove the hooks.

Vote: Fail; Opposed unanimously

Prop: 123: Prohibit netting or handling king salmon when catch/release fishing is implemented

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: See comments above

Vote: Fail; Opposed unanimously

Prop: 124: Modify resident sport fishing opportunity prescribed by SE AK king salmon action plans

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Enforcement nightmare. Seasonal residents will take advantage if this passes.

Vote: Fail; Opposed unanimously

Prop 125/126: No Action

Prop: 127/128: Allow residents to retain king salmon in the month of April near KTN

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Doug: Neutral but wants stocks of concern to recover prior to opening for kings. Enforcement challenge b/c one area is open and adjoining areas aren't. Supporting this would be a real detriment to the stocks of concern. ADFG is still has interests about the stocks of concern near KTN.

Vote: Fail; Opposed unanimously

Prop: 129: No Action

Prop: 130 Allow for remaining troll king salmon allocation after winter & spring troll fisheries to be harvested during a single retention period beginning July 1

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Doug: Supports The sport fishery keeps exceeding their 20%. How would trollers get accurate numbers if it one continuous season since there will be trollers on the grounds and ADFG won't have accurate counts but would have to guess on when to close the season. If this passes the sport fleet would face in season mgt. and EO the season. This prop was submitted b/c of the non-res anglers. Trollers are currently suffering which is the root cause of this prop.

Vote: Split;Tie; 6-Yes/5-No (Will, Kurt, Matt, Kim, Dave)/1-Abstain (Auggie)

Prop: 131 Establish criteria for establishing a limited harvest troll fishery in Aug. and allow for more than one limited harvest fishery

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG: Supports Doug: Opposed if 130 passes. There are boats that specifically target kings and if passed this will negatively impact those trollers.

Vote: Fail; Opposed unanimously

Prop: 132/133 Establish a min size limit for king salmon of 26.5" from snout to fork of tail in spring troll fishery

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG: opposed; Doug: opposed, this would change long standing regs, make regs complex. Some comm fishers use rubber bands to try and make the tails longer and the best thing to do is harvest kings that are 28.25" and throw everything overboard. Jacks/immature kings do help genetics.

Vote: Fail; Opposed unanimously

Prop: 183 No Action

Prop: 184 Expand open area in the Craig area for placement spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Doug: As a past 20 yr herring pound fisher, it was originally set up as a small area for conservation. I am opposed to opening it up to a larger area. This is a successful fishery b/c it is in a small area. The proposer is always late to the fishery b/c they are fishing the Sitka sac roe fishery and if passed this will be a much larger area and will likely have long term negative consequences on the resource. This is the only spawn on kelp fishery in the state that is still prosecuted and having a refuge for herring to spawn next to the fishery is likely the reason this fishery is still doing well. There is a lot of dead herring in the fishery depending on the ethics of the permit holder.

Vote: Fail; Opposed unanimously

Prop: 185/186 Expand open area in Section 3-B for placement spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds

Moved/seconded to adopt both props with one vote

Discussion: Doug: Opposed as same reasons above

Vote: Fail; Opposed unanimously

Prop: 187 Allow the use of large mesh webbing to surround spawn on kelp pound structure to protect structure and spawn on kelp product

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Doug: Supports b/c this will help protect the structure from sea lions.

Vote: Pass; Support unanimously

Prop: 224/225 Revert comm shrimp pot season from May 15 back to Oct. 1

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: There has only been 2 yrs worth of data in the new spring fishery. Members in the Hollis, Kasaan, Coffman Cove and Whale Pass area, the shrimp populations are increasing and getting bigger.

Vote: Fail; Opposed unanimously

Prop: 226 Provide for further conservation in the shrimp pot fishery by reducing all GHs by 20% reducing the number of pots allowed by 40-50% and eliminate the large pot size

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG: Opposed Doug: Opposed, already switched the seasons and sees no reason to further restrict regs when there has only been 2 yrs worth of data on the new season and locals have seen positive impacts. See above comments.

Vote: Fail; Opposed unanimously

Prop: 227 Permit stacking in the shrimp pot comm industry

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Doug: Opposed to all permit stacking in all SE AK. This is the wrong direction in the industry.

Vote: Fail; Opposed unanimously

Prop: 228 Slinky pots in the shrimp pot requirements

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Doug: Support. This is a good way for small boats to participate. These are compact small pots when folded up that fish effectively.

Vote: Fail; Opposed unanimously

Prop: 229 ADFG housekeeping prop for ADFG

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This will update descriptions of districts.

Vote: Pass; Support unanimously

Prop: 230/231 Establish a comm jig fishery for squid

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Doug: Supports but has questions about stock assessments that ADFG could likely manage. Will allow for a new fishery and anecdotal evidence indicates a very healthy population of squid. This will be a night time fishery and could possibly help comm fishers. Eric has personal interest but would also like data from ADFG.

We request that ADFG gets a population survey and/or better data. This might allow comm fishers to supplement their income.

Vote: Pass; Support unanimously

Prop: 232 Allow concurrent possession of red & green urchin aboard

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Doug: Supports ADFG: Supports Enforcement doesn't have an issue with it. This seems like a commonsense prop and is basically a housekeeping prop.

Vote: Pass; Support unanimously

Prop: 266 Allow additional gear types in the personal use crab fishery

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: In the past AK has outlawed these boxes b/c there is no biodegradable mechanism so if they are lost, they will continue to kill crabs. The loops are mono and don't degrade.

Vote: Pass; Split; (11-Yes/1-No)

KSMP: Everyone wants to change the plan for their own interests but we pay ADFG to work within the treaty and we are interested to see what they will come up with since they are a neutral agency that will make the best decision. We doubt any of these props will pass as written but BOF would like to see our topics of discussion.

Lew: I would like to see in-season mgt for the sport fishery and leave the percentages the way they are.

Matt: Is the current mgt. plan working with the constraints they have.

Kurt: In-season mgt. doesn't work for the charter fleet and we need 3 kings in June for our multi-day bookings to provide opportunity until the cohos show up so our needs are different than the KTN fleet b/c we don't have 10,000+ clients/day to choose from. In-season mgt. is onerous for our clients b/c they book the trip thinking there is opportunity but when they arrive there isn't and they are very disgruntled b/c there are no other salmon to catch. If the outer coast fleet doesn't have 3 kings in June there will be a number of them that won't survive. Lodges that live within the city limits of Thorn Bay, Craig & Klawock all pay a very onerous 5.5% to 6.5% sales tax on the gross of our trips since there is no sales tax cap which results in hundreds of thousands of dollars generated to these communities. About \$100,000 per lodge operation from EACH lodge operation in the city limits of Craig is paid. The charter fleet removes fewer fish from the water and puts more money back into the economy and tax base. If you want to think of it in price per lb; a charter operator charges \$4000/client and sends an avg of 100lb/fish with them so the price/lb is about \$40/lb. and one king is worth about \$1000 to our clients. The main problem with current mgt. plan is the abundance index is wrong and has skewed the numbers the last 3 years into the low abundance tiers which means the total removals allocated to the sport fleet is less than it should be. If we wouldn't have changed to this new method of forecasting we wouldn't be in this pickle. The charter fleet is currently fishing very close to a minimal amount of fish to make our trips marketable. We need kings to fish on until the cohos show up. The entire sport fleet needs a state task force to study the issues b/c we have no sideboards on the DIY boats, ADFG doesn't limit the number on guides that can take anglers fishing for everything but halibut and they don't even charge a fee for the guides license. Then we have guides that own Charter Halibut Permit(CHPs) which were all capped in 2007 and have been decreasing every year as the permit owners of non-transferable permits have been dying. Ketchikan is the only community in SE AK to see a slight rise in the number of charter operations. The other ports have been decreasing and some have migrated around SE. Trollers have been suffering b/c of the flawed abundance index formula. ADFG does not have good data on DIY boats b/c they don't require it and there is no creel surveys conducted on the East side of POW. The burgeoning DIY boat industry on the inside of POW and KTN contributes to the sport fishing quota of 20% which is another reason the sport fleet has been exceeded the past few years. DIY boats can also catch 2 halibut of any size b/c the feds can't discriminate on residency so all non-res fish under resident bag limits. DIY boats are very tuned into the halibut fishing, just search YouTube for some examples. Both

the commercial fleet and the sport fleet are united on is resident protections. In-season mgt is a death sentence for the charter fleet and the 20% hardcap triggers it. I don't understand why ADFG can't hire 2 more creel survey techs to go to one of the 5 communities once/day on the inside of the PoW and randomly conduct creel surveys to gather more info on the DIY fleet. It will increase data collection and help enforcement by deterrence. The outside forces against us is the Trawl Industry in western Alaska killing our juvenile halibut/kings, DIY boats and no limit on the number of guides that can guide for everything but halibut. Also, if the DIY lodge owners are unethical/illegal that definitely influences the anglers. When you remove your entire boat from the water every day and take it home with you, you might have issues. Creel surveys are great for gathering data and deterring illegal activity. Alaska Seasonal Residents are also taking a good chunk out of the 20% sport fishing quota.

Will: CHP's have a limit on the number of rods per boat so there are 4, 5 & 6 rod permits. The communities of Whale Pass has 4 CHP's as well as Thorne Bay & likely Coffman Cove. There's really not many fish to fish on the inside of the island so a lot of charter boats from the inside go to the outside. In one year there was over 20,000 fish removed from the Neck Lake hatchery just in Whale Pass.

Eric: I'm not sure the real issue will be addressed in any of these props.

John: There are so many non-res that are coming up for either guided or unguided trips. Pt. Baker is a great example of that. A few years ago there were just a few DIY boats and now there are 40 boats. There is no data on any of the DIY boats.

Craig S.: The current KSMP doesn't not have in-season mgt. Guides are required to fill out an electronic logbook and ADFG has good data on the guided anglers vs the DIY boats there is no accurate data until the end of the year voluntary survey that ADFG mails them. There are three main components of ADFG's data gathering: 1) The charter fleet has logbooks 2) Creel survey of selected communities (Craig/Klawock on POW) 3) angler surveys sent out at the end of the year that are only voluntarily returned. There's a misconception that this is a troller vs charter issue when in reality it is a troll vs sport fishing issue. The 20% is all sport fishing: resident and non-resident. 67% of the 20% sport harvest is from non-residents.

Dave: Over the past 25 yrs the sport fleet has averaged 20.2%. Out of that 20%, the charter fleet is 12% and the other 8% is resided harvest and unguided harvest. Our logbooks are very accurate.

John: How do we want to proceed? Shall we vote for the ADFG prop, submit our notes and share our comments with the board to make the best decision. A lot of charters in KTN are running multiple trips per day also adding to the increased harvest.

Prop: 121 ADFG: Extend sunset provisions in the SE AK King salmon mgt plan

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: See comments above

Vote: Pass; Support unanimously

Election for BOF rep: Will Pattison

Kurt nominated Will Pattison to represent the East PoW AC @ the BOF; Will does a great job at both the BOG & BOF and is a wealth of knowledge.

Moved/seconded

Vote: Pass; Support unanimously

BOG call for proposals deadline is May 1, 2025

Next meeting @ 10am March 1, 2025

Adjourned @ 3:13pm

**Elfin Cove Advisory Committee
1/2/25
Remote meeting via Zoom**

I. Call to Order: 6:00 PM by Patrick Baum, chair

II. Roll Call

Members Present:

Patrick Baum, Chair
Erik Stromme, Vice Chair
Susan Meier
Hayden Meier
Shirly Perkins
Holly Enderle
Ryland Bell
Charles Peep
Nelson Merrill
Nicole Pollock

Members Absent (Excused):

Alice Johnson, Secretary

Members Absent (Unexcused):

Jacques Norvell
Zach Miller
Haley Janttie
Mary-Jo Lord-Wild

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present: Charter, commercial and community

III. Fish and Game Staff Present:

Jess Etheridge
Adam Messmer
Joe Stratman

IV. Guests Present:

Kim, Seago representative

- V. Approval of Agenda
Hayden motions to approve agenda, seconded by Ryland, motion approved
- VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
Hayden motions to approve previous meeting minutes, seconded by Ryland, motion approved
- VII. Proposition discussion and voting
Proposal 258 is called to discussion, Charles asks for clarification on the areas specified within the proposal. Charles and Nelson point to local knowledge of the lack of dungeness crab in Port Althorp.
Shirley motions to vote on proposal 258, seconded by Ryland, motion approved.
Vote is unanimously in opposition to proposal 258. 0 support 0 abstain 10 oppose.
Proposal 259 is called to discussion, similarities are noted to proposal 258.
Ryland motions to vote on proposal 259, seconded by Charles
Vote is unanimously in opposition to proposal 259. 0 support 0 abstain 10 oppose.
- VIII. Other business
Patrick asks for any additional comments or questions on the EC AC comment form as written. None offered.
Hayden motions to approve EC AC comment form, seconded by Ryland, motion passes.
Patrick raises issue of absence of several committee members, citing complete absence for all EC AC meetings to date, causing issues with the quorum requirement. Discussion ensues on procedure and seat designation. Kim notes that currently the EC AC has no seat designation. No action taken at this time.
Shirley asks if Patrick will be attending the BOF meeting in Ketchikan. Patrick confirms he plans to attend, and is looking forward to it.
- IX. Select representative(s) for board meeting
Patrick Baum

Adjourn Hayden motions to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ryland, motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 6:22.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
January 28-February 9th, 2025 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
104	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		
Support	11	0	
105	Modify sport fishing regulations in salt waters subject to the Magnuson-Stevens Act by removing differential regulations for resident and nonresident anglers		
Oppose	0	12	
106	Prohibit nonresidents on charter vessels that have taken fish in the EEZ from offloading those fish in state waters		
Support	12	0	
107	Prohibit nonresidents that have taken fish in the EEZ from possessing or offloading those fish in state waters		
No Action			Due to similarity to proposal 107
108	Modify management and allocation provisions of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan		
Oppose	2	9	1 abstain
109	Modify the structure of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan by removing management tiers and other provisions		
Support	10	2	
110	Manage the sport fishery inseason to achieve the annual king salmon allocation to the sport fishery		
Support	10	2	
111	Modify the management provisions and target allocation for the king salmon sport fishery		
Oppose	0	11	1 abstain due to lack of understanding
112	Modify the sport allocation of king salmon and provisions for management		
Oppose	0	11	
113	Modify the provisions of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan and increase the sport allocation of king salmon		
Oppose	2	9	

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
114	Reduce the nonresident annual limit in low allocation management tiers and other modifications to the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan		
Oppose	0	11	
115	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to one fish		
Support	6	5	
116	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to two fish prior to July 1 and one fish after July 1		
Support	7	2	2 abstain
117	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to two fish prior to July 1 and one fish after July 1		
No Action			
118	The nonresident annual limit for king salmon shall not exceed three and nonresident annual limits will not apply in terminal harvest areas		
Oppose	2	9	
119	Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon for 2 days per week		
Support	6	5	
120	Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon on weekends		
Support	7	4	
121	Extend the sunset provisions in the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan		
Oppose	4	7	
122	Prohibit the removal of king salmon from the water when retention is not allowed		
Support	11	0	
123	Prohibit netting or handling king salmon when catch-and-release fishing is implemented		
Support	11	0	
124	Modify resident sport fishing opportunity prescribed by Southeast Alaska king salmon action plans		
Support	10	1	
125	Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A when a stock of concern exists for king salmon stocks in Northern Southeast Alaska		
Support	9	2	
126	Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A		
No Action			Due to similarity to proposal 125

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
127	Allow residents to retain king salmon in the month of April near Ketchikan		
Oppose	2	7	2 abstain
128	Allow residents to retain king salmon in the month of April in the Ketchikan area		
No Action			Due to similarity to proposal 127
129	Increase the number of days open in the Yakutat Bay spring troll fishery from 1 day to 2 days		
Support	11	0	
130	Allow for remaining troll king salmon allocation after winter and spring troll fisheries to be harvested during a single retention period beginning July 1		
Support	10	0	1 abstain
131	Establish criteria for establishing a limited harvest troll fishery in August and allow for more than one limited harvest fishery to occur		
Support	9	0	2 abstain
132	Establish a minimum size limit for Chinook salmon of 26 1/2 inches from snout to fork of tail in the spring troll fisheries		
Support	11	0	
133	Allow for king salmon of 26 1/2 inches snout to fork length be retained in District 13 spring troll fisheries		
No Action			Due to similarity to proposal 132
134	Expand landing and retention requirements for king salmon by purse seine permit holders and establish penalties for violating landing requirements		
Support	10	0	1 abstain
135	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		
Support	9	1	1 abstain
136	Increase sockeye salmon possession and annual limits at Basket Bay		
Support	9	0	2 abstain
137	Increase the possession limit of sockeye salmon for Basket Bay from 15 to 30 sockeye salmon		
Support	10	0	1 abstain
138	Prohibit snagging in the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge		
Support	11	0	

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
139	Prohibit snagging within Don D. Statter harbor		
Support	11	0	
140	Sport fishing may only be conducted with a single barbless circle hook between April 1 and June 14		
Support	6	5	with amendment
141	Prohibit the use of bait in sport fisheries between April 1 through June 14		
Support	9	2	
142	Open Ketchikan Creek to sport fishing year-round and establish bag and possession limits for king salmon		
143	Increase the bag and possession limit for trout in Southeast Alaska		
144	Increase harvest opportunity for trout in Southeast Alaska		
145	Increase harvest opportunity for trout in Klawock Lake drainage		
146	Increase the bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout in 108 Creek drainage		
147	Increase the bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout and prohibit the use of bait in Neck Lake		
148	Modify Eagle Lake cutthroat trout bag and possession and size limit		
149	Prohibit the use of bait and establish a catch-and-release fishery with single barbless hooks in Petersen Creek		
150	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		
Support	11	0	
151	Modify the nonresident annual limit for king salmon in the freshwaters of the Yakutat management area and the Situk River		
No Action			

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
152	Amend the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan to reflect recent management strategies		
No Action			
153	Close a portion of the Situk River to sport fishing until the escapement goal for king salmon is met		
No Action			
154	Close sport fishing in a portion of the Situk River between April 15 and May 15		
No Action			
155	Increase the sport fish bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in the fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary		
No Action			
156	Reduce Southeast Alaska hatchery permitted pink and chum salmon egg take level by 25%		
Oppose	0	10	1 abstain
157	Establish a terminal harvest area and associated management plan for harvesting hatchery produced salmon at Burnett Inlet		
158	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		
159	Modify the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan		
160	Modify the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan		
161	Reduce the sport fish bag limit for king salmon in the Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area		
162	Reduce king salmon sport fish bag limits outside of the time when the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Management Plan is in effect		
163	Nonresident annual limits for king salmon will apply in the Blind Slough terminal harvest area		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
164			Modify king salmon bag and possession limits in the terminal harvest area near Juneau
165			Change the start time of weekly drift gillnet fishing periods from Sunday to Monday
166			Allow for drift gillnets to be up to 90 meshes deep in District 11 beginning statistical week 34
167			Increase the legal length of purse seine by 50 fathoms
168			Modify regulations to make it unlawful to use aircraft for locating salmon during any open commercial purse seine fishing period
169			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
Oppose	4	6	1 abstain
170			Add waters closed to commercial fishing in Sudden Stream and Malaspina Lake
171			Modify spawning biomass threshold minimum and maximum harvest rates for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B
172			Reduce upper end of sliding scale harvest rate for Southeast Alaska commercial herring fisheries from 20 to 15 percent
173			Eliminate provisions to establish a guideline harvest level for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe herring fishery under 27.160
174			Establish a maximum guideline harvest level and minimum spawning biomass to conduct fisheries for the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery
175			Establish a 15,000 ton harvest limit for the Sitka Sound sac roe fishery

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
176			Reduce the maximum harvest rate from 20 percent to 10 percent for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery
177			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
178			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
179			Expand waters closed the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery to include Promisla Bay
180			Correct latitude of Aspid Cape for the southern boundary of the Section 13-B purse seine sac roe herring fishery
181			Establish provisions for conducting test setting in the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery
182			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
183			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
184			Expand open area in Section 3-B for placement spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds
185			Expand open area in Section 3-B for spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds
186			Expand open area in Section 3-B for spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds
187			Allow the use of large mesh webbing to surround spawn on kelp pound structure to protect structure and spawn on kelp product

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
188			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
189			Reduce by half the length limit of purse seine net for commercial herring harvest
190			Provide for co-management of herring fisheries with tribal governments
191			Amend logbook requirements for vessels fishing for groundfish with pot and longline gear
Support	13	0	
192			Allow pots used in the personal use bottomfish fishery to be longlined
193			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
Oppose	1	10	2 abstain
194			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
195			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
196			Reduce the minimum inside diameter of escape rings in commercial sablefish pots to three and three-eighths inches
197			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
198			Increase the daily bag limit for sablefish in the sport fishery

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
199	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		
Support	13	0	
200	Adopt a catch reporting requirement for directed lingcod fisheries		
Support	13	0	
201	Clarify lingcod bycatch overage requirements in the Southeast District fisheries for longline halibut and salmon troll fisheries		
Support	13	0	
202	Clarify that only one line can be used for dinglebar gear in the lingcod fishery		
Support	13	0	
203	Establish unguided nonresident lingcod regulations		
Oppose	0	13	
204	Allow pots to be longlined in the state waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska commercial Pacific cod fishery		
Support	11	1	
205	Allow personal use retention of Pacific cod and rockfishes, including thornyhead rockfish, in pot gear		
Support	12	0	
206	Reopen yelloweye sport fishery for residents		
No Action	5	5	2 abstain
207	Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents		
Oppose	2	10	
208	Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents		
Oppose	1	10	1 abstain
209	Establish provisions for a resident priority within emergency order authority for pelagic rockfish		
Support	9	2	1 abstain
210	Reduce the bag and possession limit for pelagic rockfish in Southeast Alaska		
Oppose	5	6	1 abstain

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
211	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		
Support	12	0	
212	Allow the number of geoduck permit holders able to fish from one vessel to be increased from two to four by emergency order		
213	Modify how geoduck guideline harvest levels are calculated		
214	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		
215	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		
216	Clarify that only aquatic farm sites approved for the culture of geoduck clams are closed to commercial harvest of geoduck clams		
217	Allow weekly fishing periods to begin on Sundays		
218	Extend sea cucumber fishing season beyond March 31		
219	Clarify when a sea cucumber permit holder is in possession of the product they harvested		
220	Allow crew members to be in possession of sea cucumbers harvested by the sea cucumber permit holder		
221	Prohibit harvest of naturally occurring sea cucumbers on aquatic farm sites by farm operator in areas where there are commercial sea cucumber fisheries		
222	Adopt seasonal closures for subsistence, sport, and personal use shrimp fisheries		

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
223			Increase the tunnel size for sport, personal use, and subsistence shrimp pots
224			Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 opening date back to October 1
225			Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 opening date to October 1 or to another start date in late summer/early fall
226			Provide for further conservation in the shrimp pot fishery by reducing all GHs by 20%, reducing the number of pots allowed by 40–50%, and eliminating the large pot size
227			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
228			Redefine legal shrimp pot requirements to allow for the use slinky pots
229			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
230			Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid
231			Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid
232			Allow for the concurrent possession of red and green urchin aboard
233			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
234			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

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
235			Add freezing spray to the criteria that would delay the start date of commercial golden king crab fishery in Registration Area A.
236			Increase the depth that Registration Area A commercial king crab fishery pots can be stored to 20 fathoms
237			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
238			Expand the defined Southern Area in the golden king crab commercial fishery in Registration Area A to include all waters of Section 3-A
239			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
240			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
241			Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A king crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait
242			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
243			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
244			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

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
245			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
246			Add freezing spray to the criteria that would delay the start date of commercial Tanner crab fishery in Registration Area A
247			Increase the depth that Registration Area A commercial Tanner crab fishery pots can be stored to 20 fathoms
248			Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A Tanner crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait
249			Allow Tanner crab commercial fishery participants to operate pot gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport fisheries after unregistering from the commercial fishery
250			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
251			Change the start date of the Registration Area A Dungeness crab commercial fishery's summer season from June 15 to July 1
252			Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A Dungeness crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait
253			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
254			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

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
 January 28-February 9th, 2025 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
255	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 f		
256	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 ho		
257	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		
258	Open some or all areas closed to commercial Dungeness fishing in Registration Area A		
	0	10	
259	Open all waters closed to commercial Dungeness fishing in Registration Area A between October 1 and November 30, annually		
	0	10	
260	Close George Inlet, Carroll Inlet, and Thorne Arm in District 1 to the commercial harvest of shrimp and crab		
261	Close Traitors Cove to commercial and sport shellfish harvest		
262	Close sport fishing for Dungeness crab in Thorne Bay		

Adjournment: 6:22

Minutes Recorded By: Erik Stromme
 Minutes Approved By: Patrick Baum
 Date: 1/2/25

Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (FAC)

Comments on Proposals for the Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish Meeting

The Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee (FAC) met on January 8th, 2025 and voted unanimously to **support Proposal 156** to reduce Southeast Alaska hatchery permitted pink and chum salmon egg take level by 25% and to submit comments including peer-reviewed research articles and published opinion pieces discussing the impacts of hatchery production on wild salmon stocks.

During the January 8th meeting, the FAC also voted unanimously to delegate authority to the Fisheries Subcommittee to review and take actions on additional proposals for the Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting. The Fisheries Subcommittee met on January 13th and acted on twenty additional proposals.

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Fairbanks AC Actions on Proposals	pages 2-3
Fairbanks AC Narrative Preface in Support of Proposal 156	pages 4-17
<i>“A global synthesis of peer-reviewed research on the effects of hatchery salmonids on wild salmonids”</i> (McMillan et al. 2023)	pages 18-28
<i>“Choked Streams”</i> (Medred 2023)	pages 29-40
<i>“Dirty Bottoms”</i> (Medred 2024)	pages 41-51
<i>“Zero-sum Fishery”</i> (Medred 2024)	pages 52-65
<i>“The Warrior”</i> (Medred 2025)	pages 66-77
<i>“Trends in Adult Return Abundance of Idaho Salmon and Steelhead Relative to Pink Salmon Abundance the Year of Ocean Entry”</i> (Cassinelli & McCormick 2025)	pages 78-80
<i>“‘Ocean ranching’ has led to a pink salmon boom — but there might be a catch”</i> (Soliman 2024)	pages 81-86

Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (FAC) Actions on Proposals

The Fisheries Subcommittee of the FAC met on January 13th, 2025 and acted on the following proposals. Three members were present. All actions were unanimous.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
115	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to one fish		
SUPPORT			
116	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to two fish prior to July 1 and one fish after July 1		
SUPPORT			
119	Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon for 2 days per week		
SUPPORT			
122	Prohibit the removal of king salmon from the water when retention is not allowed		
SUPPORT			
124	Modify resident sport fishing opportunity prescribed by Southeast Alaska king salmon action plans		
OPPOSE			
125	Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A when a stock of concern exists for king salmon stocks in Northern Southeast Alaska		
SUPPORT			
136	Increase sockeye salmon possession and annual limits at Basket Bay		
SUPPORT			
137	Increase the possession limit of sockeye salmon for Basket Bay from 15 to 30 sockeye salmon		
SUPPORT			
138	Prohibit snagging in the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge		
SUPPORT			

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
153	Close a portion of the Situk River to sport fishing until the escapement goal for king salmon is met		
SUPPORT			
156	Reduce Southeast Alaska hatchery permitted pink and chum salmon egg take level by 25%		
SUPPORT	13	0	The Fairbanks AC acted on proposal 156 on January 8th, 2025 and voted unanimously to support and submit the following 83 pages of comments and additional information in support of this proposal.
162	Reduce king salmon sport fish bag limits outside of the time when the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Management Plan is in effect		
OPPOSE			
167	Increase the legal length of purse seine by 50 fathoms		
SUPPORT			
168	Modify regulations to make it unlawful to use aircraft for locating salmon during any open commercial purse seine fishing period		
SUPPORT			
170	Add waters closed to commercial fishing in Sudden Stream and Malaspina Lake		
SUPPORT			
191	Amend logbook requirements for vessels fishing for groundfish with pot and longline gear		
SUPPORT			
198	Increase the daily bag limit for sablefish in the sport fishery		
SUPPORT			
207	Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents		
OPPOSE			
208	Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents		
OPPOSE			
210	Reduce the bag and possession limit for pelagic rockfish in Southeast Alaska		
SUPPORT			
227	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		
OPPOSE			

The following 83 pages are the FAC's comments **in support of Proposal 156**.

NARRATIVE PREFACE

If Alaskan wild stock salmon were not in such peril, the discussion of hatcheries or other decline factors would not likely be happening. In fact, years of relative abundance in wild salmon stocks have disguised the truth in many of our fisheries management – from bycatch to intercept to gear impacts and to hatcheries. It takes years (decades or longer) for consequences to become self-evident as impacts accumulate and cause anadromous species to reach a negative tipping point. Then it takes even longer for us to recognize what is actually occurring. Looking at our wild salmon health in the aggregate and not segregating out impact factors over time has prevented us from seeing the dangerous trends that now have cascaded. While salmon declines are caused by a multitude of factors, many of which are beyond our control, overproduction of hatchery fish and straying implications are two things we, as Alaskans, can mitigate in order to help wild salmon recover.

Like previous Board proposals, Proposal #156 is born of a deep and abiding concern that Alaska's hatchery system, like Asian hatchery systems, are contributing to the decline of wild salmon stocks *all over* Alaska.

The following comments are meant to be preliminary in nature as the issue of hatchery impacts is incredibly broad. (The FAC has accumulated literally thousands of papers and articles relative to the subject.) But they should provide support for consideration of PNP hatchery egg reduction as proposed in #156.

Salmon Decline is Happening All Over Alaska In an Unprecedented Trajectory

The first indices of systemic salmon decline in abundance and size in Alaska began on the Yukon River with the dramatic loss of Chinook salmon. Over 25 years ago, Canadians in the Yukon Territory were warning Alaskans that Canadian origin Yukon River Chinook, roughly 50% of the run, were not returning in sufficient numbers and ratios to maintain historical reproduction. It soon became evident to Alaskans that the wild Chinook decline was not just in Canada, but in the entire AYK (Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim), then in Bristol Bay, and now in the Gulf of Alaska. This was followed by sockeye everywhere becoming smaller, extreme declines in summer and fall chum and now coho.

The situation of Chinook and chum loss on the Yukon River is so acute that it should be a flashing red light to the rest of the state as the crisis spreads.

It's heart-breaking and terrifying to watch a once-thriving and iconic fishery die. Just over 15 years ago, the Yukon River could provide a decent commercial fishery and could feed thousands of subsistence users with Chinook, summer and fall chum, sockeye and coho and even some pinks down in the Lower River. 50% of the Chinook in the Yukon River were Canadian bound

and users on both sides of the border had enough fish for commercial as well as subsistence. About 25 years ago, Canadians in the Upper Yukon started noticing continued declines in their spawning populations and then in the size of their kings. A small commercial fishery in Dawson City had to cease. The Treaty obligations for border crossing were not being met. Subsistence ANS in both Alaska and the Yukon were not being met. Tribes in Canada began the painful process of standing down from subsistence fishing so that salmon could reach spawning grounds in enough numbers to repopulate. The mitigation hatchery in Whitehorse, that exists to replace wild salmon displaced by the only real dam on the Yukon River, began to see fewer returns. Through the Yukon River Panel, the Canadians began warning Alaskans of these changes but the Alaska side was very slow to take notice, much less any action. But eventually, commercial fishing for Chinook and then summer chum ceased in Alaska. Subsistence fishing was greatly reduced or had to cease as well. The rapidity of loss of Chinook salmon in both Canadian and Alaska stocks became an accelerating crisis and with it, loss of summer and fall chum as well. More recently, coho salmon are showing the same rates of decline. ***The loss has been a terrible shock as income and food security have been eliminated.*** People are desperately seeking reasons and answers. For a short time, there was discussion of a production hatchery but that option was discarded in the light of reality in science, cost, mixed stock linear system and further threats to wild stock. Searches for root causes have been massive. These efforts have more recently resulted in an influx of research and moratoriums. But our efforts are likely too late to save some discrete stocks. We have learned, all of us within the Yukon River Watershed, a tremendous amount in the last several years but what we have learned is not comforting.

So this is the messaging to the rest of the state because the signs of wild stock collapse are spreading from system to system. This is not hyperbole. Expect that this could get a whole lot worse before it gets better.

Southeast Alaska may have even more vulnerability for wild salmon loss, but that is being masked by hatchery production.

Alaska has not fully enumerated this loss of wild salmon stocks for a variety of reasons but lack of fishing opportunity for commercial, sports, personal use and subsistence are becoming harder to ignore as region by region the most valued of salmon are becoming more scarce.

“Declines in animal body sizes are widely reported and likely impact ecological interactions and ecosystem services. For harvested species subject to multiple stressors, limited understanding of the causes and consequences of size declines impedes prediction, prevention, and mitigation. We highlight widespread declines in Pacific salmon size based on 60 years of measurements from 12.5 million fish across Alaska, the last largely pristine North American salmon-producing region. Declines in salmon size, primarily resulting from shifting age structure, are associated with climate and competition at sea. Compared to salmon maturing before 1990, the reduced size of adult salmon after 2010 has potentially resulted in substantial losses to ecosystems and people; for Chinook salmon we estimated average per-fish reductions in egg production (-16%), nutrient transport (-28%), fisheries value (-21%), and meals for

rural people (-26%). Downsizing of organisms is a global concern, and current trends may pose substantial risks for nature and people.”¹

“This trend is not endemic to Alaska, and although climate change is affecting habitats, it is not the only culprit. A 2024 global study by the World Fish Migration Foundation found an average of 81% decline in migratory freshwater fish populations between 1970 and 2020. Due to data limitations, the situation might be even worse. The report states that migratory fishes are disproportionately threatened, especially those that spend parts of their life in freshwater, largely due to overfishing, and habitat loss or degradation.”“Along with the threat of trawlers, wild salmon face increased competition for food in the ocean due to the vast number of hatchery salmon that are artificially grown and released annually by hatcheries. Every year, about 900 million fry (young salmon) are released, and this is only one of the five Pacific species. Hatcheries sometimes do remote releases into streams where there hadn't been wild salmon runs before, or release them directly into saltwater. In 2023, hatchery production accounted for 81% of the commercial fisheries harvest in Prince William Sound, close to where Lankard lives. "It has sort of been like death by a thousand little cuts, and climate change is the stage on which this is all playing out," says Westley. "But we need to focus on the things that we have direct control over to help fish out.”²

“Across Alaska, salmon are returning from sea at younger ages with smaller adult body sizes. Alaskans have long noted these changes, as have previous scientific studies. Until now, no project has compared trends across all of Alaska’s regions and species.” (A map on the State of Alaska Salmon and People (SASAP) web site³ illustrates some of the magnitude of declining sizes in all salmon species across most of coastal Alaska.) “It is clear that in general, Alaska salmon are getting smaller and the declines are most stark for Chinook salmon. These changes are especially pronounced in the past 15-20 years.”⁴

The Major Factors in Salmon Decline

“Salmon populations can become smaller bodied, on average, in two non-mutually exclusive ways. First, they may be growing smaller if they cannot acquire enough food at sea. This results in salmon of the same age that are smaller than they were in the past. Second, salmon may return from the ocean at younger ages. Because salmon continue to grow as they age, older salmon are generally larger than younger salmon. In Alaska, all four species of salmon are getting smaller primarily because they are returning from the ocean at younger ages. Research has found that no single factor can explain changes in salmon size. Instead, salmon face many factors that collectively contribute to smaller size and younger age, including a warming climate, increased predation from marine mammals, fisheries-induced evolution (or changes in the characteristics of salmon due to fishing gear that

¹ “Recent declines in salmon body size impact ecosystems and fisheries” *Nature Communications* 2020 K. B. Oke ● C. J. Cunningham, P. A. H. Westley ● M. L. Baskett, S. M. Carlson ●, J. Clark ,A. P. Hendry, V. A. Karatayev ●, N. W. Kendall, J. Kibebe ●, H. K. Kindsvater ● K. M. Kobayashi, B. Lewis, S. Munch, J. D. Reynolds, G. K. Vick & E. P. Palkovacs ●

² *Warming rivers and over-fishing leave native Alaskans facing 'salmon scarcity'* Carla Rosch, 12 August 2024 BBC

³ <https://alaskasalmonandpeople.org/topics/the-declining-size-and-age-of-salmon/>

⁴ “Recent declines in salmon body size impact ecosystems and fisheries”

preferentially catches large, old salmon), and increased competition from highly abundant wild and hatchery salmon at sea.”⁵

“Under the Alaska Salmon Research Task Force Act, NOAA Fisheries, on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, in collaboration with the State of Alaska, was required to convene a task force to review existing Pacific salmon research in Alaska and identify applied research needed to better understand the increased variability and declining salmon returns in some regions in order to support sustainable salmon runs in Alaska. NOAA Fisheries and the Governor of Alaska were required to each appoint a representative to serve on the task force. The Task Force was made up of a diverse group of Alaska salmon knowledge holders, including members from federal, state, tribal, university, industry, and non-governmental organizations. This report was written by the Task Force and its Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Working Group. The views, opinions, and recommendations expressed are only those of the Task Force and the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Working Group. “

The ASRTF concluded their Final Report in late 2024. They identified primary potential driving factors of salmon decline in Alaska as: (1) Warming climate and extreme events, (2) Salmon health and conditions, (3) Predators, (4) Marine food limitations, (5) Marine harvest and bycatch, (6) Freshwater habitat changes, (7) Freshwater harvest. **The report noted that “a growing body of scientific literature associates many of these abundance or size declines with competition among salmon species, including those of hatchery origin. Therefore, it is critical to understand the mechanisms and degree to which marine food limitations may be causing poor returns of Alaskan salmon, and to understand what actions could possibly mediate these conditions.”** (The “body of scientific literature” is listed later in this document.)

Proposal #156 and The Reasons for Egg Reduction Proposals

The Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (FAC), along with other organizations, has long been requesting that the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) consider egg reduction within the PNP (private-non-profit) anadromous-release salmon hatcheries. The reason for these proposals is very simple: Alaska is witnessing an unprecedented decline in most salmon species in size and abundance while at the same time there is overwhelming evidence that hatchery production negatively impacts wild salmon stocks. In addition, there is currently no other venue for addressing hatchery impacts outside the limited scope of egg production.

Pink and chum are the high volume hatchery fish but they are the lowest market value of Alaska’s five salmon species. Because of their production volume, they have the highest rates of straying into wild salmon streams and they have the highest potential impact for competition with wild stock for forage food.

It basically amounts to pumping out low-value salmon that we can’t find sufficient buyers for as an artificial supplement for a very small number of Alaskans.

⁵ IBID

It is important to note: Proposal #156 to reduce pink and chum salmon production by 25% is *not* the same as reducing returns by 25%, a common misinterpretation.

Why Do We Even Have Hatcheries in Alaska?

Alaska does not have, has not had, many of the obstacles (dams, road systems) that have diminished or annihilated wild salmon runs in many other places in the world, and yet, we have a history from Territorial days of hatchery enhancement **most entirely due to wanting to increase commercial exploitation.**

“Alaska Construction of hatcheries in Alaska began in the early 1900s, but they were often badly sited and had poor water quality. As a consequence, these hatcheries achieved little success and by 1936 Alaska’s hatcheries ceased production (Roppel, 1982).”⁶

Alaska's First Generation of Salmon Hatcheries 1891-1936 By the late eighteen hundreds commercial salmon fishing was a major industry in Alaska. However, the fishing industry was not regulated, and it became evident that the huge catches were beginning to deplete the salmon runs. Sockeye and pink salmon were the primary target species during this period. There was concern about sustaining the resource and fish hatcheries were viewed as a possible solution. The first salmon hatchery in Alaska was built through the combined efforts of several cannery operators at Karluk on Kodiak Island. It was built in 1891 to propagate sockeye salmon. Most of the early hatcheries were built in areas where large natural runs of sockeye and or pink salmon were present. The number of sockeye eggs taken and fry released between 1891 and 1936 fluctuated greatly with peak numbers being reached between 1910 and 1911. In 1910, a total of 220 million sockeye eggs were taken at sixteen facilities, resulting in a release of over 180 million fry the following year. These are larger numbers in terms of eggs .and fry than are presently being done in Alaska. However, a lack of understanding all the biological requirements of sockeye salmon, and a lack of evaluation combined with the failure to secure a permanent funding mechanism lead to the steady closure of these first hatcheries in Alaska. Not all of this work was wasted. Many insights into fish culture procedures in Alaska came from trial and error methods used in these early facilities. For example, Ward T. Bower, a fisheries agent in Alaska, selected procedures most applicable to Alaska and published them in the 1911 annual Alaska fisheries report. He pointed out noteworthy advances such as taking eggs by abdominal incision and the use of a salt solution for removal of dead eggs.”⁷

“The policy of regulation instead of artificial propagation remained in effect after statehood. With the exception of the rebuilding of the Kitoi Bay Hatchery, no new facilities were built during this period and salmon runs in Alaska: continued to decline. The 30 year average of annual commercial harvests (1945 to 1975), was 83 million fish, compared to an average annual harvest of 45 million fish between 1960 and 1975, and an average annual harvest of 23 million fish between 1973 and 1975. This dramatic drop in the commercial salmon harvest prompted state

⁶ “An Evaluation of the Effects of Conservation and Fishery Enhancement Hatcheries on Wild Populations of Salmon,” Kerry A. Naish, Joseph E. Taylor, III Phillip S. Levin, Thomas P. Quinn, James R. Winton, Daniel Huppert, and Ray Hilborn *Advances in Marine Biology*, Vol 53, 2008

⁷ Department of Public and Private Hatcheries in Alaska By Terry Ellison, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, FRED Division Presented at the 9th annual meeting of the Aquaculture Association of Canada Vancouver, British Columbia June 1-3, 1992

action. Although the state Department of Fish and Game had been involved on a small scale with enhancement of the sport fishery, and with research and experimental hatchery production of salmon for the commercial fishery, the legislature sought to consolidate and expand the programs.

By 1968, public concern about the depressed fishery was high and the progress of hatchery programs in other states and countries was being watched with interest. A general obligation bond authorization for \$3 million dollars to build state hatcheries was passed by the legislature and overwhelmingly approved by the general public. The basic idea behind the state hatchery program was to supplement the existing wild salmon stocks in the state with hatchery fish which would be available for harvest by commercial, sport and subsistence fishermen. The legislature planned for a long range goal of increased commercial harvest from the 30 million fish level to a steady supply of 100 million (+) salmon to provide a long-term source of employment and economic activity.”⁸

“In 1971, the Division of Fisheries Rehabilitation Enhancement and Development (FRED Division) of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) was created by the Alaska State Legislature. The legislature directed the division "through rehabilitation, enhancement, and development programs to do all things necessary to insure perpetual and increasing production and use of food resources of Alaska waters." But FRED Division has been more than just hatcheries. It was modeled after the agriculture industry and covered many disciplines. So, from the beginning fish pathology, fish genetics, fish culture, biometrics, limnology, biology, engineering and a coded wire tag processing lab were all part of the overall development. Between 1974 and 1980, the legislature passed an additional 74.3 million dollars of general obligation bonds, approved by the public, to build a state hatchery system.In 1973, the United Fisherman's Association (UFA) was formed, organizing commercial - fishermen at the state level for the first time. Fishermen's groups such as UFA were a driving force behind Alaska's salmon hatchery programs. This group, along with others, believed it would take artificial propagation as well as some restrictive regulations to bring the commercial harvest level back up from 23 million fish to 83 million fish.”⁹

The long-term goal was increasing economic returns to commercial fishermen. With the limited entry program in place, legislators felt more confident about expanding the hatchery program because the economic benefits of a rehabilitated fishery resource would not be dissipated among an ever increasing number of fishermen. At this time, legislators also began to accept that nongovernmental hatcheries had much to recommend them from the perspective of public finance issues: the operation of private hatcheries could be funded from the harvest of returning fish and from tax assessments on the fishermen who had access to the hatchery production, thus shifting the cost of the facilities from the shoulders of the general public to the, people who derived benefits directly from them. Thus, fisheries organizations and other Private Non-Profit (PNP) groups were encouraged to build and operate PNP hatchery facilities. The 1974 Alaska State Legislature authorized the Commissioner of ADF&G to issue permits to PNP corporations for the construction and operation of salmon hatcheries.As the PNP hatchery program developed and hatchery technology progressed, it became evident that the cost of developing viable salmon hatcheries was far greater than was initially expected. In 1974 funds became available through the Renewable Resources Development Fund that was established that year. Additional state loans for construction of PNP hatcheries became available in 1975 when the commercial fisheries loan program was expanded to include hatcheries. The following year, a separate fisheries enhancement loan program was established. In 1976, Alaska legislation was passed creating Regional Aquaculture Associations that were responsible for the regional planning and coordination of salmon enhancement activities. The legislature felt that comprehensive planning on the regional level; primarily, careful hatchery site selection, would help mitigate potential problems such as intermingling of hatchery and wild stocks. All of this legislation and funding set the stage for the development of the public and private hatchery programs that developed during the 70's and 80's.”¹⁰

⁸ IBID

⁹ IBID

¹⁰ Department of Public and Private Hatcheries in Alaska By Terry Ellison, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, FRED Division Presented at the 9th annual meeting of the Aquaculture Association of Canada Vancouver, British Columbia June 1-3, 1992

After a protracted decline in salmon catches in the early 1970s, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game developed a coordinated SEP and the state of Alaska passed legislation that encouraged ‘PNP’ hatcheries.”

“Over the next several years, there was an explosion of hatchery construction (Fig. 2.13; Farrington, 2003) and corresponding hatchery releases (Fig. 2.14). A unique feature of Alaska’s hatchery system is that most hatcheries are operated by private associations of fishers, environmentalists and local civic interests (Heard et al., 2003). These associations can not only build and operate hatcheries, but they also assist the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in the development of regional salmon plans, authorize taxes on salmon catches to support hatcheries and sell returning hatchery fish to offset operational expenses (Heard et al., 2003). Currently,¹¹ there are eight regional aquaculture associations in Alaska.”¹² By 2017, there were 27 production hatcheries and one research hatchery in Alaska. “Currently, 30 salmon hatcheries operate in Alaska. Twenty-six are operated by private, nonprofit corporations and are funded primarily by the sale of a portion of the returning fish. Of these, 11 are state-owned and operate at no cost to Alaska residents. The state also operates two sportfish hatcheries, one research hatchery is run by NMFS, and the Metlakatla Indian Community also owns and operates a hatchery.”¹³

Production hatcheries are predominately under the PNP (Private non-profit) Hatchery Act of 1974.

The Original Intent of the Alaska Hatchery Program, the Constitution and the Sustainable Salmon Policy and the Million Dollar Question

Does Alaska’s PNP hatchery program adhere to The Alaska Sustainable Salmon Policy (SSP)? (5 AAC 39.222. Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries.) Not likely, although there is a constant reiteration that that our management practices do adhere to the Policy. There could be volumes written about how this is not true. This is THE heart of how the intent of the hatchery program may have morphed, or, because hatcheries preceeded the SSP, may have had inherent policies right from the beginning that has resulted in a system that seems to be at odds with state policy.

As noted, Alaska’s modern salmon fisheries enhancement program began in the early 1970s, when state harvests plummeted to record lows. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game took the early lead in salmon production and rehabilitation. Fish ladders were constructed to provide adult salmon access to previously non-utilized spawning and rearing areas. Lakes with waterfall outlets too high for adult salmon to ascend were stocked with salmon fry. Log jams were removed in streams to enable returning adults to reach spawning areas. Nursery lakes were fertilized to increase juvenile salmon growth.¹⁴

The state built new hatcheries to raise salmon. Alaska lawmakers authorized private nonprofit corporations (PNP) to operate salmon hatcheries to rehabilitate the state's depressed salmon

¹¹ This was 2008

¹² “An Evaluation of the Effects of Conservation and Fishery Enhancement Hatcheries on Wild Populations of Salmon,”

¹³ “Ranked by Region, Hatcheries Produced One-third of Alaska’s Catch in 2021” Laine Welch, *National Fisherman*, March 21, 2022

¹⁴ https://newsrelease.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.view_article&articles_id=775

fishery in the mid-1970's, after voters approved a constitutional amendment that allowed for limited entry to commercial fisheries and the efficient development of aquaculture in the state. The amendment allowed hatcheries to take broodstock – the adult salmon used to collect eggs and milt - from wild stocks for production and to sell a portion of their returns to pay for operations. Alaska lawmakers also established a revolving loan fund for hatchery construction and operations.¹⁵

The Alaska Hatchery Act establishing the PNP Hatchery system was adopted in 1974. “Section 1. INTENT. It is the intent of this Act to authorize the private ownership of salmon hatcheries by qualified nonprofit corporations for the purpose of contributing, by artificial means, to the rehabilitation of the state’s depleted and depressed salmon fishery. The program shall be operated without adversely affecting natural stocks of fish in the state and under a policy of management which allows reasonable segregation of returning hatchery-reared salmon from naturally occurring stocks.”

But that’s not what we do although it is what most of the marketing and general publicity says we do. Instead, we market ourselves as a “model” for the world, which we should not be. An *Alaska Seafood* marketing brochure states:¹⁶

Enhancing Alaska’s Salmon Population *In Alaska, the purpose of salmon hatcheries is to supplement natural stock production for public benefit.*

- Hatcheries in Alaska were carefully designed to SUPPLEMENT or ENHANCE existing wild salmon populations in Alaska.
- Alaska hatcheries were NOT designed to REPLACE wild salmon populations due to habitat loss and other issues related to human encroachment on habitat like most hatcheries in the U.S.
- Colonization (or straying) is a natural part of the salmon life cycle, so hatcheries are required to use LOCALLY ADAPTED STOCKS from nearby rivers and streams to maintain the natural genetic mixing of salmon populations within an area.
- The Alaska enhancement program was the first to have a FISH GENETICS POLICY to ensure sustainability of salmon populations which is a model for other hatchery programs in the world to follow.
- Most hatcheries in Alaska are private non-pro t. The fish are EVERYONE’S FISH and are for the benefit of all Alaskans.
- The highest priority of the Alaska hatchery programs is to PROTECT AND MAINTAIN WILD stocks.

In a 2024 flyer, the Alaska Dept of Fish and Game states: “Salmon produced by Alaska’s fisheries enhancement program remain wild. Our programs protect the fish during the early juvenile life stage; the fish put on most of their growth at sea. By design, the hatchery program in Alaska has attempted to minimize interactions between natural and hatchery stocks by locating hatcheries away from significant naturally- occurring populations of salmon. Only local stocks are permitted for use so that hatchery-produced fish are locally adapted and have local genetic profiles. Breeding or manipulation of stock characteristics is prohibited and large numbers of broodstock are used in order to maintain diversity, so that Alaska’s fish remain wild. Alaska’s salmon fisheries are managed with wild stock priority, to ensure adequate numbers of salmon

¹⁵ https://newsrelease.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.view_article&articles_id=775

¹⁶ https://www.alaskaseafood.org/wp-content/uploads/Alaska-Salmon-Hatcheries_v7-1.pdf

reach natal freshwater spawning areas to maintain healthy, sustainable, naturally-spawning populations. ADF&G biologists estimate escapement goals for key wild stock systems and monitor returns to these systems annually. Cooperative development of annual management plans guide hatchery operations, production, and harvest management of returns, lends to success in fisheries management and hatchery contribution to fisheries while maintaining hatcheries' production goals." ¹⁷

But hatchery fish are NOT wild and they are encroaching more and more on wild salmon streams, changing the genetics of wild fish as they go. They also compete with wild salmon for forage food, hence the major concern on wild salmon decline.

In the years since PNP hatcheries were introduced, production, especially for pink and chum salmon, have skyrocketed. While there are some constraints, the numbers comparing wild harvest to hatchery harvest tell a disturbing story. This is the belief system of many who are not inside the hatchery system and it is a topic that Alaska absolutely must come to grips with.

Instead, the State, marketing groups, hatcheries, fishermen and communities alike continually express their deep dependency on the hatchery economics and the belief that there is "do no harm." As example: "The hatchery program in Alaska was initiated in the early 1970s to contribute to the rehabilitation of the state's depleted and depressed salmon fisheries. It was intended to supplement, not supplant, wild stock production. For this reason, numerous policies and regulations were promulgated to guide hatchery development and operations and to serve as safeguards for the maintenance of wild stocks. As evidenced by the dramatic increases in abundance of salmon in Alaska's commercial harvests since 1975 (Figure 1), the salmon enhancement program has not had detectable adverse impacts on the abundance of Alaska's wild stocks."¹⁸

There is so much to unravel in just that statement alone and sadly, most of it would prove not be true with a thorough examination.

Are We Replacing Wild Salmon With Hatchery Salmon?

Alaska has long had a reputation for "wild" salmon but that reputation is fading. Marketing from the 1900's until present day, rarely acknowledges that hatchery salmon are **not** wild. To get around this technicality, marketers refer to Alaskan salmon as "wild caught", which allows hatchery fish to still be a market grade above farmed salmon. This has long been a contentious issue with marketing programs.

Hatchery systems, on the other hand, are enormously proud of their increased production and the economic role they have played in Alaska fisheries.

¹⁷ https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/fishing/PDFs/hatcheries/2024_ak_hatcheries.pdf

¹⁸ <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/fishing/PDFs/hatcheries/mcgeebrochure.pdf>

With the explosive growth of PNP hatcheries, primarily in the Gulf of Alaska, and the decline of wild salmon stocks, Alaska is decades behind asking itself if we are not actually *replacing* wild salmon with hatchery salmon.

As example: In 2000, “In a peer-reviewed study published in Transactions of the American Fisheries Society in 2000, fisheries biologists Doug Eggers, then at Alaska Fish and Game, and Ray Hilborn from the University of Washington argued that “the evidence suggests that the hatchery program in Prince William Sound replaced rather than augmented wild production.”¹⁹ “To our knowledge no one now argues that existing hatchery programs in the United States and Canada produce fish at a cost comparable with the value of the fish, but it is generally assumed by hatchery operators, politicians, and the public that hatcheries augment total production. The lesson from PWS, however, is just the opposite: we should expect hatchery production to replace wild production rather than augment it whenever there is biological interaction and mixed-stock fishing. The PWS hatchery program for pink salmon provides by far the most dramatic evidence for this effect.These conclusions apply to mass hatchery production where wild stocks are present. Obviously, if there are no wild stocks or if they are severely depleted at the onset of the hatchery program, the potential for the loss of wild-stock production is less. Also, these conclusions are not really relevant to various forms of supplementation hatcheries that use hatchery rearing as a short-term measure to rebuild wild production. There are many problems in evaluating supplementation hatcheries (Winton and Hilborn 1994), but we do not believe that the Prince William Sound or Kodiak Island hatchery programs are relevant models. “ (*A Review of Programs for Pink Salmon in Prince William Sound and Kodiak Island, Alaska* RAY HILBORN* University of Washington, School of Fisheries, Box 357980, Seattle, Washington 98195-7980, USA DOUG EGGERS Division of Commercial Fisheries, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Post Office Box 25526, Juneau, Alaska 99801-5526, USA *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* 129:333–350, 2000)

“Hatchery-produced fish appear to contribute significantly to harvest levels in Alaska. In 2000, hatchery fish comprised 42% of Alaska’s pink, 64% of chum, 19% of Chinook, 24% of coho and 4% of sockeye catches (Heard et al., 2003). However, the proportion of hatchery fish in the catch varied greatly among regions. For instance, 82% of the pink and 88% of the chum harvest in PWS was of hatchery origin. In contrast, hatchery fish comprised only 10% of the total salmon harvest (2% pink, 0% chum) in Cook Inlet (Heard et al., 2003).”²⁰

By 2021, “Salmon returning home to Alaska hatcheries again accounted for nearly a third of the statewide catch for commercial fishermen with 64 million fish in 2021. It was the eighth largest hatchery homecoming since 1977. And at a payout of \$142 million, the salmon produced 25 percent of the overall value at Alaska docks.”²¹

¹⁹ https://www.uaf.edu/cfos/images/news/hilborn_egggers.pdf

²⁰ An Evaluation of the Effects of Conservation and Fishery Enhancement Hatcheries on Wild Populations of Salmon,” Kerry A. Naish, Joseph E. Taylor, III Phillip S. Levin, Thomas P. Quinn, James R. Winton, Daniel Huppert, and Ray Hilborn *Advances in Marine Biology*, Vol 53, 2008

²¹ “Ranked by Region, Hatcheries Produced One-third of Alaska’s Catch in 2021” Laine Welch, *National Fisherman*, March 21, 2022

In 2024, North Pacific harvest vs. hatchery outputs were described by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, Newsletter #56, August 2024) “Pink salmon constituted the majority of the total commercial catch (63% by weight) followed by chum (19%) and sockeye salmon (15%). Coho comprised 2% of the catch, while Chinook salmon, cherry salmon, and steelhead trout were each less than 1% of the catch by weight. The 2023 catch of pink salmon was the highest pink salmon harvest on record.”.....In 2023, a total of 3.0 billion hatchery salmon were released, which is the fourth highest on record. In 2023, hatcheries released 2,184 million fish (40.3%) in the United States, 1,640 million (30.2%) in Russia, 1,369 million(25.2%)in Japan,222.5million(4.1%) in Canada (hatchery releases and spawning channel production combined), and 11.7 million (< 1%) in Korea.

**We Need to Feed Alaskans Before We Feed the World
And We Need to Keep our Entire Ecosystems Reliant on Wild Salmon**

Alaska hatcheries are often described as “feeding Alaskans, feeding the world.” Hmmm. Not so. Hatcheries feed a commercial enterprise with extremely low percentages harvested by sports, subsistence or personal use *by Alaskans*. Since subsistence and personal use are the only two fisheries that are exclusive to Alaskans only, those numbers amount to very little that still must be battled out in allocative wars.

A majority of subsistence users in Alaska are now in critical mass and having to buy their salmon, a less than decadal change from the food security system utilized for millennia.

BUT, hatcheries are **not** the answer to feeding Alaskans. Managing our wild stocks and allocating sufficiently is the answer. Wild stock that are intercepted by industrial fishing are equally not feeding Alaskans but potentially taking from the availability to Alaskans. Same with hatchery fish.

As wild salmon decline, we are also creating a domino effect by not “feeding” our ecosystems. Wild salmon have, over millennia, maintained massive ecosystems that feed wild life and replenish our rivers. It is a balance that we have greatly disrupted.

The Preponderance of Evidence on Hatchery Impacts on Wild Stocks

There are literally hundreds of *peer-reviewed* papers by world recognized scientists that have researched hatchery impacts on wild salmon. A July 2023 paper in *Fisheries Management and Ecology*, entitled “A global synthesis of peer-reviewed research on the effects of hatchery salmonids on wild salmonids” by John R. McMillan, et.al, identified over 206 peer reviewed papers from 1970-2021 with 83% reporting adverse effects of hatchery fish on wild salmon. Since that time, many more papers have emerged, including in Alaska. With so many more research projects in progress, the next few years should give us more insight into hatchery interactions with wild stock.

In a 2008 paper, “An Evaluation of the Effects of Conservation and Fishery Enhancement Hatcheries on Wild Populations of Salmon,” researchers observed:

The historical, political and scientific aspects of salmon hatchery programmes designed to enhance fishery production, or to recover endangered populations, are reviewed. We start by pointing out that the establishment of hatcheries has been a political response to societal demands for harvest and conservation; given this social context, we then critically examined the levels of activity, the biological risks, and the economic analysis associated with salmon hatchery programmes. A rigorous analysis of the impacts of hatchery programmes was hindered by the lack of standardized data on release sizes and survival rates at all ecological scales, and since hatchery programme objectives are rarely defined, it was also difficult to measure their effectiveness at meeting release objectives. Debates on the genetic effects of hatchery programmes on wild fish have been dominated by whether correct management practices can reduce negative outcomes, but we noted that there has been an absence of programmatic research approaches addressing this important issue. Competitive interactions between hatchery and wild fish were observed to be complex, but studies researching approaches to reduce these interactions at all ecological scales during the entire salmon life history have been rare, and thus are not typically considered in hatchery management. Harvesting of salmon released from fishery enhancement hatcheries likely impacts vulnerable wild populations; managers have responded to this problem by mass marking hatchery fish, so that fishing effort can be directed towards hatchery populations. However, we noted that the effectiveness of this approach is dependant on accurate marking and production of hatchery fish with high survival rates, and it is not yet clear whether selective fishing will prevent overharvest of wild populations. Finally, research demonstrating disease trans- mission from hatchery fish to wild populations was observed to be equivocal; evidence in this area has been constrained by the lack of effective approaches to studying the fate of pathogens in the wild. We then reviewed several approaches to studying the economic consequences of hatchery activities intended to inform the social decisions surrounding programmes, but recognized that placing monetary value on conservation efforts or on hatcheries that mitigate cultural groups’ loss of historical harvest opportunities may complicate these analyses. We noted that economic issues have rarely been included in decision making on hatchery programmes. We end by identifying existing major knowledge gaps, which, if filled, could contribute towards a fuller understanding of the role that hatchery programmes could play in meeting divergent goals. However, we also recognized that many management recommendations arising from such research may involve trade-offs between different risks, and that decisions about these trade-offs must occur within a social context. Hatcheries have played an important role in sustaining some highly endangered populations, and it is possible that reform of practices will lead to an increase in the number of successful programmes. However, a serious appraisal of the role of hatcheries in meeting broader needs is urgently warranted and should take place at the scientific, but more effectively, at the societal level.”²²

“Another consequence was that salmonid hatcheries became contested prizes. Relentlessly shrinking fish stocks exacerbated existing tensions among fishers, and the rarer a population or species became, the more hatcheries became an explicit prize in political battles. In Canada and the United States, commercial and sport fishers engaged in what was essentially an ecological tug of war, battling over the control of hatcheries and the release of game and commercial species. In Oregon and Washington, industrial fishers also fought over which hatcheries and rivers would receive financial support (Parenteau, 1998; Taylor, 1999b). In the Great Lakes, Pacific Northwest and Japan, commercial and sport fishers also tried to deny aboriginal fishers access to hatchery fish (Blumm, 2002; Chiarappa and Szylvian, 2003; Shigeru, 1994). The advent of salmon aquaculture has had similar implications in Norway, where commercial fishers were

²² “An Evaluation of the Effects of Conservation and Fishery Enhancement Hatcheries on Wild Populations of Salmon,” Kerry A. Naish, Joseph E. Taylor, III Phillip S. Levin, Thomas P. Quinn, James R. Winton, Daniel Huppert, and Ray Hilborn *Advances in Marine Biology*, Vol 53, 2008

excluded from harvesting Atlantic salmon to protect sport and farming interests (Otterstad, 1998). On the other hand, Alaskans chose to bar Atlantic salmon aquaculture from their state and restrict activities to ‘private, non-profit’ (PNP) hatcheries, fearing that the ecological and economic destabilizations that have accompanied farming operations elsewhere would negatively affect their Pacific salmon fisheries (Herbst, 2003).”²³

These observations captured a lot of the constraints and complications in trying to unravel decades of hatchery inter-actions with wild salmon (and other species), much less articulating the breadth of hatchery programs in the Pacific Northwest, Canada and Alaska.

The Particular Vulnerability of Southeast Hatchery Chum Over-Taking Wild Chum Streams

A number of studies, many, conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, illustrate the rate of chum straying all over Alaska but particularly in Southeast and particularly for chum.

“Pacific salmon are characterized by natal philopatry, returning to spawn where they hatched, but some portion of returning adult salmon stray from this pattern and spawn in nonnatal sites. A balance between straying and homing in wild populations leads to among- population diversity that allows for local adaptations while ensuring that adequate gene flow occurs to offset inbreeding, recolonize extirpated populations, or colonize newly available habitats. This behavior is a fundamental part of salmon biology, and both wild- and hatchery-origin salmon stray (Westley et al. 2013; Keefer and Caudill 2014; Quinn 2018). There is some indication that straying may be greater in hatchery populations (Keefer and Caudill 2014), although there have been no specific stray rate comparisons for hatchery versus wild Chum Salmon. However, straying also provides the mechanism by which hatchery- and wild-origin salmon interact in spawning habitats. Because of this interaction, the progeny of spawning salmon in streams may be the offspring of wild, hatchery, or mixed parents (Brenner et al. 2012; Piston and Heintz 2012a; Jasper et al. 2013; McConnell et al. 2018). In this paper, we refer to fish in spawning streams that are not hatchery origin as “natural-origin spawners” because one or both parents may have originated in a hatchery but spawned in the natural stream.”²⁴

Although many hatchery programs are primarily designed to enhance commercial fishing opportunities, some returning hatchery-origin salmon that escape fisheries stray away from their natal hatchery and into natural spawning streams (e.g., Brenner et al. 2012; Zhivotovsky et al. 2012). Importantly, concerns have been raised about genetic introgression between natural- and hatchery-origin salmon (Naish et al. 2007; Jasper et al. 2013) and ecological interactions, including displacement of wild spawners by hatchery-origin spawners (e.g., Kostow 2009; Rand et al. 2012). Further concerns arise when fisheries targeting hatchery-origin salmon sometimes overharvest comingled, nontarget, natural-origin salmon, which might also reduce the locally adapted diversity of less-productive or smaller populations (Gayeski et al. 2018 and references therein).” **Hatchery-Origin Stray Rates and Total Run Characteristics for Pink Salmon and Chum Salmon Returning to Prince William Sound, Alaska, in 2013–2015** E. Eric Knudsen, Peter S. Rand, Kristen B. Gorman, David R. Bernard, William D. Templin First published: 27 February 2021 <https://doi.org/10.1002/mcf2.10134>

Significant studies have indicated that interbreeding between hatchery-bred and wild-born pinks could reduce general resiliency of fish stocks: *Salmon hatchery strays can demographically boost wild*

²³ Ibid

²⁴ *Proportions of Hatchery Fish in Escapements of Summer-Run Chum Salmon in Southeast Alaska, 2013–2015* Ronald Josephson, Alex Wertheimer, David Gaudet, E. Eric Knudsen, Benjamin Adams, David R. Bernard, Steven C. Heintz, Andrew W. Piston, William D. Templin 02 February 2021

populations at the cost of diversity: quantitative genetic modelling of Alaska pink salmon Samuel A. May, Kyle R. Shedd, Kristen M. Gruenthal, Jeffrey J. Hard William D. Templin, Charles D. Waters, Milo D. Adkison, Eric J. Ward Christopher Habicht, Lorna I. Wilson, Alex C. Wertheimer and Peter A. H. Westley 2024, Royal Society Open Science <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.240455>

How Do Hatcheries Effect Near-Shore Depletion?

Even without consideration of extensive chum straying, there is another whole discussion to be considered on the impacts of hatcheries on local streams via discharge and other forms of pollution.

The Critical Need for an Independent Statewide Discussion and Audit

State of Alaska law (Policy for management of sustainable salmon fisheries – 5 AAC 39.222) mandates that hatcheries shall operate without adversely affecting natural stocks of fish. Assessing that impact is the Board of Fish responsibility. However, except for a 1977 authority given to the Board of Fisheries for salmon broodstock releases under a hatchery permit, there was no annual Board oversight on hatcheries between 1974 and 1999. In 1999, the first Board of Fish hatchery committee was established. The committee did not meet until 2001 but only for two years to establish protocols. Between 2003-2018 there were no Board hatchery meetings. In 2018, the Board adopted the Committee of the Whole (entire Board) which met for a full day since, except 2021 due to Covid and again in 2024. This means that for most of the 51 years of the PNP hatchery program, there has been no public review or Board of Fish oversight.

What we really need is a venue for an on-going comprehensive discussion of hatcheries, bringing in scientists and managers from around Alaska, Western Canada and the Pacific Northwest and having that long-term critical discussion on how our wild salmon stocks are really being impacted.

We cannot get to the heart of the hatchery impacts and cost-benefit analysis without both a serious statewide discussion and an audit. We need so many more facts than we can currently bring to Board of Fish discussions. But starting the conversation on egg reduction is a major first step.

Prepared By: Gale Vick, Fisheries Subcommittee Chair, Fairbanks AC

Approved By: Jeff Lucas, Chair, Fairbanks AC

Date: January 14th, 2025

**Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (FAC)
Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast January 2025**

“A global synthesis of peer-reviewed research on the effects of hatchery salmonids on wild salmonids” (McMillan et al. 2023)

Because this full paper is 134 pages, only the abstract, conclusion, and the list of peer-reviewed references are included here. Please download the paper from the link: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/fme.12643>

“A global synthesis of peer-reviewed research on the effects of hatchery salmonids on wild salmonids” Received: 21 February 2023 | Revised: 19 June 2023 | Accepted: 26 June 2023 DOI: 10.1111/fme.12643

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Abstract

Hatcheries have long produced salmonids for fisheries and mitigation, though their widespread use is increasingly controversial because of potential impacts to wild salmonids. We conducted a global literature search of peer-reviewed publications (1970–2021) evaluating how hatchery salmonids affected wild salmonids, developed a publicly available database, and synthesized results. Two hundred six publications met our search criteria, with 83% reporting adverse/minimally adverse effects on wild salmonids. Adverse genetic effects on diversity were most common, followed by effects on productivity and abundance via ecological and genetic processes. Few publications (3%) reported beneficial hatchery effects on wild salmonids, nearly all from intensive recovery programs used to bolster highly depleted wild populations. Our review suggests hatcheries commonly have adverse impacts on wild salmonids in freshwater and marine environments. Future research on less studied effects—such as epigenetics— could improve knowledge and management of the full extent of hatchery impacts.

CONCLUSION

We created an easily accessible database focused on publications that examined potential effects of hatchery salmonids on wild salmonids, and then synthesized the large body of research to better understand how studies and potential hatchery impacts were distributed in relation to time, space, species, habitat, hatchery type, and other factors. Except in a few specific situations when recovery hatcheries were used to boost the abundance of wild salmonids threatened with extinction, hatchery effects on wild salmon were predominantly adverse across time, species, and countries, even when using more modern supplementation hatchery programs and practices. In addition, evidence indicates large releases of hatchery chum and pink salmon in the North Pacific Ocean alter the growth, survival, and abundance of wild salmonids that rely on the same common pool prey resource. These results have implications for conserving and sustaining wild salmonids and for extensive investments in salmon recovery across the globe. In conclusion, while there is a long history of debate over the widespread use of hatcheries, our results were consistent with prior reviews by Miller et al. (1990) and Araki and Schmid (2010), the combination of which clearly indicate that, from a scientific standpoint, hatcheries typically pose numerous risks that commonly result in negative impacts to the diversity, productivity, and abundance of wild salmonid populations. These negative impacts likely limit the efficacy of habitat restoration efforts aimed at rebuilding wild salmonid populations and the adaptive capacity of wild salmonids to keep pace with a changing environment, especially climate warming.

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Choked streams

[craigmedred](#) August 18, 2023



Ford Arm salmon dead of hypoxia/Amy Hemenway photo

Scientists studying warming in Alaska's Tongass National Forest have stumbled on a new way in which the state's massive aquaculture industry could be harming wild salmon: hypoxia.

This particular problem with a lack of oxygen in the waters of some streams in the coastal rainforest during dry years has long been known. [Reports of warm weather die-offs of salmon in the state's Panhandle region date back to the early 20th century.](#)

[But the problem has been growing in recent years, and the study just published in the peer-reviewed Science of the Total Environment notes the confluence of regional warming and untold numbers of straying hatchery fish entering Southeast Alaska streams.](#)

["High densities of spawning Pacific salmon \(are\) consuming oxygen faster than can be replaced by reaeration," the study says. "This process may be exacerbated when salmon densities are artificially inflated, such as when hatchery-origin salmon stray into rivers instead of returning to hatcheries."](#)

Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists working in the region long ago noticed the problem of straying hatchery chum and pink salmon, the smallest of the Pacific salmon species, sometimes clogging creeks and rivers near hatcheries.

Hatchery fish are now implicated in worsening what has historically been a natural cause of mortality in warm summers with less-than-normal rainfall.

[At Ford Arm Creek on Chichagof Island where the state maintained a fish counting weir from 1980 to 2009 as part of a long-running, coho salmon study,](#) one state biologist recalled that when the creek became stuffed with salmon "the fish response was somewhat reminiscent of a theater fire.

"Everything would seem fine one minute, and then there was a panicked

rush upstream and fish would start rolling over. Typically, every single large AC4 salmon downstream of the weir (coho, chum, sockeye) would end up dead, but often only around 30 to 40 percent of pinks, which seem more resistant. In (a) 1995 event, the crew counted 816 dead adult cohos (zero live) between the weir and saltwater."

These events not only killed adult salmon but younger fish rearing in the stream as well.



Killing the old and the young/Amy Hemenway photo

Broad implications

The latest study conducted by researchers from the University of Alaska, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Southeast

Watershed Coalition suggests that thanks to hatcheries this problem might^{AC4} be a lot bigger than the occasional die-offs in Ford Arm Creek.

“In Southeast Alaska, hatchery salmon production has increased rapidly since the 1970s, with over 553 million chum salmon and 64 million pink salmon released in 2021 alone,” they wrote. Straying is pervasive in streams with outlets less than 25 kilometers (16 miles) from nearshore marine hatchery release sites,” they wrote.

After modeling the consequences of salmon missing the hatchery on the return from the sea and instead trying to spawn in regional streams, they reported, “our model predicted that low-gradient stream reaches, regardless of water temperature, are the most prone to hypoxia due to low reaeration rates. Our spatial analysis determined that nearly 17,000 kilometers (slightly more than 10,500 miles) of anadromous-accessible stream reaches are vulnerable to high densities of hatchery-origin salmon based on 2021 release sites.”

The problem is self-correcting in a natural system. Hypoxic events reduce spawning and survival, fewer fish return in future years and the issue is resolved. This is not the case if returns are being boosted by straying hatchery fish.

Then instead of hypoxia-related problems scaling down, they could continue to scale up, leading to a steady decrease in watershed productivity.

And Alaska has a lot of straying hatchery salmon, given that it is a world leader in farming salmon on the high seas – something the state’s commercial fishermen and salmon processors prefer to call salmon “ranching” in line with the vision of the state’s commercial fishermen as the last American cowboys.

Alaska’s hatcheries turned the U.S. into the world’s biggest player in farming the sea as opposed to limiting salmon rearing to net pens – as in Norway,

Chile and many other countries – or moving salmon farming on land [as has been pioneered in the U.S. Midwest](#) and elsewhere, and is now [ramping up in a big way in Japan](#).

[Alaska banned net-pen farming in 1990](#), thinking it could control the global market for salmon with wild salmon stocks rebounding from record lows in the early 1970s and a massive state-backed hatchery program born of the salmon shortage of the '70s starting to crank out fish by the tens of millions.

[By 1983, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game was promising production of 51 million hatchery fish per year from a catch to comprise “25 million chum, 8 million sockeye, 1.5 million coho, and 300,000 Chinook salmon; the remainder will be made up of pink salmon.”](#)

The sockeye, coho and Chinook goals have never been met. Overall catches of Chinook and coho – the combination of wild and natural salmon harvests – have actually declined since 1983, but production of pinks, the cheapest of the salmon to raise in hatcheries, has exploded.

The humpy boom

[The Alaska salmon fisheries enhancement annual report 2021 documented a harvest wherein pinks, or humpies as Alaskans commonly call them, made up 83 percent of the year’s catch of almost 69 million hatchery fish.](#)

Averaging three pounds in weight, humpies are pound-for-pound the least valuable of Alaska’s five species of salmon. Historically, they all went into cans.

Some of the larger pinks are now fileted with the filets sold at budget prices designed to undercut the price of larger farmed salmon filets. But many are still canned while increasing numbers are destined to become pet food or fish meal that can be made into fertilizer or used to feed other animals or fish.

[Humpies were worth 37 cents per pound on average to Alaska commercial fishermen in 2021, according to state records, about a sixteenth the value of a Chinook at an average dock price of \\$5.82 per pound and about a quarter the value of a coho at an average per pound price of \\$1.45.](#) AC4

Chinook and coho are unfortunately costly to produce, however, and for that reason Alaska hatcheries raise few of them. The 2021 harvest of hatchery Chinooks was reported to be 68,667 fish and the coho harvest, 799,630.

For most of the approximately 13,000 commercial fishermen permitted to operate in Alaska, the hatchery program has produced little or no benefit, but for [the approximately 1,200 issued purse seine permits when the state created a limited-entry program for its fisheries in the 1970s](#) the hatchery program has been a big success.

Economists examining the state's commercial fisheries in 2016 reported that success has also transformed some state fisheries.

["Shifts in terrestrial agriculture from a diverse mix of low- and high-value crops to focusing on high-volume, low-value crops \(such as soybeans or cereals\) may have parallels for Alaskan salmon fisheries," they wrote, "particularly those fisheries that have more recently targeted low-value species with less diverse life history characteristics \(such as pink salmon\)."](#)

Along with this shift to low-value, high-volume species has come another change common to U.S. terrestrial agriculture: government support.

"Over the course of our study 1975 to 2016, salmon fishery disasters were declared in Alaska in 1997 to 2000, 2009 to 2012 and 2016, totaling more than \$100 million dollars," the study reported. "As some of these salmon fisheries have become more specialized, management may benefit from future work into how specialization affects the likelihood of disasters occurring, as well as how disaster funding affects the participation and revenue of individual fishers."

[Farm subsidies have long been a controversial subject both nationally and internationally](#), but those in Alaska have gone largely unnoticed to date. AC4

Rousing success

And purely on the production front, the Alaska hatchery program has been hugely successful in its prime goal of producing more fish for commercial fishermen.

[In 1975, as this new Alaska business was just hatching, the U.S. was dumping a mere 220 million young salmon in the Pacific Ocean with 98 percent of those fish originating from hatcheries in Idaho, Oregon and Washington, according to the data compiled by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission \(NPAFC\).](#)

By 2022, according to the NPAFC, U.S. releases were approaching 2.2 billion – a tenfold increase – with about 87 percent of the hatchery fish coming from Alaska ranches.

The U.S. now releases more hatchery salmon than Japan, which pioneered open-ocean farming. And Alaska alone releases almost as many hatchery salmon as the Asian Island.

Japan largely abandoned its wild salmon stocks decades ago in favor of producing salmon with hatcheries. Wild salmon have survived in Japan – salmon being an amazingly resilient species – but the populations are small.

[“Although past management of Japanese chum salmon focused on producing and releasing hatchery-reared fish, Japanese salmon scientists and hatchery managers have become aware of the importance of conserving wild fish,” Japanese researchers reported in 2014. “Counting surveys of wild fish recently conducted in Hokkaido have found that natural spawning occurs in many rivers. However, the majority of chum salmon returning to Hokkaido are hatchery-released fish; therefore, the ecological sustainability](#)

The search for wild fish found that in "the total of approximately 1,500 rivers in Hokkaido...naturally spawning chum salmon, chum salmon ascended at least 191 and 175 rivers in Hokkaido in 2008 and 2009."

Whether any of those fish were truly wild is an unknown given almost all, if not all, Japanese streams have been affected by either stocking of hatchery salmon or straying of hatchery salmon.

"It is possible that the spawning fish seen in our study included hatchery-origin fish that strayed into non-natal rivers because intensive hatchery programs are conducted throughout Hokkaido," the Japanese researchers admitted.

The numbers of natural spawners were also tiny with the total escapement estimated at less than 21,000 fish. That's smaller than a third of this year's return of the first run of wild salmon to the 49th state's popular Russian River on the Kenai Peninsula.

Statewide, the number of naturally spawning salmon in Alaska rivers still reaches tens of millions every year.

Alaska has been far more aggressive than Japan in trying to protect its wild salmon while gearing up a massive hatchery program, but current-day chum harvests in the Panhandle raise questions about a Japan-style shift in that fishery.

Watershed Watch Salmon Society graphic

A fading boom

Southeast salmon hatcheries in the 1990s drove an explosion in chum production that allowed commercial fishermen there to takeover markets for so-called "keta salmon" once dominated by Yukon River fishermen who

The wild chum fishery on the Yukon collapsed as a result. It has since withered due to a catastrophic decline in returns yet to be fully explained although competition with Japanese and Russian hatchery fish in the Bering Sea and western North Pacific has been suggested as part of the problem.

Meanwhile, the number of Southeast chums being harvested has started to slip since peaking at the start of the new millennium. The harvest has also become ever more dependent on hatchery fish.

[“The annual commercial harvest of chum Salmon in Southeast Alaska the past 20 years averaged 8.4 million hatchery-origin fish and 10.2 million total fish,” U.S. scientists reported in a peer-reviewed study published in 2021 in the North American Journal of Fisheries Management.](#)

That average annual harvest of 1.8 million wild chums reported there is 40 percent of the 50-year average harvest of 4.5 million wild chums in the region, and the 20-year average somewhat misrepresents the situation as it exists today.

The average wild harvest from 2009 to 2018 was but 900,000 or but 20 percent of the long-term average harvest of wild chums.

A hatchery rescue?

This could be a good thing if the decline in wild fish is wholly natural and the hatcheries are picking up the slack to keep commercial fishermen in business.

But it could be a bad thing if the hatcheries are doing little but replacing wild fish produced for free with costly-to-produce wild fish while, at the same time, depressing wild returns.

[To increase the survival of hatchery chums, Southeast salmon farmers are](#)

[now fattening the fish in saltwater in net pens – the same sort of net pens used by the farmers in Norway – for two to three months.](#) AC4

Pen-rearing requires costly feed but is thought to give the hatchery fish a competitive edge at sea that increases marine survival, ensuring more fish return to the hatchery.

A competitive edge, however, could help hatchery fish squeeze out some wild fish in the battle for survival. Southeast commercial fishermen don't seem to care. They are businessmen, and at the end of the day, it doesn't really matter to them if they're catching wild fish or hatchery fish, which they market as wild-caught salmon, as long as they're making money.

[Canadian fishermen, who've long been frustrated by the number of Canadian-origin salmon intercepted in the commercial fisheries of the Panhandle, have, however, started to take notice of what is going on, and for good reason.](#)

["Overall, \(Pacific\) salmon catches increased between the 1970s and 2010s – Russia's total catch increased by 4.9 times, and the U.S. catch, mostly in Alaska, went up 2.6 times," Jude Isabella reported in Canada's Haiku magazine May 2022. "In Japan and British Columbia, catches decreased, whether fishers were harvesting wild or hatchery salmon."](#)

In Japan, where almost all the harvest was hatchery fish, the decline was relatively small, but "the Canadian catch from 2019 to 2021 looks to be only 6.1 percent of the 1970s average," Isabella reported.

Most scientists believe a warmer North Pacific Ocean friendlier to salmon at the northern end of their range than at the southern end has played a significant role in the decline in returns of salmon to both Canada and the Pacific Northwest.

But some have also questioned whether hatchery boosting of salmon

numbers, especially of pinks and chums, has further aggravated the situation.

“Are There Too Many Salmon in the North Pacific Ocean?” salmon scientists Greg Ruggerone, James Irvine and Brendan Connors asked in the NPAFC’s January 2022 newsletter, wherein they noted a Pacific takeover by pink salmon.

“Overall, pink salmon represented approximately 74 percent of total salmon abundance in 2018/2019,” they wrote there. “Most pink salmon are of natural origin, but abundance of hatchery pink salmon during 2005 to 2015 was greater than abundance of wild chum salmon and approximately equal to abundance of wild sockeye salmon.

“Total chum and sockeye salmon represented only 14 percent and 12 percent, respectively, of total salmon abundance in 2018/2019. These values exclude Chinook and coho salmon, whose combined reported commercial catch was 1.5 percent of total salmon catch from the North Pacific during 2018/2019 and approximately 5 percent of total salmon catch, on average, during 1925 to 2020.”

They went on to warn of the possibility that regional self-interests now pose a threat to wild salmon.

“It is not surprising that fishery managers are primarily concerned with maintaining those populations that return to regions they manage with little consideration for how these populations might adversely affect other salmon,” they wrote. “Likewise, hatchery managers release large numbers of juvenile salmon to maximize harvests in nearby salmon fisheries, often with little consideration for, or understanding of, potential competition It is not surprising that fishery managers are primarily concerned with maintaining those populations that return to regions they manage with little consideration for how these populations might adversely affect other salmon. Likewise, hatchery managers release large numbers of juvenile

salmon to maximize harvests in nearby salmon fisheries, often with little consideration for, or understanding of, potential competition effects on other distant salmon populations that compete for the same common pool of resources at sea.”

The new study on hypoxia in Southeast raises questions not just as to the “effects on other distant salmon populations that compete for the same common pool of resources at sea” but as to the effects on salmon close to home.

[This is especially so given that hypoxic conditions do not just kill adults but can reduce overall productivity in salmon streams.](#)

Ford Arm, according to one biologist who worked there, “seemed to get more sensitive over time, requiring fewer fish and fewer rain-free days to initiate a humpy crush as the years went on. There could well have been a weather/climate element but I suspected that the system was experiencing increased oxygen demand from bacterial decomposition from prior escapements that made it more hypoxia-sensitive relative to weather and fish density.

“Even though these events were dramatic and killed a lot of adult fish, I thought for years that they probably did not have a large effect on future production because of compensatory factors....(But) my opinion changed in 2013 when we began noticing a lot of mortality in larger rearing juveniles that otherwise would have had a high chance of becoming adults.”

CORRECTION: This story was edited on April 28, 2024 to clarify that the salmon die-off at Ford Arm Creek was meant to describe how a hypoxic event transpires. It was not meant to suggest those mortalities were caused by straying hatchery fish although hatchery strays have been implicated in increasing the number of such events in Southeast Alaska.

Dirty bottoms

craigmedred April 7, 2024



One of the many net-pen salmon operations in Alaska; this one in Bear Cove in northern Southeast Alaska/NSRAA

Salmon ranch waste reported piling up

Update: This story was updated on April 8, 2024 to specify the more than \$10.3 million the state of Alaska in fiscal year funneled to the five state hatchery organizations protesting regulations requiring they monitor their net pens for pollution from fish waste and excess feed.

In filings submitted to a state administrative law judge, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has indicated there might be a good reason the state's ocean-farming salmon hatcheries want to be

exempted from newly proposed requirements that they monitor the waters ^{AC4} beneath the nets pens in which they fatten hatchery fish before sending them to sea.

The reason, in one word, is "sludge."

Sludge is the mine tailings of the industrial salmon farming business – the unwanted byproduct that inevitably must go somewhere in the process of producing the valuable product. Sometimes nature can be used to help alleviate or possibly even solve the problem of disposing of this sort of waste.

[The state allows so-called "mixing zones" for "municipal wastewater treatment facilities, seafood processors, oil and gas wastewater discharges, mining activities, and cruise ship wastewater discharges."](#)

These mixing zones are permitted in areas where tides, such as in Cook Inlet, or currents, such as in the Yukon River, so quickly mix waste into the water that any pollution is minimal. As chemists long ago observed, the solution to pollution is dilution.

The problem facing Alaska's ocean-farming hatcheries is that they apparently didn't pay enough attention to the need for mixing zones when siting their net pens and now the shit is quite literally piling up beneath them.

"The (Environmental Conservation) Department's regulations tolerate zero deposits on the seafloor for any length of time," Alaska Senior Assistant Attorney General Cody Doig wrote in a court brief summarizing the DEC's view of the problem. "The hatcheries deposit feed, excrement, and other sludge on the seafloor – sometimes inches deep, sometimes 90 percent of the seafloor under a pen.

"The Water Transfer Rule, a rule promulgated by Environmental Protection Agency, does not provide safe refuge for intervening uses, like when

thousands of fish hatch, are fed, die, decay, defecate and live in the water for years at a time. (The full state filing is attached to the end of this story)"

Net pens here, there, everywhere

That Alaska has an environmental problem with salmon in net pens might seem a little incongruous to those familiar with the state ban on net-pen salmon farming imposed in 1990. [But even before lawmakers began debating that legislation, which was primarily and foolishly believed to be a way to limit the global production of farmed salmon then only hinting at blowing up a market dominated by Alaska's wild salmon](#), state fishery biologists had begun experimenting with net pens to improve the success of a state-driven, open-ocean salmon farming program.

[That program began in 1968 after Alaska voters approved \\$3 million \(approximately \\$31.4 million after correction for inflation to 2024\) in bonds to build hatcheries](#). It was the first of several voter-backed bond packages aimed at building hatcheries to "rehabilitate and enhance" flagging salmon return.

["The basic idea behind the state hatchery program was to supplement the existing wild](#)

salmon stocks in the state with hatchery fish which would be available for harvest by commercial, sport and subsistence fishermen," as a history written for the now-extinct Fisheries Rehabilitation and Enchantment Division (FRED) of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game recounts.

"The legislature planned for a long-range goal of increased commercial harvest from the 30 million fish level (of the early 70s) to a steady supply of 100 million (+) salmon to provide a long-term source of employment and economic activity."

The hatcheries long ago met that goal at least in numbers if not value. The AC4 10-year, average annual harvest is now over 180 million salmon per year, though the bulk of them are low-value pink salmon. [Of the 234 million salmon caught in Alaska in 2021, approximately 161 million or 69 percent of the catch were pinks – nearly a third of them hatchery fish – but they accounted for only 28 percent of the value of that year’s salmon harvest, according to state data.](#)

The state led the charge into this low-value, ocean-farming business after the establishment of FRED in 1971. That division within Fish and Game, according to the history, “was modeled after the agriculture industry and covered many disciplines. So, from the beginning fish pathology, fish genetics, fish culture, biometrics, limnology, biology, engineering and a coded wire tag processing lab were all part of the overall development.

“Between 1974 and 1980, the legislature passed an additional 74.3 million dollars (approximately \$400 million when corrected for inflation) of general obligation bonds, approved by the public, to build a state hatchery system.

“During the next six years, the public and private hatchery programs expanded at a rapid pace and by 1980, there were 25 hatcheries in operation, taking a total of 290 million eggs.” [\(The permitted egg take now stands at at 2.6 billion, according to Fish and Game.\)](#)

Most of the hatcheries, the FRED history recounts, “were producing pink salmon. This was because pink salmon do not require fresh water rearing and they are the fastest maturing salmon with a life cycle of just two years. Therefore, pink salmon could be added to the commercial fishery quicker than any other species.”

But as the state continued to promote the farming of the ocean, another 13 hatcheries were built between 1980 and 1985 either with state funds or with loans made to commercial fishing groups by the state, and the production of chum salmon along with pink salmon saw a big jump.

“Chum salmon are the only other salmon besides pink salmon that don’t require fresh water rearing,” the history recounts. “Now that the annual commercial harvest numbers had begun to rise, fishermen were interested in a more valuable species.”

To increase the number of these more valuable fish, state hatchery operators also began experimenting with net pens and by 1987 FRED’s Phil Rigby was telling a hatchery workshop that net-pen rearing of pink and chum salmon could significantly boost hatchery returns.

Follow the money

“Hatchery-reared pink salmon survived to adults at about 2.6 and 1.9 times the rate of fry released unfed from Kitoi and Tutka Hatcheries, respectively,” he said. “Reared chum salmon released from Hidden Falls Hatchery survived to adult at about 6.0 times the rate of fry released unfed.

“The value of additional adult fish produced by releasing fed juveniles exceeded the cost of feeding by factors ranging from 4.4 to 12.8.”

Thus, three years before Alaska banned net-pen salmon farming, the die was cast and the state was headed into the net-pen business. Nearly all Alaska hatchery fish now spend some time fattening in net pens before going to sea to give them a better chance at ocean survival than the state’s wild fish.

All of this helps maximize the financial returns for the commercial fishermen who make up the “aquaculture associations” to which the state granted control of the hatcheries in 1995 after deciding, according to Fish and Game, that the facilities were too costly to operate.

At the Tutka Bay hatchery south of Anchorage, the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association now says, its pink salmon “are reared in the facility until they reach the fry stage and then they are temporarily reared in net pens in front

of the hatchery. On average the time in the net pens is two months before they are released to the open ocean." AC4

Hatchery chums spend even greater lengths of time in pens before release. And while these fish are in the pens, their waste, some of their carcasses and all of the food they didn't eat is settling to the seabed beneath the pens.

Too costly

The hatchery operators, who got a great deal on the formerly state-owned hatcheries when they took them over, are now arguing it would be too costly for them to monitor what is going on beneath their pens and, if necessary, clean it up.

After years of both the state and federal governments treating them as if they were a special industry beyond reproach, it would be understandable to find them shocked that DEC wants to make them meet environmental standards. This is a big change from where things started in 1982 when the state tried to gift the associations state hatcheries worth tens of millions of dollars.

The office of then-state Attorney General Will Condon vetoed that idea, but ruled that "if the associations are unable to purchase the facilities, the state may lease them for a nominal fee and provide that the associations shall operate and maintain them.

KBBI public radio in Homer reported in 2019 that "hatchery organizations that currently run state-owned facilities are responsible for all maintenance and operating costs, (but) they lease the properties for next to nothing – typically \$1 for 50-to-90-year leases."

This is not something state officials normally talk about. Neither do they say anything about the subsidization of hatcheries by the Division of Sport Fisheries and some local communities in order get them to provide fish for

When Alaska voters agreed to pay to build the hatcheries, they were promised the facilities would provide salmon for all Alaskans. The hatcheries have since been given outright ownership of a portion of their production in the form of exclusive, so-called "cost-recovery" fisheries that allow them to catch enough salmon to cover their operating costs and pay those "nominal fees" to the state for the takeover of state facilities.

Meanwhile, the state, plus some local communities, have to pay the hatcheries to raise salmon for the sport and subsistence fisheries that were originally supposed to have benefitted from the bonds along with the commercial fisheries

[CIAA brags that "the recreational users in Seward also benefit from Trail Lakes Hatchery's coho salmon program. On average, CIAA releases 450,000 coho salmon fry each year into Bear Lake. In cooperation with the Seward Chamber of Commerce, CIAA releases 50,000 to 75,000 additional coho salmon smolt into Bear Creek. The returning adult cohos are the prized target species of Seward's Silver Salmon Derby."](#)

But those fish don't come free.

["When \(Seward Salmon\) derby anglers bring their salmon back to the derby weigh-in station," according to CIAA, "they are given the option of donating or buying back their salmon for \\$5 a fish. The donated salmon are sold to a local fish processor and all the money collected through the buy-backs and donations is used for the Seward Chamber of Commerce Salmon Restoration Fund.](#)

"This fund helps to pay for Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association for the raising of silver (coho) salmon," as in pay CIAA to raise the fish. [In fiscal year 2024, records indicate, the state paid CIAA another \\$68,243 to rehabilitate and enhance salmon fisheries for non-commercial fishermen.](#)

The Kenai Peninsula community of Homer has had to come up with funds to pay CIAA to keep producing salmon for part of a project begun by the state to create a king (Chinook) salmon tourist attraction on the Homer Spit.

State records indicate Fish and Game in fiscal year 2024 paid the five commercial-fishermen associations protesting the environmental rules more than \$2.3 million, mainly to raise fish for non-commercial fishermen. Another more than \$468,000 went to Douglas Island Pink and Chum, a Juneau-based private business the state allowed to take over its Snettisham hatchery.

The Sport Fish Division has admitted to “working with hatchery operators to collaboratively fund enhancement opportunities for sport anglers – mostly for king salmon, but also some coho salmon and trout. The sources of the funds have varied over the years, but include: angler license revenues (Fish and Game funds); Sport Fish Restoration funds (Dingell-Johnson); Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Act funds (AKSSF); and most recently, the Sport Fish Enterprise Account funds generated by the sport fishing license surcharge approved by the Alaska Legislature under SB147 in 2005.”

The Dingell-Johnson funds come from an unnoticed, 10 percent, federal excise taxes anglers across the country pay when they buy fishing gear. This tax is then shared with the states, which must raise a 25 percent match to collect their share. Alaska, which gets about \$20 million per year from the fund, is the biggest beneficiary of the money and generally provides the match by using the revenue generated by sales of non-resident fishing licenses.

Outside sport fishermen thus end up being among those helping to subsidize the operation of hatcheries producing salmon for Alaska’s commercial fishermen as do U.S. taxpayers. The state’s Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development reported passing through to the hatcheries another approximately \$8 million in taxes collected from commercial salmon fishermen, some of whom benefit from the

hatcheries and some who don't, bringing the entire state support to the hatcheries to more than \$10.3 million. AC4

We're special

These are the hatcheries now say it would be too costly to monitor the seabed beneath their net pens for pollution and arguing that they shouldn't be required to do so because state water quality standards (WQS) only ban "deposition that interferes with the protected use of the bottom.

"It is apparent that the WQS does, indeed, tolerate de minimis or transient deposition, so long as it does not make the water (or seafloor) unfit or unsafe for the protected use," they argue.

Doig labeled that a "straw man argument," and noted that state regulations specifically spell out the requirement that "human activities...may not, alone or in combination with other substances, cause a film, sheen, or discoloration on the surface of the water or adjoining shorelines; cause leaching of toxic or deleterious substances; or cause a sludge, solid, or emulsion to be deposited beneath or upon the surface of the water, within the water column, on the bottom, or upon adjoining shorelines."

The documents filed in the case to date do not get into the issue of where net pens are sited in Alaska, but many appear to be at the heads of bays where tidal flushing of waste is the least.

Leroy Seafoods, one of Norway's largest salmon-farming companies, is now experimenting with sludge collection systems on some of its farms because of problems with waste in these situations.

["The natural ecosystem on the seabed benefits from a little discharge of organic materials from the cages; it acts as fertilizer," the company says on its website. "The problem arises when the amount of sludge exceeds nature's own tolerance, which can happen in threshold fjords with low](#)

In such situations, Leroy says, "the sludge from the fish is collected in a fine-mesh groove installed at the bottom of the cage. It is then pumped up through a filtration system and into a tank located on the surface. The sludge is then transported away from the facilities in boats. The sludge is then converted into biogas."

Salmon-farm sludge is one of the problems that have led some environmentalists to attack the business of salmon farming for years.

["In the industrial-scale farms in coves and bays off the coasts of Norway, Scotland, Chile, and Canada, the only barrier between the cages that harbor millions of salmon and the environment is a net that allows the ocean to flush the pens. Excess feed, chemical residue, and fecal matter form a layer of slime on the seabed below the farms, smothering marine life and plants," the authors of Salmon Wars: The Dark Underbelly of Our Favorite Fish reported in Natural History magazine in 2022.](#)

"Sewage and other waste cause far-reaching damage to the environment, contaminating the seabed and nearby marine life," reported Douglas Frantz and Catherine Collins. "A city must treat its sewage, but the farms dump the excrement and excess feed on the seabed. Waste beneath farms turns the ocean floor toxic, consuming oxygen needed by marine life and dispersing contaminants through the water. A 2014 study in Scotland found a reduction in biodiversity up to two hundred yards away from salmon cages; other studies described wider impacts on marine life and wild salmon."

Somehow, however, Alaska's hatcheries have long escaped the wrath of environmentalists opposed to salmon farming, apparently because of the state's 1990 declaration that it had banned net-pen farming in the style of Norway, Chile, Scotland and other countries; partly because Alaska has always pitched its ocean-farming business as "ranching" as if this were somehow different than farming; and partly because major environmental

groups have wanted the support of Alaska's commercial fishermen when AC4
trying to block development projects, most notably those involving mining or
oil and gas.

The latter have ignored hatchery issues despite the fact the state has
flooded the ocean pastures with pink and chum salmon, as if those pastures
were limitless, without a single environmental impact statement ever being
written to attempt to ascertain what this manmade boosting of pink and
chum salmon might do to other species of salmon such as – sockeye, coho
and giant Chinook salmon – that compete with pinks and chums for food.

There is increasing evidence that the hatchery fish reduce returns of those
salmon. Scientists involved in the latest research concluded that “ in the
present era hatchery releases represent a classic ‘zero-sum’ game.”

[Hatchery releases, they said, now result “in some loss of growth and
productivity of wild salmon through increased competition at sea.”](#)

In January, [the Seattle-area-based Wild Fish Conservancy, a smallish
environmental group, cited this problem in a petition to the U.S. federal
government asking that it list Alaska Chinooks as a threatened species under
the terms of the Endangered Species Act.](#)

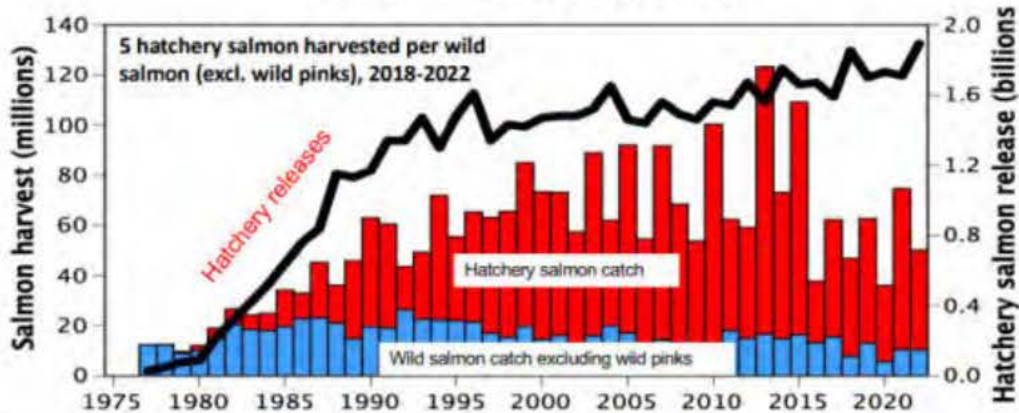
“The major causes of the region-wide declines in Chinook productivity and
abundance are predominately due to factors in the marine rearing and
migratory environment. Global warming and climate change along with
massive releases of hatchery pink and chum salmon from Japan, Russia, and
Alaska adversely impact marine food webs;” the organization claims.

Fish and Game, which has for more than 50 years been a big backer of
industrial-scale ocean farming to produce revenue for commercial fishermen
and salmon processors, has so far refused to admit that this could even be a
possibility. But its sister agency, DEC, now appears committed to taking on
at least some of the environmental problems connected to hatcheries.

Zero-sum fishery

[craigmedred](https://craigmedred.news/2024/12/10/zero-sum-fishery/) December 10, 2024

1.9 Billion hatchery salmon released in Alaska: Industrial Scale Production



Hatchery-origin salmon in Alaska harvests in Gulf of Alaska region:

- Chum: 80% (20% wild)
- Pink: 43%
- Coho: 29%
- Sockeye: 24%
- Chinook: 23%. Hatchery Chinook numbers incomplete (too low).

British Columbia:
94 million released per year
excluding spawning channels

4.2 times more hatchery salmon were released by Alaska during 2018-2022 than by the combined states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, plus BC.

Ruggerone and Springer 2024

Are wild salmon the ultimate loser?

A news analysis

Alaska salmon farmers who annually turn almost 2 billion hatchery fish loose to feed on the pastures of the North Pacific Ocean finally appear to have caught the attention of Canadians who've for years have watched their wild salmon return generally smaller and fewer in number.

[Some of those in attendance at the Pacific Salmon Foundation's BC Salmon Recovery & Resilience Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada,](#) at the start of the month said Seattle-based scientist Greg Ruggerone generated some buzz when he popped the above slide onto the big screen during a talk about a warm North Pacific crowded with salmon.

The graphic was an in-your-face portrait of how heavily Alaska has invested in hatcheries to free-range farmed salmon for profit. As a result, Alaska now annually sends to sea 4.2 times as many salmon as the hatcheries of British Columbia, Washington state, Oregon and California combined.

[Most of the Alaska salmon are smallish pinks or what Alaskans often call humpies,](#) and their numbers have gone steadily up over the decades as the numbers of wild Chinook (king), coho, sockeye and chum salmon have gone down, except in Alaska's Bristol where the sockeye, the predominate species there, get a break from competition with pinks in nearshore waters.

Ruggerone and Canadian colleague James Irvine in 2018 authored a study reporting that in part thanks to hatcheries in Alaska, Russia, Japan and Korea, there are now more salmon in the Pacific than at any time in human history, but with those humpies, the smallest and least valuable of salmon, dominant.

The study was accepted by other scientists as the most accurate assessment of Pacific salmon numbers to date.

[Ruggerone and Irvine later detailed a troubling relationship between those humpies and the bigger and more valuable salmon species, reporting that as the numbers of pinks went up -the numbers of Chinook, sockeye, chum and coho went down in both size and number with wild salmon from Canada and the Pacific Northwest taking the biggest hit.](#)

"It is important to recognize that in the present era," they wrote in ICES Journal of Marine Science, "hatchery releases represent a classic 'zero-sum' game, where an incremental increase in hatchery releases results in some loss of growth and productivity of wild salmon through increased competition at sea."

The decline in other species of salmon, especially wild Chinook, is now widely accepted. Chinook numbers have fallen to the point that several

Canadian and Lower-48 state runs are considered threatened, and [the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is now reviewing whether Alaska Chinook should be added to the U.S. Endangered Species list as one of those threatened species.](#)

What role pinks, and especially hatchery pinks, have played in these declines remains, however, a subject of debate with a lot of money in play in Alaska. [Alaska Department of Fish and Game scientist Bill Templin, the chief of commercial fisheries research for the state, has mocked the studies of Ruggerone and others, and argued that while they can show a correlation between increased pink numbers and decreased numbers of other salmon, they can't prove the former caused the latter.](#)

The state, it should be noted, is heavily invested in hatcheries.

[Alaska spent millions building Prince William Sound hatcheries in Prince William Sound that it later handed over to commercial fishermen to operate as "private, non-profit" \(PNP\) salmon factories. Those hatcheries created a major salmon fishery where only a minor salmon fishery existed before.](#)

Vested interests

Only time will tell if Ruggerone's pitch to the salmon Recovery Conference will focus more attention on the decline of wild salmon at sea, but if the past is any president, it is unlikely anything will change.

Why? Because there is no entity pushing to improve the survival of wild salmon at sea and a variety of entities invested in agendas that encourage them to ignore the issue of what happens to wild salmon in what Templin dismissed as the big "black box" of the ocean.

To start with, there are the obvious players. Alaska salmon processors who struggle to compete with farmed salmon when it comes to selling high-value salmon filets, but still have the market for canned salmon largely to

When they can buy the raw product for 38 cents per pound, as state records indicate they did last year, there is profit in selling canned salmon that retails for around \$4.35 per pound as human food or up to \$5.30 per pound as dog food.

Add in sales of fish meal or fish paste made from salmon heads and trimming and the potential for profits to be made off of high-volumes of pink salmon bought cheap only increase. Then there are the relative handful of commercial salmon seiners who profit from pinks and the hatcheries themselves, which now provide some of the best and most stable jobs in the Alaska fishing business.

None of these people have any reason to care about what happens to wild fish in the ocean as long as lots of hatchery salmon keep coming back. And, sadly, environmental organizations don't have much of a reason to care either.

At the national level, most of them are firmly focused on saving the world from climate change/global warming – call it whatever you prefer – and it is better for them to blame declines in high-value salmon on warming Pacific waters than to get into discussions about declines linked to food competition among salmon.

For their purposes, talking about food competition between salmon at sea is just a distraction from the bigger and more important issue.

Meanwhile, at the regional level, the Canadians have made a publicly funded industry out of watershed rehabilitation and enhancement, although it doesn't seem to have produced any results, and in the process created a workforce that benefits from the poor survival of wild salmon that drive ever more spending on rehabilitation and enhancement

[Bob Hooton, a retired fisheries biologist in British Columbia, has written about some of this, the lastest being a story about a proposed, \\$2.21 million Skeena River fish trap that never materialized. It was intended to harvest salmon while allowing steelhead trout, a very high-value species in Canada, to escape upriver unharmed.](#)

The funding for the project, according to his report, went to Lax Kw'alaams Business Development Ltd. Lax Kw'alaams along with other B.C. tribal entities are tied into [the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund which, according to the Canadian government, supports "the efforts of the many First Nations, communities, stakeholder and stewardship groups, industry, and others in recovering the iconic wild salmon in this Province" of British Columbia.](#)

The idea there is noble. The problem is that the focus on freshwater makes it easy for those benefiting from government spending to ignore salmon lost at sea given that if the big problem is in the ocean there is little reason to continue to spends of millions of dollars trying to improve freshwater habitats to boost returns.

[Then, too, there are tribal links to net-pan salmon farms that keep some indigenous groups in the fishing business in Canada where the wild-caught harvest of salmon is down to almost nothing.](#) Some of these tribal groups are profiting nicely from Norwegian-style farms that produce salmon preferred by the marketplace while others tribal groups have joined environmentalists convinced the net-pen salmon farms are the reason for the large declines in the number of Canadian salmon.

[Their role in the decline, if any, is unclear.](#) Scientists with [Fisheries and Oceans Canada](#) concluded that if there is [any problem it is primarily with pink and chum salmon, which are not exactly the salmon most Canadians are fretting about.](#)

[Other scientists have disparaged the Oceans Canada research.](#) They had to

those with a reason to look the other way when it comes to at-sea issues AC4 which might call into question their beliefs that net-pen farming is inherently bad though in terms of its environmental footprint the business looks tiny compared to the agriculture that has reshaped the American heartland.

Further complicating this already complicated picture is the [unexpected return this year of about 300,000 sockeye salmon to a hatchery on B.C.'s Okanagan River, which has a bunch of Canadians singing the praises of Alaska-style open-ocean farming versus net-pen farming though the results with that model in Canada to date have been dismal.](#)

Still, this adds to the distractions surrounding any serious discussion of the salmon carrying capacity of the Pacific. [The Canadians now seem intent in investing in more hatcheries](#) and ignoring the issue of that "zero sum" game even though there are good reasons to believe that adding more hatchery fish to an ocean at carrying capacity, if that is the case, simply results in [replacing wild salmon with hatchery salmon, which appears to be the case with chums in Southeast Alaska.](#)

Meanwhile, to the south of the Canada-U.S. border in the Pacific Northwest, regional environmental groups have devoted themselves to removing dams from the Columbia and Snake rivers. The reason for this is the belief the dams are the main cause of the region's salmon declines in the 21st Century.

But what if the dams aren't the biggest reason for these declines? What if ocean competition benefiting Alaska to the detriment of salmon returning to watersheds south of Alaska is the biggest reason for the declines?

If that is the case, selling the idea of dam removal becomes a whole lot harder. Funding for dam removal advocates is almost certain to shrink, and environmental organizations, which like most bureaucracies are staffed by chummy friends would have to start shrinking the size of their staffs, and that is never fun.

Thuw Lower 48 groups that claim to be all about supporting wild salmon have good reasons to ignore the at-sea competition with Alaska salmon that appears to be reducing, to some extent great or small, salmon returns to Canada and the Lower 48.

The goal of these groups is noble, too. There is little doubt the Columbia River system would be more productive salmon habitat with all of the dams gone. Removing them all might even be enough to negate the need for all of the U.S. [hatcheries on which about \\$9 billion has been spent over the course of the last 40 years, according to William Jaeger, an Oregon State University professor of economics, and Mark Scheuerell, a fisheries biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey.](#)

Closing those hatcheries, however, would put thousands of people out of work, and cost the regional economy something on the order of \$225 million per year if the numbers of Jaeger and Scheurerell are correct.

So add some more people to the mix of those with reasons to look away from the issue of salmon survival at sea – no matter how well illustrated this appeared in a study conducted by B.C.-based Kintama Research Services six years ago.

[Canadian scientists David Welch and colleagues there documented a 65 percent decline in the productivity of Chinook salmon from Oregon north to the northern end of the Alaska Panhandle over the past half century. Their peer-reviewed study was finally published in Fish and Fisheries in 2020 after spending two years in review with those who feared its finding that Chinook in undammed streams in Alaska were struggling as badly as those in dammed watersheds might weaken arguments for dam removals.](#)

[Chinook are the big fish Alaskans call “king salmon.”](#) King salmon, the Alaska state fish, can reach weights of up to 100 pounds, making your average 3.1-pound pink look like bait. Their size, their eating quality, and their comparatively low abundance even in the best of times also makes them the

Nothing new

Ironically, it was Canadian fisheries scientists who more than 15 years ago first pointed out the potential problem about which Ruggerone and other scientists are now warning.

"A common-pool problem in the North Pacific Ocean that remains largely ignored in international policy is competition for prey resources among salmon populations from different countries," they wrote in the peer-reviewed Journal of Marine Policy. "Hatcheries release large abundances of juvenile salmon into the North Pacific and the resulting decrease in mean body size of adult wild and hatchery salmon may lead to reductions in benefits."

At the time their work was published in 2008, the reductions in size of salmon were only starting to become clear, but the researchers were already confident in declaring that "ecological studies of prey intake from stomach contents of salmon suggest that these populations and species compete for a limited pool of temporally varying prey in relatively small and productive regions in the ocean."

They recognized then that ocean wasn't one big pool of sameness, that beneath the waves ocean habitats were like land habitats. Some good, some bad and some inbetween.

"Increased competition can reduce body growth of salmon....a comparison of population abundances and scale circuli counts across species suggested that in years when Asian pink salmon were abundant, age-specific growth (as well as survival rates) of sockeye salmon from Bristol Bay, Alaska, was reduced due to increased competition for prey, for example zooplankton and micronekton, such as squid and small fishes in the region of overlap in their ocean distribution," they wrote.

Ever-increasing hatchery releases of salmon would without a doubt be a good thing if the pastures of the Pacific were capable of producing endlessly more salmon, but the opposite is true if those pastures have indeed reached their carrying capacity, as many scientists now believe, and the ocean is at the “zero-sum” game described in the ICES Journal of Marine Science.

Alaska interests, however, have had no good reasons to care about this. [Until this year’s collapse of pink salmon returns to the Sound, which the state says was “largely due to hatchery pink salmon run failures,”](#) Alaska has been basking in decades of nothing but hatchery salmon success with only comparatively mild reductions in wild fish size and numbers.

When the Fairbanks-based advocates for wild salmon and the Kenai River Sportfishing Association tried to get the Alaska Board of Fisheries to reel in Alaska hatchery releases in 2018, hatchery backers trooped before the Board to argue that it shouldn’t “mess around with what works,” as the late Clem Tillion from Halibut Cove on the Kenai Peninsula put it.

[A former state senator and the Alaska “fisheries czar” under the former and late Gov. Wally Hickel, the then 92-year-old Tillion was called into service by hatcher advocates to underline the idea that “the hatchery program has been a success,” and “this idea that we’re over-stressing the North Pacific? What we’re doing is chicken feed.”](#)

Tillion didn’t, however, stop there. He went on to offer a perfectly jingoistic response to the suggestion Alaska hatchery salmon were overrunning the Pacific, arguing that if there was indeed a problem with too many hatchery fish it was the fault of the North Koreans, whose hatchery production is unknown, and the Russians, who actually release fewer salmon than the state of Alaska.

[The North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, a treaty organization, reports a 2024 Russian release of about 1.64 billion hatchery salmon compared to a U.S. release of 2.18 billion of which 1.86 billion are reported to](#)

North Korea is not a party to the anadromous fish treaty and little is known about its salmon farming efforts. The Fish Site in 2019 reported the country was “steadily increasing the farming of a range of aquatic species – including salmon, pollack, carp, and catfish.”

[But that farming, as reported by the website, appeared to be focused mainly on net pens where farmers can maintain control of their fish rather than sending them to sea and hoping for the best. The story did, however, add that “fish farms along the Taedong and its tributary the Pothong apparently released ‘tens of millions’ of fry into these rivers last autumn.”](#)

Tens of millions of fry would be a drop in the bucket compared to Alaska fry releases and an August report from [North Korea’s, state-run Pyongyang Times this year indicates the country now appears to have turned its attention to fish farming in paddies in order “to produce fishes with less cost as compared to industrialized fish farms”](#) with its open-ocean farming shifting to pollack.

[“This year, the Komalsan Offshore Atlantic Salmon Farm discharged hundreds of thousands of young pollack into the sea,” the newspaper reported in August. “It has introduced breeding methods suited to the biological characteristics of walleye pollack and its growth stage to raise the survival rate and fattening rate of young walleye pollack.”](#)

There are nowhere any indications of North Korea becoming a major player in the open-ocean farming of hatchery salmon. [38North, a website devoted to tracking the Korean economy via satellite imagery and what trickles out of official state media, indicates a focus on net-pen farming and salmon raised in grow-out tanks.](#)

Tillion’s effort to pin any ocean problems for salmon on the North Koreans and Russians is, however, nicely illustrative of the problem when multiple

entities are involved in a zero-sum game – nobody wants to risk making a sacrifice that might benefit another. [This is something of a variation on the old “tragedy of the commons.”](#) AC4

And all is good for Alaska as the situation appears now.

Alaska commercial fishery managers can usually bask in the glow of record, never-before-seen numbers of salmon being caught (this year being a rate exception), even if most of the fish are humpies. And processors and commercial fishermen can still make money off “wild caught” humpies and chums marketed as if they were truly wild.

The hatcheries have made humpies a mainstay of the Sound’s regional economy, something some celebrate.

[Alaska Fish News, a mouthpiece for the state’s commercial fishing industry, last year bragged that in 2022 hatcheries “provided 25 percent of \(Alaska\) salmon catches and value...\(with\) big returns for all users at no cost to the state.”](#)

The latter claim, however, was nothing but good, old-fashioned misinformation designed to mislead those who embrace hatcheries as an easy solution to any lack of salmon abundance.

[In the “Alaska salmon fisheries enhancement annual report, 2023,” the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimated hatcheries overall added 215,852 salmon of all species to the sport, personal-use and subsistence fisheries in 2022, but a significant number of those fish were produced by two still state-owned, state-run hatcheries, – one in Anchorage and one in Fairbanks. Those hatcheries are financed by federal, nationwide taxes on sport-fishing gear and revenues from sport-fishing license sales in Alaska, all of which paid for by sport fishermen.](#)

[And in the state’s Panhandle, where there are no state-owned, state-run](#)

[hatcheries, the state in 2022 paid a privately-owned hatchery in Juneau and a still state-owned but now fishermen-run hatchery in Petersburg nearly \\$850,000 to raise coho and Chinook to be caught in regional sport fisheries.](#) ⁴

When the sport fishermen paid for salmon are removed from the hatchery production, it would appear only about 100,000 salmon, maybe fewer, were paid for by the PNP operators and the owners of the private Juneau hatchery set up under the state PNP law before state regulations were tightened to make it hard for just anyone to get into the Alaska version of salmon farming, or what Alaska hatchery operators and proponents prefer to call "ranching."

In the big picture of today, the industrial-scale, hatcheries paid for by average Alaskans but now run by the associations of fishermen provide almost no benefit to sport, personal-use and subsistence fisheries in the 49th state.

One hundred thousand salmon would amount to about 4 percent of a statewide harvest of approximately 2.5 million sport, personal-use and subsistence salmon. Meanwhile, it is unknown how many high-value sport salmon species – Chinook, sockeye and coho – the hatcheries might have cost Alaska sport fishermen.

Brendan Connors with the Institute of Ocean Sciences with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, along with Michael Malick from the National Marine Fisheries Service's Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle, Ruggerone, Irvine and other colleagues in 2020 presented evidence that a warm ocean and ["the approximately 82 million adult pink salmon \(Oncorhynchus gorbuscha\) produced annually from hatcheries \(from 2005 to 2015\) were estimated to have reduced the productivity of southern sockeye salmon by 15 percent on average."](#)

Sockeye are one of those high-value species. Personal-use dipnetters from the Anchorage metropolitan area, home to more than half the population of Alaska, every summer flock to the mouths of the Kenai and Kasilof rivers to

catch them in personal-use, Alaskan-only dipnet fisheries.

AC4

[Fish and Game reported that last year almost 27,500 people participated in these so-called "food security" fisheries. They caught a reported 497,604 sockeye](#), or about five times the number of all-species salmon the PNP hatcheries claimed to have provided for personal-use, sport and subsistence.

Still, whatever Alaska dipnetters and anglers might have lost to the hatcheries in terms of high-value salmon, it appears a pittance compared to what sport and commercial fishermen in Canada and the Lower 48 appear to have lost.

As Ruggerone pointed out, there are now five hatchery-origin salmon – primarily cheap-to-raise pink and chum salmon – being caught for every wild, non-pink salmon along the West Coast of North America.

But who cares? The only organization that has addressed the issue is the Seattle-area Wild Fish Conservancy. [It petitioned NOAA to consider an endangered species listing for Alaska Chinook, sometimes makes noises about protecting wild salmon.](#)

But the organization hasn't exactly been banging the drum about the at-sea problem. As its website notes, it is primarily focused on the removal of dams in the Pacific Northwest, habitat loss in that rapidly growing region, controlling overfishing in the region's struggling commercial salmon fisheries, and shutting down hatcheries solely set up to produce salmon for harvest rather than for rehabilitation.

["For two decades, scientists and managers alike have identified overharvest, hatcheries, habitat loss, and dams as the four major causes of fishery collapse and barriers to salmon recovery," the organization proclaims.](#)

Overproduction of hatchery fish displacing wild fish on a zero-sum pasture

in the North Pacific ocean? Well, that's pretty easy to overlook because AC4
Alaska with its hatcheries is a long, long way away, and the American public
is now conditioned to believe that anything bad that happens to wild salmon
happens in the comparatively brief time they spend in fresh water.

The warrior

[craigmedred](#) January 12, 2025



Virgil Umphenour/Facebook

Fighting for Alaska wild salmon

Now 82 years old, Virgil Umphenour has been at war with Alaska's commercial salmon farmers, or ranchers as they prefer to call themselves, for most of his adult life.

For decades, he battled without success to stop their takeover of North Pacific pastures. But he has now, at last, managed to lob a bomb into the Alaska political process forcing the ranchers to show their true colors.

An Umphenour-authored petition to the state Board of Fisheries calling for AC4 significant reductions in the production of some species of hatchery salmon has the ranchers admitting to having become the big businesses they are – industrial-scale, salmon-producing businesses not unlike those of Norway and Chile with the only real difference being that the Alaskans free-range their salmon on public pastures for free rather than hold the fish and pay to feed them in pens until they mature.

One of the state officials who helped get all of this started more than 40 years ago warned in 1982 that this was likely to surpass [the ocean's \(salmon\) rearing capacity within a decade or so](#) and then lead to international demands to establish grazing rights for the various Pacific Rim nations farming the ocean.

But more on that below. In the here and now, Umphenour's proposal before the state regulatory body has ocean farmers threatening massive job losses, economic devastation and shrunken Alaska salmon fisheries.

They are, however, strangely silent about Alaska's wild salmon, which still comprise the bulk of the Alaska catch, and are at the heart of the Alaska salmon brand. There are no white-tablecloth restaurants in the lower 48 states tempting diners with menus boasting "hatchery-fresh Alaska salmon." And in the retail markets, Alaska hatchery fish are hidden behind a now standard industry label identifying them as "wild caught."

No one seems particularly worried about the effects on the Alaska brand in this rush to protect the hatcheries, either. Local governments in Southeast Alaska and around Prince William Sound are already lobbying the Board in opposition to the Umphenour proposal.

["The proposed 25 percent pink and chum cut \(Proposal 156\) to hatchery salmon production threatens the livelihoods of all Southeast Alaska communities and the sustainability of salmon fisheries for all user groups,"](#) [claims Salmon Hatcheries for Alaska](#), a self-professed, non-profit entity that

lacks any registration as such.

AC4

The group billed itself as a representative of The Alaska Salmon Industry Alliance, another seemingly non-existent entity, in an appearance before the Alaska Legislature in 2019. It appears to have since changed its affiliation.

When the same Alliance appeared before the Legislature in 2023, it called itself the Alaska Salmon Aquaculture Alliance. This might have had something to do with there being a state-registered organization known as the Alaska Salmon Alliance lobbying for commercial salmon fishing interests in Cook Inlet,

Speaking for the Aquaculture Alliance, Mike Wells, the executive director of the Valdez Fisheries Development Association (VFDA), identified the group as being comprised of "some" of the state's largest hatchery operators.

The Aquaculture Alliance appears to be yet another unregistered entity, but it is identified as connected to VFDA and PWSAC (the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Association) in the state's 2024 Lobbyist Directory. VFDA and PWSAC run some of the biggest pink salmon hatchery operations on the Pacific Rim. And the directory shows them paying \$60,000 to Anchorage-based Confluence Strategies Inc. to promote those hatcheries in the state capital.

Umpenhour's battle with VFDA, PWSAC and the like traces all the way back to the 1980s when he was a fish buyer along the Yukon River watching the market for Yukon chum salmon collapse as Alaska hatcheries moved heavily into producing chums at a lower cost.

Alaska's Empty Interior

Umpenhour was by then well-connected to many among the relatively few people trying to survive in tiny villages and small, private outposts along the Yukon.

A U.S. Marine in Vietnam, he left the jungles of Southeast Asia in 1971 to settle in a vastly different place – North Pole, a suburb of Fairbanks. Fairbanks was then and is now the largest city in central Alaska. In 1971, it was [a community of fewer than 15,000 people](#) shivering in the cold.

The winters of the early '70s were brutal in Central Alaska with the temperatures regularly going to 50 degrees below zero and staying there for days. On January 23, 1971, Prospect Camp north of Fairbanks set the still-standing state record for cold with a temperature of 80 degrees below zero.

Record low temperatures were at the time front-page news in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, [Ned Rozell of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Geophysical Institute has noted, adding that the “weather was worthy of news coverage. The average temperature in Fairbanks that month was minus 31.7!”](#)

For people living remote in the region, these were especially difficult times. Most of those living outside of the city were poor and living what could only be described as a “frontier lifestyle.” Most kept warm by burning wood, and a fair number were still cutting it by hand.

Telecommunications had yet to reach rural areas. If a community had a phone, it was usually a community phone. There was no television and no satellite communications. Fairbanks radio stations connected people via the so-called “Bush telegraph,” which was no more than an announcer reading messages to people living in remote areas in the hope they would hear those messages.

[The Food Stamp program designed to help keep poor Americans from starving was still in its infancy, though growing fast from 4 million participants in 1970 to 15 million by October 1974, according to a government history.](#) The snowmachines that now provide reliable winter transportation between many Alaska villages were just arriving on the scene.

[The Trans-Alaska Pipeline System \(TAPS\)](#) that would eventually deliver oil AC4 from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez and fill state coffers with oil revenue that would forever change the state was still years in the future.

[As the decade of the 1970s began, almost half of the state's Alaska native population was reported to be living below the poverty line](#), most of them in rural Alaska. [And it wouldn't be until 1978 that the Bureau of Indian Affairs unilaterally labeled 229 rural, Alaska villages as American Indian tribes to open a pipeline of federal aid to rural areas.](#)

Even Anchorage, today a bustling urban center little different from the country's other urban centers, was a largely undeveloped area home to [fewer than 136,000 people](#) clustered around the downtown area in 1970. Now heavily populated South Anchorage was still mainly forest and swamp. The 728,000-square-foot Dimond Center shopping mall of today was non-existent. [There was nothing there until 1977 when a 180,000 square shopping center was opened, anchored by a Safeway grocery store and a Pay 'N Save selling hardware, sporting goods and more.](#)

Suffice it to say, Alaska was a tough place to survive in those years, and Umpenhour, a future [member of the US/Canada Salmon Treaty Negotiating Team for the Yukon River](#) and later [the Alaska Board of Fisheries](#), knew personally many people for whom cash from the sale of chums was their lifeblood.

Thus when the market for their fish was undercut by hatchery fish, he took it personally.

Market alterations

The start of the hatchery-driven market disruption itself tracks to the opening of [state-funded, coastal hatcheries run by the Fisheries Rehabilitation, Enhancement and Development \(FRED\) Division in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.](#) The division would not, however, run the

FRED was dead in less than 15 years after its birth, [killed, according to a Fish and Game history, by "continual budget declines and declining revenues across state agencies in the late '80s and early '90s."](#)

It's legacy, however, lived on. History records that when "the operation of state-run hatcheries for commercial production of salmon was eliminated in 1995 because of continual declines in vital state funding. Nearly all the state-owned facilities were transferred to private-non-profit (PNP) hatchery associations after the state ceased operations in 1995. The intent was to keep key programs going in order to sustain production needed (and depended on) by a myriad of users."

Commercial fishermen-controlled PNPs quickly picked up where FRED left off after growing the [chum egg-take from 182 million eggs at the start of the 1980s](#) to more than 592 million eggs by 1995. The result was the devastation of the Yukon chum fishery.

By 1997, [a state-appointed Yukon River Regional Planning Team was reporting that "despite good chum salmon availability roe harvests dropped dramatically due to a 60 percent drop in the wholesale and ex-vessel price.](#)

"The market for Upper Yukon Area summer chum salmon in-the-round sales, although never a large market, is now practically non-existent with the exception of District 6 fish which are cheaper to transport."

The hatchery chum business was then still growing thanks to a decision by the state, which had struggled to fund the FRED hatcheries, to allow the PNPs to conduct so-called "cost recovery" fisheries, which allowed the PNP hatcheries to fully finance and then grow their operations.

[By the year 2020, Fish and Game would be reporting that a chum egg take that had tripled shortly before the start of the new millennium would have](#)

[almost doubled again to 972 million eggs. The state at that time credited the hatcheries with the production of 32 percent of the year's chum salmon harvest.](#)

Umpenhour, meanwhile, watched many of the small-time fishermen he'd known along the Yukon in the 1970s and 1980s go out of business over the years while he waged a futile battle to reign in hatcheries now economically profitable despite being labeled non-profit operations.

[By 2023, the Yukon commercial chum fishery would be gone, according to state harvest records](#), a victim of both shrinking salmon returns and shifting markets.

Its collapse rendered worthless the approximately 940 commercial salmon permits that had been issued for fishing in the drainage, permits that largely helped keep low-income Alaskans alive.

"Unlike (in) other fisheries in Alaska, Yukon River permit holders are primarily local residents of Yukon River drainage rural villages or the greater Fairbanks area," the planning team of 1997 observed. "In 1994, 91 percent of the Upper Yukon Area fish wheel permits were locally owned, followed by 86 percent of the Lower Yukon Area gillnet permits, and lastly, 79 percent of the Upper Yukon Area set gillnet permits were locally owned.

"Permit holders who live in villages or towns outside the Yukon River drainage often are former residents of the drainage....Permit ownership by non-Alaskan residents in 1995 was negligible. Eight Lower Yukon Area gillnet permits, four Upper Yukon Area fish wheel permits, and three Upper Yukon Area gillnet fish wheel permits were owned by nonresidents."

Never getting rich

None of those fishermen ever made much money. The state reported that on average from 1977 to 1997, 804 of the 940 permit holders who fished

earned a combined \$7,426,147 or approximately \$9,236.50 per permit. AC4

What Alaska hatcheries did to commercial chum salmon fishermen on the Yukon was a precursor to what Norwegian, Chilean and other net-pen salmon farms would eventually do to Alaska commercial salmon fishermen in general.

Commodities markets are driven by the law of supply and demand, and [as Alaska learned after partially banning net-pen farming in 1989](#), the power of politics is limited. The ban didn't slow the growth of net-pen farmed salmon. The net-pen farmers just kept expanding and [by 2020 were providing about eight out of every 10 salmon eaten around the globe, according to a study published in the journal Aquaculture in 2023.](#)

That number did not include the Alaska free-ranged hatchery salmon that also spend time in net pens. Alaska has theoretically banned net pens but treats the hatchery operations in the same way [Washington state decided to treat them after it banned net-pen farming this year. That ban prohibits growing salmon to market size in open-water net pens but permits the grow-out of young salmon so as to give hatchery fish an advantage over wild fish when turned loose on the ocean's open range.](#)

Washington state grow-out operations are small compared to those in Alaska. [Grow-out pen operations at hatcheries in the 49th state have reached the point where the state Department of Environmental Conservation believes they are polluting the seabed, a problem the hatcheries don't want to monitor because of the costs.](#)

As is the way of most businesses, Alaska hatcheries are focused on their bottom line, which is, it should be noted, in line with the state policy established shortly after Alaska's entry into the hatchery business.

[As FRED's Stan Moberly observed in a 1982 review of that division's program, "another highly competitive area will be in the allocation of](#)

'grazing' rights of the North Pacific pasture. If the Japanese and Soviets adhere to their proposed schedule of (hatchery) production, we will begin to see the effects of surpassing the ocean's rearing capacity within a decade or so.

"As we approach that time, the salmon-producing countries of the North Pacific will be negotiating for these 'grazing' rights and for the establishment of quotas for release of artificially propagated salmon. Alaska's position at the bargaining table, no doubt, will be strengthened if we also have a history of stocking the ocean with large numbers of juvenile salmon.

"Alaska's salmon industry is the State's largest employer and has an economic worth at first wholesale value estimated to be near \$4 billion. If Alaska intends to secure its position in the world marketplace, the salmon rehabilitation and enhancement program must keep pace."

Nuclear arms race

Some scientists now contend that the Alaska effort to "keep pace" has helped to overrun the Pacific with pink and chum salmon to the detriment of more valuable and popular salmon species – Chinook, sockeye and coho.

The state's official position is that no one has proven this to be the case, and Alaska is not going to do anything to change the way the hatcheries operate unless someone can present absolute proof that the numbers of wild Chinook, sockeye and coho salmon have declined because of hatchery fish.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has taken a slightly different view. It is now considering whether Alaska Chinook should be listed as a threatened species under the terms of the federal Endangered Species Act because of the massive shrinkage in the size of the Alaska Chinook population.

Bill Templin, the state's director of commercial fisheries research, has admitted there are indications hatchery fish could be contributing to declines in Chinook, sockeye and coho, but in a 2018 appearance before the Board of Fisheries flippantly dismissed the observations and conclusions of other scientists studying this subject by proclaiming that "correlation is not causation."

Templin at that time described the marine ecosystem of the Pacific as too difficult for anyone to fully sort out, which is true. The ocean presents an extremely complicated picture because many, many species of fish prey on each other or compete with each other depending more on size than on species.

Herring, for instance, are considered a prime prey for Chinook, or what Alaskans usually call "king" salmon, but ecologists studying the species in the Salish Sea have also found that "herring diets overlap extensively with that of juvenile Chinook salmon regardless of the presence (every other year) of juvenile pink salmon....Estimates of population-level consumption via bioenergetics modeling indicated that herring consumed approximately 10 to 50 times more biomass of the major prey eaten by juvenile Chinook salmon."

A 2024 Ecosystem Status Report for Alaska's Eastern Bering Sea put together by NOAA notes that warming waters there have benefitted juvenile herring while working to the detriment of Yukon Chinook salmon. The report did not, however, attempt to quantify the implications of these interactions.

On the other hand, it did observe that "Chinook salmon runs have been declining statewide since 2007. Size-dependent mortality during the first year in the marine environment is thought to be a leading contributor to low Chinook run sizes. Rising sea temperatures and loss of sea ice may be contributing factors leading to slower growth for juvenile Chinook salmon in the eastern Bering Sea."

Whether competition with herring or other salmon are as important or more

important than the bycatch of Chinook salmon in trawl fisheries there is an ^{AC4} unknown. The trawl fisheries are a favorite public target for blame despite any evidence to indicate they are causing population-level reductions in Yukon Chinook. The Chinook mortality in the trawl fishery could be [additive](#) or it could be [largely compensatory](#).

Much the same can be said of the salmon added to the ecosystem by hatcheries. They could be making up for wild fish that died, thus rendering them compensatory. Or, if the salmon carrying capacity of the North Pacific has been reached, they could be replacing wild fish, which would make them additive.

The latter possibility represents the “zero-sum game” to which some fisheries researchers have recently referred and which Moberly predicted 43 years ago.

[“It is important to recognize that in the present era,” fisheries scientists Brendan Connors, Greg Ruggerone and James Irvine wrote in the ICES Journal of Marine Science last fall, “hatchery releases represent a classic ‘zero-sum’ game, where an incremental increase in hatchery releases results in some loss of growth and productivity of wild salmon through increased competition at sea.”](#)

[Alaska saw this possibility coming well before the new millennium and in 1993 enacted a law dictating that the “effects and interactions of introduced or enhanced salmon stocks on wild salmon stocks should be assessed; wild salmon stocks and fisheries on those stocks should be protected from adverse impacts from artificial propagation and enhancement efforts.”](#)

But the Fish Boards since then have sidestepped the requirement to protect “wild salmon stocks...from adverse impacts from artificial propagation” by ignoring the indications of food competition or other hatchery-related problems and holding out for absolute proof, [something science can almost never deliver](#), that there is a problem.

The end result has been that the program the state began as an attempt to AC4
"enhance" and "rehabilitate" Alaska salmon runs struggling due to over-
fishing and the coldwater years of the 1970s that left Fairbanks freezing has
abandoned enhancement and rehabilitation in the name of large-scale
"development" in the form of industrial-scale salmon hatcheries that
promise consumers "wild caught" salmon as if the fish were truly wild.

And with those hatcheries making enough money to pay high-powered
lobbyists in Juneau, Umphenour's petition is likely to go nowhere. But
Alaskans now know what they are dealing with.

Trends in Adult Return Abundance of Idaho Salmon and Steelhead Relative to Pink Salmon Abundance the Year of Ocean Entry

John Cassinelli and Josh McCormick

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Keywords: Idaho, pink salmon, steelhead, Chinook salmon, abundance

Abstract

The Snake River basin contains four runs of ESA listed anadromous salmonids—spring/summer Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), fall Chinook salmon, sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*), and steelhead trout (*O. mykiss*)—as well as several large hatchery mitigation programs. Within a given juvenile outmigration year, millions of juvenile salmon and steelhead from the Snake River basin enter the Pacific Ocean, where they will typically spend one to three years before returning to freshwater and migrating back to their natal waters in Idaho. While year- and species-specific adult return abundance of Idaho’s anadromous salmonids is highly variable, in the early 2010s managers began to notice some distinct every-other-year patterns in adult returns across many of Idaho’s stocks. Concurrently, commercial pink salmon (*O. gorbuscha*) harvest in the North Pacific Ocean surpassed 400 M fish in 2009 and odd-year abundance and commercial harvest has remained high since that time. We developed a state-space model to estimate abundance of Idaho’s returning salmon and steelhead and embedded a regression model to estimate the effect of pink salmon abundance (using Alaska commercial harvest as a surrogate) during the year of ocean entry, on the intrinsic growth rate. For all species of pacific salmon and steelhead returning to Idaho, pink salmon abundance had a strong negative effect on intrinsic growth rate and the negative effect has increased through time. Additional work understanding the mechanism for increasing odd-year pink salmon abundance effects on Columbia basin anadromous salmonid ocean survival is needed, especially given the increasing impacts in a changing ocean climate.

Introduction

Historically, the Columbia River basin produced some of the largest runs of pacific salmon and steelhead in North America. Within the Columbia River basin, the Snake River basin is the largest tributary, producing more than half of the Chinook salmon and steelhead in the entire basin.

The Snake River supports a large run of summer steelhead that enter freshwater in the summer and fall prior to their spawn year. This run consists of two primary life histories, one being primarily composed of fish that rear in the ocean for one year before returning (often referred to as A-index) and one being primarily composed of fish that rear in the ocean for two years prior to returning to freshwater (often referred to as B-index). The Snake River Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of steelhead was listed as Threatened in 1997.

The Snake River also supports large runs of Chinook Salmon including spring, summer, and fall runs. These fish enter freshwater from early March through August with the majority of the adult returns being comprised of 2-ocean fish. The Snake River Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU) for spring/summer and fall Chinook were listed as Threatened in 1992.

While largescale changes have modified the landscape of both the Columbia and Snake River basins, salmon and steelhead runs returning to Idaho remain culturally, ecologically, and economically important. Largescale monitoring programs are in place to track both out-migrating juveniles and returning adults. Additionally, large hatchery mitigation programs release tens of millions of smolts annually.

Methods

Systematic samples of adult steelhead and Chinook salmon ascending the adult ladder at Lower Granite Dam (LGD) are collected annually, during daily operations of the adult fish trap by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The trap is located in the LGD fish ladder upstream from the fish-counting window. The trap captures a systematic random sample of fish by operating a computerized trap gate according to a predetermined sample rate (Baum et al. 2023).

We evaluated trends in adult returns back to Idaho for natural spring Chinook salmon and hatchery steelhead. Returning two-ocean adult hatchery-origin steelhead were identified at Lower Granite Dam using Parental Based Tagging (PBT) (Hargrove et al. 2021) going back to brood year 2006. Returning 2-ocean natural-origin spring Chinook were identified using a combination of Genetic Stock Identification (GSI) or a combination of scale and fin-ray aging (Baum et al. 2023) going back to brood year 1994. Finally, counts of Chinook salmon spawning redds in the Middle Fork Salmon River are conducted using a combination of foot and aerial counting. These data were evaluated going back to brood year 1991. Within all three data sets, a distinct pattern began to appear around brood year 2010 (ocean entry year 2012, adult return year 2014) showing an every-other-year fluctuating cycle of adult return abundance, with odd year returns showing decreased abundance and even year returns showing increased abundance.

Concurrently, we analyzed Alaska commercial pink salmon catch abundance across the same time period (Alaska Department of Fish and Game 2024). Commercial pink salmon catch appeared to have an inverse relationship with adult returns of Chinook salmon and steelhead to Idaho.

To analyze this further we developed a state-space model to estimate the intrinsic rate of increase of Chinook salmon and steelhead returning to Idaho, defined as:

$$\log(N_t) \sim \text{normal}(\log(N_{t-1}) + r_t)$$

Where N_t = abundance in year t and r = intrinsic rate of increase. And,

$$r_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_t + \varepsilon$$

Where β_0 = intercept, β_1 = slope, x_t = pink salmon abundance, and ε = residual error.

For 2-ocean adult Chinook salmon at LGD and Middle Fork redd abundance, both data sets were analyzed pre and post ocean-entry year 2012.

Results

For the two Chinook salmon datasets, pink salmon abundance had a strong negative correlation (> 0.98) with both data sets post 2012. Prior to 2012, pink salmon had an insignificant positive correlation (0.22) with Middle Fork Chinook Salmon redd abundance and a nearly neutral correlation (0.60) with abundance at LGD (Fig. 1). For steelhead, pink salmon abundance also had a strong negative correlation (> 0.99) with two-ocean adult return abundance (Fig. 2).

Alaska commercial catch of pink salmon reached all time highs in 2009 and again in 2011 and 2021. Odd-year harvest since 2009 had averaged over 408 million pink salmon while even-year harvest since 2010 has averaged just under 270 million pink salmon.

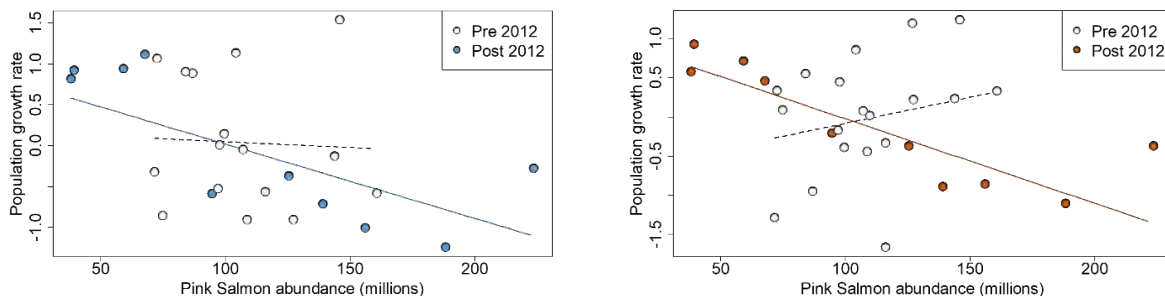


Fig 1. Modeled relationship between pink salmon even- and odd-year commercial Alaska catch and 2-ocean Chinook salmon adult returns to LGD (left panel with blue dots), and Chinook salmon redd abundance in the Middle Fork Salmon River, Idaho (right panel with orange dots) prior and post ocean entry year 2012.

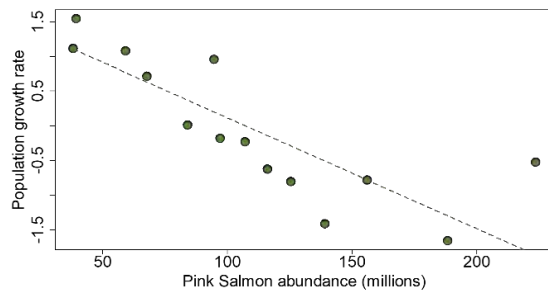


Fig 2. Modeled relationship between pink salmon even- and odd-year commercial Alaska catch and 2-ocean steelhead adult returns to LGD.

Discussion

Odd-year pink salmon abundance in the North Pacific Ocean has been growing and is at an all-time high (Rand and Ruggerone 2024). Additionally, negative impacts of high abundance odd-year pink salmon are well documented for a variety of species including species of squid, forage fish, seabirds, whales, as well as nearly all species of pacific salmon (Ruggerone et al. 2023). Our model shows that pink salmon abundance has a significant negative impact on adult returns of both spring Chinook salmon and summer steelhead returning to the Snake River basin in Idaho. These impacts are concerning given that these runs are not only ESA listed, but also considering the cultural, ecological, and economic importance of these returns to the region. Additional work further understanding the mechanism by which pink salmon negatively impact the abundance of these Idaho stocks would be of value, especially given the recent trends in increased odd-year pink salmon abundance in the north pacific and a changing climate.

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NEWS | 31 July 2024

'Ocean ranching' has led to a pink salmon boom — but there might be a catch

Unintended interbreeding between hatchery-bred and wild-born pink salmon could reduce resiliency of fish stocks.

By [Alix Soliman](#)



Pink salmon at a hatchery pool in Canada. Credit: Juergen Freund/Nature Picture Library

Salmon raised in captivity and released into rivers bound for the North Pacific are breeding with wild salmon, raising concerns among scientists about the fishes' future. A new study¹ published this month on [pink salmon](#) (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) in Alaska predicts that such interbreeding will increase the size of the species' population but decrease its diversity. This could change mating behaviours in wild fish, [making them less resilient to climate change](#) and other disasters.

“There are too many fish being released,” says Peter Westley, a fisheries ecologist at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and an author of the paper. He suggests that pink-salmon hatcheries reduce their output.

Fishery regulators are resisting calls to scale back operations, however, citing lingering unknowns about the ecological interactions between wild and hatchery-bred fish, as well as economic competition from neighbouring Russia.

“It’s a contentious issue, but everyone wants to get to the bottom of it,” says Samuel May, a salmon research geneticist at the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service in Orono, Maine, and the lead author of the study.

Fishy family tree

Hatcheries in Alaska pump about one billion pink salmon into the North Pacific Ocean each year, and are credited with boosting harvests for the state’s pink-salmon industry, which was worth some US\$100 million last year. The fish grow in the ocean and, if they’re not caught, typically try to return to the place where they hatched when it’s time to breed. But not all of the fish released find their way back to the facilities that reared them. Some 1–5% – millions of individuals a year – stray into nearby streams, where they can breed with wild salmon.



Hatchery-bred fish are expected to return to where they were born to spawn, but some don't. Credit: Doc White/Nature Picture Library

[Alaskan state law prohibits hatchery production from harming wild salmon populations](#), and for decades researchers have been trying to work out how the practice impacts the species. In an effort to understand how genes are moving between hatchery-bred and wild fish, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, based in Juneau, partnered with scientists at the University of Alaska, local aquaculture associations that run the hatcheries and the National Marine Fisheries Service to form the Alaska Hatchery Research Program.

Huge harvest

Between 2011 and 2020, field teams collected carcasses of pink salmon that had returned and died in streams that drain into Prince William Sound, home to the largest pink-salmon hatchery programme in the world. Through genetic analysis, researchers drew up family trees for 284,867 individual fish, making it the largest salmon pedigree study ever done. May

and his colleagues then extracted population-level dynamics from this massive data set to model how hatchery strays might affect 25 future generations of pink salmon.

The simulation showed hatchery strays increasing the overall population of wild pink salmon, which might help to explain reports of a recent surge. Last year, fishing fleets were expected to harvest 19 million fish – hatchery and wild combined – in Southeast Alaska. Instead, they caught almost 48 million.

“I think this is really good work,” says Jim Murphy, a fisheries research biologist at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Juneau, who was not involved in this study but has previously collaborated with some of the authors.

Genetic erosion

However, the population boom has potential repercussions, May says. The team’s model predicted that cross-breeding between hatchery and wild fish would reduce variation in an important trait related to reproduction – the time at which fish return to their spawning grounds – by up to 20%. In Prince William Sound, most hatchery pink salmon swim upstream about a week later than the average wild fish does, a trait selected by hatchery officials in part to reduce the chances of cross-breeding.

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improving the sustainability
of fish stocks**

Wild fish return at various times throughout the summer, which helps to reduce the impact on reproduction of a crisis such as a [heatwave](#), [disease outbreak](#) or beaver dam collapse at spawning sites. If more pink salmon start returning at the same time, as the model predicts, such environmental disturbances could be devastating.

One of the big risks facing salmon is “the genetic erosion of wild diversity,” May says. “What might happen in the future if these kinds of extreme weather events or warming becomes more frequent?” asks May. “Will these populations be able to cope?”

In the pink

John McMillan, a fisheries ecologist at the Conservation Angler, an advocacy organization based in Edmonds, Washington, focused on protecting wild fish, says he thinks that this is a significant finding. “We’re going through a rapidly changing climate, and animals are going to need every ounce of diversity that they have,” he says.

But he adds that the model is limited by simplification. The study looks only at spawning-ground dynamics and holds constant all other factors, such as the survival of young fish and competition for food at sea, which are important to fully understand interactions between hatchery and wild salmon.

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And the results should not be taken out of context or applied to other salmon species such as [sockeye](#) (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), [coho](#) (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) or chum (*Oncorhynchus keta*), McMillan says, because pink salmon live a more predictable life. They don’t spend much time feeding in streams and they all return to spawn at age two during the same season. But in a [review²](#) of more than 200 papers investigating the global impacts of hatchery salmon of all species on their wild

counterparts, McMillan and his colleagues found that 83% of papers reported a slightly or moderately adverse effect.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game issues permits that allow hatcheries to operate and stipulates how many fish they can release. Doug Vincent-Lang, the department’s commissioner, says he needs more evidence that hatchery fish are harming wild populations for the department to reduce hatchery production.

“We’re always a little cautious when you’re trying to speculate what’s going to happen many generations into the future,” he says. “This kind of information that’s been collected now, by my staff and the university, is raising some flags that we need to sit back and look at.”

Hatcheries also support Alaska's coastal communities, Vincent-Lang says. Statewide, they funded at least 4,200 jobs and US\$219 million in wages per year between 2018 and 2023.

Salmon glut

But there are other complicating factors. This year, demand for pink salmon did not meet supply, and the USDA purchased US\$70 million in canned pink salmon to stabilize the market. Meanwhile, Russia has scaled up its hatchery production. "They're flooding the market with pink salmon and chum salmon right now, and that's lowering the price," Vincent-Lang says.

He adds that questions about ocean interactions between the fish drive a lot of debate. Alaskan and Russian salmon presumably compete for food in the North Pacific. If the state was to shut down hatcheries because of their impact on wild salmon, Russian production might hurt wild stocks anyway, Vincent-Lang suggests.

"Are we going to, in Alaska, just completely shut down all of our hatchery programmes for pink salmon?" Vincent-Lang asks. "That's a tough question when you're hurting your own economy."

doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-024-02483-6>

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Icy Straits Advisory Committee

Date : 12/17/2024

Location of Meeting : Hoonah, Gustavus, and Online

I. 5:40 by Casey Mconnel Chair

II. Roll Call

Members Present:

Casey M

Jackson C

Kim

Mark O

Ian Johnson

Larry Landry

Andy Savland

Calvin Casipit

Levi Mills - Came Late

Members Absent (Excused):

Members Absent (Unexcused):

Faith grant

James Jack Jr

Duane Jack

Bill Miller

Number Needed for Quorum on AC:

List of User Groups Present:

III. Fish and Game Staff Present:

- a. Daniel Teske - AB for division of sport fish
- b. Jess Elbridge Assistant Ab
- c. Rita Urshman - Groundfish
- d. Raymond vinzant Assistant AB in Douglas

IV. Guests Present:

- a. None idetified themselves

V. Approval of Agenda

- a. Move 192 to the top of the agenda

VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- a. Previous minutes were not passed out

VII. Reports

- a. Chair's report
 - a. None
- b. ADF&G
 - a. None
- c. Others
 - a. None

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

XI. 140: Sport fish with single barbless hook only between April 1 and June 14th Requires barbless hooks in SE Alaska in all sport fisheries

- I. Calvin - MOVES to support 140 as written between April 1 - June 14 in sport fish , Ian Seconds
- II. Vote : All Oppose. Motion Fails

XII. Justification :

- I. Likes notion that trying to reach, but its not well written, and for that reason oppose.
- II. Seems to be addressing a ketchikan fishery with a regional proposal.
- III. Opposed because the way it is written it applies to too many species and fisheries. It is commendable that the author is trying to get conservation measures for a fishery in his area, he should focus on more local stocks and concern.
- IV. In general, the department has the authority to act inseason for conservation issues and staying in treaty allocations.
- V. Like the idea of barbless hooks in salmon fisheries, but the way this is written it covers everything and should be opposed.

XIII. 141: Prohibit bait in sport fisheries between April 1 through June 14th

- I. Kim - Moves to discuss this one. Calvin seconds.
- II. Prohibit bait in all salt water fisheries from April 1 to June 14.
- III. ADF&G opposes this proposal
- IV. Calvin - moves to support, asks for unanimous concern to oppose this proposal. Kim Seconds
- V. Vote : All Oppose. Motion Fails.

VI. Justification :

- I. Same as first one
- II. Likes notion that trying to reach, but its not well written, and for that reason oppose.
- III. Seems to be addressing a ketchikan fishery with a regional proposal.

- IV. Opposed because the way it is written it applies to too many species and fisheries. It is commendable that the author is trying to get conservation measures for a fishery in his area, he should focus on more local stocks and concern.
 - V. In general, the department has the authority to act in season for conservation issues and staying in treaty allocations.
 - VI. Like the idea of barbless hooks in salmon fisheries, but the way this is written it covers everything and should be opposed.
- XIV. 143: Increase bag/possession limit for trout southeast-wide
- I. Ian Johnson - Makes a motion to support as written. Andy Savland seconds
 - II. Seeks to increase the limit from 2 to 4 fish for Cut throat and SE Alaska
 - III. ADF&G - opposes regional increase in regulations. Opposes their strategy for trout. They recommend completing ongoing
 - I. Does this differentiate between rainbow? The slot limit is what differentiates this. Steelhead are protected under the current limits and would be under this slot limit to.
 - IV. Vote : 1 Vote in Support, 9 in Opposition. Motion Fails
 - V. Justification :
 - I. have listened to other AC meetings. The concern is coming out of salmon streams on the inside. Will probably oppose because it's not a region wide issue, and the department can handle this on local streams
 - II. under federal regulations rural residents are already allowed to catch 6 cutthroat and rainbow.
 - III. oppose region wide because it's too broad stroke. Klawock land is private land. If they want to change that they need to have that area specific.
- XV. 169: Allow use of rods and downriggers during spring/summer hand trolling - Use of 2 rods in spring and summer chinook fish
- I. Kim Landeen - Moves to adopt. Andy Savland Second
 - II. Discussion –
 - I. Ray from State - Allow for use of hand gurdys would allow for hand trollers to use rods on their gear. More accurate. More salmon caught by hand gear could increase catch. Seems unlikely that adoption would change the troll harvest. During the winter the # of days can be restricted due to weather. Can have more restricted areas for fishing as well. This would not affect harvest. Similar proposals 2006, 2012, 2015, 2018, 2022. Department is

neutral on this proposal. Wildlife troopers have expressed concern of difficulty to enforce.

II. Vote : All in favor, Motion passes

III. Justification :

- I. This has been shot down quite a few times by BOF . Has worked in enforcement. Handtroller now. The reason to shoot it down is because its hard to differentiate between sport troll and hand trolling. However, that's their issue. crew license requirements already say you have have to have a license for a year. Sport charters can use up to 6 rods (1 rod per client). Hand troll isn't as effective in summer. Doesn't seem like a huge advantage, its confusing on why you can't do it. Why in the spring and not the summer? Its just 2 lines no matter what.
- II. To get this supported in the future make sure ACs are represented at the board.
- III. Gear changes based on season and the depth you want to fish at. Davits vs hand trolling. This doesn't create a competitive advantage, just flexibility. Fisheries are struggling, fisherman should have this flexibility.

XVI. 192: Allow pots used in personal use sablefish to be longlined Allows for a permit holder to do 2 pots on one string.

I. Calvin Moves to support proposal 192, Second from Kim

II. ADF&G : Supports this.

III. Vote : All in Favor. Motion passes

IV. Justification :

- I. Improves efficiency and amount of gear needed
- II. nice to string them together. More efficiency on gear. This fishery can take place in the icy straits area
- III. Impact on the resource is minimal and the people doing it it will make it easier for them
- IV. Concern for rockfish population - this could provide for protection for them. Reduces bycatch

V. Ian Calls for question

XVII. 203: Establish unguided nonresident lingcod regulations

- I. Allows non resident in Southern SE aslask unguided, 1 lincod/day. 4 in possession. Lincod allocation is separated in 7 sections. ADF&G is neutral. This is more liberal than current regulations.
 - II. Kim – Motion to adopt conversation, Ian Seconds
 - III. Vote : None in favor, Motion fails
- XVIII. Justification :
- I. its not part of our area, but the notion of differential bag lmits between guided and unguided. Need to have better numbers there to open up the allocation between unguided/guided
 - II. Need to have precedence to keep this out of icy Straits water
 - III. This has been going on for many years - the idea that guided and unguided limits. Would prefer guided and unguided have same limits. This proposal only exacerbates the problem. We shuold not allow this until we have better context for data
 - IV. This proposal does propose record keeping, but does not guarantee it. Would need that guarantee
 - V. We don't need to encourage any more of the unguided charters in the fisheries of halibut and lingcod. Don't need to open the door to any more harvest by any unguided fisherman.
- XIX. 206 - Reopen yelloweye sport fishery for residents
- I. Kim Landeen - Moves to adopt, Lary Second
 - II. Open yellow eye fish, 1 per day. Allocation is not an issue. Supports allocation of sport as long as it doesn't exceed. They are continuing to do stock assessment for inside water. Cautionary approach. There is limiit
 - III. Vote :
 - IV. Justification :
 - I. Likes idea of proposal because yellow eye are often bycatch and it would be good to keep one if you have bycatch. A bycatch fisheries. This is a fishery for residents.
 - II. Seems like conservation concern is easing up
- XX. Other business
- I. None
- XXI. Next meeting December 30th
- I. Suggested to talk about proposal 104, 207, 208

XXII. Could also meeting on January 10th

XXIII.

XXIV. Meetings are open to the public; All residents of the area who attend the meeting and are of legal voting age may make nominations and vote on committee membership;

XXV.

XXVI. **CALL-IN INFORMATION**

XXVII. Phone Number: [+1 253 215 8782](tel:+12532158782)

XXVIII. Meeting ID: 825 7746 4084

XXIX. Join Audio Conference by Computer:

XXX. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82577464084?pwd=0lCW7gdLoY5CniZs309Oal3PS4rw.1>

XXXI.

XI. Select representative(s) for board meeting

XII. Set next meeting date December 30th

XIII. Other

XIV. Adjourn

Adjournment: Casey Motion to Adjourn 07:34

Minutes Recorded By: Ian Johnson, Hoonah

Name of Advisory Committee : Icy Straits AC

12/30/2024

Location of Meeting : Hoonah, Gustavus, Online

I. Call to Order: 5:38 by Casey McConnell

II. Roll Call

Casey M

Jackson C

Ian Johnson

Larry Landry

Calvin Casipit

Levi Mills - Came Late

Faith grant

James Jack Jr

Duane Jack

Bill Miller

Members Absent (Excused):

Members Absent (Unexcused):

Kim

Mark O

Andy Savland

Levi Mills

III. Fish and Game Staff Present:

Daniel Teske, Jess Ethridge, Ray Vincient

IV. Guests Present:

Josh Dybdahl, Kevin Fisher, George Dalton, Tyler

V. Approval of Agenda

Larry Moves to Approve. Calvin Seconds

VII. Approval Unanimously

I. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Previous meeting minutes were not provided to the committee for review

VIII. Reports

No Reports.

a. Chair's report

b. ADF&G

c. Others

IX. Public Comment

No Public Comment.

IX. Old Business

None.

X. New Business

Board of Fisheries Southeast salmon allocation and harvest proposals including proposals:

122: Prohibit the removal of king salmon from the water when retention is not allowed

Ian Johnson - Makes motion to Approve as written

Calvin Casipit - Second

Calvin Casipit Calls for Question and Larry Landry Seconds.

Vote : All Oppose

Justification : Could create safety situations on high walled vessels and could make it harder to remove hook from the fish making it less likely to be successful. Putting a fish in a net can be hard on scales and on the fish. Angler education for fish handling is a good option for better king survival.

124: Modify resident sport fishing opportunity prescribed by Southeast Alaska king salmon action plans

Ian Johnson moves to adopt 124 as written.

Calvin Casipit – Second

Duan Jack – Calls for Question

Vote : 3 Yes, 6 No, Motion Fails

Justification : It would be very difficult to adopt as written with multiple regulations needed to meet the run timings of different systems. Also concern that it focuses on minimum escapement and that fish could still be vulnerable to overharvest. Also, if escapement goals are being met that also means there should be enough fish around to catch without the extended season. Proposal doesn't really impact fish in Icy Straits as they have already passed by here by then.

125: Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A when a stock of concern exists for king salmon stocks in Northern Southeast Alaska

Ian Johnson makes motion to adopt

Larry Landry seconds

Does 14A also include Idaho inlet?? – Yes, This does include Idaho Inlet

Cal calls for question, Duan second

Vote : All Oppose, Motion Fails

Justification : Unclear what stocks it is trying to protect. There is only a fractional relationship between the systems listed and the closure area. Already expensive to get to Idaho Inlet, it doesn't benefit Hoonah to have to go further.

126: Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A

Calvin - Moves to take no action and if gets a second would like for unanimous consent

Larry Seconds

None Opposed

136: Increase sockeye salmon possession and annual limits at Basket Bay

- Ray - Subsistence possession and annual limits
- Duan Jack - Moves to adopt
- Ian Johnson Seconds

- Department is neutral. Stock is small and unmonitored. There are Juneau use and rural use
- Any Hoonah users been here recently?
 - No, annual limit is too small
 - Would it be worth it at 30 fish? Yes. But 15 is too small
- Cal - calls for question, Larry seconds
- Vote : 4 Yes, 5 No Motion Fails
- Justification : All members support a raise in the limits for Basket Bay, but the daily limit increase to 20 fish is still not enough to justify the resources it takes for users to get to the system.

137: Increase the possession limit of sockeye salmon for Basket Bay from 15 to 30 sockeye salmon

Calvin Move to adopt 137 as written, Duane Seconds

Larry - Moves to call the question, Duane second,

Discussion Occurred during discussion on proposal 136

Vote : None Opposed, Motion passes

Justification: Moving the daily limit of 30 and having it match the annual limit is most effective for Hoonah users. This makes it efficient for them to harvest from this system and 30 fish/day is high enough to make it worth going.

- Other proposals may be discussed

104, 207, 208 have been brought up

116 and 117 and a recorded comment were brought up.

- Other business

I. Select representative(s) for board meeting

II. Set next meeting date

January 9th or 10th

IV. Other

V. Adjourn

Adjournment: Adjourned 7:08

Minutes Recorded By: Ian Johnson, Hoonah

Name of Advisory Committee : Icy Straits AC

01/10/2024

Location of Meeting : Hoonah, Gustavus, Online

I. Call to Order: 5:42 by Casey McConnell

II. Roll Call

Casey M

Jackson C

Ian Johnson

Calvin Casipit

Levi Mills

Kim Landeen

Mark Ortega

Andy Savland (left about halfway through meeting)

Members Absent (Excused):

Members Absent (Unexcused):

Larry Landry

Faith grant

James Jack Jr

Duane Jack

Bill Miller

III. Fish and Game Staff Present:

Jess Ethridge, ADF&G

Scott Forbes, Commercial Fisheries

I.

II. Guests Present: Tom Trabush, Gustavus,

David Ritchey - ATA

Cody Cowan Trollers

I. Matt Donahoe? Sitka

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Calvin - Moves to Approve Agenda

IV. Jackson - Second

VII. Approval Unanimously

I. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

VIII. Reports

a. Chair's report

b. ADF&G

c. Others

IX. Public Comment

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

- Board of Fisheries Southeast Proposals including :
- 104: 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.
 - Kim - Motions for Support, Jackson Seconds
 - Calvin - Member of SE RAC. This proposal was submitted by the council to put in a state-managed subsistence fishery in SEAK
 - Long discussion on where this allocation would come from, effect in low and high abundance years, potential effect on charters
 - Kim - Calls for Question, Jackson Seconds
 - Vote : 7 Y, 1 N, Motion Passes
 - Justification : This is an opportunity to increase resident/subsistence priority as designated by law in king salmon fisheries in SE.
- 156: Reduce Southeast Alaska hatchery permitted pink and chum salmon egg take level by 25%
 - Reduces permitting capacity by 25% for Northern Hatcheries
 - Ian - Makes a Motion to Support 156, Kim Seconds
 - Discussion around impact of this proposal to make a difference, effect on multiple species, commercial effect on local fleets.
 - Kim, Calls Question, Calvin Seconds
 - Vote : 7 N, 1 Abstain. Motion Fails
 - Justification : The proposal doesn't meet its goal. Will have drastic economic effect. Not supported by the science. Effect on multiple species runs that are no well accounted for.
- 251: Change the start date of the Registration Area A Dungeness crab commercial fishery's summer season from June 15 to July 1
 - Calvin makes motion to support, Jackson seconds
 - Where does this apply?
 - All SE Shellfish
 - Tom - 4 seasons ago there was a region-wide softshell crab. Hoping to get crabs in a better marketable condition. Reduce mortality and get better crabs on the market. will also benefit subsistence and personal use because it will increase the health of the fishery. Mortality is high on softshell

because they get caught multiple times. Also mortality is high on young crab, males, and females. Pushing the season back

- Mark Ortega - Calls For Question, Jackson Seconds
 - Vote, 7Yes, All in Favor. Motion Passes
 - Justification : Decreases mortality on softshell crab. Removes commercial pressure for 2 weeks for personal use and subsistence users. Increases the likelihood that the stock is being well managed as there is no test-fishing for crab prior to opening.
-
- Other business
-
- I. Select representative(s) for board meeting

 - II. Set next meeting date
 - III. January 9th or 10th

 - IV. Other

 - V. Adjourn

Adjournment: Adjourned 7:38

Minutes Recorded By: Ian Johnson, Hoonah

Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee
Tuesday 22 October 2024
University of Alaska Southeast, Egan 109

Zoom: <https://alaska.zoom.us/j/81125176076?pwd=I9e32JaH1SxZG1SWQeL7H1s0LRuShN.1>

- I. Call to Order: 6:04 by Kevin Maier

- II. Roll Call
Members Present: Nick Orr (personal use/sport), Jesse Walker (personal use/sport), Mike Bethers (personal use/sport), Ed Buyarski (personal use/sport), Terry White (charter, saltwater), Richard Yamada (charter, saltwater), Forest Wagner (commercial fishing), Thatcher Brouwer (commercial fishing) Peter Roberston (non-consumptive, commercial), Atlin Daugherty (hunting guide), Mike Cole (alternate), Kristine Trott (non-consumptive, non-commercial), Jesse Ross (trapping).

Members Absent (Excused): Jason Kohlase (processor), Chris Miller (commercial fishing),
Members Absent (Unexcused):
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8
List of User Groups Present: see above

- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Jess Etheridge, Sport Fish Asst Area Bio Sportfish; Dan Teske, Area Mgmt Bio, Sport fish; Scott Forbes, Area Mgmt Bio, Comm Fish

- IV. Guests Present: Tyler Emerson, Eric Daugherty, Todd Bailey, Patrick Baum, Tiaga Bell

- V. Approval of Agenda:

After some discussion, agreed to charge through all 40 proposals one by one.

- VI. Elections (3-year terms, alternates are 2- year terms)

All uncontested, so all the below members highlighted in yellow re-elected by unanimous consent.

Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee Members

Name	Title	Designated Seat	Term Expiration
Kevin Maier	Chair	Charter Fishing - Freshwater	06/2026
Atlin Daugherty	Vice Chair	Hunting Guide	06/2024

Thatcher Brouwer Secretary	Commercial Fishing	06/2025
OPEN	Alternate	06/2024
Michael Cole	Alternate	06/2024
Terry White	Charter Fishing - Saltwater	06/2025
Richard Yamada	Charter Fishing - Saltwater	06/2024
Forest Wagner	Commercial Fishing	06/2026
Chris Miller	Commercial Fishing	06/2024
Peter Robertson	Non-Consumptive Commercial	06/2024
Kristine Trott	Non-Consumptive Personal	06/2025
Jason Kohlhase	Processor	06/2026
Ed Buyarski	Sport Fish/Hunting/Personal Use	06/2024
Michael Bethers	Sport Fish/Hunting/Personal Use	06/2025
Jesse Walker	Sport Fish/Hunting/Personal Use	06/2026
Nicholas Orr	Sport Fish/Hunting/Personal Use	06/2025
Jesse Ross	Trapping	06/2024

VII. Reports

- a. Chair's report: i. Mendenhall Wetlands Advisory Committee, ii. E-mail from DIPAC
- b. ADF&G
- c. Others

VIII. Public Comment

IX. New Business

PROPOSALS TO CONSIDER:

104 – 126, 132, 134, 138 – 141, 143/144, 149, 154, 156, 164, 165, 192, 198, 203, 205-207, 222, 224-225, 230 – 231, 242, 253 -257, 259

- X. Set next meeting date

- XI. Other

Adjourn

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
January 28 – February 9, 2024 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
104	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		
Oppose	0	12	<p>1 (abstention: lack of information how this would impact allocation).</p> <p>King Salmon is a fully allocated resource and if 5,000 fish are set aside it will impact the other user groups.</p> <p>Concern with potential lack of information / sampling / regulation from proposed subsistence fishery. Pacific Salmon Treaty implications?</p> <p>The Alaska Troller Association does not yet have a position on the proposal. Thatcher is generally unsure how the trollers feel about the proposal.</p>
105	Modify sport fishing regulations in salt waters subject to the Magnuson-Stevens Act by removing differential regulations for resident and nonresident anglers		
Oppose	0	11	<p>3 (abstention: lack of information on legal ramifications)</p> <p>There are questions regarding whether the current regulations for the sport fishery in the EEZ comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Act because of the different bag limits for residents and non-residents. This proposal could be a remedy.</p> <p>Non-residents are most likely to be the primary users in the EEZ since charter fishing guides may take their clients to this area. Residents rarely fish in the EEZ.</p> <p>Concern that this proposal would give non-residents expanded opportunity in the EEZ with the liberalized bag limits.</p> <p>This proposal could further complicate king salmon management and result in an even greater non-resident sport catch of king salmon.</p> <p>How would the different bag limits in the EEZ be enforced?</p>

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
 January 28 – February 9, 2024 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
106	Prohibit nonresidents on charter vessels that have taken fish in the EEZ from offloading those fish in state waters		
	14	0	<p>This proposal is very similar to proposal 107 which was submitted by the Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee (JDAC).</p> <p>Designed to prevent sport fishing catch increases in the EEZ should the bag limits be liberalized for non-residents.</p> <p>General agreement to support the proposals submitted by JDAC and those similar to them.</p>
107	Prohibit nonresidents that have taken fish in the EEZ from possessing or offloading those fish in state waters		
	14	0	<p>Submitted by JDAC and agreement to support proposals we originally discussed and voted in favor of submitting.</p> <p>This proposal seeks to the accomplish the same goal as proposal 106, but has language that specifies all non-residents fishing in the EEZ rather than specifically charter vessels fishing in the EEZ, will not be allowed to possess or land catch in the state unless they adhere to the non-resident bag limits.</p>
108	Modify management and allocation provisions of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan		
Oppose	2	11	<p>1 (abstention: lack of clarity on management impacts)</p> <p>Some members believe this is a compromise proposal from charter fishing sector that would limit the transfer of king quota to sport fishery at 5% of the overall allocation and set up reductions to non-resident bag limits should the overall sport fishing allocation is over 22% in a nine year rolling average. This proposal would force the department to manage in season if the 5 % allocation transfer is exceeded. It would reduce the sport fishing overages.</p> <p>Other JDAC members felt that this proposal is basically a change from the historic 80/20 troll/sport king allocation to a new 75/25 troll/sport allocation. Even with the reduced bag limits if the rolling average is over 22% for sport, there is no guarantee that the reduced bag limits in the proposal would get the sport fishing sector back to 20 or 22% of the quota given the likely growth of the industry.</p>

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28 – February 9, 2024 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			Representatives from the charter fishing sector spoke in support of the proposal while members of the commercial fishing and resident sport fishing sector voiced concerns that this proposal would essentially result in additional quota for the non-resident sport fishing sector.
109	Modify the structure of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan by removing management tiers and other provisions		
Support	7	0	<p>7 (abstention: lack of clarity on management impacts, belief that an agreement would be worked out at the Board of Fisheries meeting between stakeholders and it is not JDAC's role to select specific proposal/proposals that addresses the king allocation between troll and sport fisheries)</p> <p>Some members believe that this proposal would bring the troll/sport allocation back to 80/20 and prioritize residents.</p> <p>The proposal would require the department to manage in season and probably would not result in fixed preseason bag limits for the non-residents.</p> <p>Discussion of the difficulty of in season management for the sport sector, but also acknowledgment that it has been done in the past.</p> <p>It was noted that the proposal directs to the department to manage so that the majority of the harvest of king salmon by the sport sector occurs in the spring/early summer.</p> <p>The importance of bag limit set preseason for non-resident guided sport fishery was mentioned.</p>
110	Manage the sport fishery inseason to achieve the annual king salmon allocation to the sport fishery		
Support	7	0	7 (abstention: lack of clarity on management impacts, belief that an agreement would be worked out at the Board of Fisheries meeting between stakeholders and it is not JDAC's role to select specific proposal/proposals that addresses the king allocation between troll and sport fisheries)

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
January 28 – February 9, 2024 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			Members discussed and some supported the intent of this proposal to return the troll/sport king salmon allocation back to 80/20 with in season management. General support from commercial fishing representatives on the board and resident users who believe the agreement from the last board of fish cycle is not working for trollers or resident sport fishermen.
111	Modify the management provisions and target allocation for the king salmon sport fishery		
No Action			
112	Modify the sport allocation of king salmon and provisions for management		
No Action			
113	Modify the provisions of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan and increase the sport allocation of king salmon		
Oppose	0	11	3 (abstention: lack of clarity on management impacts) Most members on the JDAC oppose the reallocation of an additional 5% of the king allocation to the sport fishery. Recognition that this proposal would negatively impact the commercial troll fishery and would do little to guarantee king salmon for the resident sport fishery. It is a departure from the historic king salmon allocation of 80/20 between the troll and sport sector. Concern that the non-resident sport fishermen harvest the majority of the chinook salmon and there is nothing to prevent the industry from continuing to grow.
114	Reduce the nonresident annual limit in low allocation management tiers and other modifications to the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan		
No Action			
115	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to one fish		
Support	10	3	1 (abstention: lack of clarity on management impacts) Some members expressed concern that this would very negatively impact the charter sector since it would a bag limit reduction from the status quo.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
January 28 – February 9, 2024 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>Most members believe that the current system is broken, and this proposal would likely get the troll/sport allocation closer to 80/20 and help ensure that there is sufficient king quota for resident sport fishermen to fish year-round for king salmon. It would also still provide non-resident anglers the opportunity to harvest one king salmon.</p> <p>Generally there was a belief among members that this proposal is worth having on the table for discussion at the board of fish meeting. Something needs to be done and maybe this will work.</p>
116	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to two fish prior to July 1 and one fish after July 1		
Support	14	0	This is a JDAC proposal and there was agreement that this option should be on the table and would help address the existing issue of the non-resident sport fishing sector getting a greater percentage of allocation than was historically allocated.
117	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to two fish prior to July 1 and one fish after July 1		
Support	14	0	This proposal is drafted to accomplish the same thing as JDAC proposal 116 and members agreed to support it.
118	The nonresident annual limit for king salmon shall not exceed three and nonresident annual limits will not apply in terminal harvest areas		
No Action			
119	Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon for 2 days per week		
No Action			
120	Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon on weekends		
Support	10	4	<p>Most members felt it is important to support this proposal so that it is an option for the Board of Fisheries to consider.</p> <p>Some uncertainty about how much this would actually change the harvest of king salmon by non-residents. Would charter operators be able to adjust?</p> <p>Members of the charter sector felt that this proposal is very discriminatory and could have a very negative impact on the industry.</p> <p>One member mentioned that British Columbia has a similar weekend closure and the member does not travel there to fish because of the limited</p>

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
January 28 – February 9, 2024 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			fishing time and believes the Southeast lodges would feel the impact of the closure.
121	Extend the sunset provisions in the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan		
Oppose	6	6	<p>2 (abstention: lack of clarity on management impacts)</p> <p>The department argued that this is a stop gap measure that would allow them to continue to manage the king salmon fishery if there is no agreement reached at the Board of Fisheries meeting on an alternative proposal. Department representatives were uncertain what they would do if this proposal is not adopted and there is not agreement on an alternative King Salmon Management Plan. This would be the Department in an unprecedented position.</p> <p>About half of the AC members agreed with the department and supported this proposal as a stop gap way to allow the department to continue to manage the fishery if the stakeholders/Board of Fisheries members cannot agree on a King Salmon Management Plan.</p> <p>The other half of the AC members generally felt that supporting this proposal is supporting the status quo and could potentially make it less likely for an alternative agreement on a King Salmon Management Plan proposal that works for all stakeholders. These JDAC members largely agreed that the current agreement that was adopted at the last Board of Fisheries meeting is not working and needs to be addressed by the Board of Fisheries. Furthermore, there is a reason a sunset clause was put into the proposal adopted at the last Board of Fisheries meeting. This proposal could allow the Board of Fisheries to delay action until the next Southeast Board of Fisheries cycle.</p>
122	Prohibit the removal of king salmon from the water when retention is not allowed		
Support	14	0	A JDAC proposal to address the problem of increased mortality of king salmon that are removed from the water during periods of non-retention. Anglers should not be allowed to handle king salmon during periods of non-retention. The closures are largely in place to protect stocks of concern and we need to do everything we can to protect these stocks so that they can rebound.
123	Prohibit netting or handling king salmon when catch-and-release fishing is implemented		
Support	14	0	Very similar/same intent as JDAC proposal 122. Agreement to support.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28 – February 9, 2024 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
124	Modify resident sport fishing opportunity prescribed by Southeast Alaska king salmon action plans		
Oppose	0	14	Members do not want an opportunity to fish if it could negatively impact stocks of concern. We need to do everything we can to rebuild these stocks. Given the uncertainty with run projections and the importance of protecting these runs until they rebuild members do not support resident opportunity that may jeopardize the recovery of these king salmon stocks.
125	Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A when a stock of concern exists for king salmon stocks in Northern Southeast Alaska		
Support	14	0	JDAC proposal. There is no reason district 14A should be open to sport fishing when other inside waters are closed to protect stocks of concern and there are stocks of concern that use this corridor to return to their rivers.
126	Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A		
Support	14	0	Very Similar to the JDAC proposal. Same intent, but less specific language regarding when 14 A would be closed. JDAC proposal specifies that the closure is for stocks of concern that travel through the 14A district.

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Thatcher Brouwer

Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee AGENDA**Tuesday 12 November 2024****University of Alaska Southeast, Egan XXXX****Zoom: Join Zoom Meeting:**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86329221870?pwd=3XDBeEeaabdMprfYcpcLXhggsaHVDq.1>

Meeting ID: 863 2922 1870

Passcode: juneau

- I. Call to Order: 6:06 pm by Kevin Maier, Chair
- II. Roll Call
 - Members Present:
 - Jesse Walker (personal use/sport), Mike Bethers (personal use/sport), Chris Miller (commercial fishing), Jason Kolhase (processing), Kevin Maier (freshwater charter), Forest Wagner (commercial fishing), Thatcher Brouwer (commercial fishing), Peter Robertson (non-consumptive, commercial), Kristine Trott (non-consumptive, non-commercial), Mike Cole (alternate)
 - Members Absent (Excused): Atlin Daugherty (hunting guide), Ed Buyarski (personal use), Terry White (charter, saltwater), Richard Yamada (charter, saltwater Nick Orr (personal use/sport), Jesse Ross (trapping)
 - Members Absent (Unexcused):
 - Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8
 - List of User Groups Present:
- III. Fish and Game Staff Present:
 - Daniel Teske, ADFG, Sport Fish, Jesse Etheridge, ADFG, Sport Fish, Scott Forbes, ADFG, Commercial Fish, Grant Hagerman, ADFG, Commercial Fish (Troll)
- IV. Guests Present:
 - Katie Harms, Executive Director, DIPAC
- V. Approval of Agenda
 - Yes
- VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
 - Tabled
- VII. Reports
 - a. Chair's report:
 - b. ADF&G
 - c. Others
- VIII. Public Comment

IX. New Business: Discuss proposals: 132, 134, 138 – 141, 143/144, 149, 154, 156, 164, 165, 192, 198, 203, 205-207, 222, 224-225, 230 – 231, 242, 253 -257, 259

X. Set next meeting date
Doodle

XI. Other
XII. Adjourn

Alaska Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Requests January 28 – February 9, 2024 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
132	Establish a minimum size limit for Chinook salmon of 26 1/2 inches from snout to fork of tail in the spring troll fisheries		
Support	8	1	<p>Kevin: Before we start discussing this proposal, I would like to recognize that the proposal author, Tad Fujioka, recently passed away in a tragic hunting accident.</p> <p>Grant: This proposal would set a new way for trollers to measure king salmon during the spring fishery. The proposer believes that a king salmon that measures 26 ½ inch from snout to fork in the tail is generally equivalent to a king salmon that is 28 inches in overall length. The proposer asserts different tail shapes have impacted the ability for trollers to retain otherwise legal king salmon. Could increase hatchery harvest of king salmon by trollers if this proposal is adopted.</p> <p>Peter: Is the measurement in the proposal equivalent to the 28 inch overall length measurement that is currently being used?</p> <p>Grant: The department does not have data. Tad provided data from fishing experience and claims that the proposed measurement is roughly equivalent to the current 28 inch measurement.</p> <p>Chris: Does it change the harvest?</p> <p>Grant: According to proposal author it could potentially result in a small increase in the harvest of hatchery kings, but the assumption is that it the fish are roughly the same size with this measurement technique, so it should not have a significant impact on harvest.</p>

Alaska Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Requests January 28 – February 9, 2024 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>Peter: It seems like it would faster way for fishermen to measure king salmon.</p> <p>Kevin: Are the trollers primarily targeting hatchery fish in the spring fishery?</p> <p>Grant: Goal is to try to harvest Alaska hatchery fish in the spring troll fishery. 30 – 40 % hatchery fish in a good year. Five-year average is close to 25 % hatchery harvest in the spring troll fisheries.</p> <p>Jason: Does the department support this?</p> <p>Grant: Cannot give official position at this time. Department comments have not been finalized. Some concern that it would be a major change for southeast fishery. However there is an understanding that king salmon are generally smaller than they once were and this proposal might be worth considering.</p> <p>Jason: There is merit in using the proposed measurement.</p> <p>Mike: How many fish did Tad look at?</p> <p>Grant: I do not know.</p> <p>Mike: I think we do not have enough data to determine whether the proposed measurement is generally equivalent to the current measurement. Opposed.</p> <p>Thatcher: I trust that Tad did his research. He was always data driven. Trying this in the spring troll fishery is a good way test the measurement and make sure it is equivalent and determine if it is worth using for all king salmon fisheries. I will support the proposal.</p> <p>Jesse: I am going to support this proposal. I want to see a change in the way we measure the king salmon. Already a difference in regs between commercial and sport fisheries. I would like to see it apply to all king salmon fisheries.</p> <p>Chris called the question. 2nd by Peter Vote: 8 support, 1 opposed.</p>
134	Expand landing and retention requirements for king salmon by purse seine permit holders and establish penalties for violating landing requirements		

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
No Action	9 support no action motion	0	<p>Scott: This proposal seeks to establish redundant regulations. The regulations outlined in the proposal are already on the books. The proposal also seeks to establish a bail schedule which the Board of Fisheries does not have power to do. Currently if a king salmon is accidentally caught and retained it must be donated and fishermen should pay for processing associated with it. This is more of an enforcement issue, since the retaining king salmon during periods of non-retention is already illegal.</p> <p>Jesse: Based on the department’s comments and the region this proposal comes from I am going to abstain from voting on this proposal.</p> <p>Thatcher moved to take no action on this proposal. Peter 2nd.</p> <p>Vote: 9 support and 0 oppose.</p>
138	Prohibit snagging in the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge		
Support with an amendment that would exclude the waters of Fish Creek and Fish Creek Pond from this proposal	6	4	<p>Dan: No position from department yet. Cannot give department’s position until the department’s Board of Fisheries comments are finalized and published. The department is still working through the drafting process. Staff comments have not been published yet.</p> <p>Thatcher: Did we support it as an AC? I know we discussed it.</p> <p>Peter: We did support it.</p> <p>Jesse: I think he (Mike C) submitted a refined proposal and so he did not put our name on it.</p> <p>Mike B: Has there been conflict between user groups?</p> <p>Dan: Some conflict between individuals using different types of gear. Not sure how much user group conflict there really is. Do not have enforcement comments. It might be difficult to enforce.</p> <p>Peter: If we supported it, we should continue to support it.</p> <p>Mike C: I believe this proposal is the same as the one we discussed as an AC when we were considering submitting proposals as an AC.</p> <p>Kevin: I would support it as a representative from the sport charter fishing sector. Snagging is a different fishing technique that changes the dynamic</p>

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>of fishing and I believe it is okay close the Mendenhall Wetlands area to snagging.</p> <p>Dan: The Mendenhall Wetlands include Fish Creek Pond, Fritz Cove, and boat launch.</p> <p>Kevin: I did not realize Fish Creek Pond would be included</p> <p>Dan: If you want to keep Fish Creek Pond open to snagging, I think the easiest way to do that would be to use the proposal as written but amend the language to explicitly state the fresh waters of Fish Creek Pond and Creek would be excluded from prohibition on snagging as outlined by this proposal.</p> <p>Peter: I support excluding waters of Fish Creek and Fish Creek Pond from this proposal. Friendly amendment.</p> <p>Thatcher: Uncomfortable with the size of the area. I do not feel like I have a good understanding of the potential impact this proposal could have on the individuals who choose to harvest fish by snagging.</p> <p>Chris called question to support with proposed amendment to the proposal language to explicitly exclude the freshwaters waters of Fish Creek Pond and Fish Creek from the snagging prohibition.</p> <p>Vote: 6 support, 4 oppose.</p>
139	Prohibit snagging within Don D. Statter harbor		
Support	6	2	<p>Dan: No state regulations that prohibit snagging in this area. The city has put up signs indicating the area is closed to snagging and there is a CBJ ordinance that requires the public to follow posted signage. However, the city would like a state regulation prohibiting snagging for the area. Make it more enforceable? Harbor board / staff have safety concerns with snagging in the harbor.</p> <p>AC Members: There is snagging from some small boats in the harbor. This proposal would make that illegal. Not much snagging from the shore. Very busy harbor.</p> <p>Peter called the question. Mike 2nd.</p> <p>Vote: 6 support, 2 oppose, and 2 abstentions.</p>

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			Reasons for abstentions: Why are we getting involved? CBJ can handle this without a new regulation. Lack of information.
140	Sport fishing may only be conducted with a single barbless circle hook between April 1 and June 14		
Opposed	0	10	<p>Dan: This proposal would require Southeast sport anglers (in fresh and salt water) to only use a single barbless circle hook between April 1st and June 14th when fishing. There are other areas in the state that have similar regulations. In Southeast the only area with sport gear restrictions is the Situk.</p> <p>Jesse: I would be more inclined to support this if it was limited to periods / areas of non-retention for king salmon.</p> <p>Peter: The proposal would impact all types of fishing including fishing for bottom fish. Not just for salmon fishing.</p> <p>Mike B: This proposal goes way too far. Opposed.</p> <p>Peter called question. Chris 2nd.</p> <p>Vote: Opposed unanimously. 0 support, 10 oppose.</p>
141	Prohibit the use of bait in sport fisheries between April 1 through June 14		
Oppose	0	10	<p>Kevin: Same author. Sport fishermen would not be allowed to use bait in the spring.</p> <p>Peter: This proposal would prohibit the use of bait when fishing for halibut or other species.</p> <p>Jason: It appears the author’s intent was to prohibit the use of bait in the spring king salmon fishery. States as much in discussion, but not in language.</p> <p>Mike B: When the stocks of concern recover and we are allowed to retain king salmon, this proposal as written would prevent sport fishermen from using bait in the fishery.</p> <p>Chris called the question. 2nd by Peter.</p> <p>Vote: Opposed by a unanimous vote. 0 support, 10 oppose.</p>

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
143	Increase the bag and possession limit for trout in Southeast Alaska		
Oppose	0	8	<p>Dan: Proposals 143 and 144 are identical. This proposal would increase the regionwide bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout combined from the current two fish limit to a new four fish limit. The size restrictions would remain in place. There is no annual limit or closed season.</p> <p>Kevin: Since proposals 143 and 144 would have the same effect, I think we should discuss them / take action on them together.</p> <p>Mike C: Some areas could handle this bag limit increase, but the limit is in place because of overharvest and stock concerns.</p> <p>Mike B: What are the status of stocks.</p> <p>Dan: There are a variety of trout regulations throughout Southeast. We no longer have a research program to evaluate the trout stocks. In general, I believe they are very healthy. I think some lakes could easily handle additional harvest. Considering looking at the trout management plan and providing more opportunity for anglers.</p> <p>Thatcher: Would the department still have ability to reduce bag limits if this proposal passes and there are conservation concerns with certain trout populations?</p> <p>Dan: Yes.</p> <p>Jason: Can you increase bag limits without language from the Board of Fisheries?</p> <p>Dan: Typically we use emergency orders to reduce harvest. We would need sufficient data to liberalize fishery. Do not have funds for researching trout stocks at this time.</p> <p>Mike C: Would these proposals change the regulations regarding trophy cutthroat lakes?</p> <p>Dan: As it is written it would not change these regulations and we could still have different regulations for these lakes.</p>

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>Kevin: I am going to oppose this proposal given that we do not have the information / research we need to be certain that this is not going to negatively impact stocks. Proposal goes too far.</p> <p>Kristine: Why is not limited to Prince of Wales?</p> <p>Kevin: This proposal could potential impact steelhead runs negatively. There is increasing pressure on the runs in southeast Alaska.</p> <p>Chris called the question and Jason 2nd the motion.</p> <p>Vote: 0 support, 8 oppose and 1 abstention.</p> <p>Reason for abstention: Based on the department’s comments it sounded like the fishery could be liberalized in some areas and the department would still have the ability to reduce the bag limits in areas / periods of conservation concern.</p>
144	Increase harvest opportunity for trout in Southeast Alaska		
Oppose	0	8	<p>Dan: Proposals 143 and 144 are identical. This proposal would increase the regionwide bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout combined from the current two fish limit to a new four fish limit. The size restrictions would remain in place. There is no annual limit or closed season.</p> <p>Kevin: Since proposals 143 and 144 would have the same effect, I think we should discuss them / take action on them together.</p> <p>Mike C: Some areas could handle this bag limit increase, but the limit is in place because of overharvest and stock concerns.</p> <p>Mike B: What are the status of stocks.</p> <p>Dan: There are a variety of trout regulations throughout Southeast. We no longer have a research program to evaluate the trout stocks. In general, I believe they are very healthy. I think some lakes could easily handle additional harvest. Considering looking at the trout management plan and providing more opportunity for anglers.</p> <p>Thatcher: Would the department still have ability to reduce bag limits if this proposal passes and there are conservation concerns with certain trout populations?</p>

Alaska Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Requests January 28 – February 9, 2024 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>Dan: Yes.</p> <p>Jason: Can you increase bag limits without language from the Board of Fisheries?</p> <p>Dan: Typically we use emergency orders to reduce harvest. We would need sufficient data to liberalize fishery. Do not have funds for researching trout stocks at this time.</p> <p>Mike C: Would these proposals change the regulations regarding trophy cutthroat lakes?</p> <p>Dan: As it is written it would not change these regulations and we could still have different regulations for these lakes.</p> <p>Kevin: I am going to oppose this proposal given that we do not have the information / research we need to be certain that this is not going to negatively impact stocks. Proposal goes too far.</p> <p>Kristine: Why is not limited to Prince of Wales?</p> <p>Kevin: This proposal could potential impact steelhead runs negatively. There is increasing pressure on the runs in southeast Alaska.</p> <p>Chris called the question and Jason 2nd the motion.</p> <p>Vote: 0 support, 8 oppose and 1 abstention.</p> <p>Reason for abstention: Based on the department’s comments it sounded like the fishery could be liberalized in some areas and the department would still have the ability to reduce the bag limits in areas / periods of conservation concern.</p>
149	Prohibit the use of bait and establish a catch-and-release fishery with single barbless hooks in Petersen Creek		
Support	10	0	<p>Kevin: This is a JDAC proposal. Given our past practice of supporting our own proposals, I ask for unanimous consent to support this proposal.</p> <p>Vote: Support by unanimous consent. 10 support, 0 oppose.</p>

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
154	Close sport fishing in a portion of the Situk River between April 15 and May 15		
Oppose	0	9	<p>Dan: This proposal would close sport fishing in about four additional river miles of the Situk from April 15th to May 15th to protect steelhead. Currently about two river miles are closed. There are additional size and gear restrictions. This could potentially displace a large number of anglers and make open areas of the river more crowded.</p> <p>Thatcher: How is the steelhead abundance? Are there concerns?</p> <p>Dan: Lower abundance in recent years in pretty much all of Alaska and Pacific Northwest. We have seen this in the past and after the recent period of low abundance the steelhead stocks rebounded and there were some of the largest document runs ever on the Situk.</p> <p>Jason: How does it change access to the river.</p> <p>Kevin: This is a large area to close. It would impact Juneau anglers and DIY folks. Benefit guided anglers and anglers in boats. Put more pressure on other areas.</p> <p>Dan: A case of the squeeze ballon.</p> <p>Kevin: I think this is a bad idea since it would privilege guided / boat anglers. Balloon analogy. Education can solve the problem.</p> <p>Peter: Peter called the question. Mike C. 2nd.</p> <p>Vote: 0 support, 9 oppose, and 1 abstention.</p> <p>Reason for abstention: Not familiar with the area.</p>
156	Reduce Southeast Alaska hatchery permitted pink and chum salmon egg take level by 25%		
Oppose	2	7	<p>Scott: Proposal would reduce permitted egg take by 25% at the 11 hatcheries in southeast Alaska. Currently egg take is not set in regulation. Very broad. Not sure the board could vote on this proposal. It would reduce hatchery production by 25% and potentially reduce commercial fishing ex-vessel values by 25 % or more. Drastic cuts across the board. Huge financial impact for the commercial fleet / region.</p> <p>Kevin: We have a letter and documents from DIPAC on this proposal.</p>

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			<p>Jesse: I would appreciate hearing from DIPAC.</p> <p>Katie: There is an existing regional planning team process to set egg take for hatchery. This proposal would have wide reaching impacts to the Juneau / Douglas Area. The vast majority of cost recovery revenue DIPAC earns is from chum salmon. With this cut there would be less money for DIPAC to produce king, coho and sockeye. Wide reaching impacts to all user groups in Southeast Alaska. DIPAC is not looking to increase production, just maintain status quo.</p> <p>Kristine: I have watched the DIPAC chum salmon wipe out native pink runs where I live. Fewer and fewer pink salmon. Attribute decline in pink salmon to DIPAC chum.</p> <p>Kevin: What does the Board of Fisheries have authority over in regards to regulating hatcheries?</p> <p>Scott: Indirect authority to regulating harvest, source and number of salmon eggs. However, board action to revoke a permit probably would not be authorized. This proposal can be seen as effectively revoking a hatchery permit.</p> <p>Thatcher: Can the department summarize the permitting process for hatcheries / egg take?</p> <p>Scott: There is a series of steps. Each region of the state has a comprehensive salmon enhancement plan. Permitting documents for different aspects of hatchery operations including egg take, brood stock, release locations, fish transport, ect. Permits require commissioner approval and stay in place unless relinquished by hatchery or revoked by commissioner. If a hatchery wishes to change operations, the hatchery must go through the regional planning team process. Opportunity for public input throughout the planning team process. There is also the annual management plan that is written cooperatively by the area management staff and hatchery staff.</p> <p>Thatcher: I have a conflict of interest as a DIPAC board member.</p> <p>Chris called the question and Jason 2nd.</p> <p>Vote: 2 support, 7 oppose, and 1 abstention.</p>

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			Reason for abstention: Lack of knowledge about the issue.
164	Modify king salmon bag and possession limits in the terminal harvest area near Juneau		
Support	10	0	<p>Dan: This would prioritize resident harvest in terminal harvest areas around Juneau by requiring non-resident bag limits to be half of the resident bag limit. Allocative issues are up to the board not the department.</p> <p>Peter: Do we have a breakdown of the resident / non-resident harvest?</p> <p>Dan: Do not have breakdown. When we do have a surplus of fish, we usually set the bag limit at four king salmon. These fish are for people to fill their freezers with. We do not differentiate between non-residents and residents.</p> <p>Jason: I like the idea of resident preference. Support.</p> <p>Peter: Is this written as intended?</p> <p>Mike B: Maybe modify so that non-resident harvest in terminal areas is no more than 50 %. I support giving residents an advantage.</p> <p>Chris called question and Mike C 2nd.</p> <p>Vote: 10 support and 0 oppose. Unanimous.</p>
165	Change the start time of weekly drift gillnet fishing periods from Sunday to Monday		
Support	9	1	<p>Kevin: This proposal would change the start date of the gillnet fishery.</p> <p>Mike C: Gillnetters do not support it. This has been tried before.</p> <p>Jesse: Go a long way to reduce conflict between user groups. I will support it.</p> <p>Jason: I support this. Anything you can do reduce gear conflict should be done. Why did we start on Sundays? I have been asking why the fishery started on Sunday for 40 years.</p> <p>Scott: Historically switched back and forth between Sunday and Monday. Since 1982 it has been Sunday. Through the task force we can change the</p>

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			<p>start time. Timing of opener has not come up enough at task force meeting, but could be considered in the future. Would not necessarily reduce conflict when there are long openers since the gillnetters would still be fishing on the weekend. Department would not have as much information to plan the next opener if the fishery opened on Monday instead of Sunday.</p> <p>Thatcher: I wish we had some gillnetters here to discuss proposal with. This has the potential to impact their livelihood / businesses and it would be great to hear from them.</p> <p>Kevin: I would entertain a motion to table the vote / discussion on this proposal until the next meeting.</p> <p>Jesse: I do not think we should table it. The gillnetters did not show up tonight. They can show up at the Board of Fisheries meeting.</p> <p>Chris called the question. Jesse 2nd.</p> <p>Vote: 9 support, 1 oppose.</p>
192	Allow pots used in the personal use bottomfish fishery to be longlined		
Support	10	0	<p>Kevin: Since this is a proposal we (JDAC) submitted with Territorial Sportsmen, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to support this proposal.</p> <p>Kristine: What is long lining pots?</p> <p>Jason: Multiple pots on a single line.</p> <p>Peter: Up to 8 pots.</p> <p>Kevin asked for unanimous consent.</p> <p>Vote: 10 support, 0 oppose. Support by unanimous consent.</p>
198	Increase the daily bag limit for sablefish in the sport fishery		
Support	10	0	<p>Dan: It is estimated that 437 sablefish is the annual harvest by rod and reel by residents. Resident harvest is 7% of overall sport harvest. Majority of the harvest is non-resident.</p>

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			<p>Jesse: Small increase given the relatively small number / percentage of sablefish that are harvested by residents.</p> <p>Peter called the question and Chris 2nd.</p> <p>Vote: 10 support, 0 oppose. Unanimous</p>
203	Establish unguided nonresident lingcod regulations		
Oppose	0	10	<p>Dan: This proposal would liberalize the lingcod possession and annual limit for unguided non-residents. If this passes an emergency closure would likely be needed to keep the sport fishery within allocation. In the northern region there is already a non-resident closure. Resident fishery has remained open.</p> <p>Peter: Could impact DIY person.</p> <p>Dan: Just because you visit does not make you a resident. It would liberalize limits for an unguided non-resident.</p> <p>Kevin: Bare boat industry would benefit from this.</p> <p>Kristine: Could this impact lingcod populations?</p> <p>Dan T: Yes. Long lived species. Not sure if it would impact sustainability of the fishery.</p> <p>Peter called the question and Chris 2nd.</p> <p>Vote: 0 support, 10 opposed. Unanimously opposed.</p>

Adjournment: 9:08 pm. Chris moved to adjourn and Peter 2nd.

Minutes Recorded By: Thatcher Brouwer

Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee AGENDA
Tuesday 3 December 2024
University of Alaska Southeast, Egan 109

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83742782319?pwd=uXQzi3qk8BkzJoRPyF065wPXZts0HZ.1>

Meeting ID: 837 4278 2319

Passcode: jdac

Call to Order: 6:05 by Kevin Maier

I. Roll Call

Members Present: Kevin Maier (freshwater charter), Thatcher Brouwer (commercial fishing) Mike Cole (Alternate), Chris Miller (commercial fishing), Ed Buyarski (Personal Use Hunting / Fishing, Jason Kolhase (processing), Kristien Trott (non-consumptive), Mike Bethers (hunting, fishing, sport fishing), Terry White (charter fishing), Nick Orr (Sportfishing, hunting), Richard Yamada (charter fishing).

Members Absent (Excused): Atlin Daugherty (hunting guide), Forest Wagner (Commercial fishing), Peter Robertson, (Non-consumptive-commercial), Jesse Walker (sport hunting, fishing, personal use)

Members Absent (Unexcused):

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present:

II. Fish and Game Staff Present: Alex McCarrel (ADFG Groundfish), Dan Teske (ADFG Sport Fish), Jess Etheridge (ADFG Sport Fish), Rhea Ehresmann (ADFG Groundfish), Joe Stratman (ADFG Shellfish), Quinn Smith (ADFG Shrimp and Dive Fisheries), Adam Messmer (ADFG Shellfish)

III. Guests Present: Toddy Bailey, Casey McConnell, Clayton Hamilton, Max Mielke

IV. Approval of Agenda: Yes, with the addition of proposal 169.

V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: N/A. Not done.

VI. Reports

a. Chair's report

b. ADF&G

c. Others

VII. Public Comment

VIII. New Business:

- a. JDAC representative to BOF.

Kevin: The Southeast Board of Fisheries meeting is coming up at the end of January and is scheduled for 13 days. As an AC we need to figure out who to send to represent us. I am available to go, but I probably won't be able to go for the whole time.

Are other members planning to attend or interested in attending?

Richard mentioned that he is planning to go after the IPHC meeting.

Members discussed the historic practice of sending the chair to represent the AC.

Department and AC members are still waiting for the agenda to come out.

Table discussion on who to send.

- b. Discuss proposals: 169, 203, 205-207, 222, 224-225, 230 – 231, 242, 253 -257, 259

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
169	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		
Support	11	0	<p>Max Mielke: Proposal author. Commercial fisherman. Power troller for a long time. Sold power troll permit. Now hand trolling mostly out of Yakutat. This proposal would allow hand trollers to use two fishing rods in conjunction with a down rigger or hand troll gurdy in the spring and summer troll fisheries. Currently hand trollers are only allowed to fish this way in the winter fishery.</p> <p>My understanding is that the troopers had an issue with it in the past. I do not see a problem with it and based on my conversations with troopers, it</p>

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			<p>sounds like they do not plan to object to it this time. I plan to touch base with them again before the meeting.</p> <p>Mike C: I support the proposal. Does not understand why a charter boat can use six rods and a hand troller can't use rods in the summer.</p> <p>Casey: This proposal makes sense to me. I have heard that the board originally proposed it for the summer because of an objection from a trooper from Western Alaska who was not familiar with the troll fishery.</p> <p>Max: The Alaska Trollers Association supported the proposal.</p> <p>Richard: Does the department have a position on this? Is there different gear for sport and commercial?</p> <p>Quinn: The department comments are not published yet, but likely the department will be neutral since it could potentially be allocative.</p> <p>AC Action:</p> <p>Ed called the question. Motion 2nd by Nick.</p> <p>Unanimous consent to support the proposal.</p>
205	Allow personal use retention of Pacific cod and rockfishes, including thornyhead rockfish, in pot gear		
Support	11	0	<p>Rhea: Allows the department to streamline retention allowance of paciric cod and certain rockfish in the personal use fisheries. Retention is currently allowed in other fisheries. The department put this in to streamline regulations.</p> <p>Mike B: We should be able to keep them. I will be supporting this proposal.</p> <p>Ed: Is there a reporting requirement?</p> <p>Rhea: There are reporting requirements for the sablefish personal use pot fishery (the primary fishery this will impact) and bycatch is recorded.</p>

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			<p>AC Action:</p> <p>Ed called the question. Nick 2nd the motion</p> <p>Unanimous consent to support the proposal.</p>
206	Reopen yelloweye sport fishery for residents		
Support	9	0	<p>Jess: This proposal would reopen sport fishing for residents for yellow eye. Provide resident harvest opportunity for yellow eye. Similar to the period between 2010 to 2019. Managed by EO in the past. Yellow eye was on a declining trend and restrictions were needed. 2017 and 2019 restrictions. 2020 closed. Stock assessments have indicated that abundance has increased.</p> <p>Nick: I do not know the exact dates, but I do know that there was a commercial fishery that was harvesting large numbers of yellow eye. Also seems like nonresident charter likely harvest a significant portion of yellow eye. I think the catch would be minimal for residents. What about commercial take and non-resident vs. resident.</p> <p>Jess: Resident sport harvest was stable. Non-resident sport harvest about 4/5 of quota sport quota.</p> <p>Nick: Allocation between sport fish and commercial fish?</p> <p>Rhea: Allocation is set at 84% commercial and 16% sport for DSR.</p> <p>Nick: Resident take would be about 3% of overall allocation. Minimal take.</p> <p>Kristine: How do they target yellow eye in the sport fishery?</p> <p>Jess: Fish with a rod and reel. There are people who specifically target them. People do catch them as bycatch in halibut fishery.</p> <p>Richard: Yellow eye are in a particular habitat. We need to use a release device which takes time, so we try to avoid them. We do not catch many in the inside waters (our operation).</p> <p>AC Action:</p>

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>Ed call the question and Nick 2nd motion.</p> <p>8 supported proposal and 2 abstained from voting.</p> <p>Reasons for abstention:</p> <p>Not enough information. Long lived species. We may catch them quickly if the fishery is reopened. Smaller and smaller yellow eye. Species has not recovered fully.</p>
207	Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents		
Oppose	0	11	<p>Jess: This proposal is to reopen non-resident sportfishing for DSR, excluding yellow eye. Currently closed to non-residents. Increase in harvest is expected to be below sport harvest allocation the Southeast outside subdistrict.</p> <p>Ed: Quill backs are plentiful. I believe there are enough. Tolerable.</p> <p>Nick: I believe the charter and commercial harvest is how we got into a problem with yellow eye. Charter industry is going to continue to grow.</p> <p>Ed: Are the other DSR as long lived as yellow eye?</p> <p>Rhea: Yes. All share similar life history.</p> <p>Thatcher: When was the DSR fishery closed to non-resident harvest?</p> <p>Rhea: Closed since 2020 to commercial and sport fishermen.</p> <p>Richard: All DSR closed in recent years.</p> <p>Jess: 2022 board reopened DSR fishery to residents with the exception of yellow eye. This proposal would open it to non-residents as well.</p> <p>Mike B: Concerned that everyone might get shut down if we open it to non-residents given the continued growth of the non-resident guided sport sector.</p>

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>AC Action</p> <p>Ed called question. Nick 2nd motion.</p> <p>Opposed motion by unanimous consent.</p>
222	Adopt seasonal closures for subsistence, sport, and personal use shrimp fisheries		
Support	10	1	<p>Quinn: This proposal is drafted to conserve shrimp stocks. It would close the sport fishery the same time the commercial fishery is closed (March and April) which is when they are brooding and hatching eggs. Protect next year’s brood stock. Up to a quarter of the overall take is in the non-commercial sector (sport and personal use).</p> <p>Nick: Do you know the breakdown between personal use and sport fishing.</p> <p>Quinn: Personal use take is about 10 times more than sport fishing harvest region wide. Overall personal use and sport numbers from the north are significantly less than southern southeast.</p> <p>Jason: Long term trends in the fishery?</p> <p>Quinn: Shrimp have not been doing well especially northern southeast. Survey 8-9 areas. Regionwide signs of decline. Smaller shrimp moving in. Lost a couple of years. Recruitment failure. Purpose of moving to spring fishery was to protect shrimp. Seeing signs of recruitment since change to fishery. Small shrimp.</p> <p>Richard: We take our clients shrimping. We only average about six shrimp per pot. If stocks are in dire straits I would not be opposed to closing it. Not very productive.</p> <p>Mike B: I can’t remember when we are able to catch shrimp in Tenakee.</p> <p>Quinn: This proposal would mirror commercial closure in March and April.</p> <p>Thatcher: Inclined to support this given that the personal use / sport catch is about 25% of the quota. Worth a try.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Alaska Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Requests January 28 – February 9, 2024 Ketchikan, AK</p>			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>Nick: I support this, but it only gives personal use shrimp fishermen two weeks to shrimp in the late spring /summer before the commercial fishery.</p> <p>AC Action:</p> <p>Ed called the question. Nick 2nd motion</p> <p>10 support. 1 opposed.</p>
224	Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 opening date back to October 1		
No Action	11 support no action motion	0 opposed to no action motion	<p>Kevin: Proposals 224 and 225 are similar. Should we consider them together?</p> <p>Nick: There is an important difference between proposals 224 and 225. Proposal 224 moves the start date for the commercial shrimp pot season back to the old October 1st start date. Proposal 225 would move the start date for the shrimp pot season back to October 1st or another start date in late summer/early fall. Since I authored proposal 225, I would like to see us take up 225.</p> <p>Jason: I propose we take not action on 224 and consider 225.</p> <p>AC Action:</p> <p>Jason moved to take no action on 224. Chris 2nd motion.</p> <p>Motion passed without objection.</p>
225	Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 opening date to October 1 or to another start date in late summer/early fall		
Oppose	3	6	<p>Nick: This is an allocative proposal. I have found that I catch 80% fewer shrimp than I once did in some of the productive shrimp spots in northern southeast Alaska if I go personal use shrimping after the commercial opener in May. The commercial fishermen fish as hard as they can during the opener starting on May 15th. Personal use fishermen do not get much of a chance to harvest shrimp in the summer before the commercial opener. I do not think the commercial fishermen should get to take the majority of the quota. Maybe October 1st is not the best start date. What about September 1st or 15th. I also know some commercial fishermen do not like the spring start. We are still taking breeding females out of the</p>

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>population if we harvest shrimp in the spring instead of the fall when they are bearing eggs.</p> <p>Thatcher: What was the biological reason to move the fishery to the spring?</p> <p>Quinn: Shrimp remolt after they extrude their eggs. There is significant natural mortality during the summer molting and mating period. If you harvest them in the fall before they extrude their eggs, that shrimp, which may natural die before the next fishery, will never have a chance to lay eggs. If you harvest them in the spring they have already extruded eggs. We were the only area on the west coast with the exception of a small fishery in Oregon that had fishery in the fall. A fall fishery is never going to be as productive as a spring fishery. The move was a conservation measure to rebuild stocks.</p> <p>Thatcher: Does the department have data on the sport catch in the past couple of years when the commercial fishery was in the spring?</p> <p>Quinn: Yes. In 2023 the sport / personal use take was the 2nd highest in the last two years (the period since the commercial fishery was moved to the spring).. Do not have data from 2024 yet.</p> <p>Nick: Commercial fishermen take 10s of thousands of pounds from areas in northern southeast in a few days during the spring opener. It is not worth going to these spots to sport / personal use shrimp after the commercial opener. I have seen the decrease. I also believe some charter operations are taking a lot.</p> <p>Thatcher: I am going to oppose this proposal. We do not have a lot of data, but the data we do have does not back the claim that the personal use / sport fishermen can no longer catch shrimp with the spring commercial opener.</p> <p>AC Action:</p> <p>Chris called the question. Jason 2nd the motion.</p> <p>3 support proposal, 6 oppose and 2 abstain.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Alaska Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Requests January 28 – February 9, 2024 Ketchikan, AK</p>			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>Reasons for the abstentions: This is complicated. I am not sure that this proposal solves it.</p> <p>Dan Teske: For your information the sport fishery has a 3 pound limit and personal use has no limit.</p>
230	Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid		
Support	11	0	<p>Kevin: Proposal 230 is authored by the Juneau AC and the second one was written by Richard Yamada. Are they the same?</p> <p>Richard: Yes, they are. I submitted proposal 231 early in the process and after the vote to submit the proposal as an AC, the other proposal was submitted.</p> <p>Kevin: Since they are the same, I propose we consider them together and continue with the tradition of supporting the proposals we submitted.</p> <p>AC Action:</p> <p>Unanimous consent to support both.</p>
231	Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid		
Support	11	0	See comments on proposal 230
242	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		
Support	7	4	<p>Nick: Gives 100 % allocation of red king crab 11a district to personal use fishermen. Greg Mitchell’s of Territorial Sportsmen proposal</p> <p>Adam: Yes. 100% to personal use. 70% for the summer and 30% for the winter. No commercial harvest if this passes in district 11a. Currently 60 % of quota is allocated for personal use and 40% for commercial. If there is not a commercial opener, 40% of the quota stays in the water. When there has been a commercial opener, the department has historically closed certain parts of the district to commercial harvest.</p> <p>Adam: This is allocative. Allocation was changed a long time ago. Has been the same for some time.</p>

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>Jason: Can you speak to how the assessment work if you take 11a biomass out of the overall regional assessment?</p> <p>Adam: Currently there needs to be an estimated 200,000 pound biomass of red king crab for the commercial fishery to open. Seven areas are surveyed and the health of the areas that are surveyed is used to determine the biomass in the other areas. District 11a is one of the areas that is surveyed. If this is passed we would need to recalculate how we do the survey. We have not had a proposal that closed a commercial area in the past. We would need to change the threshold if we take 11a out.</p> <p>Jason: Would it be more difficult for a regional commercial opener to occur if this proposal passes given the way the stock is currently assessed and the threshold for a commercial opener?</p> <p>Adam: Yes. I think it would.</p> <p>Chris: When was the last commercial fishery?</p> <p>Adam: 2017 and 2018.</p> <p>Chris: When were the two commercial openers prior to 2017 / 2018?</p> <p>Ed: 2011 and 2012.</p> <p>Nick: Maybe take 11 a out of the commercial equation and reduce the threshold for the region to have a commercial opener.</p> <p>Mike B: If 11a is closed to commercial crabbing you would need to change commercial quota. Has there been an increase in the personal use fishermen?</p> <p>Adam: Yes. It the number of permits has gone up over the years. Has increased from 700 to roughly 1800 – 2200 permits currently.</p> <p>Mike B: Now only allowed one or two crab. It seems like with the increased interest in the personal use fishery there should be an increase in the quota for the fishery.</p>

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>Thatcher: I am going to oppose this proposal. The personal use fishermen already get 60% of the quota in district 11a and I think that is sufficient.</p> <p>Jason: When was the last time there was not sport or personal use opportunity?</p> <p>Adam: Steady over the last few years. Small commercial fishery because of older crabs in 2018. Closed to commercial and personal use 2012 – 2016. Commercial fishery in 2017 and 2018 and it has been open for personal use since then.</p> <p>AC Action:</p> <p>Ed called the question. Nick 2nd the motion</p> <p>7 support and 4 oppose the proposal.</p>
253	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		
Support	6	5	<p>Kevin: Proposals 253 -257 appear to be very similar / the same. Are they?</p> <p>Joe: Proposals 253, 254, 256 and 257 are the same. Proposal 255 is slightly different. In addition to allowing commercial shrimp fishermen to crab within two weeks of participating in the commercial shrimp fishery, a fishermen would also be allowed to participate in the personal use and subsistence pot fishery within two weeks of the crab fishery.</p> <p>Kevin: Do we want to consider the four that are the same and then 255 or just take no action on 255 and consider the other four.</p> <p>No action on 255.</p> <p>Joe: Proposals 253, 254, 256 and 257 would allow commercial shrimp fishermen to participate in the commercial dungeness crab fishery even if they participate in shrimp fishery less than 14 days before dungeness fishery. Currently there is a regulation that prohibits commercial dungeness crab fishermen from fishing with any type of pots (with the</p>

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>exception of king crab pots in waters deeper than 100 fathoms) for the two week period prior to the start of the commercial dungeness crab fishery.</p> <p>The gear used to fish for dungeness crabs and shrimp is different. This regulation has been on the books since 1994 and it is intended to prevent crabbers from using sport fishing crab pots to prospect and / or stock pile crab before the opening. With the change in the date of the shrimp fishery to May 15th and the historic June 1st opening date for the summer dungeness crab fishery, it has made it difficult for permit holders with a pot shrimp and dungeness crab fishery (around 40 permit holders) to fully participate in both fisheries. The dungeness crab habitat is also very different from shrimp habitat and does not overlap.</p> <p>Nick: Could you still prospect?</p> <p>Joe: No regulations regarding prospecting, just a prohibition on pot fishing 14 days prior to the dungeness crab season. A crab fishermen might go out and sport fish for crab prior to the opener, but they are prohibited from doing that during the period two weeks before the opening day of the season. Currently crabbers are also prohibited from shrimp fishing during the period two weeks prior to the season. These proposals would add an exception (like the one for fishing for king crab in waters over 100 fathoms) to the prohibition on pot fishing for 14 days before the opening.</p> <p>Thatcher: If these proposals pass someone would be able to fish commercially for shrimp within the two week period before the commercial crab opener and still go crabbing.</p> <p>Mike B: Would this allow shrimp fishing for an extra two weeks by some boats?</p> <p>Joe: Could make it more difficult for enforcement to determine if someone is prospecting and might quicken the pace of the shrimp fishery in some areas.</p> <p>Thatcher: As someone who has commercially fished for shrimp I believe the areas you dungeness crab and shrimp fish are very different and so I do not think it would be difficult to tell if someone is illegally prospecting</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Alaska Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Requests January 28 – February 9, 2024 Ketchikan, AK</p>			
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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>and would not put extra burden on enforcement. In addition, I do not think this will increase the number of shrimp that are taken by commercial fishermen. The quota is by district and in most years the full quota for most districts is taken no matter what.</p> <p>Ed: Can you prospect.</p> <p>Thatcher: No</p> <p>Nick: Is this really necessary given the short shrimp season for most districts?</p> <p>Quinn: Most fishing is done in first two weeks, but some areas are still open after two weeks.</p> <p>Nick: I will be against these proposals. ADFG understood this would be a repercussion of changing the commercial shrimp season.</p> <p>AC Action:</p> <p>Chris called the question and Jason 2nd the motion</p> <p>Support 6: Opposed. 5.</p>
254	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		
Support	6	5	See comments on proposal 253
255	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 f		
No Action	11 support no action motion	0 opposed no action motion.	<p>AC Action:</p> <p>Nick moved to take no action. Kevin 2nd.</p> <p>Passed by unanimous consent.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Alaska Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Requests January 28 – February 9, 2024 Ketchikan, AK</p>			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
256	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 ho		
Support	6	5	See comments on proposal 253.
257	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		
Support	6	5	See comments on proposal 253
259	Open all waters closed to commercial Dungeness fishing in Registration Area A between October 1 and November 30, annually		
Oppose	1	9	<p>Todd: Open all the areas that are closed to commercial dungeness crabbers for the fall dungeness crab season. Not concerned with amount of crab the sport fishery takes. Believe there is plenty of opportunity for both users. Sport fishermen are not taking enough crab.</p> <p>Nick: I am opposed.</p> <p>Todd: Only open to commercial crabbers two months of the year. Sport / personal use fishermen would have exclusive access to these areas for the remaining ten months.</p> <p>Mike B: Only closed to commercial crabbing in a few areas. It is comforting to know I can go catch a crab and I do not think it makes sense to allow commercial fishermen into these areas. Before the closures you could not find a crab after a commercial fishery.</p> <p>Mike C: I fish dungies in the fall and I do not want to fight with commercial crabbers.</p> <p>Thatcher: I support the proposal. I believe 10 months of exclusive access for sport and commercial use crabbers is sufficient.</p> <p>AC Action:</p> <p>Ed called the question and Nick 2nd the motion.</p>

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			Support 1, 9 opposed and 1 abstain. Reason for the abstention: Not sure how many people participate in the dungeness fishery. Do not understand the biology of the crab.

Other:

Kevin: Thatcher, you sent around a new king salmon management plan proposal before the meeting. Do you want to speak to it?

Thatcher: I am not prepared to speak to it at length, but I can give a quick summary. It was developed as a comprehensive king salmon management plan proposal by Territorial Sportsmen and Alaska Troller Association representatives. It combines some of the other proposals that we already adopted. In short, it would reduce the non-resident king salmon limit to two fish prior to June 1 and one fish after that. It would also simplify the king salmon management plan by reducing the management tiers from seven to two. If we have another meeting we could consider it.

Kevin: We could do a quick meeting after the new year. Maybe a zoom. I do not think we need to meet again unless this king salmon proposal is fleshed out and there is interest in meeting.

Adjournment at about 8:00 pm. Nick moved to adjourn. Mike 2nd.

Minutes Recorded By: Thatcher Brouwer
 Minutes Approved By: Kevin Maier by email
 Date: 1-14-25

Ketchikan Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Voting Record Summary for the 2025 BOF Southeast Meeting

The Ketchikan AC discussed and voted on BOF proposals during nine meetings listed below. Minutes for the meetings are attached.

- October 15, 2024: **Proposals 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 115, and 165.**
- October 22, 2024: **Proposal 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 120, 119, 121, 122, and 123.**
- October 29, 2024: **Proposals 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 140, 141, and 142.**
- November 19, 2024: **Proposals 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 198, 222, 223, 224, 260, and 261.**
- November 26, 2024: : **Proposals 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 250, 252, 252, 253, 255, 258, 259, 260, and 262.**
- December 5, 2024: **Proposals 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 162, 164, 198, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, and 249.**
- December 12, 2024: **Proposals 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 180, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, and 221.**
- December 19, 2024: **Proposal 121**
- January 7, 2025: **Proposals 110, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, and 211.**

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
104	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		
Opposed	0	11	
105	Modify sport fishing regulations in salt waters subject to the Magnuson-Stevens Act by removing differential regulations for resident and nonresident anglers		
Opposed	0	10	
106	Prohibit nonresidents on charter vessels that have taken fish in the EEZ from offloading those fish in state waters		
Support	11	0	
107	Prohibit nonresidents that have taken fish in the EEZ from possessing or offloading those fish in state waters		
NA			Based on Proposal 106 discussion/vote
108	Modify management and allocation provisions of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan		
Opposed	0	11	
109	Modify the structure of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan by removing management tiers and other provisions		
Oppose	0	11	
110	Manage the sport fishery inseason to achieve the annual king salmon allocation to the sport fishery		
Oppose	0	13	
111	Modify the management provisions and target allocation for the king salmon sport fishery		
Oppose	0	11	
112	Modify the sport allocation of king salmon and provisions for management		
Oppose	0	11	
113	Modify the provisions of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan and increase the sport allocation of king salmon		
Oppose	0	11	

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
114	Reduce the nonresident annual limit in low allocation management tiers and other modifications to the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan		
Support	11	0	
115	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to one fish		
Oppose	0	11	
116	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to two fish prior to July 1 and one fish after July 1		
Oppose	1	10	
117	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to two fish prior to July 1 and one fish after July 1		
NA			
118	The nonresident annual limit for king salmon shall not exceed three and nonresident annual limits will not apply in terminal harvest areas		
Support	7	4	
119	Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon for 2 days per week		
Oppose	0	9	1 Abstention
120	Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon on weekends		
Oppose	0	9	1 Abstention
121	Extend the sunset provisions in the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan		
122	Prohibit the removal of king salmon from the water when retention is not allowed		
Support	9	0	1 Abstention
123	Prohibit netting or handling king salmon when catch-and-release fishing is implemented		
Support	10	0	
124	Modify resident sport fishing opportunity prescribed by Southeast Alaska king salmon action plans		
Support	6	5	
125	Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A when a stock of concern exists for king salmon stocks in Northern Southeast Alaska		
NA			
126	Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A		
NA			
127	Allow residents to retain king salmon in the month of April near Ketchikan		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
Support	9	2	
128	Allow residents to retain king salmon in the month of April in the Ketchikan area		
Support	9	2	
129	Increase the number of days open in the Yakutat Bay spring troll fishery from 1 day to 2 days		
Support	10	1	
130	Allow for remaining troll king salmon allocation after winter and spring troll fisheries to be harvested during a single retention period beginning July 1		
Support	6	5	
131	Establish criteria for establishing a limited harvest troll fishery in August and allow for more than one limited harvest fishery to occur		
Oppose	1	10	
132	Establish a minimum size limit for Chinook salmon of 26 1/2 inches from snout to fork of tail in the spring troll fisheries		
Oppose	1	9	1 Abstention
133	Allow for king salmon of 26 1/2 inches snout to fork length be retained in District 13 spring troll fisheries		
Oppose	1	9	1 Abstention
134	Expand landing and retention requirements for king salmon by purse seine permit holders and establish penalties for violating landing requirements		
Oppose	0	10	1 Abstention
135	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		
NA			
136	Increase sockeye salmon possession and annual limits at Basket Bay		
NA			
137	Increase the possession limit of sockeye salmon for Basket Bay from 15 to 30 sockeye salmon		
NA			
138	Prohibit snagging in the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge		
NA			
139	Prohibit snagging within Don D. Statter harbor		
NA			

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
140	Sport fishing may only be conducted with a single barbless circle hook between April 1 and June 14		
Oppose	0	11	
141	Prohibit the use of bait in sport fisheries between April 1 through June 14		
Oppose	1	10	
142	Open Ketchikan Creek to sport fishing year-round and establish bag and possession limits for king salmon		
Amended	11	0	“Bag limit of 5 king salmon, 16” minimum length
143	Increase the bag and possession limit for trout in Southeast Alaska		
Oppose	0	11	
144	Increase harvest opportunity for trout in Southeast Alaska		
Oppose	0	10	
145	Increase harvest opportunity for trout in Klawock Lake drainage		
Support	7	3	
146	Increase the bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout in 108 Creek drainage		
Oppose	0	10	
147	Increase the bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout and prohibit the use of bait in Neck Lake		
Support	10	0	
148	Modify Eagle Lake cutthroat trout bag and possession and size limit		
Support	10	0	
149	Prohibit the use of bait and establish a catch-and-release fishery with single barbless hooks in Petersen Creek		
NA			
150	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		
151	Modify the nonresident annual limit for king salmon in the freshwaters of the Yakutat management area and the Situk River		
152	Amend the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan to reflect recent management strategies		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
NA			
153	Close a portion of the Situk River to sport fishing until the escapement goal for king salmon is met		
NA			
154	Close sport fishing in a portion of the Situk River between April 15 and May 15		
NA			
155	Increase the sport fish bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in the fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary		
NA			
156	Reduce Southeast Alaska hatchery permitted pink and chum salmon egg take level by 25%		
Oppose	0	11	
157	Establish a terminal harvest area and associated management plan for harvesting hatchery produced salmon at Burnett Inlet		
Support	11	0	
158	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		
Support	11	0	
159	Modify the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan		
Support	11	0	
160	Modify the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan		
NA			Based on our Vote on Proposal 159
161	Reduce the sport fish bag limit for king salmon in the Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area		
NA			
162	Reduce king salmon sport fish bag limits outside of the time when the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Management Plan is in effect		
Support	11	0	
163	Nonresident annual limits for king salmon will apply in the Blind Slough terminal harvest area		
NA			
164	Modify king salmon bag and possession limits in the terminal harvest area near Juneau		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
January 28-February 9th, 2025 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
NA			
165	Change the start time of weekly drift gillnet fishing periods from Sunday to Monday		
Opposed	0	10	
166	Allow for drift gillnets to be up to 90 meshes deep in District 11 beginning statistical week 34		
Oppose	0	7	3 Abstentions
167	Increase the legal length of purse seine by 50 fathoms		
Oppose	0	10	
168	Modify regulations to make it unlawful to use aircraft for locating salmon during any open commercial purse seine fishing period		
Oppose	0	10	
169	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		
Amended	10	0	Change language to “two manual downriggers or gurdies”
170	Add waters closed to commercial fishing in Sudden Stream and Malaspina Lake		
NA			
171	Modify spawning biomass threshold minimum and maximum harvest rates for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B		
Support	10	0	
172	Reduce upper end of sliding scale harvest rate for Southeast Alaska commercial herring fisheries from 20 to 15 percent		
Support	9	1	
173	Eliminate provisions to establish a guideline harvest level for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe herring fishery under 27.160		
Oppose	0	9	1 Abstention
174	Establish a maximum guideline harvest level and minimum spawning biomass to conduct fisheries for the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery		
NA			
175	Establish a 15,000 ton harvest limit for the Sitka Sound sac roe fishery		
NA			
176	Reduce the maximum harvest rate from 20 percent to 10 percent for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery		
NA			

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
177	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		
NA			
178	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		
NA			
179	Expand waters closed the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery to include Promisla Bay		
NA			
180	Correct latitude of Aspid Cape for the southern boundary of the Section 13-B purse seine sac roe herring fishery		
Support	10	0	
181	Establish provisions for conducting test setting in the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery		
NA			
182	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		
NA			
183	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		
NA			
184	Expand open area in Section 3-B for placement spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds		
NA			Based on our discussion on Proposal 186
185	Expand open area in Section 3-B for spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds		
NA			Based on our discussion on Proposal 186
186	Expand open area in Section 3-B for spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds		
Support	8	0	
187	Allow the use of large mesh webbing to surround spawn on kelp pound structure to protect structure and spawn on kelp product		
Support	7	0	1 Abstention

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
188	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		
Oppose	0	8	
189	Reduce by half the length limit of purse seine net for commercial herring harvest		
Opposed	0	8	
190	Provide for co-management of herring fisheries with tribal governments		
Opposed	0	8	
191	Amend logbook requirements for vessels fishing for groundfish with pot and longline gear		
Support	13	0	
192	Allow pots used in the personal use bottomfish fishery to be longlined		
Oppose	1	12	
193	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		
Oppose	4	9	
194	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		
Support	13	0	
195	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		
Oppose	4	9	
196	Reduce the minimum inside diameter of escape rings in commercial sablefish pots to three and three-eighths inches		
Support	13	0	
197	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		
Support	13	0	
198	Increase the daily bag limit for sablefish in the sport fishery		
Support	10	0	

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
199	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		
Support	13	0	
200	Adopt a catch reporting requirement for directed lingcod fisheries		
Support	13	0	
201	Clarify lingcod bycatch overage requirements in the Southeast District fisheries for longline halibut and salmon troll fisheries		
Support	13	0	
202	Clarify that only one line can be used for dinglebar gear in the lingcod fishery		
Support	13	0	
203	Establish unguided nonresident lingcod regulations		
Oppose	0	13	
204	Allow pots to be longlined in the state waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska commercial Pacific cod fishery		
Oppose	1	12	
205	Allow personal use retention of Pacific cod and rockfishes, including thornyhead rockfish, in pot gear		
Support	13	0	
206	Reopen yelloweye sport fishery for residents		
Support	13	0	
207	Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents		
Oppose	0	13	
208	Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents		
Oppose	2	11	
209	Establish provisions for a resident priority within emergency order authority for pelagic rockfish		
Support	13	0	
210	Reduce the bag and possession limit for pelagic rockfish in Southeast Alaska		
Amended	13	0	Amended to read “decrease non-resident bag limit to 3 fish, 6 in possession”
211	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		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
Support	13	0	
212	Allow the number of geoduck permit holders able to fish from one vessel to be increased from two to four by emergency order		
Support	8	0	
213	Modify how geoduck guideline harvest levels are calculated		
Oppose	1	7	
214	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		
Support	8	0	
215	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		
Support	7	0	1 Abstention
216	Clarify that only aquatic farm sites approved for the culture of geoduck clams are closed to commercial harvest of geoduck clams		
Support	7	1	
217	Allow weekly fishing periods to begin on Sundays		
Opposed	0	8	
218	Extend sea cucumber fishing season beyond March 31		
Support	8	0	
219	Clarify when a sea cucumber permit holder is in possession of the product they harvested		
Support	8	0	
220	Allow crew members to be in possession of sea cucumbers harvested by the sea cucumber permit holder		
NA			Based on discussion on Proposal 219
221	Prohibit harvest of naturally occurring sea cucumbers on aquatic farm sites by farm operator in areas where there are commercial sea cucumber fisheries		
Support	7	1	
222	Adopt seasonal closures for subsistence, sport, and personal use shrimp fisheries		
Support	8	1	
223	Increase the tunnel size for sport, personal use, and subsistence shrimp pots		
Oppose	1	8	

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
224	Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 opening date back to October 1		
Oppose	2	7	
225	Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 opening date to October 1 or to another start date in late summer/early fall		
Oppose	1	8	
226	Provide for further conservation in the shrimp pot fishery by reducing all GHs by 20%, reducing the number of pots allowed by 40–50%, and eliminating the large pot size		
Oppose	0	9	
227	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		
Oppose	1	8	
228	Redefine legal shrimp pot requirements to allow for the use slinky pots		
Support	8	1	
229	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		
Support	9	0	
230	Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid		
Oppose	0	9	
231	Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid		
NA			
232	Allow for the concurrent possession of red and green urchin aboard		
Support	6	3	
233	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		
Support	9	0	
234	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		
NA			
235	Add freezing spray to the criteria that would delay the start date of commercial golden king crab fishery in Registration Area A.		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
January 28-February 9th, 2025 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
Support	11	0	
236	Increase the depth that Registration Area A commercial king crab fishery pots can be stored to 20 fathoms		
Support	11	0	
237	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		
NA			
238	Expand the defined Southern Area in the golden king crab commercial fishery in Registration Area A to include all waters of Section 3-A		
NA			
239	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		
NA			
240	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		
Oppose	3	8	
241	Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A king crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait		
Support	11	0	
242	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		
Support	11	0	
243	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		
Support	11	0	
244	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		
Support	11	0	
245	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		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
NA			
246	Add freezing spray to the criteria that would delay the start date of commercial Tanner crab fishery in Registration Area A		
Support	11	0	
247	Increase the depth that Registration Area A commercial Tanner crab fishery pots can be stored to 20 fathoms		
Support	9	1	
248	Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A Tanner crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait		
Support	9	1	
249	Allow Tanner crab commercial fishery participants to operate pot gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport fisheries after unregistering from the commercial fishery		
Support	9	1	
250	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		
Oppose	0	9	
251	Change the start date of the Registration Area A Dungeness crab commercial fishery's summer season from June 15 to July 1		
Support	6	3	
252	Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A Dungeness crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait		
Support	9	0	
253	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		
Support	9	0	
254	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		
NA			
255	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 f		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
Oppose	1	8	
256	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 ho		
NA			
257	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		
NA			
258	Open some or all areas closed to commercial Dungeness fishing in Registration Area A		
Oppose	1	8	
259	Open all waters closed to commercial Dungeness fishing in Registration Area A between October 1 and November 30, annually		
Oppose	1	8	
260	Close George Inlet, Carroll Inlet, and Thorne Arm in District 1 to the commercial harvest of shrimp and crab		
Support	9	0	
261	Close Traitors Cove to commercial and sport shellfish harvest		
Amended	9	0	Amended to read "close Traitor's Cove to commercial and sport shrimping and crabbing"
262	Close sport fishing for Dungeness crab in Thorne Bay		

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Matt Allen

Minutes Approved By: _____

Date: _____

**Ketchikan Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Draft Minutes for the October 15, 2024 Meeting**

Call to order Oct.15th @ 5:00pm by chairman Beau Dale

Rollcall:

Name	Seat	Present or Absent
1. Beau Dale	Chair	present
2. Rudy Franulovich	Vice Chair	present
3. Matt Allen	Secretary	present
4. Keenan Sanderson		present
5. Clay Bezenek		present
6. Robert Jahnke		present
7. Ben Atwood		present
8. Marvin McCloud		present
9. Jeremiah Sullivan		absent
10. Charlie Ratzat		absent
11. Sean Roberts		absent
12. Brian Ringeisen		absent
13. Devin Dalin		present
14. Andrew Pung		present
15. Annie McTurner	Alternate	present
16. Chad Crittenden	Alternate	present

Members needed for a quorum on AC: 8

List of user groups present: Alaska Trollers Association- Matt Donahue; SEAGO- Kim Landee

Board Support- Kristy Tibbles, Anna Laffery with Ketchikan Daily News

Fish and Game present: Bo Meredith, Cloe, and Patrick Fowler, Kelly Reppert, Natausha Vandeusen.

Members of public present:

Approval of agenda: approved and seconded

Approval of previous meeting minutes: approved and seconded

Reports-

Chair report: Beau reported that Charlie Ratzat has stepped down from his position on the AC board, an alternate to fill this position can be filled this meeting by an alternate. Alternate Annie has stepped up into board open seat - approved and seconded. Now an alternate slot is open, and will be decided at the next meeting to give the public a chance to be a part of the meetings and sign up for a possible spot as an alternate.

ADF&G: local stocks and stocks for concern, the Unuk and Chickamin have been moved to be removed from the stocks due to all making escapement, the Unuk and Chickamin are both at 5/7ths, this is still low but higher than the baseline. The low baseline is 1,800 and the escapement is 1,980.

Other:

Bobs share: the history that i have been through over the last 54 years, and i brought in a newspaper from daily news, Oct. 31st- Sept. 1st 2024- ADF&G commissioner Doug Vincent Lang said that the Alaska board of fish will work to revise its entire king salmon management policy at its January meeting in Ketchikan, pat fowler, southeast management coordinator from Petersburg said that there is 30,000 sport anglers in southeast Alaska. I question that, this must not count non-residents we know that there are countless charter boats on the water during hook and release time frame, 2.5 months and the logbooks keep track of their catches, but the down south fly ins that are rentals threw resorts, lodges and marinas do not keep track of their catches. Our kings are getting hammered from April 1st to June 15th. We have had 1500 fish boxes in one day delivered to our airport from unit 1 A and unit 2. When I as an AC member ask ADF&G how many licensed charters there are in Alaska SE or SE as a whole I never receive an accurate number. I know the number of rentals alone is very high, we need to regulate nonresident king salmon fishes on saltwater. Charters and non-resident rentals need to be considered a commercial sport. This is taking food off the table of personal use year-round residents that do not leave the state for over 90 days of the year, not 180 days. In 2024 we lost 3.5 months of the 6 month summer king salmon season for the retention of legal sized kings, hook and release is allowed but the empty ramp lots that the resident personal use fishers use is almost empty until June 15th. This shows me that hook and release is a bad thing for the personal use of residents who are feeding their families. Mortality rate on hook and release is estimated at 16% but I believe after fishing here well over 50 years that that is an understatement. To fix

the problem, the non-residents should be allowed something less than 50% of the personal use residents sports quota and allowed more if the king sport quota catches low by august sometime. Hook and release should not be allowed and don't take away trollers quota to give to non-residents sport and make all sport entities of the rentals keep close track of their king salmon catches. I would like to see obvious stickers on all rental vessels and don't forget that years ago sport charters also had to have 12 inch commercial numbers on their vessels. The commercial troll fleet is made up of 85% Alaska residents and Alaska personal use sport makes up 100% Alaskan residents.

Comments- Beau said that he finds it interesting that Lang, in the papers, said they are going to be having a meeting to hash out yet he has a proposal to sustain.

Public comment:

Matt- the graphs in Anchorage from fish and game 2020 show low fish levels, the total angler fish annual growth rate was 3.2%, in 1990? - 2019 there was a slight increase in regular angler whereas annual increase was shown in most nonresident increase, said that he would send the graphs to Kristy to distribute.

Kim responded that the angler from 2006 showed about 1,600? And in 2023 it showed 1,630? And in 2024 they saw an approximate 1,000 decrease. Also agreed to send to Kristy to distribute.

New business:

Take action and discussion of proposals: choose to pass or support to move to discuss on proposals

motion: support moved and seconded

Proposal 104: to allocate 5,000 king salmon for the Alaska's all gear quota to a king salmon subsistence fishery and established provisions for king salmon subsistence fishery.

- Starting with what department of Fish and Game's feel about proposal- unofficial comments, the department is neutral on the allocation part of it, but are most likely opposed to the proposal as written, allocating that don't disagree with the proposal in general about setting aside some resident, nonresident allocated fish but has the potential to reduce sport harvest king salmon it would be potentially difficult to separate, sample and account for subsistence versus sport harvested fish, rod and reel isn't a legal gear on a subsistence permit at the moment, board would have to identify and adopt bag possession limits ant then would also run

into the problem where we have large non subsistence areas around Ketchikan and Juneau, so where would they go if they wanted to get their 1 of 5,000 or 10 of 5,000. King salmon ai, the king salmon numbers that Alaska is able to harvest is run through the PSC, the process would most likely have to be vetted through the PSC and would take most likely more than a year for anything like that to occur. So probably right off the bat a non starter.

- Beau- curious on where around Ketchikan would even be open for this fishery- response- pretty much encompass of beam canal goes over to Caamano, up the ship island shoreline, a little bit goes all the way around Gravina about a half mile off shore and also goes just down to north of Boca de Quadra and kind of cuts across.
- Bob- so there's no difference between a subsistence fishery and a personal use fishery in the sport for residents? DF&G- mainly by location but rod and reel isn't really a legal gear type for subsistence for state rights, though it is under federal control. B-And personal use? That resident of everybody, everybody falls under the personal use as a resident everyone falls under subsistence as a resident
- ADF&G- to Kelly, would sportfish have to revise and revamp your creel survey into account. Would most likely have to in order for the numbers and data. B- non residents should get a percentage of the sport catch, less than 50% and then if that catch quota isn't caught by august sometime then the non resident can get back into catching the kings but the personal use residents should have priority on those king salmon because we lost 3.5 months this summer as a resident to feed families of these king salmon and there's a good 2 months were no coho, humpies, chums so strictly king to feed families, feels there should be some kind of management skill for it.
- ADF&G- it would need to be vetted through the PSC then you have to discuss potential stock comp changes and a sense of mortality would all go into it, there would also be a lot of enforcement issues.
- Patrick- part of the problem is we have complex regulatory language where we have a federal subsistence program in addition to the state subsistence program so for this proposal it would just be the states subsistence.
- Would be a nightmare to go out and try to identify the difference between who is sport fishing and who is subsistence fishing with their rod and reel.
-

Call to question- seconded by Keenan: Fails Unanimously No 11 votes

Proposal 105: modify sport fishing regulations to a 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.

-move to adopt-Keenan, seconded Marvin seconded

-Kelly referring to notes: this is a new issue that has been dealt with partially before working with the EEZ (exclusive Economic Zone- 3 miles to 200 miles off shore) -this proposal seeks to have equal management between residents and nonresidents this proposal mainly pertains to P.O.W and the Sitka area due to right now the state of Alaska has management authorities in the state, which is generally from land to 3 miles out offshore. The federal act conservation measures that there is no controversy of universal residents and non residents though the proposal did not recommend a solution, staff com in the comments of the proposal has a recommendation that they can maintain the current management in state waters and apply non resident regulations to all wranglers fishing in the EEZ. This means that residents wouldn't have the priority in the EEZ but would be able to manage the residents priority in state waters. Patrick- addition notes- just to put into perspective, the harvest by species in the EEZ is estimated about 1% of king salmon harvest happens in the EEZ so department is kind of faced with the problem that they are faced with these differential limits, so how do we align with the federal mandates and not lose our delegation of authority.

- matt- when the king salmon application goes threw the treaty due to specific salmon commission, the state submits a management plan and the north pacific counsel either approves or disapproves the plan, and what the north pacific council said that the state of Alaska would manage the king salmon no other parts besides Alaska are involved in the treaty, nor do they want to be involved. The federal government has given management to the state of Alaska for king salmon and they approved Alaska management plan which includes a different bag limit at EEZ. Matt recommended that the committee writing a letter to the governor and the attorney general's office to ask for clarity from the department of law on this issue due to this being such a big issue, the state should not give up its prerogatives in the EEZ feels like enforcement would be a nightmare.

- Beau- what does SEAGO think of all this? - SEAGO- matt brings up a good point up about the law, i think that the complications of needing to be brought up are a little simpler than the easy can be easily handled by the allocation of one a year. We have

talked to the charter community, there is a very little non resident activity that happens out in the EEZ.

Call to question- bob seconded- anonymously no 10 votes

Proposal 106: Prohibit non-residents on charter vessels that have taken fish in the EEZ from offloading those fish in the state waters.

- Patrick- 106 and 107 are almost identical, 106 uses the phrase charter vessel and 107 uses non-resident but other than that they are almost identical. The only thing i would point out is the ability for prohibiting landings in southeast Alaska is the department would wely into that for board authority or not but besides that this is an allocation that we can prohibit that someone from retaining fish in the EEZ from possessing those fish in Alaska state waters but this seems like just a response to that proposal that 105 is current there.
- Beau- this 106 and 107 are basically saying that if you are going to go out and fish in the EEZ and not adhere to non-resident bag limits than you cannot land those fish in Alaska which sounds tricky at best to implement that regulation.
- If we were to group everyone into the same bag limit, non-resident and resident and we were to set a bag limit for the EEZ that was in line with the states non-resident king salmon retention, that is an interesting solution to this issue and I think that might be the only card that we really have to play against that.
- One other call out is that the feds allocate to the state for them to manage commercial harvest between 3 and 200 miles. That's another background noise. The feds are in this provision giving the state the room to regulate the commercial harvest to the EEZ.
- Cody - the way i see it, no one whether you are a commercial charter, commercial, residents, or harvester southeast Alaska should be for the ability for a sizable fleet on the west coast to show up in the summer and only fish out in the EEZ, talking 40-60 foot deltas with huge loads of people on them, it is such a fast growing industry. They will come up here and reap the benefit of king salmon harvesting for profit doing charter only outside of the 3 miles outside of state regulations because it will be federal and if you allow them to come into state waters and land those fish, it's done. You'll have the offshore fleet of California, Washington, Oregon doing that. Everyone needs to understand what this language is saying, this language is going to allow big business to come in and take resident charter fishermen's jobs away, clients away, residents sport

harvesters fish away and will take what profits are left in commercial trolling for residents which is over 85% still to this day. It will take their funding away from their families trying to get through the season on what little fish they have left to fish on. This is a scary proposal. B- this is why we lost 3 months of our fishing season.- its taking away from the quota, not only commercial. It will lower the bank, and keep lowering and lowering when they keep allowing this and lowering. Fishing outside those three miles is very dangerous if you if you allow what it does if you do not allow them to come into state waters to offload, it just makes it that much harder for a sizable fleet to show up overnight and come up here and reap the benefits that should be something that we need to reap from. Whether its fish for our freezers, fish that comes off for our families or a resident commercial charter operation that is still a mom and pops just trying to make it in Ketchikan which is the 17th most expensive city.

- Beau- so we've already shot down this 105, and we moved to not support and now we are looking at 106 and technically 107 also which is to prohibit non-residents on charter vessels that have taken fish in the EEZ from offloading those fish in state waters. The way that I read this is that if 105 doesn't go through, then 106 is not really effective. I mean if they are out there catching their one king, what's the difference between that and the inside fleet this is a scary thought for everybody, seems we've just moved more up the latter and more of us are huddled under this umbrella
- ADF&G- We don't have the authority to discriminate the bag limit between resident and non-resident
- Patrick- right now we have the authority to manage the waters all the way out to 200 miles and you haul the sport harvest there it applies to the sport allocation. If we are in violation of the Magnuson and Stevenson act, what happens is that we risk losing that authority so at the next available opportunity the national marine services might not give us the authority to manage the EEZ.
- So if we vote yes on 106, it would be against the National marine fisheries rules of conservation measures discriminated against residents and nonresidents is that correct?
- Unaware, I would think there would be a differentiation between state fish and nonstate fish.
- Beau- i feel like the idea to adjust the sport fish bag limit in the EEZ across the board for everybody, that would satisfy the Magnuson and Stevenson act, that would kind of be a reactionary response that would have to be done at the next cycle? Then they would get three years of this

- Our rebuttal to proposal 105 would be to adjust the bag limit in the EEZ for everyone and it makes it a moot point- ADF&G-potentially - that would make it reactionary and so this would have to go into effect before we could do anything about it
- The board can always come up with an alternative or compromise for the proposals
- The board could close the sportfishing in the EEZ, say something like there is no sportfishing in the EEZ and that's another option it could have some complication, it would probably have a bad backlash.
- Ben- for Patrick- why can't we just slap a areas of high king salmon abundance on the EEZ kind of like what trollers get on the fairweather grounds for example and close it off for king salmon retention or something like that, the reason i ask is your solution to me is that if you make residents fall in line with nonresidents that means that if like a resident goes out there to fish Chacon and then want to come in and fish halibut in late July, they technically cant fish king salmon they have to right that on the license, and if they write that on there license they may be going over their annual limit once they are out of the EEZ because they've already caught 8 in state waters for example
- Patrick- that's a very good question and how i think we deal with that is the same way we deal with that where right now for some of our THAs we have removed our non-resident annual limit, so if your fishing in an area that doesn't have an annual limit than you don't have to record those on your license. The intent is that residents don't have to follow the non-resident annual limit when your fishing in state waters.
- ADF&G-to Patrick- does sportfish have a reasonable estimate of the harvest in the EEZ for non-residents- answer is less than 1% of the king salmon estimate in the south east
- Comment- it would be like big business coming to town and small business being pushed aside
- **Call to take action- Keenan seconded- Bob agrees with modifications from the fish board or attorney general if needed to be modified; unanimously yes with 11**

107: prohibit non-residents that have taken fish in the EEZ from processing or offloading those fish in state waters

- Moved and seconded- Keenan and Marvin- to take no action on 107 due to discussion of 106

-

108: modify management and allocation provisions of the southeast Alaska king salmon management plan

- Patrick- this would modify the king salmon management plan, currently the plan manages the 2 fish bagging possession limits based on the allocation available to the sport fishery, this could roughly go to scale that we would have less an opportunity at the bottom end and more opportunity when allocation is high, the current plan does not try to achieve this allocation on an annual basis, we fully expect it to happen as it will over harvest allocation during low abundance years but under harvest allocations during high abundance years. The plan with this is that if put into effect that it would average out. This proposal basically puts a cap on the number of fish that could be collected from sport fishery could receive from the commercial troll fishery and then make some other adjustments.
- Kim- SEAGO- if you look at the past three annexes we as a sport fishery did achieve a 20% overtime the last treaty annex stopped the ability for the sport fishery and the troll fishery to be able to borrow against the treaty, instead of being able to go over or under the number treaty, the treaty now demands that we can not go over the all year catch . What we've seen the last 2 years has been extremely off, we are under the assumption that there are not enough fish in the water. SEAGO to help maintain that we don't do that again is we put on a safety cap of no more or no under 5% transfer depending on the allocation level that could differ but it definitely should not close down a fall opener like we've seen the last 2 years and definitely should no close down resident priority which should be maintained with something that is there. Another thing we have said for this plan is that if we go over 22% of that average in a 9 year rolling period it would shut us down to lower our allegations and make sure that we come back into positive relations with the troll fleet, this would be accepting in season management to make sure that we are maintaining resident priority as well as with positive troll support relationship.
- 9 year rolling plan instead of a 10 year is to make sure we were in rotation and on cycle with the board of fish so that if any tweaks or changes needed to be made it could happen in cycle, if go much shorter than 9 years you start to see the inability to actually average over time, if go much longer than that it doesn't really benefit the sport fishery.
- Matt- the state is being held to a hard cap, if we go over our fish treaty allegation then we have to pay it back. Before 2018 both sport harvest and the commercial charter harvest often went over together. All that there was language that we couldn't go over for too many years in a row, now since 2018 we have a hard cap. There needs to be in season management and enforcement of fisheries, in

all fisheries. There is a real problem in this proposal that even if its held to whatever percentage, 1% isn't much fish, this year the allocation was just over 200,000 fish all year, so 1% is only 200 fish, the sport fish regiment went way over that alone and the state didn't shut them down so without in season management proposals like this just won't work you need in season management

- Beau- you probably missed a decimal in that percentage but we heard what you said and we can extrapolate that — 1% is 2000
- Cody - asking about the 9 year rolling average instead of the 10 year rolling average again- I'm just curious why you chose that because i think i know, correct me if I'm wrong but if you did a 10 year rolling average trollers would come out with what they have historically always been at 80% on the quota, sport fish would be held at 20% that is the real reason SEAGO wouldn't put a 10 year quota in this proposal and that's why they stuck with 9, when you stick with 9 trollers then receive out of this ordeal 76% we as the bank would be losing at least 5% to go straight towards sportfish. This is better seen when there are enough residents out there actually retaining sport fish because you have more residents than we do now retaining sportfish but we don't have resident sportfish harvesters. SEAGO chose a 9 year rolling average because they want to take away another 5% from commercial troll families.
- Kim- the intent of SEAGO is not to steal fish from the troll family, the intent is to balance out, salvage and rebuild the relationship. The 10 year plan didn't make sense, not by the numbers provided but to do the 9 year plan is to be on a 3 year cycle, if wanted to extend to a 12 year cycle, if following along with the knowledge would benefit the trollers. We are open to amendments from the AC to extend.
- Why can't we do a shorter rolling average instead of a longer one
- What we found over a breakdown of 20 years of data is that if we did a timelapse of anything shorter than 7 years you would see that it would actually shift significantly, sometimes they would go to trolls, sometimes they would go to sport depending on the levels. So I believe it would be too short to achieve the intent of what the proposal is to maintain an even 80-20 split over an extended period of time.
- This is based on a 321 harvest schedule , with a 321 we are projected on upper levels, or higher abundance levels to underharvest our allocation. This has a 2 way transfer.
- Devin: we've had a lot of back and forth but i feel this should be about in season management, is that something that the sport has even looked at Is it something they are looking to do, is it a possibility

- ADF&G: if what is in this proposal from SEAGO, if it had been in place for the last couple years, in season action would have been taken. With that we do interpret this as requiring in season action
- Bob- i think there's only one way to fix this, and we got to go back into the history of troll and sport fisheries, the charter fleet had to have commercial numbers on them. The fix here would be to separate the personal use residents that go out and sport fish, to feed their families from the commercial side of the sport fishery.
- We could vote to amend but it's hard to vote to amend because we cant see the numbers on if 5,7,9, Or 10 years is better. 9 is nice to have it on schedule with the board cycle but the numbers would make it easier to decide
- Clay- Why not have a 3 year cycle then review after so no one is locked in so you can review and if working can expand, if not we don't
- No amendment called

Call to question Rudy- seconded andrew - unanimous no -11

109: Modify the structure of the southeast Alaska king salmon management plan by removing management tiers and other provisions.

- Patrick- it establishes a static bag possession limit for all residents across all manner of prevision so it would be 2 king salmon bag possession limit, for non residents we would manage the fishery in season to achieve the annual application. Project what the resident harvest is going to be and then non-resident management position is to achieve the sportfishing allegation and another addition provides direction to the harvest of 70% of the king salmon allegation before july 1 and 30% after july 1 which is fairly close to what the existing harvest is, current harvest is probably about 65-70% happens before july 1
- Beau- how do you project how many kings the residents are going to get
- Best measure is looking into the past under the same management provisions the biggest thing that impacts the harvest is the actual abundance of king salmon that we see, quite a bit of variability year to year. We basically use what we know of the past under similar abundance levels and also sport fishing effort, then when in season what well do is watch how the harvest is occurring while we have measures from the previous season, best is from watching how the season unfolds, then by mid to late June we have a pretty good idea of where the trajectory sport fishery is going to be, there is always a buffer area but we can be surprisingly good at it

- Bob- suggest we table this because is pertaining to rural status and us in 1A is not rural status - shows closer to the end of 109
- ADF&G- that just the point being made on proposal strictly a tool for the department of sportfish to manage the 20%
- Bob- with the rural status meeting coming up we don't know how that is going to affect us if things do change from subsistence to rural
- When using rod and reel you are a resident sport fisherman, not a personal use, the only personal use king salmon fishery in Ketchikan is at herring cove
- Patrick- acknowledge that people feed themselves with sportfishing methods and we have that difference just in terminology for the department. In sport fishery there is one exception in southeast but generally when you are using rod and reel its sportfishing methods and means, the board has basically given the residents a priority within the sportfishing management plan
- The proposal does sound good but hearing from the people who submitted the proposals really helps understand and make a decision.
- J Foss- this proposal is to find a solution for the king salmon management plan, it keeps the 80-20 and it would have in season management. It aims to have most of the majority of the sport harvest king salmon occur in may and june, the 70% is meant to be a guideline or goal and not a hard target, to not have it shut down fishing but to have a management goal to try and reach and the remainder of 30% is to address the fact that with a 20% cap, there is a loss on the inside and all of it gets caught on the outside. It was important to me to give opportunities for people to catch on the inside who don't fish the outside who don't start fishing until June 15 and on due to stocks of concern. Another thing behind this is the other friendly amendment that the Sitka ac made was resident was 1-3 kings because of years in high abundance of high tears they would like the opportunity for their to be 3 king salmon and in some of the lower tiers we all have to do our part for conservation so went with 1 king salmon.
- Devin - is it possible to table to have the opportunity to look at the other proposals about it.

Motion to table- Devin seconded Rudy- tabled for later date nun opposed

110: Manage the sport fishery in season to achieve the annual king salmon allocation to the sport fishery

- Matt- With this proposal trying to put back in the language that holds the charter fisheries due to their in season sport fishing harvest limit there is one language in

the king fishery management plan to keep the residents sport fishery open and that they would be the last ones closed and commercial trollers don't mind losing a little fish to keep the residents sport fishing open. We want to have the king salmon management plan language reassured in a management plan that was arbitrarily -lost him-

- Cody- just to try and finish what Matt was saying to the best of ability, there is safeguard language within the ATA proposal towards the end that we want to see reinstated into the law that will safeguard resident sport harvesters or sport fishermen. What we are asking is to keep the 80-20% and that the commercial charter industry be upheld to in season management to their 20% but there's language in there that will safeguard to not shut down the resident sport harvester group. All language that was agreed upon in 2022 with TSI, ATA, and SEAGO, all signers of the agreement. Unfortunately the language that was signed by all parties was not made into the law book. This left an open backdoor to remove kings from gear group and shift them over to a different gear group
- Rudy- if the catch is close to 20% does that mean that the resident sport fisherman can still retain king salmon
- ADF&G- as the proposal is written there is a clause in it that the department shall manage the resident sport fishery so that there are no closures for residents unless the commissioner determines that additional harvest reduction is necessary to meet the provision of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, so as written there would be no closure for residents unless commissioner requires it.

Due to wanting to hear from the proposers moving to table 110-114 motion beau - no opposed

115: Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to one fish

- ADF&G- if as written if there weren't additional modifications the sport allocation would unlikely be achieved
- People in the meeting who run charters- if the limit is dropped to one most people aren't going to want to book to go out and fish with then and would cause a drop in profit for them, most do 3 day trips
- Nick- the department is managing a certain number for the charters to hit, and if the number is dropped to one it would be close to impossible and those fish would not be harvested by sport fisherman and would probably not be harvested by resident anglers because of the amount of resident anglers there are now and the ability or activity.
- ADF&G- our harvest projections include both residents and non-residents so if we were under allocation it would leave fish on the table- it would go to the troll-

- Cody (his proposal) - the only reason i wrote this proposal is because it guarantees that there will not be a reduction from troll or shut down residents from harvesting their rightful natural resources in their own backyard until in the future because the commercial charter gear group is uncapped and unlimited entry, it will grow to a size where it will fulfill the allocation for sportfish, eventually it will grow to the size to fill one fish per non resident. If there's no limit on the number of vessels it will continue to grow indefinitely into the future it will hit that. It's only now that it is projected to not hit it. This safeguards trollers and residents of SE AK to harvest kings.
- Devin- do we know how many these king salmon THAs, that's where a lot of king salmon for cruise ship charters, a lot of the kings i catch are in a THA, mt. point, herring cove exc. Are those in the numbers that are being taken away or no
- Kelly - they are Alaska hatchery- so they aren't included in the number. If we took out say all the boats that operate just in the THA does that leave a big number of king salmon on the table for the charter boats going out outside of the THAs it doesn't affect that, but it cuts the number of charter boats down at say like clover pass, would you say that you would see a result of that crowding the THA- clarification, do you think we would see a shift of effort in the THAs with the higher bag limit- if there was an opportunity to harvest more kings in a THA than i do think we would see a big shift in more people and more crowding trying to fish the THAs
- With this it would overcrowd it more than it already is with boats, but it would be up to the people if it is worth fishing that area due to overcrowding, it causes the appeal to start decreasing
- With the overcrowding it may be asked to shut down the fishery
- Worries that if you put a 1 king limit it would possibly force people into the THA
- Rudy- in 1962 they had a crowding issue and they gave it limited entry and that solved the crowding issue. it would have to be something that was proposed and not just talked about. It could help with the crowding issue, even if you propose a non transferable limited entry.
- Beau- what do you that are on charters feel about a limited entry- in support of it due to there being more and more as years go, we wouldn't have to really look at limiting bag limits due to the fleets being smaller, or at least having them capped. Possibly should be talked about at a SEAGO meeting to talk about when to say enough is enough and figure it out.
- Bag Limits can be more liberal, there's more space and the whole experience would be more enjoyable all around

- Patrick- in the 2022 the department put together what they call the king salmon matrix, basically modeled what we expected harvest to look like under various moderate scenarios like bag limit 3, limit 2, higher and lower bag limits, the problem that we've run into is that the lowest allocation levels, there's not enough meat on the bones to prosecute a non resident fishery, it ends up having to be 1 fish annual limit or less, like 1 fish limit plus closed time to keep us in allocation. At the upper ends we could make the annual limit 5 or no limit if the sport fishery doesn't have enough power to actually harvest the allocation. It's challenging to manage it within the allocation because of the huge flux between the low end and the high end. Which is what I feel really caused the concept of averaging it out.
- Nick- how it sounds as of what written here is that it's pretty much unworkable, one fish across the board is not a good faith proposal because it doesn't count for a higher allocation, would make it hard to achieve the numbers wanting to achieve and those fish would just go to the trollers anyways.
- Cody- this was not an easy or want of a proposal to put, i have no ambition to go out and kill off others commercial charter businesses this is not to kill this is to bring a number to the table for a discussion of the panel, what is the only number throughout the season that will safeguard commercial troll and resident sport harvesters. If we were to drop the nonresident retention to 2 fish starting in the season then follow out how its been the official board numbers are, they still would have gone over.
- Everything is based on not only the number of fish but also the number of people, the number of catches should possibly be regulated on the number of people that come in if there's a way to track and regulate that.
- Keenan- i don't think a single defined number is going to work in the long run, i think there still needs to be a tiered system but it needs to be restricted in a way that is going to clearly benefit resident harvesters not resident sport fisherman and the trollers.
- Cody- could even say that the limit for nonresident drops to 2 fish but for residents stays the same, could even look at the possibility of saying no non-residents on weekends or just a couple days out the week leaving the rest of the week open to everyone and just those couple days to just residents.
- Another option is to also close the season early, for example July 20th, August 1st or something that could work for everyone.
- What if after august 1st it switches to clipped fish only but from the sounds of it it is not an option on the table

Motion for action - seconded- 4 yes 6 no

165: Tree Point date changes

- Rudy- talked about this 20 years ago and it was shot down, for Tree Point, i took a poll- on average according to fish and game there are 32 gill netters at tree point,, i got ahold of 20 of them, 19 of them said to leave it alone. We would have to have an announcement for it on Friday instead of Thursday and it would close at 6am, 12 pm works better for them rather than 6am. This change would have untold consequences. It's not broken, why try to fix it. It would put the weekly fishery into a different cadence that going to potentially make unintentional consequences

Called to question Rudy- seconded bob- unanimous 10- no

Next meeting: Oct. 22nd @5pm

Other: go over proposals 110- 114 and possibly proposal 260

Adjourned: oct. 15th @ 8:44 pm

Minutes recorded by: Rose Michaels

Minutes approved by:

Date:

Ketchikan Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: 10/22/2024

Location: ADFG Conference Room

Call to Order: 5:11 pm

Roll Call:

Name	Seat	Check if present	Interests/Representation
Clay Bezenek		Present	Commercial/Sport Fishing, Hunting, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Rudy Franulovich	Vice Chair	Present	Commercial Fishing
Matt Allen	Secretary	Present	Salmon Enhancement, hunting, sport fishing, trapping, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Keenan Sanderson		Present	Subsistence, Comm/Sport Fish, Tlinquit, Haida
Beau Dale	Chair	Present	4 th generation Alaskan, hunter, fisherman, local locksmith
Chad Crittenden	Alternate	Absent	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Photography, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist, Alaska Native
Robert Jahnke		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Commercial Fishing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Ben Atwood		Present	Hunting, Sport Fishing, Trapping, Charter fishing, Troller, Salmon Enhancement, Pot Shrimp, Seining, Longlining, Tanner crabbing
Marvin McCloud		Absent	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
Jeremiah Sullivan		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
Sean Roberts		Absent	Hunt, Trap, Sport Fish, Power Troll, Commercial Pot Shrimp
Brian Ringeisen		Absent	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Devin Dalin		Present	Hunting, Sport Fish
Annie McTurner		Present	Trapping, Hunting, Sport Fishing
Andrew Pung		Present	Salmon Enhancement, Commercial/Sportfishing, Personal-Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
	Saxman	Open	
	Saxman	Open	

Introductions:

Ketchikan AC members, ADFG Department Staff, Public in attendance

Public Present:

Charlie Piercy (Commercial Troll), Cody Cowan (Commercial Troll), David Ritchie (Commercial Troll, ATA Board member), Kim Landeen (SEAGO), Steve Merritt, Matt Donaho, Jackie Foss

Department Present:

Bo Meredith (ADFG Comm. Fish), Whitney Crittenden (ADFG Comm. Fish) Kristy Tibbles (Executive Director, BoG), Kelly Reppert (ADFG Sportfish)

Meeting Agenda:**Old business items:****BoF Proposals****New business:**

- 1.) BoF proposals 109 and up

Call meeting to Order

Beau Dale

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**Chairman's Report:**

None

Committee/Member Reports/Comments:

None

Public Comment:

Charlie Piercy - Been in Ketchikan since 1976, commercial fisherman since 1978. Would like to see a pilot plan for Districts 1,2 for its own separate management. We can't continue doing what we're doing.

In 2003 the Unuk river met escapement and 10,000 fish were harvested. Since then the resource has been declining. Guided sportfish should be managed as a commercial gear group and based on quota.

Jahnke - Do you remember charter boats having their own commercial numbers, just like power and hand troll? They used to have numbers.

Sanderson - How are you proposing to manage the different areas? By quota?

Piercy - You can manage recreational sport by angler hours. However, you can't manage guided sport that way. Management has to occur in season, in real time. Guide sport could purchase quota from other guides.

Sanderson - What would happen if all the fish were caught in one district? Would the effort shift over to another district?

Jahnke - This is what we are here to talk about. I want to do away with hook and release fishing.

Cowan - Question for Meredith. If we were to go to a bag limit for non-residents of 1 King salmon. What would happen to the underage in allocation for commercial guided sport? It would be bumped to troll. This would just continue the fighting between the groups. We shouldn't be shifting allocation and continuing this fighting? Is there any way we can take this burden away?

Reppert - The current reallocation is part of current management. The Department doesn't have the authority. The Board of Fish has the authority.

Meredith - I wouldn't want the authority. The current 2022 Salmon Management Plan is all we have. The BoF process is how we make changes.

Cowan - I don't mind going out July 1st and not catching our quota if the fish aren't there. I don't want those fish being rolled over to the next fishery.

Jahnke - Let's divide the current sport allocation between commercial sport and resident sport. Commercial sport should get less allocation than resident sport. Resident sport feed their families with the fish they catch.

Atwood - Every time we go into negotiations for the PST we are told how important it is to catch our allocation. If we don't catch our allocation it has ramifications during the next negotiation cycle.

Sanderson - What percentage of sport allocation is harvested by charter?

Reppert - Last 5yr average is 67% non-resident. 1997-2010, 55% non-resident. Going back to the 80's/90's it was in the 20% range. These are for the entire Southeast region.

Ritchie - I think any proposal that compels the Department to utilize in-season management is necessary.

Department Report/Comment:

None

Old Business:

BoF Proposals

New Business:

1.) Board of Fish proposals 109-122

Proposal 109

Move to adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Jahnke

Reppert - Provides proposal synopsis

Jahnke - I support this proposal with the exclusion of "Rural". I'm against a Federal designation of rural status.

Meredith - This proposal would direct the harvest of 70% of the allocation by July 1st. Management action would have to be taken to achieve that.

Ritchie - I think though well intentioned this proposal would incentive the take of potential stocks of concern during a time when others are taking actions to prevent doing so. It would encourage the take during a critical time. I would prefer the charter industry to have a lower bag limit early and a higher limit later for the benefit of stocks of concern.

Kim - This proposal acknowledges the charter industries desire/need to have the fish/Chinook upfront before other species become available. It's also important to preserve opportunity for our inside operators/ports who have stocks of concern. I appreciate the effort/intent of this proposal.

Cowan - I agree with Dave on raising the take early in the season but prior to July 1st. That is a critical time for our stocks of concern coming home. Trollers are stuck behind a line from Mountain point to Carroll

Point until the 8th of June. 50% of those fish are already blush where we are only getting up to \$3 per lb.

Atwood - Sport isn't catching those fish, it's closed until July 15th.

Cowan - its catch and release up to that point. If a fish is handled for up to 30secs it can raise the mortality of the fish by 60%. That doesn't include the damage by the hook itself. Trollers are the only ones for the most part doing their part to help stocks of concern.

Atwood - We're getting off topic, we are talking about allowing residents to retain fish during a time they currently can't.

Call the question - Franulovich

2nd - Jahnke

0 - Support, 11 - Opposed,

Proposal 110

Move to adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Franulovich

Reppert - provides a synopsis. Would need to reduce opportunity in low abundance years.

Jahnke - concerned with spawners coming through in June with a 3 king bag limit for non-residents.

Donaho - This proposal is an attempt to put the language back in that the gear groups agreed to in 2022 in RC170. Critical language was taken out by the Department that said sport fishing would be held to its allocation ceiling, not to be exceeded. Resident sport fishers weren't to be shut down if an overage occurred. We also lost fish when we went to the AI model.

Ritchie - This proposal is restorative. Seeks to go back to status quo when the Department was compelled to manage to the sportfish harvest ceiling. They went to the all-gear harvest ceiling. It gives them plausible deniability. This is the lynch pin proposal I would like to see approved. We need in-season management. I would remove my proposal if this proposal was to pass. All other proposals are reactionary.

Jahnke - Our AK constitution gives residents priority.

Ritchie - The problem is not the resident fishers. The problem is the exponential increase in non-resident harvesters. The charter industry is the growing problem.

Kim - If this proposal is supported I would like to see a provision to add protections to resident fishers.

Cowan - Resident sport harvesters should never be kept from harvesting their Chinook. This proposal puts the language back in that the gear groups agreed to in 2022 that the Commissioner left out or misinterpreted.

Kim - There was very clear dialog between staff that there would be no in-season management. We understand this isn't working, hence why we have submitted our proposals. There is a period of 24hrs after the BoF votes that provides an opportunity to re-evaluate decisions. That opportunity wasn't taken and I would encourage that it be taken in the future to avoid these situations in the future.

Franulovich - What is the current pay back if we go over allocation?

Kelly - We would have to pay back those fish the following year.

Piercy - King salmon need to be managed in-season and by district. We shouldn't be allowing hook and release in Clover Pass when we only exceed the lower escapement of the Unuk by 26 fish.

Atwood - Do we know how many Unuk river fish were caught? I wouldn't want management by district and I don't think trollers would want that.

Kim - I would hope that after BoF we can put our gloves down and concentrate on the Treaty process to get our allocation.

Ritchie - Limited entry would be good for the guided sport industry, it would be good for everyone.

Call the Question - Atwood

2nd - Franulovich

10 support, 0 opposed, 1 abstention

Proposal 111

Move to adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Atwood

Janhke - doesn't affect resident sport fishery, and I agree with section M.

Sanderson - Unless changed, I won't be supporting this proposal if there is the potential that non-resident bag limits increase from 3 to 4.

Atwood - That would only be during years of high abundance where it would be doubtful sport could catch the allocation. It's just for show.

Ritchie - I believe this is another well intentioned effort to help ADFG do its job. To me it's not worth considering.

Landeen - I appreciate the intent behind this proposal. Fully accept the borrow to payback. If the AC were to accept this proposal I would ask that it retain the 3-2-1 payback.

Cowan - Unless there is specific language that protects resident sport this is not that great of a proposal.

Call the question - Franulovich

2nd - Atwood

Unanimously oppose

Proposal 112

Move to adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Atwood

Atwood - I talked with Tad, I agree it would be nice to know in advance so we can tell our clients. However, there are enough red flags in this proposal that I can't support it.

Call the question - Atwood

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously oppose

Proposal 113

Move to Adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Franulovich, I agree with Ritchie. We need to be stronger during PST negotiations.

Sanderson - I'm hard no.

Call the question - Atwood

2nd - Jahnke

Unanimously opposed

Proposal 114

Move to Adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Atwood

Jahnke - we need to address catch and release.

Merritt - to be honest, I was going to withdraw my proposal. Originally, I believed the State was going to maintain its current management plan, however, there has been so much talk about what's happened the last few years I don't believe they will. This proposal would no longer pertain.

Move to take no Action - Sanderson

2nd - Franulovich

Unanimously Support

Proposal 115

Unanimously Opposed

Proposal 116

Move to Adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Jahnke

Reppert - Both Proposals 116 and 117 do the same thing.

Ritchie - I believe this proposal is attempting to pump the breaks. There is no silver bullet. It might be better if the Ketchikan AC came up with an overarching idea of what it would like to see with management rather than taking a stand on individual proposals.

Cowan - could be an awesome proposal with limited entry and a dedicated quota.

Atwood - I don't want to see anything on the sport fishery be based on CPUE.

Jahnke - we need to go with limited entry, with transferable and non-transferable permits.

Landeen - we hear you. There have been many attempts to address limited entry and they have all failed. We would hope the AC would support such efforts when they come up again.

Dale - I talked with several operators and none of them ran me off when we discussed limited entry. It's an issue that needs to be addressed.

Landeen - this would take legislative and court action.

Call the question - Dalin

2nd - Atwood

10 Opposed, 1 Support

Proposal 117

Move to take no action - Sanderson

2nd - Atwood

Unanimously Support

Proposal 118

Move to adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Atwood

Call the question - Dalin

2nd - Atwood

7 support, 4 opposed

Proposal 120

Move to adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Atwood

Atwood - I understand this proposal attempts to get the trollers their allocation. We can get there by not cutting out days, we can reduce bag limits.

Ringeisen - this would impact all non-residents, not just charter.

Foss - with in-season management you don't need static limits, like bag limits.

Call the question - Sullivan

2nd - Franulovich

9 Opposed, 1 abstain

Proposal 119

Move to adopt - Sullivan

2nd - Atwood

9 Opposed, 1 abstain

Proposal 121

Move to adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Pung

Dale - the only proposal we have supported is proposal 110. We could table this proposal, do our homework and argue amongst ourselves at a future date.

Landeen - I don't believe anyone has liked the last several years and wouldn't like to see the sunset date extended.

Move to table 121 - Atwood

2nd - Franulovich

Proposal 122

Move to adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Atwood

Sanderson - I would like to take this a step further and say no intentional catch and release. I would like to make an amendment to this point.

Dalin - the problem is going to enforcement.

Ringeisen - I think these two proposals really try to address what's going in at Clover Pass. I agree with the intent of this proposal but maybe addressing this in a broader proposal might have more impact.

Atwood - I don't agree with catch and release fishing of any kind during non-retention.

Hashagan - most people who know the history of catch and release don't participate in it. Those outfits that have contracts with the cruise lines don't have much of an option to not participate.

Dale - there are so many micro sectors within this sector that it's hard to find one size fits all.

Reppert - in the last 6 years, April 1 to June 14th an average of 400 large king salmon are released every year in the Ketchikan area. For clarification, 16% of those succumb to mortality and only 30% are wild.

Ritchie - I think this proposal tries to end the mortality that results from handling the fish during periods of non-retention.

Landeen - We support this proposal and would appreciate the information the Department has on the unique situation here in Ketchikan.

Call the question - Atwood

2nd - Dalin

9 Support, 1 abstain

Proposal 123

Move to adopt - Franulovich

2nd - Sanderson

Scoblic - we've gone both ways based on previous actions. It's a very difficult balancing act whether to combine proposals or take them up individually. It really depends on where you want to take a stand.

Call the question - Atwood

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Support

Next Meeting

10/29/2024 5:00pm ADFG Conference

Adjourn:

8:48pm

Motion to adjourn - Atwood

2nd - Dalin

Ketchikan Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: 10/29/2024

Location: ADFG Conference Room

Call to Order: 5:13 pm

Roll Call:

Name	Seat	Check if present	Interests/Representation
Clay Bezenek		Present	Commercial/Sport Fishing, Hunting, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Rudy Franulovich	Vice Chair	Absent	Commercial Fishing
Matt Allen	Secretary	Present	Salmon Enhancement, hunting, sport fishing, trapping, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Keenan Sanderson		Present	Subsistence, Comm/Sport Fish, Tlinquit, Haida
Beau Dale	Chair	Present	4 th generation Alaskan, hunter, fisherman, local locksmith
Chad Crittenden	Alternate	Absent	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Photography, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist, Alaska Native
Robert Jahnke		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Commercial Fishing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Ben Atwood		Present	Hunting, Sport Fishing, Trapping, Charter fishing, Troller, Salmon Enhancement, Pot Shrimp, Seining, Longlining, Tanner crabbing
Marvin McCloud		Absent	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
Jeremiah Sullivan		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
Sean Roberts		Present	Hunt, Trap, Sport Fish, Power Troll, Commercial Pot Shrimp
Brian Ringeisen		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Devin Dalin		Present	Hunting, Sport Fish
Annie McTurner		Present	Trapping, Hunting, Sport Fishing
Andrew Pung		Present	Salmon Enhancement, Commercial/Sportfishing, Personal-Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
	Saxman	Open	
	Saxman	Open	

Introductions:

Ketchikan AC members, ADFG Department Staff, Public in attendance

Public Present:

Dave Hashagan, Ross, Anna Lafferty, Leah, Michelle Johannson (Wildlife Conservation Society), Wes Hought, Soren, Cody Cowan

Department Present:

Bo Meredith (ADFG Comm. Fish), Kristy Tibbles (Executive Director, BoG), Kelly Reppert (ADFG Sportfish)

Meeting Agenda:

Dale - I'd like to add proposals 140 and 141 to the agenda.

Sanderson - Move to add proposals 140 and 141

Move to

Old business items:

BoF Proposals

New business:

- 1.) BoF proposals 124-134, 140-141

Call meeting to Order

Beau Dale

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve meeting minutes from October 15th -
Bezenek

2nd - Dalin

Chairman's Report:

None

Committee/Member Reports/Comments:

None

Public Comment:

Michelle Johansson - We've been working with people and organizations in the community to investigate diseases that can be transmitted between people and animals. We are hosting a meeting at the Discovery Center tomorrow from 6-8 to share more about what we are doing. We are hoping to address any questions the community may have about the project.

Jahnke - are there any current wildlife concerns

Johansson - we are currently looking at Sars Covid 2 and Avian Influenza. We are currently sampling mammalian species but want to hear about what other species you may be concerned about with your lifestyle.

New Business**Proposal 124**

Move to Adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Dalin

Reppert - this proposal would provide residents an earlier opportunity to catch king salmon based on the preseason forecast. The Department is going to recommend Unuk and Chickamin be delisted as Stocks of Concern, however, they will be managed similarly as in the past few

years as they still remain at historically low levels despite meeting necessary escapement goals.

Meredith - you have to assume that you will see a 20-30% harvest rate across all gear groups on Unuk River Kings as this is what our management strategy has brought the rate down to from 50-60%. If you have an preseason escapement estimate near the lower bound the management strategy will be similar to the recent past.

Roberts - even though the stocks may be recommended for delisting and the BoF delists, they will probably be managed as if they remained Stocks of Concern?

Meredith - it depends on the preseason forecast. If the estimate was 5,000 fish you have a little latitude.

Roberts - I'm thinking about trollers and the fact there isn't much opportunity any more except in a few areas, including Mountain Pt.

Atwood - I'd like to make an amendment to the proposal. I'd like to see that the forecast would have to be 10-15% over the minimum escapement goal or around 2,200-2,300 fish before providing any additional opportunity. I don't have any issue with providing residents a week early opportunity as long as we don't put the stocks in jeopardy.

Meredith - just as an example, you could use the midpoint point of the escapement goal/range.

Atwood - that is something the Department would support?

Meredith - that's workable.

Atwood - then I would modify my proposed amendment to be the midpoint.

Bezenek - I'd just like to impress upon everyone how small these runs are in the grand scheme of things. We should tread lightly or see these stocks back as Stocks of Concern.

Move to Amend Proposal 124 to read midpoint of the escapement goal

2nd - Dalin

Bezenek - I can't support this proposal. I'm all about providing residents with a bit more opportunity, but who gets a crack at it next? Charter, commercial? This is a finite resource and it has to be protected.

Dale - we aren't supporting opening this fishery up a week early. It would be the Department's decision. We're just trying to provide language to allow for the opportunity.

Dalin - does this change any of the fishing lines?

Reppert - If these stocks are delisted we would have the ability to change area and dates. However, we would continue to manage conservatively. We currently can't distinguish/provide a resident sportfish priority without Board direction.

Ringeisen - Looking forward to Bob's Proposal 128 which would open up the month of April. I wouldn't think there would be that much Unuk River harvest, however, do we want to provide that much more opportunity if we were to support both proposals?

Jahnke - Back in the late 70's with the pulp mill we used to have a primarily resident sportfish harvest of kings. You count on one or two hands the number of charter operations. Back then the limit for residents was 1 King per day. This has been going on for some time. The big changes have been the growth of the charter industry, the lodges and rentals and hook and release.

Dale - I would have a difficult time supporting this proposal if the Department wasn't given direction by the BoF to manage this additional time for resident priority. The amendment to this proposal has been moved and 2nded.

Amended Proposal

6 - Support, 5 - Oppose

Allen - Can either Bo or Kelly speak to the sampling protocol(s) for Chinook. I've heard a lot of opinions about Creel, the Statewide Harvest Surveys, Charter Log Books etc... How good is the data we collect, what are the challenges and shortfalls?

Reppert - I can provide you a 10,000ft perspective but if you'd like to have a more in depth conversation we could get someone from the Department to come speak and have an opportunity review methodology with Q&A at the next meeting.

Proposal 125/126

Move to take no Action - Sanderson

2nd - Atwood

Unanimously support

Proposal 127

Move to Adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Dalin

Reppert - this would provide resident anglers opportunity in April

Dale - How would this potentially impact the Unuk River Chinook?

Reppert - we don't have a sampling program in April, it begins in May. Anticipate the take would be low.

Dale - I'm for this proposal. I like to shake cabin fever and fish until it closes in March. I have a small boat and I don't go very far from shore.

Atwood - I'm for this proposal as well.

Sanderson - I'm not entirely for this proposal because it will result in the take of Unuk River Chinook.

Reppert - about 29% of the sport take are SEAK wild stock for the duration of the season

Bezenek - I was surprised to see that some of these hatchery access fisheries were catching 70% or more wild fish. That being said, I think the catch during April would be minimal.

Atwood - I have to correct Clay a little bit. Some of the 70% plus Chinook caught were hatchery fish from down south, not wild.

Jahnke - my family eats Kings. When I power trolled in the 90's I caught fin clipped fish from the lower Pacific Northwest up to Neets. Those fish will come inside and school. Residents should have priority and there should be no hook n release. Back in the 70's when we had the King Salmon derby people would catch and release kings until they thought they had a derby winner. We called it catch and kill. Those days are gone now, it should all be gone.

Reppert - peak harvest of Unuk River Kings occurs in May and June. April is considered a shoulder season.

Dale - Why was it closed then?

Reppert - That is part of the beginning of the run.

Call the Question - Sanderson

2nd - Dalin

Support 9, Oppose 2

Proposal 128

Move to Adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Atwood

Cowan - Does the Department have an idea of how the Feds might manage if the Chinook of the Stikine are determined to need protection due to being threatened or endangered. Do you think that will affect us in Ketchikan?

Meredith - are you talking about the lawsuit to classify Chinook in the Gulf of Alaska endangered? I think it's a lawsuit to further tie Alaska's hands and its ability to manage its resources. Just because a particular stock doesn't meet its escapement goal doesn't mean that it's endangered of going extinct. It just means it's having trouble meeting MSY, Maximum Sustainable Yield.

9 - Support, 2- Oppose

Proposal 129

Dale - I like what Casey is trying to do here but it's a little farther away than I fish. Is this something we want to take up?

Atwood - I've fished up there. There aren't a lot of hatchery fish up that way so they give them this allotment. It's not like they get to fish it if there are fish remaining in June.

Cowan - I've talked with Casey quite a bit the last few days. The one day a week has allowed them to average 500-600, two days a week would allow them the possibility to catch the 1000 fish allocation

Move to Adopt - Atwood

2nd - Roberts

Call the Question - Atwood

2nd - Roberts

10 - Support, 1 - Oppose

Proposal 130

Move to Adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Atwood

Meredith - I would think the Department would oppose this. It could increase incidental mortality of which we are held to a hard cap, it could also change the stock composition of the harvest.

Roberts- As a commercial fisherman I strongly support this. 3 out of the 12 years i've been fishing, someone has caught more fish than they are supposed too and we have lost our 2nd opener.

Cowan - if language isn't changed to allow for in season management in the sport fishery, this is the only way for the trollers to catch their allocation.

Atwood - This should have happened back in 2013. I support it but I agree it's a lot harder to do with the new PST.

Bezenek - Why didn't this come out as an ATA proposal? How does incidental mortality come out of a troller's pocket?

Roberts- the fleet was split back, the Sitka members were adamantly against it. This has changed.

Cowan - the main thing the ATA wants is the language to be reinstated to allow for in season management across all fisheries. If we can't get it then we need proposals like this. The writing is on the wall and some of our allocation will be given away if we can't change how the fishery is managed.

Sanderson - is there a way to say if in season management isn't installed then we support proposals like this?

Roberts - we should support regardless.

Dalin - I'm in support as a hand troll and I wouldn't take the gear off my boat to prepare for something else. I know there are a lot of other hand trollers in the same boat.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Atwood

6 - Support, 5 - Oppose

Proposal 131

Move to Adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Dalin

Meredith - the Department supports as it gives us flexibility.

Atwood - the majority of the troller's i've talked to don't support it. Because it would potentially allow permit holders who don't fish for their livelihood to fish. The fishery changes when it's competitive.

Call the Question - Atwood

2nd - Roberts

1 - Support, 10 - Oppose

Proposal 132/133

Move to Adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Atwood

Meredith - I don't believe we would be in support. We wouldn't want to have separate length requirements in different seasons. We know

that there are returning mature fish that are below the legal length limit. The Department has the authority to change length requirements in hatchery THA's. Herring Cove isn't a THA until July 1st.

Atwood - This would allow a fisherman to potentially keep a dusky hatchery king.

Sanderson - I'm not in support.

Call the Question - Ringeisen

2nd - Jahnke

1 Abstention, 1 - Support, 9 - Opposed

Proposal 134

Move to Adopt - Sanderson

2nd Dalin

Meredith - I'm sure we'll be opposed. There are already regulations in place. I look at this as strictly an enforcement issue. If this is happening it needs to be cited. The BoF doesn't have the authority. We've changed our methods for trying to account for this catch.

Cowan - most of the AC's I've talked to have taken no action because they believe it's an enforcement issue.

Meredith - we call it a Code 86 where if a fisherman doesn't do the best job getting to remove kings caught in a seine. Then in an attempt to get better accounting we want them to put those fish on a fish ticket and then the fish are donated.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Atwood

1 Abstention, 10 - Oppose

Proposal 140

Move to Adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Dalin

Dalin - Would this conflict with our support of a resident only king fishery in April if that proposal passes. I would like to amend the dates.

Hashagan - Why would we want to support this during periods of retention?

Cowan - Primarily an attempt to slow down the hook and release photo op fishing that is happening close to communities where there are stocks of concern. Trying to limit the mortality associated with catch and release.

Dale - Would it be acceptable if it was changed to read during periods of non-retention.

Cowan - I would find that totally acceptable.

Sullivan - I support this proposal if we amend it to read during periods of non-retention.

Atwood - this would affect all areas even if they don't have issues with stocks of concern. This proposal doesn't specify king salmon.

Reppert - this proposal would also include fresh water

Call the Question - Sanderson

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Oppose

Proposal 141

Move to Adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Dalin

Jahnke - I agree

Reppert - this applies to salt water and applies to all sport caught fish.

Cowan - This was an attempt to prevent the catch and release, photo op fishing. This would prolong the season for inside charter operators who don't fish as early as those fishing outside waters.

Hashagan - This is along the lines of the last proposal, there needs to be a lot of amending.

Dale - My primary thoughts are to limit the catch and release and resulting mortality of inside stocks of concern and failed to realize the impacts to outside operators and fishermen. I really appreciate the efforts to limit catch and release fishing and its associated mortality

Dalin - I could support it if it only pertained to periods of non-retention.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Atwood

1 - Support, 10 - Opposed

Atwood - I think we should look at Proposals 260 and 262

Reppert - should also consider Proposal 142

Proposal 142

Move to Adopt - Atwood

2nd - Dalin

Reppert - the Department submitted and supports this proposal. The Department has been managing by EO.

Sanderson - Why a bag limit of 2? Could the limit be increased?

Allen - Harvest them all.

Sanderson - I would like to amend the proposal to increase the limit from 2 to 5.

Allen - Deer Mountain is a backup brood facility for Whitman and there isn't generally a concern/need to utilize the adults returning for that purpose. Is there a size limit in regulation?

Reppert - there is no size limit.

Allen - I have one concern that I wouldn't have thought before. This past spring I witnessed young fishermen catching smolt released from the hatchery. These are fish that aren't given an opportunity to return as adults.

Dale - what size would you recommend allowing someone to keep a king?

Allen - Released smolt are about 6-7 inches long.

Atwood - how about a 16 inch minimum?

Call the question on the Amendment to change bag limit from 2 to 5 and include a size limit for king salmon of 16 inches or greater.

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Support

Call the Question on Amended Proposal 142 - Sanderson

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Support

Next Meeting

November 19th 2024 @ 5pm ADFG Conference Room

Proposals 260-262, 143 and up

Motion to Adjourn - Sanderson

2nd - Pung

Adjourn @ 7:45pm

Ketchikan Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: 11/19/2024

Location: ADFG Conference Room

Call to Order: 5:01 pm

Roll Call:

Name	Seat	Check if present	Interests/Representation
Clay Bezenek		Present	Commercial/Sport Fishing, Hunting, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Rudy Franulovich	Vice Chair	Present	Commercial Fishing
Matt Allen	Secretary	Present	Salmon Enhancement, hunting, sport fishing, trapping, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Keenan Sanderson		Present	Subsistence, Comm/Sport Fish, Tlinquit, Haida
Beau Dale	Chair	Present	4 th generation Alaskan, hunter, fisherman, local locksmith
Chad Crittenden	Alternate	Absent	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Photography, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist, Alaska Native
Robert Jahnke		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Commercial Fishing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Ben Atwood		Absent	Hunting, Sport Fishing, Trapping, Charter fishing, Troller, Salmon Enhancement, Pot Shrimp, Seining, Longlining, Tanner crabbing
Marvin McCloud		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
Jeremiah Sullivan		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
Sean Roberts		Absent	Hunt, Trap, Sport Fish, Power Troll, Commercial Pot Shrimp
Brian Ringeisen		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Devin Dalin		Present	Hunting, Sport Fish
Annie McTurner		Absent	Trapping, Hunting, Sport Fishing
Andrew Pung		Absent	Salmon Enhancement, Commercial/Sportfishing, Personal-Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
	Saxman	Open	
	Saxman	Open	

Introductions:

Ketchikan AC members, ADFG Department Staff, Public in attendance

Public Present:

Mark Hoyt, Cody Cowan, Nick Hashagan, Kurt Mattle, Kim Landeen (SEAGO), Jeffery Groenke, Matt Donaho

Department Present:

Bo Meredith (ADFG Comm. Fish), Anne Reynolds (ADFG Comm. Fish)
 Kristy Tibbles (Executive Director, BoG), Kelly Reppert (ADFG Sportfish),
 Jeff Nichols (ADFG Research Coordinator Sportfish)

Meeting Agenda:**Old business items:****BoF Proposals**

- 1.) BoF proposals

New business:

- 1.) BoF proposals 260-261, 198, 143-149, 222-224

Motion to Adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Franulovich

Passes Unanimously

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Move to Approve 10/29/2024 meeting minutes - Sanderson

2nd - Franulovich

Unanimously Approved

Chairman's Report:

Acknowledged the passing of Tad Fujioka

Committee/Member Reports/Comments:**Public Comment:**

None

Department Comments/Reports:

Jeff Nichols, Research Coordinator Division of Sportfish

Fisheries sampling/assessment programs consist of the following:

- 1.) Statewide Harvest Surveys, SWHS
- 2.) Charter Logbook
- 3.) MHS (Marine Harvest Studies), Creel

SWHS

1977- Current, mail survey, FW&SW, Estimates, time&area resolution is coarse to moderate, >28" & <28" for King Salmon, doesn't provide in-season data.

Charter Logbook

1998-Current, Guided Anglers only, Electronic, SW only, Census level information, time&area is fine, >28" & <28" for King Salmon, does provide unofficial in-season information

MHS Creel

1970's-Current, Electronic, in person survey, SW only, estimate, provides age, stock, species composition, time&area resolution is fine, >28" & <28" for King Salmon, provides unofficial in-season bi-weekly data, final data available by the end of the harvest year.

Making use of Multiple Assessment programs

Data Integration, MHS Creel relies on SWHS to establish parameters for SEAK

Expansions, ratio between observed parameters of MHS Creel vs. SWHS is estimated based on the observed 5yr moving average.

MHS Sampling onsite & in-person, Biological sampling occurs in conjunction with angler interviews

Goal is a sample rate for CWT's of 20% . The long term average is about 20%. The post Covid years it has been less. Years of less harvest, the sampling suffers. Across the region in 2024 the CWT sample rate was 15%, in Ketchikan it was only 7%. This is concerning and can be attributed primarily to staffing difficulties.

The Department is having difficulty staffing sampling positions and recognizes the need to strengthen recruiting efforts across the region.

Looking to start recruitment earlier, increase presence at job recruitment venues, evaluate housing/vehicle support.

Three stand alone programs that also collect overlapping data.

MHS

Began in the 1970's, in the communities of Ketchikan, Juneau and Sitka.

The program started out as a simple program and has grown and includes new species, data and sample locations over time.

Biological data is collected during angler interviews at the dock. Where fishing occurred, for how long, number of fish caught, number released and specific biological data about the fish retained.

Have conducted between 2,000-3,000 interviews in Ketchikan.

Questions

Jahnke - we supported a proposal at the last BoF to require the resorts and lodges keep records of harvest. The BoF agreed with the lodges and resorts that the requirement wasn't possible. I disagree with the finding. Those entities are commercial, they are making money and they need to keep records at no cost to ADFG.

Nichols - as for the undocumented harvest, it is being captured to some extent during Creel and through the SWHS. But to your point not at a census level accounting like the Charter Logbook.

Allen - why aren't we collecting CWT or biological data from Charter?

Nichols - I can't speak why there isn't a requirement but the MHS program does do that.

Allen - It seems to me that if the majority of King Salmon are harvested by Non-Resident guided anglers we are missing out on a lot of useful information, I don't think it's a big ask to require that. If you can't answer why then could you point us in the direction of who can answer the question?

Nichols - We have reached a place where we can provide estimates. There are fish out there that aren't being sampled. There are monetary restrictions to what we or any entity can do. We are looking internally to see how we can make improvements.

Bezenek - I'm a proponent of having a tag or punch system for accounting for harvest by those that aren't caught by creel and the SWHS. We've lost the opportunity as residents to catch and retain rockfish around Ketchikan. I'm not sure how this occurred.

Nichols - if there are annual bag limits for King Salmon, every non-residents has to report that harvest. As for rockfish we have closed

SE outside waters and for a time inside waters. We have provided some additional opportunities in the inside waters. We have made management closures based on estimates of decreasing biomass not based on issues with harvest sampling.

Allen - can you speak to the percentage of resident anglers, non-resident guided and non-resident unguided that are being captured by Creel?

Nichols - we are sampling primarily non-residents. If someone fish for 1hr in one day that's one angler day. We are sampling 60-70% non-resident.

Allen - of the SWHS that are sent out, what percentage are returned?

Nichols - The response rate over the last 10yrs has been declining. It's around or under 30%. This is still enough to provide valuable data. Efforts to modernize the survey are to make it digital and increase the reporting intervals.

Allen - how is Creel funded

Nichols - it has multiple funding streams. Bulk comes from Dingell Johnson (50-60%), general fund (specific to groundfish and halibut), PSC and soft money sources associated with the PSC.

Cowan - Is the Creel program data open to the public. What % of the 20% Sportfish allocation is harvested prior to July 1st.

Nichols - 2021-2024 about 70% of Chinook harvest occurs prior to July 1st. In our MHS it has really only been since 2019 that we have been collecting and attributing harvest by residency. Only a small amount of MHS information is available to the public. Some information can be found through other venues.

Nichols - signs off.

New Business

Dale - I err'd and didn't recognize that we have two members of the public who have submitted proposals (260,261). They are here tonight. I'd like to recognize them and give them an opportunity to speak to their proposals.

I'd also like to nominate John Scoblic to fill our vacant alternate position, if I may. I'd be looking for other nominations or interest in the position. Hearing none, I would like to proceed with unanimous consent.

John Scoblic is unanimously seated as an alternate to the Ketchikan AC.

Proposal 260

Move to adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Dalin

Hoyt - I think it's pretty self explanatory. I'm just sick of not being able to get what I can get close by. Seeing 500 pots in the water and not being able to get dinner anymore is hard. We have commercial guys coming from outside of our community and a few from our community fishing in these areas. A lot of us don't have the boat or the money to go someplace else to fish.

Jahnke - you can compare it to what happened out at Indian pt. and Survey pt. They prioritized the resident. It wasn't necessarily the commercial fishers but the non-resident. This proposal should also include non-residents.

Hoyt - I totally agree and I didn't think about that.

Sanderson - can we amend the proposal to do that.

Meredith - you would close it to sportfish. It would still allow for personal use fishing.

Hoyt - If we could just get the commercial guys out of these areas I would be happy.

Meredith - we are generally against these proposals when there isn't a conservation concern.

Sanderson - I was very much behind similar proposals on POW. I do know the BoF had some concerns with the size of the areas being closed to commercial.

Meredith - the harvest data is confidential.

Dale - so you could make the argument not very many commercial fishermen would be impacted if this proposal passed.

Meredith - the 10yr average is 5 permit holders

Dalin - If this was to pass I couldn't set a crab pot with my bear clients.

Franulovich - the commercial fishery isn't very long

Meredith - the average is about 14 days.

Franulovich - so you have 350 days without commercial shrimp.

Dalin - how long is the commercial dungeness fishing.

Meredith - they have a summer and fall fishery, length is determined by projection.

Jahnke - what percentage of commercial shrimpers are non-resident?

Meredith - the majority are SEAK residents.

Dalin - I don't support this proposal because the areas are too broad.

Dale - I agree all three areas are a big ask. I would recommend we limit it to George and Carroll and restrict it to personal use for residents.

Meredith - draw lines between these areas.

Hoyt - How about from Mountain pt. to Carroll Pt.

Allen - Bo could you speak to the commercial significance in these areas.

Meredith - Thorne Arm is good, as is Carroll. If I were to take my Department hat off, I would recommend closing the mouth of Carroll and leaving the head to the commercial guys. Maybe align it with the salmon closure markers, Knat Cove? It's still a big ask but it's more palatable.

Dale - It would be nice to have George and Carroll inlet, say at a line from Osten south. This area would be closed to commercial shrimp and crab.

Sanderson - maybe we indicate what we would also accept if BoF wasn't comfortable with both George and Carroll.

Jahnke - like on the north end uses longitude and latitude to define the area open and closed.

Allen - I'd like to whittle this down to take it out of the hands of the BoF. If Carroll Inlet is most important to Mr. Hoyt, that's what we should go with.

Franulovich - how about just George, it's the closest to town.

Dalin - how about where the cabins are. Are there any cabins above Shoal Cove? Most commercial guys start up at the head and work out.
Residents

Dale - Mountain pt. to California Head, island pt. to coast guard dock

Meredith - why don't you guys come in with Mark and we can draw some lines and come up with a better proposal.

Dale - good point. We had a good conversation.

Franulovich - I think you should have it just Carroll and reach out to a commercial shrimper for part of the discussion.

Move to Table - Sanderson

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 261

Move to Adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Jahnke

Meredith - I look at Traitors a bit differently than the previous closure because I do have a concern. Unless something dramatically changes, I don't think that area will open to commercial harvest. That may include all of West and back Behm. That will have district wide GHL implications.

Ringeisen - I've seen a decline in that area in my personal harvest, by about 2/3rds. It's getting hit by commercial entities. It's a small and special place. I'd rather be conservative on this.

Mattle - It is a special place. It's one of the few places you can stay overnight. You see the lodge add on effect.

Ringeisen - one particular lodge is specifically selling that opportunity to its clients.

Jahnke - Lodges have the opportunity to sell this opportunity from April until October. Commercial fishermen don't get that much time. People that live here should have priority.

Dale - I agree with Bob and will be supporting this proposal.

Meredith - one clarification to the proposer. Does this just pertain to shrimp and crab?

Mattle - that is my intent now that we've had this conversation.

Dalin - motion to amend close Traitor's Cove to commercial and sport shrimping and crabbing based on conversations with the proposer.

2nd - Sanderson

Unanimously Support

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Sanderson

Unanimously Support

Proposal 198

Move to Adopt - Allen

2nd - Dalin

Mattle - Commercial is based on poundage vs. sport which is a number of fish. These fish are smaller. Maybe I can go out 6 days a year if it's flat and calm. If I could catch a couple more it would be beneficial and make it easier to put fish in the freezer.

Meredith - in upper Chatham you had Charter directing harvest of larger sablefish in conflict with Commercial.

Sanderson - I would only support this proposal if the limit increase was strictly for residents.

Mattle - that was my intent.

Move to Amend to read - bag limit of 6 fish for resident sport fishermen
- Sanderson

2nd - Bezenek

Allen - I'd hesitate to exclude non-residents without some numbers.
Non-residents may harvest more than residents, however, if there isn't
a conservation concern I can't support the amendment

Ringeisen - 15 yrs ago there was no limit for black cod. Then because of
charter harvest up north they restricted it to a 5 fish bag limit with an in
possession limit. If you're a resident with the ability to harvest more in
a day for what you need you can decrease the time and cost associated
with the number of trips you have to take.

Reppert - Resident sportfish - 437 fish annually, 7% of total harvest.

Dale - then this would have a negligible effect.

Meredith - personal use harvest might be a bit more.

Dalin - Move to table until we can get some numbers in front of us to
answer peoples questions.

2nd - Allen

Unanimously Support

Proposal 143

Move to Adopt - Dale

2nd - Franulovich

Reppert - very similar to 144, we have combined our comments for
these. Proposals 143-147 looking to increase opportunity for trout.
Proposals of 143-144 would cover much of the waters of SEAK.

Dalin - I can't agree with this. For example, at Fish Creek i've seen a drastic decrease in population under the current regulations.

Bezenek - I agree with Devin. I've been going to Fish Creek for 30yrs and I've seen the same thing. It's a special resource and I don't want to lose it.

Franulovich - Why can't you keep a trout over 22"

Reppert - we have different management strategies. We have multiple categories such as trophy lakes, high use lakes etc. Steelhead have specific regulations based on drainage. The Department is proceeding with trout research and will bring information to the next board cycle This is a rapid assessment.

McCloud - There is nothing I can get behind with this proposal.

Allen - Does the Department have any other tools to address predation rather than increasing bag limits.

Dale - This proposal is just way too broad.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Ringeisen

Unanimously Opposed

Franulovich - If they have this problem in Klawock Lake they should do predator control.

Proposal 144

Move to Adopt - Dalin

2nd - Sanderson

Call the Question - Sanderson

2nd -Dalin

Dale - we aren't going to have any discussion on this one.

Dalin - its the same as 143 pretty much

Unanimously Opposed

Proposal 145

Move to Adopt - Sanderson

2nd - Dalin

Reppert - this is a system we will be looking at.

Allen - Does the Department have any information on what size fish can effectively predate on sockeye fry/smolt?

Reppert - I don't believe so, no. Klawock drainage/river is a high use system.

Bezenek - I can't support this as written and without more information.

Franulovich - They must have a real problem if trout are ramming the net to get the fry.

Allen - That's probably a seasonal occurrence when there isn't a lot of natural forage. They might get a few small fry and some fish food.

Meredith - They set minnow traps in the past and found that it was primarily Cutthroat predating on sockeye. The lake also has a productivity issue.

Call the Question - Franulovich

2nd - Sanderson

7 - Oppose, 3 - Support

Keenan Sanderson departs the meeting, down to 8 members

Proposal 146

Move to Adopt - Dalin

2nd - Franulovich

Allen - I won't be supporting this, people already have a difficult time distinguishing between rainbow trout and steelhead.

Reppert - for clarification this is catch and release on steelhead

Dalin - this system gets a lot of activity.

Call the Question - Allen

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Opposed

Proposal 147

Move to Adopt - Dalin

2nd - Franulovich

Reppert - the Department doesn't have a conservation concern, there is opportunity and would like to provide it.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Franulovich

Unanimously Support

Proposal 148

Move to Adopt - Dalin

2nd - Franulovich

Reppert - this is a Department proposal. This is a trophy lake currently and would go to region wide regulations.

Dale - how do we come up with these sizes

Reppert - this is from a Department Study back in the 90's. Catching trophy Cutthroat was important to people. It was determined that the minimum size was 25". Based on our investigations this summer we didn't catch a fish that size this summer.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd -Franulovich

Unanimously Support

Proposal 149

Move to take no Action - Dale

2nd Allen

Unanimously supported

Proposal 222

Move to Adopt - ?

2nd - ?

Meredith - Would give personal use fishers two weeks of shrimping prior to the commercial season starting. Looking to have a closure for all groups.

Ringeisen - I don't have a problem with a narrowing of the season.

Allen - This is a Department proposal. Meredith seems hesitant to want to do this, however, he believes it needs to be done. We tend to support Department proposals and if we don't have any additional discussion, I would call the question.

Call the Question - Allen

2nd - Franulovich

8 Support, 1 Opposed

Proposal 223

Move to Adopt - Dalin

2nd - McCloud

Meredith - Tunnel restrictions were introduced in 96' to limit bycatch. Increasing by 1" would increase potential bycatch.

Dale - Seems like the proposer is attempting to legalize gear he already has? That's what I'm gleaning from this.

Franulovich - larger rings equals more bycatch and shrimp won't want to go in it.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Jahnke

1 Support, 8 Opposed

Proposal 224

Move to Adopt - Dalin

2nd - Franulovich

Franulovich - I thought shrimp shed their eggs in May.

Meredith - They are still going to have a few eggs. Biologically it makes more sense to fish in May. If we revert back we won't have enough data to determine if there was a benefit.

For example, if you fish in May you might have from 3-7% with eggs. In the fall you can find 20% or more.

Bezenek - I talked to a long time shrimper and he likes to shrimp in May but likes the shrimp in October.

Meredith - participation was similar when the fishery was in October compared to May.

Allen - Do you know how shrimpers found the market?

Meredith - I think you'll find it goes about 50/50. For some have their own markets and like the spring season, others may find more soft shell shrimp. Overall the prices haven't changed much.

Bezenek - I just got another message from a fisherman and he doesn't care when the season is.

Dalin - Motion to table 224 so we can talk to some commercial shrimpers. We have two on our committee that aren't here.

Franulovich - 2nd

Unanimously support

Dale - well discuss the remaining proposals at our next meeting

Next Meeting

11/26/2024 @ 5pm at the ADFG conference room

Will discuss Proposals 224-232 and up

Cowan - Have you taken up all the Chinook Proposals?

Dale - No, we have to come back around and will do so at a later date.

Motion to Adjourn - Dale

2nd - Dalin

Ketchikan Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: 11/26/2024

Location: ADFG Conference Room

Call to Order: 5:15 pm

Roll Call:

Name	Seat	Check if present	Interests/Representation
Clay Bezenek		Absent	Commercial/Sport Fishing, Hunting, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Rudy Franulovich	Vice Chair	Absent	Commercial Fishing
Matt Allen	Secretary	Present	Salmon Enhancement, hunting, sport fishing, trapping, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Keenan Sanderson		Absent	Subsistence, Comm/Sport Fish, Tlinquit, Haida
Beau Dale	Chair	Present	4 th generation Alaskan, hunter, fisherman, local locksmith
Chad Crittenden	Alternate	Absent	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Photography, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist, Alaska Native
Robert Jahnke		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Commercial Fishing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Ben Atwood		Absent	Hunting, Sport Fishing, Trapping, Charter fishing, Troller, Salmon Enhancement, Pot Shrimp, Seining, Longlining, Tanner crabbing
Marvin McCloud		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
Jeremiah Sullivan		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
John Scoblic	Alternate	Present	
Sean Roberts		Absent	Hunt, Trap, Sport Fish, Power Troll, Commercial Pot Shrimp
Brian Ringeisen		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Devin Dalin		Present	Hunting, Sport Fish
Annie McTurner		Present	Trapping, Hunting, Sport Fishing
Andrew Pung		Absent	Salmon Enhancement, Commercial/Sportfishing, Personal-Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
	Saxman	Open	
	Saxman	Open	

Introductions:

Ketchikan AC members, ADFG Department Staff, Public in attendance

Public Present:

Cody Cowan, Kim Landeen (SEAGO), Joe Roth, Jeffery Groenke, Matt Donaho

Department Present:

Bo Meredith (ADFG Comm. Fish), Joseph Stratman, Savannah Hollingworth (Board Support)

Meeting Agenda:

Motion to Adopt - Sullivan

2nd - McTurner

Old business items:

BoF Proposals

- 1.) BoF proposals

New business:

- 1.) BoF proposals, 224-233, 250-253, 255, 258-262

Call meeting to Order

Beau Dale

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

No meeting minutes available

Chairman's Report:

No Report

Committee/Member Reports/Comments:

None

Public Comment:**Department Report/Comment:**

None

Proposal 224

Move to adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Jahnke

Dalin - Was there a difference in the number of permits fishing

Meredith - basically a wash, 2 more the 1st year, one less the following

Dale - big difference for me is the presence of eggs in the fall fishery vs. the spring.

Ring Eisen - How many years would the Department look to see a difference in population.

Meredith - You still have shrimp with eggs in May, must not as many. We'd probably need 5 years.

Scoblic - isn't a dead shrimp, a dead shrimp.

Meredith - The difference would be the presence of eggs.

Scoblic - I'll be supporting this proposal. Many of the fishermen I talked to want to switch back. Some fishermen have a better market and you don't compete with BC shrimp.

Dale - I've been considering the impact on fishers who follow up in the spring after a commercial fishery.

Dalin - more of the fishermen I talked with preferred a spring fishery. They had an easier time finding crew. Trollers could fish the fall chinook openers.

Allen - I won't be supporting this proposal as I would like to see more time for the Department to evaluate the potential biological or population benefits to the resource with the current regulations.

Scoblic - I believe the history of an October fishery was that it didn't overlap with many other fisheries.

Jahnke - How long would a May fishery last?

Meredith - The same time range as a fall fishery. The shrimp can be found in different areas and take a bit longer to harvest in the spring.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Ringeisen

7 - opposed, 2 - support

Proposal 225

Move to Adopt - Dalin

2nd - Ringeisen

Meredith - I would reference my previous comments and add that Department staff is busy during the proposed dates.

Cowan - How many of the participants are involved in salmon fishing and shrimp fishing?

Meredith - a good amount.

Scoblic - I'm going to vote no if we don't go back to October 1st. We also compound management for the Department and if it makes it harder to evaluate the data.

Jahnke - Does Coho season at the end of September?

Meredith - It closes the 20th but can be extended.

Jahnke - This would give trollers an opportunity to get ready for Chinook in October.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Scoblic

8 - Oppose, 1 - Support

Proposal 226

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Jahnke

Meredith - this would be a gear reduction and GHL reduction. We manage within a GHL range. A gear reduction would slow the fishery. You could see double picking of pots which wouldn't allow smaller shrimp to escape.

Scoblic - I understand that the shrimp fishery was different in the past. GHL's were probably three times as high. I can't support this as I don't really get it.

Dalin - I won't be supporting as it would extend the season.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Ringeisen

Unanimously Oppose

Proposal 227

Move to Adopt - Allen

2nd - Dalin

Meredith - permit stacking has occurred within the state. In SE there have been fishers renewing permits but not fishing. This could lead to an increased effort. Latency rate is 58% on average.

Dalin - this doesn't change the area, the GHL doesn't change.

Meredith - it could change the CPUE, which could affect management.

Cowan - this would mostly benefit the larger boats who can accommodate the extra gear and crew.

Dalin - some smaller boats can haul more quickly and can larger boats even pull that many pots in a day?

Meredith - fishers are pretty efficient. If you give them 200 pots they are going to pull them.

Call the Question - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

1 - Support, 8 - Oppose

Proposal 228

Move to Adopt - Dalin

2nd - Ringeisen

Meredith - this is legal in other fisheries.

Scoblic - because the Department is neutral and we have this in other fisheries, I will be supporting.

Cowan - this would be safer.

Meredith - there would be a difference CPUE but not insurmountable

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Scoblic

8 - Support, 1 - Opposed

Proposal 229

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Allen

Meredith - these are redundant regulations, one in shrimp, one in salmon.

Scoblic - I am in favor.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Ringeisen

Unanimously Support

Proposal 230

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - McTurner

Meredith - this is a little bit of the cart before the horse . We have been releasing a Commissioner's permit. We don't have any stock assessment. We would use these permits. Anyone who wants a permit can come in and I will grant one and allow a harvest of 2,000lbs.

Allen - how do we put the horse before the cart.

Scoblic - Processors would need volume and I'm not sure jigging would provide that.

Call the Question- Dalin

Jahnke - 2nd

Unanimously Oppose

Proposal 231

Scoblic - move to take no action

Dalin - 2nd

Unanimous for no Action

Proposal 232

Move to Adopt - Dalin

2nd - Scoblic

Scoblic- When was the last urchin harvested?

Meredith - there is a little bit, 4 permits.

Scoblic - So confidential.

Roth - Any effort to get rid of green urchin helps out with Kelp

Meredith - I've given out permits but the urchin are small and it's not panning out. They need to be about the size of your fist before there is enough roe.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Jahnke

6 - Support, 3 - Oppose

Proposal 233

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

There is no one in the Department who can speak to the next proposals.

Scoblic - I would move to table Proposals all tanner and king crab as there is no one who can speak to this and this seems significant. This looks like people are looking for opportunity.

Motion to table - Dalin

2nd - Ringeisen

Unanimously Support

Proposal 250

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - McTurner

Stratman - lower minimum size male from 6 ½ to 6 ¼ in personal use and subsistence fisheries. They would be able to retain smaller crab in these fisheries compared to commercial. 6 ½ inches has been in the regs since the 1960's. Legal size is based on size at maturity and current regs allow males to reproduce at least once until harvested.

Dalin - its currently 6 ½ across the board, it adds complexity, I won't be supporting.

Roth - what is the legal size in Canada?

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Jahnke

Unanimously Oppose

Proposal 251

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Stratman - change start date from June 15th to July 1st. This would shorten the season and could impact participation. There are allocative aspects to this proposal.

Scoblic - this seems like it would benefit dungeness only fishermen and hurt those participating in other fisheries including dungeness.

Dalin - I'd support this proposal as it benefits the resource

Call the Question - McTurner

2nd - Dalin

6 - Support, 3- Opposed

Proposal 252

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Stratman - Current regulation doesn't allow for this, there is one exception. Long-lining is allowed to acquire bait in this fishery. This would allow for fishers to use slinky pots in conjunction with pots. Slinky pots have a larger opening than dungeness pots. This could allow for capturing of this species.

Dalin - What are these slinky pots targeting? Pacific Cod?

Scoblic - my assumption is P. Cod. I like this proposal, it allows fishers to catch the fish that catch the fish they want to catch.

Call the Question - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Support

Proposal 253

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Dalin - I talked with a fisherman who said they didn't have a problem with the current regs until they moved the start date of the shrimp season.

Scoblic - this makes sense to me, this is attempting to make things right after unintended consequences from the change in seasons. I will support this

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Jahnke

Unanimously Support

Scoblic, move to take no action on similar/identical Proposals 254, 256, 257

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Support

Proposal 255

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Jahnke - I will be voting no, this seems as a way to cheat

Roth - I agree

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Jahnke

8 - Oppose, 1 - Support

Proposal 258

Move to Adopt - Dalin

2nd - Jahnke

Stratman - If adopted areas currently closed would be opened. Questions are what seasons would be adopted. Most areas are near population centers. This is also allocative

Jahnke - I will be opposing. I'm not sure how the BoF would look at this.

Dalin - They also have Bostwick and Blank Inlet.

Scoblic - I will be supporting. It's been death by 1,000 cuts. They aren't asking for anything they didn't have.

Allen - I won't be supporting as this is right outside our front door. Its easily accessed by residents. If there was more specificity I could support it.

Dalin - I would echo the same.

Startman - I would agree with the death by 1,000 cuts. This includes the impact from sea otter, fiber optics projects, being excluded from Glacier Bay and from private projects. Region wide harvest tells a different story compared to looking at smaller areas.

Call the Question - Scoblic

2nd Dalin

8 - Oppose, 1 - Support

Proposal 259

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - I support this as well. It doesn't compete with the local citizenry.

Jahke - I am a no.

Call the Question - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

8 - Oppose, 1 - Support

Proposal 260

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd McTurner

Hoyt - I would like to modify my proposal.

Go from Brunn point to the head of Carroll Inlet and leave everything else open, take the shrimp out of it, leave crab.

Meredith - your original ask included George, Carroll and Thorne Arm

Sullivan - I'll be leaving.

Scoblic - I can't support it as its allocative. I can't support this proposal or the original proposal.

Allen - I would ask the proposer why the amendment.

Hoyt - I understand it was a big ask. I understand the effort for shrimp is minimal.

Jahnke - I would want to be clear it was closed to sport and commercial. I would want the same as what is north of town.

Meredith - that was his original intent.

Dalin - I can't support this as it cuts off an area that isn't utilized much by locals and is a significant portion of Carroll.

Scoblic - Is there a conservation concern?

Stratman - There is no conservation concern.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Jahnke

Proposal 262

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - I can't support this. There probably isn't a conservation concern.

Ringeisen - I attempted to reach out to Kurt Whitehead but didn't hear back. Seems to be following previous proposals.

Scoblic - making more boxes that people can't play in I can't support

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Jahnke

1 Abstention, 3- Support, - 4 Opposed

Scoblic - When is the comment deadline?

Dale - January 14th

Next Meeting Discussion

12/5/2024 5:00pm ADFG Conference

Adjourn:

8:48pm

Motion to Adjourn - Dale

2nd - Dalin

Ketchikan Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: 12/5/2024

Location: ADFG Conference Room

Call to Order: 5:00 pm

Roll Call:

Name	Seat	Check if present	Interests/Representation
Clay Bezenek		Absent	Commercial/Sport Fishing, Hunting, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Rudy Franulovich	Vice Chair	Absent	Commercial Fishing
Matt Allen	Secretary	Present	Salmon Enhancement, hunting, sport fishing, trapping, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Keenan Sanderson		Present	Subsistence, Comm/Sport Fish, Tlinquit, Haida
Beau Dale	Chair	Present	4 th generation Alaskan, hunter, fisherman, local locksmith
Chad Crittenden	Alternate	Absent	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Photography, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist, Alaska Native
Robert Jahnke		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Commercial Fishing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Ben Atwood		Absent	Hunting, Sport Fishing, Trapping, Charter fishing, Troller, Salmon Enhancement, Pot Shrimp, Seining, Longlining, Tanner crabbing
Marvin McCloud		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
Jeremiah Sullivan		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
John Scobic	Alternate	Present	
Sean Roberts		Absent	Hunt, Trap, Sport Fish, Power Troll, Commercial Pot Shrimp
Brian Ringeisen		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Devin Dalin		Present	Hunting, Sport Fish
Annie McTurner		Present	Trapping, Hunting, Sport Fishing
Andrew Pung		Present	Salmon Enhancement, Commercial/Sportfishing, Personal-Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
	Saxman	Open	
	Saxman	Open	

Introductions:

Ketchikan AC members, ADFG Department Staff, Public in attendance

Public Present:

Cody Cowan, Susan Doherty, Jonathan Perrin, David Dentenger, Anna Lafferty, Jeffery Gronke, Kim Landeen (SEAGO)

Department Present:

Bo Meredith (ADFG Comm. Fish), Adam Mesmer (ADFG)

Meeting Agenda:

Move to approve agenda - Scoblic

2nd - Sanderson

Old business items:**BoF Proposals**

- 1.) BoF proposals

New business:

- 1.) BoF proposals 156-162, 233-249, 198

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Move to amend 10/22/2024 meeting minutes to include the vote on Proposal 115, the AC voted Unanimously to Support

Move to Approve - Scoblic

2nd Sanderson

Unanimously approved

Move to approve meeting minutes from 10/26

Move to Approve - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously approved

Chairman's Report:

Committee/Member Reports/Comments:

Public Comment:

Cowan- RC, this is a joint effort that is going to be brought forward to the BOF in January. We felt there was a lot of misunderstanding on the intent in some of the king salmon management proposals. This RC is intended to combine those proposals.

We want to see the resident priority clause move from the back to the front of the management plan.

We want to reinstall the words sport fishery into the management plan to allow for in season management.

Donaho - the primary intent is to protect the resident fishermen and the 80/20 split between sport and commercial trollers.

Scoblic - I'd like to see this on our next meeting agenda.

Gronke - How does this address the potential allocation overage.

Donaho - This proposal would close Commercial and Guided Sport and provide priority to resident sport fish.

Department Comments/Reports:

None

New Business

Proposal 156

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Doherty - This will have region wide impacts. For SSRAA this would be a reduction of 60 million fish. There would be losses in tax revenue and the livelihood of fishing families and communities. The hatchery programs most affected would be Coho and Chinook programs. Some programs would go away entirely. There is a question as to whether the BoF has the authority. The 25% decrease is arbitrary. This proposal should never have been approved. This is from a member of the Fairbanks AC and they have attempted this elsewhere.

Dalin - this essentially eliminates 25% of someone's catch

Scoblic - I vehemently oppose this proposal. It would have region wide impact, would eliminate approximately 125 million of economic activity just from SSRAA alone.

Call the Question- Dalin

2nd - Scoblic

UNANIMOUSLY OPPOSED

Proposal 157

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Meredith - we support regulations that allow for a reliable fishery.

Doherty - This might become an option in the future but not currently. We are obligated to clean up the fish and not let them stray. This gives us a tool to do so, especially after what happened two years ago when the processors stopped buying fish.

Meredith - This would allow gillnetting as a rotational fishery because of the THA

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Pung

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 158

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Meredith - my understanding is this is housekeeping. We have been managing this by EO.

Doherty - RPT met today in Sitka and unanimously supported this as its housekeeping, it eliminates the need for an EO and provides lat/long.

Scoblic - I support this.

Call the Question - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 159

Move to Adopt - Allen

2nd - Dalin

Doherty - Proposal 159(SSRAA), Proposal 160(Petersburg AC). We worked together to create this. The terminal area is a very large area and includes swr and fwr harvest. Was implemented in 1979. It has harvest tiers. SSRAA hasn't made egg take goals in 10 of the last 20 years. Sportfish have their hands tied due to what is in regulation. SWR access was available this year to lodges, non-guided/guided non-resident sport while resident sportfishermen weren't able to fish in fwr. Non-residents in this area could harvest 4 kings per day and not have it count against their annual bag limit. This return can't support this harvest.

This creates a safe zone for the fish in the Slough.

A vote in support would maintain resident access, protect the fish and better help SSRAA get broodstock

Scoblic - how is this different from the next proposal.

Doherty - The difference is the date. Another consideration under current regs is that of the 4 fish that can be kept 2 can be over 28" and 2 under 28". Any catch and release associated with hunting for fish results in greater mortality.

Scoblic - if we adopt 159 and 162 we would be on the way to addressing the issues facing the Slough, SSRAA and ADFG.

I will be supporting these proposals. It will help local fishermen, SSRAA, the resource

Call the Question -Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 160

Move to take no action - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 162

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Doherty - Currently you can take a King Salmon in Blind Slough anytime of year. This proposal protects King Salmon holding in the Slough and helps support brood stock for the hatchery program.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Scoblic

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 164

Dale - is this something we should take up?

Discussion - No.

Proposal 233

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Move to remove my support to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Proposal 234

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Supported Unanimously

Proposal 235

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - this addresses safety and is common sense.

Call the Question - Scoblic

2nd Dalin

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 236

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - this is another safety issue, currently they can anchor up in an area with submerged pots.

Call the Question - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Supported

Proposals 237, 238, 239

Scoblic - It would be my intent to take no action on Proposals on 237, 238, 239. I haven't talked to the author of these proposals and I don't understand them. I think we are taking some action on these issues in other proposals.

Move to take no action - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 240

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Pung

Scoblic - this is an enforcement issue. These guys are looking for efficiency. However, it's worth talking about.

Dale - I'm going to support, I like efficiency.

Call the Question - Scoblic

2nd- Jahnke

8 - Opposed, 3 - Support

Proposal 241

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - the AC has voted to support this elsewhere. What is good for the goose is good for the gander.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Ringeisen

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 243

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Messmer - Set a biological threshold rather than an economic threshold. This would share the harvest amongst permit holders (individual catch limits).

Scoblic - This proposal came forward during the last cycle. Issues existed that couldn't be worked through at that time. Since then, things have been worked out. It's a low volume, high value fishery. Trying to create opportunity and for that reason I will support.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Ringeisen

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 242

Move to take no action - Scoblic, based on support of Proposal 243.

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 244

Move to take no action - Scoblic, this will have to be sorted out at the BoF

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 245

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - based on our previous discussions, I believe we should support this proposal.

Call the Question Dalin

2nd - Ringeisen

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 246

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - rational was to put proposals in by fishery since they are run concurrently. Same kind of fishery, same kind of gear and problems.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Ringeisen

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 247

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - I have conflictions based on what the Department has said.

Messmer - There are quite a few places where fishermen in SE fish in 20 fathoms or less. It was difficult for enforcement to distinguish between legally stored pots and those fishing illegally. For those fishermen that are dual permitted even if this proposal were to pass they would be held to the 10 fathom limit.

Scoblic - I'm going to support this. If you go on the CFEC website we need to attempt to create uniformity. It's also a safety issue. Guys need a place to safely anchor up that time of year.

Dalin - I'll support it and say it would help with enforcement. How do you tell if it's a tanner vs. king crab pot? You have to pull the pot to know/find out.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Pung

9 - Supported, 1 - Opposed

Proposal 248

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - more slinky pots, we've supported this all the way through.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Ringeisen

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 249

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Pung

Scoblic - I think we've taken similar actions to this at previous meetings.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Ringeisen

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 198

Move to untable Proposal 198 - Allen

2nd - Dalin

Ringeisen - this proposal would keep the non-resident limit as is and would increase the limit for residents. The current proposal doesn't specifically say residents and I'd like to put that language in.

Scoblic - I couldn't support this if it increases the bag limit for non-residents.

Call the question on the previous Amendment - Ringeisen, increase the daily bag limit for resident sportfishermen from 4 to 6.

2nd - Dalin

Move to approve Amended Proposal 198

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Scoblic

Unanimously Supported

Next Meeting Discussion

December 12th @ 5pm

Prop 166 and up to Prop 221

Motion to Adjourn - Allen

2nd - Scoblic

Unanimously Supported

Ketchikan Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: 12/12/2024

Location: ADFG Conference Room

Call to Order: 5:10 pm

Roll Call:

Name	Seat	Check if present	Interests/Representation
Clay Bezenek		Present	Commercial/Sport Fishing, Hunting, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Rudy Franulovich	Vice Chair	Present	Commercial Fishing
Matt Allen	Secretary	Absent	Salmon Enhancement, hunting, sport fishing, trapping, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Keenan Sanderson		Present	Subsistence, Comm/Sport Fish, Tlinquit, Haida
Beau Dale	Chair	Present	4 th generation Alaskan, hunter, fisherman, local locksmith
Chad Crittenden	Alternate	Absent	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Photography, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist, Alaska Native
Robert Jahnke		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Commercial Fishing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Ben Atwood		Absent	Hunting, Sport Fishing, Trapping, Charter fishing, Troller, Salmon Enhancement, Pot Shrimp, Seining, Longlining, Tanner crabbing
Marvin McCloud		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
Jeremiah Sullivan		Absent	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
John Scoblic	Alternate	Present	
Sean Roberts		Present	Hunt, Trap, Sport Fish, Power Troll, Commercial Pot Shrimp
Brian Ringeisen		Absent	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Devin Dalin		Present	Hunting, Sport Fish
Annie McTurner		Absent	Trapping, Hunting, Sport Fishing
Andrew Pung		Present	Salmon Enhancement, Commercial/Sportfishing, Personal-Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
	Saxman	Open	
	Saxman	Open	

Introductions:

Ketchikan AC members, ADFG Department Staff, Public in attendance

Public Present:

David Ritchie (ATA Vice Chair), Matt Donaho, Phil Doherty (SEAS), Cody Cowan, Anna Lafferty (KTN Daily News), Jeremy Leighton (SARDFa President), Tom Cruz, Jared

Department Present:

Bo Meredith (ADFG Comm. Fish) 10 minutes of tech support, Whitney Crittenden (ADFG Comm. Fish), Anthony Walek (ADFG, Sitka Herring)

Meeting Agenda:

Move to approve agenda - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Approved

Old business items:**BoF Proposals**

- 1.) BoF proposals

New business:

- 1.) BoF proposals 166-172, 180, 184-190, 212-221

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes from 11/19/2024

Move to Approve - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Approved

Chairman's Report:

Committee/Member Reports/Comments:

Public Comment:

Department Comments/Reports:

None

New Business

Proposal 171

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Jahnke

- 1.) Reduce the harvest range from 12-20% to 10-15%
- 2.) Change the harvest rate formula, makes it more conservative
- 3.) Increase fishery threshold 26,000 tons

Scoblic - I'm going to support this as it's put forward by the Department. This fishery has been controversial for some time and attempts to be more conservative.

Dale - This makes sense. Everything likes to eat herring.

Franulovich - why is the Department looking to change things?

Department - there is new data available indicating we should increase the threshold. There isn't a concern with the stock.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Dale

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 172

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Department - companion proposal to 171. This deals with all the other herring fisheries. The only fishery this would currently impact would be the Craig fishery.

Roberts - this includes all harvest of herring?

Meredith - Yes. This would have very little effect on the bait fishery, however it could affect the pound fishery.

Scoblic - I don't see this negatively impacting the harvest. It's necessary to align us with what we just unanimously supported in Proposal 171.

Call the Question - Franulovich

2nd - Dalin

9 - Support, 1 - Oppose

Scoblic - I'd like to adopt Proposal 180

Proposal 180

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Franulovich

Department - this is a housekeeping proposal. Makes the actual latitude the latitude in regulation.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Franulovich

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 173

Move to Adopt - Jahnke

2nd - Dale

Department - if this proposal is approved management would revert to how other fisheries are managed. We believe the intent of the proposal is to close the fishery and it isn't warranted.

Scoblic - the reason I brought up the other proposals is because they are Department proposals. There are other proposals that are much more contentious. If we vote for this I would be a hard no! I would propose to take no action on the other herring proposals that are contentious and allocative.

Franulovich - I think we should take these up.

Sanderson - I have missed a few minutes, however, I believe we discussed not taking these issues up since it is out of our area. If we do

then I would suggest we take them all up whether they are contentious or not.

Dale - That was our intent, however, there was more interest in these proposals than I thought there would be.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Franulovich

1(Sanderson) abstention, 9 - Opposed

Scoblic - I'd move to no take up Proposals 174-179 and 181-183 based on our previous discussion.

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - If we take these up one by one it could turn into a food fight. My intention was to support the Department and that's why I brought forward the previous proposals we had discussed. I also wanted to make sure our position was clear.

Franulovich - I agree.

Unanimously Support

Proposal 166

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Department - Provides another tool in the tool box. We have a catch sharing agreement with Canada. Two of the last three years we have gone over the agreement.

Scoblic - Very difficult for me to say out loud. The Department isn't going to use it, there are enforcement issues. I'm not going to support it.

Call the Question - Franulovich

2nd - Dalin

3 abstain, 7 Opposed

Proposal 167

Move to Adopt - Dalin

2nd - ?

Dale - I was contacted by a seiner who wanted it known that not all seiners support this.

Scoblic - I heard something similar and indicates there are more than a few. This could create a little bit of turmoil if the net wasn't changed. Does the Department have a position on this.

Bezenek - this has treaty implications and I'm not going to support it.

Doherty - our Board voted to oppose this.

Call the Question - Bezenek

2nd - Scoblic

Unanimously Opposed

Proposal 168

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Department - You can currently fly over THA's but not common property fisheries. This won't affect the Department and we aren't concerned with flights over THA's.

Doherty - SEAS couldn't come to a consensus. This could be an enforcement issue.

Department - It can be enforced but it's difficult. The BoF doesn't have the authority to prevent anyone from flying.

Dalin - Don't we want the THA's to be mopped up, what's the big deal.

Scoblic - Being conflicted. I'm not an advocate for more regulation.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - ?

Unanimously Opposed

Clay Bezenek absent after Proposal 168

Proposal 169

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Department - Currently can fish this way in the winter only. This would allow for spring and summer fisheries as well. This has been discussed a great deal in the past. This would be an enforcement issue. There is less effort in the winter so it's more easily enforced.

Scoblic - I always like more opportunity and better access. This has been before the BoF before and it hasn't passed.

Jahnke - I'm going to support because our seasons for trolling have diminished. I think this is political.

Roberts - I'm for this and don't think it's that much of an enforcement issue.

Dalin - We can already fish four rods; they just can't be attached to a downrigger. You have to have ADFG numbers on your boat and most charter fishers don't have them.

Cowan - the ATA supports this with an amendment. We believe manual downriggers only need to be added to the language. Hand trolling is manual.

Scoblic - I'd like to make an amendment to add the word manual, in between two manual downriggers or gurdies.

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - Basically trying to be responsive to our conversation. Trollers are already doing this, it seems more enforceable and provides additional harvest opportunity if there isn't a biological concern.

Call the Question on the Amendment - Franulovich

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Supported

Call the Question on Proposal 169 as amended- Dalin

2nd - Roberts

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 170

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Department - Concerned about spawning Coho.

Scoblic - You already can't harvest fish in these areas, it clarifies regulations and generally I support the Department.

Dale - This seems a little out of our area. Wish we could have heard a little bit more local input.

Scoblic - I move to remove my support of this proposal. I apologize for not doing my homework.

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Support to take no action on Proposal 170

Proposal 184-186

Department - These proposals attempt to do the same thing. The proposals differ by area a bit. We've seen a shift to the south of the spawning area in recent years.

Scoblic - People missed this fishery in the past. The timing has changed a bit. I'm not sure which proposal is best to support as I was unable to get a hold of anyone. Maybe Proposal 186 is the best to take up and support. We want the BoF to know we support those having these permits to have an opportunity.

Dale - Proposal 186 is a local proposal.

Department - Proposal 186 excludes Doyle Bay. This bay also doesn't routinely get herring spawn.

Proposal 186

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - I'm supportive of this, I reference my previous comments. This gives opportunity, there isn't conservation concern and prevents potential conflicts between harvesters and a mariculture site. Herring fisheries can be a prickly pear, this gives the Department clear guidance, provides public input.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Pung

2 abstain, 7 Support

Keenan Sanderson departs meeting

Proposal 184-185

Move to take no action on Proposals 184-185 based on our discussion on Proposal 186 - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Support

Proposal 187

Move to Adopt - Franulovich

2nd - Roberts

Franulovich - Sea lions can have a devastating effect.

Roberts - They should be able to protect the herring.

Department - Agree that Sea lions can be destructive, not sure how effective another net will be. However, if the herring are protected they don't have to go out and get additional herring if it is lost due to Sea lion predation.

Scoblic - I'm conflicted. There isn't a biological concern, spawning biomass is at all time highs.

Roberts - Maybe this won't work, however, it could be a financial issue if a Sea lion does do physical damage to the pound.

Department - there will need to be additional clarification made during deliberations.

Jahnke - The Sea lion population has boomed on the north end of town. These guys have a right to protect.

Cowan - Deterrents are used in other fisheries.

Call the Question - Scoblic

2nd - Franulovich

1 Abstain, 7 Support

Proposal 188

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dale

Department - This would impact all herring fisheries.

Dale - Sounds pretty cumbersome.

Scoblic - I will be a no.

Franulovich - Is there much bycatch?

Department - No. This would cut down on the number of days they could fish, add fish to the pound. Also, limits to 8hrs per day.

Roberts - I'm concerned with the need to fish in the visual range of an observer. Who's going to pay for the observers?

Dale - When I fished in Sitka Sound on a tender, I was amazed at how little bycatch there was.

Call the Question - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Opposed

Proposal 189

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - We've already taken action not to do this in another fishery. For that I'm gonna be a no.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Roberts

Unanimously Opposed

Proposal 190

Scoblic - I don't want to lead the charge on Proposal 190, I wouldn't support it if it was moved.

Dale - we should leave the management of our herring fisheries to the Department.

Move to Adopt - Franulovich

2nd - Dale

Franulovich - I think the Department should be the one managing our fisheries.

Dale - 100% agree

Roberts - If this, then what?

Call the Question - Roberts

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Opposed

Proposal 212

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dale

Crittenden - This proposal gives the Department another tool in the tool box to allow.

Scoblic - Is this another way to say this would allow for the execution of a more orderly fishery?

Crittenden - It could be described as that.

Dale - This makes good sense to me and I'm going to support it.

Scoblic - I'm going to support this based on the Department's characterization and my conversations with people within the industry.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Roberts

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 213

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Crittenden - attempting to shift to a less conservative method.

Scoblic - Basically the geoduck beds have been worked over for some time. There is belief by the fishermen that they believe the method currently being used is overly conservative. Is there a way the Department can respond to this belief?

Crittenden - We are in the northernmost portion of the geoducks range and will be a less productive area. We take into account the work that

has been done in Washington and BC in those fisheries. We started with a 2% harvest, this is actually more aggressive than in other areas. B.C. is around 1.2-1.8%, Washington is similar. This is a long lived species, reaching over 160yrs old.

Roberts - Is this proposal attempting to be more aggressive.

Crittenden - Yes. Our management allows for a certain amount of uncertainty.

Scoblic - I'm going to have a lot of trouble supporting this. The current method is conservative, we are at the northern boundary of these critters and there is uncertainty if we increase harvest.

Roberts - Sea Otter predation should also be taken into account.

Dale - I think there is some concern amongst fishermen that they had better get them before the Sea Otters do. I think that is what this proposal is about.

Crittenden - Jeremy Leighton said he can be here in 10 minutes.

Dale - Does anyone have any issues waiting?

Scoblic - He's been heavily invested in these fisheries for a long time.

Crittenden - It is important to get the perspective of others besides the Department.

Dale - I'd like to give him 10 minutes.

Roberts - I deckhanded for him 20yrs ago. He's been invested for a while.

Crittenden - the greater the variation in transects, the lower the confidence interval. Meaning the less confident. The more consistency amongst transects the higher the confidence interval.

Leighton - We are trying to get an increase in harvest because we know there is more product there.

Crittenden - We have established sampling procedures that are repeatable. Geoduck habitat tends to be flat and sandy. If you add 10 feet you could be adding a significant amount of dive time. I wasn't around when they established these sites so I'm somewhat speculating.

Leighton - We are looking to increase the depth in both the Sea Cucumber and Geoduck fisheries.

Crittenden - We have an all time high abundance of cucumber because of the Seastar dieoff. We don't want to be making a bunch of liberal changes when there are a lot of moving parts.

Scoblic - Is it fair to characterize the Geoduck GHL has been diminishing? Apparently, we are on a downward trend.

Crittenden - There are some areas that are still productive. What we see with Sea Otter predation is a decrease and at times drastic decrease in abundance.

Scoblic - If this proposal were to pass the Board, is it fair to say that those areas that are able to support more harvest could provide that opportunity?

Crittenden - I believe that is fair to say.

Scoblic - This is a low volume, high value fishery. Increasing harvest a small amount will have a large impact. This fishery is heavily regulated and has the means to prevent overharvest.

Leighton - This proposal would change some areas very little and others a good amount.

Scoblic - this comes down to fisherman opportunity and this proposal has the potential to increase opportunity.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Roberts

1 - Opposed, 7 Supported

Proposal 214

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dale

Crittenden - Proposal 214 would open up areas previously closed and Proposal 215 would open up areas but at a reduced harvest.

Cruz - At what point do you start over? I believe that is what 214 is attempting to address. Baseline surveys were done over 20 years ago and a lot has changed, especially in Districts 3 and 4. That change is primarily due to Sea Otters.

Scoblic - This just gives them a chance. The Department could go out and survey and if there is nothing there, there is no GHL.

Leighton - We used to have some very prolific areas out there. Because of the baseline surveys those areas have been closed down. Some of these areas are similar in size to areas with much smaller baseline surveys but because they haven't reached the lower threshold we are still able to harvest. We'd like to get a fresh perspective. Some of these areas when they were surveyed hadn't seen otters. They were probably at their highest abundance. At some point things stabilize.

Crittenden - The Department currently surveys areas every 12yrs. Our current dive program couldn't support surveys every year. The 30% is to protect broodstock. Just because an area is closed doesn't mean the Department ceases to survey the area. The Department has looked at areas that have been closed and they have not rebounded and

compared them to areas without Sea Otters and the control areas have not rebounded as well.

BC's threshold is 40% and the Department is concerned that if we go below 30% there will not be surplus to harvest.

Scoblic - This is a hard thing to balance. If we don't take a second look we won't know.

Call the Question - Franulovich

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Supported

Proposal 215

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Leighton - We'd like to go do some test fishing in just a few areas.

Scoblic - All my rationale for supporting 214 goes for 215.

Franulovich - Has the Department re-surveyed areas closed due to otter predation?

Crittenden - Yes, and they continue to decrease in abundance.

Scoblic - I'm going to say something controversial. We are either going to harvest or the Sea Otters will.

Call the Question - Roberts

2nd - Dalin

1 abstain, 7 Support

Proposal 216

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Roberts

Crittenden - This attempts to clean up the language to allow Geoduck fishing in areas where there is mariculture that doesn't include Geoduck.

Call the Question - Roberts

2nd - Dalin

1 Oppose, 7 Support

Proposal 217

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dale

Crittenden - If this proposal was to be adopted it would probably lead to more divers reaching their 2,000lb quota sooner, thus shortening fishery. The Department still has the ability to manage by time and this would probably occur in many areas.

Cruz - I would not support this proposal. I believe the Department has done a good job managing this fishery. I don't believe there is a need to change.

Leighton - I believe he was simply looking to provide more flexibility. Not necessarily to start on Sunday.

Crittenden - We took it to include Sunday. If the author wants to come clarify he can do so at the BoF

Scoblic - I'm going to vote no. I'm hearing what the divers are saying. I don't see what this fixes.

Call the Question - Franulovich

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Oppose

Proposal 218

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dale

Scoblic - Is there a biological reason for it to close on the 31st.

Crittenden - There is variation in spawn timing. Processors are transitioning to Herring. This is all hands on deck for the Department.

Leighton - If someone is self-marketing there is money to be made.

Scoblic - I'm all about opportunity and this provides more opportunity on a high abundance species.

Cruz - If language was included to say that "the Department may allow extensions". There are times when quota is still available.

Call the Question - Scoblic

2nd - Dale

Unanimously Support

Proposal 219

Leighton - this is attempting to resolve some issues where divers are being tended from a skiff away from the big boat. The tender pulls the gear and brings it to the big boat where troopers can say the diver isn't in possession of the harvest and thus right the tender a ticket. This proposal is an attempt to remedy this.

Crittenden - There is currently no definition in regulation.

Franulovich - I have seen this happen before.

Cowan - Enforcement has spoken to this and has said they can and will write tickets.

Move to Adopt - Dalin

2nd - Scoblic

Call the Question - Roberts

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Support

Proposal 220

Scoblic - I think we've already covered this with 219.

Move to take no Action - Dalin

2nd - Franulovich

Proposal 221

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - This seems similar to the Geoduck proposal. We supported the Geoduck and mariculture site proposal.

Call the Question - Franulovich

2nd - Roberts

1 Opposed, 7 Support

Next Meeting Discussion

KSMP, Proposal 121, 12/19/24 @ 5pm ADFG Conference Room

Ground Fish Proposals in 2025 with Department comments

Motion to Adjourn - Dale

2nd - Dalin

Unanimous Support

Ketchikan Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: 12/19/2024

Location: ADFG Conference Room

Call to Order: 5:15 pm

Roll Call:

Name	Seat	Check if present	Interests/Representation
Clay Bezenek		Absent	Commercial/Sport Fishing, Hunting, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Rudy Franulovich	Vice Chair	Absent	Commercial Fishing
Matt Allen	Secretary	Absent	Salmon Enhancement, hunting, sport fishing, trapping, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Keenan Sanderson		Absent	Subsistence, Comm/Sport Fish, Tlinquit, Haida
Beau Dale	Chair	Present	4 th generation Alaskan, hunter, fisherman, local locksmith
Chad Crittenden	Alternate	Absent	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Photography, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist, Alaska Native
Robert Jahnke		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Commercial Fishing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Ben Atwood		Present	Hunting, Sport Fishing, Trapping, Charter fishing, Troller, Salmon Enhancement, Pot Shrimp, Seining, Longlining, Tanner crabbing
Marvin McCloud		Absent	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
Jeremiah Sullivan		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
John Scoblic	Alternate	Absent	
Sean Roberts		Absent	Hunt, Trap, Sport Fish, Power Troll, Commercial Pot Shrimp
Brian Ringeisen		Absent	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Devin Dalin		Present	Hunting, Sport Fish
Annie McTurner		Present	Trapping, Hunting, Sport Fishing
Andrew Pung		Present	Salmon Enhancement, Commercial/Sportfishing, Personal-Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
	Saxman	Open	
	Saxman	Open	

Introductions:

Ketchikan AC members, ADFG Department Staff, Public in attendance

Department Present:

Bo Meredith (ADFG Comm. Fish), Kristy Tibbles (ADFG Board Support)

Public Present:

David Ritchie (ATA Vice Chair), Matt Donaho, Phil Doherty (SEAS), Cody Cowan, Anna Lafferty (KTN Daily News), John Smith (SERAC)

Approval of Meeting Agenda:

Move to approve agenda - Dalin

2nd - Atwood

Unanimously Approved

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve 12/5/2024 meeting minutes - Pung

2nd - McTurner

Unanimously Approved

Chairman's Report:

Short meeting agenda. Still need to cover groundfish proposals and determine who will be representing us at BoF.

Department Comments/Reports:

Department comments are available.

Old business items:**BoF Proposals**

- 1.) BoF proposals

New business:

- 1.) BoF Proposal 121
- 2.) ATA/TSI RC

Public/Committee Comment on ATA/TSI, Proposal 121:

Cody Cowan speaks to Alaska Trollers Association/Territorial Sportsmen RC. This RC was recently taken up in Wrangell. It was supported unanimously. They liked that it allowed for inside harvesters an opportunity to harvest king salmon.

Non-resident bag limit of 2 fish prior to July 1st and 1 fish after July 1st, plus taking into account resident take will have sportfish within its 20% quota.

Atwood - Bullet point one shuts everyone down on the inside. I've talked with ATA members, charter operators and no one cares if we close July 10th or whenever the quota gets caught. All we want is June. No one will give us those 2 or 3 fish in June so we can shut down early. This is the exact opposite of what charter captains want to get the quota. No charter captain wants to fish for kings in August. Not when coho are over here and kings are over there, they don't want to travel that distance. We want to catch kings in June. Are we to tell our clients lets go catch our 1 king in July and then go for something else?

Cowan - Do I understand that those people represented by SEAGO that if they are shut down July 1st they don't mind?

Atwood - I can't speak for everyone, but those I do know don't mind being shut down July 1st.

Cowan - We are attempting not to have anyone shut down during the season. If you lower the limit the outside water non-resident sport take will decrease allowing the season to be extended.

Atwood - It's part of the season we don't care much about.

Cowan - It would be better to have clear language for charters targeting non-residents that they will be shut down?

Atwood - Yes, absolutely.

Jahnke - Resident sport/personal use has priority over non-resident. Non-resident shouldn't have hook and release if residents can't harvest. Residents don't participate in hook and release. They are covered in the regulation, however it shouldn't be happening.

Atwood - Absolutely. I agree that residents have priority.

Dalin - I agree with Ben, I'd like to front load it. Groups are going to cancel. I think it would be better to know that you can keep a fish prior to July 1st and not after. It's gonna hurt a lot of charter operators if they can't provide certainty to their clients.

Dale - I'm a year round resident that wants to be able to fish for king salmon. The management plan provides for resident priority. It's a plan that isn't just for one interest group. There wasn't a proposal that set aside a resident sport allocation for king salmon. There isn't a proposal that fixes everything. We heard in the past about real time reporting in an app? What happened to that? I have some heartache about having to use the internet to be able to report my catch. I don't see us being able to come up with a plan at this meeting that checks all the boxes.

Jahnke - I would have no problem keeping track of the king salmon I catch. It would be no different than recording my shrimp catch. Charter tracks and reports their catch. The lodges and rentals don't have to report their catch and that has to change. They went before the BoF and refused to do it and the board let them not do it.

Dalin - We need to separate resident sport from non-resident sport. Say 5% king salmon allocation for residents and 15% allocation for non-residents.

Donaho - These numbers are moving. Alaska can look forward to lower allocations. The legally available king salmon made available to us (resident) via the treaty is shrinking with ever greater catch efficiency and the unlimited entry into the charter industry.

Ritchie - The joint RC was made out of frustration. Over the last 2yrs we have lost about 17,000 kings, mostly because of the guided charter. It puts resident sport on their back heel. This RC is designed to slow the take down and help the stocks of concern. Guided sport in Sitka, Craig and outside waters could be better neighbors and curtail their take to allow for take in inside waters.

Dalin - It would make more sense if this RC had the same start and end dates for all areas. The different dates for different areas give me heartburn. Sitka and Craig get to whack at them from April 15th on.

Jahnke - The hand troll fleet was partially regulated by having permits that couldn't be sold. I don't see why the non-resident guided sport can't be regulated in a similar way.

Meredith - It takes legislative language to enact limited entry and though the vehicle is there, that language doesn't currently exist for guided sport.

Dale - I'm going to circle back to what I have previously said. We need to separate the sportfish allocation between resident and nonresident and require reporting. I believe that will resolve a lot of issues.

Cowan - If this (RC) doesn't happen, residents will be shut down earlier, trollers will lose 10-20,000 king salmon. This is a foundation to negotiate on. Many of the other proposals are not negotiating foundations. This will keep fisheries open. At a later date resident and nonresident can be separated and furthermore nonresident guided and nonresident unguided. The whole goal of this proposal is to prevent anyone from getting shut down. We are in this situation because there is no limited entry.

Dale - Do we want to take a vote on this proposal

Motion to Adopt/Support - Jahke

2nd - Allen

Call the Question - Allen

2nd Pung

5 Oppose, 3 Support

Proposal 121

Move to Adopt - Dalin

2nd - Pung

Dalin - Since we just shot down the RC, I believe we need to keep going on with the Department's management.

Meredith - It's important that it be documented that the reason the RC failed is because it disproportionately favors outside charters.

Donaho - We want to see the tiers go away.

Dalin - Is there a way to have an outside and inside quota?

Ritchie - I'd like to see the BoF to support Proposal 110 and vote down Proposal 121.

Dalin - Since we already voted on Proposal 110, is there a way to change our vote?

Meredith - It's procedural and I'm not sure.

Dale - Our intention was not to support Proposal 121 but to amend it to reflect the will of the group.

Meredith - You could certainly vote down Proposal 121 and then get together with Cody and all the interested parties to amend Proposal 110. I can offer up this room for a session to discuss how to move forward.

Call the Question 121 - Atwood

2nd -Dalin

Unanimously Opposed

Dale - We'll have a work session on Monday to go through this RC again, make amendments and use that work session to amend Proposal 110.

Old Business

1.) BoF Proposals

New Business

1.) ATA/TSI RC

2.) Proposal 121

Next Meeting Discussion

12/23/24 King Salmon Management Working Group Session @ 12pm

1/7/24 @ 5pm ADFG Conference Room

**KSMP/Proposal 110, Ground Fish Proposals 191-197, 199-211 in 2025
with Department comments.**

Motion to Adjourn @ 6:47pm- Dale

2nd - Dalin

Ketchikan Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: 1/7/2025

Location: ADFG Conference Room

Call to Order: 5:06 pm

Roll Call:

Name	Seat	Check if present	Interests/Representation
Clay Bezenek		Absent	Commercial/Sport Fishing, Hunting, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Rudy Franulovich	Vice Chair	Present	Commercial Fishing
Matt Allen	Secretary	Present	Salmon Enhancement, hunting, sport fishing, trapping, Outdoorsperson, Photography
Keenan Sanderson		Present	Subsistence, Comm/Sport Fish, Tlinquit, Haida
Beau Dale	Chair	Present	4 th generation Alaskan, hunter, fisherman, local locksmith
Chad Crittenden	Alternate	Absent	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Photography, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist, Alaska Native
Robert Jahnke		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Commercial Fishing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Ben Atwood		Present	Hunting, Sport Fishing, Trapping, Charter fishing, Troller, Salmon Enhancement, Pot Shrimp, Seining, Longlining, Tanner crabbing
Marvin McCloud		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
Jeremiah Sullivan		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Subsistence, Hunting, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson
John Scoblic	Alternate	Present	
Sean Roberts		Present	Hunt, Trap, Sport Fish, Power Troll, Commercial Pot Shrimp
Brian Ringeisen		Present	Trapping, Sport Fishing, Hunting, Photography, Guiding, Processing, Personal Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
Devin Dalin		Present	Hunting, Sport Fish
Annie McTurner		Present	Trapping, Hunting, Sport Fishing
Andrew Pung		Present	Salmon Enhancement, Commercial/Sportfishing, Personal-Use, Outdoorsperson, Conservationist
	Saxman	Open	
	Saxman	Open	

Introductions:

Ketchikan AC members, ADFG Department Staff, Public in attendance

Department Present:

Whitney Crittenden (ADFG Comm. Fish), Laura Coleman (ADFG, Groundfish), Rhea Ehresmann (ADFG, Groundfish), Kristy Tibbles (ADFG Board Support)

Public Present:

David Ritchie (ATA Vice Chair), Matt Donaho, , Cody Cowan (ATA Chair), Anna Lafferty (KTN Daily News), Nick Hashagan, Jack Darrell (KRBD), Greg Cain (Sitka Charter)

Approval of Meeting Agenda:

Move to approve agenda - Scoblic

2nd - Pung

Discussion to add NEW KSMP RC

Move to rescind motion to Approve Agenda - Scoblic

2nd - Pung

Motion to include KSMP RC to meeting agenda - Dalin

2nd - Roberts

Unanimously Approved

Motion to approve new meeting agenda - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Approved

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve 12/12/2024 and 12/19/2024 meeting minutes -

Scoblic

Unanimously Approved

Meeting Minutes from 1/7/2025 approved by Chair Beau Dale.

Chairman's Report:

We are a week out from the BoF comment deadline. We will be reviewing the KSMP RC we have been working on. Will be revisiting Proposal 110.

Department Comments/Reports:

Department comments are available.

Public/Committee Comment:

New/Old Business

- 1.)Groundfish Proposals 191-197, 199-211**
- 2.)King Salmon Management Plan RC**
- 3.)Proposal 110**

New Business

Proposal 191

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - As indicated by the Department, this is housekeeping, it brings regulations inline, it's reasonable, I will support.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Jahnke

Unanimously Supported (13)

Proposal 192

Move to Adopt - Dalin

2nd - Scoblic

Scoblic - This would align personal use with the other fisheries. It won't cause a biological concern and would increase fleet efficiency.

Call the Question - Atwood

2nd - Dalin

1 - Oppose, 12 Support

Proposal 193

Move to Adopt - Dalin

2nd - Scoblic

Dalin - This will complicate enforcement. I will not support.

Atwood - I will support this. We are trying to save rockfish

Franulovich - I would agree with Devin

Scoblic - I won't support. This was already addressed at the previous BoF.

Roberts - A fish doesn't get a chance to survive if it's not released.

Scoblic - This seems like this creates a loophole for the bad actor.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Jahnke

9 Oppose, 4 Support

Proposal 194

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - Canadians use a 4" escape ring. BoF (2018) imposed a 3.75" escape ring. The Canadians choose 4" because it allows fish greater than 55" to escape since they are part of the spawning population. Why are we decreasing again?

Ehresmann - Decreasing the ring size liberalizes the fishery.

Scoblic - This makes it easier for the fishermen to catch more fish because the smaller escape ring keeps more fish in the pot.

Atwood - I have a hard time killing more fish if they haven't reached the breeding population.

Scoblic - I think there are economic factors. This makes sense to me and I will be supporting. I do believe they can sort on deck and can release fish they don't want.

Dalin - I will support this. This is also for subsistence and personal-use. I'd rather have extra fish if I go out and pull a pot.

Dale - Sounds like the Department has gotten a lot of data that supports this.

Call the Question - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Supported (13)

Proposal 195

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Atwood

Roberts - When do they do the surveys and why couldn't we open Clarence and Chatham earlier if they are opening outside waters earlier?

Ehresmann - The IFQ fishermen fish larger areas and the fish are moving compared to inside waters.

Call the Question - Dalin

Scoblic - Change is hard. This comes from a salmon fisherman who wants to fish before that fishery. I'm torn on this one.

Roberts - I will vote yes, this gives these guys access to earlier markets.

Sullivan - This seems similar to what we were dealing with rockfish. We need to move on with the times.

Atwood - I'm split. I can see giving guys extra opportunity but won't conducting surveys during or after a fishery potentially lead to decreases in quota?

Call the Question - Scoblic

2nd - Jahnke

9 Opposed, 4 Support

Proposal 196

Move to take No Action on 196 based on our actions on 194 - Scoblic

2nd - Atwood

Unanimously Supported (13)

Proposal 197

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - I heard four salient points. It clarifies regulation, it's a bit of housekeeping, it aligns various users, it makes enforcement easier. For those reasons I will be supporting.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Atwood

Unanimously Supported (13)

Proposal 199

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - This is for safety. They do this for crab fisheries. We already discussed this in regards to freezing spray, etc. I don't want to see any more lives lost at sea.

Atwood - I agree.

Call the Question - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Supported (13)

Proposal 200

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - This could create some cost to those that don't have this technology. However, this is required in other fisheries. This will give the Department more data to be able to manage the fishery more effectively.

Call the Question - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Supported (13)

Proposal 201

Move to Adopt - Dalin

2nd - Atwood

Scoblic - This proposal clarifies, it's a Department proposal.

Call the question - Dalin

2nd - Atwood

Unanimously Supported (13)

Proposal 202

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Jahnke

Scoblic - Easier to enforce, less ambiguity in the language, more inline with other fisheries.

Atwood - For clarification, this only allows one line to be in the water at one time.

Ehresmann

Call the Question - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Supported (13)

Proposal 203

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Atwood

Atwood - This is an easy no for me. This is a way to go around catching large Lingcod

Sullivan - This is very similar to what has occurred with rockfish.

Scoblic - This is a thorn in many people's side. This is taking from one to give to another

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Atwood

Unanimously Opposed (13)

Proposal 204

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - This proposal seems very logical. Mr. Bright has put forward many thoughtful proposals so I will be supporting

Call the Question - Atwood

2nd - Dalin

1 Opposed, 12 Support

Proposal 205

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Jahnke

Scoblic - This is housekeeping and is for personal use, makes sense to me.

Call the Question - Atwood

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Supported (13)

Proposal 206

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - The reason the Department is Neutral is because it's allocative but not because there is a biological concern, correct?

Reppert - The Department is neutral on the allocative aspects and is not concerned that the resident catch poses concerns over harvest/mortality.

Sullivan - This gives us the option to keep a yelloweye when we catch one when we are halibut fishing. Plus, many of us prefer yelloweye to many other species in SEAK.

Call the Question - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Supported (13)

Proposal 207

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - Exceeding the OFL is a very bad look.

Dalin - Would 1 fish exceed the OFL?

Reppert - That's the next proposal and yes.

Dalin - That's why I asked the question, thank you.

Sullivan - We've all seen the impacts of what has happened around town due to the charter industry

Call the Question - Sullivan

2nd - Atwood

Unanimously Opposed (13)

Proposal 208

Move to take no action due to our vote on 207 and the fact this would exceed the OFL as well.

Reppert - The Department has additional comments on this proposal

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Sullivan - My thoughts are the same as on Proposal 207. I would also like to see how the resident harvest goes before we liberalize it even further.

Dalin - Does the Department have suggested season dates?

Reppert - We would have a later opening.

Atwood - I was going to be in support if it was a way to limit the pressure on King Salmon. But having something else to fish for in August is just another headache for me. Is there a way to have a

localized closure to non-residents? We don't want to have too much pressure locally.

Reppert - There are LAMPS, Local Area Management Plans. There is one in Sitka and that is a process the AC would be involved in.

Call the Question - Sullivan

2nd - Jahnke

11 Opposed, 2 Support

Proposal 209

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - McTurner

Reppert - At this time the Department doesn't have the ability to manage different users differently. We need to be granted that authority.

Cain - This is an attempt to differentiate residents from non-residents.

Sullivan - I would tend to support this because it allows for resident priority until we get to where we were.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Jahnke

Unanimously Support (13)

Proposal 210

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Jahnke

Sullivan - Does this make our vote on 209 void, if you're going to limit everyone to 3?

Roberts - Would this allow you to give residents more opportunity?
Does it go both ways?

Reppert - We couldn't increase limits without Board approval. This only allows us to decrease limits.

Scoblic - If the Board adopted 209 that would provide for resident priority. If they adopted 210 as well that would negate that? Is there a biological concern?

Reppert - 210 is attempting to slow down what we are seeing as an increase in harvest of pelagic rockfish. We have limited information on these species. We don't know what a sustainable harvest limit is.

Dalin - Could this cut non-residents to 3 and have residents at 5.

Scoblic - As an AC can amend a proposal.

Dalin - Move to amend Proposal 210 to read non-resident bag limit of 3 fish per day/ 6 in possession, resident bag limit of 5 with 10 in possession.

2nd - Sullivan

Discussion leads to rescinding of the amend by Dalin/Sullivan and a new amendment to change the language to read "decrease non-resident bag limit to 3 fish, 6 in possession, Moved by Sullivan

2nd - Scoblic

Unanimously Supported (13)

Call the Question on the Amended Proposal 210 - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Supported (13)

Proposal 211

Move to Adopt - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - This has been practiced for years. I have personal experience.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Atwood

Unanimously Supported (13)

King Salmon Management Plan RC

Dale - we held a couple of sub-committee meetings to develop this RC that we believe is a better alternative to Proposal 110.

Dalin - Do we need the original member who adopted Proposal 110 to rescind?

Scoblic - I believe that with all the AC members we have in attendance we can reconsider our action on Proposal 110.

Sanderson - in Robert's Rules it only takes one person in the majority to bring the proposal back up for reconsideration.

Dalin - I move to reconsider Proposal 110

Scoblic - 2nd

Dalin - When originally considering the KSMP proposals, we believed that Proposal 110 was the best. However, after discussion throughout several AC meetings and two subcommittee meetings we reconsidered and revised the RC brought forward by the Alaska Trollers Association and Territorial Sportsmen Inc. We believe this revised RC is more favorable than Proposal 110.

I will be voting no on Proposal 110

Dale - I think we have brought forward a plan that represents all the groups that came together to craft the RC. I believe it would generate some support from the Department as well.

Scoblic - Just for clarification. If we vote to not support Proposal 110 and then take up and support this RC we are putting ourselves 100% behind the RC.

Dale - I would like to thank all the parties that came together to craft this RC. It represents a collaboration and give and take between the groups. Earlier in our discussions, I wasn't sure we could craft something like this, a proposal we could all agree on. That further influenced my support of this RC.

Cowan - I would strongly support voting down Proposal 110 and only supporting the RC to limit what is already going to be a confusing discussion.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Scoblic

Support Unanimously Rescinded and Proposal 100 Unanimously Opposed (13)

Move to Adopt the RC - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Scoblic - I would be interested to hear from anyone that attended the two subcommittee meetings. I would also like to thank them.

Dale - I'll take a stab at it. There was concern that Proposal 110 and others would short the trollers and lead to closures that would negatively affect resident fishermen. We believe that this plan of attack would help address those concerns and establish again a resident

priority. We can nail that 20% on the head and the trollers can look forward to getting there 80%.

Scoblic - Was the subcommittee unanimous in its support?

Dale - I would say yes. I would reference my previous comments that I'm pretty proud of the work we've put into this.

Atwood - a couple things this accomplishes is it moves back that 3 fish annual limit to June 15th which is when it opens in inside waters. What we don't want to happen locally is Sitka and Craig catching the majority of the sport allocation before we have an opportunity to fish. We also heard from Patrick Fowler how much a slower catch rate helps the Department manage the fishery. The EO authority allows for the closure of the fishery if it looks like we are going to go over allocation.

Dalin - The dates in the RC are based on data requests we received from the Department. The slower start will help the Department with in season analysis.

Sullivan - Our goal was to even the playing field between inside and outside. This also gives stocks of concern a little more support.

Scoblic - There is a groundswell beyond this AC in support of this RC.

Roberts - How does Sitka view this RC

Cowan - Sitka is interested in this AC. The ATA and TSI are also interested in taking this back up. The team effort was immense and all stakeholders should be proud of what we've accomplished.

Call the Question - Dalin

2nd - Roberts

Unanimously Supported (13)

Dale - We still need to approve what will be the meeting minutes for this meeting and a member to present to the BoF

Scoblic - I believe we can support digitally once the minutes are distributed. I would move to support Beau Dale to speak on behalf of our AC.

Jahnke - Second.

Dale - When it comes to the King Salmon proposals I would like to have a second member up there with me. I was going to recommend Ben Atwood.

Ringeisen - Second.

Scoblic - I've presented to the BoF and what they want to hear is what was the vote, what was the majority decision and any pertinent comments. You're just presenting the facts of our meetings. I'll be available for moral support.

Call the Question for Ben and Beau to be our representatives - Scoblic

2nd - Dalin

Unanimously Support (13)

Next Meeting Discussion

Motion to Adjourn @ 6:47pm- Dale

2nd - Dalin

Klawock AC Meeting Agenda November 19, 2024**Call to Order:** 6:00 pm**Roll Call:****Members Present: 7****Total Members: 10****Number needed for a quorum: 6**

Klawock AC Members	Officer	Present	Absent	Expiration
Dennis Nickerson	Chair		x (excused)	June 2024
Nick Nickerson	Vice Chair		x (excused)	June 2024
Kurt Whitehead	Secretary	x		June 2025
Irving Langmaid			x (excused)	June 2025
Tom George		x		June 2025
Mark Tollfelt		x		June 2024
John Priddy		x		June 2024
Roby Medina		x		June 2025
Elijah Winrod		x		June 2027
Al Edsall		x		June 2027

ADFG Staff present:**Kristy Tibbles Boards Support Staff (online), Craig Schwanke (ADFG sport fish)****Guests present: Augie Dunne, Alex Rennix****Approval of Agenda for 11.19.2024.****Moved and seconded to approve.****Vote: Unanimous****Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Approve the meeting minutes from 3.19.24

Moved and seconded to approve.**Vote: Unanimous**

Elections: Madison Stumpf has resigned. The seats of Dennis Nickerson, Nick Nickerson, Mark Tollfelt & John Priddy have expired. We can have a max of 15 members plus alternates. This is an inclusive public meeting. If anyone from Klawock or PoW want to participate, they are welcome.

Nominations: Kurt made a motion to nominate both Dennis & Nick Nickerson to the AC. Mark Tollfeldt & John Priddy both volunteered to run again. All four of the above run unopposed and are automatically elected since they

are unopposed. Elected officers will be the same as prior years since they are all unopposed and want to remain officers.

Klawock AC Members	Officer	Present	Absent	Expiration
Dennis Nickerson	Chair		x (excused)	June 2027
Nick Nickerson	Vice Chair		x (excused)	June 2027
Kurt Whitehead	Secretary	x		June 2025
Irving Langmaid			x (excused)	June 2025
Tom George		x		June 2025
Mark Tollfelt		x		June 2027
John Priddy		x		June 2027
Roby Medina		x		June 2025
Elijah Winrod		x		June 2027
Al Edsall		x		June 2027

Reports:

Kurt: Gave update on upcoming Seasonal Resident Bill from Rep. Himschoot. We need to write a letter of support again after the new bill will be introduced.

ADFG: Craig S.: There were average to above average coho numbers in several drainages he surveyed last fall; Harris, Shaheen, 108 Ck & Maybeso. Klawock River was good @ 30,000 cohos. Guided angler effort is still pretty high and there will be many props deliberated at the upcoming BOF meeting this winter in KTN Jan. 28-Feb. 9.

Public Comments: None

New Business: Board of Fisheries Proposals:

SE AK finfish/shellfish proposals for the SE Finfish/Shellfish meeting in KTN Jan. 29-Feb. 9, 2025. Comment deadline is Jan. 14

Prop 140: All sportfishing with a single barbless circle hook in all waters.

Moved/seconded to adopt.

Discussion: This will cause a dramatic shift in management. This will negatively impact us in many ways. Sportfishing for kings with a barbless circle hook. The prop intends to protect kings during periods of non-retention. Many of us put up our food b/n April and June so this will have a big impact on us. Shaking kings with a circle hook can likely injure the fish more than a small 3/0 or 4/0 J hook.

Vote: No-Unanimous Opposition

Prop 141: Prohibit baited hooks during all catch/release sportfishing.

Moved/seconded to adopt.

Discussion: This will negatively impact steelhead fishing and many of the above comments apply to this as well.

Vote: No-Unanimous Opposition

Prop 143: Increase bag/possession limits for trout in SE AK

Moved/seconded to adopt.

Moved/seconded to amend prop 143 so it reads: **Increase the bag and possession limit for trout on Prince of Wales Island.**

Discussion:

Kurt read minutes from the 3.19.24 meeting and we determined the intent of this prop was to increase the limits in the Klawock lake drainage as well as submit a second prop to do the same on the entire island. The intent was NOT to do the same in all of SE AK, therefore we should pull prop 143 since it is a duplicate of 144 and we should amend the prop so it reflects just Prince of Wales Island. The East PoW AC has props to do the same in the Neck Lake and Twin Lakes systems. Craig Schwanke talked about cutthroat trout/rainbow trout (trout) management on PoW and how angler effort has declined and asked our thoughts. The current management seems to be slightly restrictive. Access to the FS cabins has increased dramatically which is one of the issues.

Dennis N.: Talked about trout predation in the Klawock Lake drainage on Sockeye salmon.

Kurt: There's a prop by the East PoW AC to increase the bag limits for Neck and Twin Lakes. Does ADFG have a department prop to liberalize the bag limits?

Craig S.: Not at this time but it was discussed.

Dennis N.: Food security is really important. A few years ago we had a GoPro in one of the Sockeye creeks in the Klawock Lake and the trout were hammering the Sockeye eggs.

Irving L.: I get a trout every cast with a minnow lure in the spring. I'm in favor of increasing the bag limit and increasing the slot limit. The trout ram the net at the pens and knock the coho fry out of the net and gobble them up as well as eating the fish food that sinks through the net.

Craig S.: You could word it in such a way with one prop. BOF can also amend the prop to meet the intent. 11" min allows the fish to spawn at least once prior to harvest and most steelhead are over 22", hence the upper slot limit.

Kurt: Food security, predation and harvest opportunity are the main issues. I'll volunteer to write the prop.

Discussion about island wide trout numbers and the other drainages that have abundant trout numbers.

Moved and seconded to draft a proposal supporting an increased bag limit/size limit for the Klawock Lake drainage as well as island wide.

The above is from the 3.19.24 meeting. I mistakenly submitted duplicate props so we need to withdraw one of these and clarify the other prop is just for POW Island.

Tom G.: We need to move the net pens away from the mouth of half mile creek due to high predation.

Craig S: Will continue to collect data and come up with a future strategy at the next BOF cycle for all of SE AK. At this time, ADFG is still collecting data. At this time, staff feels it is premature to increase bag limits in all of SE AK.

Vote: to amend Prop 143 to just POW Island. Unanimous Support-Yes

Prop 144: Increase harvest for trout in SE AK.

Moved/seconded withdraw prop 144

Vote: Yes-Unanimous Support

Prop 145: Increase harvest for trout in Klawock Lake drainage.

Moved/seconded to adopt.

Discussion: See above.

Vote: Yes-Unanimous Support

Prop 146: Increase harvest for trout in 108 Cr. drainage.

Moved/seconded to adopt.

Discussion: Craig S. this is more complicated of a drainage. Effort is spread out and quite minimal and less effort. Very few folks are targeting them and trout are very under abundant. Trout assessment work is ongoing and a lot of effort by ADFG was done in the '90's but currently there is minimal effort of trout fishing by the public.

Vote: Yes-Unanimous Support

Prop 147: Increase harvest for trout Neck Lake trout bag limits.

Moved/seconded to adopt with ammendment “ Must be no less than 11 inches and no greater than 22 inches in length.” Intent is to leave the slot limit as currently states.

Discussion:

Discussion: Craig S.: There used to be a net pen operation on the lake. Last study was in 2018 and the trout numbers/size increased significantly over the prior 20 yrs. ADFG feels comfortable increasing the bag/limit for this drainage since they have such good info.

Vote: Yes-Unanimous Support

Prop 156: Reduce SE AK hatchery permitted pink/chum salmon level by 25% in SE AK

Moved/seconded to adopt.

Discussion: Al Edsall and Mark Tollfeldt are both retired from the hatchery industry. Many of the released smolts are a vital food source to many other species and most of the returns are less than 4% of the release. This group feels that we don't have an issue with the SE hatcheries. **Tom G.:** Supports the prop b/c of all the hatchery releases in Prince William Sound and the size of king salmon has dramatically decreased. Less fish in the ocean will leave more food for the kings.

Vote: No-Split

Tom George/Roby Medina: Support-2

John Priddy/Al Edsall/Mark Tollfeldt: Oppose-3

Abstain: Kurt Whitehead/Elijah Winrod: 2

Prop 157: Establish a THA for hatchery salmon at Burnett Inlet (Etolin Is.-PoW)

Moved/seconded to adopt.

Discussion: This would allow a commercial fishery for seine, troll & gillnet fishery.

Vote: Yes-Support Support: 6 members.

Abstain: Elijah Winrod

Prop 167: Increase purse seine nets by 50 fathoms

Moved/seconded to adopt.

Discussion: Elijah: The efficiency is already very high. Spectra line/nets allow them to fish faster and catch more.

Tom G.: They are already very efficient. There are several streams that have been killed off by the seine fleet. Big Salt Lake Bay, Crab Creek, etc. have all been hammered by seiners. They have plenty of net already. The seine fleet is amazingly efficient and can make 30 sets a day, the boats are so wide and can pack so many fish. Some can pack over 250,000 pounds. **Kurt:** The electronics on the boats are incredible; side scan sonars, etc. all make them more efficient, they don't need longer nets.

Vote: No-Unanimous Opposition

Prop 168: Use of aircraft unlawful

We see aircraft aiding the seiners all summer in open common property fisheries but this prop won't be enforceable.

No Action

Prop 169: Allow use of two fishing rods in conjunction w/ downriggers/hand gurdys in troll fishery.

Moved/seconded to adopt.

Discussion: This would allow either rods or gurdies to hand troll. You currently can't have combo sportfishing & comm gear. This will simplify things but won't harm anything. Enforcement has concerns regarding cheating but the 12" numbers on the boat signify they are comm fishing. **John P.:** At the end of the day you'll catch fewer fish with fishing rods on downriver than with gurdies b/c there will be fewer hooks. We should adopt it.

Vote: Yes-Unanimous Support

Prop 212-221: No Action**Prop 222: Adopt seasonal closure for subsistence, sport & P/U shrimp fisheries.**

Moved/seconded to adopt.

Discussion: If this passes, it will be closed March/April trying to protect the shrimp during the spawn. The commercial fishery was changed just last year and there hasn't been enough time to judge if the commercial fishery change has helped.

Tabled 222.

Tom G.: We need to make a proposal to move the wolf trapping season to start later to avoid catching deer and wolves in November during the rut.

Next meeting date: Dec. 3

Meeting adjourned: 8:18pm

Minutes recorded by: Kurt Whitehead

Minutes approved by: Kurt Whitehead/Dennis Nickerson

Date: Jan. 7

Klawock AC Meeting Agenda Jan. 7, 2024**Call to Order:** 5:50 pm**Roll Call:****Members Present:** 6**Total Members:** 10**Number needed for a quorum:** 6

Klawock AC Members	Officer	Present	Absent	Expiration
Dennis Nickerson	Chair	x		June 2027
Nick Nickerson	Vice Chair		x	June 2027
Kurt Whitehead	Secretary	x		June 2025
Irving Langmaid			x	June 2025
Tom George			x	June 2025
Mark Tollfelt		x		June 2027
John Priddy			x	June 2027
Roby Medina		x (online)		June 2025
Elijah Winrod		x (online)		June 2027
Al Edsall		x		June 2027

ADFG Staff present:**Kristy Tibbles Boards Support Staff (online), Craig Schwanke (ADFG sport fish)****Guests present:** Johnny Rice**Approval of Agenda for 1.7.2025.**

Moved and seconded to approve.

Vote: Unanimous support**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:****Next meeting****Reports:****Kurt: Seasonal Resident Bill:** Rep. Himschoot will introduce the bill when the legislature starts.**ADFG: Craig S.:** None**Public Comments:** None**New Business:** None

Old Business:**Board of Fisheries Proposals:**

SE AK finfish/shellfish proposals for the SE Finfish/Shellfish meeting in KTN Jan. 29-Feb. 9, 2025. Comment deadline is Jan. 14

Prop 222: Adopt seasonal closures for subsistence, sport & personal use shrimp fisheries

Moved/seconded

Discussion: Could be jumping the gun on implementing this change when the change in the commercial shrimp fishery just recently happened. **The total catch of the subsistence fishery for these two months is only about 3%.** This will negatively impact subsistence users that are largely year round residents that need food security and this will prohibit them from harvesting shrimp in the months of March and April. This might be a proposal for the next board cycle after we've had more time to study the season changes with the comm shimpers and after our Seasonal Resident Bill passes. ADFG supports it b/c the shrimp are gravid at that time.

Vote: Fail-split vote No-5/Yes-1 (Mark)

Prop 223: Increase the tunnel size for sport, personal use and subsistence shrimp pots.

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: If passed, this prop will allow anglers to use pots that are currently manufactured in AK with the 16" rectangular opening. These pots have vertical cross bars on the opening that prevents bycatch. The regs up north in PWS currently allow these pots in their fishery. This prop will reduce the complexity of the regs, reduce bycatch and allow anglers to buy AK manufactured pots.

Vote: Pass-Unanimous support

Prop 250: Reduce the minimum size limit for male Dungeness crab from 6.5" to 6.25"

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: If passed this will **NOT** allow the male crabs to mate prior to harvest. The current reg of 6.5" allows male crab to spawn at least once prior to being harvested. If passed, this will also allow Seasonal Residents to harvest even more crabs.

Vote: Fail-Unanimously Opposed

Prop 251: Change the start date of all SE AK crab commercial fisheries summer season from June 15 to July 1

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: There is no consensus from biologists or comm anglers on exact timeframe when crabs molt. If passed this would negatively impact some of the commercial crabbers. We are thankful to have smaller areas in our communities prohibiting non-res and comm fishers so locals can harvest what few crabs we can catch that survive the sea otters.

Dennis: Spoke at length about the tribes extensive work they've been doing to proceed with a management program for the sea otters. The sea otters have devastated our shellfish populations in waters less than 150'. Crab still survive in deeper waters but wherever there are otters, they have virtually eliminated crabs in less than 150'. This limits our our food security. Multiple Alaskan tribes have been gathering data on this issue for 15 years with the goal of being able to manage sea otters ourselves.

No Action

Prop 262: Close sport fishing for Dungeness crab in Thorne Bay but still allow personal use fishing for crab

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This is for dungeness crab only. This will create a small area in front of the community of Thorne Bay where the locals can catch crab without competing with non-res. The regs closing non-res from crabbing in front of our communities are all driven by the Sea Otters. Sea Otter predation of shellfish in SE AK is extensive.

Vote: Pass-Unanimous support

Prop 191-193: No Action

Prop 194: Reduce the minimum inside diameter of “slinky pots” from 3.75” to 3.5” on pots used to take sablefish in subsistence, commercial and personal use.

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: More anglers are using these pots b/c it limits bycatch, decreases predation from whales and anglers can leave their pots unattended a bit longer than with longline gear.

Vote: Pass-Unanimous support

Prop 195/196/197:

No Action

Prop 198: Increase daily resident bag limit from 4 to 6 black cod.

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Fishing for sablefish is a lot of work and more folks are using slinky pots due to the lack of bycatch and being able to soak pots then hauling them later instead of using rods/electric reels. The harvest levels from residents is negligible. This will increase food security. There is not a resource concern.

Vote: Pass-Unanimous support

Prop 199-202: No Action

Prop 203: Establish unguided non-res lingcod regs

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Proposer seeks to liberalize the non-res regs of lingcod to match resident regs. Seasonal Residents would also be increasing their harvest. This would complicate regs. This would also make it harder to stay within the GHL and would negatively impact the resource. Staff is opposed. We already have a huge issue with the unguided boats in SE AK. This would equate to a large increase in lingcod harvest. This would significantly alter our current harvest levels. **One glaring issue with our current management of non-res lingcod: trying to catch the perfect sized lingcod that is 30”-35” results in higher release mortality b/c we have to catch more fish to find that perfect sized one.**

Vote: Fail-Unanimously opposed

Prop 204: No Action

Prop 205: Allow personal use retention of Pacific cod and rockfish in pot gear.

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This will help our food security and allow folks to eat the bycatch caught in pot gear instead of discarding them dead over the rail.

Vote: Pass-Unanimous support

Prop 206: Reopen yelloweye sport fishery for residents.

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This resident only harvest will help with food security, limit release mortality and is a good thing since it has been closed for several years. It was also suggested that an annual limit would be prudent. ADFG supports this proposal since the non-res harvest and comm harvest is still closed. We are surprised ADFG didn't recommend an annual limit. Releasing rockfish in a timely manner results in high release survival.

Vote: Pass-Unanimous support

Prop 207: Allow retention of DSR rockfish by non-res

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This is the **exact** prop the Craig AC proposed at the last BoF cycle and passed for res only. ADFG does not have accurate info on DSR other than YellowEye(YE), yet ADFG supports prop 206 which would reopen YE to resident anglers. Traditional Knowledge(TK) shows that we have so many copper/quillback rockfish that most of us anglers agree they are incredibly abundant. We don't agree with ADFG data. We know what we see and catch and it differs from ADG data and shows a very abundant population of quillback/copper rockfish. It makes **no** sense that non-res anglers can't retain even **one** DSR fish. We catch quillback in almost every habitat type when you drop a

piece of cut bait to the bottom. The popular sport fishing salmon fishing areas do not have many rockfish b/c there are many anglers fishing those areas daily but all you have to do is move a few 100 yds. to the nearest rockpile/bump and you'll likely find them. One member noted that several years ago there were even more rockfish but residents have been able to harvest them the past 3 years. If this passes, the BoF could always change it back at the next cycle if ADFG gets updated data showing a conservation concern but currently there is **NO** conservation concern. Some members think the population of quillback is even larger in Clarence Straight.

Vote: Fail-split vote: 5-no/1-yes (Kurt)

Prop 208: Allow retention of DSR rockfish by non-res

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG does not have good data on DSR fish other than possibly YE. Most of the data from ADFG is received from catch reports. We find DSR consistently down to 350'/400'. In most areas other than the popular small salmon fishing areas, these DSR are prolific. There is no conservation concern. There is so much quality rockfish habitat in SE AK that depleting DSR from non-res retention is far fetched. Non-res clients just want to catch any fish and get a natural high, they don't care what's pulling on their line. Again, it makes **no** sense that they can't retain even **one** quillback/copper. TK proves these species are readily abundant in all of SE AK. We will release upwards of 30+ DSR rockfish nearly every day and we aren't even targeting them. At the very least, we should send a message to BOF that ADFG needs a specific study for these DSR fish. The majority of the guides avoid these species b/c they don't want to catch them since they are a waste of time. **Craig S:** Many of the catch records are not accurate so this makes it very difficult to get good data and is frustrating for ADFG. For whatever reason, there are many anglers who do not tell the truth on their logbook info. and rockfish data is under reported. The differences in gear and technique will show a marked difference in DSR catch. Most boat captains do not want to catch quillback/coppers so they either troll, mooch with herring or anchor up and use larger baits all of which limit DSR catch.

Vote: Pass-split vote: 4-yes/2-no (Roby/Dennis)

Prop 209: Establish provisions for resident priority within EO authority for pelagic rockfish

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG currently doesn't have the ability to differentiate b/n resident and non-res bag limits of pelagic rockfish.

Vote: Unanimous support

Prop 210: Reduce the bag/possession limit for all anglers of pelagic rockfish in SE AK

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: Taking home 5/day on multi-day trips can be an excessive amount of fish. **Roby:** It is nice to have a 5/day bag limit b/c Wx might limit us from getting to our preferred spots every day. Several other charter operators also voiced that exact concern and understand ADFG asking for a reduction but had issue with a reduction to 3/day.

Vote: Pass-split vote: 4-yes/2-no (Roby/Elijah)

Next meeting date: Jan. 10

Meeting adjourned: 8:24pm

Minutes recorded by: Kurt Whitehead

Minutes approved by: Kurt Whitehead/Dennis Nickerson

Date: Jan. 9

Klawock AC Meeting Agenda Jan. 10, 2024**Call to Order:** 5:38 pm**Roll Call:****Members Present:** 7**Total Members:** 10**Number needed for a quorum:** 6

Klawock AC Members	Officer	Present	Absent	Expiration
Dennis Nickerson	Chair		x	June 2027
Nick Nickerson	Vice Chair	x		June 2027
Kurt Whitehead	Secretary	x		June 2025
Irving Langmaid		x		June 2025
Tom George			x	June 2025
Mark Tollfelt		x		June 2027
John Priddy		x		June 2027
Roby Medina			x	June 2025
Elijah Winrod		x (online)		June 2027
Al Edsall		x		June 2027

ADFG Staff present:**Kristy Tibbles Boards Support Staff (online), Craig Schwanke (ADFG sport fish)****Guests present:** Titus Winrod**Approval of Agenda for 1.10.2025.**

Moved/seconded to approve.

Vote: Unanimous**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes from Nov. 19, 2024 & Jan. 7, 2025**

Moved/seconded to approve.

Vote: Unanimous**Reports:****Chair:** None**Kurt:** None**ADFG:** None**Public Comments:** None**Old Business:** None**New Business: Board of Fisheries Proposals:**

SE AK finfish/shellfish proposals for the SE Finfish/Shellfish meeting in KTN Jan. 29-Feb. 9, 2025. Comment deadline is Jan. 14

Prop 122: Prohibit the removal of king salmon from the water when retention is not allowed

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: This will complicate regs. It is very difficult to determine if a king is over 28" without removing it from the water not to mention the safety aspect of small boats as well as removing the hooks. Every boat is different and some it is easier to remove hooks b/c they are lower in the water while many boats are self-bailing and sit much higher in the water so this prop would negatively impact many folks. Some of these props are targeting the DIY boats that are intentionally and repeatedly catch/release king salmon. There are times when bringing the fish on the deck to deal with it is actually better for the fish and other times when you need to get the fish on its side to measure it.

Vote: Fail-Opposed unanimously

Prop 123: Prohibit netting or handling king salmon when catch/release fishing is implemented

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: You'd have to release the fish at the side of the boat without using a net. ADFG is opposed. The quality of the net matters alot, the newer knotless nets help tremendously and good catch and release practices don't harm the fish much. This prop is targeting a few DIY lodges that are catering to clients that catch/release king salmon repeatedly. **We would've supported it if it was the specific area in question where the unethical, continual catch/release fishing is occurring.**

Vote: Fail; Split 6-No/1-Yes (Elijah)

Prop 130: Allow for remaining troll king salmon allocation after winter and spring troll fisheries to be harvested during a single retention period beginning July 1

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: If this passed, ADFG would have to manage the sport fishery under EO. The king salmon fishery is facing more and more pressure from all users. Originally the comm fishery did not want to recognize the charter fleet. Charters bring more money to this island than trollers. King salmon are worth more to the charter fleet vs the trollers. About 75% of the charter fleet are AK residents but the charter fleet doesn't have limited entry even though it is from the halibut side. Charters need to be on the commercial side. Unguided DIY boats have no sideboards nor do the guides that guide for everything but halibut. The charters that own a CHP have been limited since 2007 and those numbers are decreasing due to the retirement/death of the non-transferable CHP owners. Many of us charters are not opposed to going limited entry but we really need a sport fishing task force at the legislative level to solve some of these issues. There's a lot of hope to get the Seasonal Resident bill passed which will have a huge positive impact on our communities and resources. By concentrating a huge effort in a short amount of time on specific stocks this could negatively impact those stocks. ADFG is opposed. It will increase incidental king salmon mortality. How would ADFG count all the kings accurately if there is no split season to tally them accurately. Currently, 70% of the kings are taken during the first opening and yes, this would make it more difficult to count accurately.

Vote: Fail; Opposed unanimously

Prop 131: Establish criteria for establishing a limited harvest troll fishery in Aug. and allow for more than one limited harvest fishery to occur

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG supports. This is a prop made by a troller to manage their fishery.

Vote: Pass-Unanimous support

Prop 132: Establish a min size limit for King salmon of 26.5" from snout to fork of tail in the spring troll fishery

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG opposes. This would complicate regs and complicate the treaty negotiations. Rigomortis causes the fish to shrink a small bit.

Vote: Fail-Opposed unanimously

Prop 133: Allow for king salmon of 26.5" snout to fork length be retained in District 13 spring troll fisheries

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: See comments above

Vote: Fail-Opposed unanimously

Prop 134: Expand landing and retention requirements for king salmon by purse seine permit holders and establish penalties for violating landing requirements.

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: ADFG opposes this and views it as an enforcement issue. This prop was written b/c there are just a few bad seine captains that consistently kill kings during non-retention periods and currently, there is a loophole in the regs that allows the judge to fine the defendant \$150/offense rather than \$150/fish. Originally, the makers of this prop were going to request mandatory recovery tanks aboard AK seiners just like the WA fleet but the large waves, loss of deck space and abundance of kings caught per set were all negative factors so the consulted seiner thought the best deterrent would be a fine/fish. The 40+yr veteran seiner that was consulted said it is reasonably easy to throw kings overboard and their survival rate is pretty dang good since they don't spend much time out of water. He emphasized that if the boat captain makes it a priority there was an excellent chance of the king salmon would survive. Fish in salt water are more resilient than fish in freshwater since the slime coating/scales are more important when they are in fresh water than saltwater. The boat captains just need to prioritize the extra time needed to release the kings. Kings under 28" are legal for seiners to keep during all periods since they have a hard time telling juvenile kings from big cohos so we are talking about kings over 28" that are illegal to keep. **ADFG created code 86 so tenders can donate fish instead of throwing fish dead over the rail.** If seiners are in possession of kings over 28" during non-retention periods, they will be cited and if this prop passes they will be fined \$150/fish instead of \$150/occurrence like they are now. The vast majority of the time, all the fish come on deck at once in the bag, the hatches are closed, the fish spill on the deck, the net is raised and the deckhands shovel fish into the hold. Prior to removing the hatches, it would only take a few minutes for the 4-5 crew members/captain to grab the kings and toss them overboard. The majority of the seine fleet does this already but some boat captains are slow learners. Some of the fish buyers won't accept kings salmon and make the seiners pitch the fish overboard instead of using the code 86 which allows the processors to give fish to locals/retirement homes. Throwing kings overboard should be a crime. A local seine captain joined the call and was in favor of the proposal. He said he usually has his hatches closed, they dump fish onboard and sort through them quickly prior to shoveling into the hold. Almost all the fish they throw overboard swim off right away, it only takes a couple seconds and it easy to do. A recovery box would **NOT** be ideal for many reasons. Seiners can retain kings under 28".

Vote: Fail; Split: Yes-2, Abstain-2, No-3

Prop 104: Allocate 5000 king salmon for the AK all gear quota to a king salmon subsistence fishery and establish provisions for king salmon subsistence fishery

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: There is currently resident priority in SE AK. Currently, there is no subsistence allowed with rod/reel in the king fishery. This would be a whole new fishery. This would create complexity with regs and with the Treaty. This would be difficult to enforce and there would be a lot of Seasonal Residents that would take advantage of this prop. Last year the king season closed to sport fishing in late August while the trollers were still able to retain kings. This would be very complicated with the Treaty negotiations.

Vote: Fail: Split; 5-No/2-Yes(Elijah/Nick)

Prop 105: Modify sport fishing regulations in salt waters subject to the Magnuson-Stevens Act by removing differential regulations for resident and nonresident anglers

Moved/seconded to adopt

Discussion: NOAA can't discriminate b/n residents/non-res so the best solution ADFG can offer is to adopt non-res regs for all anglers that are beyond 3 miles offshore. This would put us in compliance with the Magnuson/Stevens Act. Residents could be cited if they fish beyond 3 miles and are fishing under resident bag limits.

Vote: Fail-Opposed unanimously

Prop 106: Prohibit nonresidents on charter vessels that have taken fish in EEZ from offloading those fish in state waters

Prop 107: Prohibit non-res that have taken fish in the EEZ from possessing or offloading those fish in state waters

Moved/seconded to adopt both 106/107 together

Discussion: ADFG is opposed and us.

Vote: Fail-Opposed unanimously

Prop 108: Modify management and allocation provisions of the SE AK King Salmon Mgt Plan

Discussion: 108-121 will likely be lumped together at the BOF and the board will likely prefer that reps from the troll industry and reps from the charter industry negotiate then present their finding to the Board. We can have a roundtable discussion on the issues and let the board/trollers/charters decide on those props. The charter fleet on the West Coast of Baranof/POW needs the 3 king annual limit in June to survive. The charter fleet needs to find a way to buy kings from the trollers and/or go limited entry. Twenty years ago there were only 20 charter boats now there's about 200. Unguided boats and Seasonal Residents are threats to both of our industries. Charter boats need kings to fish on until the cohos come in. The Craig AC had a split vote on all these props so that doesn't help the board make a decision. **All user groups are aligned on Resident protections.** The charter fleet on the West Coast need the kings front loaded but the KTN fleet doesn't need them due to all the available clients on the cruise ships. All hell breaks loose when the charter fleet gets fish from the troll fleet but in the 13 of last 25 years, the charter fleet has given fish to the trollers and nothing gets said about it. The 25 yr sport avg has been 20.2%.

No Action

Elect BOF Representative:

Kurt is nominated and elected unanimously

Next meeting date: TBD

Meeting adjourned: 8:18pm

Minutes recorded by: Kurt Whitehead

Minutes approved by: Kurt Whitehead/Dennis Nickerson

Date: Jan. 12, 2025

Pelican AC Fish Meeting 1/13/25
Meeting begins at 5pm - Pelican City Hall

Present;

Patricia Phillips - Chair
Michael Allard - Vice Chair
Celeste Weller - Secretary
Jamison Mork
William Combs
Ajax Eggleston

Online;

Annie Bartholomew - ADF&G
Jake Wieliczkiwicz - ADF&G Division of Sportfish
Monica Matz - ADF&G Sitka
Brian Ringeisen - Sitka AC
Troy Tydingco - ADF&G

5 meets the quorum

Proposal 104 - All in favor.

The AC recognizes the difficulty in adding an apparently new category of king salmon allocation in the midst of a contentious debate over an already fully-allocated resource. This proposal covers many aspects of the king salmon management plan, one of which is in-season management, for the purposes of keeping the guided sportfish within their allocation limits. We encourage the use of in-season management as needed to keep various user groups within their respective allocations. In-season management as an essential tool for management. However, king salmon have been used for subsistence purposes for millennia. The subsistence use of king salmon throughout southeast Alaska communities is well documented in household survey data collected by ADF&G. From the earliest surveys conducted in the 1980s to the most recent ones conducted, king salmon have consistently been reported being used in a majority of households. For example, 73% of Hoonah households reported using king salmon in 1996, 70% in 2012, and 82% in 2016. However, over that same period of time, the sources of king salmon have shifted. In 1996, 21% of Hoonah households used king salmon retained from commercial fisheries, but in 2016 that number was only 1.5%, with the other 80% coming from rod and reel harvest. This shift reflects the loss of limited entry permits and their associated harvesting opportunities from many Southeast Alaska communities. Along with that shift has come an increasing dependence on rod and reel harvest of king salmon under sport fishing regulations. Despite the harvest occurring under sport fishing regulations, that rod and reel harvest essentially functions as a subsistence practice. That dependence on rod and reel harvest for traditional household use of king salmon is now being threatened by allocation battles stemming from a growing non-resident charter industry. The AC recognizes the difficulty in allocating a scarce resource amongst competing users. However, residents of southeast Alaska communities that have depended on king salmon for generations should not be caught in the

middle of an allocation battle between the commercial troll and guided angler industries. We encourage the Board to consider these suggestions to modify the King Salmon Management Plan to provide for a subsistence king salmon fishery. We understand that the Board has to balance many competing interests on this issue. As the Board develops the Plan, the AC stands prepared to work with the Board and others to incorporate the long-existing subsistence king salmon fishery into the new management framework.

Proposal 105 - All opposed.

Nonresident catch limits outside of 3 miles should not be liberalized as this will further reduce the resident proportion of Treaty kings.

Proposal 106 - All in favor.

In lieu of allowing nonresidents to access resident king bag limits outside of 3 miles, this proposal prohibits nonresidents from offloading in the State. ATA introduced this proposal (with TSI) because it addresses a serious loophole that reduces Treaty allocation further .

Proposal 107 - No action.

This proposal is similar to 106 although it goes one step further as it prohibits possession of EEZ fish in State waters by nonresident anglers

Proposal 108 - All opposed.

Trollers have lived for decades with an ever-shrinking Treaty allocation and are limited in number by CFEC. The nonresident fishery needs to adopt meaningful mechanisms to live within its means and not receive preferential access to the resource, before the residents of the State.

Proposal 109 - All opposed.

This proposal concedes the Board's authority to adopt regulations, who may or may not favor nonresidents at the expense of trollers and resident sport interests. At statehood, one of the first acts by the Alaska Legislature was to create a Board of Fish and Game made up of Alaska fishermen and hunters so regulations would be made in a public forum.

Proposal 110 - All in favor.

It's not 100% clear how this is amended at time of meeting, but we agree with the ATA - ATA proposal which will be succeeded by a RC or two

Proposal 111 - All opposed.

Elements of this proposal were incorporated into the AT/TSI consensus RC to proposal 110.

Proposal 112 - No action.

This proposal has been superseded in spirit by the RC(s) of Proposal 110.

Proposal 113 - All opposed.

Attempts to address the recent sportfish overharvest issues which led to reallocating fish away from traditional users. Now superseded by Proposal 110 RC(s).

Proposal 114 - All opposed.

ATA opposes any reduction in the 80/20 regime.

Proposal 115 - All support

Reduction of the annual nonresident bag limit to one king salmon due to the continued and continuing growth of the nonresident king fishery harvest.

Proposal 116 - No action.

Absorbed by Proposal 110.

Proposal 117 - All support amended.

The overage by the unbridled non-resident fishery requires that a one fish nonresident annual limit effective beginning June 1 is the only way to minimize closures to the historical fisheries. This was superseded by the RC which speaks to this June 1 effective date.

Proposal 118 - No action.

This proposal would not be effective in reducing nonresident harvesting.

Proposals 119/120 - All support

These 2 proposals would help build local stocks, help the resident harvesters in local communities and help the nonresident fishery stay within a 20% cap. Proposal 120 is preferred.

Proposal 121 - All opposed.

ADFG seeks to remove the sunset clause which would keep the SMP perpetual. ATA believes it's a good idea to keep current with the Board of Fisheries.

Proposal 122 - All support.

Prohibits the removal of kings from water if retention not allowed and will increase mortality

Proposal 123 - All support.

Proposal 122 is stronger language than 123 and is therefore preferred.

Proposal 124 - No action.

Gives resident sport fishers a week earlier to fish on SOC than nonresidents when thresholds reached, possibly superseded by a Ketchikan AC RC.

Proposals 125/126 All support both proposals.

Closes all sport fishing in 14A April 1 to June 14 when SOC runs are incoming.

Proposal 127/128 - No Action.

While we recognize resident sports need a more opportunity to fish, particularly in April when the non-resident is catch and release, we hesitate to increase effort on recent SOC. Probably superseded by a Ketchikan RC to 110.

Proposal 129 - All support.Proposal 130 - All in favor.

For 2 years sport has gone over its quota, and commercial gets the shaft by having their quota taken for sport. Then commercial is left with a paltry 6 fish or 12 fish per permit. Sport fishing is in a run-away situation right now. It's best to protect commercial fishing by making sure the quota can be caught all at once. This proposal is intended as a backstop position in case no acceptably equitable management plan is reached at the BoF to address the "race to fish" created by the alteration of RC 178 and the consequent allocative loss of 34,000 kings in 2 years and calls for a single uninterrupted summer king troll opening beginning July 1.

Proposal 131 - All support.

This would enable more than one limited harvest fishery if troll allocation remains.

Proposal 132 - All in support.

This proposal is long overdue. How many times have we moved a fish a few times and gotten a different measurement after it's landed. An amendment is needed allowing trollers to use either the overall length OR the tip to tail measurement.

Proposal 133 - No action.

Similar to 132 but regional. Would conform catch size thresholds so ideally would be amended to use the overall length OR tip of tail measurement.

Proposal 136 - All support.

This system is a long distance from rural communities, and fuel cost and risk greatly increase with distance from a community. As such the AC supports an increase in the possession and annual limit for this system.

Proposal 137 - All support.

This system is a long distance from rural communities, and fuel cost and risk greatly increase with distance from a community. As such the AC supports an increase in the possession for this system, which would allow subsistence users to collect their annual limit in one trip rather than needing to make two trips to this system.

Proposal 143/144 - All support.

Federally Qualified Subsistence users, those Alaskans, who reside in SE Alaska, can already harvest more liberally under federal fishing permits than this proposal offers. Subsistence users may harvest 6 Cutthroat or Rainbow Trout in combination, daily, per household, and the household possession limit of 12 from the freshwaters within the Tongass National Forest.

Proposal 156 - All opposed

Seeks to reduce pink and chum production by 25% each which hatcheries say will have strong economic impacts throughout SE.

Proposal 169 - All support.

The word "manual" should be added before the work "downriggers" for clarification

Proposal 190 - All support.

We support, with the request that co-management be developed through a stakeholder meeting process and not just with one entity.

Proposal 194 - All opposed.

Requiring consistent sizes on escapement rings for the sablefish fishery just makes good sense and ease enforcement details.

Proposal 203 - All opposed.

Would like to establish unguided nonresident lingcod regulations that match the regulations for guided anglers. This proposal moves in the opposite direction. The AC has concerns over the undocumented harvest by unguided anglers in sport fisheries throughout SE Alaska. This proposal would only further exacerbate their concerns. Until these concerns are addressed, the AC does not support any increased harvest through the inclusion of nonresidents in this fishery.

Proposal 204 - All support.

The option to greatly reduce unobtainable bycatch and emphasize species mortality can be addressed with pots.

Proposal 206 - All support.

This proposal will provide additional opportunities for Alaska residents and have negligible impact to the resource.

Proposal 207 - All opposed.

We are concerned over the conservation of these species and do not want to see increased harvest through the inclusion of nonresidents in this fishery. The AC has identified current concerns over the undocumented harvest by unguided anglers in sport fisheries throughout Southeast Alaska and Yakutat. This proposal would only further exacerbate their concerns.

Proposal 208 - All opposed.

The AC is concerned over the conservation of these species and does not want to see increased harvest through the inclusion of nonresidents in this fishery. The AC has identified current concerns over the undocumented harvest by unguided anglers in sport fisheries throughout Southeast Alaska and Yakutat. This proposal would only further exacerbate their concerns.

Proposal 209 - All support.

Support the provision of a meaningful preference for Alaska residents over nonresident anglers. This proposal provides for in-season management opportunities that would allow for deliberate reactions to harvest amount and conservation concerns that arise within the season but continue to provide full harvest opportunities for Alaska residents.

Proposal 210 - All support.(including amendment by Ketchikan AC).

Amend to apply bag limit only to non-resident. (Amendment by Ketchikan AC). If ADFG is concerned over the conservation of these species, the AC does not want to see increased harvest through the inclusion of nonresidents in this fishery. The AC has identified current concerns over the undocumented harvest by unguided anglers in sport fisheries throughout Southeast Alaska. The AC was informed that in the past, ADFG reduced bag limits for both non-resident and residents by emergency order in recent years which reduced the bag limits less for residents than non-residents; however, it did lower the resident limit from five a day to four a day. This proposal will further exacerbate the AC's concerns about the unguided angler impacts to the resource since it reduces the bag limits on pelagic rockfish for both resident and non-residents.

Proposal 222 - All support with amendment.

Amend with closure of June 1 to August 1. The AC has received concerns from subsistence users about some areas of overharvest in the shrimp fishery. The AC supports sustainable management of subsistence resources and believes that this closure to shrimp harvest is a biologically sound management decision that will increase reproductive success of shrimp stocks. The AC views these restrictions to subsistence users as having minimal impact to subsistence harvest, while improving the sustainability of this fishery.

Proposal 250 - All opposed.

ADF&G is perhaps not taking into consideration the sea otter populations that are decimating. Pelican AC supports sustainable management of subsistence resources and believes that the current size restrictions to Dungeness crab harvest are biologically sound benchmarks for reproductive success, which aid in maintaining a sustainable fishery.

Proposal 258 - All opposed.

The AC opposes opening subsistence and personal use crab areas to commercial harvest. Commercial harvest of Dungeness crab drastically reduces local crab availability for subsistence users. There is currently inadequate stock assessment for the crab fisheries in Southeast Alaska and catch per unit effort (CPUE) has been declining in the crab fishery. Opening additional commercial fisheries without additional, localized data would reflect irresponsible management of this resource and create undo competition with subsistence users.

Proposal 259 - All opposed.

The AC opposes opening subsistence and personal use crab areas to commercial harvest. Commercial harvest of Dungeness crab drastically reduces local crab availability for subsistence users. There is currently inadequate stock assessment for the crab fisheries in Southeast Alaska and catch per unit effort (CPUE) has been declining in the crab fishery. Opening additional commercial fisheries without additional, localized data would reflect irresponsible management of this resource and create undo competition with subsistence users.

Motion to adjourn 7:33 PM.

Petersburg ADF&G Advisory Committee
11/6/2024
Petersburg Assembly Chambers

- I. Call to Order: 18:31
- II. Roll Call
Members Present: Max Worhatch, Megan O'neil, Jacob Rasmussen, Bob Martin, Nyle Thomas, Don Spigelmyre, Paul Menish, Anthony Taiber, Jerry Dahl, Ben Case, Joel Randrup

Members Absent (Excused): Brandon Ware, David Benitz, Ted Sandhofer, Kaleb Baird
Members Absent (Unexcused): Frank Neidiffer
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8
List of User Groups Present: PVOA Nels Evens, Kim Landeen SEAGO
- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Troy Thynes, Tom Kowalske, James Larson, Adam Messmer, Tessa Bergman
- IV. Guests Present: Heather Bauscher
- V. Approval of Agenda motion to approve O'neil, second Spigelmyre. by unanimous consent
- VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes motion Martin, second Spigelmyre by unanimous consent
- VII. Committee members O'neil, Menish, and Benitz were re-elected to their respective seats. The troll seat was left open, as there were not any trollers nominated or present. Chair Worhatch appointed Heather Bauscher to be an alternate.
- VIII. Reports
 - a. Chair's report
 - b. ADF&G
 - c. Others
- IX. Public Comment
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business

- a. Megan O’Neil gave up the position of Secretary and Bob Martin was elected to fill it.

XII. Select representative(s) for board meeting was not discussed at this meeting

Adjourn 21:30

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
171	Modify spawning biomass threshold minimum and maximum harvest rates for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B		
Support	9	0	ADF&G spent time reviewing and updating this threshold to match other herring fisheries including those in Canada. Members felt this would maintain a viable commercial fishery.
172	Reduce upper end of sliding scale harvest rate for Southeast Alaska commercial herring fisheries from 20 to 15 percent		
Oppose	2	7	This was opposed due to concern for the effects to the Craig roe-on-kelp and bait fishery shared GHL. Under the current harvest rate the biomass has risen to all time high GHL’s but under smaller GHL’s seen in the past there may be reduced opportunity for the fisheries
173	Eliminate provisions to establish a guideline harvest level for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe herring fishery under 27.160		
Oppose	0	10	The biomass has grown in the last decade under ADF&G management and shared harvest between subsistence and commercial.
174	Establish a maximum guideline harvest level and minimum spawning biomass to conduct fisheries for the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery		
Oppose	0	10	Members supported the ADF&G science-based proposal 171 instead
175	Establish a 15,000 ton harvest limit for the Sitka Sound sac roe fishery		
176	Reduce the maximum harvest rate from 20 percent to 10 percent for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
January 28-February 9th, 2025 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
177	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		
Oppose	0	10	These three proposals were reviewed and voted on as a suite. Members spoke to the success ADF&G has had in managing this fishery under the current management plan. They also noted the work ADF&G puts into ensuring there is ample opportunity for subsistence harvest.
178	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		
179	Expand waters closed the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery to include Promisla Bay		
Oppose	0	10	These three proposals were reviewed and voted on as a suite. Members noted these areas have been fished for a day or two for many of the last 10 years and would be a significant loss to the commercial fishery. They noted these closures could push the fleet into less successful waters and extend the amount of time it takes them to prosecute the fishery. There are several Petersburg ported boats and a processor that participate in this fishery that would be affected by these and previous proposals aimed at reducing commercial fishing access in Sitka.
180	Correct latitude of Aspid Cape for the southern boundary of the Section 13-B purse seine sac roe herring fishery		
Support	10	0	Members want to follow regulations and support accurate boundary lines to this end.
181	Establish provisions for conducting test setting in the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery		
Oppose	0	10	Members spoke to the cautious approach already taken and lead by ADF&G for test sets. ADF&G samples a set as quickly as they can and directs the vessel to release fish immediately if herring are not ready. They also restrict boats from making additional test sets in a day when they deem fish are not close enough to maturity.
182	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		
Oppose	0	10	Members do not support changing the gear type listed by CFEC on any limited entry permit that is already associated with a different limited entry CFEC card. Members also expressed frustration that this proposal continues to be submitted and draw on AC/BOF time without any new information.
183	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		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
January 28-February 9th, 2025 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
Oppose	0	9 with 1 abstention	Members were not concern with a portion of the sac roe GHJ being reallocated to a pound fishery. They were concerned that product from an open pound tends to be much lower quality than that from a closed pound. It was noted that the closed waters applicable to the sac roe fishery would apply to a pound fishery.
184	Expand open area in Section 3-B for placement spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds		
185	Expand open area in Section 3-B for spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds		
186	Expand open area in Section 3-B for spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds		
Support	10	0	These three proposals were reviewed and voted on as a suite. It was noted and members supported that these proposals would retain the closed areas around Fish Egg Island and Klawock that were set aside for conservation and subsistence use close to communities. In recent years, herring have spawned in these proposed waters away from the current open waters for the herring roe-on-kelp fishery.
187	Allow the use of large mesh webbing to surround spawn on kelp pound structure to protect structure and spawn on kelp product		
Support	11	0	This is meant to prevent a sea lion from swimming into a pen after the webs have been dropped to release herring. When this happens and product is knock loose from ropes, it falls to the bottom of the pen and is often not recoverable.
188	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 herrin		
189	Reduce by half the length limit of purse seine net for commercial herring harvest		
Oppose	0	11	These two proposals were reviewed and voted on as a suite. These would apply to all herring fisheries in southeast and restrict the ability of commercial fleets to harvest herring. It was noted that the roe-on-kelp and bait fishery often occur at night and this would be a substantial loss of opportunity/ability for them to catch herring. During the roe-on-kelp and Sitka sound fisheries, ADF&G are monitoring fishing and taking samples. Members therefore feel there is no need for observers,

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
January 28-February 9th, 2025 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
190	Provide for co-management of herring fisheries with tribal governments		
Oppose	0	11	There is no management plan for this concept in the proposal.
222	Adopt seasonal closures for subsistence, sport, and personal use shrimp fisheries		
Oppose	0	11	Members felt this effected resident users as during this two month closure, they harvest about 8% of the annual shrimp harvest for all users for the year. Other members spoke to liking to catch shrimp for personal use during this time because they enjoy eating the eggs. And members expressed concern that the closure would push the sport and personal use fisheries to overlap with the commercial season that begins May 15 th creating conflict. They would prefer the personal use fishers have time to fish before commercial opens.
223	Increase the tunnel size for sport, personal use, and subsistence shrimp pots		
No Action			
224	Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 opening date back to October 1		
Oppose	1	10	ADF&G noted in the fall survey they saw an increase in the smallest sizes of shrimp indicating this season change could be beneficial to the biomass. Members felt we need to give the management change another 3 year cycle to see if the biomass increases.
225	Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 opening date to October 1 or to another start date in late summer/early fall		
No Action			
226	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		
Oppose	0	11	This fishery is already limited to daylight hauling, a reduction in gear would incentivize fishermen to double haul their gear during the limited hauling hours resulting in the harvest or more smaller shrimp. ADF&G sets the GHL annually, and members see no need to reduce the GHL/GHR when the biomass is stable and seeing signs that it may be increasing.
227	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		
No Action			
228	Redefine legal shrimp pot requirements to allow for the use slinky pots		
Support	9	2	Members supported making this gear legal as it is legal for personal use and sport, continuity in gear regulations is nice as commercial gear is

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
January 28-February 9th, 2025 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			often used/borrowed for sport and personal use. There was concern that the proposal will need to be amended to include details such as mesh size, escape panels, and escape rings. This can likely be adopted from the personal use/sport regs.
229	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		
Support	11	0	This makes all maps/districts for shellfish fisheries match the ones used for salmon. Members supported the continuity and feels it will make all southeast commercial fisheries descriptions clearer.
233	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		
245	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		
Support	11	0	These two proposals were reviewed and voted on as a suite. Members support the work permit holders put into changing the start dates to reduce the amount of time buoys are held under by wind and tide during short seasons. It was noted there would be a language change RC during the BOF meeting.
235	Add freezing spray to the criteria that would delay the start date of commercial golden king crab fishery in Registration Area A.		
246	Add freezing spray to the criteria that would delay the start date of commercial Tanner crab fishery in Registration Area A		
Support	11	0	Members supported this to increase safety in the fishery.
236	Increase the depth that Registration Area A commercial king crab fishery pots can be stored to 20 fathoms		
Support	11	0	Under current requirements gear storage is filling up anchorages boats need to be able to use. This depth change allows more room for pots to be stored removing this conflict.
237	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		
Support	11	0	This would not increase the GHL/GHR for the Lower Chatham Strait area, it just give fishermen the ability to look for GKC in more area.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
238	Expand the defined Southern Area in the golden king crab commercial fishery in Registration Area A to include all waters of Section 3-A		
Support	11	0	This would not increase the GHG/GHR for the Southern Area area, it just give fishermen the ability to look for GKC in more area.
239	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		
Support	11	0	ADF&G spoke to the size of the area, difference in tidal ranges, and preference to not close a fishery on large tides when it is difficult for fishermen to get to their gear (tide and wind holding buoys under). The GHG split between the proposed areas matches the historical harvests. Members supported the proposal for the same reasons.
240	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		
No Action			
241	Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A king crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait		
Support	11	0	Groundfish can be legally taken for bait with hook-and-line to aid in this fishery. Members support the addition of slinky pots which often have lower rates of rockfish harvest than hooks.
242	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		
Oppose	0	11	The 200,000 pound threshold of legal male crab is rarely met to open a commercial fishery. Section 11-A has the largest biomass in Southeast, if this shared GHG were allocated away from the commercial fishery, the threshold would never be met. This would result in permanent closure of the commercial red king crab fishery.
243	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		
Support	11	0	This allows for a small fishery that ADF&G can manage in some years when the harvest surplus is below 200,000 pounds of legal male crab. The threshold for this smaller fishery would be about 120,000. In the last 10 years, this management plan may have provided 2-3 commercial fisheries. Under the current management plan there were none. This

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
 January 28-February 9th, 2025 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			plan was developed over two BOF cycles by collaboration between ADF&G and permit holders.
247	Increase the depth that Registration Area A commercial Tanner crab fishery pots can be stored to 20 fathoms		
Support	11	0	Under current requirements gear storage is filling up anchorages boats need to be able to use. This depth change allows more room for pots to be stored removing this conflict.
248	Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A Tanner crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait		
Support	11	0	Groundfish can be legally taken for bait with hook-and-line to aid in this fishery. Members support the addition of slinky pots which often have lower rates of rockfish harvest than hooks.
249	Allow Tanner crab commercial fishery participants to operate pot gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport fisheries after unregistering from the commercial fishery		
Support	11	0	Otherwise fishermen who fished tanner crab are not allowed to subsistence, personal use, sport pot fish until 14 days following the March 31 st closure.

Minutes Recorded By: _O'neil and Worhatch

Minutes Approved By: _____

Date: _____

Petersburg Advisory Committee
November 15, 2024 18:30
Petersburg Borough Assembly Chambers

- I. Call to Order: 18:30 by Chair Worhatch
- II. Roll Call
Members Present: Max Worhatch, Megan O’neil, Jacob Rasmussen, Bob Martin, Nyle Thomas (late), Joel Randrup (Zoom), Ten Sandhofer, Paul Menish, Anthony Taiber, David Benitz, Jerry Dahl (Zoom), Brandon Ware, Heather Bauscher
Members Absent (Excused): Ben Case, Don Spigelmyre, Kaleb Baird
Members Absent (Unexcused):
Number Needed for Quorum on AC:8
List of User Groups Present: PVOA Nels Evens
- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: James Larson, Troy Thynes, Patrick Fowler (Zoom), Jeff Rice, Katy Taylor
- IV. Guests Present: AST Cody Litster, Andrew Kittams, Jaquie Foss (Sitka Zoom), Olivia Rose-Petersburg Pilot
- V. Approval of Agenda- Agenda amended to add Enhancement and Terminal Harvest areas, without objection
- VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes- minutes were approved with no objection
- VII. Reports- there were no reports given
 - a. Chair’s report
 - b. ADF&G
 - c. Others
- VIII. Public Comment-there were no public comments offered
- IX. Old Business
- X. New Business-Southeast and Yakutat Proposals 104-170
- XI. Select representative(s) for board meeting-Worhatch offered committee members the responsibility of representing the Petersburg AC at the upcoming regional meeting in Ketchikan for their consideration. There was no discussion or consensus.

XII. Set next meeting date-Next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2024, 18:30 at the Petersburg Borough Assembly Chambers.

XIII. Other- No other business was offered

Adjourn @22:40

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
104	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		
oppose	3	11	Priority for subsistence users but could cut into the commercial users more than the sport users. Subsistence comes off the top and split 80-20. Members would have supported if subsistence use came from the sport allocation only and not off the top. Support the idea of resident priority. This would be a new fishery under the Pacific Salmon Treaty and have to be approved by them likely requiring more reporting and sampling than currently required.
105	Modify sport fishing regulations in salt waters subject to the Magnuson-Stevens Act by removing differential regulations for resident and nonresident anglers		
	3	10	Members acknowledged that under Magnuson Stevens National Standard 4 management cannot discriminate between residents of different states. 99% of sport harvest comes from state waters.
106	Prohibit nonresidents on charter vessels that have taken fish in the EEZ from offloading those fish in state waters		
no action			
107	Prohibit nonresidents that have taken fish in the EEZ from possessing or offloading those fish in state waters		
no action			
108	Modify management and allocation provisions of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan		
oppose	0	14	Allows sport to continue to take allocation from the troll fleet. Members sought to support proposals that maintain the historical 20-80 split

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish

January 28-February 9th, 2025 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			between sport and commercial users in the current biomass and treaty tier we are at.
109	Modify the structure of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan by removing management tiers and other provisions		
support	14	0	Members appreciated the proposer attending the meeting and helping explain the intent of the proposal and that the number for bag limits may need to be adjusted to achieve the goal of the proposal.
110	Manage the sport fishery inseason to achieve the annual king salmon allocation to the sport fishery		
support	13	1	Members appreciate proposals such as this that are vetted through a large group of participants. Members also supported in season management for the sport fishery and realized that the bag limits may need to be adjusted to stay within their allocation.
111	Modify the management provisions and target allocation for the king salmon sport fishery		
no action			
112	Modify the sport allocation of king salmon and provisions for management		
no action			
113	Modify the provisions of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan and increase the sport allocation of king salmon		
oppose	0	14	Members sought to support proposals that maintain the historical 20-80 split between sport and commercial users in the current biomass and treaty tier we are at.
114	Reduce the nonresident annual limit in low allocation management tiers and other modifications to the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan		
support	14	0	Members sought to support proposals that maintain the historical 20-80 split between sport and commercial users in the current biomass and treaty tier we are at. Members also want to support management that ensure consistent subsistence access.
115	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to one fish		
No action			
116	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to two fish prior to July 1 and one fish after July 1		
Support	14	0	We heard this would keep the sport fishery within their allocation under the current biomass/tier of the treaty.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish

January 28-February 9th, 2025 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
117	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to two fish prior to July 1 and one fish after July 1		
No action			
118	The nonresident annual limit for king salmon shall not exceed three and nonresident annual limits will not apply in terminal harvest areas		
No action			
119	Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon for 2 days per week		
no action			
120	Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon on weekends		
No action			
121	Extend the sunset provisions in the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan		
oppose	1	12	One member felt the management plan works and should be rolled over. Remaining members felt there were better solutions in previous proposals.
122	Prohibit the removal of king salmon from the water when retention is not allowed		
support	14	0	Important to reduce king salmon mortality.
123	Prohibit netting or handling king salmon when catch-and-release fishing is implemented		
oppose	4	7	Members felt they need a net to release a fish in the gentlest way
124	Modify resident sport fishing opportunity prescribed by Southeast Alaska king salmon action plans		
support	14	0	Members support access to subsistence fisheries.
125	Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A when a stock of concern exists for king salmon stocks in Northern Southeast Alaska		
No action			
126	Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A		
No action			
127	Allow residents to retain king salmon in the month of April near Ketchikan		
No action			
128	Allow residents to retain king salmon in the month of April in the Ketchikan area		
No action			
129	Increase the number of days open in the Yakutat Bay spring troll fishery from 1 day to 2 days		
No action			
130	Allow for remaining troll king salmon allocation after winter and spring troll fisheries to be harvested during a single retention period beginning July 1		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish

January 28-February 9th, 2025 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
No action			
131	Establish criteria for establishing a limited harvest troll fishery in August and allow for more than one limited harvest fishery to occur		
Support	14	0	Could give ADF&G more tools to help troll harvest their full allocation when there is only a little left.
132	Establish a minimum size limit for Chinook salmon of 26 1/2 inches from snout to fork of tail in the spring troll fisheries		
Oppose	2	10	Concerns with sport regs and enforcement. Would want there to be consistency between length in regs for sport and comm fish
133	Allow for king salmon of 26 1/2 inches snout to fork length be retained in District 13 spring troll fisheries		
No Action			No Action due to action on 132. LEO rather see regionwide
134	Expand landing and retention requirements for king salmon by purse seine permit holders and establish penalties for violating landing requirements		
Oppose	0	12	PU already required to be documented. No authority to enforce bail.
135	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		
Support	11		1- Abstain. Need to get more fish caught at Redoubt
136	Increase sockeye salmon possession and annual limits at Basket Bay		
Split Vote	6	6	Weather can be rough in Chatham so up the limit to make it easier to get fish with less trips. Some members not in support of increase subsistence opportunity or out of area- impacts Tenakee, Kake, Hoonah, Angoon more
137	Increase the possession limit of sockeye salmon for Basket Bay from 15 to 30 sockeye salmon		
No Action			
138	Prohibit snagging in the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge		
No Action			
139	Prohibit snagging within Don D. Statter harbor		
Oppose	0	12	People fishing on the bank are local people w/o boats and should have opportunity. Proposers are supportive of tourism not local people. Harbor should deal with its own issues. Trying to run out other user groups.
140	Sport fishing may only be conducted with a single barbless circle hook between April 1 and June 14		
No Action			
141	Prohibit the use of bait in sport fisheries between April 1 through June 14		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
No Action			
142	Open Ketchikan Creek to sport fishing year-round and establish bag and possession limits for king salmon		
No Action			
143 & 144	Increase the bag and possession limit for trout in Southeast Alaska		
Oppose	4	7	Region Wide. Concerns for growing pressure from increased tourism and pressure in specific areas potentially, waiting for the study to know more. Can make adjustments in 3 years. Members who support felt there was no shortage of trout and doesn't think there is that much pressure on trout.
144	Increase harvest opportunity for trout in Southeast Alaska		
See above			See 143
145	Increase harvest opportunity for trout in Klawock Lake drainage		
No Action			
146	Increase the bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout in 108 Creek drainage		
No Action			
147	Increase the bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout and prohibit the use of bait in Neck Lake		
No Action			
148	Modify Eagle Lake cutthroat trout bag and possession and size limit		
Support	10	0	1- Abstain. Remote lake with not a lot of traffic and an abundance of fish. Idea is to liberalize the fishing no shortage of fish. members support
149	Prohibit the use of bait and establish a catch-and-release fishery with single barbless hooks in Petersen Creek		
No Action			
150	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		
No Action			
151 No Action	Modify the nonresident annual limit for king salmon in the freshwaters of the Yakutat management area and the Situk River		
152	Amend the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan to reflect recent management strategies		
No Action			

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
153	Close a portion of the Situk River to sport fishing until the escapement goal for king salmon is met		
No Action			
154	Close sport fishing in a portion of the Situk River between April 15 and May 15		
No Action			
155	Increase the sport fish bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in the fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary		
No Action			
156	Reduce Southeast Alaska hatchery permitted pink and chum salmon egg take level by 25%		
Oppose	0	11	Not specific enough or science based to warrant any support. The proposer is outside of the region doesn't understand southeast region and commercial fishing impacts on communities in southeast. Chum pay for other fish. There is a letter from the hatchery orgs against this.
157	Establish a terminal harvest area and associated management plan for harvesting hatchery produced salmon at Burnett Inlet		
Support	11	0	1- Abstain. Error in how this is written- should say a minimum net size of 6 inches. Size of SSRAA chums large enough using that net size should reduce interception of wild pinks. Question about cost recovery vs common property fishery- one is easier to control the take- change the lines, more control over the harvest vs having chaotic fishery with various fishermen in there. Worried about intercepts when boats fishing down the line for fish, coming in. Difficult to prosecute an orderly common property fishery in that narrow area and concerns of proximity to wild stocks and runs in Burnett Inlet. Would need to come up with a plan to figure out how to organize the fishermen. Need a plan for clean up and may be a need to get fish out of Burnett in case of an emergency and a big return.
158	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		
Support	12	0	
159 w/162	Modify the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan		
160	Modify the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
NO Action			Due to combined 159 & 162- Might need to pull this at BoF (withdraw)
161			Reduce the sport fish bag limit for king salmon in the Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area
NO Action			
162 & 159			Reduce king salmon sport fish bag limits outside of the time when the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Management Plan is in effect
Support	12	0	They are contingent on each other to make that July 15th the closure date. Solution was to extend the proposed dates so that it would cover the salmon season, dates are same other than the date. Also would like a provision to allow the ADA area to remain open to provide opportunities for elderly folks and wounded vets to still have an opportunity to fish
163			Nonresident annual limits for king salmon will apply in the Blind Slough terminal harvest area
Support	12	0	exponential growth in non resident fishing, this spot has become a hot spot and should be capped but not reduced for locals or subsistence. Members support esp given 68% of take of chinook is non residents
164			Modify king salmon bag and possession limits in the terminal harvest area near Juneau
No Action			
165			Change the start time of weekly drift gillnet fishing periods from Sunday to Monday
Oppose	1	10	1- Abstain. Lots of various opinions on this within the gillnet fleet. Have tried this before. Bob likes having an extra day. Max would prefer it start well before noon doesn't like midday openers.
166			Allow for drift gillnets to be up to 90 meshes deep in District 11 beginning statistical week 34
Support	8	0	Abstain- 3. Fishermen not getting enough fish. although this year got their allocation band maybe the year before too. A way to allow fishermen to fish deeper nets and catch their share of the fish faster. Lars insisted.
167			Increase the legal length of purse seine by 50 fathoms
Support	5	4	Abstain-3. Inspired by PWS. With lower participation, they want to increase effectiveness of boats. Some folks are against it because it could cause issues in places where they already fish. Permit holders have mixed opinions on this. Fairly split vote, Abstentions lacked knowledge of seine
168			Modify regulations to make it unlawful to use aircraft for locating salmon during any open commercial purse seine fishing period
Support	10	1	1- Abstain. 12 years ago got rid of airplanes with fishing exception of terminal areas. Now pilots flying and happen to fly over other areas to get

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			fuel and scouting as they go its unenforceable. Solution was to remove the loophole.
169			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
No Action			
170			Add waters closed to commercial fishing in Sudden Stream and Malaspina Lake
No Action			
171			Modify spawning biomass threshold minimum and maximum harvest rates for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B
172			Reduce upper end of sliding scale harvest rate for Southeast Alaska commercial herring fisheries from 20 to 15 percent
173			Eliminate provisions to establish a guideline harvest level for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe herring fishery under 27.160
174			Establish a maximum guideline harvest level and minimum spawning biomass to conduct fisheries for the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery
175			Establish a 15,000 ton harvest limit for the Sitka Sound sac roe fishery
176			Reduce the maximum harvest rate from 20 percent to 10 percent for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery
177			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
178			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
179			Expand waters closed the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery to include Promisla Bay
180			Correct latitude of Aspid Cape for the southern boundary of the Section 13-B purse seine sac roe herring fishery

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
181			Establish provisions for conducting test setting in the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery
182			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
183			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
184			Expand open area in Section 3-B for placement spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds
185			Expand open area in Section 3-B for spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds
186			Expand open area in Section 3-B for spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds
187			Allow the use of large mesh webbing to surround spawn on kelp pound structure to protect structure and spawn on kelp product
188			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
189			Reduce by half the length limit of purse seine net for commercial herring harvest
190			Provide for co-management of herring fisheries with tribal governments
191			Amend logbook requirements for vessels fishing for groundfish with pot and longline gear
192			Allow pots used in the personal use bottomfish fishery to be longlined

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
193			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
194			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
195			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
196			Reduce the minimum inside diameter of escape rings in commercial sablefish pots to three and three-eighths inches
197			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
198			Increase the daily bag limit for sablefish in the sport fishery
199			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
200			Adopt a catch reporting requirement for directed lingcod fisheries
201			Clarify lingcod bycatch overage requirements in the Southeast District fisheries for longline halibut and salmon troll fisheries
202			Clarify that only one line can be used for dinglebar gear in the lingcod fishery
203			Establish unguided nonresident lingcod regulations

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
204			Allow pots to be longlined in the state waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska commercial Pacific cod fishery
205			Allow personal use retention of Pacific cod and rockfishes, including thornyhead rockfish, in pot gear
206			Reopen yelloweye sport fishery for residents
207			Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents
208			Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents
209			Establish provisions for a resident priority within emergency order authority for pelagic rockfish
210			Reduce the bag and possession limit for pelagic rockfish in Southeast Alaska
211			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
212			Allow the number of geoduck permit holders able to fish from one vessel to be increased from two to four by emergency order
213			Modify how geoduck guideline harvest levels are calculated
214			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

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
215			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
216			Clarify that only aquatic farm sites approved for the culture of geoduck clams are closed to commercial harvest of geoduck clams
217			Allow weekly fishing periods to begin on Sundays
218			Extend sea cucumber fishing season beyond March 31
219			Clarify when a sea cucumber permit holder is in possession of the product they harvested
220			Allow crew members to be in possession of sea cucumbers harvested by the sea cucumber permit holder
221			Prohibit harvest of naturally occurring sea cucumbers on aquatic farm sites by farm operator in areas where there are commercial sea cucumber fisheries
222			Adopt seasonal closures for subsistence, sport, and personal use shrimp fisheries
223			Increase the tunnel size for sport, personal use, and subsistence shrimp pots
224			Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 opening date back to October 1
225			Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 opening date to October 1 or to another start date in late summer/early fall
226			Provide for further conservation in the shrimp pot fishery by reducing all GHs by 20%, reducing the number of pots allowed by 40–50%, and eliminating the large pot size

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
227			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
228			Redefine legal shrimp pot requirements to allow for the use slinky pots
229			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
230			Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid
231			Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid
232			Allow for the concurrent possession of red and green urchin aboard
233			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
234			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
235			Add freezing spray to the criteria that would delay the start date of commercial golden king crab fishery in Registration Area A.
236			Increase the depth that Registration Area A commercial king crab fishery pots can be stored to 20 fathoms
237			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

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
238			Expand the defined Southern Area in the golden king crab commercial fishery in Registration Area A to include all waters of Section 3-A
239			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
240			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
241			Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A king crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait
242			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
243			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
244			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
245			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
246			Add freezing spray to the criteria that would delay the start date of commercial Tanner crab fishery in Registration Area A
247			Increase the depth that Registration Area A commercial Tanner crab fishery pots can be stored to 20 fathoms

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
248			Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A Tanner crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait
249			Allow Tanner crab commercial fishery participants to operate pot gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport fisheries after unregistering from the commercial fishery
250			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
251			Change the start date of the Registration Area A Dungeness crab commercial fishery's summer season from June 15 to July 1
252			Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A Dungeness crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait
253			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
254			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
255			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 f
256			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 ho

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
257			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
258			Open some or all areas closed to commercial Dungeness fishing in Registration Area A
259			Open all waters closed to commercial Dungeness fishing in Registration Area A between October 1 and November 30, annually
260			Close George Inlet, Carroll Inlet, and Thorne Arm in District 1 to the commercial harvest of shrimp and crab
261			Close Traitors Cove to commercial and sport shellfish harvest
262			Close sport fishing for Dungeness crab in Thorne Bay

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: _____

Minutes Approved By: _____

Date: _____

Petersburg Advisory Committee**11/20/24 6:30-8:10pm****Meetings Minutes****Proposal 250 SUPPORTED**

- Derek Thynes (Proposal author): sees an opportunity to fish for personal use Dungeness crab at 6 and ¼ inch for male crab. Feels it would allow opportunities before predators get to them. Males of 6.25 inch and males of 6.5 inch are in the same age class and would not affect reproduction.
- ADF&G: Would increase take of male crab from personal use and reduce the number of legal crab for commercial harvest. Has concerns about reducing size limits and long term harvest sustainability.
- Max Worhatch (AC): Other Dungeness crab fisheries such as Oregon and Washington have sustainable crab fisheries at lower male size limits.
- Support vote: 8
- Oppose vote: 1

Proposal 251 OPPOSED unanimously

- Max Worhatch (AC): Crab molt at all different times pushing the opener would not help with meat quality.
- Derek Thynes (public): opposed to any time changes, crab molt at different times and this change would not help with meat quality. Shorting the season would negatively affect commercial Dungeness crabbers.
- Support vote: 0
- Oppose vote: 9

Proposal 252 SUPPORTED

- Support vote: 8
- Oppose vote: 0
- Abstention: 1

Proposals 253, 254, 256, 257 SUPPORTED unanimously

- Max Worhatch (AC): Supports, Dungeness will not be caught in a shrimp pots.
- Support vote: 9
- Oppose vote: 0

Proposal 258 SUPPORTED

- Derek Thynes (Proposal author): Lost 2 of the major commercial crabbing areas to closure, fishing an area enhances Dungeness crab populations. Over abundance of Dungeness crab creates a situation where crab are eating each other. Opening these areas would increase economic opportunities for Petersburg and the surrounding areas. Closed areas are increasing year to year.

- Ted Sandhofer (AC) : How much area are closed to commercial vs personal use or sport fish (directed to ADF&G rep)? Opposed to broad openings.
- Max Worhatch (AC): Would allow crabbing for 4 months out of the year and still allow opportunities for local residents.
- ADF&G: Allocations are not finalized, unsure of impacts for specific areas, no specifics on area closer per user group given.
- Ben Case (AC): Opposes a broad opening and should be specific to areas.
- Nyle Thomas (AC): Supports, there are plenty of opportunities for other user groups while opening up more areas for commercial users.
- Yes vote: 8
- No vote: 1

Proposal 259 Supported unanimously

- Support vote: 9
- Oppose vote: 0

Proposal 260 OPPOSED

- Max Worhatch (AC): Opposes closure, limited infrastructure for commercial processing limits commercial harvest.
- ADF&G: Department can close area by emergency order if it is being over fished.
- Support vote:0
- Oppose vote: 8
- Abstention: 1

Proposal 261 OPPOSED

- Support vote: 0
- Oppose vote: 8
- abstention: 1

Proposal 262 OPPOSED

- Support vote: 1
- Oppose vote: 8

Proposal 78 OPPOSED unanimously

- Max Worhatch (AC): Opposes hatchery reduction for the precedence. There is no hard science behind it and the author of the proposal does not live in the area.
- Yes vote: 0
- No vote: 9

Board of Game Proposals

Proposal 129 OPPOSED unanimously

- Advisory Committee as a whole: The proposal is too broad and should not apply to all big game. Deer can be taken with smaller calibers with no issue. Many families have used the same hunting rifles for generations which maybe below the proposed caliber restriction.

This would unnecessarily prohibit the use of them when they are a perfectly viable caliber for harvesting deer.

- Support vote: 0
- Oppose vote: 9

Proposal 130 Supported unanimously

- Advisory Committee as a whole: Caliber restriction on moose makes sense because of their size. Any caliber below the proposed caliber minimum would be hard to justify in the quick clean killing of a big game animal of this size.
- Support vote: 9
- Oppose vote: 0

**Petersburg Advisory Committee
11/27/24 @ 6:30pm
Borough Assembly Chambers**

I. Call to Order: 6:30 by Chair Max Worhatch

II. Roll Call

Members Present:

Max Worhatch

Jacob Rasmussen

Bob Martin

Nyle Thomas

Don Spigelmyre

Joel Randrup (online)

Anthony Taiber

David Benitz

Ben Case

Kaleb Baird

Heather Bauscher

Members Absent (Excused):

Megan O'Neil

Ted Sandhofer

Paul Menish

Jerry Dahl

Brandon Ware

Members Absent (Unexcused):

Number Needed for Quorum on AC:8

List of User Groups Present:

III. Fish and Game Staff Present:

Jeff Rice

Alex Mccarrel

Rhea Ehresman

IV.

V. Guests Present:

Bonnie Bennet

Jeffrey Groenke (online)

- VI. Approval of Agenda
Approved
- VII. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
Approved
- VIII. Reports
None
- IX. Public Comment
None
- X. Old Business
No representative was selected for the January BoF meeting in Ketchikan
- XI. New Business
Consideration of BoF Southeast proposals 192-211
Statewide BoG #87, 128, 135

Adjourn **8:30pm**

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
192	Allow pots used in the personal use bottomfish fishery to be longlined		
Support	11	0	Might reduce bycatch over hook longlining, less buoy line in the water to cause problems.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
January 28-February 9th, 2025 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
193	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		
Support	6	5	
194	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		
Support	11	0	Member Benitz liked more retention for personal use. Spigelmyre concerned about retention of smaller fish with low market value.
195	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		
Oppose	0	11	Opposed to changes that seem targeted to a small group's business plan.
196	Reduce the minimum inside diameter of escape rings in commercial sablefish pots to three and three-eighths inches		
Oppose	0	11	Not convinced there was a need for change
197	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		
Support	11	0	We support extending a reasonable crew opportunity to bring home subsistence bottomfish with pot gear as well as traditional longline gear.
198	Increase the daily bag limit for sablefish in the sport fishery		
Oppose	0	11	The resource is fully exploited and does not need more sport allocation.
199	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		
Oppose	5	5	Tension between members appreciating the safety motivation of the proposal versus those who feel that an investment in a more seaworthy vessel should pay off once in a while. One member felt that a proposal like this should have come from the fleet rather than ADFG.
200	Adopt a catch reporting requirement for directed lingcod fisheries		
Support	11	0	Should help with management of the fishery

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
201	Clarify lingcod bycatch overage requirements in the Southeast District fisheries for longline halibut and salmon troll fisheries		
Support	11	0	
202	Clarify that only one line can be used for dinglebar gear in the lingcod fishery		
Support	10	1	One member questioned why this fishery goes so fast, maybe the stocks need to be reassessed.
203	Establish unguided nonresident lingcod regulations		
Oppose	0	11	Concerns that the unguided industry segment is getting out of hand. Charters are also beneficial to the economy. Unfair allocation to an increasing fleet of rental boats.
204	Allow pots to be longlined in the state waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska commercial Pacific cod fishery		
Support	11	0	Longlined pots seem to be a reasonable way to fish Pacific cod and pots reduce bycatch impacts on other important species like halibut and rockfish.
205	Allow personal use retention of Pacific cod and rockfishes, including thornyhead rockfish, in pot gear		
Support	11	0	
206	Reopen yelloweye sport fishery for residents		
Support	11	0	Yelloweye numbers are increasing and should be available to residents
207	Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents		
Oppose	0	11	Too soon to know if there will even be enough opportunity for residents. The non-resident segment that would be interested in these fish is large and growing.
208	Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents		
NA			
209	Establish provisions for a resident priority within emergency order authority for pelagic rockfish		
Support	11	0	Strong support for resident priority access to this food resource
210	Reduce the bag and possession limit for pelagic rockfish in Southeast Alaska		
Support	11	0	
211	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		
Support	11	0	

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
January 28-February 9th, 2025 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
BoG	3 Statewide proposals were considered:		
Statewide BOG #87	Unlawful methods...		
Oppose	0	11	The committee does not think there is a problem here that warrants this statewide measure.
Statewide BOG #128	Night vision...		
Support	10	0	Most feel that allowing trappers to better harvest predators will help deer and moose populations. Some concern that overlap with deer season might give cover to illegal night deer hunting.
Statewide BOG #135	10% cap on non-resident big game permits		
Support	11	0	We support preserving more opportunity for residents to draw and participate in these Alaska hunts.

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Rasmussen/Martin_____

Minutes Approved By: Max Worhatch

Date: 1/5/25

**PWS/Valdez Advisory Committee
Friday, January 10th, 2025
Zoom**

I. Call to Order: 6:06 by Nicholas Crump

II. Roll Call

Name	Present	Excused/Unexcused
Nick Crump	x	
Pat Day	x	
Bruce Bowman	x	
Dan Eames		excused
Brett Wilbanks	x	

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 3

List of User Groups Present:

III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Leila Williams

IV. Guests Present: Mike Wells, Davids iphone (unidentified individual)

V. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Bruce, 2nd Pat

VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Approved

VII. Reports

- a. Chair’s report: NA
- b. ADF&G: none
- c. Others: none

VIII. Public Comment: none

IX. Old Business: none

X. New Business

- a. Board of Fisheries Proposal 156

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
156	Reduce Southeast Alaska hatchery permitted pink and chum salmon egg take level by 25%		
Oppose	Support 0	Opposed 4	Nick led the meeting, focusing on voting on Proposal 156, an anti-hatchery proposal focusing on the southeast Alaska region. The proposal was considered by the committee to be identical to ones previously voted on in Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound, aimed for a 25% reduction across the board. The team unanimously agreed to oppose the proposal for the same reasons as before, including lack of scientifically sound data and arbitrary reduction measures. They also agreed with the BOF action taken at the Cordova session, to only hear such related proposals at statewide meetings every three years. The team discussed the monumental effort associated with entertaining this same proposal concept every year, regionally, combined with the consistent lack of conclusive evidence or correlation to a causal effect, as a waste of the boards and committee's time. Motion by Pat, 2 nd Bruce

XI. Select representative(s) for board meeting: NA

XII. Set next meeting date: **February 13, 2025**. The team discussed scheduling a meeting with Martin and Andy. The meeting was intended to address and discuss ADFG comments and inform the committee's voting, as the deadline for comments is set for the 25th of February. Additionally, Leila informed the team that Charlotte Westing, the area biologist, would be attending the meeting with Heidi Hatcher, as the issues were statewide.

XIII. Other: N/A

XIV. Adjourn: 6:28 pm, motion by Bruce, 2nd Brett

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Bruce Bowman _____

Minutes Approved By: _____

Date: 1/13/2025 _____

The Sitka Advisory committee deliberated the following proposals over the course of twelve evening meetings between October 6, 2024 and January 8, 2025. The AC spent approximately 41.5 hours hearing from ADF&G staff, listening to public testimony, and discussing the merits and pitfalls of these proposals. Below is a summary of our votes and the reasons behind them.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Requests November 28-December 1, 2023 Homer, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
104	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		
support	11	3	Amend section 1 to read: Modify king salmon plan to add a 5000 fish allocation from the sport allocation to a king salmon subsistence fishery for Alaska residents. 13-1 in support. Amend Section 2: to add "Establish a Daily possession limit of 4 per permit 13-1 in support". The group is looking for a way to make sure subsistence users get their king salmon. We recognize a subsistence priority and believe king salmon to be an important subsistence food.
105	Modify sport fishing regulations in salt waters subject to the Magnuson-Stevens Act by removing differential regulations for resident and nonresident anglers		
oppose	1	12	Hope is expressed that the state will fight reducing resident bag limits in the ez, but agree if non residents and residents must have the same bag limits in the EZ, the non resident bag limits should be the standard. We do not want to see non-resident bag limits increased as stocks are already under ever-increasing pressure.
106	Prohibit nonresidents on charter vessels that have taken fish in the EEZ from offloading those fish in state waters		
oppose	0	13	Wrong solution. likely not enforceable
107	Prohibit nonresidents that have taken fish in the EEZ from possessing or offloading those fish in state waters		
oppose	0	13	Wrong solution. Likely not enforceable
108	Modify management and allocation provisions of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Requests November 28-December 1, 2023 Homer, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
Support as amended	10	3	Amendment: Change the hardcap from 25% to 23% and the trigger from 22% to 21-1/2%. Appreciate the hard cap and the inseason management. Confusion over what 9 years will be used to average
109	Modify the structure of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan by removing management tiers and other provisions		
support as amended	12 10	1 4	This proposal simplifies the management plan and returns control to ADF&G biologists to ensure 20/80 split happens. Amendment to change the fixed 2 fish resident bag limit to 1-3/day depending upon abundance. Amendment to change the language in (c)(1) the department shall manage the sport fishery with a goal (2) to take 70% of the sport fishery allocation between January 1 and July (3) to take the remaining 30% of the port fishery allocation between July 1 and December 31; section C “The department shall, using in season management as necessary, manage the fishery to annual sport harvest ceiling....
110	Manage the sport fishery in season to achieve the annual king salmon allocation to the sport fishery		
support	7	6	Goal of keeping sport open for residents all summer. Might be small overages but managers should be able to average it out to a 20/80 split
111	Modify the management provisions and target allocation for the king salmon sport fishery		
Support as amended	7	6	Amendment to lower the percentages: Tier e) [20%] 19% ; Tier f) [21%] 20% ; Tier g) [22%] 20% ; Tier h) [22%] 21% ; Tier i) [22%] 21% ; Further amendment to change resident sport bag limit in tiers g) and h) from 1 to 2; Appreciate that this would require in season management to stay close to the 20% cap and that it does not rely on abundance, but on treaty projections
112	Modify the sport allocation of king salmon and provisions for management		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Requests

November 28-December 1, 2023 | Homer, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
oppose	4	9	No hard cap, and no inseason management means likelihood of continued inequity between troll and charter.
113	Modify the provisions of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan and increase the sport allocation of king salmon		
oppose	0	13	Just a grab at more quota for the charter. Charter has already received increases in the past with an understanding there would not be further increases
114	Reduce the nonresident annual limit in low allocation management tiers and other modifications to the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan		
oppose	0	13	No in season management. Drops resident bag limit. Will continue problem of charter going over quota
115	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to one fish		
oppose	1	12	too aggressive, creates a harm of more catch and release mortality
116	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to two fish prior to July 1 and one fish after July 1		
support as amended	9	4	<p>amended to allow the 2 fish annual limit to remain in effect later than July 1 depending on the sport harvest relative to the 20% target</p> <p>Acknowledging the frustration interior residents feel with charter clients gobbling up the 20% soon after sport opens in places like KTN and JNO</p>
117	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to two fish prior to July 1 and one fish after July 1		
support	9	4	same comments as 116
118	The nonresident annual limit for king salmon shall not exceed three and nonresident annual limits will not apply in terminal harvest areas		
oppose	1	13	Concern taking more kings would count against treaty fish
119	Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon for 2 days per week		
oppose	2	12	We would prefer the fishery was managed to hard caps in season. Closing charter fishing 2 days a week, might be a necessary tool to achieve hard caps and if in season management does not happen
120	Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon on weekends		
oppose	3	11	We would prefer the fishery was managed to hard caps in season. This would be necessary if that does not happen
121	Extend the sunset provisions in the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan		
oppose	0	13	John abstains-this would be the fallback anyway

Alaska Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Requests

November 28-December 1, 2023 | Homer, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
122	Prohibit the removal of king salmon from the water when retention is not allowed		
support	14	0	we note that king salmon have poor survivability when handled. conservation of this sensitive stock is vital Amendment: prohibit “netting gaffing or bringing on board”
123	Prohibit netting or handling king salmon when catch-and-release fishing is implemented		
support	14	0	we note that king salmon have poor survivability when handled. conservation of this sensitive stock is vital. Same discussion and support as on on 122
124	Modify resident sport fishing opportunity prescribed by Southeast Alaska king salmon action plans		
no action			no motion to support this proposal
125	Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A when a stock of concern exists for king salmon stocks in Northern Southeast Alaska		
support	12	2	same as 126
126	Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A		
support	12	2	Would be beneficial to hasten the recovery from stocks of concern management plan if we could close this area and help more wild salmon reach the rivers
127	Allow residents to retain king salmon in the month of April near Ketchikan		
no action			out of our area
128	Allow residents to retain king salmon in the month of April in the Ketchikan area		
no action			out or our area
129	Increase the number of days open in the Yakutat Bay spring troll fishery from 1 day to 2 days		
no action			out of our area
130	Allow for remaining troll king salmon allocation after winter and spring troll fisheries to be harvested during a single retention period beginning July 1		
oppose	2	12	in season management and hard caps are better solution. worry about treaty implications. We would support this if the eventual solution did not include a sure method that guarantees the trollers their allocation
131	Establish criteria for establishing a limited harvest troll fishery in August and allow for more than one limited harvest fishery to occur		
support	14	0	This is a good management tool.
132	Establish a minimum size limit for Chinook salmon of 26 1/2 inches from snout to fork of tail in the spring troll fisheries		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Requests November 28-December 1, 2023 Homer, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
support	14	0	much easier to measure the fork than the moving tail
133	Allow for king salmon of 26 1/2 inches snout to fork length be retained in District 13 spring troll fisheries		
support	14	0	same as 132
134	Expand landing and retention requirements for king salmon by purse seine permit holders and establish penalties for violating landing requirements		
support	14	0	Our seine rep relayed that the narrative about abuse of the rules the proposer shares, is accurate. This is a problem that needs addressing and this proposal seems to solve the problem
135	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		
support as amended	11	3	Amend Section one to take out "Gillnet" approved 14-0 (we approve the use of subsistence gillnet and beach seine at redoubt)
136	Increase sockeye salmon possession and annual limits at Basket Bay		
no action			out of our area
137	Increase the possession limit of sockeye salmon for Basket Bay from 15 to 30 sockeye salmon		
no action			out of our area
138	Prohibit snagging in the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge		
no action			out of our area
139	Prohibit snagging within Don D. Statter harbor		
no action			out of our area
140	Sport fishing may only be conducted with a single barbless circle hook between April 1 and June 14		
support	12	2	Amend second paragraph to add after For all areas outside hatchery THA zones:"that are closed to retention of chinook due to stocks of concern"...13-1 approves the amendment It was still possible to successfully fish for Halibut and rockfish with circle hooks.. The benefit of preserving stocks of concern near inland spawning streams, outweighs the downside of making the sport fishing more challenging.
141	Prohibit the use of bait in sport fisheries between April 1 through June 14		
support	11	3	For all areas outside hatchery THA zones:"that are closed to retention of chinook due to stocks of concern"...13-1 support. It was still possible to

Alaska Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Requests

November 28-December 1, 2023 | Homer, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			successfully fish for Halibut and rockfish with artificial lures. The benefit of preserving stocks of concern near inland spawning streams, outweighs the downside of making the sport fishing more challenging.
142	Open Ketchikan Creek to sport fishing year-round and establish bag and possession limits for king salmon		
no action			out of our area
143	Increase the bag and possession limit for trout in Southeast Alaska		
oppose	1	13	In favor of trout conservation
144	Increase harvest opportunity for trout in Southeast Alaska		
oppose	1	13	In favor of conservation of trout.
145	Increase harvest opportunity for trout in Klawock Lake drainage		
no action			out of our area
146	Increase the bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout in 108 Creek drainage		
no action			out of our area
147	Increase the bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout and prohibit the use of bait in Neck Lake		
no action			out of our area
148	Modify Eagle Lake cutthroat trout bag and possession and size limit		
no action			out of our area
149	Prohibit the use of bait and establish a catch-and-release fishery with single barbless hooks in Petersen Creek		
no action			out of our area
150	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		
no action			out of our area
151	Modify the nonresident annual limit for king salmon in the freshwaters of the Yakutat management area and the Situk River		
no action			out of our area
152	Amend the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan to reflect recent management strategies		
no action			out of our area
153	Close a portion of the Situk River to sport fishing until the escapement goal for king salmon is met		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Requests

November 28-December 1, 2023 | Homer, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
no action			out of our area
154	Close sport fishing in a portion of the Situk River between April 15 and May 15		
no action			out of our area
155	Increase the sport fish bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in the fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary		
no action			Out of our area
156	Reduce Southeast Alaska hatchery permitted pink and chum salmon egg take level by 25%		
oppose	0	13	Lackiing clear, scientific evidence the current level of hatchery fish is causing harm, while there is clear consensus that the fishermen in southeast rely on hatchery fish.
157	Establish a terminal harvest area and associated management plan for harvesting hatchery produced salmon at Burnett Inlet		
no action			out of our area
158	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		
support	13	0	Just a housekeeping proposal to fix old language
159	Modify the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan		
no action			out of our area
160	Modify the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan		
no action			out of our area
161	Reduce the sport fish bag limit for king salmon in the Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area		
no action			out of our area
162	Reduce king salmon sport fish bag limits outside of the time when the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Management Plan is in effect		
no action			out of our area
163	Nonresident annual limits for king salmon will apply in the Blind Slough terminal harvest area		
no action			out of our area
164	Modify king salmon bag and possession limits in the terminal harvest area near Juneau		
no action			out of our area
165	Change the start time of weekly drift gillnet fishing periods from Sunday to Monday		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Requests November 28-December 1, 2023 Homer, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
support	14	0	Local Gillnetters are in support
166	Allow for drift gillnets to be up to 90 meshes deep in District 11 beginning statistical week 34		
support	14	0	Supported by local gillnetters. Leaves the department room to manage.
167	Increase the legal length of purse seine by 50 fathoms		
oppose	0	14	Would cause problems with the spacing between boats. The Seiners are not in support.
168	Modify regulations to make it unlawful to use aircraft for locating salmon during any open commercial purse seine fishing period		
support	14	0	Our seiner was in favor of closing off this loophole. He reports planes taking advantage of the loophole to spot other areas.
169	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		
oppose	0	14	opens the door up to rule breaking
170	Add waters closed to commercial fishing in Sudden Stream and Malaspina Lake		
no action			out of our area
171	Modify spawning biomass threshold minimum and maximum harvest rates for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B		
support	14	0	Approve of the more conservative approach to guarding the stocks
172	Reduce upper end of sliding scale harvest rate for Southeast Alaska commercial herring fisheries from 20 to 15 percent		
support	14	0	Keeps the region consistent with 171
173	Eliminate provisions to establish a guideline harvest level for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe herring fishery under 27.160		
no action	11	1	Based on the previous voting record; members felt a vote would be contradictory.
174	Establish a maximum guideline harvest level and minimum spawning biomass to conduct fisheries for the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery		
oppose	13	1	Would be an extreme reduction in the GHIL.
175	Establish a 15,000 ton harvest limit for the Sitka Sound sac roe fishery		
support	9	5	There was broad support for a harvest limit but some would like the cap to be higher- 40,000 to 50,000 tons

Alaska Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Requests

November 28-December 1, 2023 | Homer, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
176	Reduce the maximum harvest rate from 20 percent to 10 percent for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery		
no action	12	2	Group felt we had supported other subsistence-friendly proposals (171 and 175) that made it unnecessary to take action on this one.
177	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		
no action	12	2	Voted down a proposed amendment to the minimum threshold in 171
178	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		
oppose	11	1	too extreme and not warranted by the increasing herring population. This proposal might end the commercial fishery
179	Expand waters closed the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery to include Promisla Bay		
support	10	4	20 members of the public came out in support to protect an important subsistence harvest area. In 2017, 2018, and 2019, the spawn shifted out of the current closed area, and into more northerly areas like Promisla Bay. Recent subsistence harvest data shows that Promisla is one of the most productive areas in the last 5 years. The seine seat representative thought the closure was not necessary due to the health of the stocks.
180	Correct latitude of Aspid Cape for the southern boundary of the Section 13-B purse seine sac roe herring fishery		
approve	12	0	housekeeping
181	Establish provisions for conducting test setting in the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery		
support	11	1	Members emphasized the importance of minimizing herring mortality from test sets, but did not want to restrict the department's ability to manage the fishery. Vote on Amendment to delete points 3, 4, 5, and 6, and keep the first half of 6, "to maintain a log of number, size, and location of released sets, and make it publically available": Passes 11-1
182	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		
oppose	12	2	could create conflict with subsistence and commercial users. Also, unfair to limit pound fishers only to those with seine permits when pound fishing used to be open to all.
183	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		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Requests

November 28-December 1, 2023 | Homer, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
oppose	12	0	would create more conflict between user groups to add a new fishery
184	Expand open area in Section 3-B for placement spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds		
no action			out of area
185	Expand open area in Section 3-B for spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds		
no action			out of area
186	Expand open area in Section 3-B for spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds		
no action			out of area
187	Allow the use of large mesh webbing to surround spawn on kelp pound structure to protect structure and spawn on kelp product		
no action			without the department there to help, we did not feel like we understood this proposal well enough to act.
188	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		
oppose	11	1	an effort to reduce fishing intensity, without clear positive impact
189	Reduce by half the length limit of purse seine net for commercial herring harvest		
oppose	11	1	This might increase conflict between the commercial fleet and subsistence users in shallower waters.
190	Provide for co-management of herring fisheries with tribal governments		
support as amended	10	1	Vote on amendment to delete paragraph 2: passes 11-1 Vote on proposal 190 as amended: passes 10-1-1. Skylar abstaining (employed by STA) We believe it is time for the Sitka Tribe of Alaska to have more input in the fishery, in determining minimum spawning biomass thresholds, determining circumstances in which fishing would be allowed, and developing methodology for considering whether to open or close the fishery.
191	Amend logbook requirements for vessels fishing for groundfish with pot and longline gear		
support	15	0	housekeeping proposal
192	Allow pots used in the personal use bottomfish fishery to be longlined		
support	15	0	Makes sense to allow the longlining of pots. It takes more gear and more time to fish them singly

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
193	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		
oppose	1	14	This would open the door to discarding rockfish bycatch under the guise of failed release. These fisheries are too fast paced and have too few crew to reliably release the rockfish in time to save them.
194	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		
support	15	0	Science supports this change. Good for stocks
195	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		
no action			out of area
196	Reduce the minimum inside diameter of escape rings in commercial sablefish pots to three and three-eighths inches		
oppose	0	15	see 194 We approved the ring size suggested by ADFG instead
197	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		
support	15	0	closes a loophole. Currently, if you fish hook gear commercially, you cannot retain subsistence and personal use fish. Many Fishermen are switching from hook gear to pot gear, so this change is needed.
198	Increase the daily bag limit for sablefish in the sport fishery		
support	14	0	the current take is only 450 fish region wide. Raising the limit seems reasonable. We would not want this extended to non-residents and would hope to see reduction in bag limit if stocks crash
199	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		
support	15	0	Improves safety and management. we discussed amending this to 25 knots and voted an amendment down 6 to 9
200	Adopt a catch reporting requirement for directed lingcod fisheries		

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support	15	0	really difficult to manage the fishery without good reporting, but tough to make the reports during super short openers. Fishermen who refuse to report, create overages, so this proposal would help avoid overages.
201	Clarify lingcod bycatch overage requirements in the Southeast District fisheries for longline halibut and salmon troll fisheries		
support	15	0	Housekeeping to clean up regulations
202	Clarify that only one line can be used for dinglebar gear in the lingcod fishery		
support	15	0	Making sure that all boats only have one line aboard helps with enforcement. A recent court case showed that the language needs to be clear to stop the use of two lines.
203	Establish unguided nonresident lingcod regulations		
oppose	0	14	We have concern that the unguided fishery is exploding and proposals like this make the unguided rental boats even more likely to increase overfishing on stocks of concern. Unguided rental boats are proliferating in the Ketchikan area and because renters are not subject to the same limits as charter boat clients, overfishing is a real concern.
204	Allow pots to be longlined in the state waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska commercial Pacific cod fishery		
no action			local fleet does not fish here
205	Allow personal use retention of Pacific cod and rockfishes, including thornyhead rockfish, in pot gear		
support	14	0	brings the reg in line with what happens on hook and line gear now that folks are using pots in this fishery.
206	Reopen yelloweye sport fishery for residents		
support	14	0	The resident take would not be significant enough to harm the stock.
207	Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents		
oppose	14	0	see 208 comment
208	Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents		
oppose	0	14	If we opened these species to non residents it is estimated the harvest limits would be exceeded by huge numbers. These long lived species can not handle the charter pressure.
209	Establish provisions for a resident priority within emergency order authority for pelagic rockfish		
support	14	0	would give the department tools to keep the fishery open for residents
210	Reduce the bag and possession limit for pelagic rockfish in Southeast Alaska		

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
tie vote as amended	7	7	Amendments: Reduce the “non resident” bag and possession Amendment: Pelagic rockfish :bag limit of “no more than” three fish; possession limit of “no more than” six fish.
211	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		
support	14	0	putting into regulation that which is common practice
212	Allow the number of geoduck permit holders able to fish from one vessel to be increased from two to four by emergency order		
support	15	0	supported by all present including adfg. Makes sense to help divers save fuel and make this fishery more efficient.
213	Modify how geoduck guideline harvest levels are calculated		
oppose	15	0	It sounds like this fishery is under real threat from sea otter predation combined with the dive fishery. Because this proposal will increase take on a fishery of geoduck who live up to 180 years and are slow to reproduce, we are not in support.
214	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		
oppose	0	15	Refer to our notes and vote on 215 as this is substantially similar
215	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		
oppose	0	15	This proposal would open up areas that are closed because the most recent survey shows there is less than 30 percent of the original population remaining. We felt like this action would be a real threat to the future of areas that have already been heavily fished.
216	Clarify that only aquatic farm sites approved for the culture of geoduck clams are closed to commercial harvest of geoduck clams		
support	15	0	housekeeping
217	Allow weekly fishing periods to begin on Sundays		
oppose	2	13	Local divers are mostly getting their quota in the current time allowed. They are not in favor.
218	Extend sea cucumber fishing season beyond March 31		

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
oppose	1	14	An extension could hinder reproduction. There are usually not many pounds left unfished in our area.
219	Clarify when a sea cucumber permit holder is in possession of the product they harvested		
no action	11	3	Take no action 11-3
220	Allow crew members to be in possession of sea cucumbers harvested by the sea cucumber permit holder		
no action	11	3	Take no action 11-3
221	Prohibit harvest of naturally occurring sea cucumbers on aquatic farm sites by farm operator in areas where there are commercial sea cucumber fisheries		
support	12	3	Some of these farms are 500 acres. Concern that farmers could cut out an existing fishery.
222	Adopt seasonal closures for subsistence, sport, and personal use shrimp fisheries		
support	14	0	A positive move to protect the shrimp during their egg laying time. Could have a significant positive impact on population
223	Increase the tunnel size for sport, personal use, and subsistence shrimp pots		
oppose	0	14	more bycatch of crab
224	Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 opening date back to October 1		
oppose	0	14	Hope that the new season in time will increase the shrimp population. It needs time to see how it is working.
225	Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 opening date to October 1 or to another start date in late summer/early fall		
oppose	0	14	same as 224
226	Provide for further conservation in the shrimp pot fishery by reducing all GHs by 20%, reducing the number of pots allowed by 40–50%, and eliminating the large pot size		
oppose	0	14	Not needed. Moving the season is already a big conservation measure.
227	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		
oppose	0	14	Would increase fishing and pressure on shrimp by adding more pots to a boat. Could bring a lot of latent permits into the fishery
228	Redefine legal shrimp pot requirements to allow for the use slinky pots		
support	13	1	might be safer for loading boats.
229	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		

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support	14	0	Makes sense to be consistent and avoid confusion
230	Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid		
oppose	5	10	concerns about not enough Data
231	Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid		
oppose	5	10	Concerns not enough Data
232	Allow for the concurrent possession of red and green urchin aboard		
no action			out of our area
233	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		
support	15	0	would allow the hauling of pots in areas where big tides make it impossible
234	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		
support	13	2	more daylight to fish
235	Add freezing spray to the criteria that would delay the start date of commercial golden king crab fishery in Registration Area A.		
support	15	0	Important safety action
236	Increase the depth that Registration Area A commercial king crab fishery pots can be stored to 20 fathoms		
oppose	2	13	makes enforcement more difficult
237	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		
no action			out of area
238	Expand the defined Southern Area in the golden king crab commercial fishery in Registration Area A to include all waters of Section 3-A		
no action			out of area
239	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		
support	15	0	the department has no objection and the local fisherman are in favor
240	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		
oppose	0	15	

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
241	Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A king crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait		
oppose	0	15	might create a bycatch issue
242	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		
no action			out or area
243	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		
support	12	3	Hope that this might provide for more personal use opportunity
244	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		
support	15	0	would allow the hauling of pots in areas where big tides make it impossible
245	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		
support	13	2	More daylight for fishing. Less time wasted by fishermen waiting to set gear
246	Add freezing spray to the criteria that would delay the start date of commercial Tanner crab fishery in Registration Area A		
support	15	0	Important safety measure. Might save lives
247	Increase the depth that Registration Area A commercial Tanner crab fishery pots can be stored to 20 fathoms		
oppose	2	13	makes enforcement more difficult
248	Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A Tanner crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait		
oppose	0	15	bycatch issues, not clear what species they could keep. Escapement ring size issues.
249	Allow Tanner crab commercial fishery participants to operate pot gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport fisheries after unregistering from the commercial fishery		
support	15	0	in favor of supporting subsistence
250	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		

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
oppose	2	13	This AC would like more opportunity for Residents to get crab, but not at the expense of population growth
251	Change the start date of the Registration Area A Dungeness crab commercial fishery's summer season from June 15 to July 1		
oppose	1	14	The crab season is working well. Less than 1 percent soft crab on the record. Moving season would harm business plans of fishermen
252	Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A Dungeness crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait		
oppose	0	15	Crab could get in these pots and the escape rings are smaller than are legal for crab, so could cause crab mortality. Unclear what species the fisher could keep?
253	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		
oppose	7	8	could bring too many latent permits into the shrimp fishery. Because crab and shrimp used to open up on OCT 1, it is not new that Fisherman have had to choose between these two fisheries historically.
254	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		
oppose	7	8	Same as 253
255	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		
oppose	4	11	opens up the ability of crabbers to prospect using shrimp pots. most crabbers would be able to use personal use pots to prospect. No need to have a commercial shrimp permit.
256	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 ho		
oppose			same as 253
257	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		
oppose			same at 253

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
258	Open some or all areas closed to commercial Dungeness fishing in Registration Area A		
0	15	areas are unclear. No season description. would open areas closed to commercial that might now be used for subsistence.	
259	Open all waters closed to commercial Dungeness fishing in Registration Area A between October 1 and November 30, annually		
oppose	0	15	WE appreciate some areas are set aside from commercial fishing and hopefully provide subsistence/personal use opportunity
260	Close George Inlet, Carroll Inlet, and Thorne Arm in District 1 to the commercial harvest of shrimp and crab		
no action			outside our area
261	Close Traitors Cove to commercial and sport shellfish harvest		
No action			outside our area
262	Close sport fishing for Dungeness crab in Thorne Bay		
no action			out of area

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Stacey Wayne
 Minutes Approved By: John Murray by email
 Date: 1-14-25

Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee

Proposal comment summary from meetings on 11/22/24, 12/16/24, and 1/6/25

Approved by Tim McDonough, Chair

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
104	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		
SUPPORT	9	0	Subsistence users should have priority over other user groups
105	Modify sport fishing regulations in salt waters subject to the Magnuson-Stevens Act by removing differential regulations for resident and nonresident anglers		
106	Prohibit nonresidents on charter vessels that have taken fish in the EEZ from offloading those fish in state waters		
SUPPORT	9	0	Closes possible loophole in regulations
107	Prohibit nonresidents that have taken fish in the EEZ from possessing or offloading those fish in state waters		
SUPPORT	9	0	Closes possible loophole in regulations
108	Modify management and allocation provisions of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan		
OPPOSE	0	6	3 abstain. Need to fix the problem of overharvest by the charter fleet. This proposal would allow that problem to continue or get worse.
109	Modify the structure of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan by removing management tiers and other provisions		
SUPPORT	8	0	1 abstain. This is widely supported by the commercial fishing communities and fishermen in the region.

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
110	Manage the sport fishery inseason to achieve the annual king salmon allocation to the sport fishery		
SUPPORT	8	0	1 abstain. This is widely supported by the commercial fishing communities and fishermen in the region.
111	Modify the management provisions and target allocation for the king salmon sport fishery		
112	Modify the sport allocation of king salmon and provisions for management		
OPPOSE	0	5	4 abstain. We don't need to allocate any more of the resource to the sport fleet.
113	Modify the provisions of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan and increase the sport allocation of king salmon		
OPPOSE	0	9	We shouldn't increase the sport fishery allocation.
114	Reduce the nonresident annual limit in low allocation management tiers and other modifications to the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan		
115	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to one fish		
SUPPORT	9	0	Nonresidents need to be further limited to protect a threatened resource.
116	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to two fish prior to July 1 and one fish after July 1		
SUPPORT	9	0	Nonresidents need to be further limited to protect a threatened resource.
117	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to two fish prior to July 1 and one fish after July 1		
SUPPORT	9	0	Nonresidents need to be further limited to protect a threatened resource.
118	The nonresident annual limit for king salmon shall not exceed three and nonresident annual limits will not apply in terminal harvest areas		
OPPOSE	0	9	We should not reduce the restrictions on non-resident fishing at this time of conservation need.

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
119			Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon for 2 days per week
120			Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon on weekends
121			Extend the sunset provisions in the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan
122			Prohibit the removal of king salmon from the water when retention is not allowed
SUPPORT	9	0	Handling of fish out of water causes harm and mortality.
123			Prohibit netting or handling king salmon when catch-and-release fishing is implemented
SUPPORT	9	0	Handling of fish out of water causes harm and mortality.
124			Modify resident sport fishing opportunity prescribed by Southeast Alaska king salmon action plans
125			Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A when a stock of concern exists for king salmon stocks in Northern Southeast Alaska
SUPPORT	9	0	Closing this particular area at this time is an effective way to help protect struggling stocks and allow recovery.
126			Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A
SUPPORT	9	0	Closing this particular area at this time is an effective way to help protect struggling stocks and allow recovery.
SUPPORT	9	0	
127			Allow residents to retain king salmon in the month of April near Ketchikan
128			Allow residents to retain king salmon in the month of April in the Ketchikan area
129			Increase the number of days open in the Yakutat Bay spring troll fishery from 1 day to 2 days
130			Allow for remaining troll king salmon allocation after winter and spring troll fisheries to be harvested during a single retention period beginning July 1

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
131	Establish criteria for establishing a limited harvest troll fishery in August and allow for more than one limited harvest fishery to occur		
SUPPORT	8	0	1 abstain. This would increase the efficiency and ease of August opener when quota is available.
132	Establish a minimum size limit for Chinook salmon of 26 1/2 inches from snout to fork of tail in the spring troll fisheries		
133	Allow for king salmon of 26 1/2 inches snout to fork length be retained in District 13 spring troll fisheries		
134	Expand landing and retention requirements for king salmon by purse seine permit holders and establish penalties for violating landing requirements		
SUPPORT	9	0	This would increase record keeping requirements for the seine fleet and better record the king salmon harvest that is possibly being under-recorded.
135	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		
136	Increase sockeye salmon possession and annual limits at Basket Bay		
137	Increase the possession limit of sockeye salmon for Basket Bay from 15 to 30 sockeye salmon		
138	Prohibit snagging in the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge		
139	Prohibit snagging within Don D. Statter harbor		
140	Sport fishing may only be conducted with a single barbless circle hook between April 1 and June 14		
SUPPORT	7	0	2 abstain. This would help conserve fish stocks, especially king salmon, at a vulnerable time of year.
141	Prohibit the use of bait in sport fisheries between April 1 through June 14		

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
OPPOSE	0	7	2 abstain. The wording of the proposal is not clear about what fishery is being targeted.
142			Open Ketchikan Creek to sport fishing year-round and establish bag and possession limits for king salmon
143			Increase the bag and possession limit for trout in Southeast Alaska
144			Increase harvest opportunity for trout in Southeast Alaska
145			Increase harvest opportunity for trout in Klawock Lake drainage
146			Increase the bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout in 108 Creek drainage
147			Increase the bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout and prohibit the use of bait in Neck Lake
148			Modify Eagle Lake cutthroat trout bag and possession and size limit
149			Prohibit the use of bait and establish a catch-and-release fishery with single barbless hooks in Petersen Creek
150			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
151			Modify the nonresident annual limit for king salmon in the freshwaters of the Yakutat management area and the Situk River
152			Amend the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan to reflect recent management strategies
153			Close a portion of the Situk River to sport fishing until the escapement goal for king salmon is met

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
154	Close sport fishing in a portion of the Situk River between April 15 and May 15		
155	Increase the sport fish bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in the fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary		
156	Reduce Southeast Alaska hatchery permitted pink and chum salmon egg take level by 25%		
SUPPORT	6	5	<p>1 abstain. SUPPORTING: There is mounting scientific evidence of the detrimental effects of large hatchery releases on wild populations. There is a lot of straying from hatchery fish into wild systems in Lynn Canal, interfering with wild reproduction. Hatchery fish are not very valuable, and the value they bring to the fleet is a net negative if they are also harming the more valuable wild fisheries like Chilkat and Chilkoot sockeye. According to DIPAC hatchery biologists, they are sometimes not able to follow their management plan, and they do release hatchery smolts into the wild system at a time when they will interfere with out-migrating wild fish. According to retired ADFG fishery biologist, Lynn Canal hatchery chums might be preventing the recovery of wild chums in both the Taku and Chilkat systems. Our wild stocks are not doing well, and we need to give them every chance to recover and we should not impede them by adding millions of competing fish to their ecosystem.</p> <p>OPPOSING: The science isn't conclusive enough to limit hatcheries. Hatchery fish add a lot of value and income to the commercial fishing industry.</p>
157	Establish a terminal harvest area and associated management plan for harvesting hatchery produced salmon at Burnett Inlet		
SUPPORT	10	1	1 abstain. This has already been a release site for many years. This will benefit other fisheries by spreading effort in years of excess fish.
158	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		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
159	Modify the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan		
160	Modify the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan		
161	Reduce the sport fish bag limit for king salmon in the Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area		
162	Reduce king salmon sport fish bag limits outside of the time when the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Management Plan is in effect		
163	Nonresident annual limits for king salmon will apply in the Blind Slough terminal harvest area		
164	Modify king salmon bag and possession limits in the terminal harvest area near Juneau		
165	Change the start time of weekly drift gillnet fishing periods from Sunday to Monday		
166	Allow for drift gillnets to be up to 90 meshes deep in District 11 beginning statistical week 34		
167	Increase the legal length of purse seine by 50 fathoms		
OPPOSE	0	11	1 abstain. Seiners are already taking too many king salmon. This would make that problem worse.
168	Modify regulations to make it unlawful to use aircraft for locating salmon during any open commercial purse seine fishing period		
169	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		
170	Add waters closed to commercial fishing in Sudden Stream and Malaspina Lake		

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
171			Modify spawning biomass threshold minimum and maximum harvest rates for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B
172			Reduce upper end of sliding scale harvest rate for Southeast Alaska commercial herring fisheries from 20 to 15 percent
173			Eliminate provisions to establish a guideline harvest level for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe herring fishery under 27.160
174			Establish a maximum guideline harvest level and minimum spawning biomass to conduct fisheries for the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery
175			Establish a 15,000 ton harvest limit for the Sitka Sound sac roe fishery
SUPPORT	9	3	SUPPORTING: This would provide an effective cap on harvest and allow herring to recover regionwide. OPPOSING: Herring fishery is very valuable to commercial harvesters.
176			Reduce the maximum harvest rate from 20 percent to 10 percent for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery
177			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
178			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
179			Expand waters closed the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery to include Promisla Bay
180			Correct latitude of Aspid Cape for the southern boundary of the Section 13-B purse seine sac roe herring fishery
181			Establish provisions for conducting test setting in the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
182			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
183			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
184			Expand open area in Section 3-B for placement spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds
185			Expand open area in Section 3-B for spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds
186			Expand open area in Section 3-B for spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds
187			Allow the use of large mesh webbing to surround spawn on kelp pound structure to protect structure and spawn on kelp product
188			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
189			Reduce by half the length limit of purse seine net for commercial herring harvest
190			Provide for co-management of herring fisheries with tribal governments
SUPPORT as amended	11	0	1 abstain. AMENDMENT: Remove provision #2 allowing for a Tribal emergency order. SUPPORTING: A co-management agreement with Tribal governments is a socially and environmentally just means of managing a limited and culturally-significant resource.
191			Amend logbook requirements for vessels fishing for groundfish with pot and longline gear
192			Allow pots used in the personal use bottomfish fishery to be longlined

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
SUPPORT	11	0	1 abstain. Would make the fishery more convenient and with less line and gear in the water to get tangled by whales.
193	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		
194	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		
195	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		
196	Reduce the minimum inside diameter of escape rings in commercial sablefish pots to three and three-eighths inches		
197	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		
198	Increase the daily bag limit for sablefish in the sport fishery		
199	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		
200	Adopt a catch reporting requirement for directed lingcod fisheries		
201	Clarify lingcod bycatch overage requirements in the Southeast District fisheries for longline halibut and salmon troll fisheries		
202	Clarify that only one line can be used for dinglebar gear in the lingcod fishery		

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
203	Establish unguided nonresident lingcod regulations		
204	Allow pots to be longlined in the state waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska commercial Pacific cod fishery		
205	Allow personal use retention of Pacific cod and rockfishes, including thornyhead rockfish, in pot gear		
206	Reopen yelloweye sport fishery for residents		
207	Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents		
OPPOSE	0	12	Not enough info on abundance.
208	Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents		
OPPOSE	0	12	Not enough info on abundance.
209	Establish provisions for a resident priority within emergency order authority for pelagic rockfish		
210	Reduce the bag and possession limit for pelagic rockfish in Southeast Alaska		
SUPPORT	12	0	There is an ongoing problem of increasing harvest and harm to fishery and population.
211	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		
212	Allow the number of geoduck permit holders able to fish from one vessel to be increased from two to four by emergency order		
213	Modify how geoduck guideline harvest levels are calculated		

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
214			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
215			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
216			Clarify that only aquatic farm sites approved for the culture of geoduck clams are closed to commercial harvest of geoduck clams
217			Allow weekly fishing periods to begin on Sundays
218			Extend sea cucumber fishing season beyond March 31
219			Clarify when a sea cucumber permit holder is in possession of the product they harvested
220			Allow crew members to be in possession of sea cucumbers harvested by the sea cucumber permit holder
221			Prohibit harvest of naturally occurring sea cucumbers on aquatic farm sites by farm operator in areas where there are commercial sea cucumber fisheries
222			Adopt seasonal closures for subsistence, sport, and personal use shrimp fisheries
SUPPORT	12	0	Will conserve population during reproductive season.
223			Increase the tunnel size for sport, personal use, and subsistence shrimp pots
224			Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 opening date back to October 1
225			Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 opening date to October 1 or to another start date in late summer/early fall

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
226			Provide for further conservation in the shrimp pot fishery by reducing all GHGs by 20%, reducing the number of pots allowed by 40–50%, and eliminating the large pot size
227			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
228			Redefine legal shrimp pot requirements to allow for the use slinky pots
229			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
230			Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid
231			Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid
232			Allow for the concurrent possession of red and green urchin aboard
233			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
234			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
235			Add freezing spray to the criteria that would delay the start date of commercial golden king crab fishery in Registration Area A.
236			Increase the depth that Registration Area A commercial king crab fishery pots can be stored to 20 fathoms

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
237			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
238			Expand the defined Southern Area in the golden king crab commercial fishery in Registration Area A to include all waters of Section 3-A
239			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
240			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
241			Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A king crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait
242			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
243			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
244			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
245			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
246			Add freezing spray to the criteria that would delay the start date of commercial Tanner crab fishery in Registration Area A

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
247			Increase the depth that Registration Area A commercial Tanner crab fishery pots can be stored to 20 fathoms
248			Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A Tanner crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait
249			Allow Tanner crab commercial fishery participants to operate pot gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport fisheries after unregistering from the commercial fishery
250			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
OPPOSE	0	12	Need to allow crab to breed before harvest.
251			Change the start date of the Registration Area A Dungeness crab commercial fishery's summer season from June 15 to July 1
252			Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A Dungeness crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait
253			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
254			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
255			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 f
256			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 ho

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
257	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		
258	Open some or all areas closed to commercial Dungeness fishing in Registration Area A		
OPPOSE	0	12	Would increase harvest above sustainable levels. Proposal is not clear about what should be open. Some areas have been closed for many years.
259	Open all waters closed to commercial Dungeness fishing in Registration Area A between October 1 and November 30, annually		
260	Close George Inlet, Carroll Inlet, and Thorne Arm in District 1 to the commercial harvest of shrimp and crab		
261	Close Traitors Cove to commercial and sport shellfish harvest		
262	Close sport fishing for Dungeness crab in Thorne Bay		

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: DPoinsette
 Minutes Approved By: TMcDonough
 Date: 1/13/2025

**Wrangell Advisory Committee
Tuesday November 26, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Nolan Center, Wrangell**

- I. Call to Order: 7 PM by Chris Guggenbickler, Chair
- II. Roll Call
- Members Present: (11) Chris Guggenbickler
 Tom Sims via teleconference
 David Rak
 Robert Rooney
 Ryan Reeves
 John Yeager via teleconference
 Travis Bangs
 Winston Davies
 Brett Stillwaugh via teleconference
 Jason Rooney
 Alan Reeves
- Members Absent (Excused): (5) Scott McAuliffe
 Dave Brown
 Marlin Benedict
 Jordan Bunes
 Davey Brown
- Members Absent (Unexcused): None
- Number Needed for Quorum on AC: Eight
- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: via teleconference: Tom Kowalske
 Katie Taylor
 Jeff Rice
 Adam Messmer
 Joe Stratman
 Kristy Tibbles
- IV. Guests Present: Michael Ottesen
 Chris McMurren
 Steve Thomassen
 Dustin Phillips
 Scott Phillips
 Colette Czarnecki, KSTK Radio
- V. Approval of Agenda
- Southeast Board of Fisheries Salmon Proposals
- Southeast Subsistence Salmon: 135,136,137
- Enhancement/Terminal areas: 156,157,158,159,160,161,162,163,164
- Commercial Salmon: 165,166,167,168,169,170

Geoduck Clams: 212,213,214,215,216
 Sea Cucumber: 217,218,219,220,221
 Shrimp: 222,223,224,225,226,227,228,229
 Miscellaneous Shellfish: 230,231,232
 Golden King Crab: 233,234,235,236,237,238,239,240
 Red King Crab: 241,242,243
 Tanner Crab: 244,245,246,247,248,249
 Dungeness Crab: 250,251,252,253,254,25255,256,257,258,259,260,261,262

VI. Elections

The following five persons were elected to three-year terms on the Wrangell AC:

Ryan Reeves
 Winston Davies
 Alan Reeves
 John Yeager
 Rob Rooney

The following persons was elected to fill a 2-year unexpired seat on the Wrangell AC:

Travis Bangs

The following two persons were appointed by the chair to one-year alternate seats on the Wrangell AC:

Davey Brown
 Chris Mc Murren

VII. Reports

- a. Chair's report by Chris Guggenbickler
 - i. Board of Fisheries SE fisheries meeting in Ketchikan; 1/28-2/9, 2025. Public Comment deadline 1/14/2025.
 - ii. Board of Game Statewide Regulations meeting in Anchorage; 3/21-28, 2025. Public Comment deadline 3/7/2025.
 - iii. Call for Proposals for SE Hunting and Trapping Regulations; Deadline 5/1/25

VIII. Public Comment: None

IX. Old Business: None

X. New Business: Board of Fisheries Salmon Proposals

XI. Set next meeting date: December 10, 2024

XII. Other

Adjourn: 10:30 PM

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
156	Reduce Southeast Alaska hatchery permitted pink and chum salmon egg take level by 25%		
OPPOSE	0	11	The AC opposes the proposal and feels it is simply an anti-hatchery proposal, not based on science. Hatchery programs are reviewed and approved by the Regional Planning Team (RPT) which is a public process. The reduction to the hatchery fish would harm the economics of many SE Alaska communities. The all users would be negatively impacted, and SRAA would be negatively impacted. Hatchery fish benefit all users. Also see <i>A Resolution Of The Wrangell Fish And Game Advisory Committee Opposing Proposal 156 in the 12/17/24 Wrangell AC meeting notes.</i>
157	Establish a terminal harvest area and associated management plan for harvesting hatchery produced salmon at Burnett Inlet		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports the proposal because all gear groups could be used (on rare occasion) to harvest fish in the Terminal Harvest Area (THA). SSRAA has uses seine gear in the past for cost recovery in the THA. It is noted that the minimum, not the maximum, mesh size should be 6 inches. The AC expects the web size would be worked out in committee.
158	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		
No Action			
159	Modify the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports the proposal because it favors resident anglers over non-resident anglers. The proposal sets up a tier system, accounting for physical changes at the site, that would allow SSRAA to take the fish eggs that are needed for the hatchery program operation. It is believed that in the past over 50% of the years, Crystal Lake Hatchery staff do not get enough brood stock for the Crystal Lake hatchery and Anita Bay release programs. This proposal works to correct that situation. It is noted that the <i>June 1 to July 15</i> dates, stated in the proposal part (D)(2), may need to be changed to <i>June 1 to August 15</i> .

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
160	Modify the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan		
No Action			No action taken based on action taken on proposal 159.
161	Reduce the sport fish bag limit for king salmon in the Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area		
No Action			
162	Reduce king salmon sport fish bag limits outside of the time when the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Management Plan is in effect		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports the proposal because it restricts the King fishery to May 31; removes the size limit with a bag and possession limit of 2 fish; and eliminates the mortality which results from catch and release.
163	Nonresident annual limits for king salmon will apply in the Blind Slough terminal harvest area		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports the proposal because it corrects the situation where the annual non-resident bag limit for Kings was not applied to hatchery Kings. Where Alaska residents are not able to harvest enough Kings to feed their families, the harvest of Kings by non-residents should be limited. It was reported that there is no good harvest data for the non-resident non-charter harvest of King salmon.
164	Modify king salmon bag and possession limits in the terminal harvest area near Juneau		
No Action			
165	Change the start time of weekly drift gillnet fishing periods from Sunday to Monday		
OPPOSE	0	11	The AC opposes the change of the start time of weekly drift gillnet fishing periods to Monday because it believes the period needs to start on Sunday so the harvest data can get reported back in time for management of the fishery.
166	Allow for drift gillnets to be up to 90 meshes deep in District 11 beginning statistical week 34		
SUPPORT	8	3	The AC was split but supported this proposal as a test. It is believed that not many gillnetters would build a deeper 90-mesh net for the fishery in District 11. The change is needed because cohos are known for going deep under a 60-mesh deep net. It was mentioned the deeper nets may be useful in District 8 for Stikine Sockeye.
167	Increase the legal length of purse seine by 50 fathoms		
OPPOSE	0	11	The AC opposes this proposal because it feels that seine nets are efficient enough at their current length. Increasing the efficiency of a seine net would affect harvest within the US/Canada Salmon Treaty. Longer seine

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			nets would benefit on a small portion of the fleet with the bigger seine boats. Allowing longer seine nets would lead to longer gillnets
168	Modify regulations to make it unlawful to use aircraft for locating salmon during any open commercial purse seine fishing period		
No Action			
169	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		
No Action			
170	Add waters closed to commercial fishing in Sudden Stream and Malaspina Lake		
No Action			
212	Allow the number of geoduck permit holders able to fish from one vessel to be increased from two to four by emergency order		
No Action			
213	Modify how geoduck guideline harvest levels are calculated		
No Action			
214	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		
No Action			
215	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		
No Action			
216	Clarify that only aquatic farm sites approved for the culture of geoduck clams are closed to commercial harvest of geoduck clams		
No Action			
217	Allow weekly fishing periods to begin on Sundays		
No Action			
218	Extend sea cucumber fishing season beyond March 31		
No Action			
219	Clarify when a sea cucumber permit holder is in possession of the product they harvested		
No Action			

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
220	Allow crew members to be in possession of sea cucumbers harvested by the sea cucumber permit holder		
No Action			
221	Prohibit harvest of naturally occurring sea cucumbers on aquatic farm sites by farm operator in areas where there are commercial sea cucumber fisheries		
No Action			
222	Adopt seasonal closures for subsistence, sport, and personal use shrimp fisheries		
Oppose	0	11	The AC opposes this action because it is an allocative proposal that the Department should not have submitted. The proposal closure would affect resident subsistence, sport, and personal use fishing. It is during a time when there is very little non-resident fishing. There needs to be a break in time for shrimp to lay their eggs. The closure would eliminate the ability to prospect for new shrimp areas prior to the commercial fishery..
223	Increase the tunnel size for sport, personal use, and subsistence shrimp pots		
No Action			The AC comments that an increase in tunnel size would result in an increase in bycatch. The AC feels the current tunnel size is adequate.
224	Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 opening date back to October 1		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC strongly supports this proposal to return the shrimp pot fishery back to a fall/October fishery, and does not want to wait another 3-years for the change. The change from the fall to the spring fishery upset everyone. No reasonable explanation has been provided for the change from a fall to spring fishery.
225	Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 opening date to October 1 or to another start date in late summer/early fall		
No Action			The AC comments that it supports October 1 st or October 15 th , over September or August.
226	Provide for further conservation in the shrimp pot fishery by reducing all GHGs by 20%, reducing the number of pots allowed by 40–50%, and eliminating the large pot size		
OPPOSE	0	11	The AC opposes this proposal because the shrimp pot fishers have already taken pot and other reductions that have cost time and efficiency in the fishery. The AC reasons that with less pots it would take longer to catch the GHG. The AC recommends that proposals 226 and 227 be combined.
227	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		
No Action			

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
228	Redefine legal shrimp pot requirements to allow for the use slinky pots		
No Action			
229	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		
No Action			
230	Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid		
No Action			
231	Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid		
No Action			
232	Allow for the concurrent possession of red and green urchin aboard		
No Action			
233	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		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports this proposal because small tides make the job easier and safer.
234	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		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports this proposal because it supports the opportunity to get the gear in the water during daylight, making the job easier and safer.
235	Add freezing spray to the criteria that would delay the start date of commercial golden king crab fishery in Registration Area A.		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports this proposal because it is good common sense.
236	Increase the depth that Registration Area A commercial king crab fishery pots can be stored to 20 fathoms		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports this proposal because it is a safety issue with large heavy pots. There is not much area that is 10 fathoms or less for pot storage, and those areas are often steep and rocky. Increasing the depth increases the potential area for pot storage that can be safely selected from.
237	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		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports this proposal because it expands the fishery into an area with historically little effort. There would be little change to the fishery, no change in the GHL, and the expansion would add an area to explore.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
238	Expand the defined Southern Area in the golden king crab commercial fishery in Registration Area A to include all waters of Section 3-A		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports this proposal because it adds an area that has not been fished before. There is no biological reason to oppose the expansion.
239	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		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports this proposal because it splits the area in two with separate GHL. There would be no change in the GHR. It is expected that the two areas are different bodies of crab on different cycles.
240	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		
No Action			
241	Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A king crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports this proposal because king crab cannot be caught in a slinky pot. The AC feels criteria would be needed for a tunnel size limit in the slinky pots. Also an exemption in the regulations would be needed to allow for this use.
242	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		
OPPOSE	0	13	Action taken on 12/17/24 when 13 people were present. The AC opposes this proposal because it believes 100% should not go to one gear group. If the proposal passes it would eliminate the commercial red king crab fishery. And if the proposal passes the Department would need to recalculate abundance model to ensure the triggers for a commercial fishery are adjusted for loss of 11A biomass.
243	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		
SUPPORT	13	0	Action taken 12/17/24 when 13 people were present. The AC supports this proposal because it would set up the fishery each year, and adjust if not meeting the threshold of 200 thousand pounds. A task force and the PVOA developed the proposal. There would be a longer period for the fishery, so fishers could fish when they want, and catch the allocation when they have time to fish.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
January 28-February 9th, 2025 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
244	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		
No Action			
245	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		
No Action			
246	Add freezing spray to the criteria that would delay the start date of commercial Tanner crab fishery in Registration Area A		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports this proposal because it mirrors the similar proposal for brown king crab.
247	Increase the depth that Registration Area A commercial Tanner crab fishery pots can be stored to 20 fathoms		
No Action			
248	Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A Tanner crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait		
No Action			
249	Allow Tanner crab commercial fishery participants to operate pot gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport fisheries after unregistering from the commercial fishery		
No Action			
250	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		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports this proposal because subsistence and personal use crabbers could harvest male crab not available to commercial crabbers; area closures would not be needed to provide increased opportunity for personal use crabbers; and the reduced limit would not include non-resident crabbers. The proposal is viewed as a tool for resident sport and subsistence to co-exist in areas with commercial crabbing.
251	Change the start date of the Registration Area A Dungeness crab commercial fishery's summer season from June 15 to July 1		
OPPOSE	0	11	The AC opposes this proposal because the change in the start date has an adverse effect on the start of the gillnet fishery. The summer fishery would be 16 days shorter. The change would be averse to people who would fish crab prior to gillnetting.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
252	Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A Dungeness crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait		
No Action			
253	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		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports this proposal because it corrects an outdated rule that dates back to the change in the shrimp season. Fishers would need to make a decision to stop shrimping or not go crabbing.
254	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		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports this proposal because it is identical to proposal 253.
255	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 f		
No Action			
256	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 ho		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports this proposal because it is identical to proposal 253.
257	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		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports this proposal because it is identical to proposal 253.
258	Open some or all areas closed to commercial Dungeness fishing in Registration Area A		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports this proposal based on its action and support of proposal 250.
259	Open all waters closed to commercial Dungeness fishing in Registration Area A between October 1 and November 30, annually		
No Action			
260	Close George Inlet, Carroll Inlet, and Thorne Arm in District 1 to the commercial harvest of shrimp and crab		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
January 28-February 9th, 2025 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
OPPOSE	0	11	The AC opposes this proposal because it believes there is plenty of shrimp and crab in the three areas during the summer season.
261	Close Traitors Cove to commercial and sport shellfish harvest		
OPPOSE	0	11	The AC opposes this proposal because it generally opposes the closure of areas. Also see AC notes for proposal 250.
262	Close sport fishing for Dungeness crab in Thorne Bay		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports this proposal because it believes if an area is closed to commercial crabbing it should be closed to sport fishing for crabs. That would close the area to non-resident sport fishing for crabs, and keep the area open for resident subsistence fishing for crabs.

Adjournment: 10:30 PM

Minutes Recorded By: David Rak
Minutes Approved By: Chris Guggenbickler
Date: 1/10/2025

Wrangell Advisory Committee
Tuesday December 10, 2024 at 5:30 PM
Nolan Center, Wrangell

I. Call to Order: 5:30 PM by Chris Guggenbickler, Chair

II. Roll Call

Members Present: (11) Chris Guggenbickler
 Tom Sims via teleconference
 David Rak
 Robert Rooney
 Ryan Reeves
 John Yeager
 Scott McAuliffe
 Winston Davies
 Brett Stillwaugh
 Jason Rooney
 Chris McMurren

Members Absent (Excused): (6) Alan Reeves
 Travis Bangs
 Dave Brown
 Marlin Benedict
 Jordan Bunes
 Davey Brown

Members Absent (Unexcused): None

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: Eight

III. Fish and Game Staff Present: via teleconference: Tom Kowalske
 Jeff Rice
 Kristy Tibbles

IV. Guests Present: Jacquie Foss via teleconference
 Deikee Latin via teleconference
 Cody Cowan via teleconference ATA
 Matt Donohoe via teleconference ATA
 Marvin Williams via teleconference
 Emily Klosterman
 Alan Cummings
 Jared Gross
 Colette Czarnecki, KSTK Radio

V. Approval of Agenda

Agenda items include the following:

Board of Fisheries Southeast Proposals, specifically:
 King Salmon Management Plan (Proposals 104 - 121)
 King Salmon-Sport Stock of Concern Action Plans (Proposals 122 – 128)

King Salmon Commercial Fishing (Proposals 129 – 134)
Southeast Sport and Trout Fishing (Proposals 138 – 149)
Yakutat Area (Proposals 150 – 170)

VI. Reports

- a. Chair's report by Chris Guggenbickler
 - i. Board of Fisheries SE fisheries meeting in Ketchikan; 1/28-2/9, 2025. Public Comment deadline 1/14/2025.
 - ii. Board of Game Statewide Regulations meeting in Anchorage; 3/21-28, 2025. Public Comment deadline 3/7/2025.
 - iii. Call for Proposals for SE Hunting and Trapping Regulations; Deadline 5/1/25

VII. Public Comment: None

VIII. Old Business: None

IX. New Business: Board of Fisheries Proposals Continued

X. Set next meeting date: December 17, 2024

XI. Other

Adjourn: 8:05 PM

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
104	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		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	11	0	The AC amends the proposal to include that the 5000 fish be taken out of the sport allocation not out of the overall Treaty allocation and to strike the 5% in favor of the 5000. The AC supports the proposal as amended because it agrees that something has to be done to correct the overharvest. The AC believes that the non-resident sport take is larger than the resident sport take.
105	Modify sport fishing regulations in salt waters subject to the Magnuson-Stevens Act by removing differential regulations for resident and nonresident anglers		
No Action			The AC comments that there is a need to equally manage the provisions of the Alaska residents vs non-residents in the EEZ. There is a need to find a way that all in the EEZ are equal under the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act so the Federal government does not take over the fisheries management. Need to make equal bag and possession limits for resident and non-resident fishers. It is recommended to the Board that bag limits for near shore and 3-miles off share be the same. There should be no advantage to large out-of-state boats going off shore to fish.
106	Prohibit nonresidents on charter vessels that have taken fish in the EEZ from offloading those fish in state waters		
No Action			
107	Prohibit nonresidents that have taken fish in the EEZ from possessing or offloading those fish in state waters		
No Action			
108	Modify management and allocation provisions of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan		
No Action			
109	Modify the structure of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan by removing management tiers and other provisions		
No Action			The Wrangell AC took no action on proposals 109 through 111 and instead supports the rewrite of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
January 28-February 9th, 2025 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>Management Plan as presented in the Record Comment (RC) the AC considered at its meeting on 12/10/2024. The RC rewrite and AC comments are included in the minutes of the AC's 12/10/24 meeting.</p> <p>The AC's overall preference statement is providing opportunity for resident over non-resident. We support an 80/20 split for commercial and sport fisheries. The Department needs to manage the sport fishery in season not to exceed its allocation. If the sport fishery was managed in season within its allocation, many of the proposals would not be needed. There should be no sport closure as there was last year. Early inside Kings, in May & June, that are spawners are to be protected.</p>
110	Manage the sport fishery inseason to achieve the annual king salmon allocation to the sport fishery		
No Action			
111	Modify the management provisions and target allocation for the king salmon sport fishery		
No Action			
112	Modify the sport allocation of king salmon and provisions for management		
No Action			
113	Modify the provisions of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan and increase the sport allocation of king salmon		
OPPOSE	0	11	The AC opposes the proposal as it disagrees with the adjustment to the allocations and would favor in season management of the sport fleet
114	Reduce the nonresident annual limit in low allocation management tiers and other modifications to the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan		
No Action			
115	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to one fish		
No Action			
116	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to two fish prior to July 1 and one fish after July 1		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports the proposal because it reduces the non-resident bag limit which will help part of the problem.
117	Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to two fish prior to July 1 and one fish after July 1		
No Action			No action was taken but the AC supports the proposal because it reduces the non-resident bag limit which will help part of the problem.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
118	The nonresident annual limit for king salmon shall not exceed three and nonresident annual limits will not apply in terminal harvest areas		
No Action			
119	Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon for 2 days per week		
No Action			
120	Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon on weekends		
No Action			
121	Extend the sunset provisions in the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan		
No Action			This is a place holder provision not to be delt with because multiple proposals are provided changing the King Salmon Management Plan.
122	Prohibit the removal of king salmon from the water when retention is not allowed		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports the proposal because removing a fish from the water harms the fish by removing slime and scales. Hook and release for a fish is not benign. There should be no net handling in addition to no removal of the fish from the water. Unhooking the fish with a gaff or cutting the line is favored over netting the fish. If the hook catches in the net, mortality could result from the extra handling.
123	Prohibit netting or handling king salmon when catch-and-release fishing is implemented		
SUPPORT	11	0	The AC supports the proposal as described in comments to proposal 122.
124	Modify resident sport fishing opportunity prescribed by Southeast Alaska king salmon action plans		
No Action			
125	Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A when a stock of concern exists for king salmon stocks in Northern Southeast Alaska		
No Action			
126	Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A		
No Action			
127	Allow residents to retain king salmon in the month of April near Ketchikan		
No Action			
128	Allow residents to retain king salmon in the month of April in the Ketchikan area		
No Action			
129	Increase the number of days open in the Yakutat Bay spring troll fishery from 1 day to 2 days		
No Action			

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
130	Allow for remaining troll king salmon allocation after winter and spring troll fisheries to be harvested during a single retention period beginning July 1		
No Action			The AC took no action but would support the proposal if the sport fishery was not kept to its allocation. The AC would oppose the proposal if the sport fishery was kept to its allocation.
131	Establish criteria for establishing a limited harvest troll fishery in August and allow for more than one limited harvest fishery to occur		
No Action			
132	Establish a minimum size limit for Chinook salmon of 26 1/2 inches from snout to fork of tail in the spring troll fisheries		
No Action			
133	Allow for king salmon of 26 1/2 inches snout to fork length be retained in District 13 spring troll fisheries		
No Action			
134	Expand landing and retention requirements for king salmon by purse seine permit holders and establish penalties for violating landing requirements		
No Action			
135	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		
No Action			
136	Increase sockeye salmon possession and annual limits at Basket Bay		
No Action			
137	Increase the possession limit of sockeye salmon for Basket Bay from 15 to 30 sockeye salmon		
No Action			
138	Prohibit snagging in the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge		
No Action			
139	Prohibit snagging within Don D. Statter harbor		
No Action			
140	Sport fishing may only be conducted with a single barbless circle hook between April 1 and June 14		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	11	0	The AC amend the proposal to be enacted only in non-retention King salmon areas, and to include single point barbless hooks, not circle hooks. The AC supports the proposal as amended because it supports the

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish
January 28-February 9th, 2025 | Ketchikan, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			conservation of transboundary stocks as needed for the rebuilding of those stocks, and the ever increasing catch and release and associated mortality.
141	Prohibit the use of bait in sport fisheries between April 1 through June 14		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	11	0	The AC would include the same amendment as for proposal 140:to be enacted only in non-retention King salmon areas, and to include single point barbless hooks, not circle hooks.
142	Open Ketchikan Creek to sport fishing year-round and establish bag and possession limits for king salmon		
No Action			The AC views the proposal as housekeeping by ADF&G.
143	Increase the bag and possession limit for trout in Southeast Alaska		
No Action			
144	Increase harvest opportunity for trout in Southeast Alaska		
No Action			
145	Increase harvest opportunity for trout in Klawock Lake drainage		
No Action			
146	Increase the bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout in 108 Creek drainage		
No Action			
147	Increase the bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout and prohibit the use of bait in Neck Lake		
No Action			
148	Modify Eagle Lake cutthroat trout bag and possession and size limit		
No Action			
149	Prohibit the use of bait and establish a catch-and-release fishery with single barbless hooks in Petersen Creek		
No Action			
150	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		
No Action			
151	Modify the nonresident annual limit for king salmon in the freshwaters of the Yakutat management area and the Situk River		
No Action			
152	Amend the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan to reflect recent management strategies		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
No Action			
153	Close a portion of the Situk River to sport fishing until the escapement goal for king salmon is met		
No Action			
154	Close sport fishing in a portion of the Situk River between April 15 and May 15		
No Action			
155	Increase the sport fish bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in the fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary		
No Action			

Adjournment: 8:05 PM

Minutes Recorded By: __David Rak_____
 Minutes Approved By: _Chris Guggenbickler_____
 Date: _____1/10/2025_____

Wrangell Advisory Committee
Tuesday December 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Nolan Center, Wrangell

- I. Call to Order: 5:30 PM by Chris Guggenbickler, Chair
- II. Roll Call
- Members Present: (13) Chris Guggenbickler
 Tom Sims via teleconference
 David Rak
 Robert Rooney
 Ryan Reeves
 John Yeager
 Chris McMurren
 Winston Davies
 Brett Stillwaugh
 Jason Rooney
 Alan Reeves
 Scott McAuliffe
 Jordan Bunes
- Members Absent (Excused): (5) Dave Brown
 Marlin Benedict
 Travis Bangs
 Davey Brown
- Members Absent (Unexcused): None
- Number Needed for Quorum on AC: Eight
- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: via teleconference: Tom Kowalske
 Rhea Ehresman
 Jeff Rice
 Kristy Tibbles
- IV. Guests Present: David Richey via teleconference ATA & SPC
 Cody Cowan via teleconference ATA
 Matt Donohoe via teleconference ATA
- Approval of Agenda Wrangell AC Resolution
 King Salmon RC
 Sitka Herring, 171-182
 Herring Spawn on Kelp, 183-187
 All Commercial Herring, 188-190
 General Groundfish, 191-193
 Sablefish, 194-198
 Lingcod, 199-203

Pacific Cod, 204, 205
Rockfish, 206-211

V. Reports

- a. Chair’s report by Chris Guggenbickler. Butchering and distribution of meat to the community, from moose forfeited by local hunters after harvest, due to not meeting the antler requirement.

VI. Public Comment: None

VII. Old Business: None

VIII. New Business: Wrangell AC Resolution, King Salmon RC, and Board of Fisheries Proposals Continued.

Resolution #001 included below concerning Proposal 156.

The Wrangell AC SUPPORTS Resolution 001, all members are in favor.

Comments, Discussion: The Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee strongly opposes Proposal 156, scheduled for consideration at the January 28 - February 9, 2025, Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, and urges the Board to reject proposal 156 to prevent detrimental impacts on Southeast Alaska’s hatchery programs, coastal communities, and fishery-dependent livelihoods.

WRANGELL FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 001

A RESOLUTION OF THE WRANGELL FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

OPPOSING PROPOSAL 156 TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 9, 2025, ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING

WHEREAS, The Alaska Boards of Fish and Game established regional Advisory Committees to serve as local subject matter experts for their respective regions; it is both appropriate and essential that the Boards prioritize these committees’ expertise and rely on their informed recommendations when making decisions; and

WHEREAS, Southeast Alaska’s salmon hatchery programs have successfully operated for almost 50 years, supplementing wild salmon harvests and supporting commercial, sport, subsistence, personal use, and cultural fisheries, which are vital to the economic and social fabric of local communities; and

WHEREAS, these hatchery programs, operated by the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA), Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc. (DIPAC), and Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), play a critical role in supporting approximately 4,200 jobs, \$219 million in labor income, and \$576 million in

annual economic output, benefitting over 14,000 Alaskans who depend on hatchery salmon for their livelihood; and

WHEREAS, Proposal 156 seeks to reduce hatchery production of pink and chum salmon by 25%, posing a significant risk to the hatchery-supported ecosystem in Southeast Alaska and threatening the stability of salmon resources relied upon by commercial, sport, and subsistence harvesters, as well as local communities for food security, cultural traditions, and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in hatchery production would jeopardize food security and access to salmon for subsistence, personal use, and sport fisheries, directly impacting the cultural practices, heritage, and economic stability of communities across the region; and

WHEREAS, the current scientific data on the impact of hatchery fish on wild salmon populations remains inconclusive and does not justify the significant cuts proposed in Proposal 156; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's hatchery system operates as a nonprofit model, funded through cost recovery and enhancement taxes, and adheres to stringent public permitting and scientific standards to ensure wild salmon populations are protected while benefiting all user groups; and

WHEREAS, Proposal 156 introduces unnecessary regulatory oversight that would conflict with the proven balance between hatchery and wild stock management achieved under existing frameworks, complicating long-term planning and financial stability for hatchery operators; and

WHEREAS, Southeast Alaska hatchery programs represent a long-standing partnership between private nonprofits and the state, providing significant economic, cultural, and social benefits while maintaining sustainable practices that protect wild salmon stocks;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WRANGELL FISH AND GAME
ADVISORY COMMITTEE THAT:**

Section 1. The Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee strongly opposes Proposal 156, scheduled for consideration at the January 28 - February 9, 2025, Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, and urges the Board to reject this proposal to prevent detrimental impacts on Southeast Alaska's hatchery programs, coastal communities, and fishery-dependent livelihoods.

Section 2. The Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee

reaffirms its support for SSRAA, DIPAC, and NSRAA, recognizing their essential contributions to sustaining salmon resources critical for local economies, cultural practices, and the continued availability of salmon for all user groups.

Section 3. The Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee calls upon the Alaska Board of Fisheries to prioritize science-based, objective assessments for hatchery management and collaborate with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, hatchery operators, and local stakeholders to ensure management decisions reflect the economic, cultural, and ecological value of Southeast Alaska's hatchery programs.

King Salmon Record Comment (RC) included below.

The Wrangell AC SUPPORTS the RC, all members are in favor.

Comments, Discussion: The AC understands the RC is supported by the Seafood Processors Cooperative (SPC), the Alaska Trollers Association (ATA), and the Territorial Sportsmen Inc. (TSI).

The following rewrite of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan has its roots in the many proposals on this subject submitted by members of the public. The plan accomplishes the following:

1. A two fish annual king salmon limit for nonresidents prior to June 1 and one fish thereafter, unless the commissioner determines a later date in June can be provided without exceeding the sport quota of 20 percent. (From Proposal 117, and its suggested amendment)
2. Moved the resident priority clause from subsection (m) near the end of the plan to subsection (b) nearer the beginning. No change to the regulation.
3. Reduced the tiers from seven to two (above and below the lowest tier). Very few regulations changed from tier to tier, and the tiers added confusion. (From proposal 109).
4. Eliminated averaging. This term was never defined and meant something different to each reviewer. (From Proposal 109)
5. Moved the two rods in winter to section (b), as it was in all tiers. No regulatory change
6. Modified subsection (i) to accommodate only two tiers.
7. Repealed the sunset. This plan comes up every three years anyway, so the sunset is unnecessary. (From Proposals 111 and 114).
8. Reinserted the words "sport fishery" where previously removed without notice. (From Proposal 110)

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 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;

(5) [Moved from subsection (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; and

(6) [Moved from subsection c(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.

(c) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is greater than 19,381 [69,014] fish the commissioner may implement by emergency order the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of two [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 May 31 [JUNE 30], a nonresident annual harvest limit of two [THREE] king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, unless the commissioner determines, using the best available information, that a later date in June can be selected for the annual limit reduction and still keep the sport fishery within its 20 percent quota;

(4) from June 1 through December 31 [JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;] a nonresident annual harvest limit of one [TWO] king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through May 31 [JUNE 30] will apply towards the one [TWO] fish annual harvest limit for the remainder of the year;

(5) Repealed / /25; [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 TOWARD THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(6) [*Moved to subsection (b)(6)*]

(d) Repealed eff. / /25. [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 IMPLEMENT BY EMERGENCY ORDER 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) 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) [*Moved to subsection (b)(6)*]

(e) Repealed eff. / /25. [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 IMPLEMENT BY EMERGENCY ORDER 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 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) [*Moved to subsection (b)(6)*]

(f) Repealed Eff. / /25. [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 IMPLEMENT BY EMERGENCY ORDER 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 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) [*Moved to subsection (b)(6)*]

(g) Repealed Eff. / /25. [WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF TREATY KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 22,328 AND 42,684 FISH, THE COMMISSIONER MAY IMPLEMENT BY EMERGENCY ORDER 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 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 LIMIT;

(5)) 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 JULY 8 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(6) [*Moved to subsection (b)(6)*]

(h) [This subsection was (h)(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.

[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 COMMISSIONER MAY IMPLEMENT BY EMERGENCY ORDER 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) [Moved to (h)]

(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 implement by emergency order a closure of the nonresident fishery, or bag limit, time, or area restrictions for all anglers [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) [Moved to subsection (b)(5)]

(n) Repealed Eff / /25. [THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER JULY 31, 2025.]

This rewrite is submitted by a large group of resident king salmon sport fishers and by commercial trollers. It addresses the primary concern that has been eroding the resident priority set out in the Alaska Constitution. The unrestricted nonresident fishery has to be brought back within the Board’s prescribed limits, wherein ALL groups participate in conservation of king salmon.



IX. Select representative(s) for Board of Fisheries meeting: Chris Guggenbickler

X. Set next meeting date: January 7, 2025

XI. Other

Adjourn: 7:11 PM

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
171	Modify spawning biomass threshold minimum and maximum harvest rates for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B		
No Action			
172	Reduce upper end of sliding scale harvest rate for Southeast Alaska commercial herring fisheries from 20 to 15 percent		
No Action			
173	Eliminate provisions to establish a guideline harvest level for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe herring fishery under 27.160		
No Action			
174	Establish a maximum guideline harvest level and minimum spawning biomass to conduct fisheries for the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery		
No Action			
175	Establish a 15,000 ton harvest limit for the Sitka Sound sac roe fishery		
No Action			
176	Reduce the maximum harvest rate from 20 percent to 10 percent for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery		
No Action			
177	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		
No Action			
178	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		
No Action			
179	Expand waters closed the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery to include Promisla Bay		
No Action			
180	Correct latitude of Aspid Cape for the southern boundary of the Section 13-B purse seine sac roe herring fishery		
No Action			
181	Establish provisions for conducting test setting in the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery		
No Action			

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
182	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		
No Action			
183	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		
No Action			
184	Expand open area in Section 3-B for placement spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds		
No Action			
185	Expand open area in Section 3-B for spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds		
No Action			
186	Expand open area in Section 3-B for spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds		
No Action			
187	Allow the use of large mesh webbing to surround spawn on kelp pound structure to protect structure and spawn on kelp product		
No Action			
188	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		
No Action			
189	Reduce by half the length limit of purse seine net for commercial herring harvest		
No Action			
190	Provide for co-management of herring fisheries with tribal governments		
No Action			
191	Amend logbook requirements for vessels fishing for groundfish with pot and longline gear		
No Action			
192	Allow pots used in the personal use bottomfish fishery to be longlined		
No Action			
193	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		

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
No Action			
194			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
No Action			
195			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
No Action			
196			Reduce the minimum inside diameter of escape rings in commercial sablefish pots to three and three-eighths inches
No Action			
197			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
No Action			
198			Increase the daily bag limit for sablefish in the sport fishery
OPPOSE	0	13	The AC opposes the proposal because it believes that 90% of the sport caught sable fish/black cod are caught by nonresidents. Alaska residents fish black cod as personal use, not sport fish. The AC feels this proposal caters to nonresidents and would result in more fish boxes of black cod leaving the State. The AC feels the regulation should be tied to the EEZ three miles off shore.
199			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
SUPPORT	13	0	The AC supports the proposal because it is not a good idea to open a fishery during a gale warning or higher.
200			Adopt a catch reporting requirement for directed lingcod fisheries
No Action			
201			Clarify lingcod bycatch overage requirements in the Southeast District fisheries for longline halibut and salmon troll fisheries
No Action			This is viewed as a housekeeping proposal submitted by the Department.
202			Clarify that only one line can be used for dinglebar gear in the lingcod fishery

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
No Action			
203	Establish unguided nonresident lingcod regulations		
OPPOSE	0	13	The AC opposes the proposal because it feels the limits for guided and nonguided nonresidents for lingcod should be equal, and there should not be more opportunity provided for unguided nonresidents. The AC does not support an increase in the harvest of lingcod by unguided nonresidents.
204	Allow pots to be longlined in the state waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska commercial Pacific cod fishery		
No Action			
205	Allow personal use retention of Pacific cod and rockfishes, including thornyhead rockfish, in pot gear		
No Action			
206	Reopen yelloweye sport fishery for residents		
SUPPORT	13	0	The AC supports the proposal because it understand the biomass for Yelloweye is increasing and it is thought to have adequate stocks to open the fishery. The AC favors increasing harvest opportunities for residents with the increasing biomass.
207	Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents		
OPPOSE	0	13	The AC opposes the reopening of the non-resident sport fishery to mirror the residential sport fishery. The AC favors the tradition that guided non-residents were not allowed to retain demersal rockfish. The AC understands that if both proposals 206 and 207 were to pass, the sport fish allocation of the PSR outside could be exceeded.
208	Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents		
SUPPORT	12	1	The AC supports the proposal because it understands that if both proposals 206 and 208 were to pass, the sport fish allocation of the PSR outside would not be exceeded. The AC favors the very limited ability of non-residents to retain one Demersal Shelf rock fish. The lone vote in opposition to the proposal fears the proposal would open the doors to keep fishing for a larger fish, and more rock fish would be killed as they are released,
209	Establish provisions for a resident priority within emergency order authority for pelagic rockfish		
SUPPORT	13	0	The AC supports the proposal because it favors the establishment of a residential priority for Pelagic rockfish. The needs of Alaska residents should be filled first.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish January 28-February 9th, 2025 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
210	Reduce the bag and possession limit for pelagic rockfish in Southeast Alaska		
OPPOSE	0	13	The AC opposes the proposal because the proposal, which includes dark rock fish, would reduce the bag and possession limits for everyone. The problem warrants a precautionary management approach. Do not limit the opportunity for residents because of an explosion in harvest by non-residents. The harvest of the rock fish by non-resident, non-guided should be limited, before limits are imposed on residents.
211	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		
No Action			This is viewed as a housekeeping proposal submitted by the Department, similar to the proposal for Ling Cod. The ability to keep or donate overages is currently not included in the regulations.

Adjournment: 7:11 PM

Minutes Recorded By: David Rak
 Minutes Approved By: Chris Guggenbickler
 Date: 1/10/2025

Yakutat Fish & Game Advisory Committee
December 4th, 2024, 7:00pm
High School Auditorium
Minutes

1. **Call to Order** 7:20pm
2. **Roll Call** – 20 present; 3 by phone.
3. **Agenda Approved.**
4. **Elections**
 - a. Nominations
 - i. Five (5) three-year terms available
 1. Jeremiah Pavlik
 2. Larry Bemis
 3. Casey Mapes
 4. Matthew Anderstrom
 5. Vacant
 - ii. Five (5) two-year terms available
 1. James Woodbury Jr.
 2. John Vale
 3. Travis Ross
 4. Samson Demmert Sr.
 5. Jonathan Pavlik
 - iii. Five (5) one-year terms available
 1. James Ross
 2. Doug Ross
 3. Havaleh Rohloff
 4. Vacant
 5. Vacant
 - iv. CM: Motion to close nominations. JR second.
 - b. Election of Officers:
 - i. Chair
 1. John Vale
 - ii. Vice chair
 1. Larry Bemis
5. **Statewide proposals before the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting**
 - a. **129:** Increase number of days to two (2) in Yakutat to Spring Troll fishery.
 - i. CM: move to support. LB second.
 - ii. Discussion
 1. CM: We have a quote of 1,000 fish that hasn't been reached in prior years. Two days provide additional opportunity to catch those fish at a time of year where prices are high.
 2. LB: This would help make up for lost bad-weather days.
 3. JW: One day is not enough
 4. SD: In favor; makes sense. Additional income would be helpful at that time of year.
 - iii. Call to question. Eight (8) in favor, one (1) opposed.
 - b. **140:** Sportfishing may only be conducted with single barbless hook between April 1 and June 14.
 - i. Motion to support w/ amendment to include Situk River April 1st to June 14th.
 - ii. Discussion
 1. JV: I was approached by guides & fisheries who felt this is needed to protect steelhead from damage from multiple hookups from fishers.
 - iii. Call to question. Nine (9) in favor, zero (0) opposed.
 - c. **150:** Change weekly subsistence fishing period start and end times in Yakutat Area from 6:00am to 12:00am and 6:00pm to 12:59pm.
 - i. CM: move to support, JR second.
 - ii. Discussion

- 1. JV: Expands the subsistence fishing period
- iii. Call to question. Nine (9) in favor, zero (0) opposed.
- d. **151:** Modify nonresident annual bag limit for King Salmon in fresh waters of Yakutat area.
 - i. DR: Motion to support, JR second
 - ii. Discussion
 - 1. F&G: Explains the proposal
 - iii. Call to question. Eight (8) in favor, zero (0) opposed.
- e. **152:** Amend the Situk-Ahrnklin and Lost River King Salmon management plan.
 - i. Motion to support & seconded.
 - ii. Discussion
 - 1. F&G: Explains proposal, says it gives them more flexibility in management.
 - 2. JV: Concerned about closures on trollers in Yakutat Bay disrupting the economy. Additional comments about concerns to troll fishery not recorded.
 - iii. Call to question. Zero (0) in favor, nine (9) opposed.
 - iv. Discussion
 - 1. F&G: JP: address concerns by advisory committee
 - v. Motion to reconsider passed
 - vi. Call to question. Nine (9) in favor, zero (0) opposed.
- f. **153:** Close a portion of Situk river sport fishery until escapement goal for King Salmon is met.
 - i. Motion to support & seconded
 - ii. Discussion
 - iii. Call to question. Nine (9) in favor, zero (0) opposed.
- g. **154:** Close a portion of Situk river to sportfishing from April 15th to May 15th.
 - i. LB: Motion to support, CM second.
 - ii. Discussion
 - 1. LB: This would close King Salmon spawning beds to sport fishing; it is needed to protect kings that are having trouble reaching escapement goals
 - 2. JV: This includes pretty much all the king salmon spawning beds
 - iii. Call to question. Nine (9) in favor, zero (0) opposed.
- h. **155:** Increase the sportfishing bag and possession limit in the waters of the Situk-Ahrnklin.
 - i. Discussion
 - 1. CM: This was addressed by AC before, where limits were reduced. AC wanted 30,000 threshold before bag limits increase
 - 2. F&G: JP: When it was passed, that part got left out
 - ii. Vote missing from minutes.
- i. **169:** Allow use of two rods with down rigger in spring and summer troll fisheries.
 - i. CM: move to support, DR second.
 - ii. Discussion
 - 1. CM: This would be helpful for fisherman
 - 2. LB: Has support in southeast
 - iii. Call to question. Nine (9) in favor, zero (0) opposed.
- j. **170:** Add waters closed to fishing in Sudden Stream and Malaspina Lake.
 - i. JR: Move to support, CM second
 - ii. Discussion
 - 1. F&G: RH: Felt markers were needed, plenty of room left for the fishery
 - 2. JV: Has there been a conservation concern for those stocks
 - 3. RH: No
 - 4. JR: This is not needed, there is low effort with no stocks of concern
 - 5. CM: F&G could still manage with emergency order if needed
 - 6. SD: The fishery is good for maintaining healthy stocks
 - 7. MA: Very low fishing effort there
 - iii. Call to question. Zero (0) in favor, ten (10) opposed.

6. Adjournment

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Yakutat Fish & Game Advisory Committee

December 4th, 2024

7:00pm

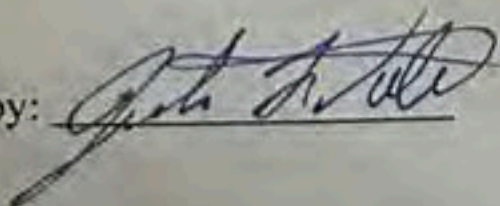
High School Auditorium

All are invited and welcome to attend.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Elections
 - a. Nominations
 - i. Five (5) three-year terms available
 - ii. Five (5) two-year terms available
 - iii. Five (5) one-year terms available
 - b. Election of Officers:
 - i. Chair
 - ii. Vice chair
5. Statewide proposals before the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting
 - a. 129: Increase number of days to two (2) in Yakutat to Spring Troll fishery.
 - b. 140: Sportfishing may only be conducted with single barbless hook between April 1 and June 14.
 - c. 150: Change weekly subsistence fishing period start and end times in Yakutat Area from 6:00am to 12:00am and 6:00pm to 12:59pm.
 - d. 151: Modify nonresident annual bag limit for King Salmon in fresh waters of Yakutat area.
 - e. 152: Amend the Situk-Ahrnklin and Lost River King Salmon management plan.
 - f. 153: Close a portion of Situk river sport fishery until escapement goal for King Salmon is met.
 - g. 154: Close a portion of Situk river to sportfishing from April 15th to May 15th.
 - h. 155: Increase the sportfishing bag and possession limit in the waters of the Situk-Ahrnklin.
 - i. 169: Allow use of two rods with down rigger in spring and summer troll fisheries.
 - j. 170: Add waters closed to fishing in Sudden Stream and Malaspina Lake.
6. Adjournment

Posted by:



Date: November 15th, 2024

Sign in Sheet

Travis Ross

CASEY MAPES

LARRY BEAVIS

JAMES WOODBURY JR

Sam L. Demmer

Sasha Anderson

Matt Anderson

Steve Kaufman

Jennethan Kaufman

James Ross

Douglas Ross

Billy Crown

Nate Cullerson

Pat Robbins

Richard Hoffman

Susan Oehlers

Johnathon Paulic by Phone

Jeremia Paulic by Phone

Rick Halford

