

Session Two: Public Testimony Notes

Sitka AC Representatives Woody Cyr & Devon Calvin

Alaska Board of Fisheries October 6, 2024 -January 8, 2025 Sitka, 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

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	<p>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.</p> <p>Amend Section 2: to add "Establish a Daily possession limit of 4 per permit 13-1 in support".</p> <p>We recognize a subsistence priority and believe king salmon to be an important subsistence food.</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	1	12	<p>Hope is expressed that the state will fight reducing resident bag limits in the EEZ, but agree if non residents and residents must have the same bag limits in the EEZ, 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.</p>

108-121	<p>King Salmon Management Plan</p> <p>Attributes supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In season management ● 80-20 allocation split ● Hard cap for both troll and sport ● No transfer of allocation between troll and sport ● Strengthen resident priority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resident bag limit from 1- 3 based on abundance ● If averaging of allocation is used, it must be well defined <p>Attributes opposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transfers based on rolling averages ● Assure non-residents 3 King salmon per year thru June 30
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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

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

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		
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		

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 ammended	11	3	Amend Section one to take out "Gillnet" approved 14-0 (we approve the use of subsistence gillnet and beach seine at redoubt)

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 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.

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.

156	Reduce Southeast Alaska hatchery permitted pink and chum salmon egg take level by 25%		
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oppose	0	13	Lacking 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.
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165	Change the start time of weekly drift gillnet fishing periods from Sunday to Monday		
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

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

174	Establish a maximum guideline harvest level and minimum spawning biomass to conduct fisheries for the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery		
oppose	1	13	Would be an extreme reduction in the GHL.

175	Establish a 15,000 ton harvest limit for the Sitka Sound sac roe fishery		
support	9	5	Vote on amendment to raise proposed cap to 25,000 tons: passed 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

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	1	11	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.

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	2	12	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		
oppose	0	12	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	1	11	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	1	11	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. 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.

Approved by Stacey Wayne, Chair
by email 2/4/25