

RC 65

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Re. 58' Limit, SE Alaska

Dear Mr Chairman:

I am a long time Alaska salmon seiner, I live in Juneau and make my living solely purse seining in Alaska for salmon and herring and California for squid and sardines.

I have a boat in Alaska that is 58' which over the past 30 years I have long lined, pot fished, and seined. At some point in my carrier I became aware that 58' was the minimum vessel to just fish from in these fisheries. Attempts to expand in to value added and direct marketing from a 58' boat where there is not enough room for fishing, processing and handling were futile.

After rejecting the idea of value added salmon fishing and marketing, I refocused my efforts toward California where I bought a boat to seine squid and sardines. The boat I bought in California was 58' as well and it proved to small for the task as it unfortunately sank last month with a hold full of fish in a large ocean swell. In a world without the 58' limit I would own one 70 to 80 foot boat and fish it in Alaska in the summer and California in the winter. Heavy loads, nets full of fish, large ocean swells and the long run form Alaska to California and back would not be an issue.

Experience has shown that with the competitive nature of today's fisheries, limitations of vessel size force fishermen into risky situations and limits their options to diversify into other fisheries and in the salmon fisheries limits marketing options. Eliminating the 58' limit would increase the value of Alaska's salmon harvest, reduce risk to vessels and crew and open up possibilities to diversify into other fisheries.

Thank you for consideration in this matter.
Scott McAllister.

F.V. Owyhee
9156, N. Douglas Hwy.
Juneau Alaska, 99801

907-321-3453
akseine@gmail.com

insignificant

[in-sig-nif-i-kuhnt] [Example Sentences](#) [Origin](#)

in-sig-nif-i-cant

[in-sig-nif-i-kuhnt] Show IPA

adjective

- 1.**
unimportant, trifling, or petty: *Omit the insignificant details.*
- 2.**
too small to be important: *an insignificant sum.*
- 3.**
of no consequence, influence, or distinction: *a minor, insignificant bureaucrat.*
- 4.**
without weight of character; contemptible: *an insignificant fellow.*
- 5.**
without meaning; meaningless: *insignificant sounds.*

Source: www.Dictionary.com

Submitted By: Board Memner Jensen

February 26, 2012

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

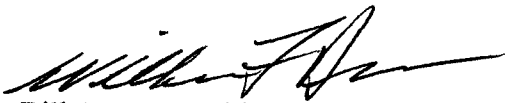
Dear Chairman Johnstone and Board of Fisheries Members:

The Alaska Trollers Association and United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters Association agree to withdraw support for proposals 313 and 312, respectively, for the 2012 Board of Fisheries cycle.

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Merritt, President
Alaska Trollers Association



Bill Auger, President
United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters

Additional information for Proposal 285

This RC is being submitted so the Board and Department could get a more concise look at what the regulation change in Proposal 285 would look like. In the purpose section of Proposal 285 it states the following:

The preferred solution is for the Board to repeal the length limit on salmon seine vessels in Southeast Alaska in combination with a form of permit reduction to reduce capacity and enhance the value of the fishery to all participants.

This statement captures the intent of the proposal but probably should be expanded upon to better explain what the regulation would actually look like. The regulation could possibly read as follows:

SEC. 16.05.835. Maximum length of salmon seine and certain hair crab vessels.

(a) Unless the Board of Fisheries has provided by regulation for the use of a longer vessel in a salmon seine fishery, a salmon seine vessel may not be longer than 58 feet overall length except vessels that have fished for salmon with seines in water of the state before January 1, 1962, as 50-foot, official Coast Guard register length vessels.

(b) A vessel engaged in the Bering Sea hair crab fishery within five miles of shore may not be longer than 58 feet overall length.

(c) In this section, "overall length" means the straight line length between the extremities of the vessel excluding anchor rollers.

(d) In Southeast Alaska only: a person who holds two limited entry salmon seine permits may use a vessel no longer than 79 feet. Vessels that have purse seined salmon in Southeast Alaska before January 1, 2012 may be modified to no longer than 65 feet without use of two permits.

The second sentence of the new language was briefly referenced in the Proposal but was more detailed in the information provided in PC65. This language was included in an attempt to provide existing fishery participants new opportunity to add some additional length to their vessels without the additional burden of buying a second permit. Two permits would only be required for vessels longer than 58 feet entering the fishery.

Respectfully submitted,
Ryan Kapp

To: Board of Fish
re: Repeal the 58 foot limit on salmon seine vessels in Southeast Alaska.

Dear Chairman Johnstone,

I'm in support of proposal 285 & 286 repealing the 58' limit. Permit holders need to have the option to use the vessel of their choice to conduct their participation as they see fit. By allowing permit holders to use larger vessels open options for them to use the same vessel more safely and competitively in other fisheries. Instead of either owning separate boats for separate fisheries or a limit vessel which will limit their ability to safely compete.

I own and operate the fishing vessel Crusader, a 58' limit seiner, and probably will stay on that vessel throughout the rest of my career. I've been running the Crusader since 1981 and fish in the SE salmon and Sac Roe fisheries.

Thanks for you consideration in this matter,

Nicholas C. Johanson
F/V Crusader

Feb 26, 2012

Board Support Section
Alaska Dept. of fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK. 99811-5526

Dear BOF and Boards support,

Do to changing circumstances we respectfully
rescind proposal 240.

Thank you for your time and the effort you
have put forth.

John G. Baird
John G. Baird

Sitka Sound Seafoods

Randy Lantegne
Randy Lantegne

Icicle Sea foods

State of Alaska

Sean Parnell, Governor

Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

8800 Glacier Hwy, #109

P.O. Box 110302

Juneau, AK 99811-0302

MEMORANDUM

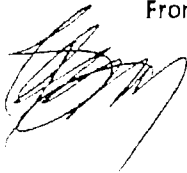
To: Monica Wellard, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Date: February 8, 2012

Phone: (907) 789-6160 VOICE
(907) 789-6170 FAX

From: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission
Bruce Twomley, Chairman
Peter Froehlich, Commissioner
Benjamin Brown, Commissioner

Subject: Proposals 285 and 286;
2011/2012 Southeast and Yakutat
Finfish meeting.



This memorandum provides comments by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) on Proposals 285 and 286 that the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) will consider at their February, 2012 meeting in Ketchikan.

Proposal 286 was identified by the Board's salmon industry restructuring panel as a possible restructuring proposal. Although Proposal 285 was not identified as a restructuring proposal, it appears to have elements of one. As such, we respectfully submit comments on this proposal as well.

Proposal 285 would eliminate the 58-foot vessel length limit for the Southeast salmon purse seine fishery when a second permit is brought into the operation. The proposal does not specify whether the existing permit holder would purchase an additional permit or bring an additional permit holder onboard, or whether both options would be available.

Proposal 286 would increase the maximum length of Southeast salmon seine vessels from the current 58-foot limit to "75 feet hull length."

Each of these proposals raises concerns with their potential impacts on limited entry and on a related permit buy-back initiative. At this time, we have 3 principal areas of concern.

Timing of These Proposals in the Face of the Southeast Revitalization Association's Buy-Back Program

With support from the federal government, and after 10 years of work, the Southeast Revitalization Association (SRA) is approaching a point where the members of the fleet will have an opportunity to vote on whether to pursue a limited entry permit buy-back program. The program could result in the permanent removal of many units of gear (permits) in this fishery. In the event the permit holders vote to support the plan, we would like to see the SRA proposal go forward successfully.

We observe that it may not be helpful to the SRA program to have a second program unfold at the same time. Where we see potential cross purposes and complications is with the possibility (acknowledged by the proponents of Proposal 285) that dormant permits could be reactivated under the proposal. In contrast, permanent retirement of a dormant permit through the SRA buy-back program ensures against re-entry of that permit into the fishery in the future.

We suggest waiting to see how the buy-back program unfolds before engaging in other restructuring proposals for the Southeast salmon purse seine fishery.

Effects on Limited Entry

License limitation programs like Alaska's function best when there are complementary limits on fishing power (for example, limits on vessel length and gear). It is axiomatic that without constraints on fishing power, the benefits of limited entry can be dissipated as participants compete by increasing their investment in more fishing power. Moreover, upgrading to larger vessels may increase the overall cost of harvesting without increasing the total harvest or the ex-vessel value of the harvest.

Possible Legal Risks

If Proposal 285 requires having a second permit holder come onboard, there appears to be an imbalance in the proposal. One can contemplate a potentially temporary partnership supporting the use of an incremental amount of additional gear. The stakes in such an operation are not terribly high. In contrast, it is harder to contemplate a temporary partnership supporting the purchase and operation of a larger, more powerful fishing vessel. This circumstance may prompt the investing permit holder to seek more security than is authorized under the limited entry law.

For example, the permit holder seeking to invest in a larger more powerful fishing vessel could decide to "put a second permit in the name of a crewman." Under these circumstances, the permit holder would likely desire to have a means to get the permit back in the future and/or to require transfer of the second permit in the future. If the permit holder revealed such an arrangement to the commission (as is required by law), CFEC would not approve the transfer. If the permit holder concealed such an arrangement from the commission, the holder would create a risk that both permits could be revoked under AS 16.43.960 and AS 16.43.970.

Conclusion

In conclusion, CFEC recommends that the Board should not adopt Proposals 285 and 286 until we all have an opportunity to see how the SRA buy-back program unfolds. Consistent with our past comments to the Board, CFEC generally does not support proposals that would increase vessel length limits in a limited entry fishery, because resulting competition for increased fishing power could undermine the benefits of Alaska's license limitation program.

State of Alaska

Sean Parnell, Governor

Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

8800 Glacier Hwy, #109

P.O. Box 110302

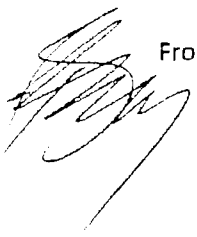
Juneau, AK 99811-0302

MEMORANDUM

To: Monica Wellard, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Date: February 8, 2012

Phone: (907) 789-6160 VOICE
(907) 789-6170 FAX



From: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission
Bruce Twomey, Chairman
Peter Froehlich, Commissioner
Benjamin Brown, Commissioner

Subject: Proposal 300:
2011/2012 Southeast and Yakutat
Finfish meeting.

This memorandum provides comments by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) on Proposal 300 that the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) will consider at their February, 2012 meeting in Ketchikan.

Proposal 300 would allow Yakutat salmon set gillnet permit holders who fish jointly with other permit holders the opportunity to record their harvests on fish tickets in a manner that does not accurately reflect the actual harvest of each individual unit of gear.

This proposal may conflict with state law. AS 16.05.690 (b) states:

(b) A person may not knowingly enter false information on a fish ticket or supply false information to a person who is recording information on a fish ticket.

This statute supports the premise that accurate reporting of an individual permit holder's harvest is important for a variety of reasons that go beyond in-season fisheries management. For example, fish ticket data is routinely used by the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the state Child Support Services Division (CSSD) to verify participation in and earnings from fisheries.

For all fisheries, we advocate strongly for accurate accounting of data on fish tickets. This includes set gillnet or other operations where multiple permit holders may work in tandem or cooperatively. We acknowledge the conveniences that Proposal 300 may bring to permit holders. However, balanced with the important needs of keeping accurate fish ticket data for individual fishermen, we cannot support this proposal.

Thank you for accepting these comments. As always, we are ready to support the Board and welcome any questions.



Sitka Tribe of Alaska

Tribal Government for Sitka, Alaska

January 20, 2011

State of Alaska
Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers
PO Box 1062
Sitka, AK 99835

RE: Potential Violation of Alaska Subsistence Harvest Regulations

Dear Alaska Wildlife Troopers,

I write on behalf of Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA), tribal government for over 4,100 tribal citizens located in Sitka, Alaska. As a tribal government, STA is responsible for health, welfare, safety and culture of its citizens. I write today to report a violation of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) subsistence harvesting regulations.

In May of this year STA staff were reviewing completed subsistence harvest surveys with an ADF&G Division of Subsistence representative. During this review the ADF&G representative pointed out that one of the harvesters who had indicated he had subsistence harvested herring eggs listed Seattle as his residence. This individual owns and operates a commercial fishing vessel which harvested approximately 65,000 pounds of herring eggs on branches in the subsistence fishery in 2010.

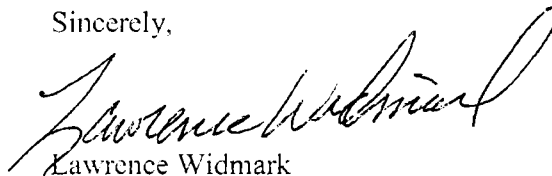
STA is concerned that this individual's operation of the boat while his crew harvested subsistence herring eggs constitutes participation in a subsistence harvest from which he is prohibited by Alaska law (5 AAC 01.010(b))(AS 16.05.940(31)) due to his lack of residency. STA is also concerned that those who may have received herring eggs from this individual/boat may have unknowingly violated Alaska law when they accepted herring eggs that were illegally harvested.

While STA was apprised of the details of the situation as part of the subsistence survey commissioned under a cooperative agreement between the STA and the State of Alaska, factual information regarding the events were also published in the local news media. STA cannot divulge the name of the individual without violating its cooperative agreement with the State of Alaska, unless it is mandated by the courts to do so.

STA requests that the State of Alaska enforce subsistence harvesting regulation to protect Alaska residence from inadvertently being associated with an illegal subsistence harvest and to protect the resources they subsist upon.

If you have any questions regarding this issue please contact STA's Resource Protection Director Jeff Feldpausch at (907)747-7469.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lawrence Widmark".

Lawrence Widmark
Tribal Council Chairman

Cc: Craig Fleener, ADF&G Deputy Director



State of Alaska
Department of Public Safety
Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers

Sean Parnell, Governor
Joseph A. Masters, Commissioner

April 18, 2011

Sitka Tribal of Alaska
Chairman Lawrence Widmark
456 Katlian Street
Sitka, AK 99835

Dear Chairman Widmark:

This letter is in response to a letter sent to our Sitka Office dated January 20, 2011 regarding potential violations of subsistence harvesting of herring roe on branches. As a result of your letter, we have had discussions with multiple people including ADF&G, a non-profit group called Southeast Herring Conservation Coalition, and personnel from Sitka Tribe of Alaska regarding the harvest of herring roe on branches in Sitka Sound during 2010.

During 2010, a non-profit group, Southeast Herring Conservation Coalition paid "expenses" for the FV Julia Kae to collect and distribute herring roe on branches. The FV Julia Kae is owned and operated by Steve Demmert, an Alaska Native, and long time resident of the state of Washington. At the very least, his participation included operating the FV Julia Kae during the fishing activity and distribution of roe on branches. His crew, who were Alaska residents, reportedly handled the branches, gear, and eggs. Others sources indicate he likely was actively involved in the fishing. The FV Julia Kae took approximately 30,000lbs of roe on branches and distributed them to Sitka. They took a similar amount and distributed the roe on branches to other Southeast Alaska communities. The take by the FV Julia Kae was approximately 1/2 the total harvest. It appears the commercial interests (SE Herring Conservation Coalition) were attempting to demonstrate with the FV Julia Kae that there is a reasonable opportunity by taking 60,000lbs of roe on branches.

One of the reasons for not prosecuting Demmert for last year's participation was this action was partially sanctioned by ADF&G. After consultation with the District Attorney's Office, this case was not prosecutable. What better defense than to say ADF&G said it was okay? In addition, we were faced with differing opinions of what is acceptable in the distribution of subsistence resources. Alaska Statutes stated that subsistence resources are for use by a person's immediate family. The Alaska Supreme Court has held that subsistence resources can be distributed to others in the person's community. Finally, the Division of Subsistence believes that herring roe on branches can be

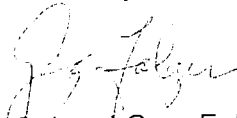
Chairman Lawrence Widmark
April 18, 2011
Page Two

distributed widely with very little regulation. Distributing to extended family, other relations, and friends outside seem appropriate under the courts interpretation.

The various state agencies have now determined that further participation by Demmert is not legal and if further involvement is noted, he could be subject to prosecution. We have advised the Southeast Herring Conservation Coalition, ADF&G, and Demmert that he may not participate in the fishery, if he does, we will charge him with subsistence fishing as a non-resident and any other charges involved. "Participation" by Demmert would include simply operating the vessel during the fishing activity.

In conclusion, I want to thank you for the letter you sent. Alaskans are very passionate about their resources. As an agency that works for the public, we sometimes get caught in the middle of different interests or user groups, we can still come together to find common ground that works for everyone involved and still protect our valuable resources for now and the future. If I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Colonel Gary Folger
Director, Alaska Wildlife Troopers

Cc: Joe Masters, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety

Amendment to proposal 247:

It is the recommendation of the Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee to:

The ADF&G Sport Fish Division in Juneau will develop and implement a management plan to protect and enhance Montana Creek for the purpose of [THE] Juneau Roadside Sport Fishery within [ONE] three years of adoption of the proposal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? [JET SKI OPERATORS ON AUKE LAKE] Off road 4 wheel users on Montana Creek and miners may suffer.

Submitted By: Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee Chairman, Mike Peterson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

2/27/2012



Sitka Sound Chum Fry Monitoring 2005

Introduction

In 2005 NSRAA reared and release 44.6 million chum salmon fry at Deep Inlet and 7 million chum fry at Medvejie Hatchery in Silver Bay. Concerns regarding the impact these large chum fry releases may have on surrounding resources, especially young of the year herring and other wild salmonids, have driven a need for post release monitoring. NSRAA is also interested in determining near shore, post-release growth statistics and possible migration patterns that may provide some predictive capabilities for future returns. Information regarding chum fry growth and migration timing coupled with basic productivity indices monitored throughout the netpen and near shore rearing period will provide NSRAA biologists and fishery managers with a clearer picture of the over health of the Deep Inlet and Sitka Sound ecosystem.

Methods

A sampling program monitoring the zooplankton abundance and composition both within and outside Deep Inlet and Silver Bay was conducted from March through June. Six sampling stations were established (Figure 1.) to monitor water clarity, temperature and plankton production. NSRAA staff located with Deep Inlet at the chum rearing site conducted similar monitoring within the inlet. The zooplankton-monitoring program followed the guidelines set forth by the state of Alaska and the Plankton Watch Program¹. Zooplankton sampling was conducted weekly beginning in March and continued through the end of June. Both settled volumes and zooplankton counts were determined.

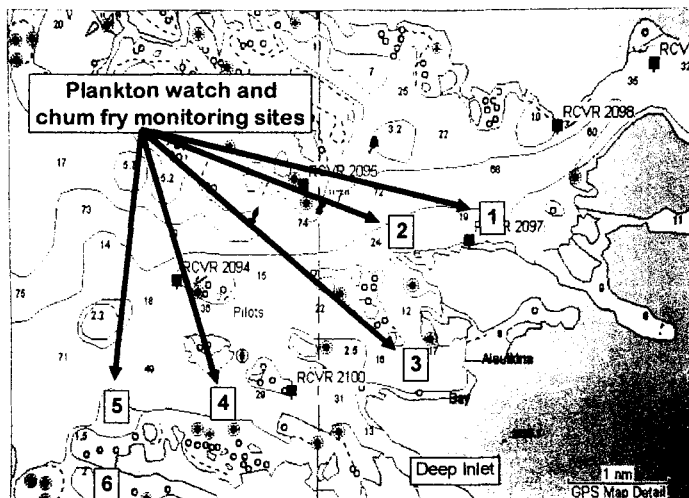


Figure 1. Plankton and chum fry monitoring sites.

¹ Manual for Estuarine Environmental and Zooplankton Studies, Edited by Bill Hauser, Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game, April 1981.

Fry sampling (using a 37 meter beach seine) began about one week prior to release of fed fry in late April and early May and continued into June until salmon fry were no longer captured along the shoreline. Sub samples of fry captured were preserved in alcohol and some in 10% formalin and brought back to the lab for weight, length and food habit analysis.

Once fry begin moving off the nearshore habitat 25 to 50 meters, the beach seine is deployed in a round haul manner encircling schools of fry. This technique is quite effective at capturing the larger fry beginning to move off shore. Once the seine is pursed up the fish are netted aboard into large totes, counted, and subsampled. Specimens not kept for further analysis are released unharmed.

Initially, once fry had moved substantially offshore, a two-boat surface trawl was to have been fished to sample salmonids rearing in the pelagic zone within Sitka Sound. This trawl is most effectively used at night to take advantage of the diel migration of the rearing fish following the zooplankton in their daily migration. Trawls generally began just after dark and lasted between five and ten minutes. In 2005, this sampling method was not used due to personnel scheduling problems.

In the lab, individual weights and lengths were collected from preserved specimens using a small digital scale and measuring board. Correct species identification was double checked. For those specimens that were preserved in formalin, extra formalin was injected into the body cavity until the stomach contents were analyzed. Stomach content analysis was done by removing the stomach, opening the stomach and washing the contents into a small disposable pan. The contents were then poured into a plankton counting wheel and inspected under a low power microscope where identification and counts were attempted.

Results

Plankton & basic water parameters

A series of six sites were monitored beginning 29 March 2005 through 27 June 2005. These sites were located adjacent to areas where chum fry were anticipated to be rearing and were used as indicators of the environment that fry were exposed to. The spring of 2005 was quite moderate both in terms of air temperatures and precipitation. Seawater temperatures however were a bit above normal the entire spring and continued to rise throughout the summer. The combination of relatively clear skies and warm water temperatures lead to large amounts of phytoplankton and ultimately more zooplankton than normal.

In general, total edible zooplankton peaked in abundance the last two weeks of May for the survey sites inside Sitka Sound (Sites 1 through 4) (Figure 3). Zooplankton in the more exposed, outer reaches of the Sound

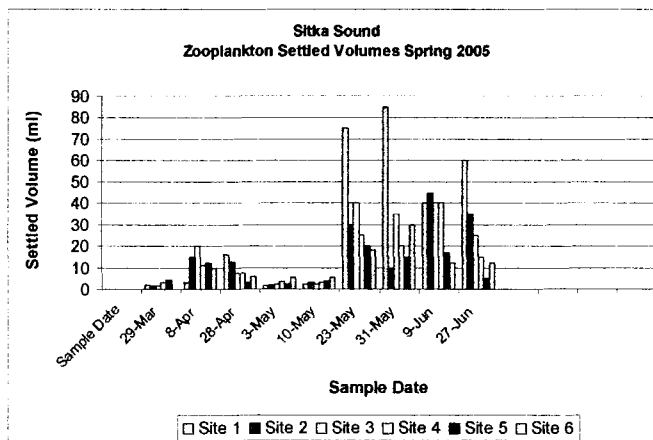


Figure 2. Zooplankton settled volumes for 2005.

showed early productivity but then moderated as the spring progressed. In general, these outer sites (#5 & 6) tended to be less productive and cooler the entire season.

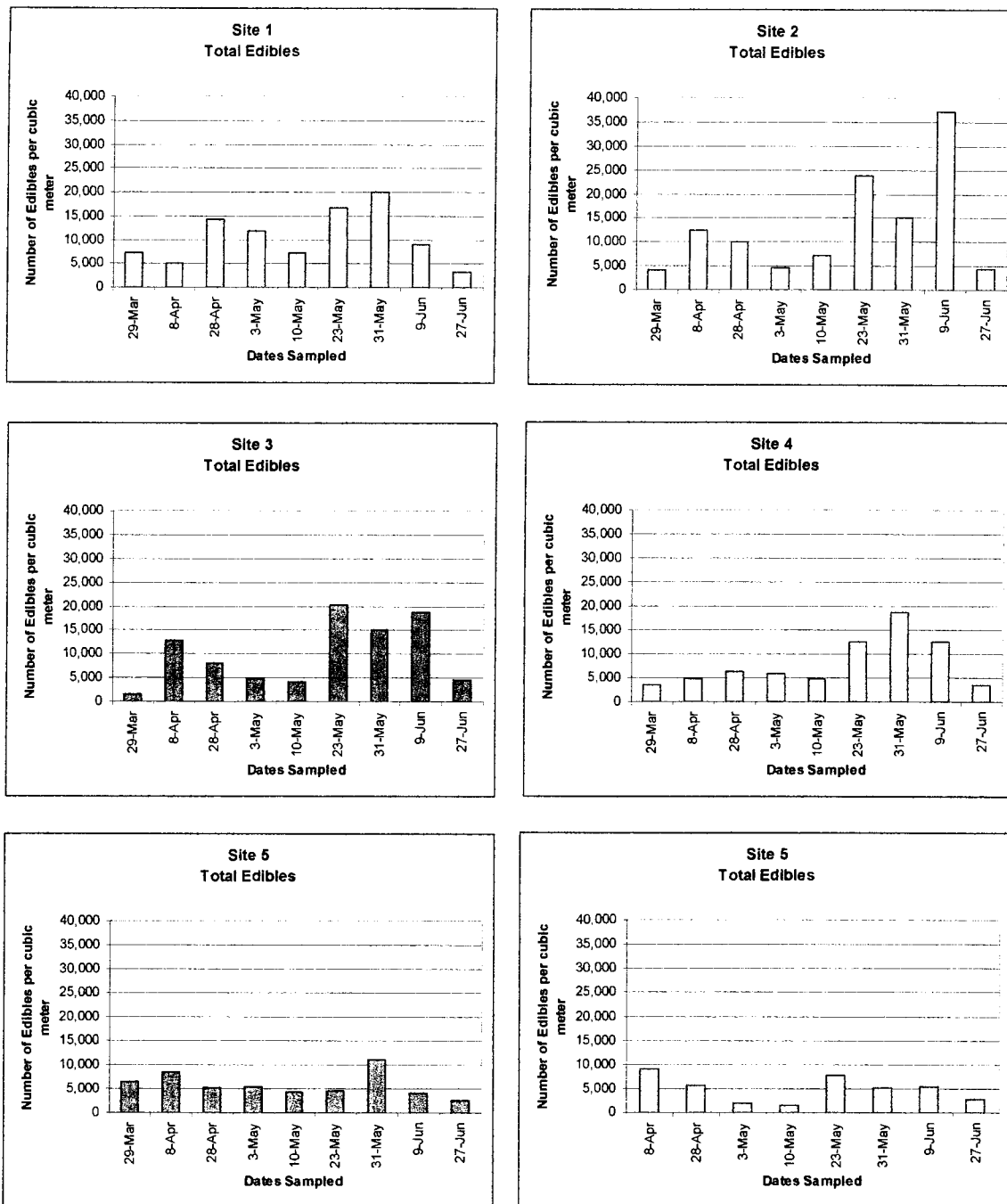


Figure 3. Estimates of total edible zooplankton over time for each sample site 2005.

Fry Monitoring

Beach seine activities began 25 April 2005 and continued nearly weekly throughout the months of May and June. Fry were seined and sampled along beaches both east and west of Deep Inlet. In 2005, at the request of ADF&G Sitka area biologist Bill Davidson, sampling was also conducted north of Sitka near the entrance of Neva Straight. There was some interest as to whether or not chum fry from Deep Inlet were occupying the same habitat as

wild pink and chum fry emigrating from Katlian Bay and Nakwasina Sound. Staff cruised along the shoreline looking for concentrations of fry and locations where seining could be successfully carried out. Table 1 displays the average length and weight of pink and chum fry captured and sampled during the month of May. Figure 4 shows the growth trend for the fry as they grew over the month. Fry grew at a rate of about 0.83 mm per day and 0.054 grams per day.

Table 1. Mean lengths and weights of chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) and pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) fry sampled from beach seine and round hauls in Sitka Sound 2005.

Capture method	Species	Date	n	Mean wt (g)	Mean FL (mm)	Condition Factor
Beach seine	chum	04/25/05	256	1.13	51.0	0.78
		05/09/05	102	1.57	57.9	0.76
		05/24/05	18	2.15	61.7	0.84
		05/31/05	45	2.00	64.4	0.72
	pink	04/25/05	104	0.28	34.8	1.96
		05/09/05	50	0.80	47.8	0.68
Round Haul	chum	05/09/05	113	2.11	62.9	0.75
		05/17/05	55	3.23	73.4	0.81
		05/24/05	192	3.69	74.8	0.86
		06/17/05	70	2.97	71.8	0.78
	pink	05/09/05	109	0.62	46.8	0.58
		05/17/05	258	1.55	58.7	0.72
		05/24/05	77	2.34	65.0	0.82
		06/17/05	49	2.59	68.0	0.82

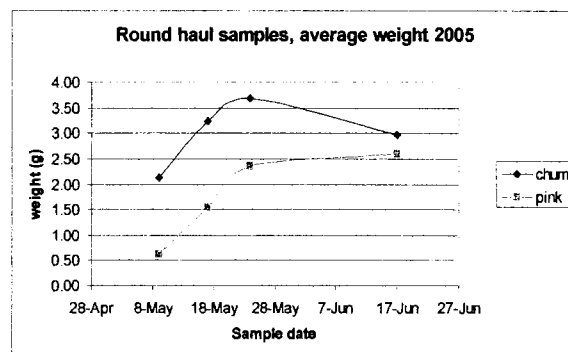
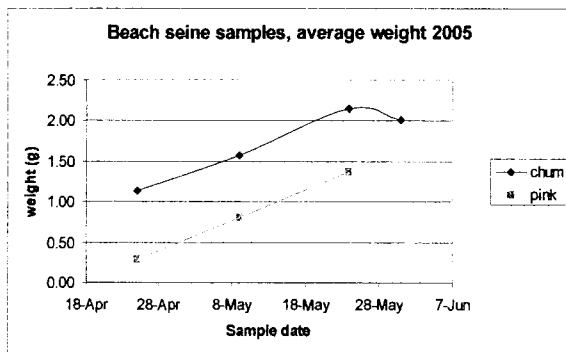


Figure 4. Growth trends of pink and chum fry captured by beach seine or round haul in Sitka Sound, 2005.

Similar to previous years, after the end of May, very few if any hatchery chum fry were to be found along the beach. It appears that once these fry reach a minimum size of approximately 2.5 grams they move offshore and become more pelagic in their residence. Wild pink and chum salmon fry were still present along the littoral zone but the larger hatchery chum had moved at least 50 to 100 meters or more offshore. Figure 4 shows that for beach seine

samples average chum fry size declined after the end of May suggesting most of the net pen reared fish had left the beach. The graph depicting round-haul sample sizes shows that chum fry slightly larger than 2 grams were captured off the beach 50 to 100 meters starting in early May and suggests this offshore migration is more size related and not just a timing issue. These small schools of larger chum fry are readily observable from mid-May to early-June and then rapidly disappear from the littoral area within days. At this point, these chum fry are usually nearly 3.5 grams when they migrate to pelagic waters.

Other species of fish were collected during capture activities. These included juvenile herring, Pacific shiners, and chinook and coho salmon smolts. A few of these fish were sacrificed and length, weight and diet information was collected. Table 2 displays the length and weight information for these specimens.

Table 2. Mean lengths and weights of other fish species (Pacific Herring (*Clupea pallasii*), Shiner perch (*Cymatogaster aggregata*), Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)) sampled from beach seine and round hauls in Sitka Sound 2005.

Capture Method	Lifestage	Species	n	Mean fork length (mm)	Mean weight (g)
Beach seine	juvenile	herring	83	120	12.09
		shiner	36	101	15.02
	smolt	chinook	3	113	14.70
		coho	1	122	6.70
Round Haul	juvenile	herring	7	124	13.30
	smolt	chinook	6	112	15.72

In conjunction with the size and growth observations, another aspect of this monitoring program was the investigation of what these young salmon were eating. Well over 200 stomachs of both near shore rearing fry (captured by beach seine) and fry 50 to 100 meters offshore (round-haul captured fry) were analyzed. Because no pelagic trawls were able to be conducted in 2005, no data regarding diet preference is available for smolts residing in the pelagic zone of the Sound. In general, Oikpleurids and various crustaceans made up well over 70% of the diet of both near littoral fry (beach seine) and those chum fry more than 50 meters from (round-haul) (Figure 5). Chum fry residing along the beach did have Cirripedia and Copepods as part of their diet while the larger fry residing offshore were not found to have these items. In addition, the larger fry did have the occasional remains of fish (unidentifiable as to which species) in their stomachs. Pink salmon fry (Figure 6) showed slightly different food habits with fewer Crustaceans in their diet and more “Other” unidentifiable food particles.

Juvenile Pacific herring captured by beach seine (Figure 7) were feeding primarily on mollusk and crustacean larvae, “other” unidentifiable items and a few indistinguishable fish. Those herring captured 50 to 100 meters off shore had more Copepods and Oikpleurids and surprisingly no fish. Looking at all three of these species, it is readily apparent that Crustacean larvae are an important food source in all of these diets, however this can be somewhat biased due to the fact that crustacean carapaces may last longer in the stomach and

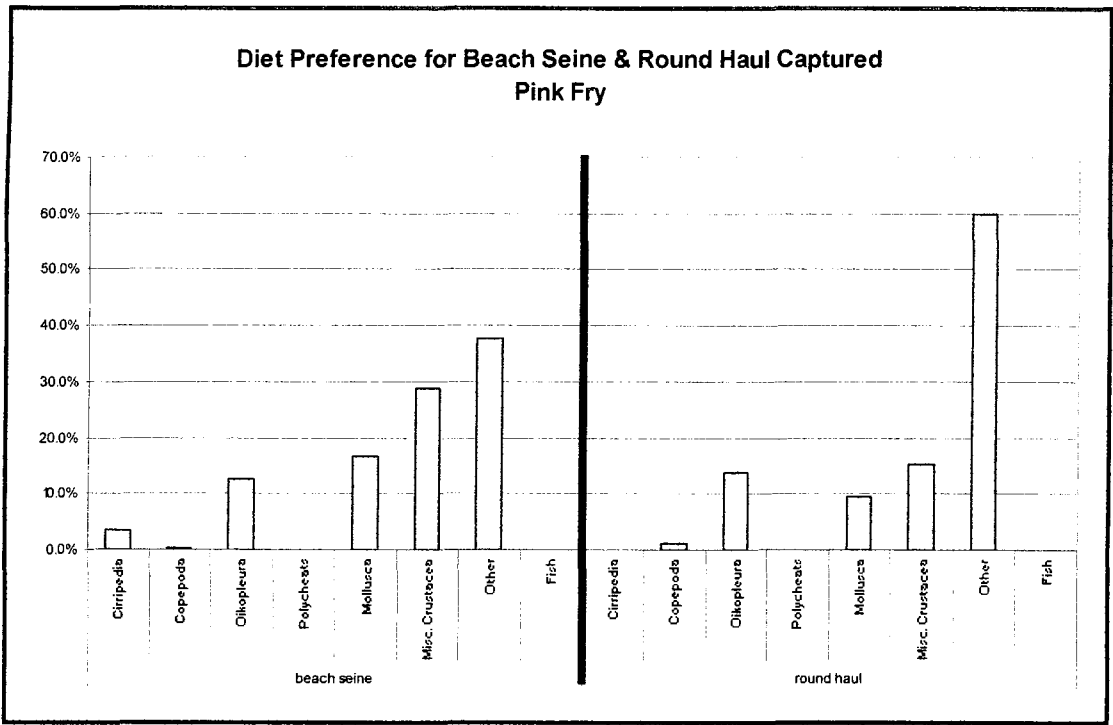


Figure 6. Diet composition of pink salmon fry captured by beach seine and round-haul 2005

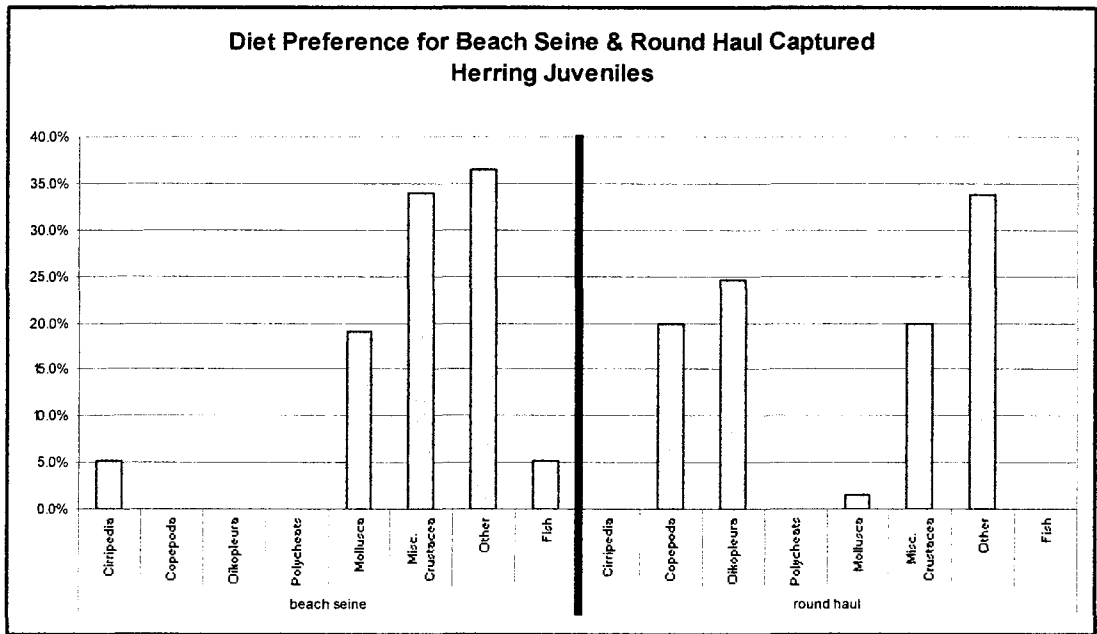


Figure 7. Diet composition of juvenile herring captured by beach seine and round-haul in Sitka Sound, 2005

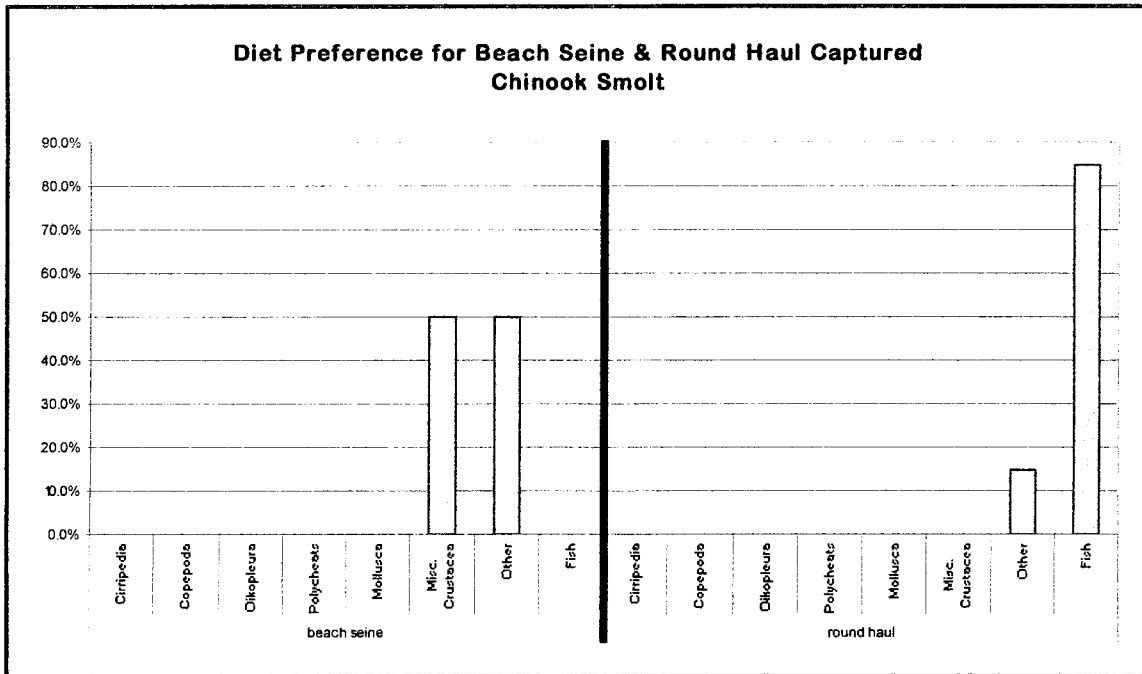


Figure 8. Diet composition of chinook smolt captured by beach seine and round-haul 2005.

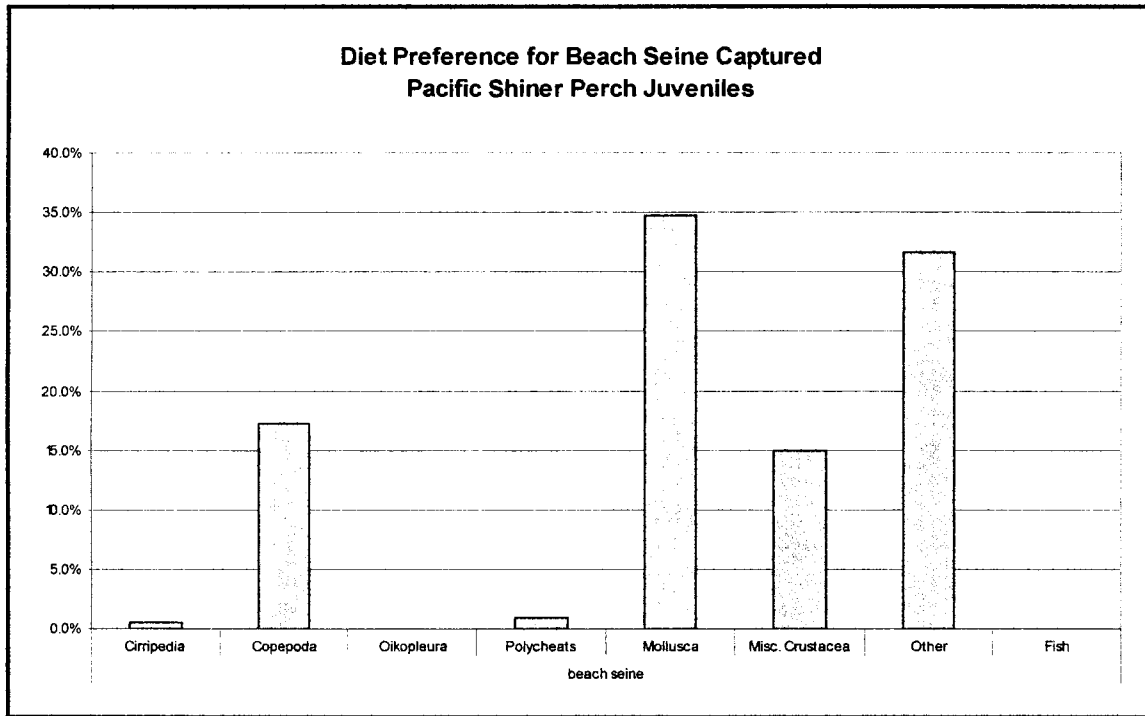


Figure 9. Diet composition of Shiner perch captured by beach seine 2005.

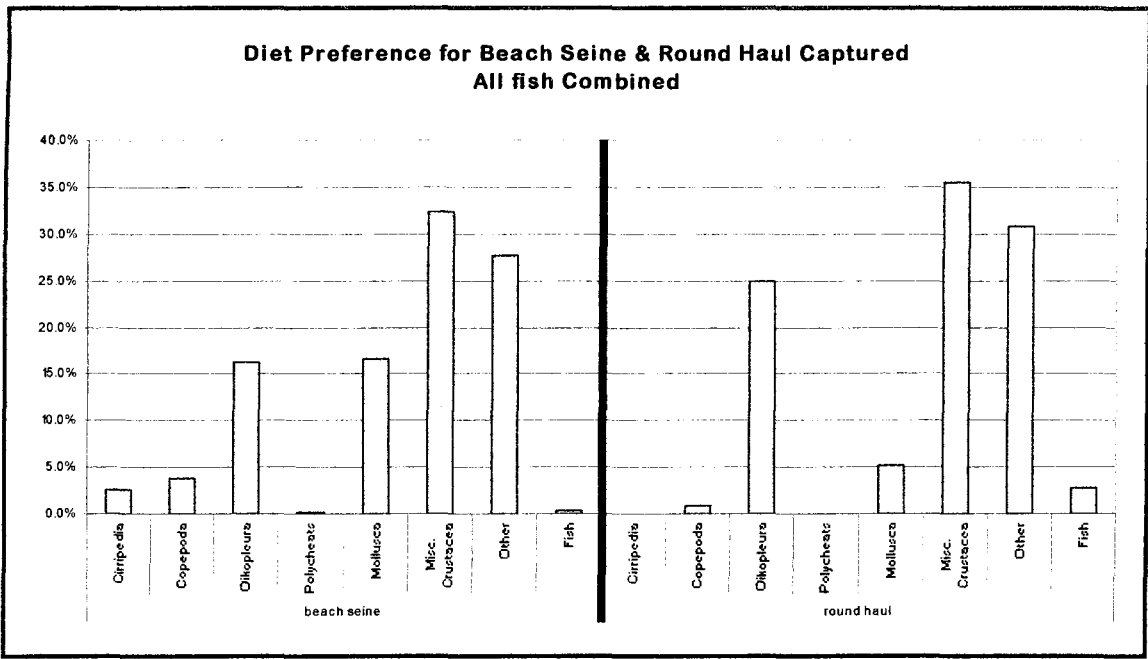


Figure 10. Diet composition of all species combined captured by beach seine or round-haul 2005.

As part of the permitting for the 2005 season, the Sitka Area Management biologist for ADF&G requested we do some sampling north of Sitka in the northern are of Sitka Sound, especially in the vicinity of Olga Strait and the Siginaka Islands. This area is adjacent to bays that produce significant numbers of wild pink salmon (Nakwasina Sound and Katlian Bay). There was interest in observing whether or not hatchery chums might transit this area or reside in any of these near-shore environments where wild fish may be. Locations sampled in this area included Dog Point, Beehive Island and South of Dog Point along the eastern shoreline and near Eastern Point. No fish were found along the shoreline near Eastern Point on the days seining was done. These locations were sampled in late-May and mid-June (Figure 11).

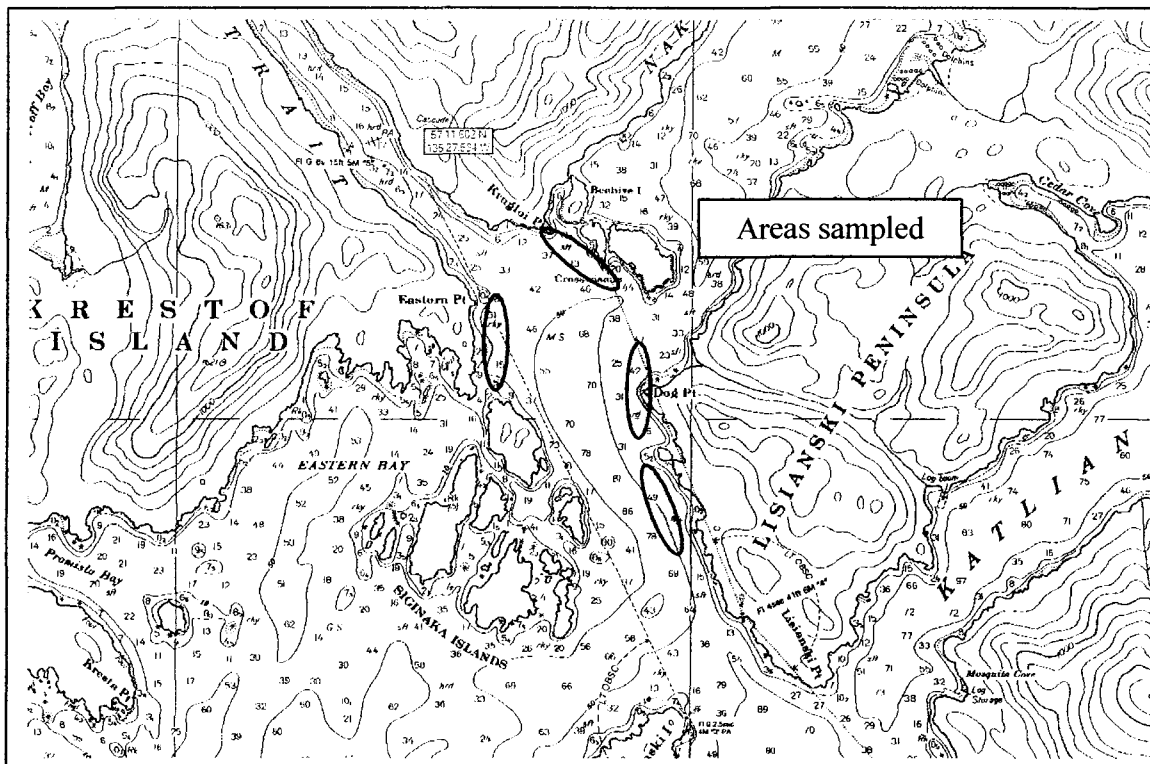


Figure 11. Additional areas sampled in northern Sitka Sound for pink and chum salmon fry in 2005.

Table 3 gives some idea of what was subsampled from hauls in all areas sampled in 2005. These results are for beach seine and round hauls combined. In general, significant numbers of large, pink fry were seen in the Dog Point and Beehive Island area. These fry were between 1.5 and 2.4 grams mean weight and were the predominate species captured. Some chum fry were mixed with these fish and it was not possible to tell their origin. Large schools of pink fry were seen milling about 50 meters offshore from Dog Point to Krugloi Point (Figure 11) during early to mid-June. These pink salmon fry were generally well over 2 grams and appeared ready to transition to the pelagic environment in the very near future. Some chums were captured with these pinks and tended to be slightly larger, nearer 3 grams in average size. Also of interest, note the size of the chum salmon captured by round haul near Bamdoroshni Island. These fish were encountered between several of the small islands just southwest of Sitka proper. A true mix of pink and chum salmon fry were observed and captured along the cliff-like shorelines of these small islands and were quite large. The chums were of “smolt” size averaging 5 grams while the pinks were also a healthy 2.3 grams. These islands are adjacent to Eastern Channel which is a heavily used chum smolt rearing area as determined from night-time surface trawls in 2002 and 2003.

Table 3. Chum and pink salmon sampled at for length & weight at various locations around Sitka Sound in 2005.

Location	species	number	Mean wt (g)	Mean fork length (mm)
Aleutkina Bay	chum	47	3.2	72
Camp Coogan Entrance	chum	74	0.5	44
	pink	79	0.3	35
No Thorough-fare Bay	chum	272	1.8	59
	pink	199	0.9	51
Samsing Cove	chum	151	2.9	70
	pink	9	1.4	55
Sandy Cove	chum	127	1.4	56
	pink	71	0.6	44
W. of Sandy Cove	chum	57	3.0	71
Dog Point	chum	21	2.8	69
	pink	258	1.5	59
W. of Bamdoroshni Is.	chum	32	5.0	85
	pink	77	2.3	65
Beehive Island	chum	55	3.1	72
	pink	22	2.4	67
S. of Dog Point	chum	15	2.7	70
	pink	27	2.7	69

Term of agreement *proposal/s # 3254326*

In the interest of co-operation the Territorial Sportsmen(TS) Chum Trollers Association(CTA) United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters(USAG) Juneau Charter Boat Association(JCBOA) agree to the following:

- 1. CTA withdraws BOF proposal #326.
- 2. TS, JCBOA, CTA, and USAG support 325 as amended with the recommendations of the JRPT.
- 3. That CTA agrees to propose expansion of the District 12 chum troll fishery, in time or area, only if consensus support is reached among the parties signatory to this agreement.
- 4. That the BOF adopt the following as a finding in directing ADF&G management of proposal # 325 while a comprehensive spring chum troll management plan is developed over the next three years:

(i) That the troll fisheries in the proposed areas in District 14 will continue to be managed as they have been. ADF&G will use troll chum harvest data collected, as requested by the JRPT, to manage the Icy Straits hatchery chum troll fishery sub-areas by Emergency Order Authority to minimize wild stock impacts during the next three years while a comprehensive spring hatchery chum troll management plan for these areas is developed and considered.

(ii) That the North Chatham exploratory area in District 12, will be opened by emergency order South of the Latitude of Lizard Head, only in the area defined by the attached map, up to four weekdays a week beginning the second Monday in June through the last week of June for pink and chum retention only.

(iii) That the troll industry will collaborate with ADF&G to obtain chum data by sub-area as they do for Chinook in spring hatchery troll areas.

(iv) That ADF&G may close Icy Strait Spring troll fishery sub-areas to directed Chinook, or chum, trolling under Emergency Order Authority without closing the troll fishery entirely in a sub-area.

These clarifications do not require further amendment to proposal #325.

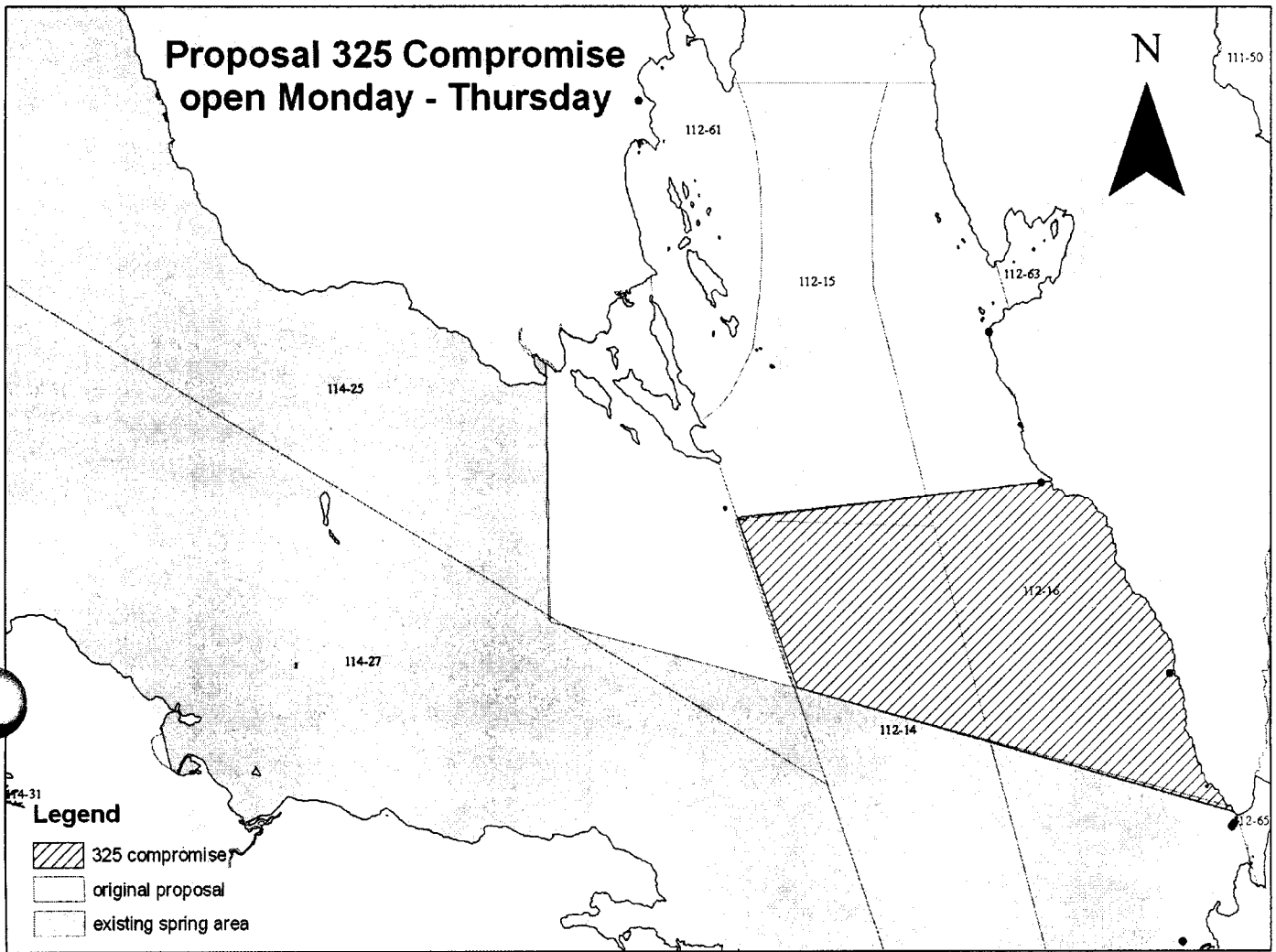
Signed, this 26th day of February, 2012.

Bill Auger, _____ USAG

Larry Edfelt, _____ TS

Matt Stroemer, _____ CTA

Edward Yamada, _____ JCBOA



Letter of agreement

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(ii) That the North Chatham exploratory area in District 12, will be opened by emergency order South of the Latitude of Pt. Couverden, only in the area defined by the attached map, up to four weekdays a week beginning the second Monday in June through the last week of June for pink and chum retention only.

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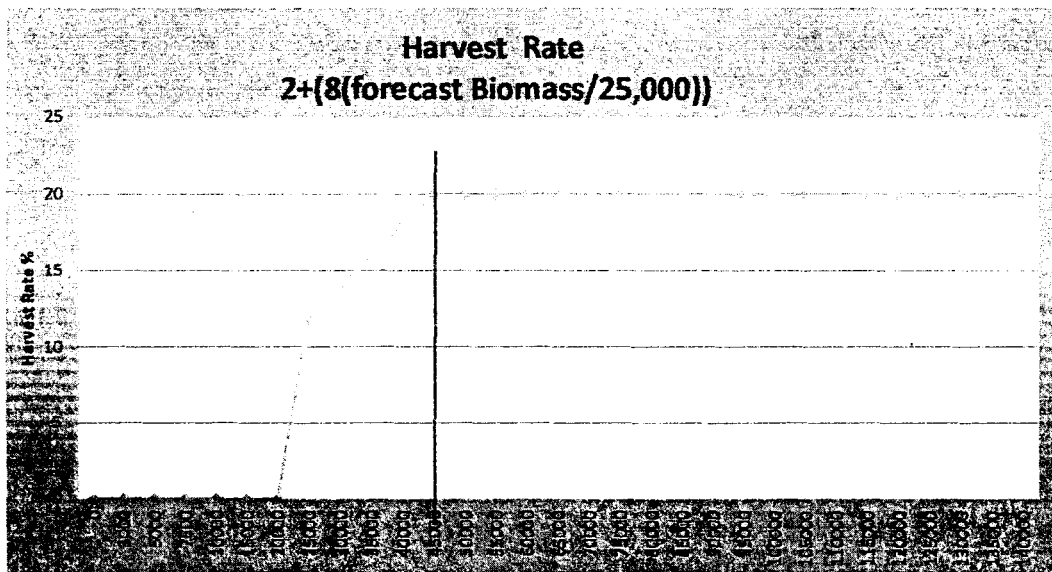
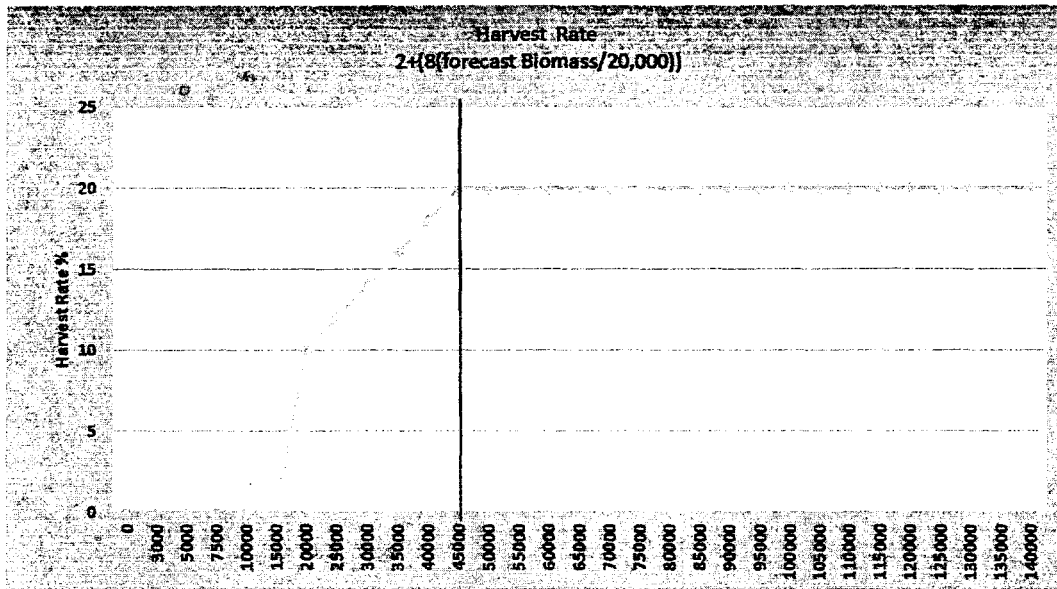
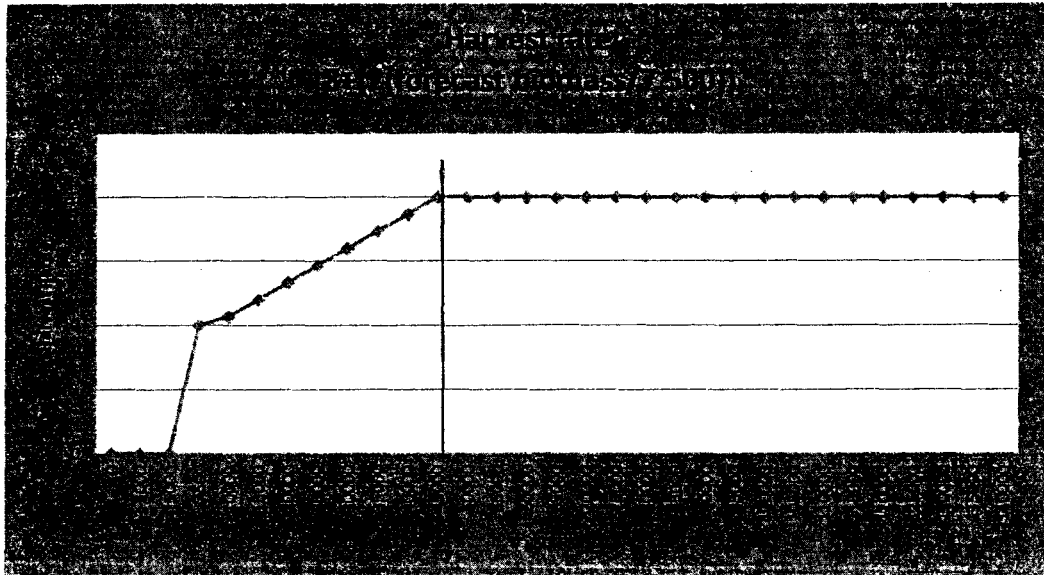
Signed this 26th day of February 26, 2012.

Bill Auger,  USAG

Larry Edfelt,  TS

Matt Stroemer,  CTA

Richard Yamada,  JCBOA



February 26, 2012
Information regarding Proposal 285.

This RC is being submitted to the Board to comment on the Memorandum from Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) which I was first aware of late this afternoon. Proposal 285 was submitted to the Board in September of 2011 in advance of the Board's October Work Session and has been in the record since that time. I contacted the CFEC legal staff in the research for this proposal and was told that procedurally it did not cause a problem. It is unfortunate that I was not aware of these concerns earlier as I would have been able to address them in PC 65. The comments below follow CFEC's three concerns in order:

First, the timing of Proposal in the face of the Southeast Revitalization Association's Buy-Back Program: In PC 65, page 24, the relationship between Proposal 285 and the Southeast Fleet Consolidation Program was explained. I have been a PSVOA Board Member since the Program began and am very aware of how long it has taken to get to the vote. CFEC has been very helpful during this long and complicated process and it is good they support the Program. I respectfully disagree that Proposal 285 runs at a cross purpose to the SRA Program. I view it as complementary. I don't recall where I addressed dormant permits being reactivated under Proposal 285 but I will touch on the subject now: It is possible, but unlikely, that stacked permits will re-enter the fishery. It is true that permits will be permanently retired under the SRA Program. The additional permit required for using a longer vessel as suggested in Proposal 285 would not be permanently retired, however, it is highly unlikely that, after incurring the expense of a new vessel and additional permit, a fisherman would choose to divest from it. If the concept of stacked permits reentering the fishery is a concern maybe there is a way to "marry" two permits together into a different class of permit. As was outlined on page 24 of PC 65 the amount of permits "in play" in the SRA Program has been documented and there are only two possible outcomes at this point. I feel the Board should be able to make an informed decision based on the information they receive at this meeting.

Secondly, this Proposal will not dissipate the benefits of Limited Entry by allowing longer vessels. The 58 foot limit was only a limit on length, not on width and depth, therefore never a limit on vessel capacity. The section beginning on page 5 of PC 65 expands on this. Also, Proposal 285 promotes economic efficiency and the ability to decrease the cost of harvesting by using more efficient vessels while increasing ex-vessel value by exploring new ways to produce better quality salmon products.

Third, it is true that the initial proposal, as I addressed today in RC 68, did not contain an example of what the regulation would look like and I apologize for

that. Proposal 285 requires a person hold two limited entry permits to introduce a vessel longer than 58' in the Southeast seine fishery. I've transferred permits in the past and am well aware of the rules. I certainly would not want this proposal to encourage any illegal activity.

I understand CFEC does not generally support increasing vessel length but hopefully this and the other information provided in PC 65 will alleviate their concerns. Again, this proposal is not intended to undermine Limited Entry. This is about providing more options to enhance operations for fishermen who choose to do so.

Respectfully submitted,
Ryan Kapp

RC 78

DEAR SIRS,

My name is Bryan Howay and I am a lifelong Sitka resident and have been in the Southeast Seiner fishery for salmon from 1999.

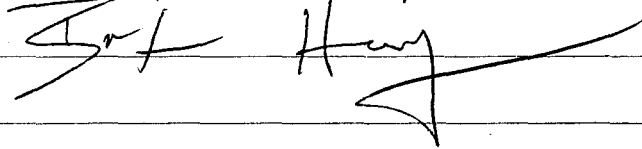
As a herring permit holder as well it's been very clear in my ventures that the 58' limit for salmon boats is an antiquated & senseless law to keep enforcing. I own a seiner & a tender that I have converted to be able to participate in the Sitka Sac Roe fishery. The size of my tender makes it cumbersome and I feel not as productive as my 58' boat. Recently I have sold the 58' seiner as it simply didn't hold enough to make it viable for the salmon fishery in Southeast, and with the price of herring so low it makes more sense to be able to pack the fish you catch.

In selling the 58 foot boat I have become acutely aware that replacing it from the existing pool of available seiners is difficult or impossible. Even at the price range between 800k to 1m there is simply nothing there on the market. To build new is over 2m

And what has happened is there has been a false market created for old dated unsafe boats just because they fall under 58'.

For my business this simply is not an option as I fish with my wife and family. To keep enforcing this law is forcing me to either choose a boat built pre 1980 with all of the issues that come with a boat of this vintage or simply not fish salmon. Right now with what's available for \$1 million dollars I'm leaning towards not fishing. This is not a decision I'm taking lightly but feel to spend a million dollars on a piece of equipment that has been artificially inflated to these levels is financially irresponsible. I am sincerely hoping something changes and you pass 285 or 286 letting me continue in a fishery my family truly enjoys

Bryan Howey



RC79



2/27/12
RC 80



RC

Re: Proposals 210 & 211 – pertaining to deep water release of demersal shelf rockfish

“5AAC 47.020(C). A person releasing a non-pelagic rockfish when sport fishing from a charter vessel shall immediately utilize a deep water release mechanism to return the rockfish to the bottom near where the fish was hooked. The operator of a charter vessel is responsible to have at least one functional deep water release mechanism on board and readily accessible for use when sport fishing activities are taking place on marine waters. A deep water release mechanism must be presented for inspection upon request of an employee of the department or a peace officer of the state.”

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda Behnken", written over a horizontal line.

Linda Behnken – ALFA

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stan Malcom", written over a horizontal line.

Stan Malcom - SEAGO

Tara Lee Mason
9342 Stephen Richards Dr
Juneau, AK 99801
907-209-4441

Board Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
ATTN: BOF COMMENTS

RE: OPPOSITION TO PROPOSAL 216 and SUPPORT OF PROPOSAL 270

Dear Chairman Johnstone and Board of Fish Committee Members,

I am in opposition of proposal 216. State Chatham permits have already taken cuts annually. How would that be fair if it is free reign for the guided charter fleet to grow as it has in other areas, and the commercial Chatham permit holders continue to take cuts because of additional harvesting that would surely occur. Is that the states stance on sustainability? Let other users of the sea deplete our resource. There surely needs to be some investigation into what is being taken yearly before you can open it up without limits and take the chance of depleting a resource just for one group. Historically commercial fishing has been part of Alaska's history. The State of Alaska needs to help keep that part of Alaska's heritage. The bag limit must be kept in place.

I think the State of Alaska needs to do some homework before they pass proposal 216. First, what needs to be established is the amount of sablefish being taken from all sectors in State waters. Making ALL user groups accountable for the sustainability of our states valuable resources. We have the commercial fleet where you have very accurate numbers based on fish tickets and self-reporting in charter logbooks. Before you decide to pass this proposition I think we need to weigh out all the users groups we have and get more information as to the actual pounds taken per year. It would be wise for the State to establish the accuracy and actuality of these numbers before we change the bag limit in regards to the sustainability in this area. We have four other user groups here. 1. Guided Sport which needs some kind of checks and balances. 2. Personal Use 3. Subsistence. 4. Unguided Sport.

1. The Guided Sport fleet that is working Chatham sablefish is in no danger of losing clients. I watch 5-6 boats from one lodge in Lynn Canal work almost daily at catching their limit from May through October. Now the problem we have with the information the State of Alaska gets from the lodges currently is actual numbers being given to the state through logbooks filled out by lodge owners. Attached is a picture taken 8-7-11 with wet lock boxes being delivered to Auke Bay from one lodge. This boat comes in on a 2-3 day basis all summer. There is no way for enforcement to track the number of sablefish fish caught per client to verify the clients bag limit as it is to the logbook because the fish are already processed at the lodge and cut into pieces and packaged. If we look at the picture closely we can see that there are forty-seven, fifty pound wet lock boxes. If the boxes were all actually fifty pounds in weight the poundage coming in

that day would be approx. 2,350. What would that amount become if you opened it up with no limit?

2. Personal Use fleet. How many times have we seen our friends or people we know or even people we don't know out catching their 20 hooks a day just so they can feed all of their friends and relatives? Once again we have nothing established to check this or the amount that is coming out of state waters.
3. Subsistence, I am all for this but to what limit do we allow one good set at 12,000 pounds be enough for one card holder? How much fish does one card holder realistically need? Surely that amount is way too much for one person. How does one take care of that amount of fish in a timely manner without waste and spoilage? Again, How do we know what is being taken here? I am in favor of Proposal 270. It is a privilege to take this fish home for one's family. I think you will find it easy for harvesters that want to have this subsistence card, fill out a log so they can get their card the next year and the state can get a better idea of the poundage taken from this user group. Allowing limits to be set if necessary.
4. Unguided Sport, here we have another group that is growing rapidly with no checks or balances in reporting their catch. No way of knowing what is being taken either. Maybe this group should be given a log with their license and have it checked at the harbors or major airline airports against the amount of fish being brought in or flown out.

During the 2009 Board of Fish meeting the original estimates for sport caught sablefish was under 100 fish with a total deduction for all fisheries other than the directed commercial fishery of 3% of the allowable catch. We now are having a 4-1/2% increment taken from the fishery with an estimated harvest in 2011 over 5,000 fish. My point here is the bag limit was set for a reason. That being the sustainability of Alaska's valuable resources. As an Alaskan and a Commercial fisherman this is the reality of my life daily. My job depends on the State of Alaska taking charge of our resources and letting all user groups in Alaska know that we want to keep Alaska sustainable for the future of our great state. We want everyone to be happy when they come to visit but we want it to stay sustainable for the future generations including Alaskans!

