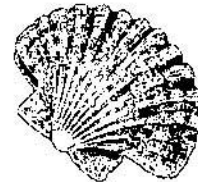


RC40

Alaska Scallop Association

(ASA)

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March 21, 2012

Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF)
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: Proposal 352 & 353

Dear Chairman Johnstone

The members of ASA have decided to rescind our proposal 352 to reopen the scallop fishing in the Mitrofanina Island area. We recognize the sensitive concern of crab bycatch of crab stakeholders and the Department in an area that only recently has been able to have a commercial Tanner fishery. We realize there is a negative perception of our gear type and need to do more education on how the modern scallop fleet operates. ASA will work with the stakeholders in the region to recognize our ability to have a minimal impact on crab through the use of observer reporting, hot spot identification, the fact that crab caught by the scallop fishermen are on average very juvenile (25mm and less) and that our assumed crab mortality rate is 40%, meaning 60% survive when these animals are immediately returned to the sea.

We will return to this proposal in the next BOF shellfish cycle and preface it with a more thorough presentation of our fishery and more specifically what we are asking to the concerned Community Advisory Committees, including exact scallop lbs and exact number of crab bycatch we would be asking for a cap. We will present findings on the successes in the SW commissioners permit issued on Scallops in 2009 for SW Kodiak, as well as other sections of the state.

ASA is hopeful the Board will approve Proposal 353 re-opening Unimak Bight. This area does not have the same crab concerns as the Mitrofanina region, as there is currently no crab fishery in this area. This region is not currently surveyed for crab and observer data from the scallop fishery could give some helpful data on the state of crab stocks in the region. This new data from Scallop observers in Unimak Bight could be helpful to crab stakeholders in the region. We are confident if given a Commissioners Permit to fish in this region, that it will be one more example of good stewardship of the modern scallop fleet.

Sincerely, Jim Stone as ASA President

Alaska Scallop Association
(ASA)

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RCAI

March 5, 2012

Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF)
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: Proposal 350

Dear Chairman Johnstone

ASA members feel the language offered by ADF&G staff in RC38 meets our needs and will offer us the freedom we asked for, to not needlessly waste fishing time and fuel returning to port. We find the terms simple and easy to comply with. We thank the Department staff for there consideration in writing language that addresses their concerns as well as ours.

Sincerely, Jim Stone as ASA President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Stone', written over a horizontal line.

Submitted by Department of Fish and Game at the request of Tom Kluberton

Substitute language for proposal 385

March 21, 2012

Proposed substitute language for proposal 385

5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan.

5 AAC 05.362 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(j) In Subdistrict 4-A, during times when the commissioner determines that it is necessary for the conservation of king salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the commercial set gillnet fishing season and immediately reopen the season during which a fish wheel may be used. The fish wheel shall be attended at all times while it is in operation; and all king salmon caught must be returned to the water alive immediately.

RC 43

PROPOSAL 318 - 5 AAC 31.490. Outer Cook Inlet Area shrimp fisheries management plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Repeal subsection (c), which specifies the provisions of the referenced management plan will sunset after July 31, 2006.

ISSUE: The department plans to conduct a shrimp trawl survey in this area during spring 2005; the last survey occurred in 1994. The results of the latest stock assessment effort will be used to evaluate whether development of guidelines for management of shrimp fisheries is warranted. However, in the event that shrimp stocks in this area remain depressed, the provisions of the current management plan should remain in effect and the sunset date should be removed.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Regulatory reference to the management plan would be removed.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? If the stocks indicate a recovery has occurred, or is likely, the department will bring before the board, proposed regulations as mandated by the current management plan.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-05-F-282)

PROPOSAL NO. 318

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Remove sunset clause from Outer Cook Inlet Area Shrimp Management Plan.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action on the proposal due to action taken on Proposal 304.

PROPOSAL FROM 2006 STATEWIDE SHELLFISH
SUBMITTED BY DIANNE DUBUC, SEWARD AC

Submitted by the
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
at the request of board member Webster



3/21/2012

PROPOSAL 353

5 AAC 38.425 (6): all waters on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula that are west of a line extending south from Seal Cape along $158^{\circ} 26.00'$ W. long., east of a line extending south from Three Star Point along $159^{\circ} 10.48'$ W. long., and north of $55^{\circ} 33.98'$ N. lat., and all waters of Alaska on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula that are west of a line extending south from Cape Pankof along $163^{\circ} 03.70'$ W. long. and east of a line extending south from Scotch Cap Light along $164^{\circ} 44.72'$ W. long.; except that weathervane scallops may be taken in waters specified in 5AAC 38.420(c).

5 AAC 38.420(c) In scallop Registration Area (M) a person may take weathervane scallops only
(1) under the authority of a permit issued by the commissioner under 5 AAC 38.076(e); and
(2) in those waters of the Alaska Peninsula Registration Area M that are west of a line extending south from Cape Pankof along $163^{\circ} 03.70'$ W. long. and east of a line extending south from Scotch Cap Light along $164^{\circ} 44.72'$ W. long.

Submitted by: Alaska Department of Fish and Game at the request of board member Kluberton.

Date March 21, 2012

PROPOSAL 350

5 AAC 38.076 ALASKA SCALLOP FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

(d) A vessel may be registered to take scallops in only one scallop registration area at a time[.] except that the department may permit a vessel to register for one additional registration area as follows:

1) Prior to entering or leaving a scallop registration area for which the vessel is validly registered, the vessel permit holder must contact the department office responsible for management of the registration area as specified in (l) or as specified on the area registration.

2.) A vessel, once checked out of a registration area may not check back into that area unless the observer has been rebriefed by the department.

3) A "certified" scallop observer, as defined in 5 AAC 39.143 must be on board the vessel. The certified observer must have been briefed by the department prior to leaving port for both the registered area and the additional registration area the vessel intends to fish.

4) Prior to checking out of, or in to, a registration area the scallop observer must verify the total pounds of processed or unprocessed scallops on board the vessel; a vessel changing registration areas may not have any unprocessed scallops on board.

5) In addition to (p) of this subsection, a CFEC permit holder will ensure that all harvest from a registration area is reported on an ADF&G fish ticket prior to checking out of a registration area and will provide, prior to leaving the registration area, the fish ticket number and harvest reported on each ticket to the department office responsible for management of the registration area.