

RC 67

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, and Miscellaneous Shellfish Meeting
March 20-24, 2012
Anchorage, Alaska

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AGENDA

1. Pacific cod fisheries update; determine the need of the October 2012 Pacific cod meeting – [Regnart]
2. Joint Protocol Committee Meeting Recap – [Jensen, Smith, Jeffrey]
3. Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) Update – [Regnart]
4. Joint Board Meeting Update – [Kluberton and Smith]
5. Recommendation on Kootznoowoo Petition for Extraterritorial Jurisdiction – [Chairman Johnstone and Director Regnart] (RC64)

Submitted by Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Board Support Section

Gordon Scott, Box 847, Girdwood AK 99587
Comments to Alaska Board of Fisheries

March 24, 2012

RC 68

Re PWS SHRIMP

REQUEST to RECONSIDER
Proposal: 358, as amended by RC-63

Also relevant to proposal 363

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board

During the Board's discussion about Proposal 358 as amended by RC-63, I started to realize that there may be some unintended consequences to the commercial fishery by adoption of this action.

On the surface it had seemed reasonable to me as a conservation measure, and I accepted it as that. But I realized that it may have the unintended consequence of making it impossible for the commercial sector to even approach near catching the allotted GHIL.

There is a reason that in 2010 and in 2011 the commercial fleet caught approximately 60% of their allocation in one stat area respectively each year. (Heard in discussions on 3/23). It is because that is where the larger populations and concentrations are. The same reasoning applies for the areas of high effort and catches in some of the commercial closed areas near ports by non-commercial users.

Both of these years, I investigated other areas, and I know specifically of others who tried other areas, and the conclusion in many places was that it was not economical to fish due to very poor CPUE. Most people (if they came back fishing at all) came back to areas where the chances of success were much greater. With less than 25% of PWS open at any one time, the choices are limited.

After studying the stat area chart, and doing some theoretical calculations, (see enclosed spreadsheet), I firmly believe that if the fleet had been limited by the restrictions that passing this proposal would place, the commercial catch may have been 30 to 40% below the GHIL. And I expect that Area 3 has a high probability of the same type of population concentrations.

Contributing factors to this potential result:

Unequal sized Stat Areas.

Unequal habitat

Some stat areas have close to zero shrimp

Area 1 has only 6 stat areas

After doing these theoretical numbers (which are based on knowledge and experience and I believe are supported somewhat by data), I believe that passage of Proposal 358 as amended would have the unintended result of effectively reducing the allocation by economics for the commercial fishermen.

Please reconsider this Proposal with this in mind.

If you have any questions, I would be pleased to answer them as best as I could.
Respectfully, Gordon Scott

p132

Stat Area	Location	My Guesstimate of Stock abundance (as percent of total stock in Area open)	Percent of GHL achievable under 25% plan
A guess, probably relative			
AREA 1			
6 stat areas			
	476036 Unakwik S, Wells Bay	50	25
	476033 Perry, Esther, Squaw Bay	20	20
	476101 Unakwik N, Cannery Creek Bar	15	15
	476035 Columbia Bay, Glacier Island	7	5
	476034 Storey Is, North 1/3 Naked	5	3
	486033 Port Fidalgo	3	1
	Total Area 1	100	69
AREA 2			
12 stat areas			
	486034 Port Wells	50	25
	486032 Kings Bay main	15	15
	486033 Esther Is S, Culross Is E	10	10
	476032 Naked Is S, Eleanor Is	5	5
	476006 Herring Bay, Knight Pass North	5	5
	486004 Head of King's Bay	4	4
	478102 College Fjord	4	4
	486100 Barry Arm, Harriman Fjord	4	4
	486031 Nellie Juan Main Bay	3 10 if opened	3
	476007 East side Knight, Lower Pass	3	1
	476008 East of Smith Is	0	0
	476031 SE of Smith Is	0	0
	Total Area 2	103	76
AREA 3			
11 stat areas			
	486005 Dangerous Pass, Icy Bay	50	25
	476004 Knight Island Pass South	12	12
	476006 Knight Island Pass North	8	8
	476005 Knight Island Pass Center	8	8
	486001 Southwest Passages	5	5
	476003 Montague Straits Center	5	5
	476007 Montague St N, E side Knight Is	5	5
	476009 Port Chalmers	2	0
	485932 South of Southwest Passages	2	0
	475933 Montague Straits South	2	0
	476008 Montague Island North end	1	0
	Total Area 3	100	68

p282