

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Findings and Policies Pertinent to December 2012 Meeting

- 2012-268-FB Operating Procedures Policy for Written Public Comment
- 2012-267-FB Operating Procedures for the Board of Fisheries Motion to Reconsider
- 2009-263-FB Delegation of Authority to Allow Website Registration of Permit Holders in Bristol Bay Fishery
- 2004-235-FB Charge statement to Salmon Restructuring Panel
- 2004-230-FB General District Management Plan for Bristol Bay
- 2000-200-FB Procedures for Board of Fisheries Meeting Committees
- 2000-199-FB Alaska Board of Fisheries Committee Policy Statement
- 99-185-FB Northern Gulf of Alaska Chinook Salmon Task Force
- 97-175-FB Development of Concept for Quality Sport Fisheries (Bristol Bay Area) Limiting Fishing Effort (Bristol Bay Area) [Previously 97-10-FB]
- 97-174-FB Development of Rainbow Trout Management Plan for the Naknek River [Previously 97-09-FB]
- 91-131-FB Nushagak Chinook Salmon Management Plan [Previously 91-05-FB]
- 91-129-FB Allocation Criteria [Previously 91-03-FB]
- 91-128-FB Alaska Board of Fisheries Standing Rule [Previously 91-02-FB]
- 86-115-FB The 48-Hour Waiting Period in Bristol Bay Commercial Salmon Fisheries
- 81-92-FB Bristol Bay 32-Foot Vessel Length
- 80-80-FB 1981 Bristol Bay Herring Management Directive (see also 80-68-FB, 79-60-FB, 79-59-FB, 79-49-FB)
- 80-78-FB Operating Procedures: Motions to Reconsider
- 80-74-FB Quality of Alaskan Fisheries Resources
- 80-73-FB Bristol Bay Salmon Management Plan for 1980
- 80-69-FB Management of Mixed Stock Salmon Fisheries (replaces 76-14-FB)
- 79-61-FB Togiak and Goodnews Bay Districts Coho Salmon Enforcement
- 79-60-FB Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan (see 80-80-FB, 80-68-FB, 79-59-FB, 79-49-FB)
- 79-59-FB Management Plan to Regulate the Herring Roe-on-Kelp Harvest in the Bristol Bay Area (see 80-80-FB, 80-68-FB, 79-60-FB, 79-49-FB)
- 79-58-FB Provisional Subsistence Fishery Policy for Iliamna Lake and Lower Kvichak River Drainage (see also 77-27A-FB, 77-23-FB)
- 77-23-FB Subsistence Fishery Policy for Iliamna Lake and Lower Kvichak River Drainage (see also 79-58-FB, 77-27A-FB)

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**OPERATING PROCEDURES
POLICY FOR WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT**


Any person may comment on the regulation changes, including the potential costs to the private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written public comments limited to no more than 100 single sided or 50 double sided pages to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526, or by fax to (907) 465-6094, so that the comments are received as a public comment (PC) no later than two weeks prior to the meeting during which the topic will be considered. Prior to the public comment deadline or unless otherwise specified for a particular meeting in a published notice, written public comments over 100 single sided or 50 double sided pages in length from any one individual or group relating to proposals at any one meeting will not be accepted.

Written public comments limited to 10 single sided or 5 double sided pages in length from any one individual or group will be accepted after the two-week deadline as a record copy (RC), but will not be inserted in board member workbooks until the beginning of the meeting, and will only be accepted until the Board begins deliberation of proposals.

NEW PUBLIC COMMENT STANDARD: Once deliberation of proposals begin at a board meeting, the board will **ONLY** accept written public comments that are not more than five single-sided pages, or the equivalent double-sided pages, unless specific information is requested by the Board that requires more pages than allowed under this standard.

During the meeting written public comments from any one individual or group may be submitted by hand delivery at any time if 25 copies are provided; but, as a practical matter comments submitted after the board begins deliberations on relevant proposals are likely to receive less consideration than comments submitted earlier.

Adopted: October 10, 2012
Vote: 4-3
Anchorage, Alaska

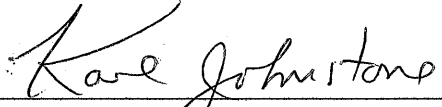

Karl Johnstone, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

OPERATING PROCEDURES
MOTION TO RECONSIDER

1. Only a board member who voted on the prevailing side of the original issue can move to reconsider a vote.
2. A motion to reconsider must be supported by a presentation of new evidence that was not before the board at the time the original vote was taken.
3. A board member who wishes to reconsider any vote must provide written notice to the chairman or notice on the record of his or her intent to move for reconsideration no later than 24 hours after the vote on the issue that reconsideration is requested. Failure to provide timely notice, either in writing or on the record, will preclude any member from moving to reconsider an earlier vote.
4. After receiving timely notice from a board member of his or her desire to reconsider a previous vote, the chair shall set a time and date to hear the motion to reconsider.

Adopted: October 10, 2012
Vote: 5-2
Anchorage, Alaska

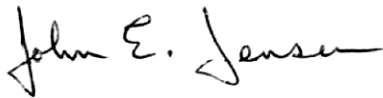

Karl Johnstone, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
Delegation of Authority to Allow Website Registration of
Permit Holders in Bristol Bay Fishery

2009-263-FB

Under the authority of AS 16.05.270, the Alaska Board of Fisheries delegates to the Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game the authority under AS 16.05.251 to adopt and amend regulations, including amendment of 5 AAC 06.370 to allow forms for the reregistration of permit holders and fishing vessels to be submitted by web site registration, in addition to in-person submission, to authorized department representatives. This delegation includes authority to amend other regulations as necessary to acknowledge or otherwise conform to these regulation changes.

ADOPTED this 30th day of March, 2009



John Jensen, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Vote: 7 in favor / 0 opposed

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
Salmon Industry Restructuring Panel**

**CHARGE STATEMENT TO PANEL
2004-235-FB**

The Board of Fisheries approves the following charge statement for its Salmon Industry Restructuring Panel.

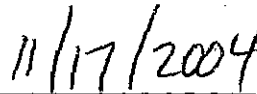
Examine policy and other options for the Legislature and the Board of Fisheries to properly consider in evaluating cooperatives and other restructuring proposals for Alaska's commercial salmon industry.

- Identify research and information analysis needed on the range of policy alternatives.
- Define the board's process in implementing the policy.
- Identify other resources needed by the board (e.g., staff, funding, etc) for implementation.

Board committee members include Ed Dersham, chair, John Jensen, and Robert Heyano.



Art Nelson, Chair



Date

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
Findings on Creation of the
General District Management Plan for Bristol Bay
2004 – 230 - FB

Introduction

In response to requests by members of the public at the Alaska Board of Fisheries' (board) December 2003 Bristol Bay finfish meeting, the board asked the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) to draft a proposal to create a "General District" in response to a large forecasted run to Bristol Bay. Board proposal C was generated and circulated for further public and advisory committee comment before final board action. The board took final action to create the General District Management Plan for Bristol Bay during its February 15-26, 2004 meeting. The board took testimony from the public and advisory committees at both the December 2003 and February 2004 meetings.

At the December 2003 meeting, the department notified the board that the forecasted catch of sockeye salmon for the summer 2004 season is 34.7 million. There is a potential substantial underharvest due to limited processing capacity. Proposal C gives the department guidelines for conducting a fishery in an additional area of Bristol Bay. Proposal C also expires at the end of the 2004 salmon season (officially, December 31, 2004) since it is designed to respond to one season's forecast only.

The General District Management Plan

The General District fishing area is described in Proposal C. The commissioner may open and close fishing periods by emergency order, on or about June 7 through June 25, to drift gillnet fishing based on inseason run information. A harvest cap of 10 percent of the preseason sockeye salmon forecast (3.47 million) is specified for the General District, and 150 fathoms of gillnet with mesh size no larger than 5 ½ inches will be allowed. A CFEC permit holder must be registered in one of the five districts of Bristol Bay to fish in the General District. The 48-hour waiting period to transfer between the regular districts remains in effect, however, the waiting period does not apply to moving between the General District and the district in which the permit holder is registered. Allocation in the General District will be calculated based on the proportion of drift gillnet registrations in the five regular districts of Bristol Bay. The proportion of catch taken from the General District equal to the proportion of drift registrations by district will be attributed to the drift gear group in each district and be counted in the allocation plan for that district upon closure of the General District.

This type of management has been used in the past; in 1970 and in 1980 in response to large forecasted runs to Bristol Bay. The concept behind Proposal C is to harvest fish (10 percent of the forecasted harvest) sooner to prevent overwhelming the capacity of the processors. By allowing harvesting at the beginning of the season there will likely be enough processor capacity before the peak of the run. Fish harvested early would be of higher quality and would add value to the total salmon industry. The board reviewed information to show that the expected Kvichak River harvest is 6 to 6 ½ million sockeye salmon out of the total run, therefore there was little concern of harming the designated Kvichak sockeye salmon stock of concern. The department stated that the chances of impacting any one stock are minimal. The board directed the department to close the General District inseason if any indications of conservation problems are present.

Much of the board's discussion on proposal C centered around the department's ability to close the General District inseason if there are indicators that the sockeye returns will fall significantly below expectations. The strong forecast for 2004 was based largely on a strong showing of "jacks" (1-ocean fish) in the 2003 return, which is a good indicator of favorable returns for the following year. The department stated that the test fishery at Port Moller was expected to operate for the 2004 season, and would be able to monitor the age classes of fish taken in the test fishery. Should there be significant differences in the proportions of age classes in the test fishery from what is expected, or other indicators that the 2004 return is significantly weaker than expected, the department has the emergency order authority to close the General District and move the fishery back into the traditional districts.

The minority of the board was concerned that benefits of the expanded area would not stay within the region, and that subcomponents of stocks may be selectively overharvested. The minority believes that the department could deal with the issue by allowing earlier openings in each district as needed. The concept of opening each district early was discussed. The minority also expressed concerns about tax implications for the boroughs as the result of a potential change in district registration among fishermen.

The majority of the board determined that the General District plan will allow for the orderly harvest of surplus fish and improved product quality, under a management plan that is capable of being implemented and poses minimal risk to existing fisheries and conservation. The General District plan will have only minor allocative impacts because catches will be applied to the allocation plans that already exist for the regular districts. Potential tax consequences to boroughs, while not known for certain, are likely to be positive.

Summary

The board finds that the 2004 Bristol Bay General District salmon management plan is based upon the best available information, and will give the department additional tools for managing an unusually high forecasted return of sockeye salmon to Bristol Bay in 2004. The board notes that this regulation will be in effect for one salmon season in order to provide additional opportunity for fishermen to harvest salmon, adding value to the industry overall.

Approved: May 17, 2004

Vote: 4-2-1



Ed Dersham, Chair

Members voted as follows:

Andrews: Yes
Bouse: No
Dersham: Yes
Jensen: (Absent)
Morris: Yes
A. Nelson: Yes
R. Nelson: No

PROCEDURES FOR BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING COMMITTEES

#2000-200-FB

INTRODUCTION

The description of the processes in this Memorandum are applicable to Board committees that meet during a regulatory Board meeting. They are not applicable to the Board's standing committees and task forces that conduct business throughout the year on number matters. Examples of standing committees are the Joint Protocol Committee that works with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Legislative Committee that is responsible for all matters before the Alaska State Legislature.

The meeting committees consist of Board members only. Members of the public who participate in the committee process are advisers to the committee, but are not committee members themselves. Advisory committee representatives are ex-officio members of any advisory panel to any committee with which they wish to serve.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMITTEE PROCESS

The committee formation process for each regulatory year will commence shortly after proposals for that regulatory year are received and compiled. Appropriate department staff, working with Board members assigned by the Chair, will group and preliminarily assign proposals, grouped by appropriate topic, to committees for each scheduled regulatory meeting during the year. Proposal roadmaps will likewise be developed that mesh with committee proposal groupings. Preliminary staff assignments for committees will also be considered during the initial proposal review.

At its work session each fall, the Board will evaluate and provide further refinement to the draft roadmaps and preliminary committee organization and assignments. Board member responsibilities for and assignments to committees will be determined at the fall work session. The goal is to have all committee structures, including Board member and staff assignments, completed before the respective regulatory meeting occurs. Committee roadmaps with Board member assignments will be distributed to the public after the fall work session. The roadmaps and the committee assignments are subject to change in the face of unforeseen circumstances or changed conditions.

COMMITTEE PROCEDURES DURING REGULATORY MEETINGS

The practices and procedures to which committees will attempt to adhere during Board regulatory meetings are as follows:

1. Early during each regulatory meeting the Board Chair will provide a brief description of how the committee system works and will further direct the public's attention to the location of a posted committee roadmap and committee assignments. The Chair will also announce that a copy of the Board's Policy Statement and this procedural description on the role of committees is available from the Board's Executive Director upon request.
2. Board committees consist solely of Board members appointed by the Board Chair. Advisory committee representatives and public panel participants are not committee members, but rather are advisors to the committee. Department staff as well as other state and federal agencies staff will provide technical assistance to committees.
 - A) Public panel participants are generally stakeholders in the fisheries under consideration. They may be CFEC permit holders, crewmen, processors, executive directors of associations, and private citizens.
 - B) A Board member will serve as a chairperson for each committee.
 - C) The Board Chair will announce the location and time of all committee meetings.
 - D) All committee meetings are open to anyone that desires to attend, although participation is limited to the advisory committee representatives, the public panel participants, the technical advisors, the department staff and the committee members.
3. Individuals that desire to serve as public panel participants to any committee should make their availability known to the chair of the respective committee. Willingness to serve can be expressed by personal contact with a committee chair or during presentation of formal oral testimony. Committee chairs are to keep a list of prospective public panel participants

during the course of the meeting.

A) Attendance at the Board meeting during the presentation of staff reports and presentation of oral testimony is generally a prerequisite to serving as a public panel participant to a committee at most meetings. This requirement will be most prevalent at meetings having high levels of attendance.

B) Advisory Committee representatives are ex-officio members of all public panels to all committees and may move between committees as they choose.

4. At the conclusion of public testimony, the chair of the respective committees will develop a preliminary list of public panel participants. The goal of the selection process will be to insure, as far as practicable, that there is appropriate and balanced representation of fishery interests on all committees. Tentative assignments will be reviewed by the Board as a whole and then posted for public review. After public review the Board Chair, in session on the record, will ask the public for concurrence or objections to the panel membership. Reasonable adjustments to membership on public panels will be accommodated.
5. Parliamentary procedures for committee work will follow the "New England Town Meeting" style. Public panel participants, upon being recognized by the committee chair, may provide comments, ask questions of other public panel members, ADF&G staff or the committee members or may otherwise discuss the issues assigned to a committee. Committee chairs will attempt to manage meetings in a manner that encourages exchange of ideas, solutions to complex issues and resolution of misunderstandings. Participants are required to engage in reasonable and courteous dialogue between themselves, Board committee members and with ADF&G staff. Committee meetings are intended to provide opportunities for additional information gathering and sometimes for dispute resolution. Committees are not a forum for emotional debate nor a platform for repeating information already received through public testimony and the written record. Department staff will be assigned to each committee to keep notes of discussions and consensuses reached, if any.

A) Formal votes will not normally be taken by the committees, but proposals or management plans that

receive public panel consensus, either negative or positive, will be noted in the committee report.

B) The committee process, in the absence of consensus will attempt to bring greater clarity to individual proposals and to complex conservation or allocation concerns.

6. Advisory Committee representatives serving on public panels are not constrained to merely presenting the official positions of their Advisory Committee (as is required while providing public testimony). When participating in the committee process, Advisory Committee representatives may express both the official positions of their committee as well as their personal views on issues not acted upon or discussed by their Advisory Committee. They must, however, identify which of the two positions they are stating. The Board recognizes Advisory Committee representatives as knowledgeable fisheries leaders who have a sense of their community's position on issues that come before the Board. Therefore, the Board believes that Advisory Committee representatives must be able to function freely during committee meetings.

7. After a committee has completed its work with its public panel, the committee chair will prepare a report with assistance from other members of the committee and department staff. The format of this report, which becomes part of the public record, is attached to this policy. The primary purpose of a committee report is to inform the full Board of the committee work in synopsis form. The report will additionally serve as a compilation index to Advisory Committee, public and staff written materials (record copies, public comments and staff reports) relative to the proposals assigned to the respective committees. Committee reports will be clear, concise, and in all cases, will attempt to emphasize "new information" that became available during the committee process, i.e., information that had not previously been presented to the full Board in oral or written form.

A) In order to provide focus, committee reports should include recommendations relative to most proposals.

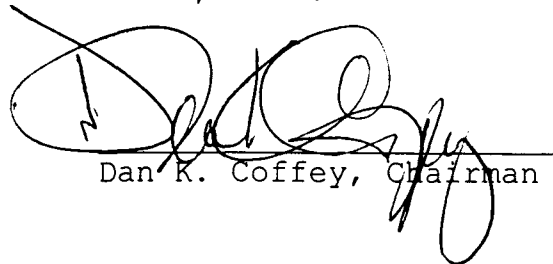
B) If a committee has developed a proposal to replace or modify an existing proposal, the substitute proposal should be prepared and attached the to

committee report.

- C) Committee reports will not include recommendations for proposals when such recommendations will predetermine the ultimate fate of the proposal. For example, when the full Board consists of six or few voting members (because of absence, abstention or conflict of interest) a committee of three should not provide a negative recommendation on a proposal.
8. Committee reports will be made available to the public in attendance at the meeting prior to the Board beginning deliberations on proposals. The Board Chair will publicly announce when reports are expected to be available for review by members of the public. The public will be encouraged to provide written comments to the Board (submittal of record copies) regarding the content of the committee reports and/or to personally contact Board members to discuss the reports.
- A) The Board Chair will provide sufficient time between release of committee reports and deliberations for the preparation of written comments or for verbal communications with individual Board members to occur.
9. Board deliberations will begin after the full Board has had time to review committee reports, after the public in attendance has had an opportunity to respond to the reports, and after the full Board has had an opportunity to review the public's comments made in response to the committee reports. During the course of deliberations, committee chairs will present their committee's report and initially will lead the discussion relative to proposals assigned to their committee.
10. The full Board shall be involved in the debate or discussion of all proposals and will make regulatory decisions based on all information received to the record, including information from committees.

Adopted by the Board in Anchorage on March 23, 2000.

Vote: 6-0-1
(Miller absent)


Dan K. Coffey, Chairman

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
POLICY STATEMENT

Policy for Formation and Role of Committees at Board Meetings

#2000-199-FB

INTRODUCTION

During the past three (3) years, in response to its workload and in a desire to increase public participation, the Board has employed a committee process during the course of its meetings throughout the state of Alaska. This committee process has changed and developed over these three years in response public and department comments and the experiences of the Board in using the committee process.

It is expected that this process will continue to evolve as the needs of the public, the Board and the Department continue to evolve. As such, the committee process is meant to be dynamic and flexible. However, despite the expected future refinements, now that the committee process has been through a three-year Board cycle, it is appropriate for the Board to consider formal adoption of a Policy Statement on the Board committee process.

The Board recognizes that the public relies on the predictability of the regulatory process. The purpose of adopting this Policy Statement and the attached description of the committee process is to place the committee process in the records of the Board. Thus, the adoption of this Policy Statement will define the purpose, the formation and the role of Board committees. Over time, all participants in the Board process can be knowledgeable and effective participants before the Board of Fisheries.

DISCUSSION

A major strength of the Board committee process lies in its broad-based public participation format. To accommodate greater levels of public involvement, to enable the Board to receive and utilize the volume of information presented to it and to effectively handle the increased number of proposals seeking regulatory changes, the Board has found it desirable to create internal Board committees. The Board has found that these committees allow the Board to complete its work timely and effectively, with full consideration of the content and purpose of the many proposals before it each year.

The Board considers the use of committees as an expansion of its traditional processes; not as a replacement for such long-standing information gathering activities as staff and advisory committee reports, public testimony, written comments or informal contacts between Board members and the public. The Board committees are intended to enhance the process, not become a substitute for existing process.

While the committee process, of necessity, involves less than the full Board, nothing about the committee process is intended to, or has the consequence of, replacing the judgment of the full Board on all proposals before it at any regulatory meeting. The Board has taken steps to insure that its committees do not dictate/direct the outcome of any vote on any proposal. These steps include limiting participation by Board members to less than the number of Board members necessary to determine the outcome of the vote on any proposal. In addition, Board committees avoid predetermining the outcome by organizing the written materials presented to the Board so that they are readily available for review by the full Board, by presenting detailed reports on the committee's work and by fostering and encouraging debate during the deliberative process.

The goals and purposes of the Board committee process include but are not limited to the following:

1. Acquisition of additional detailed information from both the public and staff.
2. Providing a consensus-building forum that assists in the understanding and resolution of complex and controversial conservation, allocation, fishery resource, habitat and management issues.
3. Enhancing the interaction among the Board, the public and department staff which results in broader public understanding of the regulatory decisions of the Board and the Department's management of the fisheries.
4. Promoting efficient use of time by organizing and grouping similar proposals, reducing redundancy and organizing the huge volume of written materials provided before and during meetings by the department and the public.
5. Insuring completion of the Board's work within fiscal and temporal constraints.

The Board now finds as follows:

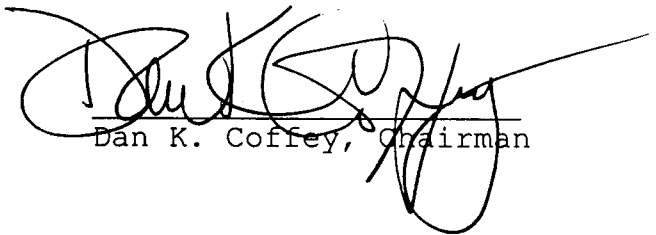
1. The goals and objectives are appropriate;
2. The statements of fact accurately reflect the beliefs and opinions of the Board as to the matters stated;
3. The committee process has, over a full three-year cycle of the Board, resulted in the goals and objectives having consistently been met.

Based on the findings, the Board of Fisheries resolves as follows:

1. The Policy Statement is hereby adopted as the policy of the Board of Fisheries.
2. The description of the committee process attached to this Policy Statement will be followed, in most circumstances, by the Board during the course of its regulatory meetings, subject always to the exceptional circumstance as determined by the Board.
3. The committee process is intended to be dynamic and flexible to meet the needs of the public, the Board and the Department. Thus, this Policy Statement and the attached description of the committee process are subject to ongoing review and amendment by the Board.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska this 23rd day of March, 2000.

Vote
(Miller Absent)


Dan K. Coffey, Chairman

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Northern Gulf of Alaska Chinook Salmon Task Force
99-185-FB

I. Introduction/Problem Statement

Management of fisheries for chinook salmon is complicated by the highly migratory nature of the species and by the potential for harvest in mixed stock fisheries.

In the northern Gulf of Alaska (NGOA), chinook salmon are the subject of increasing allocation disputes among Alaska user groups resulting from increased directed and incidental harvests and management concerns for individual stocks of this fully allocated species.

II. Reason for Board Involvement

A variety of regulatory proposals have been submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries that raise concerns over the harvest of chinook salmon in NGOA fisheries. Before addressing these proposals, the board wants to provide adequate opportunity for the public to become familiar with current scientific information and programs, to understand and discuss future research needs, to identify management and allocation programs, and to seek appropriate solutions.

III. The board establishes the NGOA Chinook Salmon Task Force.

A. Task Force membership/outreach: Stakeholder participants will be responsible for their own expenses to attend task force meetings. The public shall nominate and the board shall approve membership to this task force.

B. Mission and Problem Statements, goals and objectives. The board directs the task force to:

Task 1) Review the fisheries that harvest NGOA chinook salmon

Inventory fishery management and stock assessment information and programs

Agree on the scientific information upon which discussions will be based

Report to the board on the results of Task 1

Task 2) Review proposals tabled during the 1998/1999 board cycle pertaining to the management of NGOA chinook salmon

Identify issues

Identify information gaps

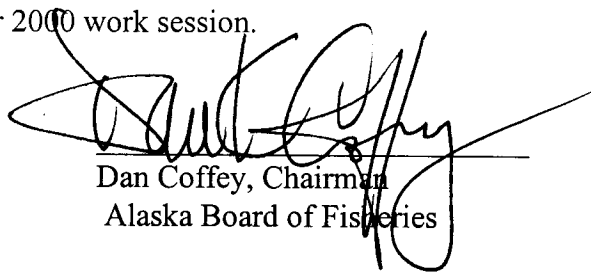
Recommend programs to gather additional information

Develop management strategies that address identified issues

Report to the board on the results of Task 2

The task force will report to the board at the October 2000 work session.

ADOPTED: 10/27, 1999
Fairbanks, Alaska


Dan Coffey, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

VOTE: 7/0

(Previously 97-10-FB)

RC 211

97-175-FB

DEVELOPMENT OF CONCEPT FOR QUALITY SPORT FISHERIES
THROUGH LIMITING FISHING EFFORT

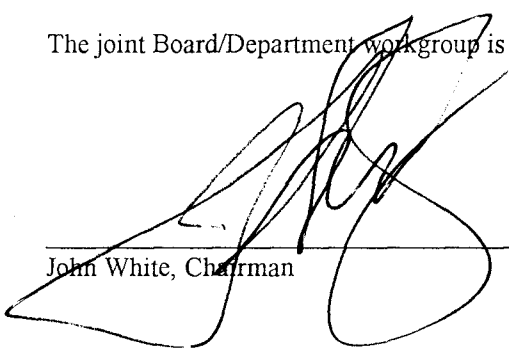
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
BRISTOL BAY MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 1997

The Board of Fisheries is interested in concepts that promote management of sport fisheries in a manner that provides for a diversity of sport fishing opportunity and optimizes social and economic recreational benefits. An important attribute of sustaining and optimizing benefits from a recreational fishery is maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the recreational experience. As a common property resource, most recreational fisheries are managed by the state to be accessible to all license holders consistent with sustained yield and property ownership. However, there are unique circumstances under which limiting daily participation through a permit system in a specific fishery to provide for a quality fishing experience could be appropriate.

The Board is committed to investigating the feasibility of creating quality sport fisheries in Bristol Bay and is interested in further development and design of this concept for further consideration. In partnership with the department, a joint workgroup is charged with the following assignment:

- Development of criteria for selecting waters eligible for quality management;
- Research other permit systems including those within state jurisdiction and other state and federal agencies;
- Development of an administrative process for permitting effort including an AG's opinion on identified options and costs for implementation and operation;
- Development of a public process to investigate this concept that includes all advisory committees with jurisdiction over Bristol Bay, affected industry, interest groups, other affected agencies, the department, and the Board of Fisheries.

The joint Board/Department workgroup is to report back to the full Board at the 1998 work session in October.



John White, Chairman

97-174-FB
(Previously 97-09-FB)

RC 212

DEVELOPMENT OF A RAINBOW TROUT MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE NAKNEK RIVER

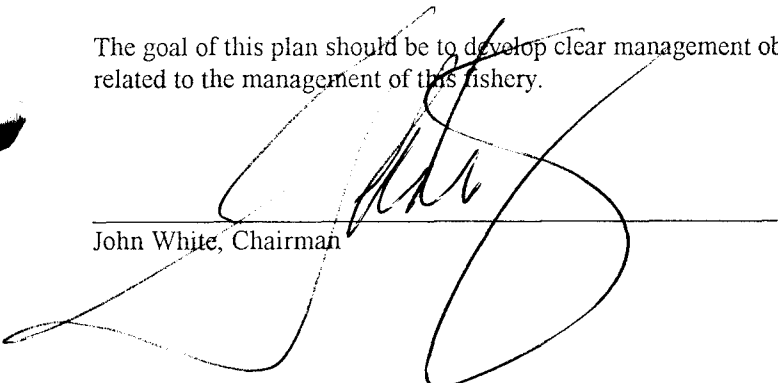
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
BRISTOL BAY MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 1997

The Board of Fisheries tabled consideration of proposals 124, 125, and 127 concerning the recreational fishery for rainbow trout in the Naknek River until the 1998-99 regulatory cycle. These proposals speak to development of a management plan for this fishery and the Board wants to ensure a comprehensive approach to this issue. To this end, and in conjunction with the department, a joint workgroup is charged with the following assignment.

Develop a plan that addresses management objectives intended to ensure conservation of resources and a diversity of angling opportunities, consistent with the policies found in the Southwest Alaska Rainbow Trout Management Plan. It is the intent of the Board that this planning effort be comprehensive with respect to Naknek River rainbow trout stocks and fishery and may require:

- a review stock status of the rainbow trout resource and principles of management;
- a review of the present regulatory structure; and
- development of a regulatory package that provides for sustained yield.

The goal of this plan should be to develop clear management objectives that address biological and social concerns related to the management of this fishery.



John White, Chairman

(Previously Finding #91-5-FB) ~~DRAFT #2~~
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

NUSHAGAK CHINOOK SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Board of Fisheries created a management plan for Nushagak-Mulchatna River chinook salmon stocks at the request of the Nushagak Advisory Committee. At the Bristol Bay Area meeting, conducted during January 1992 at Dillingham, the board, in close coordination with the Nushagak Advisory Committee, conducted extensive deliberations prior developing the plan. Department staff from the commercial, sport, and subsistence divisions presented comprehensive reports on the chinook salmon stocks of Nushagak-Mulchatna Rivers and the subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries that utilize these returns.

The board finds that a management plan is necessary for the following reasons:

1. Nushagak-Mulchatna chinook salmon stocks are an important component to the lifestyle and economy of Dillingham and surrounding communities and these runs support important and established local subsistence, directed commercial, and sports fisheries.

2. The Nushagak-Mulchatna chinook salmon returns are experiencing conservation problems and harvest opportunities are being restricted from the harvest levels experienced in earlier years.

3. Competition amongst the users of the Nushagak-Mulchatna chinook salmon resources are increasing and user conflicts are becoming apparent.

4. The board was presented the attached table showing the utilization of Nushagak-Mulchatna chinook salmon stocks since 1966.

Based on these factors, the board concluded that a management plan is needed to:

1. Ensure an adequate spawning escapement into the Nushagak-Mulchatna River systems.

2. Maintain a subsistence priority usage for the Nushagak-Mulchatna chinook salmon stocks.

3. Ensure that the Nushagak-Mulchatna chinook salmon stocks are managed in a conservative manner consistent with sustained yield principles.

4. Continue to harvest Nushagak-Mulchatna chinook salmon runs in the fisheries that have historically harvested them in Nushagak Bay and the Nushagak-Mulchatna drainage.

5. Provide management guidelines to the department in an effort to preclude allocation conflicts between the various users of the resource.

Elements of the management plan include:

1. A biological escapement requirement (BER) is established, by department staff, for the Nushagak-Mulchatna chinook salmon stocks of 65,000 fish. This number of spawners is believed to produce the maximum sustainable number of returning chinook salmon and was based on the best available information available to the department.

2. An inriver goal is est to manage the commercial fishery in such a manner to obtain an annual count of chinook salmon, past the department's Portage Creek sonar site, of 75,000 chinook salmon. The inriver goal was found to provide sufficient fish to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvest and to maintain a sport harvest of no greater than 5,000 fish.

3. The plan allows the sport harvest to increase to 6,000 fish when the inriver return exceeds 75,000 fish up to a level of 95,000 fish. The board found this restriction was necessary to ensure that the sport fishery allocation would not benefit over time due to management imprecision. However, the board recognized that once the spawning escapement exceeded 95,000 fish, the subsequent return per spawner is significantly decreased, and finds that it is not necessary to limit the take in the sport fishery under these conditions.

4. The board finds it is desirable to allow a targeted commercial fishery for chinook salmon when the inriver goal is projected to be met or exceeded. This meets the board's intent to maintain the historic nature of the Nushagak District fisheries

5. The board finds that when the projected inriver return is projected to be between 40,000 and 75,000 chinook salmon, it was not necessary to restrict the normal prosecution of the sockeye salmon commercial fishery. The board believed that this could be accomplished with plan provisions to limit gill net gear to less than 5 and 1/2 inches mesh and to not permit a directed chinook salmon fishery under the above conditions. The board finds that when the inriver run was projected to be less than 40,000 fish, it is necessary to limit the normal commercial sockeye salmon fishery and established provisions directing the department not to open the sockeye salmon season until at least 10% of the of the Wood river escapement goal is projected to be achieved.

6 As the board finds that the sport fishery represents a directed harvest, the plan restricts the sport fishery when the inriver return is projected to be less than the BER of 65,000 fish. When the inriver return is projected to be below 40,000 fish, the board finds that it is necessary to close the directed sport fishery; further the board does not believe that hook and release

sport fisheries are proper at this time.

7. The board recognized that the department does not have the necessary management tools to regulate the sport fishery to maintain the sport harvest limits within any one year. However, the board expects the department to make yearly adjustments to ensure the sport harvest, over time, does not permanently increase above the specified limits.

8. The board finds that it is not necessary to restrict the subsistence fishery unless the inriver return is projected to be less than 40,000 fish.

Adopted: January 9, 1992

Vote: (Yes/No/Abstain/Absent) (___/___/___/___)

Location: Dillingham

a:nushplan

Table 1. Chinook salmon commercial, subsistence, and sport harvest plus escapement for the Nushagak drainage, 1966 to 1991.

Year	Harvest						Escapement	Total Run
	Commercial ^a	Subsistence ^b	Sport ^c			Total		
			Nush	Mul	Total			
1966	58,184	3,700				61,884	40,000	101,884
1967	96,240	3,700				99,940	65,000	164,940
1968	78,201	6,600				84,801	70,000	154,801
1969	80,803	7,100				87,903	35,000	122,903
1970	87,547	6,300				93,847	50,000	143,847
1971	82,769	4,400				87,169	40,000	127,169
1972	46,045	4,000				50,045	25,000	75,045
1973	30,470	6,600				37,070	35,000	72,070
1974	32,053	7,900				39,953	70,000	109,953
1975	21,454	7,100				28,554	70,000	98,554
1976	60,684	6,900				67,584	100,000	167,584
1977	85,074	5,200	402	521	923	91,197	65,000	156,197
1978	118,548	6,600	151	291	442	125,590	130,000	255,590
1979	157,321	8,900	312	342	654	166,875	95,000	261,875
1980	64,958	11,800	611	146	757	77,515	141,000	218,515
1981	193,461	11,500	929	291	1,220	206,181	150,000	356,181
1982	195,287	12,100	1,436	367	1,803	209,190	147,000	356,190
1983	137,123	11,800	1,615	388	2,003	150,926	161,730	312,656
1984	61,378	9,800	1,534	786	2,320	73,498	80,940	154,438
1985	67,783	7,900	1,517	292	1,809	77,492	115,720	193,212
1986	65,783	12,600	1,780	3,534	5,314	83,697	43,434	127,131
1987	45,983	12,200	1,371	1,860	3,231	61,414	84,309	145,723
1988	16,648	10,079	2,383	403	2,786	29,513	56,905	86,418
1989	17,637	8,097	2,807	754	3,561	29,295	78,302	107,597
1990	14,092	11,932	1,594	1,409	3,003	29,027	63,955	92,982
All Years								
Average	76,621	8,192	1,317	813	2,130	86,944	80,532	167,476
Percent	88%	9%			2%			
1986 to 1990								
5 Year Avg	32,029	10,982	1,987	1,592	3,579	46,589	65,381	111,970
Percent	69%	24%			8%			
1991	22,898	12,884			2,600	38,382	135,054	173,436
Percent	63%	33%			7%			

^a Commercial catches from 1988-1991 are preliminary.
^b Subsistence harvest estimate for 1991 is preliminary.
^c Sport harvest estimate for 1991 is preliminary.

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

ALLOCATION CRITERIA

The Alaska Supreme Court recently issued a decision, Peninsula Marketing Association vs. State (Opinion No. 3754; dated September 20, 1991), regarding the application of the allocation criteria found in AS 16.05.251(e). The Court interpreted the statute to require the criteria to be considered when allocating between commercial fisheries as well as among the three user groups, commercial, personal use, and sport.

Consistent with the decision of the Court, the board finds that it will utilize the following specific allocation criteria when allocating between fisheries. Note that these criteria are essentially the same as the allocative criteria specified in AS 16.05.251(e), which the board has historically used as set out in 5AAC 39.205, 5AAC 77.007, and 5AAC 75.017.

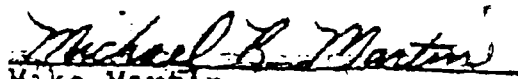
- 1) the history of each personal use, sport, and commercial fishery;
- 2) the characteristics and number of participants in the fisheries;
- 3) the importance of each fishery for providing residents the opportunity to obtain fish for personal and family consumption;
- 4) the availability of alternative fisheries resources;
- 5) the importance of each fishery to the economy of the state;
- 6) the importance of each fishery to the economy of the region and local area in which the fishery is located;
- 7) the importance of each fishery in providing recreational opportunities for residents and nonresidents.

Note that all seven (7) criteria do not necessarily apply in all allocation situations, and any particular criterion will be applied only where the board determines it is applicable.

Adopted: November 23, 1991

Vote: (Yes/No/Abstain/Absent) (5 / 0 / 0 / 2) [Absent: Robin Samuelson, Tom Elias]

Location: Anchorage International Airport Inn


Mike Martin
Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

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Adopted: November 23, 1991

Vote: (Yes/No/Abstain/Absent) (5/0/0/2) [Absent: Robin Samuelson, Tom Elias]

Location: Anchorage International Airport Inn



Mike Martin, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

91-128-FB

(Previously Finding #: 91-2-FB)
Page 1 of 2

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES STANDING RULES

As a guide, the Alaska Board of Fisheries follows the most current version of Robert's Rules of Order in the conduct of the meetings [Note that the Alaska Statutes do not require the board to use any specific parliamentary procedure]. The board has by traditional agreement varied from the written Robert's Rules of Order. Below is a partial list of these variations (known as "Standing Rules") that the board follows:

- Take No Action. Has the effect of killing a proposal or issue upon adjournment. There are two reasons for taking no action: 1) It is found that the proposal is beyond the board's authority; or 2) due to board action on a previous proposal(s).
- Tabling has the effect of postponing indefinitely (Robert's Rules of Order). One of the primary reasons the board tables a proposal/issue is to gather more information during that meeting since a tabled proposal/issue dies when that meeting session adjourns.
- One amendment at a time. As a practice, the board discourages an amendment to an amendment. This is a proper motion by Robert's Rules of Order, however the board tries to avoid the practice because of the complexities of issues.
- Do not change or reverse the intent of a proposal/issue. For example, if a proposal's intent is to restrict a particular fishery and the board wishes to close or expand the fishery, the board will not amend the original proposal. The board will defeat, table or take no action on that proposal and then develop a board generated proposal to accomplish the action they feel is needed.
- "Ruling of the Chair" or "Chair's Ruling". When the chair makes a ruling, the board members have two options; 1) accept the ruling and move on; or 2) appeal/challenge the chair's ruling. By Robert's Rules of Order, the process is as follows (When a chair's decision is appealed/challenged):

By Robert's Rules of Order, the process is as follows (when a chair's decision is appeal/challenged):

- 1) The chair makes a ruling;
- 2) A member appeals (challenges) the chair's ruling (i.e. "I appeal the decision of the chair") and it is seconded (Note: All board members present can or could appeal/challenge the ruling);
- 3) Any board member can debate the ruling and appeal/challenge (Note: By Robert's Rules the chair and the person appealing/challenging the ruling are the only two who are to debate the issue);
- 4) The question before the board is: "Shall the decision of the chair be sustained?"
- 5) After the result of the vote is announced, business resumes.

- The public depends on or expects the board members to keep an open mind on the issues before the board. To accomplish this the board will listen to and ask questions: 1) staff reports, advisory committee and regional council reports, and 2) during deliberations on the issues, listen to fellow board members points and issues. It is not conducive to soliciting public involvement if the board members express that they already have an opinion and it is up to the public or staff to "change their mind."

- Note another "Standing Rule" contained in Board of Fisheries Finding Number: 80-78-FB. This finding is regarding the Reconsideration Policy of the board.

Adopted: November 23, 1991

Vote: (Yes/No/Absent/Abstain) 5/0/2/0/ [Absent: Robin Samuelson, Tom Elias]

Location: Anchorage International Airport Inn

Mike Martin, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

U:\BREG\91-2-FB.FND

Findings of the Alaska Board of Fisheries
Regarding the 48-Hour Waiting Period in
Bristol Bay Commercial Salmon Fisheries

A. In January 1986, the Alaska Board of Fisheries amended 5 AAC 06.370 to reimpose the 48-hour waiting period in Bristol Bay commercial salmon fisheries. The regulation as amended requires that fishermen must register with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game 48-hours before each transfer to a Bristol Bay district, and that fishermen cease fishing during that 48-hour period. Before adopting the amendment, the board received extensive public comment, both written and oral.

B. In March 1986, the board further amended 5 AAC 06.370, following the recommendations of the Alaska Department of Law. The amendments were technical in nature, and were designed to make the 48-hour waiting period more enforceable. Because the legal notice for the March meeting left open the possibility that the 48-hour waiting period could be repealed, there was public testimony and presentations by the Nushagak, Lower Bristol Bay, Naknek-Kvichak, and Lake Illiamna advisory committees reiterating support of the reinstating of the 48-hour transfer requirement with no fishing.

C. Between the January and March board meeting, a lawsuit was filed challenging the 48-hour waiting period. Meier v. State, 1JU-86-415 civil. It may, the board believes, be desirable to articulate the conservation and development purposes served by the 48-hour waiting period.

D. Based upon the information presented to the board before it amended 5 AAC 06.370 in January and again before it further amended 5 AAC 06.370 in March, the board finds:

1. There are two commercial salmon fisheries in Bristol Bay, the set net and the drift gillnet fisheries. Participants in these fisheries must register for whichever Bristol Bay district they fish, and must reregister before transferring to a new district. For at least 24 years before 1985, fishermen had to cease fishing for a period of 48-hours after reregistering and before transferring to the new district. For the 1985 season, the 48-hour period was repealed and a 24-hour notice adopted. Fishermen were allowed to continue fishing before transferring.

2. The 48-hour had an impact on fishing patterns, although it was not easy to enforce as written at that time. Before 1985, the set net fishery harvest annually had an average of 12 percent of the commercial salmon

harvest of Bristol Bay. When the 48-hour waiting period was repealed, the set net harvest dropped to 9 percent. Of concern was the 6 percent set net harvest in the Egegik District, and the drop to 3 percent in the Ugashik District which experienced an historic high return in 1985. Reallocation of salmon from the set net fishery to the drift gillnet fishery was becoming evident.

3. Because of the historic high return, the Ugashik District was fished during the peak harvest period by more than 600 drift gillnetters, when normally that District has been fished by approximately 200 drift gillnetters.


4. Reimposing and improving the enforceability of the 48-hour waiting period will assist in maintaining the historic harvest percentages between the set net and drift gillnet fisheries. The drift gillnet fishery in Bristol Bay is composed of mobile vessels with highly refined fishing skills and efficient gear. The set net fishery, although skilled, is less mobile because of limited set net sites and is hampered by fishing time because of tides.

5. Public testimony and ADF&G staff reports did indicate that among the drift gillnet fleet itself there seemed to be more success by one component than another. While this was a concern of some board members, it was not as important to the board as a whole, as was the reallocation stated above.

6. Reimposing and improving the enforceability of the 48-hour waiting period will assist in slowing down the movement of the more mobile component of the drift gillnet fishery which will spread out the harvest more evenly among all participants promoting a more orderly fishery and enhancing economic stability as a whole.

7. Additionally, reimposing and improving the enforceability of the 48-hour waiting period will have some conservation benefits in that it will prevent an unpredictable influx of fishing gear into a district experiencing a marginal run of salmon. Several Bristol Bay districts open during large portions of the season by emergency order issued by ADF&G rather than a schedule set out in regulations. One factor considered by the department before opening a district is the amount of effort and gear. Although normally a 100 percent exploitation rate is expected when a Bristol Bay district is open, in some more unusual situations (minimal stock run), the department could determine that one gear type could fish without jeopardizing escapement goals, but allowing both types could jeopardize conservation. 5 AAC 06.320(f) gives the

department authority to allow only one type to operate. Similarly, it set and drift gillnet present at a particular time could be allowed to fish without jeopardizing the escapement, the 48-hour waiting period will prevent a sudden influx of effort and gear which could raise the total amount of gear to a level to jeopardize a stock.



Ron Jolin, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Date 4/9/86

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
FINDINGS OF FACT

Bristol Bay 32 Foot Vessel Length
5 AAC 06.341
#81-92-FB

After hearing a report on the Findings of the Governor's Bristol Bay Task Force, conducting a public hearing on 5 AAC 06.341 in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, and discussing the subject, the Board of Fisheries on April 4, 1981 by unanimous action, adopted a regulation to continue the 32 foot vessel length for the Bristol Bay salmon fishery. The Board considered this action to be consistent with its responsibilities to conserve and develop the salmon resources of Bristol Bay, promote the orderly harvesting and marketing of quality fishery products and to maximize the public interest.

The action of the Board in 1979 to repeal the 32 foot length limit by 1982 had been based in part on the premise that larger vessels would permit the use of ice to improve quality. However, Bristol Bay processors who imposed 12 hour delivery requirements on fishermen in 1980 showed that more frequent deliveries by existing vessels can adequately improve quality. An increased vessel length that allows the use of ice, chilled brine or special insulation is not necessary to achieve the desired quality improvements at this time.

The Board also reviewed testimony indicating that until recent years the average costs of the Bristol Bay gillnet vessels were in the \$5,000 to \$20,000 range. In recent years 32 foot vessels costing as much as \$150,000 are being constructed to participate in the fishery. The use of these larger capacity, more expensive boats has, in some cases, resulted in over capitalization by fishermen and is believed to have contributed to lengthy price disputes and threats of violence prior to the 1980 price settlement as fishermen felt obligated to achieve continued high prices to meet boat payments.

Repeal of the 32 foot limit will interfere with production economies of scale associated with construction of standard size vessel. Unlimited size will therefore exacerbate the problem of overcapitalization in the Bay area.

During the public hearing, Representative Joe Chuckwuk testified that repealing the 32 foot limit in 1982 would work a hardship on the Bristol Bay fishermen who had already invested in newer, larger-capacity 32 foot boats. In addition the Board also received the results of a January 1981 mail survey of all setnet and drift gillnet limited entry card holder and interim use permittees in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery. Of the 2,668 ballots mailed out, 81% of the 2,003 ballots returned favored reestablishment of the 32 foot length.

The conduct of the Bristol Bay fishery has been based upon the 32 foot length vessel for more than 30 years. Continuation of the length restriction will promote stability and predictability in the fishery.

ADOPTED: Anchorage, Alaska
April 7, 1981

VOTE: 5-0

Nick Szabo, Chairman

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
RESOLUTION #80-80-FB

1981 BRISTOL BAY HERRING
MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE

see also #79-49-FB,
#79-59-FB,
#79-60-FB,
#80-68-FB

The 1981 Bristol Bay herring and herring roe-on-kelp fishery will be managed within the following guidelines:

1. a minimum threshold level of biomass for conservation of the stocks will be maintained;
2. differing harvest rates for older and younger age class herring will be used;
3. the commercial harvest will not start until the start of spawning, thus insuring the opportunity for the highest roe recovery; and
4. the harvest management should minimize wastage of the resource.

The Board of Fisheries therefore directs the staff of the Department to take the following actions given the specified circumstances:

1. when the total observed biomass of early season older age class herring exceeds 20,000 metric tons, the season will open and the harvest rate will be 10% of the observed biomass; the harvest rate may be allowed to increase to 20% if the observed biomass exceeds 40,000 metric tons and sufficient spawning has occurred;
2. when the total observed biomass of later season younger age class herring exceeds 20,000 metric tons, a harvest rate of no more than 10% will be allowed; and
3. the number of openings allowed in the herring roe-on-kelp fishery will be based on the fishing time in the herring fishery.

ADOPTED: Anchorage, Alaska
December 13, 1980

VOTE:

Nicholas G. Szabo
Chairman

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Operating Procedures

Motion to Reconsider

1. Any member of the Board of Fisheries who voted on the original issue may move to reconsider a vote, regardless of how the member voted on the original issue.
2. A motion to reconsider may be made at any time prior to final adjournment of the Board meeting. A motion to reconsider need not be made on the day the original vote is taken.
3. A motion to reconsider must be supported by a presentation of new evidence that was not before the Board at the time the original vote was taken.
4. A Board member who intends to move for reconsideration should inform the Chairman of his intent.
5. When intent to reconsider is made known, public notice will be given as to when reconsideration will occur.

ADOPTED: April 3, 1980
VOTE: 6/0 (Goll absent)
Anchorage, Alaska

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIESPOLICY CONCERNING QUALITY OF
ALASKAN FISHERIES RESOURCES

The Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game recognize that quality as well as volume of fisheries product influence the final benefit received by Alaskans for their renewable fisheries resources. Increased volume of fisheries resources available in Alaska and elsewhere coupled with a higher demand for fresh and frozen products has focused attention on fish quality as an important aspect of marketing Alaskan resources on a worldwide basis. Food products need to be attractive in appearance, firm of flesh and carefully handled, as well as wholesome.

The Board recognizes that the management of fisheries may have either a beneficial or negative impact on product quality. Consistent with the need for resource conservation, the Board has adjusted seasons and fishing areas to improve resource recovery and avoid times when fish or shellfish flesh is of poor quality. The degree to which these actions may be implemented depends greatly on the level of management precision available based on biological knowledge of the resource, run timing, stock distribution, fishing effort, and use patterns.

Any effective program to maintain or enhance the quality of fishery resources harvested in Alaska will require the active involvement of the primary participants, i.e., processors, fishermen, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the Board of Fisheries. The Alaska Board of Fisheries' existing public participation process is the appropriate forum to address fisheries quality improvement needs and desires in the management arena. It provides the situation under which management and industry can interface to produce the management plans, policies, and regulations necessary to improve fisheries product quality under circumstances where the participants are able to have access to the best available expertise to assure adequate consideration of the problems.

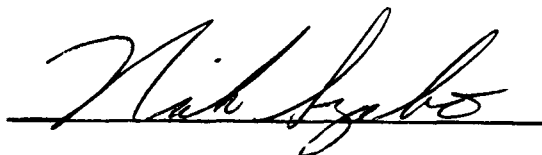
To reemphasize the Board's concern for quality in all Alaskan fisheries and the role that regulation may play in this process, the Board adopts the following policy:

Quality of harvest shall be an important factor considered by the Board in the adoption of regulations governing the conduct of Alaska's fisheries.

The Board further directs that the Department continue to consider the quality of fisheries products in its preparation and implementation of management plans for individual fisheries. It is understood that quality considerations with social or economic allocation ramifications will be addressed by the Board and that quality considerations will be secondary to the conservation needs of the resource.

ADOPTED: Anchorage, Alaska
March 31, 1980

VOTE: 6/0



Approved 3/30/80
#80-73-FB

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Special Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

BRISTOL BAY SALMON MANAGEMENT
PLAN FOR 1980

Anchorage, Alaska
March, 1980

BRISTOL BAY SALMON MANAGEMENT
PLAN FOR 1980

The Department's forecast of returning sockeye salmon to Bristol Bay in 1980 totals 54.5 million fish (see Table 1 for detailed information). An inshore return of this magnitude has not been equalled since accurate total run estimates were first available in the mid-1950's, although the 1965 total return of 53.1 million fish closely equals the forecast for 1980.

After subtracting peak year cycle escapement requirements of 17.5 million, a harvestable surplus of 37.1 million sockeye remains. The projected catch of 37.1 million, if realized, would be the largest catch since commercial operations began in Bristol Bay in 1893, and would exceed the previous highest catch by over 12 million fish.

Over 75% (or 28 million fish) of the expected sockeye harvest would occur in the Naknek-Kvichak district, with significant harvests also forecast for Nushagak and Egegik districts. The district sockeye forecast, escapement goals and projected harvest is summarized and shown below for comparison purposes (in 1,000's):

<u>District</u>	<u>Forecast</u>		<u>Escapement Goals</u>	<u>Projected Harvest</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>		<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Naknek-Kvichak	49.922	79%	15.000	27.967	75%
Egegik	3.445	6%	.600	2.845	8%
Ugashik	1.488	3%	.500	.988	3%
Nushagak	6.156	11%	1.300	4.895	13%
Togiak	.531	1%	.100	.431	1%
Total Bay	54.542		17.500	37.126	

Significant harvest of other species are also anticipated for 1980. Pink salmon are expected to return in record numbers, particularly to the Nushagak district where the total forecast of 15.7 million fish will allow a harvest of 14.7 million fish after escapement requirements are met. Total pink returns in 1980 to all districts of Bristol Bay will allow a harvest many times in excess of the long-term average harvest of 1.8 million. King salmon returns are expected to allow a harvest in excess of 200,000, while chum salmon returns are expected to be strong, particularly in Nushagak and Togiak districts where over 1.0 million fish are expected to enter the harvest.

In total, Bristol Bay may have as many as 55 million fish of all species in excess of escapement requirements. This potentially large catch requires special management considerations to provide for an orderly and maximum harvest.

With the foregoing in mind, the following management options will be implemented by emergency order in Bristol Bay for the 1980 season to provide fishermen and processors the greatest opportunity to maximize the harvest:

I. Fishing Boundaries: Effective 9:00 a.m., June 9, seaward extensions of fishing boundaries will be established by emergency order in the Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik and Ugashik districts. Boundary extensions will generally follow the same design established in 1970. A General fishing district will be established seaward of the present Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik and Ugashik districts (Figure 1). The General fishing district boundary will commence at 58° 38' 36" N. Lat., 158° W. long., near Etolin Point and proceed in a southerly direction, conforming to the State's 3-mile jurisdictional limit, to Cape Menshikof. The extended

fishing area will be separated into three geographically distinct areas for purposes of reporting the catch. The General fishing district will remain in effect throughout the season, or until run strength dictates a pull-back to afford additional protection to sockeye stocks not showing forecast strength.

In addition, the strong sockeye run forecast into Nushagak district will hopefully be blunted by allowing a seaward boundary extension to the established "king salmon boundary line" (Figure 1). The Nushagak boundary extension will be announced by emergency order after the district's king salmon escapement requirements have been met; however, for the outer boundary extension in this district to be effective in cropping off early sockeye, the boundary should be operational no later than June 24-25.

Upriver, or inner fishing boundary relocations, will not be made unless extreme circumstances so dictate. As directed by the Board of Fisheries, the inner boundary on Kvichak River will be relocated if circumstances are such that it will be in the best interests of the resource and resource users.

With the fishing boundary extensions, the staff reached a decision to not deploy the marker can buoys normally in use. If district boundary restrictions or adjustments are needed in-season to protect sockeye stocks, the industry will be asked to cooperate by placing tenders to help mark boundaries, for it is unlikely that buoys can be deployed on such short notice.

II. Fishing Season: Effective 9:00 a.m., June 9, unrestricted fishing time will be announced by emergency order for the Naknek-Kvichak,

Egegik and Ugashik districts until further notice. Unrestricted fishing time will be announced for Nushagak district once king salmon escapement requirements have been met. We anticipate that by June 24-25, king salmon escapement requirements will be adequate and the Nushagak district can be opened until further notice.

III. Fishing Gear: Additional gill net gear allowed in 1970 was not effective in increasing the harvest. Therefore, the staff has no plans to increase the allowable gear. Depending on the South Unimak commercial harvest and Port Moller test boat catches of pink salmon, the effective date when smaller mesh pink gear can be used may be allowed earlier in the season, especially in Nushagak district where a large return has been forecast.

IV. District Re-registration: Effective 9:00 a.m., June 9, an emergency order announcement will waive all re-registration processes and allow unrestricted movement between all districts of Bristol Bay without the usual 48 hour waiting period. The Department will continue to require prior notice of intent to relocate fishing operations, but the 48 hour waiting period will not be in effect.

In conclusion, the Department fully realizes the risks involved in proposing this management plan. However, it is the opinion of the staff that the possibility of adversely affecting any run or species is minimal considering the technology and effort that is applied to the management of the Bristol Bay fishery. It is also the opinion of the staff that in this case the advantages of establishing a General district to permit earlier fishing on the Kvichak run outweigh the risks involved.

Early season offshore fishing may help reduce the size of the catches required during the peak of the run to meet the desired season

harvest, thereby reducing the possibility of "plugging" the processing facilities.

The major risk is over-fishing stocks other than those returning to the Kvichak River. Tagging studies indicate (1) Egegik fish might be expected to constitute a major proportion of fish which mill in the Middle Bluff-Cape Chichagof areas, whereas (2) Kvichak and Naknek fish become more dominant proportionately in the milling area near Low Point, between Middle Bluff and Johnson Hill, and (3) that Ugashik fish constitute the larger proportion of fish that mill in the area between the Egegik and Ugashik districts.

The fact that eight out of ten fish forecast to return to Bristol Bay's east side systems in 1980 are Kvichak River fish means a reduction will probably occur in the proportionate number of Egegik fish milling in the Middle Bluff-Cape Chichagof area. A similar reduction should occur in the proportionate number of Naknek fish milling in the Low Point area. The same is true for the Ugashik fish in the area between the Egegik and Ugashik districts. The risk of over-fishing the Ugashik run becomes less when one considers that, historically, this run has peaked several days later than the Kvichak run, and again, the concept of the General district is to enable fishing on the run early in the season. Furthermore, just because additional fishing areas and unrestricted fishing time are being established for the 1980 season, doesn't mean that these areas and season will necessarily remain open to fishing. On the contrary, if the personnel responsible for the management of this fishery deem it necessary to close these extended areas or seasons, they will be closed in-season by emergency order.

The Shumagin/South Unimak fishery will provide a check approximately two weeks before the fish reach the Bristol Bay fishing districts, and a final run magnitude verification will be provided approximately one week before the run arrives by the A.D.F. & G. test fishing boat operating off Port Moller. Operational funds permitting, the Department's Port Moller test fishing operation will continue fishing operations well into July with smaller mesh pink gear to provide run magnitude estimates for the expected large pink salmon return.

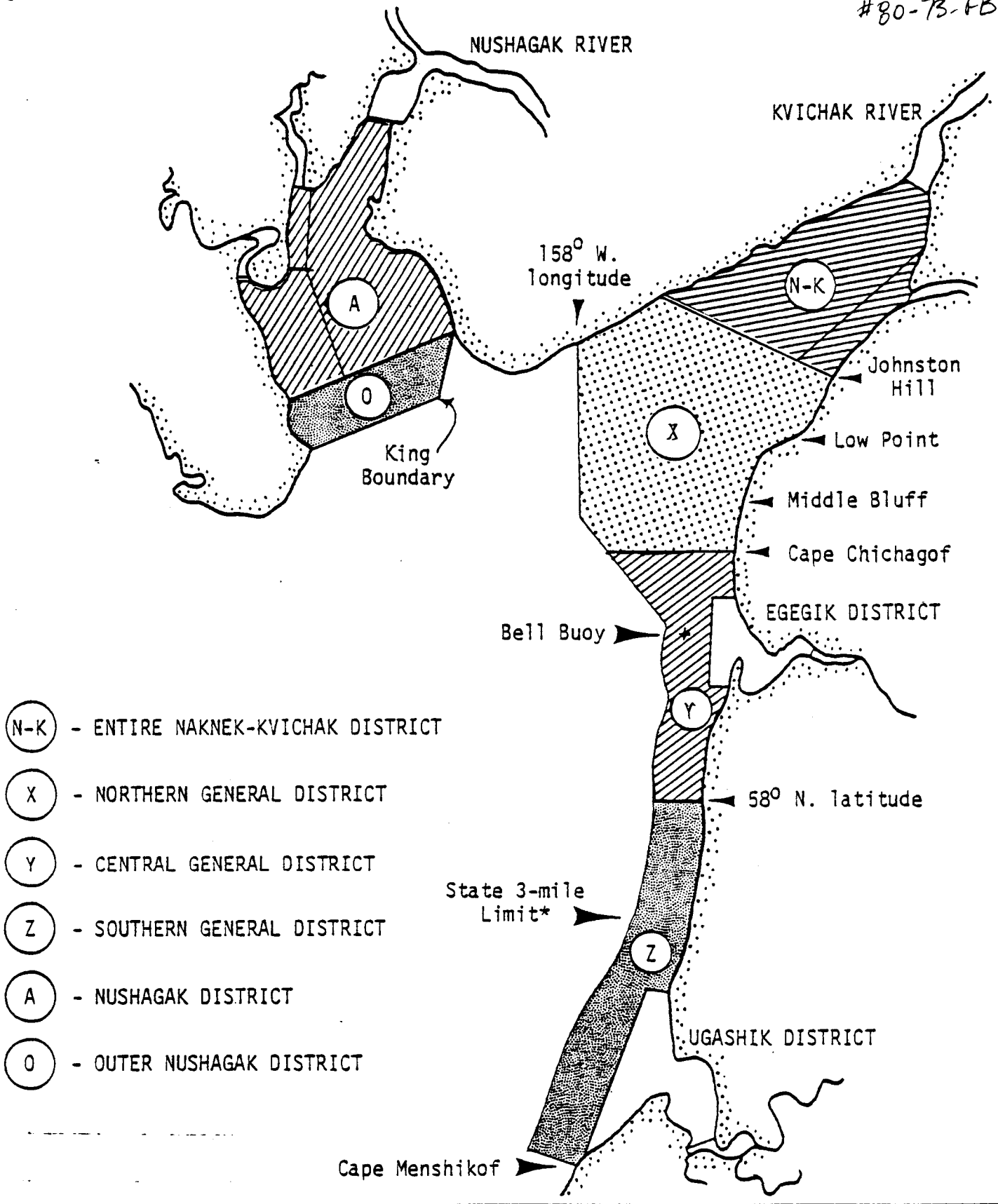


FIGURE 1. SALMON CATCH REPORTING ZONES, BRISTOL BAY, 1979.

*Western boundary of General District is limited by the State three-mile territorial zone.

(Revised #76-14-FB)

BOARD OF FISHERIES

POLICY STATEMENT ON MANAGEMENT OF MIXED STOCK SALMON FISHERIES

A basic principle of salmon fishery management is that fishing of any salmon stock should not occur until the spawning escapement for that stock is insured. Run strength and resultant optimum harvest and escapement levels can not be estimated until discrete stocks have separated themselves from mixed stocks and have arrived in areas near their natal streams. This type of single stock management allows optimum harvest rates on all stocks based on the productivity of individual stocks.


When developing fisheries management policies, factors other than biological data must be considered. Alaska has historically allowed fishing on certain mixed salmon stocks with the result that fishing fleets and related support activities have developed to harvest those stocks. Thus management policies should also address social and economic factors and weight them accordingly.

In view of the above stated principles, it is the policy of the Board of Fisheries that:

1. In the case of long standing fisheries which fish mixed stocks and for which it may not be feasible for participating fishermen to relocate to fisheries taking more discrete stocks, such fisheries may continue provided that fishing effort on the mixed stocks does not increase and that the harvest rate is not detrimental to the individual stocks.
2. In the case of long standing fisheries which fish mixed stocks and for which it may be feasible for participating fishermen to relocate to fisheries taking more discrete stocks, preference should be given to the fishery that best serves the state's interests.
3. The development or expansion of mixed stock fisheries should be discouraged when the fish that comprise those stocks can be harvested after they have separated into more discrete stocks.
4. This policy does not prevent the board or the department from allowing mixed stock fisheries, particularly when large returns are expected and the allowance of such fisheries would result in a fuller utilization of the harvestable surplus.

In all decisions relating to the regulation and management of mixed stock fisheries, it is the express intent of the board that the conservation of affected salmon stocks be given first priority over economic and social considerations.

DATE: January 12, 1980
Anchorage, Alaska


Nick Szabo, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

VOTE: 7/0

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
Policy No. 79-61-FB

REGARDING TOGIAK AND GOODNEWS BAY DISTRICTS
COHO SALMON ENFORCEMENT

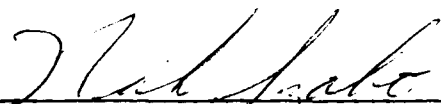
The Togiak and Goodnews Bay Districts coho salmon fisheries have had a documented history of illegal upriver commercial fishing dating back to 1968. Enforcement efforts by the Department of Public Safety have been largely ineffective in controlling this recurring problem on a long-term basis.

The Board recognizes the difficulty of enforcement in these remote areas and although the current regulations enacted by the Board are sufficient to protect the coho stocks they are ineffective due to the special enforcement problem that exists in the Togiak and Goodnews Bay Districts.

In the interest of the conservation of this valuable renewable salmon resource, the Board of Fisheries directs the Commissioner to take the following actions given the specified circumstances.

If illegal fishing activities develop to the point that regulations pertaining to protection of these stocks become ineffective, the Commissioner shall consider closing the affected fishery by emergency regulation for a period of one week. When the fishery reopens, if the illegal fishing continues to be a problem, the appropriate fishery shall be closed for an additional week. Continued violations may result in the closure of the subsistence fishery in the Togiak and Goodnews Bay Districts.

The Board further directs the staff to advertise this policy in the Togiak and Goodnews Bay areas.



Nick Szabo, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

ADOPTED: December 16, 1979
Anchorage, Alaska

VOTE: 7/0

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

BRISTOL BAY HERRING MANAGEMENT PLAN

See also #79-49-FB,
#80-80-FB,
#80-68-FB,
#79-59-FB

The Bristol Bay herring fishery is still rapidly developing. Harvest trends by gear type are not well established between seine and gillnet gear. Run timing, distribution, and magnitude cannot be predicated upon past data for this new fishery and most forms of in-season or pre-season regulation to achieve any predetermined catch allocation between the gear types are not feasible.

It is the Board's feeling that resource size, relative gear numbers, and the efficiency of the two gear types will insure that all users will have ample opportunity to satisfy their economic requirements. Nevertheless, it is desirable to try to insure that neither gear group is totally disadvantaged. The Board therefore directs the staff to take the following actions given the specified circumstances.

When the total reported harvest reaches 20,000 metric tons, the Department will determine the reported tonnage for gillnet and seine (purse and hand purse) gear. If the harvest for either gear type has not reached 6,000 metric tons, the fishery on the gear with the higher reported catch shall be closed for 24 hours.

It is the intent of the Board that no guaranteed minimum quota for any gear type is implied in this policy.

ADOPTED: Anchorage, Alaska
December 14, 1979

VOTE: 5/0 (Gordon Jensen, Herman Schroeder absent)

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIESMANAGEMENT PLAN TO REGULATE THE HERRING
ROE-ON-KELP HARVEST IN THE BRISTOL BAY AREA

See also #79-49-FB,
#80-80-FB,
#79-60-FB,
#80-68-FB

Management of the Togiak herring roe-on-kelp harvest should center upon a predetermined level of exploitation of Fucus sp. The Department recommends the establishment of a conservative exploitation objective of 10 percent of the available Fucus sp. biomass.

The Department has estimated the total Fucus sp. biomass within nine beach areas studied at 4,135,000 pounds. These areas were chosen on the basis of beach surveys such that individual kelp beds could be described and such that harvest could be monitored by individual area. A 95 percent confidence interval has been calculated for the biomass estimate for each beach area. To be conservative, 10 percent of the lower range estimate for each area will be emphasized as the management objective. Actual harvest quotas of roe-on-kelp product have been derived by assuming that the reported weight of commercial grade roe-on-kelp is composed of 25 percent plant weight (Fucus sp.). The 1980 total allowable harvest of roe-on-kelp is calculated at 934,000 pounds.

Individual kelp management areas, in the Department's opinion, should be kept open to commercial harvest until that harvest reaches the allowable harvest quota. At that time, particular kelp management areas should be closed by emergency order for the remainder of the fishing season.

Realization of this management plan is dependent upon monitoring of effort and harvest levels and upon enforcement of the quota system. The harvest needs to be monitored on a daily basis in-season for each kelp management area as the commercial fleet already has the capability of attaining the proposed quota for several management areas in a single day.

The primary effect of this management strategy is to provide protection to those kelp beds that have historically sustained a large harvest. The Department is not recommending that the kelp harvest be reduced as the 1980 total allowable harvest is roughly double the 1979 harvest of 479,000 pounds. Since 1978, the Department has conducted studies to determine specific regeneration rates of Fucus sp. in the Bristol Bay area. Utilization of this management strategy will minimize potential negative effects on the roe-on-kelp harvest on the kelp resource until ongoing biological studies of Fucus sp. in the Togiak area are completed.

ADOPTED: Anchorage, Alaska
December 12, 1979

VOTE: 7/0

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

POLICY #79-58-FB

PROVISIONAL SUBSISTENCE FISHERY POLICY
FOR ILLIAMNA LAKE AND LOWER KVICHAK RIVER DRAINAGE

See also
#77-23-FB,
#77-27A-FB

As stated in Policy #79-5-JB, the Alaska Board of Fisheries recognizes, through the subsistence law, that existing cultures and life styles in Alaska are of great value and should be preserved. Subsistence use of fish and game is therefore assigned a priority among uses.

In the Lake Iliamna drainage, research has determined that large rainbow trout are very limited in number. Rainbows are also extremely slow growing, spawning first at age 6 years or about 20 inches in length. Trophy sized rainbows (25-30 inches in length) are usually 7 to 10 years of age. Harvest of these stocks must be closely regulated to avoid over-harvest.

It is the objective of the Board of Fisheries to protect this unique population of large rainbow from over-harvest while allowing the traditional subsistence fishery of the area to continue in a manner that will provide adequate amounts of fish for local consumption with a minimum amount of regulatory restrictions.

Data indicate that adult rainbow trout in the Iliamna drainage migrate out of Lake Iliamna into various streams in early spring to spawn. Following spawning, the trout either return immediately to Lake Iliamna or remain in the streams until fall. These trout are particularly vulnerable to over-harvest by gill net subsistence fisheries during their spring and fall migration.

Due to the limited number of fish involved, and due to the probability of over-harvest by gill net fisheries, it is the policy of the Board of Fisheries that rainbow trout in the Iliamna Lake drainage shall be harvested by rod and reel so far as is feasible.

The subsistence fishery primarily utilizes salmon. Resident species, such as whitefish, are utilized to a lesser degree. Therefore, gill net subsistence fisheries should be allowed in those areas and during those times when salmon or other under-utilized resident species are abundant. During the times of rainbow trout migration and concentration, gill nets should not be placed in or adjacent to those streams or rivers containing significant rainbow trout populations.

Sport fishing regulations should be less restrictive during winter months than during summer months to better allow the harvest of rainbow trout by rod and reel for local consumption. Bait and treble hook may be used as legal gear when fishing through the ice.

ADOPTED: December 15, 1979

VOTE: 7/0

Provisional Subsistence Fishery Policy

For Iliamna Lake and Lower Kvichak River Drainage

See 77-27A-FB
79-58-FB

It is the objective of this policy to allow the traditional subsistence fishery of the area to continue in a manner that will provide adequate amounts of fish for local consumption with the minimum amount of regulatory restrictions while reducing the gill net catch of rainbow trout.

Rainbow trout populations of the area are subject to overharvest by the use of gill nets due to their limited number, slow growth, and their tendency to concentrate before and during spawning migrations.

The subsistence gill net fishery should harvest those salmon species which occur in large numbers and under-utilized resident species, such as char.

Therefore the subsistence fishery will be regulated according to the following guidelines:

1. All subsistence fishermen are required by Board regulation to have a current subsistence permit in their possession (5 AAC 06.980).
2. All lakes of the drainage shall be open to subsistence gill net fishing year-round without restriction as to mesh size. Nets shall not be placed within 1/4-mile of stream mouths except during the period July 1 through August 30.
3. Streams of the area are open to subsistence gill net fishing from July 1 through August 30.
4. Net length shall not exceed 25 fathoms in length (5 AAC 06.931).
5. No set gill net may obstruct more than one-half the width of a stream (5 AAC 06.990).
6. No subsistence permits shall be written for rainbow trout, but rainbow trout inadvertently caught may be retained.
7. The staff be allowed to increase or alter the 1/4-mile closed area around specific stream mouths if future research indicates the 1/4-mile restriction is inadequate for protection of rainbow trout.
8. Finally, this policy recognizes significant problems exist in Iguigig, the outlet of Iliamna Lake, and downstream in the Kvichak River where traditional subsistence fisheries are conducted with gill nets. These fisheries shall be allowed to continue until sufficient data can be collected to suggest management methods to determine methods of reducing the gill net take of rainbow trout while allowing the continued harvest of other species.

Signed Gordon Jensen
Gordon Jensen, Chairman of the Board
of Fisheries

Date March 31 1977