



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Public Safety
DIVISION OF ALASKA WILDLIFE TROOPERS
Southern Detachment Headquarters

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Chairman Johnstone
Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau Ak, 99811-5526

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The following comments give a brief description of the positions that the Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) has on the proposals that are up for consideration at the Southeast and Yakutat Crab, Shrimp, Misc. Shellfish meeting in Wrangell.

In general, when the board considers seasons, bag limit and methods changes, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers request that every effort possible be made to align the regulations consistently region wide. This is mainly due to enforceability of multiple regulation schemes in one area and to minimize the confusion of the regulations for the public. When the board considers proposals having to do with allocation or biological concerns, AWT is generally neutral in position and does not comment.

AWT recognizes that regulations are developed by the Alaska Boards of Fish and Game through the public process to support management plans. Further, all management plans rely upon public compliance with those regulations to achieve success. Enforcement is a crucial element needed to ensure long-term compliance with regulations by the public. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers request the board recognize that the division has limited resources and man power and any new regulation scheme or area restrictions may place an additional burden on AWT.

Comments on specific proposals are included in this letter.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Hall".

Captain Steven Hall
Southern Detachment Commander
Alaska Wildlife Troopers

Proposals 58-64, and 66 – AWT is neutral regarding these proposals. However, irregular season closures place a larger burden on enforcement resources as it is harder to plan for adequate coverage of closure dates when that date is provided on short notice.

Proposals 69-79 – AWT is neutral regarding the closed waters designations. However, AWT requests that latitude and longitude coordinates be identified for boundaries and specific locations to improve enforceability of regulations.

Proposal 83 – AWT is opposed to the repeal of the provisions which closed the tanner crab fishery for two weeks in June. This limited closure is critical to the enforceability of the opening for the king crab fishery and ensures a fair start for those users.

Proposal 88 – AWT is opposed to this proposal, as it would negatively impact the effective enforcement of gear limits for the king and tanner crab fisheries.

Proposals 91 – AWT supports this proposal. In addition, AWT suggests the use of latitude and longitude coordinates to clearly identify locations for all users.

Proposal 92 – AWT supports this proposal as it aligns size limits for all crab in southeast Alaska.