

RC 008

Substitute language for proposal 161
Submitted by Julie Decker, Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation
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PROPOSAL 161 – POLICY ON GROUND FISH FISHERY RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Create and establish Alaska Board of Fisheries policy regarding the management of groundfish fishery resources in State of Alaska waters, as follows:

GOAL AND BENEFITS

It is the goal of the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to manage groundfish stocks in accordance with the Sustained Yield (Article 8, section 4) and the Common Use (Article 8, section 3) directives of the Constitution of the State of Alaska. Management of the groundfish resources in accordance with Alaska's constitution is expected to protect, maintain and improve the resource. manner that will protect, maintain, improve, and extend these resources for the greatest overall benefit.

Management of these fisheries for the purpose of achieving this goal will result in a variety of benefits which include but are not limited to:

- (1) Maintaining healthy stocks of groundfish to ensure their continued reproductive viability and the maintenance of their role in the ecosystem;
- (2) Providing a sustained and reliable supply of high-quality product to consumers and substantial and stable employment in all sectors of the economy relating to these fisheries; and
- (3) Providing opportunities for commercial, sport, subsistence, and personal use fisheries.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries also recognizes the benefits of managing for the highest socio-economic benefit consistent with the below objectives

OBJECTIVES

To achieve the management goals above and provide the benefits available from these resources, it is necessary to set objectives which will protect stocks and provide for optimum sustained utilization of these resources. With regards to the management of groundfish fishery resources in State of Alaska waters, the Alaska Board of Fisheries has the following objectives:

1. Minimize adverse interactions with other stocks and fisheries.
2. Protect habitat from unsustainable fishing practices.
3. Utilize management measures that ensure adherence to annual and seasonal catch limits.
4. Harvest the resource to optimize quality and value of product.
5. Harvest the resource with consideration of ecosystem interactions.
6. Coordinate with federal management agencies responsible for groundfish fishery management.
7. Manage fisheries based upon the best available information.
8. Manage fisheries consistent with conservation and sustained yield of healthy groundfish resources.
9. ~~Avoid sport, subsistence, and personal use conflicts~~ Maintain commercial, sport, subsistence and personal use opportunities.