

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**  
**February 2004**  
**ALASKA PENINSULA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS FINFISH**

***PROPOSALS GROUPED BY TOPIC***

*Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting, sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.*

PROP  
NO. SUBJECT

**GROUND FISH**

**Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Groundfish**

175 Establish a logbook requirement for black rockfish.

176 Establish a landing requirement for sablefish.

177 Establish a state waters season for Pacific cod.

**South Alaska Peninsula Groundfish**

178 Establish all groundfish in state waters as open access utilizing a portion of the federal TAC.

179 Allocate entire Pacific cod TAC to state waters season.

180 Allocate up to 100 percent Pacific cod TAC to state waters season.

181 Increase allocation to 50 percent of Pacific cod TAC to state-waters season.

182 Increase allocation of Pacific cod TAC to state waters season.

183 Establish Pacific cod jig allocation, superexclusive registration and trip limits.

184 Establish Pacific cod jig allocation, superexclusive registration and trip limits.

185 Establish Pacific cod jig allocation, and trip limits.

186 Establish Pacific cod jig allocation.

187 Establish Pacific cod jig allocation.

188 Reduce jig gear and establish trip limits for the state waters Pacific cod season.

189 Establish jig trip limits

190 Establish criteria for reopening of the state waters Pacific cod pot season.

PROP  
NO. SUBJECT

- 191 Modify pot gear storage requirements.
- 192 Establish superexclusive vessel registration for black rockfish.
- 193 Establish vessel registration for black rockfish.
- 194 Establish fishing sections for management of black rockfish.
- 195 Establish a logbook requirement for black rockfish.
- 196 Establish allowable gear for black rockfish.

**SPORT FISHING**

**Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands**

- 197 Modify the salmon closed waters area at Summer Bay Lake.
- 198 Modify the bag, possession, and size limits of trout and steelhead.

**SALMON**

**Alaska Peninsula Subsistence**

- 199 Modify the Alaska Peninsula subsistence fishing regulations.

**Alaska Peninsula Coordinates**

- 200 Consider using GPS for all regulatory coordinates.
- 201 Modify several regulatory boundary line coordinates.
- 202 Define closed waters in Lenard Harbor.

**Alaska Peninsula Fishing Gear Specifications And Definitions**

- 203 Eliminate the drift gillnet mesh size restrictions.
- 204 Amend the drift gillnet mesh size.
- 205 Eliminate gillnet filament requirements in Area M.

**Alaska Peninsula June Fishery**

- 206 Increase the open waters in the South Unimak fishery.
- 207 Amend the opening date of the June fishery.
- 208 Amend the fishing period times and dates.
- 209 Amend the fishing periods for purse seine and drift gillnet gear.

PROP

NO. SUBJECT

- 210 Amend the fishing periods to 6 p.m. Monday through 6 p.m. Friday.
- 211 Amend the fishing periods to Monday through Friday.
- 212 Increase the fishing period times and dates for purse seine and drift gillnet gear.
- 213 Return to the pre-January 2001 regulations.
- 214 Establish a sockeye to chum salmon ratio for the seine and drift gillnet fisheries.
- 215 Amend the sockeye to chum salmon ratio for set gillnet gear during June 10-24.
- 216 Amend the sockeye to chum salmon ratio for set gillnet gear after June 24.

**Alaska Peninsula Post-June Fishery**

- 217 Amend the fishing period times and dates and base the fishery on pink and chum salmon.
- 218 Remove the coho salmon cap.
- 219 Remove the coho salmon cap.
- 220 Exempt set gillnet gear from the coho salmon cap.
- 221 Clarify management options when the coho salmon cap is approached.
- 222 Clarify an allocative conflict between the post-June and the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plans.
- 223 Repeal the immature per set threshold number.
- 224 Amend the immature per set threshold number.

**Southeastern District Mainland Fishery**

- 225 Amend the estimate of sockeye salmon destined for Chignik to 60 percent.
- 226 Beginning August 20 close a portion of the fishery.

**Southeastern District Fishery**

- 227 In post-July 25 fisheries, cap the sockeye salmon harvests.
- 228 Base September through October fisheries on coho, pink, chum or sockeye salmon stocks.

**North Peninsula Fisheries**

- 229 Amend the Ilnik Section fishing period.

PROP

NO. SUBJECT

- 230 Amend the North Peninsula fishing boundaries.
- 231 Amend fishing periods or reduce gear depths.
- 232 Establish closed fishing times.
- 233 Amend open waters areas when escapement goals are met.
- 234 Close the Three Hills Section.
- 235 Define the fishing boundaries in the Nelson Lagoon Section.
- 236 Delay the season opening date in the Uria Bay Section.
- 237 Amend the fishing season during June in the Uria Bay Section.

**Aleutian Islands Fisheries**

- 238 Consider using GPS for all regulatory coordinates.

**Atka-Amlia Islands Fisheries**

- 239 Consider using GPS for all regulatory coordinates.

**Miscellaneous**

- 240 Enable salmon cooperatives in the Area M.

**HERRING**

**Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands**

- 241 Consider using GPS for all regulatory coordinates.
- 242 Amend Aleutian closed waters areas where buildups of salmon occur.
- 243 Consider changes to the Dutch Harbor herring food and bait fishery to prevent exceeding the allocation.
- 244 Amend the allocation between gear groups in the Dutch Harbor herring food and bait fishery.
- 245 Amend the gillnet mesh size regulation in the Dutch Harbor herring food and bait fishery.
- 246 Create an exploratory herring fishery.

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**  
**February 2004**  
**ALASKA PENINSULA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS FINFISH**

**PROPOSAL 175 - 5 AAC 28.6XX. Bering Sea–Aleutian Islands logbook requirement for the black rockfish fishery.** Create a new regulation requiring logbooks in the black rockfish fishery for the Bering Sea–Aleutian Islands Area as follows:

- (a) An operator of a vessel fishing for black rockfish in the Aleutian Islands District shall maintain an accurate logbook of all fishing operations for each gear type used.
- (b) A logbook described in (a) of this section
  - (1) must include date, the specific location of harvest by latitude or longitude, the number of lines and hooks per lines used, the average depth fished, the hours fished for each line, and the number of bycatch fish taken, by species; for the target species the following is required:
    - (A) the number retained;
    - (B) the number discarded;
  - (2) must be updated, within 24 hours after midnight local time on the day of operation; and
  - (3) must be retained, with its original pages, for a period of two years by the vessel owner or operator of the vessel.
- (c) A logbook described in (a) of this section must be kept onboard the vessel while operating gear, during transits to and from a port of landing, and for five days after delivering groundfish.
- (d) A logbook described in (a) of this section must be made available to a local representative of the department or personnel from the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection upon request.
- (e) A copy of the page of the logbook described in (a) of this section pertaining to a landing must be attached to the fish ticket documenting the landing.
- (f) A person may not make a false entry into the logbook described in (a) of this section.

**PROBLEM:** Black rockfish are long-lived species that are susceptible to overfishing. Many literature citations, as well as a position statement from the American Fisheries Society, call for very conservative management of rockfishes, most suggesting a target exploitation at or below the level of natural mortality. Adult fish are often associated with high-relief physical structures such as reefs and large cobble boulder fields and do not tend to move a great deal, making them susceptible to localized depletion by repeated harvest efforts on the same structure.

The guideline harvest levels (GHL) in many of the subsections in the Akutan and Unalaska sections are small enough that a landing from a single vessel can exceed the GHL. Harvest data recorded on fish tickets and apportioned to department statistical areas do not provide sufficient resolution to establish the subsection where catch occurred. Currently the department uses voluntary fisher logbooks to assign harvest to the subsections. In cases where the subsection of harvest is not known, a conservative approach is taken which can cause a subsection to be closed before the GHL is taken. Because the current logbook program is voluntary, the department does not always have adequate information that permits assignment of the harvests to the subsections.

The department does not have adequate staff to collect detailed harvest location information during dockside interviews from each black rockfish delivery made within the Akutan and Unalaska sections.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The department will continue using voluntary logbooks to determine the subsection in which catch occurred and will continue taking a conservative approach when the subsection of harvest is not known.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Fishers will benefit by having the maximum possible fishing time in each subsection.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Continue using voluntary logbooks.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-157)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 176 - 5 AAC 28.640. Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area Sablefish Management Plan.** Amend this regulation to provide for a landing date requirement as follows:

**(h) After 72 hours following the closure of a directed sablefish season within the Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area, a vessel that participated in that fishery may not have sablefish that was taken in state waters onboard unless the vessel has been delayed due to extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the vessel operator, and the vessel operator has contacted a local representative of the department within 72 hours following the closure of the season and the representative has granted a reasonable amount of time for the vessel to reach the port of delivery or processing location; any amount of additional time shall be determined under the assumption that the vessel departed the fishing grounds immediately after the closure and proceeded directly to the port of delivery or processing location.**

**PROBLEM:** The state-managed sablefish fishery in the Aleutian Islands and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area occurs concurrently with the federal sablefish IFQ fishery and does not have landing requirements specifying when delivery of sablefish taken in state waters must occur after the fishery closure. Qualified fishers may participate in both the state and federal fisheries. Without a regulatory landing requirement setting a specified delivery time after the closure of the fishery, a vessel operator who participates in both the state-managed and federal fisheries may have sablefish onboard the vessel for an unlimited time after the closure of the state-managed fishery, thereby creating the potential for illegal sablefish harvest in state waters after the fishery closure. In previous seasons, landings by fishers participating in both the state and federal fisheries have occurred well after the closure of the state-managed fishery thereby causing harvests that have exceeded the guideline harvest level.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Sablefish could potentially be harvested from state waters after the season closure which could cause the guideline harvest level to be exceeded. Enforcement will be complicated by making it difficult to determine where sablefish were harvested.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Vessel operators would benefit from clarified enforcement. Currently, if a vessel in state waters has sablefish on board several days after the closure of the state-managed fishery, questions could arise as to when and where the fish were caught. Deliveries within the proposed time frame would eliminate that concern since it would no longer be legal to have sablefish taken in state waters onboard the vessel 72 hours after the fishery closure.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-158)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 177 - 5 AAC 28.6XX. Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area (Registration Area O) Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Create a new management plan for the pacific cod as follows:

- (a) This management plan governs the harvest of Pacific cod the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area (Area O).
- (b) Each year the commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, a parallel season in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area to coincide with the initial federal season in the federal Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands management area. The commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, the parallel season during which the use of the same gear allowed in the federal Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands management area Pacific cod season is permitted, unless the use of that gear is prohibited under 5 AAC 28.050, 5 AAC 28.629, or 5 AAC 28.650.
- (c) The commissioner shall open, by emergency order, a state waters season in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area seven days following the closure of the directed federal season in the federal Bering Sea Aleutian Islands management area and shall close, by emergency order, the state waters season, as follows:
  - (1) the guideline harvest level specified in (e)(1) or if applicable, (e)(2) of this section has been reached and a federal season is ongoing in adjacent federal waters; or
  - (2) the commissioner determines it is necessary to
    - (A) adapt to unanticipated openings and closures of the federal season;
    - (B) maintain sustained yield management; or
    - (C) provide for orderly fisheries.
- (d) During a state waters season
  - (1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area is 10 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands management area;
  - (2) if the guideline harvest level specified in (1) of this subsection is reached in any calendar year, the guideline harvest level will be increased beginning the next calendar year to 12.5 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands management area; if the 12.5 percent guideline harvest level is reached in any calendar year after it has been implemented, the guideline harvest level will be increased beginning the next calendar year to 15 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands management area;

- (3) Pacific cod may be taken only with groundfish pots, mechanical jigging machines, and hand troll gear as follows:
  - (A) no more than 120 groundfish pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for Pacific cod;
  - (B) no more than five mechanical jigging machines may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for Pacific cod;
  - (D) a vessel registered to take Pacific cod may not be longer than 110 feet in overall length;
  - (E) no more than 25 percent of the state waters quota can be harvested by vessels over or greater than 60 feet in length.

(e) The Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area is a nonexclusive registration area for Pacific cod during a state waters season.

**PROBLEM:** Establish a State of Alaska, department-managed state waters Pacific cod fishery in the Bering Sea-Eastern Aleutian Islands.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Fish that are within Alaska state waters will continue to be regulated under federal regulations. The federal regulations do not provide for an adequate small vessel fishery. With the impacts from depressed salmon fisheries and other negative factors to the small vessel fleet, now is the time to develop small vessel fisheries within our state waters.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This proposal would increase the amount of state waters fish processed in coastal communities.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Small Alaskan vessels and the families they support. Also coastal communities.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** A state fishery would be deducted from the federal quota.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Matt Hegge (HQ-03-F-189)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 178 - 5 AAC 28.556. South Alaska Peninsula Area registration; and 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Amend these regulations to provide the following:

Open access for all groundfish in state waters. Must retain and utilize all fish caught.

**PROBLEM:** Fishing vessel operator permit holders landings for groundfish are being assigned to the vessel under federal management. Expand cod management plan from just cod to all groundfish. Assign a percentage of federal quota to a state waters fishery for all groundfish.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Lost fish rights to permit holders who caught and landed fish in state waters.



**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** It may in some cases.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All Alaskans who want to fish.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Big operators.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom Gilmartin (HQ-03-F-187)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 179 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Allocate 100 percent of the federal TAC of Pacific cod in the Western Gulf to the state water fishery.

**PROBLEM:** A large percentage of Western Gulf Pacific cod is taken by larger, nonlocal vessels entering the Western Gulf after other fisheries have closed. The state water fishery was established at 15 percent and increased to 25 percent as the fleet demonstrated its ability to harvest the quota. Recent history has shown that the local fleets could easily take the entire quota. A significant portion of the cod taken during the federal season comes from state waters without the restrictions on vessel size and gear limitations that favor the local fishermen.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Local communities, processors and fishermen will continue to suffer economic hardship. Cod has become increasingly important to False Pass, King Cove and Sand Point in light of the difficulties in the salmon industry in general and allocations of salmon in Area M in particular.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Pacific cod harvested with pots and jigs, required in state waters, are generally more carefully handled resulting in better quality and usually command a better price.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Local communities, processors, and fishermen.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nonlocal vessels from other areas who have a lesser dependence on the resource.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Moving the 40 percent “B” federal season cod to the earlier “A” season. The North Pacific Council has not taken any action on this proposal.

**PROPOSED BY:** False Pass Advisory Committee (SW-03-F-033/HQ-03-F-071)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 180 - 5 AAC 28.577(e)(1). South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

(e)(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area is **up to 100 percent** [15 PERCENT] of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the Western Gulf of Alaska Area.

**PROBLEM:** The quota of the Western Gulf federal Pacific cod season is taken partially by vessels over 58 feet that have the capability to move into or return from other areas to fish.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Area communities and fishermen are no different than other coastal regions in Alaska that are struggling economically. Larger nonlocal vessels will continue to harvest the area's Pacific cod resource without it benefiting the area communities.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The value of the cod eggs and milk is lost in late spring. If the cod could be harvested during late winter and early spring the value of these would be greater. There are more parasites in the cod flesh after the warmer waters of summer.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Fishermen and communities of the South Alaska Peninsula.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Any vessel over 58 feet and all vessels that own trawl gear and fish exclusively in this area.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** King Cove Advisory Committee (SW-03-F-018)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 181 - 5 AAC 28.577(c). South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Reflect 50 percent for the total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska.

**PROBLEM:** The state waters Pacific cod quota should be larger than the current 25 percent of the federal TAC. This would only be fair to the small boat fishermen in the local communities on the Alaska Peninsula.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If gulf rationalization is implemented those vessels eliminate from federal waters will have only the state waters fishery. Currently most of these vessels already participate in this fishery. Consequently, they will suffer a shortfall on revenue. This shortfall extends to the revenue of the local community which, if drawn out far enough, will create ghost towns.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All local fishers, local business, processors.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Peninsula Coastal Fishermen's Association (HQ-03-F-179)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 182 - 5 AAC 28.577(e). South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Amend this regulation to provide the following:

- (e) during the state waters season,
  - (1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area is **xxx percent** [15 PERCENT] of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area.

**PROBLEM:** We would like to see more quota transferred into the state waters cod quota from the federal quota. We would also recommend that the transferred quota specifically come from the 40 percent “B” season cod quota that occurs in September.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** More of the cod quota in the “B” season of the Western Gulf of Alaska area will be caught by large nonlocal pot boats.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Unsure.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Local Area M cod fishermen and Alaska Peninsula communities.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-03-F-079)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 183 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

50/50 split between pot and jig. Trip limit of 12,000 to 15,000 pounds a week and superexclusive registration for South Peninsula.

**PROBLEM:** Derby style fishery small boats do not have a chance to compete against larger out area vessels. Local boats in Sand Point do not have a chance to compete.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Small vessels in Area M will end up going out of business.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Taking fish over a longer period of time is better than taking a large bode of fish all at once.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Every smaller jig fish in the South Peninsula.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** None.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Register for pots or jigs at the beginning of the season.

**PROPOSED BY:** Grant Harris (HQ-03-F-045)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 184 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Change the harvest split between pot and jig fisheries 50 percent pot and 50 percent jig. Manage the state cod fishery as a superexclusive area. Set weekly harvest limits to 20,000 pounds delivered in a seven-day period, per boat.

**PROBLEM:** The state cod fishery has evolved into a derby-style fishery that rewards larger boats with large crews and holding capacity. Due to the decline of salmon prices more larger boats have entered into the jig fishery. This has forced many small jiggers to compromise safety in order to compete.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Many small boats that rely on cod fishing will be forced to choose between safety and harvest. The larger boats that can fish in bad weather will continue to harvest more of the quota and dominate the fishery to the detriment of the small boat fleet.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, in some cases a slower fishery improves quality.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Small boat jig fishers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Only the pot fishers who do not change over to jigging once the pot fishery closes.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Separate boat registration for pot and jig fishers. Maximum size boat limits for jig fishers. These solutions can be addressed at the board meeting.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mark Wagner (HQ-03-F-043)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 185 - 5 AAC 28.577(c). South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Amend this regulation to provide the following:

(c)(1) For mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear, the commissioner shall close the state waters season when the guideline harvest level of **50 percent of the overall state water cod quota in Area M** [THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL IS TAKEN] is taken or on December 31, which ever occurs first.

(i) In Area M state cod fishery, a vessel registered, or a CFEC permit holder, of a mechanical jigging machine or hand troll gear may not sell more than 10,000 pounds (round weight) of Pacific cod fish in any given seven-day period. All Pacific cod taken in excess of 10,000 pounds (round weight) by a vessel registered, or a CFEC permit holder, in any seven-day period must be weighed and reported on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from sale of Pacific cod fish in excess of 10,000 pounds (round weight) shall be surrendered to the state.

**PROBLEM:** The state cod jig fishery needs an allocation of the state cod quota in Area M. Also, there has to be regulations put in place in the cod jig fishery in Area M to keep the fishery from becoming another derby fishery. If the board addresses this now it will help the small boat fishermen that fish cod in the Area M in the state fishery.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The state water cod season which the majority of local small boats fish cod needs its own quota allocation. When seasons get shorter and fishermen race for fish, the fishermen tend to fish harder and harder. In setting up this fishery that was not the intention of the board to create another derby fishery.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, the quality of the cod will improve if the state water cod season is warded off from becoming a derby fishery.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All boats that fish in Area M for cod and the businesses of people of the local communities.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** None of the cod fishermen will be hurt by this proposal.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** A little higher trip limit was considered, but the 10,000 pounds would benefit all boats and make the season last longer, which would benefit the local fishermen overall.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dale Pedersen (HQ-03-F-031)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 186 - 5 AAC 28.577(c)(1). South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

(c)(1) for mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear, the commissioner shall close the state waters season when (    percent) of the guideline harvest level is taken **by mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear** or on December 31, whichever comes first;

**PROBLEM:** Establish a fixed percent of the state water Pacific cod quota for the jig fishery in Area M. As regulated now, the Pacific cod fishery is basically a clean up fishery to the pot Pacific cod fishery.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Currently, the pot fishery is managed for 85 percent of the Pacific cod total allowable catch (TAC) for Area M. If management underestimates the harvest rate of the pot fleet and that fleet exceeds its 85 percent, the overage is taken from the jig fleet (i.e., year two). Management areas K and L each have separate TACs for both pot and jig. Area M does not.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Maybe yes, if the jig fleet had a known TAC then this might preclude the current “race to fish.”

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The ever increasing jig fleet with trickle down effect to the community businesses and governments.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** N/A.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Peninsula Coastal Fishermen’s Association (HQ-03-F-177)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 187 - 5 AAC 28.577(c). South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Amend this regulation to provide the following:

(c)(1) for mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear, the commissioner shall close the state water season **when 50 percent of the guideline harvest level is taken by mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear** [WHEN THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL IS TAKEN] or on December 31, whichever occurs first.

(c)(2) for pots, the commissioner shall close the state waters season when **50 percent** [85 PERCENT] of the guideline harvest level is taken by pot gear or on December 31, whichever occurs first; however notwithstanding the obligation to close the state waters season under this paragraph, if **50 percent** [15 PERCENT] of the guideline harvest level is not taken by mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear...

**PROBLEM:** The Area M jig fleet does not have a quota in regulation for Pacific cod in the state water season. The fishery managers of the state cod season have a difficult time hitting the 85 percent allocation for the pot boats. This creates some friction between the pots and jig fishers if the quota is not stopped for the pot cod boats exactly on their allocation.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The management of the state cod quotas in Area M under the burden of the jig fleet. The jig fleet needs its own quota of the state water cod fishery.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All fishing boats and people that fish in Area M state cod fishery.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No other solution thought of.

**PROPOSED BY:** Edgar Smith (HQ-03-F-030)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 188 - 5 AAC 28.570. Lawful gear for South Alaska Peninsula Area; and 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Amend these regulations as follows:

Lawful gear for South Peninsula Area.

(d)(1) no more than **three** [FIVE] lines, with no more than 30 hooks per line.

South Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

(x) In Area M state cod fishery, a vessel registered, or a CFEC permit holder, of a mechanical jigging machine or hand troll gear may not sell more than 20,000 pounds (round weight) of Pacific cod fish in any given seven-day period. All Pacific cod fish taken in excess of 20,000 pounds (round weight) by a vessel registered, or a CFEC permit holder, in any seven-day period must be weighted and reported on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from sale of Pacific cod fish in excess of 20,000 pounds (round weight) shall be surrendered to the state.

**PROBLEM:** Put in place regulations to keep the small boat state water cod season from becoming a derby fishery. Give the jig cod fleet an allocation of the state water cod quota.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The South Peninsula (Area M) cod fishery will become but another derby fishery, with the small boats all racing for fish. The fishery was set up to benefit the small local boats to supplement their dismal salmon seasons.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, any time a fishermen does not have to race for fish, quality can have a chance to improve.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All people in the small communities of the South Peninsula that fish cod in the state water fishery.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None other considered.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Galvin (HQ-03-F-035)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 189 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Add a new section to this regulation as follows:

**Area M state Pacific cod fishery, a vessel registered, or a CFEC permit holder, of mechanical jigging machines or hand troll gear may not sell more than xx,xxx pounds (round weight) of Pacific cod in any seven-day calendar period, commencing with the season opening date. All Pacific cod taken in excess of xx,xxx pounds (round weight) in the aforementioned calendar period must be weighed and reported on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds of this excess shall be surrendered to the state.**

**PROBLEM:** Find a solution to make the state water Pacific cod fishery in Area M from becoming another “derby” fishery. This proposal will follow the guiding principals in 5 AAC 28.089, numbers 4, 5, and 6.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The race for fish is always a problem in fisheries competing under quotas. Evidence NMFS current push for Gulf rationalization – to eliminate the “race for fish.”

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, by adhering to principals 4, 5, and 6 under 5 AAC 28.089.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All those jig fishers who live in the local communities.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** N/A.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Peninsula Coastal Fishermen’s Association (HQ-03-F-178)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 190 - 5 AAC 28.577(c)(2). South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

For pots, if greater than 10 percent of the 85 percent guideline harvest level is left on the table due to a department early pot closure, the department will reopen the state Pacific cod pot fishery no later than five days after the initial closure with these guidelines:

- 1) Fishermen must report catches at 12:00 noon and 8:00pm daily.
- 2) Failure to report catches will cause a closure to the season.
- 3) The department may close the season with a minimum of six hours notice.

**PROBLEM:** The state Pacific pod pot season being closed with a large portion of the 85 percent guideline harvest level being left on the table. The skippers and crews are uncertain about getting pots in and being done with the season because the department is unsure about their action to reopen the season.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The department will have no direction from the board on how to handle pot closures that fall short of the guideline harvest levels due to unforeseen miscalculation of harvest rates and weather days. It also forces more fishermen to invest and participate in the jig fishery when the rollover causes large increases in jig guideline harvest levels.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The pot fishermen because they will be allowed to come reasonably close to the guideline harvest they were allotted and it will eliminate the uncertainty of whether there may be another opening. The department because they will have a clear direction on how to handle early closures. Possibly the jig-only fishermen due to a lack of interest by other fishers in investing and participating in the jig fishery.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** In years of more than 10 percent shortfall and a reopening there would be less rollover to the jig fishery.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** We discussed a possible requirement as the 85 percent guideline harvest neared completion in the original pot season. Other state fisheries do not direct the department on how to determine closures.

**PROPOSED BY:** King Cove Advisory Committee (SW-03-F-019)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 191 - 5 AAC 28.577(e)(3). South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Amend this regulation to allow wet storage in shallow water of pot gear at the end of the parallel fishery as follows:

(e)(3)(A) except as provided in (E) of this paragraph, no more than 60 groundfish pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for Pacific cod;

...

(E) during the seven days immediately following the opening of the state waters season, an operator of a vessel registered to fish for Pacific cod may store or transport groundfish pots in excess of the pot limit established in (A) of this paragraph if the pots are



- (i) stored in waters not more than 25 fathoms deep as described in 5 AAC 28.571(a); or**
- (ii) being transported on board the vessel and are not marked with identification tags.**

**PROBLEM:** The parallel Pacific cod season in the Western Gulf of Alaska does not have a pot limit. The pot limit in the state waters Pacific cod season is 60 pots per vessel. There is a seven-day window between the close of the parallel season the opening of the state waters season. Because of time and weather conditions, vessels operators in the parallel Pacific cod season often are unable to remove pots in excess of the 60 pot limit for state waters fisheries into dry storage before the opening of the state waters season. Similar proposals have been adopted by the board for the Kodiak and Chignik areas.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** At the opening time of the state waters season a vessel operator cannot have more than 60 pots with buoy tags attached either fishing, in wet storage, or onboard the vessel.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Vessel operators will benefit if they are able to put their excess gear into shallow water storage at the end of a parallel season and then bring that gear back to dry storage during their initial fishing trips in the state-waters season.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Enforcement of pot limits will be affected during the first week of the season.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Allowing pots in excess of the limit onboard or in wet storage at all times. However, this option would seriously reduce the ability to enforce pot limits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-156)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 192 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

The South Peninsula is superexclusive for rockfish.

**PROBLEM:** Would like to see the South Peninsula rockfish be superexclusive, so the rockfish quota can be caught by local fishermen, weekly harvest limit.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Outside boats will put the local fishermen out of business.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** To take fish over a longer period rather than a lot all at once.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Local fishermen.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** None.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None

**PROPOSED BY:** Grant Harris

(HQ-03-F-044)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 193 - 5 AAC 28.556. South Alaska Peninsula Area registration.** Amend this regulation to provide for black rockfish registration in the waters of South Alaska Peninsula Area as follows:

(b) A vessel that is registered for the South Alaska Peninsula Area under 5 AAC 28.020 for a groundfish fishery, other than a state waters season for Pacific cod described in 5 AAC 28.577, or a sablefish fishery described in 5 AAC 28.640, **or a directed fishery for black rockfish,** also shall be considered registered for that fishery in the Kodiak Area as described in 5 AAC 28.400, the Chignik Area as described in 5 AAC 28.500, the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area described in 5 AAC 28.600, and the Chukchi-Beaufort Area described in 5 AAC 28.700.

...

**(e) In the South Alaska Peninsula Area Eastern and Western Districts, before a person uses a vessel to operate gear in a directed black rockfish fishery, the vessel's owner or the owner's agent shall register the vessel with the department. A vessel validly registered for black rockfish fishing under this subsection may be registered for any other groundfish fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula Area at the same time.**

**PROBLEM:** Current black rockfish registration for the South Alaska Peninsula Area Eastern District is accomplished on a single form that includes multiple species of groundfish. The department cannot accurately determine which vessel operators are targeting black rockfish and, consequently, cannot accurately estimate effort levels for management purposes. Additionally, registration for the adjacent Chignik Area is designated superexclusive. Specific black rockfish registration is needed in the South Alaska Peninsula Area to ensure vessels do not operate in directed fisheries in both areas within a calendar year.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Management of the black rockfish fishery may not be precise enough to achieve established guideline harvest levels without risking overharvest. It will not be possible to verify if vessels are eligible to participate in adjacent superexclusive registration areas for black rockfish.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The black rockfish harvesters and processors will benefit if fisheries can be allowed to obtain guideline harvest levels. The fisheries will likely be closed earlier if there is a risk of overharvest. The department and Fish and Wildlife Protection will be able to track and prevent vessels from violating the superexclusive registration requirements established for the adjacent Chignik Area.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Fishers will have another registration form to be responsible for obtaining prior to fishing.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Require area check in and check out procedures for all groundfish species.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 194 - 5 AAC 28.555(a). Description of South Alaska Peninsula Area Districts and Sections.** Amend this regulation to provide for separate sections within the districts as follows:

(1) Eastern District: all waters of the South Alaska Peninsula Area east of the longitude of Scotch Cap Light (164°44' W. long.)

**(A) Shumagin Islands Section: All waters of the South Alaska Peninsula Area west of a line extending 135° southeast from Kupreanof Point (55° 33.98' N. lat., 159° 35.88' W. long.) and east of 161° W longitude.**

**(B) Pavlof Bay Section: All waters of the South Alaska Peninsula Area Eastern District west of 161° W. longitude and east of 162° W. longitude.**

**(C) Sanak Island Section: All waters of the South Alaska Peninsula Area Eastern District west of 162° W. longitude and east of the longitude of Scotch Cap Light (164°44' W. long.)**

**PROBLEM:** The department intends to implement section management for black rockfish fisheries within the South Alaska Peninsula Area Eastern District to distribute effort. Greater than 90 percent of the annual black rockfish harvest has come from the Shumagin Islands area. The department may also use sections for other miscellaneous groundfish fisheries but will not use sections for the state waters Pacific cod season.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If these sections are not placed into regulation, the public will need to rely on news releases and other department supplied information to understand closures, guideline harvest levels, and section check-in and check-out requirements, if required.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Black rockfish, lingcod, and miscellaneous groundfish fishermen will be able to reference section descriptions in regulation.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 195 - 5 AAC 28.5XX. South Alaska Peninsula Area black rockfish reporting requirements.** Create a new regulation to require logbooks in the black rockfish fishery as follows:

(a) An operator of a vessel fishing for black rockfish in the waters of the South Alaska Peninsula Area shall maintain an accurate logbook of all fishing operations for each gear type used.

(1) A logbook described in (a) of this section

(A) must include date, the specific location of harvest by latitude or longitude, the number of lines and hooks per lines used, the average depth fished, the hours fished for each line, and the number of bycatch fish taken, by species; for the target species

the following is required:

- (i) the number of fish retained;
  - (ii) the number discarded.
- (B) must be updated, within 24 hours after midnight local time on the day of operation;
- (C) must be retained, with its original pages, for a period of two years by the vessel owner or operator of the vessel;
- (D) a logbook described in (a) of this section must be kept onboard the vessel while operating gear, during transits to and from a port of landing, and for five days after delivering groundfish.
- (E) a logbook described in (a) of this section must be made available to a local representative of the department or personnel from the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection upon request.
- (F) a copy of the page of the logbook described in (a) of this section pertaining to a landing must be attached to the fish ticket documenting the landing.
- (G) a person may not make a false entry into the logbook described in (a) of this section.

**PROBLEM:** Black rockfish are long-lived species that are susceptible to overfishing. Many literature citations, as well as a position statement from the American Fisheries Society, call for very conservative management of rockfishes, most suggesting a target exploitation at or below the level of natural mortality. Adult fish are often associated with high-relief physical structures such as reefs and large cobble boulder fields and do not tend to move a great deal, making them susceptible to localized depletion by repeated harvest efforts on the same structures.

In recent years, the black rockfish fisheries in the South Alaska Peninsula Area have become fully utilized. Currently, the department cannot track harvest from areas with smaller resolution than statistical areas that are one degree of longitude by one-half degree of latitude. This level of resolution does not allow the department to track effort on specific reefs and habitats to ensure depletion affects are not occurring over time.

The department does not have adequate staff to collect detailed harvest location information during dockside interviews from each black rockfish delivery made within the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The department will be unable to accurately track harvest by specific location over time. Without the necessary level of spatial resolution, there is an increased possibility of long-term population affects by depleting certain portions of the population on small-scale habitats.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Commercial users of the black rockfish resource should benefit from the responsible, long-term sustainable management of the resource.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Commercial vessel operators will be required to accurately fill out logbooks for their fishing activities and ensure logbook pages are submitted with fish tickets at the time of landing.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Require vessel monitoring system units (VMS) onboard registered black rockfish vessels.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-153)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 196 - 5 AAC 28.570. Lawful gear for South Alaska Peninsula Area.** Amend this regulation to clarify the legal gear as follows:

(b) **Rockfish may be taken in a directed fishery for rockfish only by mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear.** [ROCKFISH MAY NOT BE TAKEN WITH SEINE GEAR.]

**PROBLEM:** Jig gear is the common harvesting method for state-managed rockfish fisheries in the South Alaska Peninsula Area; however, the current regulations allow potentially inappropriate gear including trawl, longline, pot, or dinglebar troll.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Fisheries may develop on rockfish with gear types that could have a high catch of immature rockfish, bycatch of other species, or harvest very large quantities of rockfish in one set.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The users of the commercial rockfish resource will benefit from regulations describing appropriate gear types.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Fishers that may want to use trawl, longline, pot, or dingelbar troll gear to harvest rockfish.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-155)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 197 - 5 AAC 65.051(4)(E). Waters closed to sport fishing in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.** Amend this regulation to provide the following:

(4)(E) the Summer Bay Lake drainage **and all salt waters within a 250-yard radius of the Summer Bay Creek outlet are** closed to sport fishing from August 16 through December 31.

**PROBLEM:** Due to several years of extremely poor coho salmon escapement, the board closed the Summer Bay Lake drainage to sport fishing from August 16 - December 31, in 2000. During this period anglers have been able to continue to harvest Summer Bay drainage coho salmon by fishing in salt waters adjacent to the mouth of Summer Bay Creek. Consequently, each year since 2000 the department has closed salt waters within a 250-yard radius of Summer Bay Creek outlet to sport fishing by emergency order.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The department will continue to annually close salt waters within a 250-yard radius of Summer Bay Creek outlet to sport fishing by emergency order from August 16 - December 31 so the Summer Bay coho salmon population can rebuild.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The angling public will benefit by having advance notice of this closure in the regulation book. This proposed closure will also facilitate rebuilding of the coho salmon population, which will provide anglers with future sport fishing opportunities.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Continued emergency order closures.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-051)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 198 - 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.** Modify existing wild trout regulations to provide consistency with the Statewide Wild Trout Fishery Management Plan, as follows:

In March 2003 the board adopted a Statewide Wild Trout Fishery Management Plan. Conservative harvest limits of two trout per day, only one 20 inches or greater in length, with an annual limit of two fish 20 inches or greater in length were recommended in the plan as a statewide provision, unless circumstances exist where harvest limits can be increased or decreased.

**PROBLEM:** Current bag, possession, and size limits for wild rainbow/steelhead trout in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area are not consistent with the conservative harvest limits in the statewide plan. The current regulations for the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area are:

No retention allowed for all rainbow/steelhead trout caught in fresh waters, except; in Anchorage Bay Runway Lake, the bag and possession limit is two per day, two in possession, of which only one fish daily and in possession may be 20 inches or greater in length;

the limit in salt waters is two per day, two in possession, of which only one fish daily and in possession may be 20 inches or greater in length; and

in the Sandy River from September 15 – May 31, only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure or artificial flies may be used.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Sport fishing regulations for rainbow/steelhead trout that are not specified under a management plan in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area will remain inconsistent with the Statewide Wild Trout Fishery Management Plan, without a chance for the board to review them.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Sport anglers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None. This proposal provides the opportunity for the board to review sport fishing regulations for wild rainbow/steelhead trout in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area that are inconsistent with harvest limits recently recommended in the Statewide Wild Trout Fishery Management Plan.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-192)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 199 - 5 AAC 01.4XX. Alaska Peninsula Area Subsistence Fishery Management Plan.** Create a subsistence management plan as follows:

**5 AAC 01.400. Description of Alaska Peninsula Area.** [THE ALASKA PENINSULA AREA INCLUDES ALL PACIFIC OCEAN WATERS OF ALASKA BETWEEN A LINE EXTENDING SOUTHEAST (135°) FROM THE TIP OF KUPREANOF POINT AND THE LONGITUDE OF THE TIP OF CAPE SARICHEF, AND ALL BERING SEA WATERS OF ALASKA EAST OF THE LONGITUDE OF THE TIP OF CAPE SARICHEF AND SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF THE TIP OF CAPE MENSHIKOF.] The Alaska Peninsula Area includes the waters of Alaska from Cape Menshikof to Cape Sarichef Light and from a line extending from Scotch Cap through the easternmost tip of Ugamak Island to a line extending 135° southeast from Kupreanof Point at 55° 33.98' N. lat., 159° 35.88 W. long.

(Editor's note: The replacement language is the same area description found in 5 AAC 09.100.)

**5 AAC 01.405. Fishing districts and sections.** Subsistence fishing districts and sections are the same as those described for commercial fishing in 5 AAC 09.200.

**5 AAC 01.410. Fishing seasons.** (a) Salmon may be taken at any time except, in those waters open to commercial salmon fishing, within 24 hours before and 12 hours following each [OPEN WEEKLY] commercial salmon fishing period [WITHIN A 50-MILE RADIUS OF THE AREA OPEN TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING], or as may be specified on a subsistence fishing permit.

**5 AAC 01.420. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** (a) Salmon may be taken by seine and gillnet or with gear specified on a subsistence fishing permit, unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 01.427, except that salmon may be taken only with gillnets with an aggregate length of 50 fathoms per individual in waters that are currently open to commercial salmon fishing.

...

(c) Unless further restricted by regulations in a location described under 5 AAC 01.427, or otherwise stated on a permit, [NO] the aggregate length of set gillnets used by any individual may not exceed 100 fathoms in length, except that the aggregate length of set gillnets used by any individual may not exceed 50 fathoms in length in waters that are currently open to commercial salmon fishing.

(d) Unless further restricted by regulations in a location described under 5 AAC 01.427, or otherwise stated on a permit, the aggregate length of drift gillnets used by any individual may not exceed 200 fathoms in length, except that the aggregate length of drift gillnets used by any individual may not exceed 50 fathoms in length in waters that are currently open to commercial salmon fishing.

[(D)] **(e)** Halibut may be taken for subsistence purposes only by a single handheld line with no more than two hooks attached.

**5 AAC 01.425. Waters closed to subsistence fishing.**

(1) Russell Creek and Nurse Lagoon and within 500 yards outside **the terminus** [MOUTH] of Russell Creek and Nurse Lagoon;

...

(3) inshore of a line from the **Trident Seafood's** [PACIFIC PEARL] Dock **at Sand Point** to Black Point **(located on the northwest side of Popof Island)**, including the inlet and Humboldt Creek;

**(4) in the Black Hills Section: all freshwaters and within 500 yards of any anadromous salmon stream terminus;**

**(5) in the Bear River Section: waters closed to commercial salmon fishing under 5 AAC 39.290 or 5 AAC 09.350 and waters of Frank's Lagoon and the King Salmon River;**

**(6) waters closed to commercial salmon fishing under 5 AAC 09.350 or 5 AAC 39.290 during a commercial salmon fishing period.**

**New Regulation:**

**5 AAC 01.427. Special location provisions.** Fishing is allowed in the following locations under the following conditions:

**(1) Mortensens Lagoon: Salmon may be taken at anytime in waters closed to commercial salmon fishing using a gillnet not more than 15 fathoms in length. The number of salmon taken cannot exceed 50 fish per permit.**

**(2) False Pass vicinity: Salmon may be taken at anytime in the vicinity of False Pass bounded by the latitude of Whirl Point (54° 49.50' N. lat.) and the latitude of Morzhovoi Village (54° 54.58' N. lat.) using gillnets with an aggregate length per individual not to exceed 50 fathoms.**

**(3) Fresh waters of Bear River: Salmon may be taken at anytime upstream from the confluence of the Milky River, also known as the Mad Sow River (a tributary of the Bear River) with gear specified on a fishing permit.**

**(4) Fresh waters of Sandy River: Salmon may be taken at anytime upstream from the Sandy River (oil) aircraft landing strip located at 56° 13.70' N. lat., 160° 13.55' W. long., which is approximately five (5) miles east (upriver) of the stream terminus, with gear specified on a fishing permit.**

**(5) Other provisions may be included on the permits to provide more opportunity for individuals to obtain subsistence salmon or to protect the resource.**

5 AAC 01.430. Subsistence fishing permits.

...

**(b) Only one permit is allowed per household.**

[(B)] **(c)** Not more than 250 salmon may be taken **per household**, for subsistence purposes unless otherwise specified, **by the local department representative**, on the subsistence fishing permit.



[(C)] **(d)** A record of subsistence-caught fish must be kept on the reverse side of the permit. The record must be completed immediately upon taking subsistence-caught fish and must be returned to the local representative of the department no later than October 31.

**New Regulation:**

**5 AAC 01.435. Marking of subsistence harvested fish.** No person may possess salmon harvested for subsistence purposes unless the **caudal** fins have been removed immediately after harvesting. A person may not sell or purchase subsistence caught salmon from which the **caudal** or fins have been removed.

**New Regulation:**

**5 AAC 01.436. Identification of gear.** The first initial, last name, and address of the operator must be printed on a buoy attached to one end of the gillnet gear or the vessel's ADF&G number, when it is in the water. Letters and numbers must be at least one inch high and the name and mailing address of the operator must be plainly visible.

**PROBLEM:** At the October 2002 work session the board considered a petition concerning subsistence fishing regulations in the Alaska Peninsula Area. The board requested that the department review and clarify these subsistence salmon fishing regulations. In response to the board's directive, the department developed substitute language for a proposal (461) to be considered during the March 2003 board meeting. During development of this proposal 461, additional modifications to the subsistence regulations were discussed. Those additional modifications include requiring subsistence fishermen to be present at the fishing site and limits to the use of seine gear for subsistence fishing. This proposal requests the board to again consider subsistence salmon regulations, in a comprehensive fashion.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Some subsistence regulations will continue to be confusing, enforcement will be more difficult, and potential conservation concerns may exist.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All subsistence users will benefit when regulations are easy to understand, enforceable, and conserve the resource.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-138)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 200 - 5 AAC 09.2XX. Use of Global Positioning System (GPS).** Create a new regulation clarifying the use of GPS in the conversion of latitude and longitude lines as follows:

In the Alaska Peninsula Management Area, boundaries, lines, and coordinates are identified with global positioning system (GPS).

**PROBLEM:** In the Alaska Peninsula Management Area, current commercial salmon fishing regulations do not describe that all coordinates be identified with global positioning system

(GPS). Confusion has occurred within the fleet since outdated Loran technology was used to obtain coordinates. GPS technology is more current and accurate than Loran in obtaining precise longitude and latitude coordinates, and is the preferred technology. Adoption of this proposal will also aid enforcement of existing longitude and latitude lines, and avoid confusion among the commercial salmon fishing fleet.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued confusion among fishing fleet over the physical location of boundary lines.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All commercial fishermen and enforcement of existing regulations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Potential slight increase or decrease in fishing area if differences occur between coordinates obtained using Loran versus GPS technology. Additional costs for those fishermen that do not have GPS equipment on vessels.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-140)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 201 - 5 AAC 09.100. Description of area; and 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections.** Clarify the existing boundary lines as follows:

5 AAC 09.100. Description of area. The Alaska Peninsula Area includes the waters of Alaska **on the north side of the Alaska Peninsula, southwest of a line** from Cape Meshikof to **Cape Newenham and east of the longitude of** Cape Sarichef Light (**164° 55.70' W. long**) and **on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula** from a line extending from Scotch Cap through the easternmost tip of Ugamak Island to a line extending 135° southeast from Kupreanof Point at 55° 33.98' N. Lat., 159° 35.88' W. long.

5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and section. (a) Northern District: waters **of Alaska** on the north (Bering Sea) side of the Alaska Peninsula [BETWEEN THE WESTERNMOST TIP OF] **west of a line from** Cape Menshikof **to Cape Newenham** and the longitude of Moffet Point (162° 35.50' W. long.), excluding the waters of Moffet Bay (also known as Moffet Lagoon);

...

(5) Bear River Section: waters between the longitude of Cape Seniavin Light (160° 08.80' W. long.) and the longitude of Wolf Point (160° 48.47' W. long.), excluding the waters of the Herendeen-Moller Bay [SECTION] **and Port Moller Bight Section;**

...

(9) Caribou Flats Section: waters between **the longitude of** Wolf Point (**160° 48.47' W. long.**) and [A POINT AT 55° 53.58' N. LAT.,] 161° 49.00' W. long., approximately 22 nautical miles west of Nelson Lagoon Village and exclusive of the waters comprising the Nelson Lagoon Section;

(10) Black Hills Section: all waters between [55° 53.58' N. LAT.,] 161° 49.00' W. Long. and the longitude of Moffet Point (162° 35.50' W. long.), excluding the waters of Moffet Bay (also known as Moffet Lagoon).

(b) Northwestern District: waters on the north (Bering Sea) side of the Alaska Peninsula between the longitude of Moffet Point (162° 35.50' W. long.) and **the longitude of** Cape Sarichef Light (**164° 55.70' W. long.**) on Unimak Island, including all waters of Moffet Bay (also known as Moffet Lagoon) and the waters of Bechevin Bay and Isanotski Strait north of a line from the False Pass cannery dock to Nichols Point;

(1) Izembek-Moffet Bay Section: waters between the longitude of Moffet Point (162° 32.50' W. long.) and the longitude of the easternmost tip of Chunak Point (**163° 27.00' W. long.**) including all of Moffet Bay (also known as Moffet Lagoon), excluding the waters of the Bechevin Bay Section;

...

(3) Swanson Lagoon Section: waters on the north side of Unimak Island between the **longitude of the** easternmost edge of Chunak Point [(55° 02.00' N. LAT.)] (163° 27.00' W. long.) and [EAST OF] the longitude of Otter Point (163° 47.00' W. long.), excluding the waters of the Bechevin Bay Section;

(4) Urilia Bay Section: waters on the north side of Unimak Island west of the longitude of Otter Point (163° 47.00' W. long.) and east of the **longitude of the** northernmost tip of Cape Mordvinof [(54° 56.17' N. LAT.,] (164° 26.00' W. long.), including Peterson and Christianson Lagoons;

(5) Dublin Bay Section: waters on the northwest side of Unimak Island west of the **longitude of the** northernmost tip of Cape Mordvinof (**164° 26.00' W. long.**) and east of **the longitude of** Cape Sarichef Light [(54° 36.00' N. LAT.,] (164° 55.70' W. long.).

**PROBLEM:** In the Alaska Peninsula management area, current regulations describe some of the boundary lines as points on the short. This proposal would clarify the definition of these points as boundary lines.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The confusion over the location of these boundaries will continue. Enforcement of closed waters near these boundaries will continue to be difficult.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-139)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 202 - 5 AAC 09.350(22). Closed waters.** Clarify closure lines within Lenard Harbor as follows:

(22)(B) Lenard Harbor: waters east of a line from [A POINT ON THE SOUTH SHORE AT] 55° 06.00' N. lat., 162° 23.10' W. long. to a point on the north shore at 55° 06.95' N. lat., 162° 23.20' W. long. and within 1,000 yards of any salmon stream **west of this line including Barney's Creek;**

**PROBLEM:** Two small creeks located within the closed waters area at the head of Lenard Harbor have recently been designated as salmon streams. In addition to the straight line closure, fishing is not allowed within 1,000 yards of any salmon stream. Both of the salmon streams are less than 1,000 yards from the line, thus making it illegal to fish near the line. The reason for the straight line closure is to protect Delta Creek stocks at the head of the harbor while the 1,000 yards closed waters are to protect Lenard Harbor streams located outside the straight line closure.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** People will not be allowed to fish in areas they traditionally have fished or they may unknowing fish in closed waters.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone salmon fishing in Lenard Harbor.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-143)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 203 - 5 AAC 09.331(a)(2). Gillnet specifications and operations.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Eliminate the drift gillnet mesh size restriction. There should be no restrictions on mesh size in any Area M gillnet fishery.

**PROBLEM:** Unnecessary regulation and added cost of operation due to gillnet minimum mesh size specifications. Significant added cost to the harvester without any biological justification.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The Area M fleet will continue to be forced to spend significant resources to fish special nets in areas that have minimum mesh size restrictions at a time when cutting overhead in fishing operations is of vital importance. The present regulation prevents efficient harvest of local runs and may have an adverse impact on the size of salmon escaping to local systems.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Area M gillnet fishers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one other than vendors of gillnets.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None. Minimum mesh size regulations imposed on Area M seem to be unique in the state. There is no biological justification for having them in the fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (HQ-03-F-095)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 204 - 5 AAC 09.331(a). Gillnet specifications and operations.** Amend this regulation as follows:

(2) the mesh size of a drift gillnet may not be less than **5 1/8 inches** [5 ¼ INCHES]...

**PROBLEM:** Excessive interception of an already greatly depressed Kvichak stock in Area M. Kvichak sockeye are the smallest fish on the west side of Bristol Bay and the Kvichak run is almost failing. The fishermen who have the right to fish this stock have received almost no chance to fish in the Kvichak Section due to the lack of return. The smaller nets being used have a much better chance of catching any Kvichak fish transiting Area M and it is a known fact that they do transit this area.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The Kvichak run will continue to be threatened and drained of return while the Bristol Bay fishermen will get almost no directed fishing in the Kvichak District.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All Bristol Bay fishermen because here will be better control of the Kvichak harvest.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Area M fishermen because they will intercept less Bristol Bay fish on the North Peninsula.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Status quo rejected due to lack of control on an already overstressed Kvichak run.

**PROPOSED BY:** Bristol Bay Driftnetters Association (HQ-03-F-066)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 205 - 5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Add a new subsection to 5 AAC 09.331 which provides that the gillnet mesh restrictions of 5 AAC 39.250(c) do not apply in Area M. That is, eliminate the filament requirement as it applies to Area M.

**PROBLEM:** The requirement for number and size of filaments in gillnet web imposes artificial costs on harvesters and should be eliminated. Fishermen are the best ones to make decisions about net yield from the harvestable surplus by balancing observations about gear efficiency versus gear cost.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The gillnet fleet in Area M will continue to pay inflated prices for gillnet web.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Area M gillnet fishers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Gillnet mesh manufacturers and vendors.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Remove the statewide regulation. It may be more appropriate to relax this restriction first in escapement-regulated fisheries as distinct from catch and effort fisheries. Also, we do not want to presume what is best for the rest of the state.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (HQ-03-F-096)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 206 - 5 AAC 09.365(b). South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

(b) The South Unimak fishery takes place in the Unimak District, the entire [IKATAN BAY SECTION IN THE] Southwestern District, the Southcentral District, and the Bechevin Bay Section in the Northwestern District [PLUS THE FOLLOWING WATERS OF THE SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE IKATAN BAY SECTION AND NOT DESCRIBED AS CLOSED WATERS...].

**PROBLEM:** The congestion of gear in the present June fishery. The inability to harvest fish within closed waters of the area.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The continue congestion of gear and gear conflicts in the hotspots of the existing June fishery. Harvestable quantities of sockeye will not be harvested in areas that are presently closed.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Spreading the fleet out would enable a harvest of more high quality sockeye at a time when the industry needs quality improvements.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Fishermen, processors, communities, and the Alaska salmon market.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** More fishing time which we also proposed. More gear efficiency which was rejected due to economics and the possibility of lower sockeye to chum ratios.

**PROPOSED BY:** King Cove Advisory Committee (SW-03-F-017)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 207 - 5 AAC 09.365(a)-(f). South Unimak and Shumigan Islands June Salmon Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Replace paragraph (a) as follows:

The purpose of this management plan is to provide guidelines to the department for the management of salmon stocks in the South Unimak and Shumigan Island June fishery.

Paragraphs (b) and (c) unchanged.

(d) Beginning **June 5** [JUNE 10], the commissioner may open, by emergency order, commercial fishing for purse seine, drift gillnet, and set gillnet gear.

Delete paragraphs (e) and (f).

**PROBLEM:** Lack of fishing time in South Unimak/Shumigan Islands June fishery even though the biological data suggests the fishery has minimal impact on any single stock. Lost economic opportunity will continue to have an adverse impact on the economies of King Cove, False Pass, and Sand Point and on the individual Alaskans who participate in the fishery.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The State of Alaska and the residents and communities of False Pass, King Cove, Sand Point and Nelson Lagoon will continue to sacrifice this high quality salmon product and the revenue generated by this fishery for no sound biological reason.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** "False Pass" sockeye salmon are highly desired by the marketplace. The existing regulation minimizes the potential value of this resource to the state. The proposed regulation maximizes the value of this resource to the state at a time when quality is critical to the future of Alaska's salmon industry.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Management will be simplified. The consumer will benefit from increased availability of premium quality sockeye salmon. The Area M communities, their processors and harvesters will benefit from increased volume at a time when it is critical to this area's survival.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one will suffer. The level of harvest in the June fishery will continue to be a very small percentage of all salmon runs that are present in the fishery.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Considered return to sockeye quota and chum cap but rejected them since they would not provide detectable benefits, would hamper good management of the fishery and would continue to extract high cost to the state. Considered "profit sharing" with Bristol Bay and A-Y-K and formation of harvest coops but determined those to be unworkable at this time.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (HQ-03-F-094)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 208 - 5 AAC 09.365(d)(1). South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Five- to 18-hour commercial fishing periods will occur Monday through Friday. Openings will occur between the hours of 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

**PROBLEM:** Lack of fishing time for the June fishery in South Unimak. Recent restrictions in fishing time along with other gear restrictions have made it impossible to utilize and maximize the fisheries potential.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The fishery's constant decline has put a huge financial burden on local fishermen and communities and if it continues it will lead to destitution for the local families that rely on salmon for their livelihood.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. This proposal will enable the fishermen to harvest a high quality product. These fish are highly sought after by processors and consumers alike.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Area M fishermen, local families and local businesses through income earned, along with borough and schools with revenue received from fish tax.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** None.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Nelson Lagoon Advisory Committee (HQ-03-F-048)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 209 - 5 AAC 09.365(d). South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

In the South Unimak and Shumigan Islands June Management Plan, beginning June 10 and ending June 30, the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods for the purse seine and drift gillnet gear as follows:

(1) Starting on June 10, 64-hour openings from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. followed by 50-hour closures.

**PROBLEM:** Remove sections (d) and (f) from the South Unimak and Shumigan Islands Management Plan and replace with language provided.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Area M fishermen, processors, and communities will continue to lose fishing opportunities and money.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All of the South Peninsula fishermen, processors and communities.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-03-F-077)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 210 - 5 AAC 09.365(d). South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Commercial fishing periods will occur 6:00 p.m. Monday through 6:00 p.m. Friday (delete remainder of section).

**PROBLEM:** Insufficient fishing time in June. Current short openings with gear restrictions and often times bad weather do not allow enough opportunity to harvest fish in a fishery that used to begin in May and continue seven days a week through June.



**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Area M fishermen and communities will continue to face financial hardship because they do not have access to a fishery that was relied on historically.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, the market has shown a preference for these June fish because of their good condition and high oil content. Caught later these fish have less value.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Area M fishermen, Aleutians East Borough, and processors.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one, the harvest in June is a very small percentage of the various salmon runs present in this fishery.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** False Pass Advisory Committee (SW-03-F-035/HQ-03-F-073)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 211 - 5 AAC 09.365(d). South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

(d)(1) commercial fishing periods **will occur Monday-Friday.** [MAY OCCUR ONLY FROM 6 A.M. TO 10 P.M. AND MAY NOT BE OPEN FOR MORE THAN...]

**PROBLEM:** The most recent three to 16 hour openings per week regulation coupled with the previous restrictions has made it virtually impossible to harvest fish in the June salmon fishery at any level approaching historic averages. This recent restriction has gone far beyond the historic impacts of the fishery.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The fishermen, processors, and communities will continue to be pushed out of a fishery that has historically been a large part of our economy. High quality salmon will go unharvested.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The June fishery has historically been an early high quality sockeye fishery. If these fish are not harvested in June they will either go unharvested or harvested at a much lower quality in a time when the whole industry needs to be quality conscious.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Fishermen, processors, communities, and the salmon market.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** None of the previous restrictions in the June fishery have provided an improvement or noticeable difference in any of the fisheries or stocks of concern. The fishery has numerous gear, time, and sockeye to chum ratios in place. No one will suffer any quantitative harm.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Opening the fishery June 1 like it used to be. Allowing deeper gear to increase the catching power. We need to be able to fish when and if the fish are in the area.

**PROPOSED BY:** King Cove Advisory Committee

(SW-03-F-015)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 212 - 5 AAC 09.365(e). South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Beginning June 10, the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods for set gillnet gear in both the South Unimak and Shumigan Islands fisheries as follows: (1) from June 10 – June 30 [24] there will be 64-hour openings, 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., followed by 30-hour closures.

**PROBLEM:** Delete section (e) of the South Unimak and Shuigan Islands June salmon management plan and replace with language provided.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Area M setnetters, processors and communities will continue to lose fishing opportunities and money.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All Area M setnetters, processors, and communities.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Considered continuous fishing from June 10 – 30 but felt some closure windows were appropriate for conservation issues.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sand Point Advisory Committee

(HQ-03-F-078)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 213 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.** Amend this regulation to provide the following.

I ask the board to restore the laws as they were prior to the meeting in January 2001.

**PROBLEM:** The board’s decision in January 2001 fishery meeting to change and severely restrict the June False Pass, South Unimak fishery. The board’s decision circumvented the public process and all justification given for an agenda change for the meeting. The conservation concerns do not justify the outcome fabricated by the board members outside the public process. There were no participation or proposals of this sort put forward for debate or public comment. The committee process denied the permit holders their rights given under Alaska’s limited entry provisions. The intervention and purveyed wishes of the former governor were the only matters taken into consideration. This is a violation of permit holders’ rights under limited entry laws of the State of Alaska and deprives them of their right to fish the area which they earned the rights to. It reallocated 2 million plus red salmon to the Area T fishery and to the set net group of permit holders at the expense of the drift and seine permittees, with no compensation or concern for those who legally were entitled to participate in this longstanding and historic fishery. This by no means was any conservation measure, nor does it in any way address the reasons given for the agenda change.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The loss of opportunity to participate by two gear groups in any viable manner, fishing rights provided for under limited entry laws have caused severe financial losses to the fishermen, villages of the Alaska Peninsula and the businesses

throughout the area and fishery. This will continue and cause bankruptcies and many other social problems which these losses help cause. Two years of fishing has proven the effects and they will continue to multiply. The state will also be liable for the losses if and when the courts review the process and the results and how and why they are reviewed. The area has already been deprived of its chum fishery and hatchery and no alternatives have ever been offered for these losses either.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The quality and production will regain its premium status on the market place which it has long held along with other high quality early red fisheries, such as Copper River reds. It is suffering now because of lack of production caused by this board change and needs to be restored to stability to reattract the buyers and market share to the fishery. False Pass reds have always been a premium product in the market place and buyers used this to front their other product as well. With production down 75 to 80 percent in the last two years because of this decision they cannot find it feasible to undertake operations at the pass anymore. Also the fishermen find it to be unprofitable to participate because of the lack of fishing time. It is just not financially viable anymore.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The people and fishermen of the Alaska Peninsula, the State of Alaska and all her citizens and honest hard working people everywhere.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those who would abuse the process by misrepresenting facts and science and conservation concerns for their personal and political fortunes.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** I thought about maybe they should just move the Ugashik area into Area M as this would be about an even trade fishwise, but I reject this because it would cause the same type of hardship and grieve and losses to fellow fishermen that happened to Area M. The permit is the allocation system and it was set up that way in the beginning with limited entry. The board has intervened wrongly in these allocation requests and is doing irreparable harm with its meddling in this manner. The state laws of limited entry licensing and laws of fair trade and commerce and banking provisions by the Division of Investments are all being violated by this process. These things cannot be disregarded by the board in these decisions. They have serious consequences and must be accounted for.

**PROPOSED BY:** Richard Hendricks (HQ-03-F-090)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 214 - 5 AAC 09.365(k). South Unimak and Shumigan Islands June Salmon Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Include an additional paragraph which reads: For the purpose of managing the seine and drift gillnet fisheries chum salmon harvest levels, on any day if the reported percent of chum vs. sockeye ratio comes in more than 2 percent below the most recent test boat chum vs. sockeye ratio, then for the seine and driftnet portion of the fishery the department shall calculate chum harvest levels using the chum catch calculated by the formula [most probable chum catch = (test boat catch ratio chum/sockeye) x (total sockeye catch)]. This formula would be applied only on days where the 2 percent trip level has been equaled or passed.

**PROBLEM:** After the under cover operations by Fish and Wildlife Protection, the reports of processors and tenders participating in chum chucking ended, there are continuous reports of chum chucking occurring within the driftnet and seine portions of the fishery. Furthermore, the divergence of the delivered and reported chum/sockeye ratios vs. test boat chum/sockeye ratios

is supplementary evidence of the widespread occurrence of this activity. For example, at Cape Lutke the seiners are reported to be sorting out the chums on deck so as to minimize the recapture of carcasses. The gillnetters are reported to be segregating chums into separate brailers for discard after nightfall. This regulation would remove the bulk of the incentive to commit wanton waste of a fish stock that is often needed to allow the achievement of minimum escapement and or subsistence goals in the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The transiting salmon will not be counted and the intentions of the board will not be followed concerning the conservation of transiting chum runs.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All users of chum salmon who are affected by the interception of their salmon stocks.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Any gear group that commits widespread chum chucking.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Including the setnet portion of the fishery in this regulatory change, but there are no reports of chum chucking occurring within this gear group. Observers on all boats is another possible solution.

**PROPOSED BY:** Terry Johnson (HQ-03-F-103)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 215 - 5 AAC 09.365(e). South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows.

(e)(1)(B) the fishery will be closed for one period if, during the preceding period, the ratio of sockeye salmon to chum salmon is not equal to or greater than six red salmon to one chum salmon (6 to 1 ratio) for both the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries [THE RECENT TEN YEAR AVERAGE].

**PROBLEM:** Put a fixed ratio in regulation instead of using the past ten-year catch history for the ratio of red salmon to chum salmon for the setnetters in the June fishery.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The ratio can get to an unmanageable and inflated number, which will not benefit the setnet fleet or its June salmon season in the South Alaska Peninsula. This also makes it harder for fisheries managers that have to manage the June salmon fishery for the setnetters.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The setnet salmon fleet, communities and processors of Area M June salmon fishery.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** A higher or lower ratio number was considered. The six to one is a fair number considering the past management plans and the present management plan for the June salmon fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Peninsula Coastal Fisherman's Association (HQ-03-F-176)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 216 - 5 AAC 09.365(e)-(f) South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Reword parts of the regulation 5 AAC 09.365:

(e)(1) from June 10 through June 30

(e)(2) Delete from regulation.

(f) Delete from regulation.

**PROBLEM:** Make one salmon management plan for the setnet fleet in Area M South Peninsula June salmon season instead of two management plans with different sets of ratio regulations.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Lost fishing time at the end of June in Area M June salmon fishery. There were many past salmon seasons the setnetters were able to fish all the way to the end of the June. Also it will simplify the managing of the June salmon season in the South Peninsula for the setnet fishery.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, by creating a longer salmon season a person, cannery is able to fly fresh salmon to markets with the longer salmon season.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Setnet fleet that fishes South Peninsula June salmon season.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No other solutions were considered.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Peninsula Coastal Fishermen's Association (HQ-03-F-175)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 217 - 5 AAC 09.366(d). Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.** Amend this regulation as follows:

The commissioner, by emergency order, may establish 38-hour fishing periods, beginning July 1. All openings will begin at 7 a.m. and close at 9 p.m. Additionally, all openings will be followed by a 34-hour closure. This plan would be in effect from July 1 through July 20. After July 25 the fishery will be managed for abundance of local pink and chum salmon.

**PROBLEM:** We would like the commercial fishing openings schedule for the month of July in the post-June management plan to be changed.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Area M fishermen and communities will continue to lose fishing time and money. Quality of local salmon will continue to be low if we have to wait to catch them in the terminal areas.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, quality is improved by catching more fish away from the terminal areas.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All of the South Peninsula fishermen, processors and communities.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-03-F-075)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 218 - 5 AAC 09.366(e). Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Remove section (e).

**PROBLEM:** We would like section (e) removed from the post-June salmon management plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. We are asking for the removal of the 60,000 fish coho cap that is in place from July 22 thru July 31.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The fishermen and communities of the South Alaska Peninsula will continue to lose fishing time and money.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, the quality of local pink and chums is much greater when they are caught earlier on the capes than when they are caught in terminal areas.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All fishermen and communities in Area M.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-03-F-076)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 219 - 5 AAC 09.366(e). Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Delete the 60,000 coho cap regulation.

**PROBLEM:** The 60,000 coho cap in the post-June management plan for South Alaska Peninsula restricts the fishery well below historical averages for stocks that are unidentified in the fishery and take little account of local returns to Area M. The cap also causes management problems by forcing time and area closures throughout the South Peninsula area at a time when high quality pink and chum salmon can be harvested.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Area M harvest will be restricted based on assumptions and nonbiological evidence of stock composition and impacts in the post-June fishery.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** In those years when the cap restricts harvest of mixed stocks it would lower the quality of all stocks in the fishery by allowing them to become more water-marked in the terminal areas.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** It would benefit management every year and on years of the cap causing closures it would the fishermen, processors, and communities of South Peninsula.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** There has been no quantitative improvement in any coho fishery throughout the state due to the cap. This quantitative decrease in harvest or escapements in other coho fisheries of the state would not appear to be affected.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** There was no other discussion.

**PROPOSED BY:** King Cove Advisory Committee (SW-03-F-016)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 220 - 5 AAC 09.366(e). Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Set gillnet gear are exempt from the July coho cap.

**PROBLEM:** Setnet fishers have very little impact on the catch of coho salmon in the South Peninsula (Area M) July fishery. Those fishers believe very little Bristol Bay bound coho pass through in July. This regulation is unfair to all fishers in the South Peninsula even more so for the setnet fishermen because of their minor impact on any cohos in the South Peninsula July fishery.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Setnet fishers will continue to lose fishing days due to the other gear type harvest of the current coho July cap.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Local setnet fishermen, processors, and local business in the communities of the Alaska Peninsula.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Removal of this regulation in its entirety for all gear types was considered.

**PROPOSED BY:** Eric R. Weber (HQ-03-F-173)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 221 - 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.** Amend this regulation to provide the following:

(e) From July 22 through July 31, no more than 60,000 coho salmon may be taken in the entire South Alaska Peninsula, except in those areas designated as terminal harvest areas specified in (f) and (g) of this section. **If measures are necessary to avoid exceeding the cap, then:**

**(Option #1, Area Closures): during commercial fishing periods, fishing areas will be closed where a high rate of coho salmon harvest is anticipated.**

**(Option #2, Time Restrictions): fishing periods will coincide in all nonterminal areas until the coho salmon cap is predicted to be exceeded, then commercial fishing in all nonterminal areas will no longer be allowed.**

**PROBLEM:** The department has discussed two management options (time restrictions versus area closures) to limit coho salmon harvests during the South Alaska Peninsula June 22-31 time period, to avoid exceeding the coho salmon cap. Each option has very different allocative effects among the various groups of fishermen, including set gillnetters and purse seiners across the entire South Peninsula management area. The department is neutral on the allocative aspects and has no preferences as to which management option is used, however the department would prefer not to be required to make a choice between such two polar allocative decisions.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The department will continue implementing conservation measures, when necessary, for the purpose of avoiding the coho salmon cap. However, the department will lack board guidance when implementing these potentially highly allocative management options and may be perceived as preferring one group of fishermen over other when choosing to limit fishing opportunity with time restrictions or with area closures.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Depends on the option adopted.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Depends on the option adopted.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Different gear groups have discussed other options and the board may wish to consider their options.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-145)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 222 - 5 AAC 09.366(e). Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.** Clarify allocative conflicts between two management plans as follows:

(e) From July 22 through July 31, no more than 60,000 coho salmon may be taken in the entire South Alaska Peninsula, except in those areas designated as terminal harvest areas specified in (f) and (g) of this section **and in the Southeastern District Mainland as described in 5 AAC 09.360(a) before July 26.**

**PROBLEM:** The department is requesting clarification concerning allocative conflicts between 5 AAC 09.366, Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula and 5 AAC 09.360, Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. The issue is: do the July 22-25 coho harvested in the nonterminal Southeastern District Mainland fishery (SEDM) areas count toward the July 22-31 coho harvest cap of 60,000 salmon in the post-June management plan? The department currently excludes all the coho salmon harvested in the SEDM during July 22-25 from the coho cap because the department believe that the SEDM management plan is to separate from the post-June management plan, therefore, the July 22-25 SEDM nonterminal



coho salmon harvest does not apply to the coho cap. This proposal seeks to place this management practice into regulations as part of the post-June management plan. Exemptions to the coho cap are listed in 5 AAC 09.366(g) and the department believes that the July 22-25 SEDM nonterminal harvest was inadvertently omitted from the list of exemptions. The department currently includes July 26-31 coho salmon harvests from the SEDM nonterminal areas toward the July 22-31 post-June management plan coho salmon cap.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The department will continue to exclude the July 22-25 coho harvests in the SEDM fishery from the July 22-31 coho salmon harvest cap in the post-June management plan.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Because the proposed solution places the current management practice into regulations, the level of benefit or harm would not change from what currently exists.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** See above.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Include SEDM coho harvests from July 22-25 toward the South Peninsula 60,000 coho salmon harvest cap for July 22-31. This was rejected because it is not the present management practice.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-144)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 223 - 5 AAC 09.366(i). Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.** Amend this regulation to provide for the following:

Remove the paragraph (i), the immature salmon seine test fishery.

**PROBLEM:** We would like section (i), immature salmon seine test fishery, removed from the post-June salmon management plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** In certain years the seine test will continue to lose fishing time.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Seiners, processors and communities of the South Alaska Peninsula.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** If test fishery is left in place, then the test fishery should be managed on 100 immature of any one species. Rejected: all salmon fisheries in the state should have test fisheries.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-03-F-080)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 224 - 5 AAC 09.366(i). Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.** Amend this regulation as follows:

The department shall conduct a test fishery in the Shumigan Islands section to assess the presence of immature salmon **in all areas that are planned to be opened.** If **75** [100] or more immature salmon (**immature salmon being salmon less than 3 ½ pounds in round weight**) per set, are present, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the seine fishery in an area to be determined by the department....

**PROBLEM:** The regulation does not define an immature salmon. If too many immature salmon are caught this is a huge waste of the potential resource of these salmon compared to catching mature fish.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There will be too many immature salmon caught, wasting their mature worth and many processors will continue to stop buying them from time to time.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. The immature fish are of poor quality and barely, if at all, marketable.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Bristol Bay and Peninsula fishermen since the probable source for immature salmon is Bristol Bay. Both fisheries rely on a healthy Bristol Bay return for their livelihood.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Only the post-June fishermen that are more interested in the present return than the future return and health of the resource.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Reduce the threshold to 50 or less immature salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Bristol Bay Driftnetters Association (HQ-03-F-067)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 225 - 5 AAC 09.360(f). Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

(f) The estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River has been determined to be **60 percent** [80 PERCENT] of the sockeye salmon harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay and Beaver Bay sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section....

**PROBLEM:** I believe the estimate, 80 percent, of Chignik-bound sockeye salmon caught in the Southeastern District Mainland to be high. I believe the estimate should be changed to 60 percent.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Area M fishermen will continue to lose fishing opportunities in the Southeastern District Mainland District.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Area M fishermen, processors, and communities.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** John A. Foster (HQ-03-F-188)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 226 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Beginning on August 20, all waters of the Southeastern District east of a line extending from Dent Point south to the furthest northeast point on Korovin Island and continuing along the east shore of Korovin Island to the furthest southeast point of Korovin Island are closed to commercial fishing, excluding designated terminal harvest areas, which may be opened by emergency order.

**PROBLEM:** The Kametlook River provides inadequate coho salmon subsistence harvest opportunities due to chronic underescapements. Despite efforts ranging from seasonal closure of Chignik’s Western and Perryville districts on August 20, village prohibition of instream fishing, streambank egg-incubation boxes, and local education, the Kametlook River coho run is not recovering. The problem is not freshwater habitat but insufficient escapement to where even the capacity of the streambank egg boxes has not been approached. More protection should be afforded adult coho traveling from waters west of Perryville to the Kametlook. Currently, coho destined to the Kametlook River migrating from waters west of Perryville in the Southeastern District of Area M are subject to harvest.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Fewer coho salmon will return to the Kametlook River system and this will retard ongoing run restoration efforts. The Kametlook River is a priority, coho subsistence system for the village and despite seasonal closure of the Perryville and Western districts on August 20 and other efforts, annual escapements remain at levels well less than biological requirements. Without comparable fishery constraints west of Perryville village, run recovery results may be thwarted.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Perryville village residents.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Area M fishers targeting nonlocal stocks in the extreme eastern portion of the Southeastern District Mainland after August 19 will suffer.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Closing more area of the Southeastern District Mainland and the Shumagin Island sections to safeguard migrant Kametlook coho was rejected because Area M fishers must be permitted to harvest local stocks and should not be constrained more than Chignik fishers operating east of Perryville.

**PROPOSED BY:** Perryville – Chignik Subsistence Work Group (HQ-03-F-089)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 227 - 5 AAC 09.360 Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend this regulation to provide the following:

When the post July 25 sockeye harvest exceeds 150,000 fish in the Southeastern District Mainland of the Southeastern District, the commissioner by emergency order shall restrict the fishery to terminal harvest areas. Likewise when the Shumagin Islands Section post July 25 sockeye catch exceeds 150,000 fish, the fishery shall be restricted to terminal harvest areas.

**PROBLEM:** Periodic, excessive interception of nonlocal sockeye salmon in the Southeastern District. Local sockeye production is limited in the Southeastern District as evident with total annual indexed escapements averaging only 33,000 fish (15-year average: 1988-2002). In comparison, the commercial harvest averages more than 248,000 sockeye salmon in the post July 25 fishery and at times, exceeds 350,000 fish. In 1999, a record high 552,000 sockeye salmon were harvested post-July 25. At times, the Southeastern District fishery has an appearance of being out-of-control as evident by a 19,300 sockeye escapement index total in the year (1999) that the post-July 25 catch amounted to 552,400 sockeye salmon. Consistent with the board's policy on interception fisheries, a reasonable upper harvest limit should be imposed on the post-July 25 fishery.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The Southeastern District post July 25 sockeye fishery will remain unregulated and interception will override local stock issues and or concerns. Further, terminal stock fishers including those operating in Upper Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik will be unduly harmed, in some years, particularly in lean years.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Fishers operating in terminal stock harvest areas and targeting non-local stocks, including Kodiak, Chignik, and Upper Cook Inlet.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Area M, Southeastern District fishers operating in nonterminal harvest areas would periodically be impacted. Based on the 1988-2002 catch data, the proposed upper catch limit would slow down the fishery in one out of five years.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** 1) Windows were considered but were rejected as being potentially too restrictive. 2) A cap based on the ten-year average was rejected as not much different than the 15-year average.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chignik Seiners Association (HQ-03-F-099)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 228 - 5 AAC 09.366(h)(2). Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.** Amend this regulation as follows:

(h)(2) from September 1 through October 31, fishing periods shall be based on the abundance of either coho or pink or chum or red salmon stocks [ALTHOUGH THE DEPARTMENT MAY CONSIDER THE ABUNDANCE OF LATE PINK AND CHUM SALMON STOCKS].

**PROBLEM:** In the past few years, the latter part of the fall fishery in the South Peninsula (Area M) has (not) been open to fishermen to take late run cohos, pinks, chums, and reds. Even though it is in regulation to have the season open in October, the fish managers have not been opening it in October. The salmon industry for the whole in Alaska is changing; this is one opportunity for Area M fishermen and business in Alaska to get late run salmon to the fresh markets in Alaska and the world.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Lost days of fishing for the salmon fleet at the latter part of the fall season (October). Ability to make Alaska salmon a marketing commodity that can go head-to-head with farmed salmon.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, the longer the season the better chance a salmon fishermen has to compete with farmed salmon markets. The South Alaska Peninsula are making roads in as being the last fresh fish to reach the markets.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Local fishermen, processors, and local business in the communities of the South Alaska Peninsula and Alaska.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Peninsula Coastal Fishermen's Association (HQ-03-F-174)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 229 - 5 AAC 09.369(j). Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**  
Amend this regulation in the Ilnik Section as follows:

Reword (j)(1) to say:

From June 25 through July 20, notwithstanding 5 AAC 09.320(a)(3): (A) Commercial fishing will be permitted in the Ilnik Section southwest of Unangashak Bluff based on the abundance of Ilnik River sockeye salmon. (B) Fishing will be permitted in the Ilnik Section northeast of Unangashak Bluff based on the abundance of Meshik River and Ilnik River sockeye salmon. Delete the rest of (j)(1).

Delete paragraph (j)(2)(A).

Reword (j)(2)(B) to say: [THE COMMISSIONER MAY TAKE MANAGEMENT ACTION, SUCH AS TIME AND AREA RESTRICTIONS, IN THE ILNİK SECTION IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THERE ARE MANAGEMENT CONCERNS FOR UGASHİK RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON STOCKS;] if the commissioner closes that portion of the Egegik District specified in 5 AAC 06.359(c) for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks, time and area **restrictions may be made in** [CLOSURES MAY INCLUDE] the Ilnik Section [NORTHEAST OF THE UNANGASHAK BLUFFS TO STROGONOF POINT];

**PROBLEM:** A cap is not an appropriate tool for management of the fishery in the Ilnik Section. In addition, there is no biological basis for management action in the Strogonof Section based on prior catches at Ilnik. These factors also work against a directed harvest of the Meshik-Port Heiden sockeye salmon run which has gone unutilized as a result.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Commercial fishing for sockeye in the Ilnik Section will not be driven primarily by escapement and harvestable surplus, but by an arbitrary cap. Directed harvest of the Meshik-Port Heiden sockeye run will also be foregone. Management will continue to be unnecessarily complicated and restrictive.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** While quality is not the primary focus of this proposal the type of pulse fishing represented by the present regulatory language definitely works against fish quality.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Management will be simplified. The fleet will be dispersed and quality will improve which benefits harvesters and processors. Harvesters in the Ilnik Section will experience more uniform fishing opportunities.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one. The hypothetical need for protection of Ugashik stocks in the Ilnik Section is preserved.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Time and effort management. Rejected in favor of escapement driven management. Removal of all reference to Bristol Bay stocks in Area M management. Rejected in an attempt to preserve the substance of earlier resolution of an ongoing dispute.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (HQ-03-F-093)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 230 - 5 AAC 09.200(a). Description of districts and sections.** Amend this regulation in the Northern District as follows:

Repeal 2(A) and (4), and modify (3) and (5). The modified (3) Ilnik Section would read: All waters inside Ilnik Lagoon west of 159 degrees 30' 12" W and all waters inside a box six miles along the shore and two miles offshore centered on the middle of the entrance to Ilnik Lagoon (to be described in longitude points when adopted). The modified (5), Bear River Section, would read: All waters between the longitude of Cape Kutzof and the longitude of Wolf Point (160 degrees 48' 30" long.), excluding the waters of the Herendeen-Moller Section.

**PROBLEM:** The ever-expanding intercept fishery between Cape Seniavin and Stroganoff Point is having an undue effect on the Ugashik and other Bristol Bay rivers. There are no sockeye streams of any size in the Three Hills or Outer Port Heiden sections and therefore no need for these sections other than to intercept fish going somewhere else. The North Peninsula fishery was less than ten boats 25 years ago and now it has more than 130 boats participating each and every year. The run going into the Ilnik River is very small and the reduced area is more than enough to catch these few fish.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The Ugashik River manager and fishermen will continue to have trouble being able to know how many fish are going to make it through the gauntlet of boats all along the North Peninsula fishery. These boats all use nets that are deeper, longer and in the water much more of the week than those in Bristol Bay. The best available science shows that sockeye caught in the North Peninsula fishery contain a very high percentage of Bristol Bay stocks and an even higher percentage of Ugashik fish.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Ugashik/Kvichak River sockeye stocks and the Bristol Bay user groups who are currently carrying that river and other's conservation burden alone. All of the other Bristol Bay areas that are having their fish intercepted in this expanding and unallocated intercept fishery.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** North Peninsula fishermen who are intercepting sockeye salmon bound for Bristol Bay.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Move the outside line in to ¾ miles offshore where there is less interception, especially on the ebb. Or make the Area M North Peninsula fishermen fish inside the river where the chance of interception of the transiting Bristol Bay fish would be even less.

**PROPOSED BY:** Bristol Bay Driftnetters Association (HQ-03-F-065)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 231 - 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**

Amend this regulation as follows.

The Three Hills, Ilnik sections will be managed with regard to current and future escapement to systems south, providing an opportunity for large numbers of south-bound fish to pass through. By establishing a system of windows or reducing to a limit of 45 mesh nets we would create an opportunity for fish to pass through to those systems south.

**PROBLEM:** Sockeye systems further south are being negatively affected by the present Three Hills, Ilnik sections June/July management. Fish destined for Bear, Sand, Nelson Lagoon, and sockeye systems further south are being harvested in undetermined abundance with little regard for later season escapement to systems south.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Escapement and commercial fishers that utilize these systems south are denied access to fish returning to these systems. The management of the Three Hills, Ilnik sections in late June, early July has the potential to overharvest fish destined to systems south.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The closer the fish is harvested to the point of process, the lower the cost, the higher the quality.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Commercial fishers south, later season escapement to all systems south.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The fishermen that participate in the new and expanding north line fishery.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Reduction in the number of permits fishing in this Northern District. Buy-back program.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian Hartman (SC-03-F-009)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 232 - 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods.** Amend this regulation for the Northern

District to provide the following:

Allow windows in these districts for fish to transverse districts on their way to their natal streams. If overescapement in Ilnik, Nelson, and Bear rivers needs addressing, step down to more terminal river fisheries.

**PROBLEM:** Lack of terminal fishing areas or windows in the North Peninsula fishery.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued overescapement in Ilnik, Bear rivers sections. Continued impacts on distressed districts to the north who are trying to recover.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Salmon bound for Bristol Bay and a more complete harvest of surplus fish to North Peninsula systems.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one. North Peninsula fishers will be more efficient at harvesting their surplus fish.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee (SW-03-F-026)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 233 - 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**  
Amend this regulation to provide the following:

After escapement goal is met have boundary lines brought into one mile of mouths of rivers (a reduction from three miles to one mile).

**PROBLEM:** Overescapement of salmon in the Bear, Nelson, and Ilnik rivers.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued overescapements after goals are met.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The fish of all river systems, and all users.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee (SW-03-F-028)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 234 - 5 AAC 09.320(a)(4). Fishing periods.** Amend this regulation in the Three Hills Section as follows:

Close the Three Hills Section altogether.

**PROBLEM:** Lack of natal streams for returning anadromous salmon in the Three Hills Section of the North Peninsula District.



**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued interception of salmon headed for both Bristol Bay and North Peninsula systems.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Those other districts north and south impacted by the Three Hills fishery.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one. Surplus fish can be harvested in more terminal areas and harvested more efficiently.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee (SW-03-F-027)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 235 - 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.** Clarify closed waters in Nelson Lagoon as follows:

(12) Nelson Lagoon: waters of the lagoon and river (called Caribou, Nelson, and Lagoon River) flowing into the upper (west) end of Nelson Lagoon, upstream from a line from 55° 57.19' [57.40'] N. lat., 161° 21.52' [22.17'] W. long., to 55° xx.xx' [57.70'] N. lat., 161° xx.xx' [22.75'] W. long.

**PROBLEM:** The current coordinates listed in the regulation book are not accurate. Prior to 2001, markers had not been placed in inner Nelson Lagoon for many years. In 2001 while attempting to reestablish where the markers had historically been located, it became apparent that the regulatory coordinates were not accurate. A marker was installed at the most upstream traditional setnet site on the south side of the lagoon that year and it was reinstalled in 2002. The consensus among local fishermen was that the location of this marker was never installed on the north side of the lagoon due to time and logistical constraints. The department intends to establish a marker position during 2003 season on the north side of the lagoon, delineating a closed water boundary line between these two markers. The coordinates of this position will be measured by GPS and added to the language of this proposal.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The coordinates in the regulation book will continue to be inaccurate. There will continue to be confusion over the location of the closed waters boundary.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone salmon fishing in Nelson Lagoon.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-142)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 236 - 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons.** Change the opening date in the Uria Bay section to reflect current management practices, as follows:

(b) In the Northwestern District, salmon may be taken only from June 1 through August 10, except that

...

**(4) in the Uria Bay Section, the salmon fishing season will be opened by emergency order.**

**PROBLEM:** The fishing season in the Uria Bay Section opens by regulation on June 1. During the past ten years the fishing season has been delayed by emergency order until late June to rebuild the early part of the sockeye salmon run and to achieve escapement objectives prior to allowing a commercial fishery. This delayed opening date has been very successful in achieving healthy escapements while allowing substantial commercial harvests. In recent years the June opening date has typically occurred in late June following aerial surveys that document these systems escapements. The department would prefer to document adequate escapement prior to the season opening date and that is not always possible prior to June 1.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** People may continue to expect that the Uria Bay Section will open to commercial salmon fishing on June 1.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Commercial fishers will no longer be confused on the opening date.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The closed waters area could be expanded but that would reallocate salmon from seiners to gillnetters. Continue issuing an annual emergency order notifying fishers that the season opening date will be delayed until the department documents that interim escapement objectives have been met.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-141)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 237 - 5 AAC 09.320(b)(3). Fishing periods.** Amend this regulation in the Uria Bay Section as follows:

In Uria Bay Section, salmon may be taken (a) during the period June 1 through June 15, from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Wednesday; (b) during the period of June 16 through August 16 from 6:00 p.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Thursday.

**PROBLEM:** Uneven harvest of Uria Bay run. All harvest currently occurs at the ends of the run, because the section is not opened until the last week of June.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Lost opportunity to fish early run in Uria Bay. Composition of stocks could be changed by fishing only the later run of fish.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, harvesting some of the earlier run as it enters the system.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Area M fishermen, Aleutians East Borough, and processors.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nobody.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Fishing four days a week but we wanted to help conserve the earlier run.

**PROPOSED BY:** False Pass Advisory Committee (SW-03-F-034/HQ-03-F-072)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 238 - 5 AAC 12.2XX. Use of Global Positioning System (GPS).** Create a new regulation clarifying the use of GPS in the conversion of latitude and longitude lines as follows:

In the Aleutian Islands Area, boundaries, lines, and coordinates are identified with global positioning system (GPS).

**PROBLEM:** In the Aleutian Islands Management Area, current commercial salmon fishing regulations do not describe that all coordinates be identified with global positioning system (GPS). Confusion could occur within the fleet since outdated Loran technology was used to obtain coordinates. GPS technology is more accurate than Loran in obtaining precise longitude and latitude coordinates, and is the preferred technology. Adoption of this proposal will also aid the salmon fishing fleet. Unless the method of identifying coordinates is established, there is potential for confusion in the Aleutian Islands Area.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Possible confusion among fishing fleet over the physical location of boundary lines.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All commercial fishermen, the department, and Fish and Wildlife Protection enforcement of existing regulations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Potential slight increase or decrease in fishing area if differences occur between coordinates obtained using loran versus GPS technology. Additional costs for those fishermen that do not have GPS equipment on vessels.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-147)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 239 - 5 AAC 11.2XX. Use of Global Positioning System (GPS).** Create a new regulation clarifying the use of GPS in the conversion of latitude and longitude lines as follows:

In the Atka-Amlia Islands Management Area, boundaries, lines, and coordinates are identified with global positioning system (GPS).

**PROBLEM:** In the Atka-Amlia Islands Management Area, current commercial salmon fishing regulations do not describe that all coordinates be identified with global positioning system (GPS). Confusion could occur within the fleet since outdated Loran technology was used to obtain coordinates. GPS technology is more accurate than Loran in obtaining precise longitude and latitude coordinates, and is the preferred technology. Adoption of this proposal will also aid the salmon fishing fleet. Unless the method of identifying coordinates is established, there is potential for confusion in the Atka-Amlia Area.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Possible confusion among fishing fleet over the physical location of boundary lines.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All commercial fishermen, the department, and Fish and Wildlife Protection enforcement of existing regulations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Potential slight increase or decrease in fishing area if differences occur between coordinates obtained using loran versus GPS technology. Additional costs for those fishermen that do not have GPS equipment on vessels.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-146)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 240 - 5 AAC 09.3XX. Alaska Peninsula Area Cooperative Salmon Fishery.**  
Create a new regulation to provide the following:

The new regulation should enable harvest cooperatives in Area M in a fashion that will permit all current gear types to participate in a purely voluntary way, with minimum impact on those who chose to remain in the traditional fishery.

**PROBLEM:** Global competition has drastically reduced operating margins for the harvesters in the salmon industry. The race for fish simultaneously creates artificially high operating costs and produces a lower value product.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Fishermen, processors, and the local communities will continue to lose wealth that would otherwise be available. With our current harvest system we are squandering the resource.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. I would ask that the coop be allowed to harvest with traditional and nontraditional gear with the goal of producing live, fish enabling the processors to produce a prerigor product. A live harvested fish would produce the highest quality product. This is the product that the world markets value the most and are willing to pay the highest amount for.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The coop participants, Area M salmon processors, local communities.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Status quo/survival of the fittest; buy backs. These are all rejected as half-measures that seek to put more fish on fewer boats; the race for fish will continue and intensify. Those ideas seek to meet a diminishing number of harvesters' needs without first addressing the needs of the market. That business model and the present system will not be viable in the long term.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fred Turkheimer (HQ-03-F-092)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 241 - 5 AAC 27.6XX. Use of Global Positioning System (GPS).** Create a new regulation to clarify how latitude and longitude coordinates are identified as follows:

In the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Areas, boundaries, lines, and coordinates are identified with global positioning system (GPS).

**PROBLEM:** In the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Areas, current commercial herring fishing regulations do not describe that all coordinates be identified with a global positioning system (GPS). Confusion could occur within the fleet if Loran technology is used to obtain coordinates. GPS technology is more accurate than Loran in obtaining precise longitude and latitude coordinates, and is the preferred technology. Adoption of this proposal will also aid enforcement of existing longitude and latitude lines, and avoid confusion among the commercial herring fishing fleet.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Possible confusion among fishing fleet over the physical location of boundary lines.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All commercial fishermen, the department, and Fish and Wildlife Protection for enforcement of existing regulations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Potential slight increase or decrease in fishing area if differences occur between coordinates obtained using Loran versus GPS technology. Additional costs for those fishermen who do not have GPS equipment.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-150)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 242 - 5 AAC 27.650. Waters closed to herring fishing in Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area.** Amend this regulation to include Aleutian Islands closed waters section, as follows:

(a) Herring may not be taken from June 25 through September 30 in the closed waters described in 5 AAC 09.350 and 5 AAC 01.375.

**PROBLEM:** The purpose of this regulation is to prohibit commercial fishing for herring in waters of the South Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Areas where a large bycatch of salmon could occur. The text of the current regulation only refers to those waters in the Alaska Peninsula Area

(5 ACC 09.350) to be closed to herring fishing; the language that describes waters to be closed to herring fishing in the Aleutian Islands Area (5 ACC 01.375) was inadvertently omitted. This proposal adds the reference to waters to be closed in the Aleutian Islands Area to the regulation, as was the intent when the regulation was originally proposed.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Waters in the Aleutian Islands Area where a large bycatch of salmon could occur would remain open to commercial herring fishing.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Fishermen.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-149)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 243 - 5 AAC 27.6XX. Dutch Harbor Purse Seine Food and Bait Management Plan.** Create a new regulation for the management of the purse seine fishery in Dutch Harbor as follows:

The department proposes that the board consider various management options and/or gear restrictions that would allow a fishery to occur with a reasonable expectation of not exceeding the guideline harvest level (GHL). With input from fishermen and the public, the department will develop a list of management options from restricting gear to mandating a cooperative fishery if the allowable harvest per vessel dropped below a specific level. This list will be available by the October 2003 board work session.

**PROBLEM:** At present effort levels, harvesting ability, and guideline harvest GHLS, the Dutch Harbor food and bait purse seine herring fishery is unmanageable, having too high a probability of exceeding the GHL in a competitive fishery. From 1983 to 2002 (20 years), harvest in the Dutch Harbor fishery exceeded the GHL 13 times by an average of 24 percent. The highest overage was 78 percent (2,617 ton harvest vs. 1,468 ton GHL) in 2002.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** In years when the GHL is less than 150 tons per seine vessel, the harvest in a competitive opening would have a high probability of exceeding the GHL. In 2002, 16 purse seine vessels participated in the single, 20 minute opening, with 11 vessels making deliveries. The average harvest was 167 tons per registered vessel or 242 tons per successful set.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All users of Eastern Bering Sea herring stocks would benefit if acceptable GHLS are not exceeded.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** If a gear restriction is adopted, some or all fishermen may incur costs to modify existing or purchase new seines.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Limiting fishing time and area. Shorter openings would probably not significantly lower harvest levels given the ability of the fishermen to locate herring using sonar and aircraft, and the size of the fishing gear. There is a limit to how small the size of an area open to fishing can be before an unsafe situation is created.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-151)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 244 - 5 AAC 27.655(a). Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery Allocation Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Seine quota will be 70 percent. Gillnet quota will be 30 percent.

**PROBLEM:** Too small of a gillnet quota.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Local gillnet fishermen.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Gillnetters target larger fish which do not return to spawn, leaving the smaller fish to return to spawn, insuring a healthy biomass for the future.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Local Alaskan fishermen.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Seiners will have a reduced quota.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Unalaska Native Fishermen Association (HQ-03-F-082)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 245 - 5 AAC 27.631(d). Gillnet specifications and operations for Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area.** Amend this regulation to allow for a larger mesh size as follows:

(d) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 27.050(c), gillnet mesh sizes **up** [FROM TWO AND ONE-HALF] to three **and one-half** inches may be used **in the Akutan and Unalaska Districts of the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area** [ONLY UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A PERMIT ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT].

**PROBLEM:** Most fishermen who participate in the Dutch Harbor gillnet fishery for food and bait herring use 2-7/8 inch mesh gillnets to increase the harvest rate of the larger herring that they prefer. Since regulations limit gillnet mesh size to a maximum of 2-1/4 inches, fishermen are required to apply for a permit form the department to use the larger mesh gillnets. After two years of fishing with these larger mesh gillnets, no bycatch or other biological issues have been identified.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Fishermen will continue to apply for and the department may continue to issue permits to allow for the use of gillnets with larger mesh sizes.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Gillnets with mesh size greater than 2-1/2 inches will increase the harvest rate of the larger herring targeted by the fishermen.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Fishermen.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-148)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 246 - 5 AAC 27.6XX. Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area Herring Fishery Management Plan.** Create a new regulation to provide the following:

This would be the introduction of an exploratory fishery in the Aleutian Island area in addition to the existing Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery:

- The fishery would be crafted along guidelines set in accordance with the department's "Plan for the Development of New Fisheries in Alaska" (Issued Oct. 1999).
- A 500-ton quota would be allowed initially in the Unimak Bight to Akutan Island area.
- A 1,000-ton quota would be allowed initially in the area west of Captains Bay on Unalaska Island. (All the way out the chain if someone desires.)
- 300 tons of this total of 1,500 tons will go to the department's cost recovery/test fishing/research program (dedicated) to help pay for research into these herring's spawning habits, stock ID scale studies, DNA studies, etc. (Approximately \$100,000 per year.)
- Processors and fishermen shall split another \$50/ton to go into this research fund or to hire independent scientists or to fund studies. Additional funding will be sought from processors who are very interested in this bait. (1,200 tons x \$50/ton = \$60,000 additional)
- Gear: shall be the same regulation as currently exists for Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands bait fisheries.
- Opening/closing dates: opens June 1; closes October 1.
- Participation will be quota and market driven.
- The exploratory fishery will continue until the next board cycle, then be reviewed for full development.

We feel this is a conservative, rational, and intelligent approach to finding out more information on these fish. With increased demand for bait, and less demand for sac roe, it is a good time to really take a close look at these stocks throughout the Aleutians.



**PROBLEM:** There remains a controversy over the origin of an incredibly large biomass of herring that exists along the Aleutian Island chain. During the June salmon fishery in the Unimak Bight, there are tens of thousands of tons of herring present in early to mid June, and we do not see how these could be of Togiak or further north origin. Also, the immense biomass of herring around Dutch Harbor and out the Aleutian chain are arguably of local origin, in addition to Togiak stocks. After reading "Pacific herring population dynamics, early life history and recruitment variation relative to eastern Bering sea oceanographic factors" by Dr. Vidar Wespestad there is new evidence to suggest that very little to none of the Aleutian herring migrate from Norton Sound, Nunivak Island, or any of the areas north of Togiak. Indeed, some of the Togiak fish migrate down the peninsula and winter in the eastern Aleutians. But we believe that new research and an exploratory fishery is justified to try and solve this puzzle.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There currently exists a huge market for bait in Alaska. With the adoption of the new cod fishery, the months-long IFQ fisheries, and the various crab fisheries there is a huge demand for high quality bait. Right now the majority of herring bait used in Alaska comes from the east coast of Canada and the United States. We have huge local stocks of herring in the Aleutians, but import it from thousands of miles away unless we are willing to create an exploratory fishery and fund research, Alaska will lose thousands of dollars of revenue to outside fisheries, and fishermen will lose the harvest potential.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Cod fishermen, crab fishermen from an increased supply of local Alaskan, higher quality bait and herring seiners who catch them, and the State of Alaska by increased revenues

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one will suffer.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** A larger quota or unlimited areas, but thought these might be too controversial.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Herring Seiners Association (HQ-03-F-046)  
\*\*\*\*\*