RC4

Alaska Trophy Safaris

WITH

Dennis Harms

ALASKA MASTER GUIDE

OVER 35
YEARS ALASKAN
GUIDING EXPERIENCE

18118 James Way
P.O. Box 670071
Chugiak, Alaska 99567
Phone/Fax: (907) 696-2484

December 26, 2007

RECEIVED
DEC 31 2007
BOARDS

ATTN. BOFG COMMENTS
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
PO BOX 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

The following statements are in support of proposals 65,66,67,68 in the 2007/2008 Kodiak Fisheries regulation proposed changes.

The Ayakulik River, is one of the worlds most perfect rivers for fly fishing or fishing with artificial tackle for chrome-bright King salmon. This is because of the crystal clear water, the speed and depth of the water, the lack of brush on the banks, and the abundance of Alaskan brown bears and other wildlife. It supports a small, but world -known sport fishery. Protecting our wild stocks of King salmon, is very important to the fishermen, the operators, and to others who harvest at sea the bounty that the river provides.

We can have a reliable sport fishing season on the Ayakulik river while protecting our King Salmon fishing stocks.

Catch and release management of sport fishing has been implemented in many high-profile sport fisheries world wide, and for the most part has been very successful, with runs increasing in size.

Of the various user groups, a catch and release King salmon season for sport fishermen would have the least negative affect of all the user groups.

VALUE OF SPORT CAUGHT KING SALMON IN THE AYAKULIK RIVER

To most sport fishermen, you cannot put a dollar value on the worth of their experience, but it may shed light on monetarily just how valuable the King Salmon are in the Ayakulik river. I can roughly establish the value of a sport fish caught king salmon in the Ayakulik river because of my specific knowledge of sport fishermen who visit there.

If a sport fisherman has a very good week and catches and releases 25 king salmon on a one week trip on the Ayakulik on no bait artificial or fly fishing gear the following is plausible:

Trip cost $4450 charter $995 hotel and food before and after $450 airline in Alaska $300 Kodiak expenditures $200. Alaska sport fishing licenses and tags $85. Total $6480.

Catch and release mortality @ 2.5% Oregon King salmon study; jaw caught; Bendock study @ 7% Alaska King salmon, all sport fishing methods.
Average wt. 20#
Average mortality .62 to 1.75 fish killed by average fisherman per 5 days fishing
Total $ spent in Alaska per fish killed by catch and release mortality: $10,451 to $3702
Total $ spent per pound of king salmon killed by catch and release mortality: $522 to $185 per pound.

A SPORT FISHING CLOSURE HEARD AROUND THE WORLD
The 2007 sport fishing season abruptly changed from catch and kill to total closure.
Fishermen form Norway, Italy, New Zeeland, Scotland , Ireland
Great Briton, Switzerland Germany, Austria, and the United States were affected by the abrupt closure, and then doubly confounded by the re-opening of catch and kill king salmon season a few days later later.

IMPLEMENTING PROPOSAL 65, 66, 67, 68.
1. Create a catch and release king salmon season on the Ayakulik river

2. When the weir counts are above the optimum escapement goal for that time period, open to limited catch and kill season

3. If the weir counts fall below the projected minimum optimal escapement, further restrict means and methods such as no bait, single hook artificial lures or fly only.

WHY THIS WOULD WORK:
1. It's simple
2. The fish saved on the front end of the season by having a catch and release season, more than makes up for catch and release mortality later in the season if there is a weak return of king salmon.
3. It allows for a very valuable sport fishery in the Ayakulik river
4. It will be accepted by the world wide sport fishing community.
5. It will allow more fish for the popular saltwater sport fishery near Kodiak city.
6. It will allow for more King salmon for commercial catch or by catch.
7. A catch and release sport fishing season, with restricted means automatically adjusts to lower returns, with lower catches.

WHY THE OLD SYSTEM DOESN'T WORK:
1. Sport fishermen plan one to two or more years in advance for a trip to the Ayakulik, with airline tickets, job vacations, saving money, convincing the wife, and an abrupt change from catch and kill to a total closure is extremely disruptive. Most would rather have catch and release with very restrictive means and methods than cancel their whole long -planned trip

2. We need well thought out regulations to minimize knee jerk reactions; change of managers, political pressures , etc.

PRECEDENT:
The Ayakulik River sport fishing pressure and numbers of fishermen are greatly different than say the Kenai River

The Board of Fisheries might consider making a policy, that catch and release management will be considered on rivers that are:
1. Very remote
2. Relatively low use
3. Used Primarily by catch and release sport fishermen.
4. Studied as a management tool for other rivers.

Thank you ,

Dennis Harms

Dennis Harms
40 years sport fishing in Alaska

RC 5

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This letter is in support of two different proposals.

PROPOSAL 69
I support some sort of means to assure a minimum escapement of Coho salmon in the Ayakulik river. I support Proposal 69, although there are other ways to ensure that an adequate number of Coho salmon get to enter the river.

PROBLEM
During years of late Pink salmon runs, Coho salmon intermingle with the Pink salmon and a dangerously high number of Coho salmon are caught commercially. This happened in 2006, and during the pink salmon openings and into the Coho salmon commercial openings very few Coho salmon entered the river. Also later when there is a Coho commercial opening most Coho are caught and few make it into the river. By some quirk of the regulations, the Ayakulik is one of the only places in Alaska where it is legal to fish into the mouth of the river. In 2007 fishermen were asked to fish according to markers, but even those who knew of the request disregarded it.

SOLUTION
One of two means could be used to protect the Coho escapement.

1. Establish the same distance from the mouth of the river for commercial fishing as for most other rivers in Alaska.

2. Establish every other day commercial openings and closures to allow some Coho to enter the river.

SPORTFISHING
There isn't a management plan for Coho salmon on the Ayakulik river. Usually the weir isn't in, but if some method of counting the Coho in the river were put in place, in a year of low Coho runs, Fish & Game could allow for a catch and release sport fishery instead of a total sport fish closure.

PROPOSAL 68
I support some sort of system for establishing a catch and release season for Sockeye salmon in years of lower than desired returns as in proposal 68.

PROBLEM
A total closure of Sockeye salmon sport season is very disruptive to the sport fishing in the Ayakulik river The catch and release mortality or even the catch and kill is so very small, in relationship to the total numbers of Sockeye in the river and the commercial catch.

For instance, in 2007 we had a complete closure of sport fishing for Sockeye salmon. During a 30 hour

commercial opening more than 50,000 sockeye were caught. By one way of calculation, this was over 2000 years of catch and release mortality by sport fishermen. If one made a graph of the commercial catch and the graph went to the ceiling, sport fish catch and release mortality would barely be a dot on the bottom of the graph.

Sincerely,

Dennis Harms

Dennis Harms

PROPOSAL 45
Kodiak Management Area

Subsistence Salmon Fishing Permits
5 AAC 01.530
Subsistence Bag and Possession Limits
5 AAC 01.545

Prepared for the
Alaska Board of Fisheries
January 2008

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Proposal 45

The proposal would:

a) Eliminate the salmon harvest limits on subsistence fishing permits for locations off the road system in the Kodiak Management Area;

b) Retain the current permit and associated restrictions for road-connected areas.

Department Recommendation: Support

Kodiak Management Area

☆ Off-Road Communities with Permit or Survey Data

Akhiok

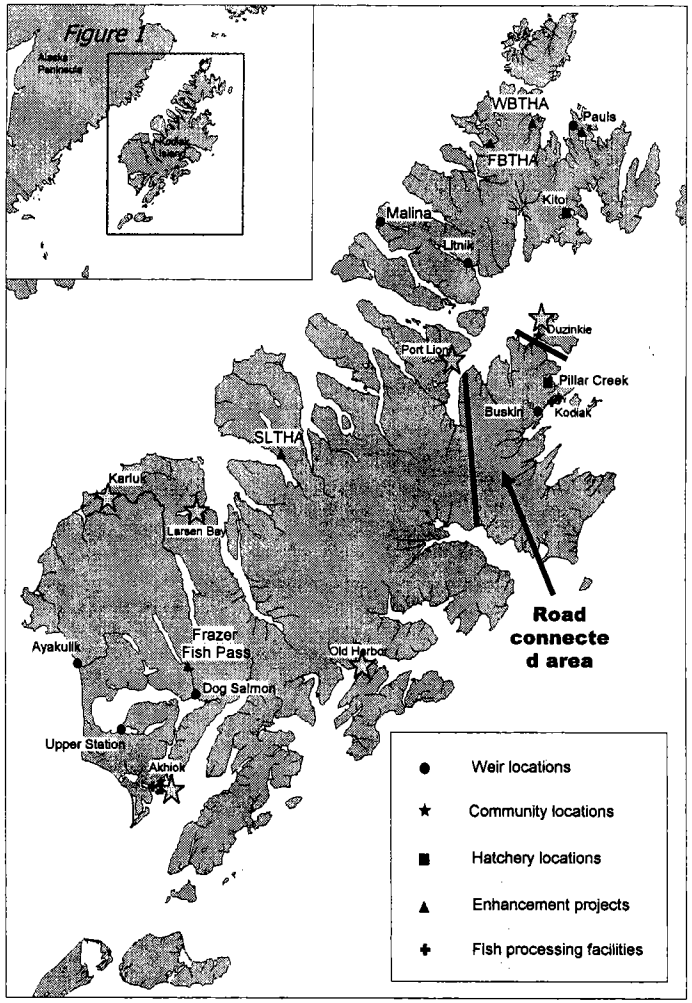
Karluk

Larsen Bay

Old Harbor

Ouzinkie

Port Lions



Current State Regulations—Kodiak Area Subsistence fishing permits (5 AAC 01.530)

Summary

- Subsistence fishing permit is required for taking salmon, trout, char, and herring.
- Permit limits—25 salmon per holder and 25 more for each household member whose name is listed on permit.
- Additional permit issued upon request by showing need for more salmon.
- Must record number fish or lbs herring on back of permit.
- Must return permit to department by Feb. 1 of year after date of issue.

Harvest and Use Patterns: Kodiak Management Area and 6 Off-road Communities

- Subsistence salmon harvest, annual average, 1981-2005
  - All KMA by permit record = 30,392
  - 6 off-road communities by permit record = 7,478 (25% of total)
    - *6 off-road communities by household survey estimate = 20,694*

- Subsistence salmon permits returned, annual average, 1981-2005
  - All KMA = 1,332
  - 6 off-road communities = 120 (9% of total)
    (Harvesting households – from surveys = 162)

- Salmon harvest per permit, annual average, 1981-2005
  - All KMA = 24 salmon
  - 6 off-road communities = 63 salmon
    (Harvesting households – from surveys, salmon per household = 128)

Harvest and Use Patterns: Kodiak Management Area and 6 Off-road Communities, cont'd.

- Percentage of sockeye salmon harvest by fishery, 2005
  - Subsistence 0.1%
  - Sport 0.2%
  - Commercial 98.8%

- Harvest Locations, 2001 – 2005
  - Kodiak and Chiniak permits –
    - road-accessible areas 71%
    - off-road areas 27%
  - 6 off-road community permits -
    - road-accessible areas 0.3%
    - off-road areas 97.6%

Harvest Reporting Concerns, cont'd.

2004 and 2005 ADF&G harvest surveys and interviews in the off-road[1] communities:

- Outreach to explain the availability of an additional 25-fish permit improved awareness in off-road communities to 50%.
- Respondents expressed concern about complex regulations that could make reporting subsistence fishers inadvertently vulnerable to enforcement consequences.
- Some were reluctant to return the permit because the regulation is not clear about whether or not there is an actual regulatory limit, or just a limit per permit form.
- Respondents noted that the permit form does not list the regulation number, and includes wording that could be interpreted as a regulatory limit. It is also printed on the reverse side of a crab permit, in which there are regulatory limits.

[1] Karluk did not participate in 2004, 2005; nor Akhlok in 2005.

Effect of the Proposal

- Subsistence fishers in off-road locations within the KMA could harvest all of their salmon on a single permit with no limit.
- Subsistence fishers in road-connected locations would continue using the current permit and limits.
- ADF&G may benefit in having more accurate harvest data.

Department Recommendation: Support

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Kodiak Advisory Meeting

KODIAK FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Oliver Holm Chairman

December 18th & 19th 2007

(Minutes represent a paraphrased summary of the KAC, department staff and public comments and are not a verbatim transcript of the meeting. Tapes of the meeting are available for review)

Attn: Shannon
Kodiak BOF
AC Comment

Call to order: 7:05pm at KNWR Visitors Center
Roll call: The following members were present: Chairman Oliver Holm(Small Boat Crab/Herring/Salmon Seiner), vice chair Paul Chervenak(Big Game Guide/Outfitter), Secretary Don Fox(Salmon Gillnet Westside), Ron Kavanaugh(Small Boat Crab/Herring/Salmon Seiner), Rolan Ruoss(Commercial Transporter/Sport fish Charter), Donna Jones(Alternate), Layne Wilde(Kodiak Subsistence) and Rick Berns(Old Harbor/Akhiok Subsistence,. Duncan Fields(Port Lions/Ouzinke Subsistence), Julie Kavanaugh(Interested Citizen) and Peter Hannah(Salmon Gillnet Southend),Alexus Kwachka(Alternate).
Excused absences: Darren Rudger, Lou Dochtermann, Bob Gunderson and Dale Reft.
ADFG: From the sport fish division Don Tracy. Commercial fish division Mark Witteveen, Geof Spalinger, Joe Dinnocenzo, Regional Supervisor Jim McCullough, Jeff Wadle, Matt Foster, Wayne Donaldson Lynn Mattes and Nick Sagalkin.

USFWS: Refuge manager Gary Wheeler.
Department of Public Safety: no one.
Members of the public: A high of 20 to a low of 15 towards the meetings end.

Agenda: Motion to take up airport safety zone and trawl and finfish(rockfish) proposals on Wednesday the 19th was approved unanimously.
Minutes of previous meeting: Minutes of our previous meeting of November 20th 2007 were approved unanimously.
Correspondence: Letter from Don Dumm commenting on proposals #39, 40, 51 and 58.
Chair Announcements: None.
Old Business:

1) Letter in support of increased funding for the Department of Fish and Game was read by Chairman Holm. A motion by Ms Kavanaugh to table discussion and approval of the letter till Wednesday was approved unanimously.
2) **Sport fish proposals:**

Tabled sport fish proposals #65, 66, 67 & 68 were discussed. At our November 20th meeting a work group was formed to discuss and make recommendations for the KAC to act on at the December 18-19th 2007 meeting.

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Ayakulik study group chairman Dave Jones briefed the committee members on the groups recommendations. The work group recommended that the KAC not adopt proposals #66, 67 and 68 because they contained OEG for sockeye and did not define the methods and means which could be used to catch and release fish. Adoption of proposal #65 was recommended with the following changes:

Delete proposal #65's King salmon Management Plan, section A., first paragraph and replace it with:

A. The purpose of this plan is to manage the Ayakulik king salmon sport fishing harvest to obtain the current biological escapement goal(BEG). And, to allow a, no harvest, catch and release sport fishery when the run is fore cast to reach an optimal escapement goal(OEG) as defined in AAC 39.222. Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries.

Delete proposal #65's King salmon Management Plan, section.B, paragraphs 2 through 6, and replace them with:

2. Pre-season. **Unless otherwise prescribed by ADF & G for conservation purposes,** The king salmon limit on the Ayakulik River is defined in AAC 64.022. (Legal sport fishing methods shall include the use of bait) **This sentence was opposed to by the department.** (section B, paragraph 2).

3. In-season. ADF & G shall use common run strength indicators(weir counts, sport and commercial harvest data, visual surveys, and etc.) to forecast the king salmon {SPAWNING} escapement.

ADF & G shall maintain a sport fishing harvest opportunity to the greatest extent possible but may use the following methods in an effort to obtain the minimum BEG.

A. Adjust the king salmon sport fishing bag, possession and annual limits.
B. B. Adjust the legal sport fishing methods and means.
C. C. Institute a, no harvest, catch and release king salmon fishery requiring legal sport fishing methods and means, for all species on the Ayakulik, to include only artificial lures and flys with single, barbless hooks, and that all kings be released un-harmed and that the kings may not be removed from the water.
D. ADF & G shall maintain a sport fishing opportunity to the greatest extent possible but may, in an effort to obtain the minimum OEG, close all targeted king salmon sport fishing and require that sport fishing methods and means, for all species on the Ayakulik include only artificial lures and flys with single barbless hooks, and that all kings caught incidentally be released un-harmed and that kings may not be removed from the water.

Staff comments: Staff objected to Section B, paragraph 2(Legal sport fishing methods shall include the use of bait) because the department needed flexibility and this provision would pre-empt their EO authority.

MOTION: Moved(Chervenak) and 2nd(R.Kavanaugh) to adopt proposal #65.

Committee comments: KAC agreed with staff comments and would offer an amended version minus the offending sentence(Sec. B, Para. 2).

ACTION: AMENDED MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY, 12-0.

ACTION: MAIN MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY, 12-0.

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PPROPOSALS-66-67 & 68:
Committee comments: KAC agreed members with work group recommendations to reject these proposals. After further discussion a motion to take no action passed unanimously, 12-0.

New Business:
Matt Foster gave a department report on the preliminary forecasts for the 2008 commercial salmon season. Geoff Spalinger gave a report on the results of the 2007 sac roe herring fishery. Joe Dinnocenzo gave an additional department presentation on salmon.

PROPOSAL-41-5 AAC 27.505(G)-DESCRIPTION OF KODIAK AREA DISTRICTS AND SECTIONS. The proposal would redefine several section lines within the Kodiak Area, in order to clarify and simplify regulations, reduce enforcement problems, and allow greater opportunity for fisherman to harvest herring when the section in question is open to fisheries. This proposal also eliminates the Portage Bay Section and recombines it with portions of the Sulua Bay and Inner Alitak Sections.
Staff comments: Department proposal which would permanently change some section lines so the department doesn't have to do it by EO prior to the herring season.
MOTION: Moved(fields) and 2nd(R.Kavanaugh) to adopt proposal #41.
Committee comments: Support staff comments.
ACTION: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY, 12-0.

PROPOSAL-42-5 AAC 27.535- HARVEST STRATEGIES FOR KODIAK AREA. Modify Kodiak herring management plan as follows:

And

PROPOSAL-43-5 AAC 27.525- SEINE SPECIFICATIONS AND OPERATIONS FOR KODIAK AREA. Develop regulatory measures to improve commercial harvest as follows:

Proposals #42 & 43 were discussed and acted on together.
Proposal #42 would encourage formation of an industry work group through the local advisory committee to work with the department and determine if Kodiak Management Sections that are currently open to herring gill netting could be open to herring seine fishing.
Staff comments: Neutral proposal is allocative in nature.
Committee comments: KAC member Mr. Fields said that this proposal would open up additional harvest opportunities for the Kodiak fleet that due to low participation by herring gill netters available herring went un harvested. After further discussion a motion was made to take no action on proposals #42 & 43 and work on them at the BOF meeting in committee.
MOTION: Moved(Fields) and 2nd(Kwachka) to take no action on proposals #42 & 43.
ACTION: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY, 12-0.

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PROPOSAL-44-5 AAC 01.520-LAWFUL GEAR AND GEAR SPECIFICATIONS. This proposal would restrict the obstruction of any subsistence fishing gear in a fish stream to no more than one half (1/2) the wetted width of the existing channel at any time of the tide as follows:
(b) Salmon may only be taken by gillnet and seine **Gillnets and seines may not obstruct more than one half the wetted width of any fish stream open to subsistence salmon fishing.**
Staff comments: Department proposal which would prevent salmon from being over harvested by subsistence fisherman or prevented from reaching local spawning grounds during specific times of the year.
MOTION: Moved(Chervenak) and 2nd(Kwachka) to adopt proposal #44.
Committee comments: Advisory committee members felt that this was only a problem in a few areas not an island wide problem. They didn't want to set a precedent with subsistence gear that would affect commercial gear where areas are left open. It was also felt that adoption would eliminate subsistence seining. Mr. Fields offered an amendment which would limit the time in a hour period the gear could block a stream.
MOTION: Moved(Fields) and 2nd(J.Kavanaugh) to amend proposal #44 that stated:

..... for not more than one hour in a 24 hour period.

ACTION: AMENDED MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY12-0.
ACTION: MAIN MOTION PASSES, 11-1(R.Kavanaugh).
Minority opinion: None stated.

PROPOSAL-45-5 AAC 01.530-SUBSISTENCE FISHING PERMITS and 5 AAC 01.545-SUBSISTENCE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS. Amend these regulations to eliminate the harvest limits on permits on a portion of the Kodiak Management Area as follows:
5 AAC 01.530 -SUBSISTENCE PERMITS. .
(b) repealed
5 AAC 01.545-SUBSISTENCE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS. Add a new section to read:
(d) The total annual possession limit for each subsistence salmon permit is as follows:
(1) for all fresh waters of Kodiak Island east of the of a line from Crag Point south to the westernmost point of Saltery Cove, including waters of Woody Island, excluding waters bordering Spruce Island, 25 salmon for the head of household plus an additional 25 salmon for each member of the same household whose names are listed on the permit. An additional permit may be obtained if it can be shown that more fish are needed.
(2) for the remainder of the Kodiak Area, no annual permit .
Staff comments: Department proposal. The subsistence division feels there has been a lot of non-compliance and they would get better compliance by doing away with the 25 fish limit to households in the remainder of the Kodiak Area.
MOTION: Moved(Chervenak) and 2nd(R.Kavanaugh) to adopt proposal #45.
Committee comments: KAC members felt that adoption of the proposal would lead to waste and abuse. It would create a two tier system. Wouldn't get any better compliance

with reporting requirements with or with out this regulation and felt that an education program on the current regulations was the best way to go.
ACTION; Motion fails unanimously, 12-0.

Proposal-46-5 AAC 18.200(b)-DESCRIPTIONS OF DISTRICTS AND SECTIONS. This proposal would amend the description of the Duck Bay section to read:
Staff comments: this is a housekeeping proposal to correct an error in regulation.
MOTION: Moved(Chervenak) and 2nd(R.Kavanaugh)m to adopt proposal #46.
Committee comments: Agree with and support staff comments>
ACTION: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY, 12-0.

PROPOSAL-47-5 AAC 18.200(a)-CLOSED WATERS.
The proposal would amend the description of the Inner Kukak Section to read:
Staff comments: This is a housekeeping proposal to correct an error in regulation.
MOTION: Moved(Chervenak) and 2nd(Kwachka) to adopt proposal #47.
Committee comments: Agree with and support staff comments.
ACTION: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY, 12-0.

PROPOSAL-48-5 AAC 18.350(a)(6)-CLOSED WATERS. The proposal would amend the regulation to create a closed water area in Izhut Bay as follows:
Staff comments: This proposal would put into regulation past practices.
MOTION: Moved(Chervenak and 2nd(Kwachka) to adopt proposal #48.
Committee comments: Support staff comments.
ACTION: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY,12-0.

PROPOSAL-49-5AAC 18.350-CLOSED WATERS. Change description of the closed water area in Pasagshak Bay as follows:
Staff comments: Housekeeping proposal which would enforcement.
MOTION: Moved(Chervenak) and 2nd(R.Kavanaugh) to adopt proposal #49.
Committee comments: Agree with and support staff comments.
ACTION: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY, 12-0.

PROPOSAL-50-5 AAC 18.337-PURSE SEINE PRACTICE SETS. This proposal would amend the regulation to make practice purse seine sets as follows:

(a) from **May 25** [June 1] through October 31, purse seine vessels may make practice purse seine sets. The sets may be made during daylight hours. All fish caught shall be returned to the water without further harm.

Staff comments: The Kodiak Management Area has had June 1st opening dates for the past 2 years. This proposal would eliminate the nee for a EO to allow the preseason practice sets prior to June 1st. Housekeeping proposal.
MOTION: Moved(Chervenak) and 2nd(R.Kavanaugh) to adopt proposal #50.
Committee comments: agree with and support staff comments.
ACTION: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY, 12-0.

PROPOSAL-51-5 AAC 18.362-WESTSIDE KODIAK SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN. Delay opening Westside Kodiak salmon fishery until June 16 as follows:

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Kodiak Advisory Meeting

(Proposal #51-continued)

5 AAC 18.362- WESTSIDE KODIAK MANAGEMENT PLAN
(a) The Inner and Outer Karluk Section must be managed.
From **June 16** [1] through July 15, based on early run sockeye returning to the Karluk System; the commissioner may open, by EO., fishing periods in the Inner Karluk Section only if the department determines that the desired early run escapement goal will be exceeded.

And

PROPOSAL-52-FISHING SEASONS. Delay opening Outer Karluk Section salmon fishery until June 16 as follows:
5 AAC 18.310 –FISHING SEASONS.
Salmon may be taken only from June 1 through October 31; **except in the Inner and Outer Karluk Sections, salmon may be taken only from June 16 through October 31.**
Staff comments: Neutral on the allocative aspects of this proposal. But **OPPOSED** on biological grounds. Escapement goals are usually met prior to June 15 adoption would allow for over escapement. Harvest by the commercial fleet is the management tool that prevents over escapement in this time period.
MOTION: Moved(Chervenak) and 2nd(Kwachka) to adopt proposals 52 & 52.
Committee comments: Agree with and support staff comments.
ACTION: MOTION FAILS UNANIMOUSLY, 0-12.

PROPOSAL-53-5 AAC 18.360-CAPE IGVAK MANAGEMENT PLAN. Modify the Cape Igvak salmon allocation formula as follows:
The department will manage the Cape Igvak Section whereby the number of sockeye salmon taken **will approach as near as possible 19% of the total Chignik Management Area.** The change from 15% to 19% allocation is solely a mathematical adjustment based on a harvest assignment using the Chignik Area sockeye catch only, the proposed change provides no net loss or gain to either Chignik or Kodiak fisheries and complies with original BOF intent.
Staff comments: Neutral on allocative aspects of proposal.
MOTION: Moved(Chervenak) and 2nd(R.Kavanaugh) to adopt proposal #54.
Committee comments: OPPOSED to any changes in the Cape Igvak Management Plan until a stock separation study has been done. Previous changes in the Cape Igvak Management Plan KAC members feel were based on a faulty and inadequate tagging study based on just a few samples. Members of the committee feel the present plan is working as intended.
ACTION: MOTION FAILS UNANIMOUSLY, 0-12

PROPOSAL-54-5 AAC 18.363-NORTH SHELIKOF STRAIT SOCKEYE SALMON MANANGEMENT PLAN. Modify the North Shelikof Sockeye Salmon Management Plan as follows:
1. The north Shelikof Sockeye Salmon Management Plan shall run from July 6 through

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(Proposal #54- continued)

July 20.(changed from July 25).
2. Throughout the period for the North Shelikof Sockeye Salmon Management Plan the fishery in the Dakavak Bay, Out Kukak Bay, Inner Kukak Bay, Hallo Bay and Big River Sections of the Mainland District and in the Shuyak Island and Northwest Afognak Sections of the Afognak Districts the fishery shall be restricted to waters inside a line drawn ½ mile off the outer points of land(excluding small pinnacles and refs) in each of the sections.
Staff comments: Neutral the proposal is allocative in nature.
MOTION: Moved(Chervenak) and 2nd to adopt proposal #54.
Committee comments: This would parallel what the BOF did in 2002. It would allow for one purse seine set (1/2) mile allowing a return to historical fishing patterns especially in the Black Cape area which has always been a traditional haul point for Ouizinke and Port Lions villagers. When the current North Shelikof plan was implemented it failed to take into account these historic and traditional fishing patterns. This action by the BOF would allow local fleets to harvest more of the local runs of sockeye which have increased in the past years. Changing the date from July 25 to July 20 makes sense as all non local stocks have left the area .by this date.
ACTION: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY, 12-0.

PROPOSAL-55-5 AAC 18.363-NORTH SHELIKOF STRAIT SOCKEYE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN. Link openings of the Northern District Shelikof Strait sockeye season to Kenai River preseason sockeye forecast as follows:
Amend 5 AAC 18.363 as follows:
(a)(2) the fishery will **not** [MAY REMAIN] open during normal fishing periods until the **Kenai river preseason forecast or in-season estimate is greater than 3,000,000 sockeyes. When this area is open there will be a harvest of 15,000 sockeye salmon.** [HARVEST LIMIT EXCEEDS 15,000 SOCKEYE SALMON].
Staff comments: Opposed to complicated and burdensome management plans. Also **OPPOSED** to any management plan based on preseason forecasts. Adoption would close the North Shelikof Strait salmon fishery.
MOTION: Moved(Chervenak) and 2nd(R.Kavanaugh) to adopt proposal #55.
Committee comments: Agreed with staff comments. Adoption of this proposal would effectively throw out the North Shelikof Management Plan. During this time frame 15,000 sockeye wouldn't even cover the harvest from local stocks.
ACTION; MOTION FAILS UNANIMOUSLY, 0-12.

Meeting recessed until 7:00pm - Wednesday - December 19th

Call to order: 7:08pm at USFWS refuge visitor center..
A quorum was reached with 11 members present. Mr. Fields would arrive later in the meeting.

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PROPOSAL-56- 18.361(b-c)-ALITAK DISTRICT SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN. Change opening and closure times for Alitak District as follows:
Staff comments: Proposal would allow for equal and concurrent fishing times instead of the equal and staggered times.
MOTION: Moved(Chervenak) and 2nd(Kwachka) to adopt proposal #56.
Committee comments: Plan created by the BOF because of unequal fishing time. There is now equal fishing time but with staggered starts so you don't always have some one fishing in front of you. KAC members felt that since the current management plan has only been in effect for three years and haven't really seen a normal season(low salmon returns) during that period the plan should remain in effect through another BOF cycle to see what happens. The maker of the proposal stated that the plan created a problem but didn't state what the problem was.

ACTION: MOTION FAILS UNANIMOUSLY, 0-11.

PROPOSAL-57-5 AAC 18.361(a-d)-ALITAK DISTRICT SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN. CHANGE ALOCATION TO Olga Bay fishery as follows:
The KODIAK Department of Fish and Game will allocate a percentage of the overall catch of the Alitak District to the Olga Bay section based on the number of permits fished in Olga Bay.
Staff comments: Neutral on allocative aspects of proposal. Department is **OPPOSED** to cumbersome and burdensome management plans. Would be managing for the allocation and not biological needs of the fishery.
MOTION: Moved(Chervenak) and 2nd(R.Kavanaugh) to adopt proposal #57.
Committee comments: Agreed with staff comments and KAC member Mr. Holm that this would be a major change in the rules and wouldn't treat Kodiak Area set net permit holders equally. Would also place a lot of uncertainty on the backs of the department to try and manage a fishery with a allocation to one group of permit holders in a mixed gear fishery.
ACTION: MOTION FAILS UNANIMOUSLY, 0-11.

PROPOSAL-58-5 AAC 18.331-GILLNET SPECIFICATIONS AND OPERATIONS: and 5 AAC 39.280-IDENTIFICATION OF STATIONARY FISHING GEAR. Allow fishing of two set gillnet permits as follows:
5 AAC 18.331- GILLNET SPECIFICATIONS AND OPERATIONS; (a) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN (e) OF THIS SECTION **A fisherman owning two CFEC permits may operate no more than two 150 fathom set gillnets, 300 fathoms in aggregate, no more than four set gill nets** [A CFEC PERMIT HOLDER MAY OPERATE NO MORE THAN 150 FATHOMS OF SET GILLNET IN THE AGGREGATE, NO MORE THAN TWO SET GILLNETS.]
5 AAC 39.280-IDENTIFICATION OF STATIONARY FISHING GEAR.
(a) The owner or operator of a set gill net or fish wheel in operation shall place in a conspicuous place on or near the set gillnet or fish wheel. The name of the fisherman operating it together with the fishermans five digit CFEC permit serial number, **followed by the letter "D" to identify the gillnet as a dual permit set gillnet.**
Staff comments: Neutral on allocative nature of proposal.

RC7

MOTION: Moved(Chervenak) and 2nd(R.Kavanaugh) to adopt proposal #58
Audience comments: The maker of the proposal Mr. Blanc feels this would be advantageous to family owned set net operations with multiple permits allowing them to keep fishing the same amount of gear. In his case his children have entered non-fishing vocations due to low salmon returns and low ex-vessel prices.
Committee comments: KAC members felt that consolidation of permits would provide more barriers to young fisherman wanting to enter the fishery. Extreme shifting of permits to other areas could cause negative impacts in those areas. The committee didn't want to see permit stacking which would only benefit people who have more money to invest in the fishery. If the fishery is uneconomical to participate in any longer perhaps it was time to try something else as approximately one half of the purse seine fleet has. KAC members don't want to see the capital efficiency move which has happened in the Bering Sea crab fishery happen here in the salmon fishery.
ACTION: MOTION FAILS, 1- 11-1
Minority opinion: .Ms. Jones felt that adoption would let families utilize permits they have historically held and used.
Abstained: Mr. Fields arrived late and missed the deliberations.

PROPOSAL-59-5 AAC 18.330-GEAR. Establish a Kodiak Area troll fishery to meet market demands as follows:
The Board of Fisheries would need to work with CFEC to develop a new regulatory structure. The new regulations would clarify that the" STATEWIDE" salmon troll permit is a permit for the area that has been historically (since 1972) open for trolling in Southeast Alaska. The regulations would then provide that Kodiak salmon fisherman could convert their Kodiak salmon permits, once per year, to a Kodiak Area only salmon troll permit. The regulations would further provide that the Kodiak salmon troll season could open on August 1 each year, in state waters only, and the fishery would continue through September 30.
Staff comments: Neutral on allocative aspects. **OPPOSED** because of lack of knowledge of local and non-local stock composition. Department is concerned about its effects in regard to the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Troll permits could come from Southeast Alaska. There would be complex management issues to deal with.
MOTION: Moved(Chervenak) and 2nd(R.Kavanaugh) to adopt proposal #59.
Committee comments: KAC members felt that the intent of the proposal is to limit the fishery to Kodiak salmon permit holders only and not allow troll permits from other areas . This should void re-allocation concerns if the participants are already commercial salmon participants. The increase in quality and ex-vessel prices would benefit consumers and fisherman alike. Committee members felt that were local areas used by sports fisherman that commercial trolling shouldn't be allowed in. Staff could ID these and close them by EO or regulation. Towards the end of the salmon season many fisherman lose their crews and have increased operating cost this would allow them to economically keep fishing. Committee members were concerned about king salmon by catch. as there isn't a targeted commercial king salmon fishery in the Kodiak Area (most kings are by catch) and the stocks are fully utilized an amendment was offered to provide for non retention of king salmon.
(Proposal #59-continued).

RC7

MOTION: Moved(Chervenak) and 2nd(Fox) to amend proposal #59.

.....no retention of king salmon, use barbless hooks, use best methods of catch and release.....

ACTION; AMENDED MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY, 11-0.
ACTION: MAIN MOTION PASSES, 11-1(Holm).
Minority opinion: Chairman Holm felt that the department concerns were valid. There were lots of management and allocation issues and he was concerned how the troll fishery would fit in with the BOF's mixed stock fishery policy. It would be a NEW FISHERY so would most likely be prohibited by Board policy.

PROPOSAL-113-5 AAC 21.345-REGISTRATION; and AAC 18.xxx.NEW SECTION. Eliminate area registration for vessel for Cook Inlet and Kodiak salmon as follows: Eliminate area registration for boats, same as the herring regulations for the state.
Staff comments: BOF won't take final action at the Kodiak meeting but will take it up at the Cook Inlet meeting.
MOTION: Move(Chervenak) and 2nd(R.Kavanaugh) to adopt proposal #113.
Committee comments: Committee members believed this proposal if adopted would cause reallocation of fish advantaging a select few with the most capital at the expense of other fisherman. There's an estimated 10-20 permit holders in both areas. Would allow "cherry picking" letting fisherman hit the high points of the season taking the peak of the season. Chairman Holm noted that we have had the same problems in the sac roe herring fishery where local boats couldn't compete with the vessels with lots of capital.
ACTION: MOTION FAILS UNANIMOUSLY, 0-11.

Emergency petition to the BOF:

5 AAC 39.260(f) and 5 AAC 24.332(a). Would be amended as follows:

5 AAC 39.260
(f) except that a cork line border strip not to exceed 5 meshes and lead line chafe strip not to exceed 25 meshes in depth of web less than 7 inches stretch measure is allowed.
5 AAC 24.332
(a) .....used EXCEPT AS NOTED IN 5 AAC 39.260(f) and....
Staff comments: Would allow for smaller web in purse seine leads(less than 7 inches).
MOTION: Moved(Chervenak) and 2nd(Fox) to adopt emergency petition.
Committee comments: Even though they felt this didn't warrant emergency petition acceptance felt that the it was a valid proposal that had merit. They all agreed and supported the comments of the proposal maker. Acceptance would aid in enforcement. This practice is already used in purse seines to extend it to seine leads makes sense as it would make them more durable and have no practical effect on fish catching abilities.
ACTION: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY, 11-0.

3) Trawl and finfish(rock fish) proposals:

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PROPOSAL-35-5 AAC 28.406(e)-KODIAK AREA REGISTRATION. Revise incidental black rockfish registration as follows:
Ask the board to amend 5 AAC 28.406(e) to include the following: **A vessel that is registered for a specific black rockfish section under 5 AAC 28.406(e), also shall be considered registered for the Kodiak Area black rockfish fishery.**
Staff comments: Neutral on allocation aspects. Support intent to address registration. Additional wording is needed.
MOTION: Moved(Chervenak) and 2nd(R.Kavanaugh) to adopt proposal # 35.
Committee comments: Adoption would make vessels who are really targeting black rockfish while supposedly fishing for pacific cod register for the directed fishery thus not circumventing the area registration process. After further discussion with department staff an amendment was offered that would clarify the intent of the maker of the proposal by adding the word **"directed"** to the proposals wording.
MOTION: Moved(Fox) and 2nd(Berns) to amend proposal #35 by adding the word "directed".

.....also shall be considered registered for the Kodiak Area[directed] black rockfish fishery.....

ACTION: MOTION TO AMEND PASSES UNANIMOUSLY, 11-0.
ACTION: MAIN MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY, 11-0.

PROPOSAL-36-5 AAC 29.406(e)- KODIAK AREA REGISTRATION.; and 5 AAC 28.472(b)- BLACK ROCKFISH POSSESSION AND LANDING REQUIREMENTS FOR KODIAK AREA. Revise application of incidental trip limit for rockfish as follows:
Ask that the Board of Fisheries amend the Kodiak Area black rockfish management plan, to apply the incidental harvest strategy only to specific areas that have not attained seventy per cent or more of the guideline harvest level (GHL) in the preceding two years.
Staff comments: Neutral on allocation aspects. Proposal would limit incidental trip harvest limits in areas near Kodiak.
MOTION: Moved(Chervenak) and 2nd(R.Kavanaugh) to adopt proposal #36.
Committee comments: Chairman Holm asked the department if they had any trouble managing for the GHL since 2005 when this regulation came into being. Staff said that each year one area was overshot, in 2006 the NE, 2007 Afognak and one was under the SE section by 6,000 lbs . After further discussion with committee members and department staff it was felt that the proposal should be amended naming the three specific areas to clarify the proposal.
MOTION: Moved(Fields) and 2nd to amend proposal #36 with the following language: .....the incidental harvest strategy only to **the Mainland, Westside and SW Sections** that have not.....
ACTION: MOTION TO AMEND PASSES UNANIMOUSLY, 11-0.
ACTION; MAIN MOTION PASSES, 6-5.

RC 7

(Proposal # 36 –continued)

Minority opinion: KAC members agreed with Mr. Kavanaugh that this was an reallocation of the resource. The regulation as currently written is working as was intended. There was really no problem to fix.

PROPOSAL-37- 5 AAC 28.430(g)-LAWFUL GEAR FOR KODIAK AREA. Revise vessel hook limit definition in jig fisheries as follows:
Ask the Board of fisheries to amend 5 AAC 28.430(G) to read: **In the Kodiak Area, a vessel using mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear to take ground fish may have no more than 250 hooks, in the aggregate, deployed in the water and on board the vessel that are, or can be, attached permanently, or temporarily snapped on to a mainline or ground line that meets the definition of long line gear. In addition no more than 150 hooks may be deployed in the water as described in (f) of this section.**
Ask that the board repeal 5 ACC 28.430(g), if an adequate definition on long line gear cannot be formed.
Staff comments: Neutral on regulations defining jig hook limits. **Opposes** allowing vessels registered for a jig fishery to deploy gear configured as long line.
Enforcement has concerns about defining some of the terms in the proposal(concerns in department comments).
MOTION: Moved(Chervenak) and 2nd (R.Kavanaugh) to adopt proposal #37.
Committee comments: The original regulation came from a proposal brought by industry to prevent fishermen from using long line gear for jigging. Committee members felt that 150 hooks(5 lines 30 hooks per line) and 100 spares was sufficient as is. After further discussion the KAC decided to take no action and shift the burden to industry and enforcement to work out.
ACTION: MOTION TO TAKE NO ACTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY, 11-0.

PROPOSAL-38- 5 AAC 39.165 KODIAK KING CRAB MANAGEMENT PLAN. Close Alitak Bay to Pelagic trawl gear year-round as follows:
Close Deadman's Bay for pelagic trawling on Kodiak Island from Cape Trinity to Cape Alitak year round for crab protection.

And

PROPOSAL-39-5 AAC 28.450-CLOSED WATERS IN KODIAK AREA. Close Alitak Bay to pelagic trawl gear March 1-November 1 as follows:
Close inside waters between Cape Trinity and Cape alitak to pelagic trawling from Marchi ro November 1.

And

PROPOSAL-40-5 AAC 28.xxx-NEW SECTION. Require observer coverage on pelagic trawl vessels for fisheries in the Kodiak Area as follows:

RC7

(Proposal #38-39 & 40-continued).

Increase observer coverage to 100% for vessels prosecuting pelagic trawling for pollack within the inside waters between Cape Trinity to Cape Alitak.

Proposals #38, 39 & 40 were taken up and discussed together.

Staff comments: Neutral on allocation aspects. Department **SUPPORTS** the collection of more observer data. Department also noted that the Office Of Law Enforcement for NMFS indicates that fishing behavior of the pelagic trawl fleet is different when vessels have observer coverage. This agency also **SUPPORTS** more observer coverage in Alitak Bay.

MOTION: Moved(Fields) and2nd(Fox) to adopt proposals #38-39 & 40

Audience comments: Kurt Waters skipper of the Mar Del Norte stated that he and 3 other boats fish the area a lot especially when bad weather prevents trawling in the outside areas. Pollack from Alitak Bay(Deadman) is a large percentage of their income. Mr. Waters also related the expense involved with observer coverage the observer is paid for travel time to the bay , time spent fishing then time spent traveling to Kodiak to deliver. If coverage were increased to 100% it would put a sizable dent in his income.

Committee comments: KAC members agreed with staff that the more observer data obtained the better. They also felt that requiring 100% observer coverage could possibly put the fleet out of business. No one likes the Fact that Alaska is the only place where fishermen bear the cost of observer coverage. There were concerns that even though pelagic trawls weren't intended to be on the bottom that they actually do so at times. KAC members were concerned about lack of by catch data for Deadman Bay and felt that increased observer coverage was warranted The committee recognized the economic importance of the pollack fishery to the fleet and the processing industry in Kodiak and didn't feel a complete closure was justified.

The committee had concerns about the herring, salmon and red king crab stocks in the bay . Members felt that a April 1-September 15 closure would still allow a pollack fishery and also protect one of the few remaining populations of king crab when they were the most vulnerable (molt and soft shell) salmon when they are the most numerous and the herring when they are in the inner bays in large spawning masses. There was still concern about by catch of winter herring when the area would be open to trawling.

It was hoped to have more good faith efforts from the industry to come up with methods and means to avoid by catch.

After further discussion a motion was made to provide substitute language for all three proposals to address our concerns and send the BOF our recommendations.

MOTION: Moved and 2nd to send the committees recommendations to the Board of Fish.

Recommendation

The Kodiak Advisory Committee recommends that the Deadman Bay Area be closed to pelagic trawling from April 1st to September 15th and that the Board work with industry to develop a plan to substantially increase observer coverage while pelagic trawling in Deadman Bay. If industry fails to come forward with a plan to substantially increase observer coverage in Deadman Bay, the Kodiak Advisory Committee recommends that

RC 7

(Proposals #38, 39 & 40-continued)

the Board require 100% observer coverage when fishing in Deadman Bay.

ACTION: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY, 11-0.

3). Letter to Governor Palin: Motion to send letter to the governor passes unanimously.

4). KAC member to the BOF meeting: Don Fox and Rolan Ruoss were chosen to represent the advisory committee at the January 14-18th 2008 meeting being held in Kodiak.

5). Next KAC meeting: February 12th 2008 at 7:00pm at the KNWR visitor center. Tentative agenda would be election of new members and officers and discussion and action on shell fish proposals.

ADJOURN
11:55Pm

Oliver Holm, Chairman Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee
X_____

cc:Don Fox

RECEIVED TIME JAN. 8. 11:53AM

RC 8

Memorandum

To: **Denby Lloyd**
John Hilsinger
Jim McCullough

From: **Duncan Fields**

Date: **January 8,2008**

Subject: **Weather Guidelines For Set Net Area Salmon Closures On Kodiak**

Problem:

During the 2007 salmon season a closure was announced in the commercial fishery in late July when the weather forecast for the Shelikof Straits was N.W. 45 knots gusting to 60 knots. The weather was expected to diminish the following day. I contacted the Department and requested a 24 hour closure delay. After discussion, the Department was hesitant to modify the closure, once announced, because they did not have criteria for weather related management decisions and some fisherman may have acted on the initial announcement. The Department's decision put a substantial number of small skiff fishermen "at risk" in attempting to pull up set net gear during gale force winds. At least one skiff was sunk and the crewmen narrowly survived. (Several years ago, in a similar situation, 3 Kodiak setnetters drowned.) "Safety at Sea" is an important criteria for evaluating and modifying fisheries management (Magnuson-Stevens Act Management Plans – criteria 6) and should be incorporated into Alaska salmon management plans for some of the small boat fisheries.

Solution:

The Board of Fisheries should generate a "board proposal" to adopt language similar to the language used for weather related delays in the opening of the Kodiak Tanner Crab Fishery. The language would read: Except for biological concerns, a commercial salmon opening in the Northwest Section of the Kodiak Management Area shall not start or end if the preceding day's 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service forecast for the current day (day of opening or closure) for the Shelikof Strait area contains gale force wind warnings (35 knots or higher) and a commercial salmon opening in the Olga-Moser Bay Section of the Kodiak Management Area shall not start or end if the preceding day's 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service forecast for the current day (day of opening or closure) and night for the "Shuyak to Sitkinak" area contains gale force wind warnings (35 knots

or higher.)

Factors to Consider:

1. **Set gill nets are the only type of Commercial Salmon gear that is not mobile (fish wheels excepted). Frequently, by the time a high wind forecast is announced, it's already too difficult to get to the gear to put it out or take it up.**

2. **The set gillnet fleet in Kodiak consists of smaller (14-25 ft) open skiffs. These vessels are generally not safe in gale force winds. Also, Much of the work of putting out or taking up a set gillnet occurs close to the beach and in the "surf" when winds are high. Small vessels, with outboard motors, operating in the rolling surf leave little margin for error.**

3. **Most fishermen work very hard to obey opening and closing regulations. It puts tremendous pressure on law abiding fishermen when the weather is bad and a closure is announced to "try to get the gear up". In the scope of the season, this type of "crisis" is generally un-necessary. The Kodiak salmon season is approximately 120 days. Consequently, there is often little or no impact on the overall fishery if an opening or closing is delayed a day or two.**

4. **Weather related openings or closings, as proposed, have a "biological concern" over-ride, if there would be an adverse biological impact on the fishery due to delay, the Department could act.**

5. **This type of regulation gives area managers objective guidance to act on behalf of the fleet.**

6. **Fish quality suffers in adverse weather, this regulation would incrementally enhance fish quality. Also, delayed openings would reduce "drop out" dead loss in the fishery due to bad weather.**

7. **This a "fair start" for all setnet fishermen in a management section. Currently, when weather is adverse, some portion of the setnet fleet is unable to fish while more protected sites are productive**

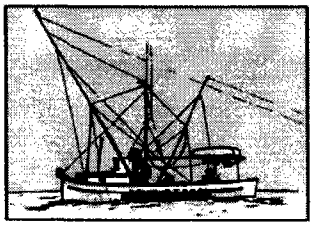
8. **When an opening is extended, all parties benefit. Protected sites enjoy additional fishing time while exposed sites do not have to risk injury, death or loss of equipment to take out gear in adverse weather**

9. **This regulation is limited to those sections of the Kodiak Management Area where set gill nets are allowed. It does not effect the "seine only" sections, since these fishermen can move away from the weather.**

10. **The seine fleet is not disadvantaged by the provision. In the Olga-Moser Bay area, the seine fleet fishes "in front of" the gill net area and in the Northwest Kodiak section,**

the seine fleet would continue to be able to compete should the opening be extended.

RC 9



Alaska Trollers Association
130 Seward #205
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-9400 phone
(907) 586-4473 fax

January 10, 2008

Mel Morris, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: Proposal 59

Dear Mr. Morris and Board Members:

I am writing to inform you of the Alaska Trollers Association's (ATA) opposition to Proposal 59, which seeks to establish a troll fishery in the Kodiak management area.

ATA represents hook and line salmon fishermen operating in both state and federal waters off Southeast Alaska. Our members are committed to maintaining access to high quality Alaska salmon for consumers worldwide. There are over 2000 hand and power troll permits active in Alaska and about half are fished each year. The troll fleet is 85% resident and roughly 40% live in rural communities. Vessels range in size from 14' skiffs to vessels up to 60'.

Ironically, every troller in Alaska currently holds a statewide permit card and for the majority of the fleets' 130 year history trollers were allowed to fish in most all regions. ATA tried for many years to re-establish the troll fishery west of Cape Suckling, which was closed for conservation purposes in the mid-70s and remains closed today due, in part, to allocation concerns expressed by a variety of fishing interests.

For a great many years, both the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Board of Fisheries have insisted that the troll fishery remain limited to the Southeast region due to complications that could erupt within the Pacific Salmon Treaty arena. The US/Canada Salmon Treaty was signed in 1985 and includes a provision mandating no 'new or redirected' fisheries. Since trolling statewide was a pre-Treaty endeavor, we are told that re-opening the troll fishery west of Suckling would constitute a violation of the commitments made by, and between parties within, the United States. To say the least, this has been a disappointment, and the situation would be further aggravated if the state now chose to allow a select group of fishermen the opportunity to troll in areas closed to our fleet.

Another issue of concern is the matter of allowing Kodiak fishermen to switch their permit between gear types, as opposed to buying a separate troll permit. There are more than 2000 troll permits in Alaska – many unused -- why add more? If this fishery is allowed to open, then existing troll permit holders should be free to fish the area, and/or sell their permits to willing buyers.

ATA appreciates that other fishermen are interested in accessing under-utilized species, improving the quality of their landed catch throughout part or all of the season, and adding more troll product to the market. In fact, we would like to see our own fleet spread out to other regions to accomplish the goals of superior quality and increased access and opportunity for all of Alaska's salmon fishermen. Unfortunately, the current political climate for West Coast salmon fisheries is not conducive to that notion. Nor does it make sense to establish new, exclusive use opportunities for

pocket fisheries, which could negatively impact existing, displaced fishermen who have been prevented from fishing the area in question for nearly three decades.

If ATA can be of assistance on this or other issues of concern to our fleet and the commercial fishing industry, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Dale Kelley

Dale Kelley
Executive Director

RC 10

Chignik Seiner's Association

Box 46, Chignik AK 99564

January 12, 2008

Attn: Jim Marcotte, Executive Director, Board of Fisheries

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

SUBJECT: Proposal 53 – Amend the Cape Igvak Management Plan

Chignik Seiners Association (CSA) submitted Proposal 53 to amend the Cape Igvak Management Plan. Due to financial limitations, Chignik Seiners Association (CSA) is not able to send a representative to Kodiak for the January 14-18 meeting.

We fully support Proposal 53. It is our finding that the proposal is allocatively neutral to both Igvak and Chignik. We note that Department comments also find proposal 53 to be allocatively neutral. As such, we consider Proposal 53 to be a housekeeping action.

Respectfully, we ask that Proposal 53 be adopted.

Thank you for the consideration.

Sincerely,

Axel Kopun, President of CSA — 1-12-08 Date

George Anderson, Secretary of CSA — 1-12-08 Date

RC 11

Testimonial on Proposal 53
Attn. Board of fish
For the meetings to be held in Kodiak regarding the Kodiak Salmon proposals

Mr. Chairman, members of the board of fish.

My name is Al Anderson.

I have been involved in the Chignik fishery in one way or another all my life --Born, raised here, and still living here.

Subsistence is a big part of my families lifestyle, I currently serve on the CRA board as vice chair and have the subsistence seat

I have lived thru the rough times when we sat on the beach in June for several years in the 60's to build up our first run, now it is about all we have left besides the humps and dogs on the outside and a few silvers.

Our second run of reds is doing a little better than just meeting the escapement goals which is not enough in my opinion and here is what I think part of the problem is.

Some years back video cameras were installed for counting escapement at the weir. Prior to that it was done with the old tally machines and eyeball.

I believe that the old method was not as accurate as the cameras are now simply because of the "boring factor" when the count was slow----the person taking the count would looking around watching bears etc; All he would have to do is miss a few fish at one of the gates and you multiply that by the rest of the gates and it will add up over time, A couple off months ago I read an article in the paper it was I believe about the Kasiloff river on the Kenai Peninsula their King escape turned out to be something like 5 times higher than the dept thought they were getting up into the watershed counting the old fashioned way. The upshot of this is I believe the sports people got an extra day of fishing per week. THIS CONFIRMED WHAT I HAVE SUSPECTED ALL ALONG THAT THERE IS A REAL GOOD CHANCE THAT THE RIVER SYSTEMS FOR BOTH RUNS IS BEING UNDER ESCAPED HERE IN CHIGNIK..The department keeps saying the rearing habitat is not very good right now and they want to keep the escapement on the lower end. I say when we were using the old counting way we were getting more carcasses, thus nutrients, and you know something we were getting better returns.

I really want to go into this a lot more because there are issues with black lake but I'm afraid I will lose your attention.

Proposal #53
I'm against this proposal all the way,

I believe the original Board of fish when they allowed Igvak the 15% in the beginning meant that the 15% should be calculated only on the fish that was caught in Chignik proper, Not on the combined catches at Igvak and Chignik and then the Area M percentage was added in about 1985 now Kodiak is getting 15 % of that as well. Now Chignik's interception has become a perpetual motion machine Area M feeding of what ever Kodiak has caught and vise versa.
The way it is figured now is the fish and game comes out with a forecast and allows Kodiak to harvest ahead on our first run of what is actually happening and then Chignik is hopefully going to catch up fishing on our second run.

A little of the background above helps you to understand what is going on here.

For a few years now we have been hitting the late run really hard --SEDM and the Shumigans hitting them really hard and then us---This has really taken a toll,with the exception 1999, We no longer fish in September like we did and now the August run is dwindling away to nothing.PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS FOR THESE TWO MONTHS GOING BACK 15 YEARS OR SO.that is about 3 life cycles of these fish I believe.
In the years when we sat on the beach in June to build up the first run ,the latter part of July, August and September is where we made our money and got our subsistence.

Chignik has basically only one run left and that is the first run. Its time to take a look at how Chignik is being managed and LASTLY THE CHIGNIK PEOPLE NEED YOUR HELP-----
ELIMINATE THE IGVAK INTERCEPTION FISHERY
The Co-op was an attempt by the previous Board to fix Chignik but in fact Most people are in worst shape now then ever.

I think that this board can help allot by taking the intercept fisheries off of Chignik It would certainly give a few more fish to this Area and the fish and game would not have submit proposals like #25 to try and micro manage Chignik even more.

CHIGNIK WAS ONCE THE ENVY OF ALL OTHER FISHING AREAS IT'S BROKEN NOW.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS

Al Anderson

RC 11

Testimonial on Proposal 53
Attn. Board of fish
For the meetings to be held in Kodiak regarding the Kodiak Salmon proposals

Mr. Chairman, members of the board of fish.

My name is Al Anderson.

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Our second run of reds is doing a little better than just meeting the escapement goals which is not enough in my opinion and here is what I think part of the problem is.

Some years back video cameras were installed for counting escapement at the weir. Prior to that it was done with the old tally machines and eyeball.

I believe that the old method was not as accurate as the cameras are now simply because of the "boring factor" when the count was slow----the person taking the count would looking around watching bears etc; All he would have to do is miss a few fish at one of the gates and you multiply that by the rest of the gates and it will add up over time, A couple off months ago I read an article in the paper it was I believe about the Kasiloff river on the Kenai Peninsula their King escape turned out to be something like 5 times higher than the dept thought they were getting up into the watershed counting the old fashioned way. The upshot of this is I believe the sports people got an extra day of fishing per week. THIS CONFIRMED WHAT I HAVE SUSPECTED ALL ALONG THAT THERE IS A REAL GOOD CHANCE THAT THE RIVER SYSTEMS FOR BOTH RUNS IS BEING UNDER ESCAPED HERE IN CHIGNIK..The department keeps saying the rearing habitat is not very good right now and they want to keep the escapement on the lower end. I say when we were using the old counting way we were getting more carcasses, thus nutrients, and you know something we were getting better returns.

I really want to go into this a lot more because there are issues with black lake but I'm afraid I will lose your attention.

Proposal #53
I'm against this proposal all the way,

I believe the original Board of fish when they allowed Igvak the 15% in the beginning meant that the 15% should be calculated only on the fish that was caught in Chignik proper, Not on the combined catches at Igvak and Chignik and then the Area M percentage was added in about 1985 now Kodiak is getting 15 % of that as well. Now Chignik's interception has become a perpetual motion machine Area M feeding of what ever Kodiak has caught and vise versa.
The way it is figured now is the fish and game comes out with a forecast and allows Kodiak to harvest ahead on our first run of what is actually happening and then Chignik is hopefully going to catch up fishing on our second run.

A little of the background above helps you to understand what is going on here.

For a few years now we have been hitting the late run really hard --SEDM and the Shumigans hitting them really hard and then us---This has really taken a toll,with the exception 1999, We no longer fish in September like we did and now the August run is dwindling away to nothing.PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS FOR THESE TWO MONTHS GOING BACK 15 YEARS OR SO.that is about 3 life cycles of these fish I believe.
In the years when we sat on the beach in June to build up the first run ,the latter part of July, August and September is where we made our money and got our subsistence.

Chignik has basically only one run left and that is the first run. Its time to take a look at how Chignik is being managed and LASTLY THE CHIGNIK PEOPLE NEED YOUR HELP-----
ELIMINATE THE IGVAK INTERCEPTION FISHERY
The Co-op was an attempt by the previous Board to fix Chignik but in fact Most people are in worst shape now then ever.

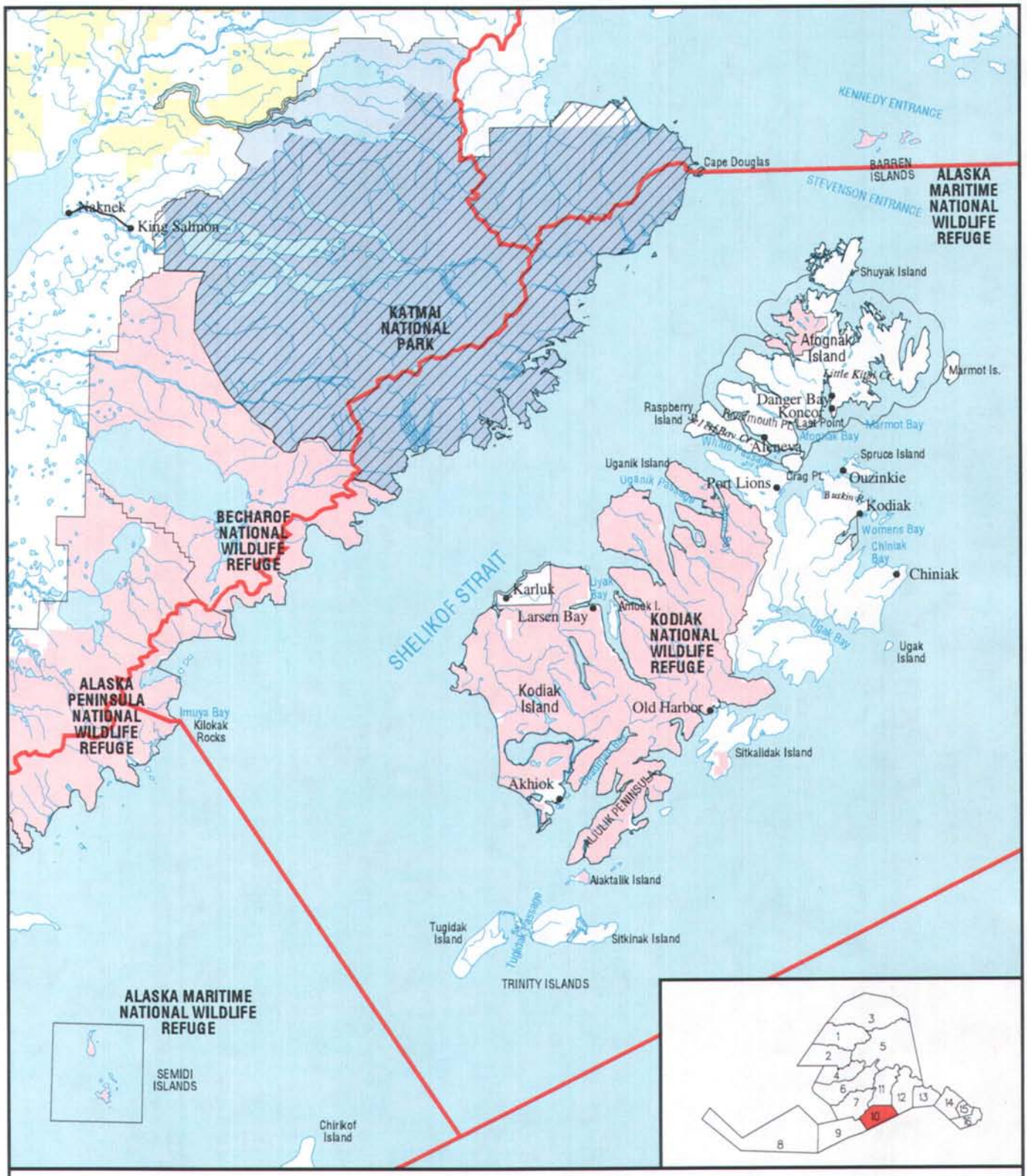
I think that this board can help allot by taking the intercept fisheries off of Chignik It would certainly give a few more fish to this Area and the fish and game would not have submit proposals like #25 to try and micro manage Chignik even more.

CHIGNIK WAS ONCE THE ENVY OF ALL OTHER FISHING AREAS IT'S BROKEN NOW.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS

Al Anderson

Rc 12


KENNEDY ENTRANCE
Cape Douglas
BARREN ISLANDS
STEVENSON ENTRANCE
ALASKA MARITIME NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Naknek
King Salmon
KATMAI NATIONAL PARK
Shuyak Island
Afognak Island
Little Kitoi Cr.
Marmot Is.
Raspberry Island
Danger Bay
Koncor
Rosemouth Pt.
Last Point
Marmot Bay
Afognak Bay
Alegneva
Spruce Island
Uganik Island
Uganik Passage
Port Lions
Crag Pt.
Ouzinkie
Baskin R.
Kodiak
Womens Bay
Chiniak Bay
Chiniak
BECHAROF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
SHELIKOF STRAIT
Karluk
Larsen Bay
Amook I.
KODIAK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Ugak Bay
Ugak Island
ALASKA PENINSULA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Imuya Bay
Kilokak Rocks
Kodiak Island
Old Harbor
Sitkalidak Island
Akhiok
ALIULIK PENINSULA
Alaktalik Island
Tugidak Island
Sitkinak Island
TRINITY ISLANDS
ALASKA MARITIME NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
SEMIDI ISLANDS
Chirikof Island
1
2
3
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7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
N
Map 10
Kodiak
Area
FWS Administered Land
NPS Administered Parks
NPS Administered Preserves
BLM Administered Land
BLM Non-navigable Waters Only
USFS Administered Land
Closed to Subsistence
Roads
Area Boundary
Federal Boundary

RC 13

Proposal 40

On this proposal I also think we should make our decisions on facts not emotion. I suggest that we should have trawl openings as normal in Deadmans Bay and when we do there should be 100% observer coverage. Do this until the next cycle of board meetings, evaluate the results and make decisions about what to do if anything based on the facts. The by catch numbers from Fish and Game over the last 4 years shows at least one year when the herring by catch was higher than the commercial catch, and one year when the king salmon by catch was higher than the commercial king salmon catch for all of Alitak bay. That's with 30 to 40% observer coverage. Now is the time to use the best science that we have and get some real facts and answers to clear up some question and controversies that many people have. Putting this off or delaying it will do nothing to solve any problems . With good data we would also learn when better times to operate the fishery are so that less by catch would occur, therefore helping everyone and the stocks. Now is the time to act and make decisions based on science not emotion. The only way to do this is by having 100% observer coverage. Any delay in implementing this will only prolong the controversy.

Thank You

Pete Hannah

RC 14

Proposal 58

I am Pete Hannah. I've lived and fished in Kodiak for 29 years. I own a boat and fish for everything. My wife and I also own a dual set net operation in Alitak bay and I am against this proposal. This proposal does nothing to promote quality, it does nothing to reduce gear on the grounds, and all it does is reduce the amount of permit owners. This proposal has the potential to eliminate 50% of the set net owners in Kodiak. Is that what we want to do, eliminate fishermen? I hope not. Our state is sponsoring young fishermen programs and trying to encourage and support young fishermen. This proposal directly goes against what the state is trying to promote it takes opportunity away from new fishermen and consolidates ownership into fewer people's hands. Surely we must have learned some lessons on the effects of consolidation by now. The biggest effect is what are you going to do when the seiners with two permits want to use longer nets? Are you going to give one group something and not the other? This proposal has effects on the fishery other than what's seen at face value. Giving seiners longer nets would stir up an allocation can of worms that would hurt every set netter. Yes you are going to find people who are in favor of this proposal because they will see that now they don't have to come up here and work they could just have someone else fish there net for them. I hope that this board is not here to promote absentee fishermen. When I was appointed to the advisory board, I asked the board chairman how I should vote on issues when people gave me different opinions. He told me I couldn't please everyone so vote what I thought was best for the fishery. This proposal is in no way good for the fishery, or for the people of Alaska.

THANK YOU, Pete Hannah

RC15

My name is Theresa Peterson; I have lived in Kodiak for the last 20 years and have fished commercially in Alaska for 25 years. During this time I have long lined, pot fished, seined, trawled, drift gillnetted and set netted. Our family currently owns a 42' fishing vessel which we use to fish for crab, pacific cod and halibut and we operate a set net site in Deadman Bay.

In regards to proposal 58 in which one person may own and operate two set gillnet permits, I am opposed. I believe the island currently holds an optimum number of permits which allow for the maximum number of participants to reap the benefits of the limited entry system. Without a study to substantiate why such a change is beneficial, the change should not be arbitrarily made to benefit a few. Active fishermen are good for coastal communities of Alaska and measures which allow for consolidation generally are not. Management shifts should consider opportunity for future generations of fishers and I believe allowing one person to own and operate two permits would create additional barriers to entry level opportunity.

The remainder of my testimony will address proposals 38, 39 and 40 which involve trawling in Deadman's Bay and I am interested in serving on the groundfish committee.

From Cape Alitak to the head of Deadman's Bay is 26 miles and is a closed body of water as illustrated in the Fish and Game report. The bay is very bio-diverse and hosts a myriad of fish and crab species including red, Tanner and Dungeness crab and herring, salmon, shrimp, Pollock and halibut to name a few. This area has been closed to bottom trawling since 1989 by North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to mitigate the impacts of bottom trawls on struggling red king crab stocks.

I would now urge the board to seek a better understanding of the impacts of the somewhat deceiving term, 'mid water' or pelagic gear on the seafloor. I've attached the sources which state in part that "Indirect and anecdotal evidence suggests that, in some seasons and areas, Pollock are distributed so close to the seabed that they could not be caught effectively without putting some parts of the pelagic trawls in contact with the seafloor...
Potential impacts would depend on the vulnerability of epibenthic animals in sand or mud substrates to contact with the small-diameter footropes"

The photo's included in the handout I passed out show a trawler at the head of Deadman Bay just outside Alpine cove. The depth of the water in this

Rather than wait for the restructure of the observer program we have an opportunity to measure one bay with 100% coverage and I encourage the board to champion by catch reduction and habitat protection while working toward a better understanding of the affects of pelagic trawling in the bay.

Can the sensitive ecosystem of Deadpan bay sustain this continual impact and maintain a rich, bio-diverse ecosystem?

Are we overtaxing this bay?

In closing, should the Board adopt proposal 38, year round closures ? - Possibly

Proposal 39 – to adopt seasonal closures when salmon and herring are in the water column – Probably

Proposal 40 – to adopt 100% observer coverage when fishing in Deadman's Bay – Absolutely

Trawl vessel prosecuting the pollock fishery at the head of Deadman Bay near Alpine Cove.

"Pelagic trawls operate on the bottom 44% of the time.

Estimated impact of pelagic trawls on benthic features are 21% reduction of infaunal prey, 16.5% reduction of epifaunal prey, 20% reduction of living structure and 20% reduction of non-living structure"

From Essential Fish Habitat EIS Appendix B, Table B.2-4 & Table B.2-5:

Trawl vessel prosecuting the pollock fishery at the head of Deadman Bay near Alpine Cove.

This vessel is operating more than two miles inside a salmon marker during the salmon season. Increased observer coverage to 100 percent is the only means to fully understand the interaction with these and other species.

Sources of information on pelagic trawl gear

From Essential Fish Habitat EIS Appendix B, p. B-11:

"The estimate for the proportion of pelagic trawl effort contacting the seafloor considered both the amount of time in which any part of the trawl contacted the seafloor and the width of trawl contact with the seafloor during different periods of the fishery. Information for this estimate was provided by fishing organizations. As the vulnerability of pelagic trawls to damage precludes their operation on rough and hard substrates, bottom contact was set at zero for the nard-bottom habitats of the GOA and AI."

From Essential Fish Habitat EIS Appendix B, Chapter 3, p. 166 – 167:

"Indirect and anecdotal evidence suggests that, in some seasons and areas, pollock are distributed so close to the seabed that they could not be caught effectively without putting some parts of the pelagic trawls in contact with the seafloor."

"The effects from pelagic gear being fished on the bottom have not been specifically studied, and there are some important differences from bottom trawls that must be considered in assessing likely habitat impacts. Pelagic trawls used off Alaska are generally designed to fish downward, with the entire net fishing deeper in the water column than the doors. Pelagic doors are not designed to contact the seafloor. Pelagic trawls are pulled downward by weights attached to the lower wing ends, producing several hundred pounds of downward force. If the trawl is put in firm contact with the seafloor, most of this weight will be supported by the bottom, producing narrow scour tracks. Pelagic trawl footropes used in Alaska are most commonly made of steel chain, with some use of steel cable. Thus, their effects on habitat will have more similarity to tickler chains or small-diameter trawl footropes than to the large-diameter, bobbin-protected, footropes used in Alaska bottom trawls. Small footrope diameter will reduce the height that sediments are suspended into the water column, but make penetration of the sediment when bumps and ridges are encountered more likely. Animals anchored on or in the substrate would be vulnerable to damage or uprooting by this type of footrope. The very large mesh openings in the bottom panels of these trawls make it very unlikely that animals not actively swimming upward in reaction to the net will be retained and hence removed from the seafloor, though they may be displaced a short distance or damaged in place.

In summary, pelagic trawls may be fished in contact with the seafloor, and there are times and places where there may be strong incentives to do so, for example, the eastern Bering Sea shelf during summer. No data are available to estimate the frequency of this practice. Potential impacts would depend on the vulnerability of epibenthic animals in sand or mud substrates to contact with the small-diameter footropes. Prohibition of footrope protection makes the use, and hence impact, of such gear on hard or rugged substrates unlikely."

From Essential Fish Habitat EIS Appendix B, Table B.2-4 & Table B.2-5:

- Pelagic trawls operate on the bottom 44% of the time.
- Estimated impact of pelagic trawls on benthic features are 21% reduction of infaunal prey, 16.5% reduction of epifaunal prey, 20% reduction of living structure and 20% reduction of non-living structure.

From National Research Council, 2002
"[Pelagic} trawls may be frequently fished in contact with the seafloor, especially in shallow water (<50 fathoms)...Because typical pelagic trawls have large mesh webbing in the lower section of the net and are affixed to chain footropes, bycatch enumerated by onboard observers might substantially underestimate the number of demersal fish and invertebrates that are affected because they fall through the large mesh panels instead of being captured by this gear."

From Federal Register / Vol. 71, No. 55 / Wednesday, March 22, 2006 / Proposed Rules – Amendments 78 and 65 to the BSAI Fishery Management Plan and Amendments 73 and 65 to the Gulf of Alaska Fishery Management Plan to implement Essential Fish Habitat measures, p. 14472:

"Pelagic trawl gear also has been known to contact the bottom and may have impacts on bottom habitat. This gear type is primarily used for the harvest of pollock and typically does not contact the bottom as aggressively as a bottom trawl. Contact with the seafloor, when it occurs, is typically from the footrope as well as from the weight chains attached to portions of the trawl. The use of pelagic trawl gear for directed fishing for pollock in the GOA and BSAI must meet the trawl performance standard which states that no more than 20 crabs of 1.5 inches (38 mm) or larger may be on the vessel at any time (§ 679.7(a)(14)). This standard was intended to reduce halibut and crab incidental catch in the pollock fishery by ensuring the pelagic trawl gear is operated in a manner that is less likely to contact the bottom (58 FR 17196, April 1, 1993). In the GOA, the footrope of a pelagic trawl may not contact the seabed for more than 10 percent of the period of any tow (§ 679.24(b)(3)). This gear limitation reduces the potential impact of pelagic trawl gear on the seabed in the GOA. Under this proposed rule, pelagic trawl gear used for directed fishing for pollock would be allowed in the EFH and HAPC management areas described below only in an off-bottom mode based on the trawl performance standard and within the gear limitation in the GOA."

Trawl performance standards which define pelagic and non-pelagic trawls:

Non-pelagic trawl gear is defined as trawl gear that results in the vessel having 20 or more crabs (*Chionecetes bairdi, C. opilio, and Paralithodes camstchaticus*) larger than 1.5 inches carapace width on board at any time.

RC 16

BOF: COMMENTS on KODIAK PROPOSALS
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board Support Section
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Chairman and Board members,

My name if Oluf Omlid. We have lived in Kodiak since 1967. Our family has owned and fished our sites in Moser Bay every summer since 1968. We have set net in other areas of Kodiak since 1964.

I would like to comment on the following Kodiak area proposals.

Proposal #58

We are opposed to this proposal. Our family fishes 4 permits and feel that Limited entry had a purpose when it was enacted. It is working and does give new fisherman a better chance to get into the fishery. If this passes we feel that their chances to buy a permit would be very limited as other fishermen that already have a permit would be more likely to buy them up. This proposal could really mushroom in the future. Please vote against this proposal for the sake of the young people who would like to get into the fishery.

Unless something is done about the West Side management plan, the Alitak District fishery will not recover. Our red escapements and our fishery are hurting.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the board process and for all the work and time you put in to helping the management of our fisheries.

Oluf and Celestine Omlid

BOF: COMMENTS on KODIAK PROPOSALS
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board Support Section
Juneau, Alaska

RC 17

Dear Board Members,

My name is Bill Barker. I have fished every season in Olga Bay since 1971. I have lived in Kodiak since 1969.

I would like to comment on the following proposals concerning the Kodiak area.

Proposal 56:

I am in Support
The intent of this regulation was to correct the change in distribution on fish caused by the Board action which allowed a proliferation of gear in the intercept area.
This simply has not worked.
This regulation complicates the announcements of fish openings.
It is unnecessary.

Proposal 57:

I am in Support
This is another attempt to correct the problem of the proliferation of gear in the Alitak Bay Section allowed by Board action. This proliferation of gear has drastically redistributed the harvest of Salmon in the Alitak District from Olga and Moser bays to Alitak bay.
The fishermen in Olga Bay have taken a double hit of lower fish prices and a reduction of fish available to harvest.
We need relief.

Proposal 58:

This proposal would help **me personally** but is **bad for the industry**.
I am Opposed.
Our major problem is producing consistent high quality wild salmon.
This proposal requires that more fish are handled by fewer people. As the quantity goes up the quality necessarily goes down. In one day one fisherman can handle 100 fish in a quality manner, there is no way that one fisherman can handle a thousand fish with the care needed to produce 100% premium quality.
This proposal discriminates against the small (one permit) operation.
One of the objections of the Chignik Coop was the absentee fisherman.
This proposal would allow me to turn my permit over to my daughter (she would then have 2) and go off to Kodiak or Seattle.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion and thank you for the time you put in to help manage the fishery resource.

Bill Barker

RC 18

PROPOSAL 58

NO. This proposal clearly takes the Kodiak fisheries in the wrong direction.

I have been involved with fishing in Kodiak since 1984 and have seen the devastating effects of eliminating "hands on fishermen" from the equation. Make no mistake – by accepting proposal 58 – you would consolidate ownership into fewer hands; cut opportunities for entry level fishermen; and open yourself up to endless requests for gear changes in all fisheries. This proposal does not create a higher quality product, strengthen stocks, reduce gear, or open opportunity. This proposal eliminates jobs and puts more power into the hands of a few. Please take the time to distinguish the difference between a positive change for a fishery and a more convenient change for a few fishermen.

Thank you for your consideration - Margaret Bosworth (set net permit holder, Alitak district)

RC19

To: Board of Fisheries

From: Constance Jensen

Date: January 14, 2008

Re: Proposal 51 and 52

Members of the Board,

I am writing in opposition to Proposal 51and 52 which seek to delay the start of the Westside District Salmon season by two weeks to enable Karluk subsistence users to catch salmon. Subsistence fishing for salmon is ongoing throughout the whole summer and fall. It is unnecessary to carve a window for subsistence salmon fishing when the whole idea of subsistence living is to continually live off of what the land and sea provide. This sounds more like a sport fishing request to increase the king salmon catch. It should be addressed as such.

I request that you oppose Proposal 51 and 52.

Thank you,
Constance Jensen

RC 20

To: Board of Fisheries

From: Gordon Jensen

Re: Opposition to Proposal 51 and 52

Date: January 14, 2008

Members of the board,

My name is Gordon Jensen and I am opposed to proposal 51 and 52 because subsistence fishing for salmon is not just done in the first two weeks of June, but rather throughout the summer and fall. This proposal seems to be a sport fisheries issue wearing a disguise. The data collected from Fish and Game shows there are ample salmon for subsistence use from June through the end of September. It there is over escapement it threatens the health of the rivers and lakes. The Fish and Game have done an extraordinary job at keeping the health of the Karluk for early and late run salmon. I would like you to consider my opposition to proposal 51 and 52.

Thank you,

Gordon Jensen

RC 21

To: **Board of Fish Members**
From: **Kouremetis Family Fisheries (Alitak District Set net)**
Subject: **Proposals 56, 57, 58, 59, 39, and 40**
Date: **Jan 14, 2008**

We agree with the Kodiak Advisory Board's decision to reject the following three proposals (56, 57, and 58). Acknowledging that there is a problem with the strength of the Fraser and Upper Station runs we support proposals 39 and/or 40. We also support proposal 59. The reasons are listed below:

Proposal 56 - This regulation should be left as is. The board along with everybody else involved spent a considerable amount of time to create a solution to the on going problem in the Alitak district. Since it was passed there has been very little fishing time in the district due to the weakened state of the Fraser and Upper Station runs. Everybody is hurting in that area. This regulation should not be overturned until we are given enough fishing time to determine its effectiveness.

Proposal 57- This proposal would create a nightmare for management. In addition all set net operatives would **not** benefit equitably. Not all are equal in production or effort. Some sites would definitely suffer a loss of catch.

Proposal 58- We oppose this proposal because we feel the consolidation of permits is heading in the wrong direction for the future of the industry. It limits opportunity for the next generation of fisherman. Also, the unintended consequences of such a major change could over the long haul, be very detrimental to the traditional fishery.

Proposal 59- With the emphasis on quality, this low volume/ low impact fishery becomes a very attractive alternative to our current means of harvesting Coho salmon. We support this proposal only if it can be limited to Kodiak salmon fisherman.

Proposal 39 and 40- We are in support of these proposals. The Fraser and Upper Station runs have become increasingly more and more inconsistent. We will support most proposals that attempt to rectify or determine the cause.

Sincerely,

Leo Kouremetis
Christian Kouremetis
Elisabeth Kouremetis
P.O. Box 424
Kodiak, AK 99615

RC 22

Comments to the Board of Fisheries on proposals 38, 39 and 40
(Closure of Alitak Bay to pelagic pollock trawling or require 100% observer coverage)

Steve Drage, President Alaska Draggers Association

GOA Pollock management structure

The Central Gulf of Alaska is divided into two regulatory areas – Area 620 (Chirikof) and Area 630 (Kodiak). Alitak Bay is within regulatory area 620. The Central Gulf of Alaska pollock fishery is managed by National Marine Fisheries Service.

The pollock area quotas are set by North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. The area quota is divided between four seasons (see table 1 attached). The quotas must be caught within the regulatory area as well as within the appropriate season. The fishery either closes when the regulatory closure season date comes or when the quota has been taken, whichever comes first. If the fishery falls short of the seasonal quota, a limit is imposed on the amount of quota that can be rolled to the next pollock season.

NMFS – Protected Resources has determined that Pollock trawling may jeopardize the recovery of the endangered species, Steller Sea Lions (SSL). To prevent jeopardizing the continued existence of SSL and allow the SSL stock to recover, extensive areas are closed to pollock fishing (See figure 1 attached). Total area closed in regulatory Area 620 to protect SSL is 21,084 square nm.

Pollock quota and catch in Area 620 and Alitak Bay for the years 2004 to 2007

The fleet has had difficulty harvesting the entire quota available in Area 620 in the fall C (Aug 25 to Oct 1) and D (Oct 1 and Nov 1) seasons. On average, 48% of the available pollock quota during the fall has been left in the water (see table 2 – part d). Alitak Bay is one of the few productive areas that remain open to the fleet in the fall with 56% of the fall pollock harvest caught in Alitak Bay (see table 3 – part b). If Alitak Bay is closed to pelagic pollock fishing, additional quota will remain unharvested resulting in economic impacts to trawl catcher vessels, shoreside processors and GOA coastal communities.

Crab protection zones in the CGOA (See Figure 2 attached)

While the cause for the decline in king crab is not known, most researchers believe that the decline can be attributed to a variety of environmental factors which independently or in combination led to the depressed condition of the crab resources. The effects of bottom trawling on the crab stocks of the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska have been a significant consideration in the management of these fisheries.

There are large bottom trawl closure areas in the GOA to protect crab stocks.

Type I: Closed all year to bottom trawl gear and have been in effect since 1985. These closures were estimated to provide protection for 70% of the existing red king crab resource in 1985.

Type II: Closed from Feb 15 through June 15 (molting period off Kodiak) to bottom trawl gear since 1985. Type II areas are areas of lower concentrations but more sensitive king crab populations in which bottom trawl gear is prohibited during the soft-shell season. This closure along with the Type I closures were estimated to provide protection for 85% of Kodiak Island king crab resource and 75% of the known Tanner crab stocks in 1985.

State of Alaska inside three mile non-pelagic closure zones: Closed all year except on the west side of Kodiak. On the west side there is a seasonal closure in place with fishing allowed from Jan 20 to April 1 and Nov 1 to Dec 31.

Cook Inlet Bottom Trawl closure: Closed all year.

1/14/08

Table 1. Pollock Seasonal Structure in the Gulf of Alaska

Season	Regulatory Open	Regulatory Close
A	January 20	March 10
B	March 10	May 31
C	August 25	October 1
D	October 1	November 1

Table 2. Area 620 Pollock quota and catch by Season

Part A. Area 620 Pollock Quota by Year and by Season in Millions of Pounds

Season	2004	2005	2006	2007
A	19,901,105	25,776,417	24,674,107	16,219,389
B	23,598,252	26,058,608	29,528,680	19,674,029
A/B tot	43,499,357	51,835,025	54,202,787	35,893,418
C	7,451,616	9,801,741	6,510,243	5,079,444
D	7,449,411	9,801,741	6,510,243	5,079,444
C/D tot	14,901,027	19,603,481	13,020,486	10,158,889
Total	58,400,384	71,438,506	67,223,273	46,052,307

Part B. Area 620 Pollock Catch by Year and By Season in Millions of Pounds

Season	2004	2005	2006	2007
A	13,410,703	29,087,756	22,112,339	3,869,108
B	27,249,103	30,362,027	30,877,908	33,821,075
A/B tot	40,659,807	59,449,783	52,990,246	37,690,184
C	6,898,256	1,792,356	2,458,151	4,019,022
D	7,449,411	260,145	4,336,488	901,690
C/D tot	14,347,667	2,052,501	6,794,639	4,920,712
Total	55,007,474	61,502,284	59,784,885	42,610,895

Part C. Area 620 Pollock Quota remaining by year and by Season in Millions of Pounds

Season	2004	2005	2006	2007
A	6,490,401	-3,311,339	2,561,768	12,350,281
B	-3,650,851	-4,303,418	-1,349,227	-14,147,047
A/B tot	2,839,551	-7,614,757	1,212,541	-1,796,765
C	553,360	8,009,384	4,052,092	1,060,422
D	0	9,541,595	2,173,755	4,177,755
C/D tot	553,360	17,550,980	6,225,847	5,238,177
Total	3,392,910	9,936,222	7,438,388	3,441,412

Part D. Area 620 Pollock Quota remaining by Year and by Season in percentage

Season	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average
A	33%	-13%	10%	76%	27%
B	-15%	-17%	-5%	-72%	-27%
A/B tot	7%	-15%	2%	-5%	-3%
C	7%	82%	62%	21%	43%
D	0%	97%	33%	82%	53%
C/D tot	4%	90%	48%	52%	48%
Total	6%	14%	11%	7%	10%

Table 3. Alitak Bay Pollock Catch by Season

Part A. Alitak Bay Pollock Catch by Year and by Season in Millions of Pounds

Season	2004	2005	2006	2007
A	0	1,491,825	365,151	1,160,382
B	3,135,310	29,730	287,519	267,086
A/B tot	3,135,310	1,521,555	652,670	1,427,468
C	3,642,622	89,607	1,604,284	2,972,606
D	4,994,092	237,190	3,428,044	596,371
C/D tot	8,636,714	326,797	5,032,328	3,568,977
Total	11,772,024	1,848,352	5,684,998	4,996,445

Part B. Alitak Bay pollock catch as percent of total Area 620 pollock catch by year by season

Season	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average
A	0%	5%	2%	30%	9%
B	12%	0%	1%	1%	3%
A/B	8%	3%	1%	4%	4%
C	53%	5%	65%	74%	49%
D	67%	91%	79%	66%	76%
C/D	60%	16%	74%	73%	56%
Total	21%	3%	10%	12%	11%

Sources:

Description of GOA pollock management structure in the final rule for GOA groundfish specifications, National Marine Fisheries web site: http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/frules/72fr9676.pdf

Area 620 Pollock catch and quota by season for the years 2004 to 2007, National Marine Fisheries web site: http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/2004/car111_goa.pdf
http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/2005/car111_goa.pdf
http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/2006/car111_goa.pdf
http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/2007/car111_goa.pdf

Alitak Bay pollock harvest by season for the years 2004 to 2007, personnel communication Nick Sagalkin, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Steller Sea Lion Protection Measures for the trawl Pollock Fishery, National Marine Fisheries web site: http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/stellers/maps/Pollock_Atka_base0105.pdf

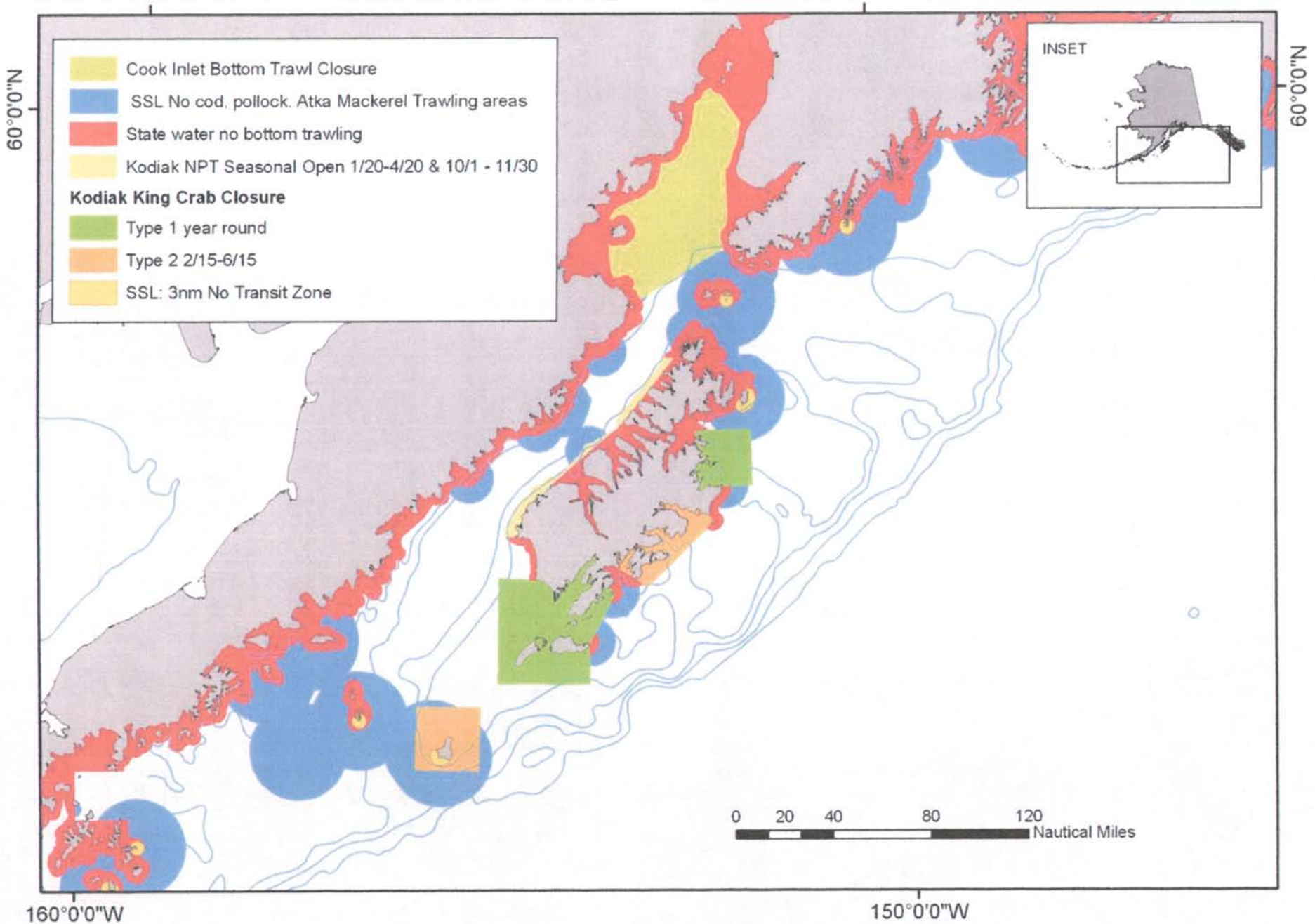
Figure 2 – Existing Trawl fishery and Crab protection closures in the GOA, prepared by NPFMC staff

GOA Fishery Management Plan – Amendment 18 Environmental Assessment – Trawl Bycatch Management

Figure 1. Central Gulf SSL Protection Zones

Figure 2.

Existing Trawl fishery and Crab protection closures in the Gulf of Alaska



Proposal 65
Dave Jones

RC 23

Solution

Amend the Alaska Administrative Code Number 5AAC 64 Kodiak Area to include an Ayakulik King Salmon Management Plan as follows:

Ayakulik River King Salmon Sport Fishing Management Plan

A. The purpose of this plan is to manage the Ayakulik king salmon sport fishery to obtain an optimal escapement goal (OEG) as defined in 5AAC 39.222. Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries.

A. The purpose of this plan is to manage the Ayakulik king salmon sport fishing harvest to obtain the current biological escapement goal (BEG). And, to allow a, no harvest, catch and release sport fishery when the run is forecast to reach an optimal escapement goal (OEG) as defined in 5AAC 39.222. Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries.

1. The board recognizes the unique qualities of the Ayakulik sport fishery.

2. The board recognizes that harvest of king salmon is important to some Ayakulik sport fishing visitors, commercial fishermen and subsistence users. Through this management plan, the board will provide for this harvest as long as the biological escapement goal (BEG) of king salmon can be met.

3. The board recognizes that harvest of king salmon is secondary to many Ayakulik sport fishing visitors and to the industry surrounding the sport fishery. Through this management plan, the board will provide, at a minimum, a "conservation catch and release" (as defined in 5AAC 75.003(1)(B)) fishing opportunity as long as the OEG of king salmon can be met.

B. To implement this management plan the board will take the following actions.

1. The board shall define an OEG for the Ayakulik king salmon run.

2. Pre-season, the king salmon limit on the Ayakulik River is as defined in 5AAC 64.022.

3. June 5th, if the weir has been in place for ten days* and, there are fewer than 500 kings counted through the weir, the ADF&G shall, by emergency order, reduce the king salmon limit to one king of any size per day, two kings in possession, two kings annually. Legal sport fishing methods and means shall include the use of bait.

4. June 15th, if the weir has been in place for twenty days* and, there are more than 3500 kings counted through the weir, the ADF&G shall set, or retain, the king salmon limit at pre-season levels.

Attachment 2, solution (continued)

b. June 15th, if the weir has been in place for twenty days* and, there are fewer than 2000 kings counted through the weir, ADF&G shall institute a conservation catch and release king salmon

fishery. Legal sport fishing methods and means, for all species on the Ayakulik, shall include only artificial lures and flys with single, barbless hooks. Sport fishing methods and means shall require that all kings be released unharmed and that kings may not be removed from the water.

5. June 25th, if the weir has been in place for thirty days* and, there are more than 4500 kings counted through the weir, the ADF&G shall set, or retain, the king salmon limit at pre-season levels.

b. June 25th, if the weir has been in place for thirty days* and, there are less than 70% of the king salmon OEG counted through the weir, the ADF&G shall, by emergency order, close all targeted king salmon fishing. Legal sport fishing methods and means, for all species on the Ayakulik, shall include only artificial lures and flys with single, barbless hooks. Legal sport fishing methods and means shall require that all kings, caught incidentally, be released un-harmed and that kings may not be removed from the water.

6. July 5th, if the weir has been in place for forty days* and, there are less than the total king salmon OEG counted through the weir, the ADF&G shall, by emergency order, close or keep closed, all targeted king salmon fishing. Legal sport fishing methods and means, for all species on the Ayakulik, shall include only artificial lures and flys with single, barbless hooks. Legal sport fishing methods and means shall require that all kings, caught incidentally, be released un-harmed and that kings may not be removed from the water.

*In the event of fewer actual days of weir operation, ADF&G will use historical averages or other reasonably reliable means to estimate king escapement for those days that the weir was not in operation. This estimated king escapement shall be added to any actual weir count to determine the number of "kings counted through the weir" for the purposes of this plan.

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2. Pre-season. Unless otherwise prescribed by ADF&G for conservation purposes, the king salmon limit on the Ayakulik River is as defined in 5AAC 64.022.

3. In-season. ADF&G shall use common run strength indicators (weir counts, sport and commercial harvest data, visual surveys, and etc.) to forecast the king salmon spawning escapement.

ADF&G shall maintain a sport fishing harvest opportunity to the greatest extent possible but may use the following methods in an effort to obtain the minimum BEG.

A. Adjust the king salmon sport fishing bag, possession and annual limits.

B. Adjust the legal sport fishing methods and means.

C. Institute a, no harvest, catch and release king salmon fishery requiring legal sport fishing methods and means, for all species on the Ayakulik, to include only artificial lures and flys with single, barbless hooks, and that all kings be released unharmed and that kings may not be removed from the water.

ADF&G shall maintain a sport fishing opportunity to the greatest extent possible but may, in an effort to obtain the minimum OEG, close all targeted king salmon sport fishing and require that sport fishing methods and means, for all species on the Ayakulik, include only artificial lures and flys with single, barbless hooks, and that all kings caught incidentally be released un-harmed and that kings may not be removed from the water.

1/14/08

Re 24

Testimony to Alaska Board of Fish Regarding Alitak and Deadman's Bay
By Patrick O.'Donnell, Kodiak

Chairman, Members of the Board,

My name is Patrick O.'Donnell. I would like to comment on Proposal 38, 39, & 40 Closures to Alitak Bay and Deadman's Bay to Pelagic Trawl Pollock Fishing.

I live in Kodiak with my wife and two young kids, ages 9 and 5 years, where I have fished for the last 18 years. I own a small fishing trawler which I bought five years ago, having worked up from crew to skipper to part owner to owning my own boat.

I have fished in a lot of different fisheries in both the Atlantic and Pacific, mostly on small vessels from 20 feet to 90 feet. I have midwater fished for pollock in Deadman's Bay for about 10 to 12 years to spend most of the fall fisheries fishing that bay as the weather is generally too bad for me to fish anywhere else safely. So, when it comes to fishing in Deadman's Bay, it's a safety issue for me and to my crew, as well as a means to making a living. That is one of the reasons why I think it should remain open as it is now.

In all the time that I fished there, I have never intentionally put my midwater net on the bottom, as the bottom is very rough and hard with steep banks and lots of pinnacles. Also most of the pollock in there are in the midwater range, quite a ways off the bottom. On the few occasions that I have touched the bottom, it is usually from not paying enough attention, which in turn costs me. The damage done to the net, usually 5,000 to 15,000 dollars, as well as lost earnings and fuel cost for returning home empty handed. So for me it is far more practical to not run the risk of putting my net on the bottom and being successful in getting a full trip to return to town with.

As far as the 100% observer coverage, we would incur an expense that we can't afford right now. With fuel as it is today, our cost per trip has gone from 15% per trip 2 years ago to 25 to 30% per trip today. Having 100% observer coverage would bring the cost per trip to 35 to 40% which for us would make it impossible to fish.

The average cost of an observer to Deadman's Bay is about 2,500 dollars.

This is based on a five day period with a 14 hour stem there, a 14 hour steam back, two days fishing and a day for offload and reprovision

The value of a trip of pollock for me packing 160,000 lbs. is	19,200 dollars
Cost of fuel	9,000 dollars
Observer	2,500 dollars
Crew	1,925 dollars
Which leaves the boat with	5,775.00
Insurance runs about 380.00 per day, times 5 days for trip =	1,900.00
Remaining	3,875.00

This leaves 3,875.00 dollars to maintain the boat and gear. If there's a misconception that we're getting rich in there, we aren't. These are the hard numbers. We are only making a living like everyone else.

RC25

Testimony of Jay Stinson to the Alaska Board of Fish
January 14, 2008

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board:

For the record, I am Jay Stinson Owner/operator of the F/V Alaskan. I have lived in Kodiak for since 1980.

I am opposed to the proposed closure of Alitak Bay and any increase in observer coverage requirements above current requirements.

Historically, Alitak Bay has produced a significant portion of my annual trawl income.

A significant body of research indicates that midwater trawling may have beneficial effects on the relative survivorship of both indigenous crab stocks and local salmon recruitment

I would like to present the abstracts of three (3) scientific papers that support this hypothesis.

1. **"Community reorganization in the Gulf of Alaska following ocean climate shift"** by Paul Anderson and John Platt, 1999

ABSTRACT: A shift in ocean climate during the late 1970's triggered a reorganization of community structure in the Gulf of Alaska ecosystem, as evidenced in changing catch composition on long-term (1953 to 1997) small-mesh trawl surveys. Forage species such as pandalid shrimp and capelin declined because of recruitment failure and predation, and populations have not yet recovered. Total (small mesh) trawl catch biomass declined >50%...In contrast, recruitment of high trophic-level groundfish improved during the 1980s, yielding a >250% increase in catch biomass during the 1990s.

Anderson goes on the say "The inshore ecosystem of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) has undergone a shift from an epigenetic community dominated largely by crustaceans to one now dominated by several species of fishes. These changes led to extreme disruption of

local fishing economies and prompted concerns about how living resources in the GOA should be managed. Before we can properly manage oceanic ecosystems, however, we need to know how marine climate induces changes in community structure over short and long time periods. Biological responses to climate change should not be considered ecological disasters or harmful to the marine ecosystem in general. ***Adaptive management strategies that respond to ecosystem changes as they occur are needed for successful long-term management of fisheries.***

2. "Prey selection by age-0 walleye pollock, Theragra chalcogramma, in near-shore waters of the Gulf of Alaska", Richard D. Brodeur, 1998

Synopsis: Juvenile walleye pollock is the dominant forage fish on the continental shelf of the Gulf of Alaska... The taxonomic composition and size of prey found in the stomachs of age-0 juveniles collected at three near-shore locations in the Gulf of Alaska in September 1990 (Alitak bay was one site) were compared to the composition and size of zooplankton collected in concurrent plankton tows .....(The study shows that) Juvenile pollock generally selected the larger prey sizes relative to what was available. Juvenile pollock showed a marked preference for adult euphausiids and depapod larvae (Crab larvae)...

Table 1 of the paper shows that Dungeness crab larvae and Tanner crab larvae compose more than 5% of the juvenile pollock diet in Alitak Bay.

3. The third paper that I would like to consider is EVOS Restoration Project Final Report titled, "Sound Ecosystem Assessment: Salmon Predation" by Mark Willette, ADFG 1995.

And in consideration of time, I will paraphrase certain excerpts from the document.

"Approximately 6,800 stomach sample were collected from potential fish predators."

"Walleye pollock and squid were the most abundant fish species captured in offshore strata in western PWS."

"Walleye pollock appeared to be the most significant fish predator on juvenile salmon in western PWS .... Apparent abundance and the overall proportion of the diet comprised of juvenile salmon was greatest for this species....In 1994, it appeared that the greatest predation on juvenile salmon occurred during the first week after the fry were released. Walleye pollock (age3+) captured in offshore areas appeared to be the principal predator during this time period."

Research done by ADFG and NMFS indicate that pollock are significant predators of both salmon fry and crab larvae in the nearshore areas of the GOA.

I find it interesting that the area with the most promising increase in crab population is the bay with the greatest historic midwater trawl effort on pollock and corresponding removals.

Literature Cited

Anderson, Paul J., John F. Piatt. 1999. Community reorganization in the Gulf of Alaska following ocean climate regime shift. Marine Ecology Progress Series. Vol. 189: 117-123, 1999

Brodeur, Richard D., 1998. Environmental Biology of Fishes 51: 175-186. 1998. National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115

Loewen, Mary E. 2007. Seasonal oceanographic influences on pacific embayments of Kodiak Island, Alaska. Master of Science Thesis, University of Alaska, School of Fisheries and Ocean Science. August 2007

Willette, Mark, Edward Debevec, Jay Johnson. 1995. *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Restoration Project Final Report. Sound Ecosystem Assessment: Salmon Predation, Restoration Project 94320E. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Cordova, Alaska 99574. 1995

RC 26

To: The Alaska Board of Fish

From: Ron Naughton, Skipper, F/V Hazel Lorraine

January 14, 2008

I am writing this testimony in regards to Proposals 38, 39, 40, and the Kodiak Advisory Substitute proposal. I believe these proposals will be completely ineffective in achieving their stated goals.

I was born and raised in Kodiak and have been a fisherman here since I was 16. I began My fishing career as a salmon seiner and have also fished crab, halibut, sablefish, and Herring in addition to the groundfish that we now harvest on the Hazel Lorraine.

The issue I would like to raise in regards to the above mentioned proposals is this: the ban that has been in effect regarding non-pelagic trawls (bottom trawls) in the bays has been in effect since 1985 and in the 22 years since then has had little or no effect on crab stock recovery. I fail to see how banning pelagic (mid-water) gear which spends little or no time on the bottom is going to help crab stocks recover.

There are several other bays and straits in the Kodiak Archipelago which used to have crab and have little or no pelagic trawling done in them. These are: Kupreanof Strait, Raspberry Strait, Paramanof Bay, Tonki Bay, & Three Saints Bay. To my knowledge these bays and straits do not have any abundance of crab, nothing near like they used to and there is virtually no trawling of any kind in them.

Also, the 100% observer requirement would be an unfair economic and operational burden. For the last 2 years the Hazel Lorraine has paid an average of $21,000.00 per year for observer coverage. This cost comes off the top of the boat gross which means skipper and crew paid over $7,000.00 for observer coverage.

Alitak Bay is a good place to fish when the weather is rough. If, for example, one was starting a trip fishing in outside waters, already had the required observer time for the quarter so no observer would be onboard and the wind came up, it would be a waste of time, fuel, and money to return to town to pick up an observer so one could go and fish Alitak.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ron Naughton

January 14, 2008

Comments to the Board of Fisheries on proposals 38, 39 and 40 (Closure of Alitak Bay to pelagic pollock trawling or require 100% observer coverage)

RC27

Julie Bonney, Executive Director, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank

Observer Coverage and Unobserved Crab Mortality

Several pieces of information are included for the Boards consideration:

1) Background information on the North Pacific groundfish observer program off Alaska
2) Observer program-related problems and costs faced by Alaska's coastal fishermen
3) Map comparing vessel VMS track lines to Observed trawling areas[1]
4) Scientific paper that examines unobservable Red King Crab injuries with bottom trawl nets[2]

Background on the North Pacific groundfish observer program off Alaska

The Federal groundfish observer program in Alaska is the oldest and largest observer program in the Nation and the only one that is entirely funded by industry.

In 1989, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council developed the current domestic observer program and established observer coverage requirements for vessels and processors. These regulations established observer coverage levels for vessels based on vessel length and for processors based on monthly processing volume. Vessels less than 60' length overall (LOA) are not required to carry observers. Vessels 60'-125' LOA are required to carry observers 30% of their fishing days. Vessels over 125' LOA are required to carry an observer 100% of their fishing days.

While the costs associated with managing the program are paid for by the Federal government, the vessel and plant owners pay for the entire cost of observers (on a daily basis) through contracts with private observer companies. Many smaller-scale vessels and fishermen have found that the cost of paying for their own observer coverage is a far greater burden than it is for the large companies operating large vessels and processors that operate in the BSAI.

Observer program-related problems and costs faced by Alaska's coastal fishermen

The current observer program throughout Alaska is one in which groundfish vessels less than 60' are not required to carry observers and vessels 60'-125' LOA are required to carry and pay for their own observers 30% of their fishing days regardless of gear type or target fishery. These two size categories make up the majority of vessels fishing in the GOA. There are several impacts of the current program that require highlighting:

- Vessels less than 60' length overall are not required to carry observers, and therefore face no observer costs relative to their larger counterparts. Observers on vessels greater than 60' estimate total catch for a portion of the hauls or sets, and sample these hauls or sets for species composition. These data are expanded to make estimates of total catch by species for the entire fishery, including unobserved vessels. Observer data from observed vessels are assumed to be representative of the activity of all vessels, and are used to

estimate total catch of prohibited species for the entire fishery. **In the GOA, vessels less than 60' constitute 92% of the groundfish fleet and harvest 58% of the total groundfish catch by value.** All of this harvest is unobserved, in part because of concerns with the cost of observer coverage and the practical and logistical difficulties with placing observers on smaller vessels.

- Vessels between 60'-125' in overall length are required to carry observers for 30% of their fishing days. These vessels operating in the GOA pay a disproportionate percentage of their revenues towards observer costs relative to both their under 60' counterparts and the large offshore vessels operating in the BSAI. This is due to two reasons: 1) these vessels have far lower revenues on a per-vessel basis than do the large offshore vessels in the BSAI, and 2) the daily costs of coverage are often higher for vessels operating in the GOA, due to the logistics of deploying observers to remote ports for short periods of time.

- Vessels greater than 60' length overall operating in the GOA also pay a disproportionate percentage of their revenues towards observer costs relative to their counterparts outside of Alaska. The North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program is the only one in the Nation in which fishing vessels pay for their own observer coverage to meet coverage requirements established in Federal regulations. All other observer programs in the other regions are federally funded. This means that fishermen from Alaska's coastal fishing communities pay a much higher percentage of their revenues for observer coverage than do similarly-situated fishermen in fishing communities outside of Alaska. In addition, Alaska's coastal communities are far less diversified, have fewer economic opportunities, and are more dependent on commercial fishing than most fishing communities outside of Alaska.

- Fishermen are discouraged from lengthening their vessels for safety purposes. Because lengthening a vessel beyond 60' will automatically trigger observer coverage requirements, vessel owners are inadvertently discouraged from improving the safety of their vessels through lengthening.

- Smaller entities in the fishing industry face disproportionate costs relative to their larger counterparts. The current program, in which small entities face the same or higher daily costs of observer coverage as large entities, results in small entities with lower daily production having a competitive disadvantage. The result of such a program over many years is that the smaller entities with lower daily production will be squeezed out of the fishery in favor of larger, more capital-intensive operations. While these trends may be present regardless, they are exacerbated by the imposition of disproportionately high observer coverage costs on small operations in the 60'-125' vessel length range.

Alitak Bay VMS Tracks versus Mapped Observed Areas[1]

- The attached map shows locations in Alitak Bay while a NMFS observer was on board during the years 2005 and 2006 (blue outline) and 2005-2006 plotted Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) track lines in Alitak Bay (Green fill): note the almost complete overlap of observed areas over fished area. This shows representative fishing while an observer was on board and an overall good observer representation of the bay.

Unobservable Red King Crab injuries and mortality caused by bottom trawl gear[2]

- Craig Rose's research finding reported in the *Marine Fisheries Review* (attached) suggest injury rates of 5 – 10%, depending on the type of bottom gear used, for king crabs that come in contact with bottom trawl gear but are not captured in the net. ("unobservable mortality"). Similarly, Donaldson[3] estimated an injury rate of 3% and an unobservable mortality rate of less than 1%. With significantly less bottom contact, the rate would presumably be lower with pelagic gear.

Source: Draft section on rationale for Federal funding of fisheries observers in Alaska, June 30, 2005 prepared by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Staff

[1] Steve Lewis, National Marine Fisheries Service. Personal communication.

[2] Rose, C.S. 1999. Injury Rates of Red King Crab, *Paralithodes camtschaticu*, Passing Under Bottom-trawl Footropes. Marine Fisheries Review 61(2): 72-76. (Attached)

[3] Donaldson, W.E. 1190. Determination of experimentally induced non-observable mortality on red king crab. Alaska Dept. Fish Game, Reg. Information Rep. 4K90-13 (Kodiak), 27 p.

Injury Rates of Red King Crab, *Paralithodes camtschaticus*, Passing Under Bottom-trawl Footropes

CRAIG S. ROSE

Introduction

Unobserved mortality is a significant concern as one of the incidental effects of fishing. It occurs when organisms are injured by encounters with fishing gear but are not brought to the surface with the catch. Because the injured organisms are not seen, the mortalities resulting from the injuries may not be recognized and are difficult to study and account for.

The inability to accurately estimate unaccounted mortality does not preclude its consideration in management and fishing decisions. Unfortunately, the lack of information on unaccounted mortality means that those participating in such decisions have to combine and weigh a mixture of related knowledge, opinions, and suppositions to substitute for conclusive facts. This can be a source of considerable dispute and reservations about the ultimate decisions.

Craig S. Rose is with the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Seattle WA 98115. Mention of trade names or commercial firms in this manuscript does not imply endorsement by the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA.

ABSTRACT—The rate of injuries sustained by red king crab, Paralithodes camtschaticus, *during passage under several types of bottom trawl footropes was examined using a modified bottom trawl in Bristol Bay, Alaska. Crabs were recaptured and examined for injuries after passing under each of three trawl footropes representing those commonly used in the bottom trawl fisheries of the eastern Bering Sea. Using the injury rate from tows with a floated footrope which minimized crab contact to account for handling injuries, injury rates of 5, 7, and 10% were estimated for crabs passing under the three commercial trawl footropes.*

The effects of bottom trawling on the crab stocks, *Paralithodes* spp. and *Chionoecetes* spp., of the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska have been a significant consideration in the management of the bottom trawl fisheries of that area (Donaldson, 1990; Witherell and Pautzke, 1997). In addition to direct bycatch and habitat effects, unobserved mortality has been one of the justifications used by managers for closing large areas to bottom trawling (Armstrong et al., 1993). While bycatch mortality has been estimated and tracked, issues of habitat effects and unobserved mortality have struggled along with little objective information. A promising start on the habitat issue was made by McConnaughey et al. (In press) which detected differences in the macrofauna occupying adjacent trawled and untrawled areas of Bristol Bay.

Estimating the unobserved mortality of red king crab, *Paralithodes camtschaticus*, that encounter bottom trawls is a complex problem. The total width of a bottom trawl presents a range of different obstacles for crabs to pass over, under, or around. By far the largest portion of the area swept by most bottom trawls is covered by the sweeps (which include the bridles), which connect the trawl net to the trawl doors (Fig. 1). These usually consist of 7–12 cm diameter disks strung over cable moving across the bottom at an angle of 10–25° from the direction of travel. The leading parts (wings) of trawl nets are oriented at a greater angle and are equipped with rubber bobbins or disks from 20 to 65 cm in diameter, with smaller diameter sections of varying length in between (see footropes A, B,

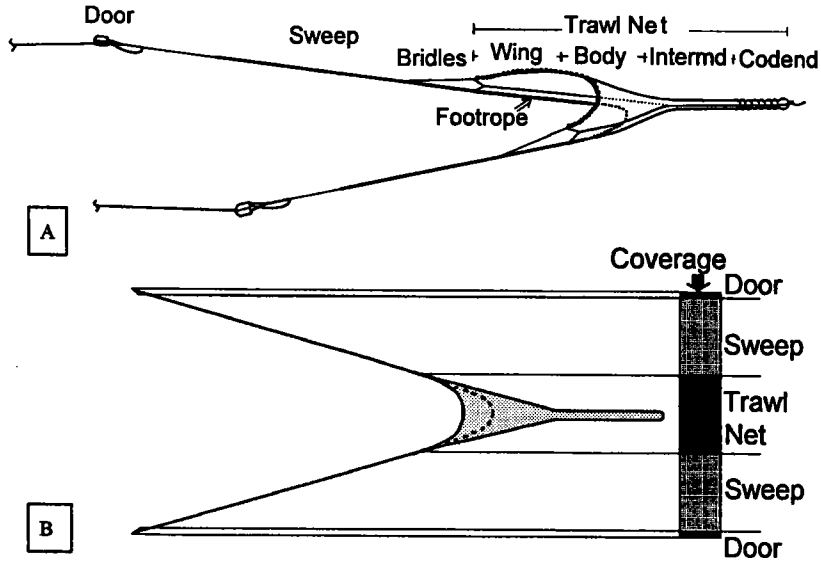

Figure 1.—Parts of a generalized bottom trawl (A) and comparison of the area of seafloor swept by the main components (B).

and C in Figure 2). The center section of the trawl footrope is perpendicular to the direction of travel and is also equipped with larger diameter bobbins or disks with spaces between. Finally, the doors cover a relatively small area of seafloor, but they would be expected to inflict the greatest injuries on crabs which pass beneath them.

Video observations of trawls (Rose, 1995; Highliners Association [1]; Rose[2]) have provided some insight into the interactions of trawls and crabs in the Bering Sea. Crabs were only able to avoid encounters for short distances until they were overtaken. While their mobility may permit avoidance of the doors, it only slightly delayed contact with the sweeps or footrope. Whether a crab passed over or under a trawl component was mostly determined by the relative size of the crab and the component encountered. Contact with the small diameter sweeps generally resulted in the crabs passing over without overt signs of damage (e.g. missing legs). As the footrope diameter increased in size, the more likely it was for a crab to go underneath it, especially if the crab was small or in close contact with the seafloor. While our observations did show crabs passing under trawl footropes, it was not possible to resolve the frequency, nature, or severity of any injuries to these crabs.

Donaldson (1990) provided the first information on the condition of red king crabs remaining on the seafloor after passage of a trawl. Crabs were tethered in the path of a trawl and recovered by divers after a trawl was towed through the area. Of the 169 crabs in the trawl path (doors, sweeps, and net), 21% were captured by the trawl, 46% were recovered by divers, and 33% could not be located. Of the 78 crabs recovered from the seafloor, only two (3%) were injured.

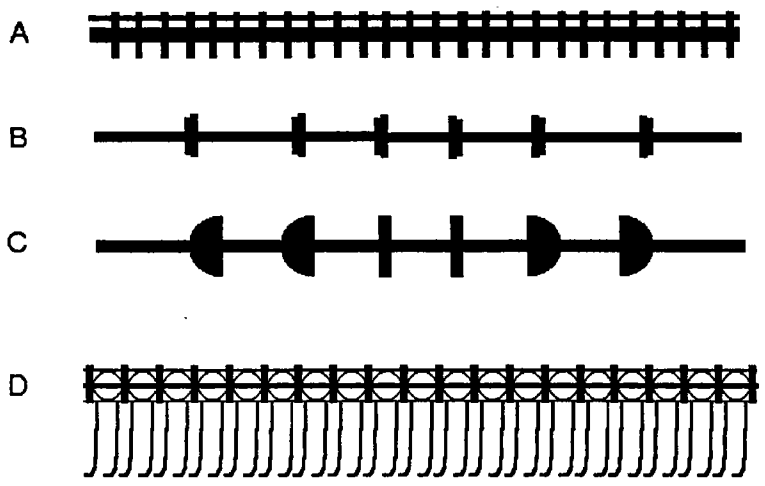

Figure 2.—Footrope configurations tested for red king crab injury rates. A = 38 cm rockhopper disks at 17 cm spacing, B = 36 cm disks at 60–90 cm spacing, C = 48 cm disks and 46 cm cones at 38–46 cm spacing, and D = float and chin suspended footrope. All spacing sections were 16 cm in diameter.

While concerns about the fate of the unrecovered crabs and the small sample size were acknowledged, this experiment provided a "preliminary estimate" of the rate of unobserved injuries.

Methods

To make direct measurements of the rates of injury to red king crabs passing under the center section of a commercial bottom trawl, a secondary trawl was suspended behind three types of commercial trawl footropes to retain the affected crabs. This allowed the rates of injury to these crabs to be directly observed. Tows with a fourth footrope, whose design allowed crabs to pass with minimal probability of damage, were used to account for injuries due to factors other than passing under the footrope.

A two-seam commercial bottom trawl (54 m headrope, 60 m footrope) was fished from the 37.5 m trawler *Columbia* in outer Bristol Bay, Alaska, in August 1996. Four ground-gear configurations were installed in the center section of the footrope (Fig. 2). Three of these configurations (A, B, and C in Figure 2) were selected to represent the range of footrope design commonly used in Bering Sea groundfish fisheries (Fig. 3). Footrope A, a series of closely spaced disks, was rigged as a rockhopper footrope. In this configuration, the netting was attached to a chain that passed through the perimeter of each disk, preventing the disks from rolling around the main chain which passed through the center of the disks. This footrope also had extra weighting in the form of eight 3.8 cm chain links positioned four in the center and two on each side 4.6 m from center. Footrope B had slightly smaller diameter disks spaced farther apart with conventional rigging (netting attached to the center chain). Footrope C used disks and bobbins about 10 cm larger in diameter than the other two configurations and spacing similar to footrope C. Construction and materials used in all footropes followed industry practice. Each configuration was towed twice in red king crab habitat (lat. 56°11'N, long. 162°00'W, 68 m depth) at 3 knots for 15–20 minutes.

A small two seam trawl (11.7 m headrope, 15.1 m footrope) was rigged to fish underneath the main trawl and behind its footrope. This trawl was secured to the main footrope at points 7 m either side of its center with double 6 m bridles. The footrope of the small net was a continuous string of 20 cm rubber disks over 13 mm steel chain. Previous observations with similar foo-

[1] Highliners Association. 1988. Minimization of king and Tanner crab bycatch in trawl fisheries directed at demersal groundfish in the eastern Bering Sea. Project Rep., NOAA Award 86-ABC-0042. Highliners Association, 4055 21st Ave W., Seattle, WA 98199.

[2] Rose, C. S. 1995. Behavior of Bering Sea crabs encountering trawl groundgear. Unpubl. video tape presented at N. Pac. Fish. Manage. Counc. meet. Dec. 1995. Avail. from Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Seattle, WA 98115.

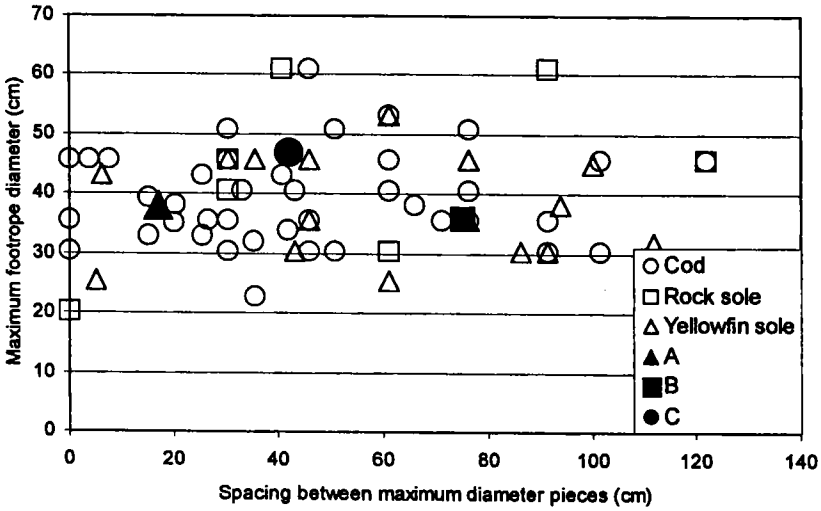

Figure 3.—Comparison of the diameter and spacing of footropes used in this study (solid shapes) with footropes used in the three largest bottom trawl fisheries of the eastern Bering Sea. Source: Unpublished 1996 survey, Craig Rose, NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle, Wash.

tropes indicated that nearly all king crabs would pass over it and be retained. Thus the small net swept the seafloor just behind the center section of the main footrope and retained crabs which had passed under it.

One of the initial concerns regarding the use of the small trawl was whether crabs captured in this net could be brought aboard the trawler without causing additional damage. The process of initial capture, being towed in the small net's codend, hauled aboard the vessel, and emptied onto the deck might cause injuries that could not be differentiated from footrope injuries. Therefore, a fourth footrope, considered unlikely to cause damage to passing crabs, was used as a control to isolate handling injuries. This fourth configuration (Fig. 2D) was a design (U.S. patent number 5,517,785) provided by Sherif Safwat of Davis, Calif. The footrope section consisted of a curtain of chains dangling from a footrope which floated above the seafloor. In this arrangement, animals passing under the groundgear would displace only a few light chains and thus would experience less damaging force than would be required to pass beneath conventional groundgears. The floatation and chain weight were adjusted so that the main footrope was between 15 and 25 cm off the seafloor, with the chain curtain filling the space below it (0.5 cm diameter galvanized chains, 75 cm long, spaced 10 cm apart and nine 20 cm floats plus one 25 cm float per 2 m of footrope). Previous tests with this gear (Rose, 1995) had shown that all but 1 of 260 crabs that encountered this footrope passed beneath it.

During all tows, an underwater video camera system (Rose, 1995) was suspended above and ahead of the footropes to observe crabs and fish as they encountered each of the footrope configurations. An ultra-low-light camera was used to avoid the need for artificial illumination. A small scanning sonar was mounted with the camera to allow measurements of the gear configuration.

After each tow, all of the crabs were sorted out of the catch of the small trawl. Each crab was examined for injuries, and video images were recorded of its dorsal and ventral sides, highlighting any observed injuries. All injuries were classified and recorded during later review of the video.

Injuries were classified by their location (legs, carapace, abdomen). Because red king crabs can autotomize (drop) injured legs, crabs with a fresh autotomy were classified separately from those with other leg injuries. Healed autotomies, which occurred in 5% of the crabs, were not classified as injuries. Multiple injuries were categorized under the most serious apparent injury. Thus a crab with a shattered carapace and an autotomized leg was coded as a carapace injury.

The results of the observations were examined using two sets of statistical tests. The first examined each pair of tows with the same footrope configuration to see if the observed injury rates were significantly different. The null hypothesis was that these rates were not different between tows (Chi square test for independence: Sokal and Rohlf, 1969). Injury rates for the test configurations (pooled if the rates were tow-independent) were then compared to the control rates with the null hypothesis that the observed injury rates were not different between test and control footropes.

To estimate the injury rates associated with each footrope configuration, the observed rates needed to be adjusted for handling injuries. Injuries during test tows can be caused by either footrope passage or handling. Since the two processes are sequential, not simultaneous, the total probability of injury during test tows (P_{FH}) can be represented by:

$$P_{FH} = P_F + (1 - P_F)P_H, \qquad (1)$$

where P_F = probability of injury by the footrope and P_H = probability of injury due to handling. Because our goal was to estimate P_F and the experiment provided estimates of P_{FH} and P_H (control injury rate), this equation was rewritten as:

$$P_F = \frac{P_{FH} - P_H}{(1 - P_H)}, \qquad (2)$$

providing estimators of footrope injury rates.

In using the control injury rate as an estimate of handling injuries, I assumed that injuries due to the control footrope were negligible relative to those from initial capture, being towed in the small net's codend, hauled aboard the vessel, and emptied onto the deck. While this assumption is believed to be reasonable, considering the mechanisms of potential injury and observa-

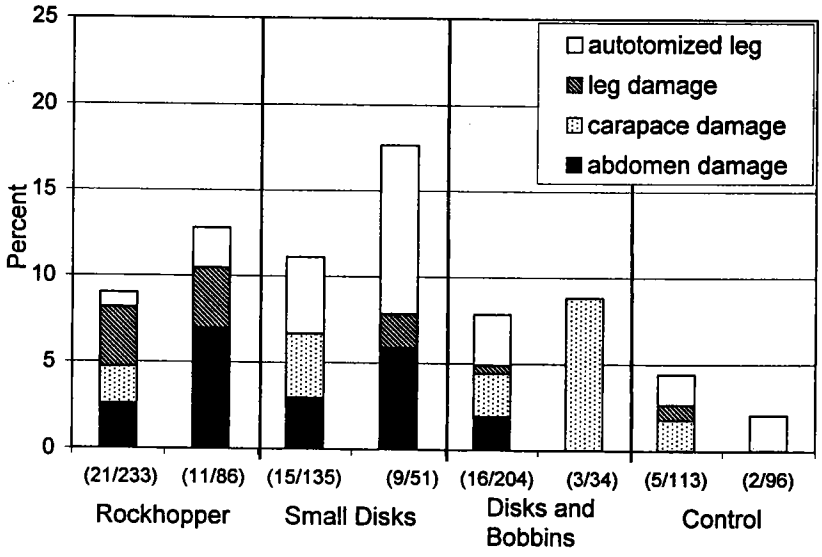

Figure 4.—Rates and locations of injuries sustained by red king crabs passing under four types of trawl footropes. Total injuries over total number of crabs observed from each tow are listed in parentheses.

Table 1.—Statistical tests and estimates of injury rates for red king crabs passing under trawl footropes.

Test	Chi squared	Significance (p value)	Adjusted injury rate (P_A)
Between tows			
Rockhopper (A)	0.99	0.32	
Small disks (B)	1.41	0.24	
Large disks (C)	0.04	0.85	
Control (D)	0.88	0.35	
Control vs. test			
Rockhopper (A)	8.24	0.0004	7%
Small disks (B)	12.42	0.0004	10%
Large disks (C)	4.36	0.037	5%
Between footropes			
A vs. B	0.98	0.32	
A vs. C	0.69	0.41	
B vs. C	2.77	0.10	

tions of crab passing under the control footrope, there was no direct evidence to confirm it.

Results

The eight experimental tows were completed on 8 and 9 August 1996, capturing a total of 870 red king crab. Underwater video showed that the footropes were in contact with the seafloor throughout the tows and that the small trawl contacted and left the seafloor within 10 sec of the main footrope. Therefore, it is almost certain that all crabs in the small trawl had encountered the main trawl's footrope while it was on the seafloor. Sonar detected the small trawl's footrope approximately 6 m behind the center of the main footrope. The control footrope (Fig. 2D) fished with the bottom of the disks approximately 20 cm above the seafloor.

The number of crabs in each tow varied from 34 to 233, and from 82 to 98% of these crabs had no apparent injuries (Fig. 4). No significant differences in the frequency of injuries were detected between any of the pairs of tows with the same footropes (Table 1); therefore observations were pooled for the remainder of the analyses. Tows with the control footrope resulted in low injury rates (3.35%), indicating that handling was not a large source of injuries. Each of the test footropes did have significantly higher injury rates than the control gear. When pooled and adjusted (Equation (2)) for handling injuries, injury rates ascribed to passing under the test footropes were 7, 10 and 5% for the rockhopper, small disk, and large disk footropes, respectively. None of the differences between injury rates from the test footropes were statistically significant.

Discussion

Red king crabs passed under the center sections of full-scale groundfish trawl footropes with relatively low rates of apparent injuries. These rates were slightly larger, but of similar magnitude to the 3% preliminary estimate of Donaldson (1990). There were many differences between these studies that could be related to this small disparity. One notable difference was that the current study focused on the center section of the trawl, while most of the Donaldson (1990) crabs would have been in the paths of the sweeps where injuries may be less likely.

These injury rates do not directly provide an estimate of mortality rates, except perhaps as an upper limit on mortality. No tests were done to determine how much mortality would occur as a result of the observed injuries. Many of these injuries were survivable, particularly the leg autotomies, as evidenced by the 5% of the crabs noted with healed autotomies. In a study of king crabs caught in bottom trawls, Stevens (1990) found that leg and body injuries increased the likelihood of death by 29 and 41%, respectively, while evidence of recent autotomy was not significantly associated with an increased likelihood of death. Those mortalities occurred with the additional stress of holding in an onboard bin with the fish catch for 0.8 to 12.5 hours. While the direct effects of the holding were accounted for in the analysis, any interaction of injury and holding stresses would have increased the mortality rates. It is considered likely that crabs would be better able to cope with most injuries in their normal environment, as would be the case with crabs passing under a footrope. An exception would be increased vulnerability to predators for severely disabled crabs.

The tested footropes were representative of much of the range of gear used in Bering Sea bottom trawl fisheries. Based on video observations of crab-ground-gear interactions (Rose[2]), Footrope C would have the lowest likelihood of causing damage to crabs because the spaces between footrope elements were both wide and tall. Footrope A was expected to have the highest injury rates due to narrow spaces between elements, low diameter, and the additional weighting. The order of the actual injury rate estimates (no statistical difference detected)

only partially followed these expectations, with C being lowest, but B being higher than A.

The floated footrope was shown to have an even lower injury rate than these others. Many of these injuries, if not all, could have been due to handling. Combined with its demonstrated ability to keep crabs out of the catch (Rose, 1995), this footrope design may be a useful tool for fisheries where avoiding effects on crabs is crucial. However, if the target species do not rise off bottom during a trawl encounter, as would be the case with many flatfish, the loss of target catch could be too great to allow effective fishing.

It is important to note that these results only represent the center area of the footrope where the gear is almost perpendicular to the direction of motion. Different forces would be experienced by crabs passing over the sweeps or under the wing sections of a footrope, and thus different types and rates of injuries could occur. These results would also not reflect encounters with parts of the gear aft of the footrope. While mesh behind the footrope is generally off the seafloor, a large catch of negatively buoyant fish (such as flatfish) could cause the codend to drag on the seafloor, which could impact crabs which had passed under the footrope.

While this study does not directly address habitat impacts of bottom trawls, it does shed some light on the type and frequency of forces exerted on organisms passing under trawl footropes. Forces sufficient to crack a crab carapace were more the exception than the rule in this study. A common misconception of such forces is evident in a paper by Watling and Norse (1998) who describe footropes weighing thousands of pounds as the instruments of habitat destruction. This obviously ignores the effects of displacement, which dramatically reduces the effective weight of such gear in water. The remaining forces are also distributed across the considerable surface area and length of trawl footropes, leaving a much lighter seafloor contact than would be visualized by experiencing such gear out of the water. Observations made during the Donaldson (1990) study provided an interesting illustration of this difference. As a way of detecting the actual path of the trawl, chicken eggs were placed at regular intervals across the path of the trawl on a firm sand seafloor. Many of the eggs were moved several meters by the trawl and were still recovered intact.

This study is by no means definitive and should be extended in a number of ways. Increased sample sizes might permit the effects of different groundgear configurations to be differentiated. The connection of the observed injuries to mortalities should also be explored. A full understanding of unobserved crab mortalities will also require similar studies on the other major trawl components that contact the seafloor.

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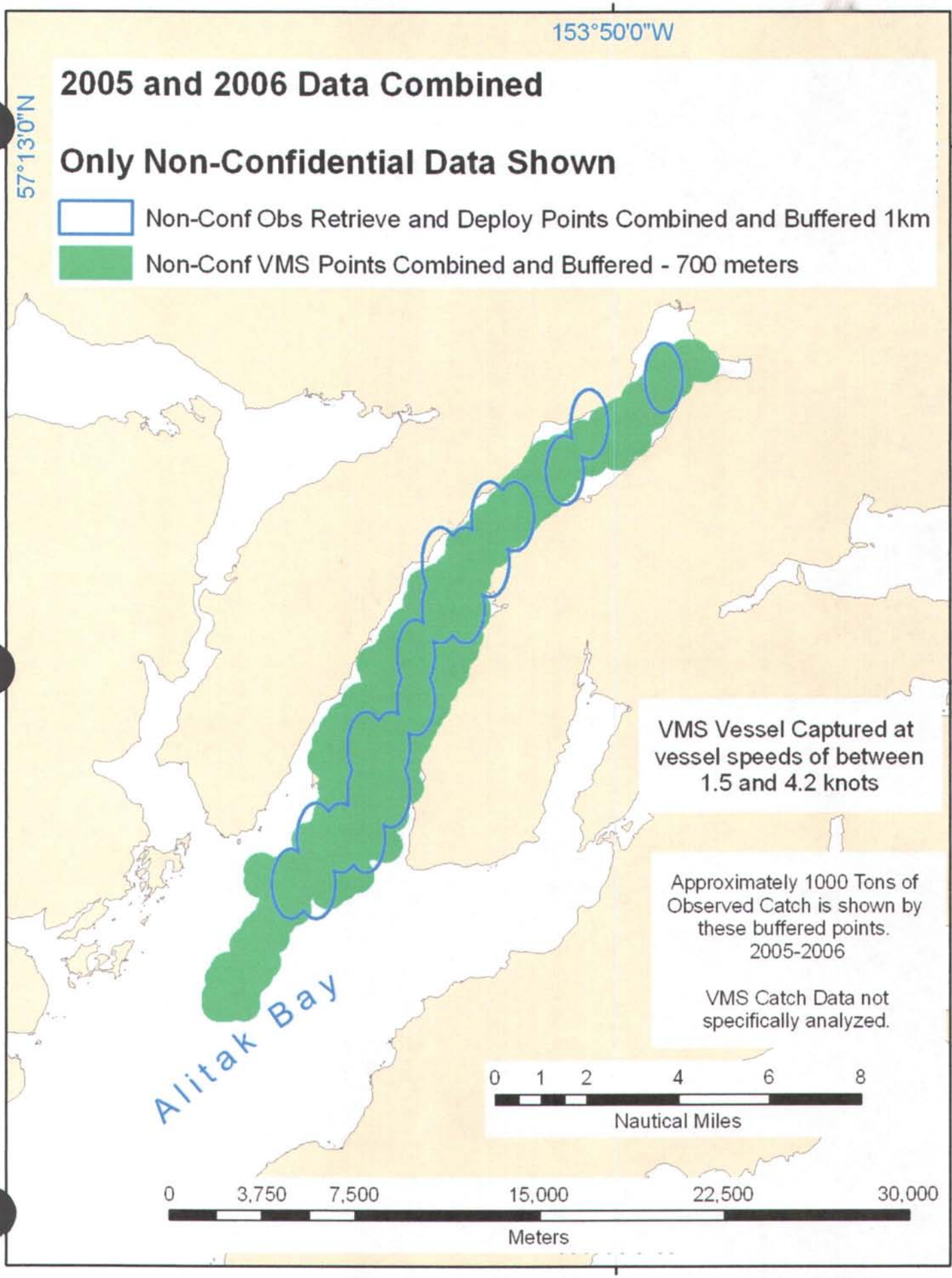

153°50'0"W
57°13'0"N
2005 and 2006 Data Combined
Only Non-Confidential Data Shown
Non-Conf Obs Retrieve and Deploy Points Combined and Buffered 1km
Non-Conf VMS Points Combined and Buffered - 700 meters
VMS Vessel Captured at vessel speeds of between 1.5 and 4.2 knots
Approximately 1000 Tons of Observed Catch is shown by these buffered points. 2005-2006
VMS Catch Data not specifically analyzed.
Alitak Bay
0 1 2 4 6 8
Nautical Miles
0 3,750 7,500 15,000 22,500 30,000
Meters

Alaska Board of Fisheries

Kodiak Meeting

January 14, 2008

RC 28

Testimony of Duncan Fields

Old Harbor Fisherman's Association & Ouzinkie Native Corporation

Chairman Morris, Board Members

Welcome to Kodiak, thank you for having your meeting here. My name is Duncan Fields. My family and I have fished set gillnet gear for salmon here in Kodiak since 1961. In addition to representing our family concerns, I am representing the fishermen in Old Harbor and Ouzinkie on a number of proposals.

It is important to note the poor timing of the Board's meeting here in Kodiak. Most of the small boat fishermen are either getting ready to go tanner crab fishing or already cod fishing. And many others are occupied at the IPHC meeting in Portland this week. I would strongly encourage the Board, three years from now, to schedule the Kodiak\Chignik meetings last in your cycle – say when Upper Cook Inlet was scheduled this year. I believe there would be far fewer fishing schedule conflicts for Kodiak fishermen if the Board meeting were scheduled later. The early date, in November, would also work but may put too much pressure on ADF&G staff.

I hope to quickly comment of several proposals and then talk to the Board about two policy issues.

Both substantive herring proposals, numbers 42 & 43, were submitted by Old Harbor fishermen. It is our desire to use the Board's committee structure to work with fishery managers to reach solutions to the problems associated with changes in Kodiak's herring fishery. Last year, about half of the quota was unharvested. We hope to modify the management plan to increase Kodiak's herring harvest without disadvantaging the gillnet fleet. The local advisory committee didn't take action on these proposals because solving the issue needed more of an iterative format between managers and fishermen.

Old Harbor fishermen oppose proposals 51 and 52 regarding the timing of westside Kodiak salmon openings. We share some of Karluk's concerns about the impact of the Commercial fishery on the "in river" sport fishery. However, the management challenge in Karluk is curbing over escapement and staff needs maximum flexibility to accomplish this. Nevertheless, the Board may want to explore moving the commercial seine fishery back off if the river mouth a short distance, say to the end of the spit to the north and to tangle foot beach south of the village.

Modifying the Igvak salmon accounting method, proposal 53, appears to be another, albeit small, cut in Kodiak's Igvak allocation. We strongly believe that the solution at Igvak is a stock separation study and we would encourage the Board, rather than modifying the Igvak accounting, to pass a resolution supporting funding for an Igvak stock separation analysis.

Proposals 56 and 57 to change the Moser-Olga Bay opening times and to change the allocation to the Olga Bay fishery are strongly opposed by Old Harbor fishermen. These issues have been addressed by every Board of Fisheries for the past 30 years. There isn't any new information that would support changes to the current management plan.

The two proposals of highest priority to my constituency are proposals 54 to modify the N. Shelikof management plan and proposal 59 to establish a Kodiak troll fishery.

It's time to modify the N. Shelikof management plan. Local sockeye stocks on Afognak Island and on the mainland account for more than the 15,000 sockeye that trigger the sever closures throughout the seaward zone. Proposal 54 seeks to allow the Kodiak seine fleet, once the cap is met, to fish next to the shore -one set out – for local stocks. This was done by the Board in the S.W. Afognak section 6 years ago and has not resulted in any increase in interception.

Some history is important here. In 1988 there was a large Cook Inlet run and the weather was calm. It was said that grandmother could have water skied from Cape Alitak to Homer that summer. The Kodiak seine fleet numbered in excess of 300 vessels and they had traditionally fished throughout the Shelikof Straits– out past the 3 mile zone. That summer, with these conditions, it was believed that a number of Cook Inlet bound sockeye were captured in the Kodiak area. The Board reacted by clarifying that the area outside 3 miles was closed and setting caps in the N. Afognak and S.W. Afognak areas.. During the next 4 board cycles Cook Inlet fishermen proposed numerous additional closures for the Kodiak area. However with time and additional data, it became clear that when Cook Inlet runs are closer to average, or less than about 5 million sockeye, there just isn't the availability of Cook Inlet fish in the Kodiak area. Consequently, the Board rejected additional Cook Inlet sockeye related Kodiak area closures and opened up the S.W. Afognak ½ mile zone. During the same time, local sockeye runs have increased, the seine fleet has decreased by 2/3rds down to about 100 vessels and normal weather patters have resumed. There is now little risk that a ½ mile zone in the N. Afognak area will adversely impact Cook Inlet stocks. The advantage of the change is to restore some historical fishing spots for local fishermen — especially the guys from Ouzinkie and Port Lions.

Proposal 59 to establish the Kodiak troll fishery has had an interesting history. 3 years ago the Board tabled a parallel proposal. This proposal became a catalyst for the Board's restructuring committee and subsequent restructuring protocols. The current proposal is in the regular " board proposal" format and it was my understanding that, once tabled to the restructuring track, the additional "restructuring" information would be requested.. Consequently, I would ask that you table proposal 59 and address it as a restructuring proposal under whatever time frame you develop. I look forward to working with the Board and staff to see this proposal through the restructuring process.

Attached to my testimony is information about two policy issues that I believe the Board should Address. The first is Kodiak area sockeye escapement goals. I would suggest that the

Department's resources would be better used and the Board would have better information for decisions if each of Kodiak's three major sockeye system escapement goals were reviewed every 9 years, or about 1 ½ life cycles. This is particularly true with a complex system like Karluk. It's easy to get into the details about brood tables, limnology and return per spawners when talking about escapement goals. Nevertheless, it's very important for the Board to see the larger, overall picture, and realize that you need to review at least one life cycle before you know whether or not your escapement goals are working. The new escapement goals for Karluk were set just three years ago and radically reduced the escapement numbers. We need to wait a few more years before we know if the goals are working. Here too I would recommend a Board resolution for additional limnology analysis funding for the Kodiak Management Area.

The second policy issue of concern is the inability for the Department to adjust openings or closures for weather. My attachment highlights the problem. Last summer a closure was announced with a forecast of N.W. 45 gusting to 60. I contacted the Department but they felt they could not act without guidelines. Consequently, a fleet of small skiffs felt compelled to go out to take up their gear. One skiff sunk with two crew barely rescued. Only a few years ago two set gillnet crew drowned in similar conditions. Just this week, in the Kodiak tanner crab fishery, the opening was postponed due to a weather forecast of 35 knots or more. This is for vessels far larger than set gillnet skiffs. I'm just suggesting that, at a minimum, the same weather guidelines used for the tanner crab fishery be used for the setnet skiff fishery.

I would also like to commend the local Kodiak Advisory Committee. I believe the Board should be aware that this is one of the best Advisory Committees in the State and helps set a standard for what an advisory committee should be -- diversity, open discussion and compromise where possible. Of course there are some issues that confound a local advisory committee. However, for all but a few proposals, the local advisory committee has done a thorough and commendable job.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Memorandum

To: **Alaska Board of Fisheries**

RC 29

CC: **Patti Nelson**
Jim McCullough

From: **Duncan Fields**

Date: **January 9,2008**

Re: **Kodiak Sockeye Escapement Goals**

Problem:

Recommended changes to Karluk sockeye escapement goals just three years after intensive escapement goal evaluation and radical adjustment to escapement goals. These recommendations come from the Department's understanding that intensive escapement goal evaluations should be done for all Kodiak sockeye systems each Board cycle and results in escapement goal changes recommended long before the "results" or returning fish show whether or not the prior escapement goal was a good benchmark for Maximum Sustained Yield.

Solution:

Wait one or two more Board cycles (6 or 9 years) before adjusting the Karluk escapement goals so that the earlier goals can be better evaluated. Also, put the three major Kodiak sockeye systems (Karluk, Ayakulik and Frazer- Akalura-Upper Station) on a cycle so that just one system is reviewed each Board cycle. Finally, Pass a resolution supporting additional funding for ongoing limnology and fry migration work on Karluk lake and other Kodiak sockeye systems.

Discussion:

The Karluk sockeye system is incredibly complex. There are two distinct sockeye runs into Karluk Lake and the Karluk brood table indicates 19 age class combinations that can result from a single brood stock with the oldest age class at 9 years and the oldest numerically significant class at 7 years. Consequently, it takes about 7 years to evaluate return per spawner ratios and to complete a fairly complete picture of the relationship between an escapement and the subsequent returns.

During the last Board meeting, 3 years ago, the Department recommended substantially reducing the Karluk escapement goals. The range for the early run was reduced from (150,000-250,000) spawners to a range of (100,000 to 210,000) spawners and the late run escapement goal was reduced from (400,000-550,000) spawners to a

range of (170,000 to 380,000) spawners. Combined this was a reduction of 175,000 spawners (50%) on the low end and 210,000 spawners (25%) on the high end.

The Department's current (2007) Karluk assessment indicates that two of the three additional data points from the Board's last meeting are at the high end of Karluk returns. These new points represent three out of only about twenty and serve to "pull" the model toward a higher escapement goal. As a consequence of the "model", the Department's current recommendation is to increase the low end of the early run by 10,000 spawners (10%) and the upper end by 40,000 fish or about 20%.

Three years ago the Department worked hard to convince fishermen that lower escapement goals were needed. (The Board may remember that fishermen and processors have long supported rehabilitation efforts for Karluk and bringing the Karluk sockeye back to its historical prominence. In fact, fishermen and processors voluntarily funded the first couple of years of fertilization for the lake.) Eventually, the Department persuaded fishermen that the radically reduced escapement goals were needed and the expectation was that we would see the change through and evaluate the results.

Now, however, with this new recommendation, there will not be much of an evaluation of the earlier recommendations. These new data points came from the prior escapement goals, not the new goals set three years ago. None of the information in the current model is derived from these new escapement goals. Shouldn't we see if something works before we try to change it?

The Board should also be aware of a number of caveats throughout the Department's discussion of Karluk escapements. "Data prior to 1985 contained substantial errors and several Karluk rehabilitation activities may have altered the natural state of the spawner-recruit relationship." Prior fertilization efforts may well account for the significantly higher spawner-return data points of the last three years --- not escapement per se. Also, one of the big assumptions about Karluk is the assigned of Westside Kodiak sockeye to the system. There is limited stock separation information for about Kodiak's west side stocks. These types of uncertainties should further encourage the Board to be cautious about 3 year adjustments to escapement goals.

Finally, in informal discussions, several Department personal didn't seem too concerned about waiting to adjust Karluk escapement goals. The three year review of sockeye escapements in Karluk (as well as other sockeye systems) does not allow for the inclusion and analysis of much additional information and may not provide the time needed for adequate peer review and inter-departmental discussions --- especially with management staff. In addition, the current work load to assess all Kodiak sockeye escapement goals every 3 years does not allow time for much input from the "social sciences" side – the users and communities that rely on the resources. If the Board were to think about an informal general directive to look, in depth, at each of Kodiak's major sockeye systems every 9 years with a goal toward adjusting escapement goals, the Department could provide a much fuller and thoughtful analysis for the Board's consideration. Of course, if anything unusual or unexpected or of biological concern occurred with Karluk or another sockeye system the Department and the Board should still act annually or on cycle.

Memorandum

To: Alaska Board of Fisheries

Cc: **Denby Lloyd**
John Hilsinger
Jim McCullough

RC 30

From: **Duncan Fields**
Date: **January 8,2008**

Subject: **Weather Guidelines For Set Net Area Salmon Closures On Kodiak**

Problem:
During the 2007 salmon season a closure was announced in the commercial fishery in late July when the weather forecast for the Shelikof Straits was N.W. 45 knots gusting to 60 knots. The weather was expected to diminish the following day. I contacted the Department and requested a 24 hour closure delay. After discussion, the Department was hesitant to modify the closure, once announced, because they did not have criteria for weather related management decisions and some fisherman may have acted on the initial announcement. The Department's decision put a substantial number of small skiff fishermen "at risk" in attempting to pull up set net gear during gale force winds. At least one skiff was sunk and the crewmen narrowly survived. (Several years ago, in a similar situation, 3 Kodiak setnetters drowned.) "Safety at Sea" is an important criteria for evaluating and modifying fisheries management (Magnuson-Stevens Act Management Plans – criteria 6) and should be incorporated into Alaska salmon management plans for some of the small boat fisheries.

Solution:
The Board of Fisheries should generate a "board proposal" to adopt language similar to the language used for weather related delays in the opening of the Kodiak Tanner Crab Fishery. The language would read: Except for biological concerns, a commercial salmon opening in the Northwest Section of the Kodiak Management Area shall not start or end if the preceding day's 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service forecast for the current day (day of opening or closure) for the Shelikof Strait area contains gale force wind warnings (35 knots or higher) and a commercial salmon opening in the Olga-Moser Bay Section of the Kodiak Management Area shall not start or end if the preceding day's 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service forecast for the current day (day of opening or closure) and night for the "Shuyak to Sitkinak" area contains gale force wind warnings (35 knots or higher.)

Factors to Consider:

1. **Set gill nets are the only type of Commercial Salmon gear that is not mobile (fish wheels excepted). Frequently, by the time a high wind forecast is announced, it's already too difficult to get to the gear to put it out or take it up.**

2. **The set gillnet fleet in Kodiak consists of smaller (14-25 ft) open skiffs. These vessels are generally not safe in gale force winds. Also, Much of the work of putting out or taking up a set gillnet occurs close to the beach and in the "surf" when winds are high. Small vessels, with outboard motors, operating in the rolling surf leave little margin for error.**

3. **Most fishermen work very hard to obey opening and closing regulations. It puts tremendous pressure on law abiding fishermen when the weather is bad and a closure is announced to "try to get the gear up". In the scope of the season, this type of "crisis" is generally un-necessary. The Kodiak salmon season is approximately 120 days. Consequently, there is often little or no impact on the overall fishery if an opening or closing is delayed a day or two.**

4. **Weather related openings or closings, as proposed, have a "biological concern" over-ride, if there would be an adverse biological impact on the fishery due to delay, the Department could act.**

5. **This type of regulation gives area managers objective guidance to act on behalf of the fleet.**

6. **Fish quality suffers in adverse weather, this regulation would incrementally enhance fish quality. Also, delayed openings would reduce "drop out" dead loss in the fishery due to bad weather.**

7. **This a "fair start" for all setnet fishermen in a management section. Currently, when weather is adverse, some portion of the setnet fleet is unable to fish while more protected sites are productive**

8. **When an opening is extended, all parties benefit. Protected sites enjoy additional fishing time while exposed sites do not have to risk injury, death or loss of equipment to take out gear in adverse weather**

9. **This regulation is limited to those sections of the Kodiak Management Area where set gill nets are allowed. It does not effect the "seine only" sections, since these fishermen can move away from the weather.**

10. **The seine fleet is not disadvantaged by the provision. In the Olga-Moser Bay area, the seine fleet fishes "in front of" the gill net area and in the Northwest Kodiak section, the seine fleet would continue to be able to compete should the opening be extended.**

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

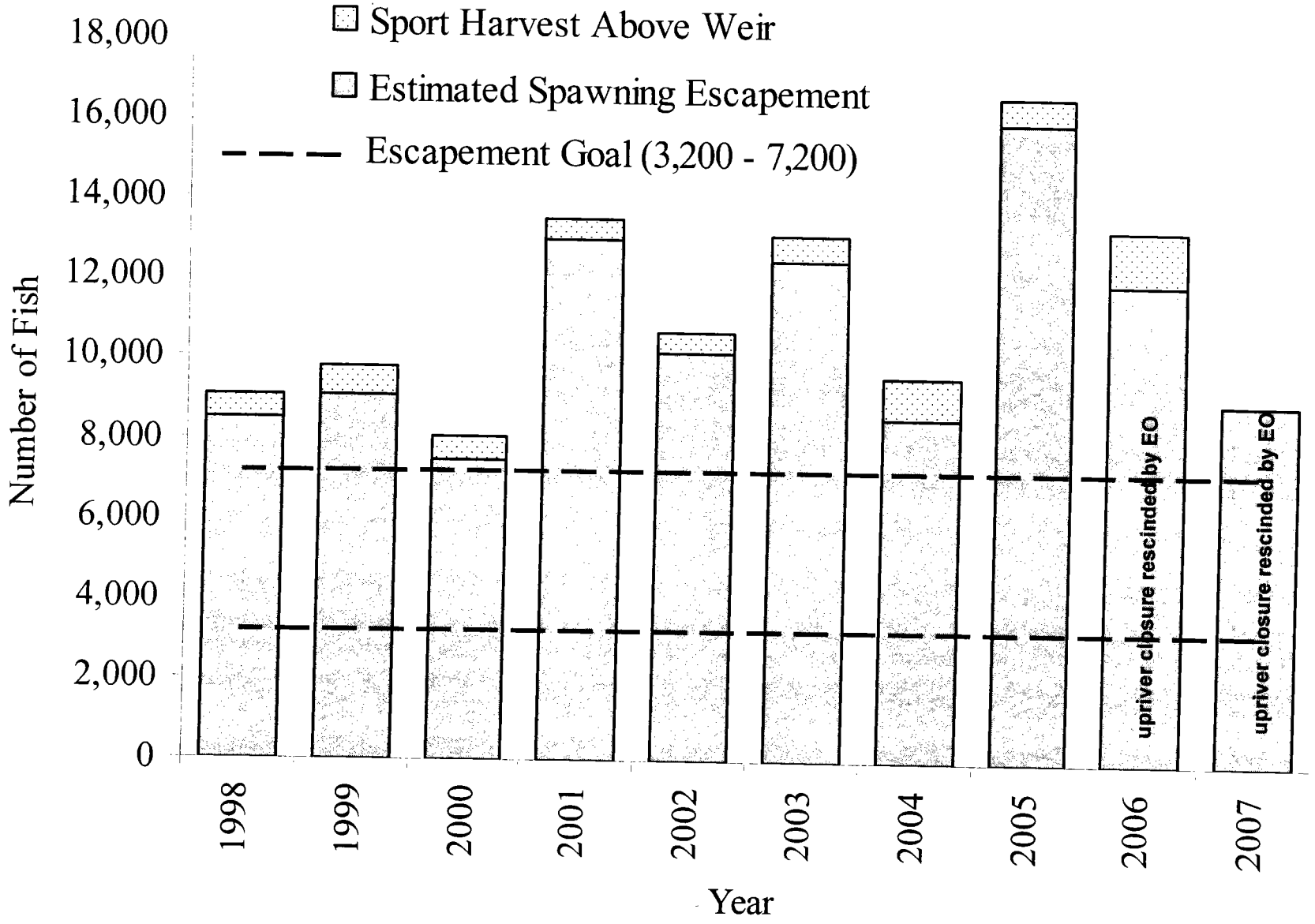
KODIAK FINFISH

JANUARY 14-18, 2008

Deliberations Materials for Sport Fish Proposals (#60-72)

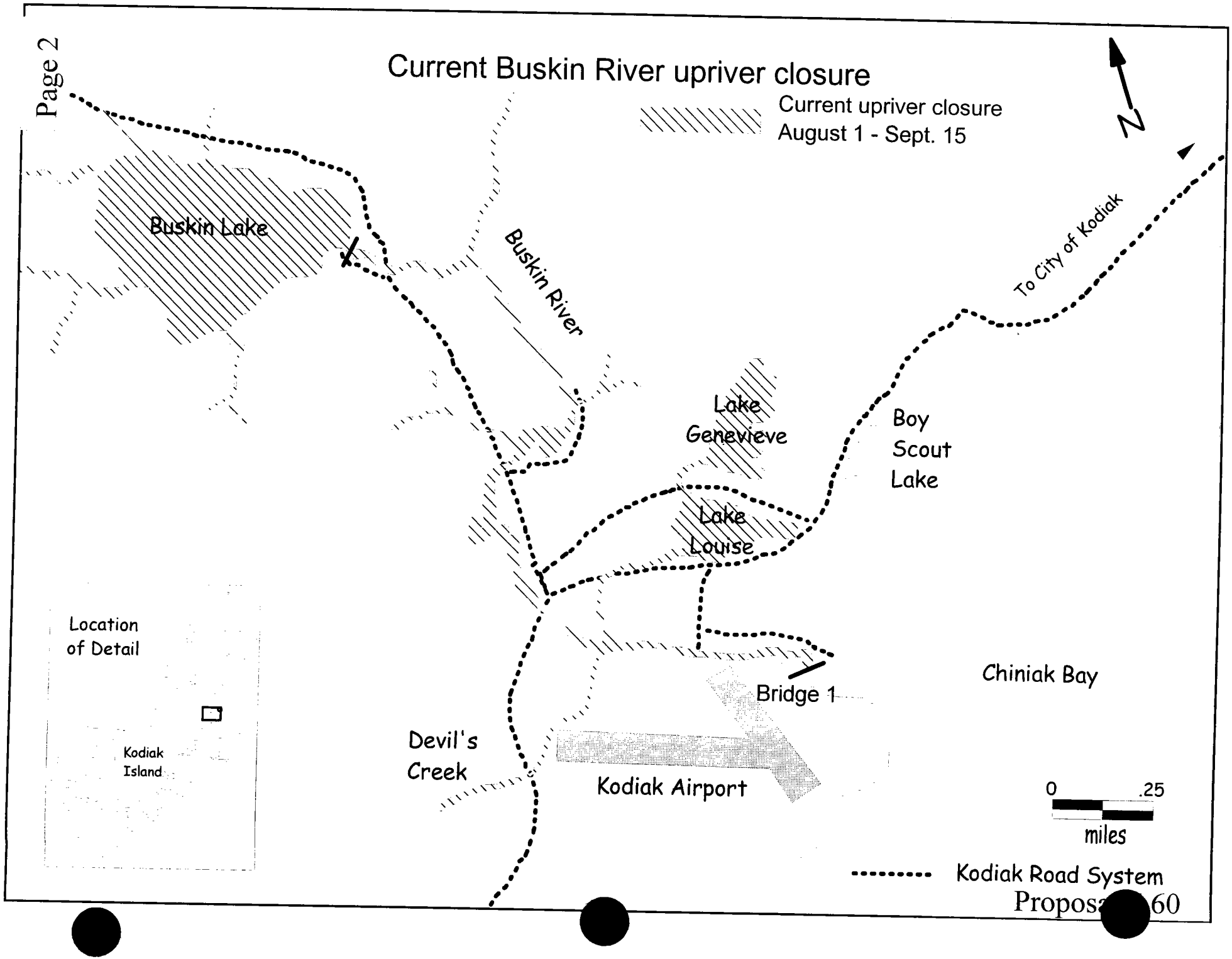
RC # 31

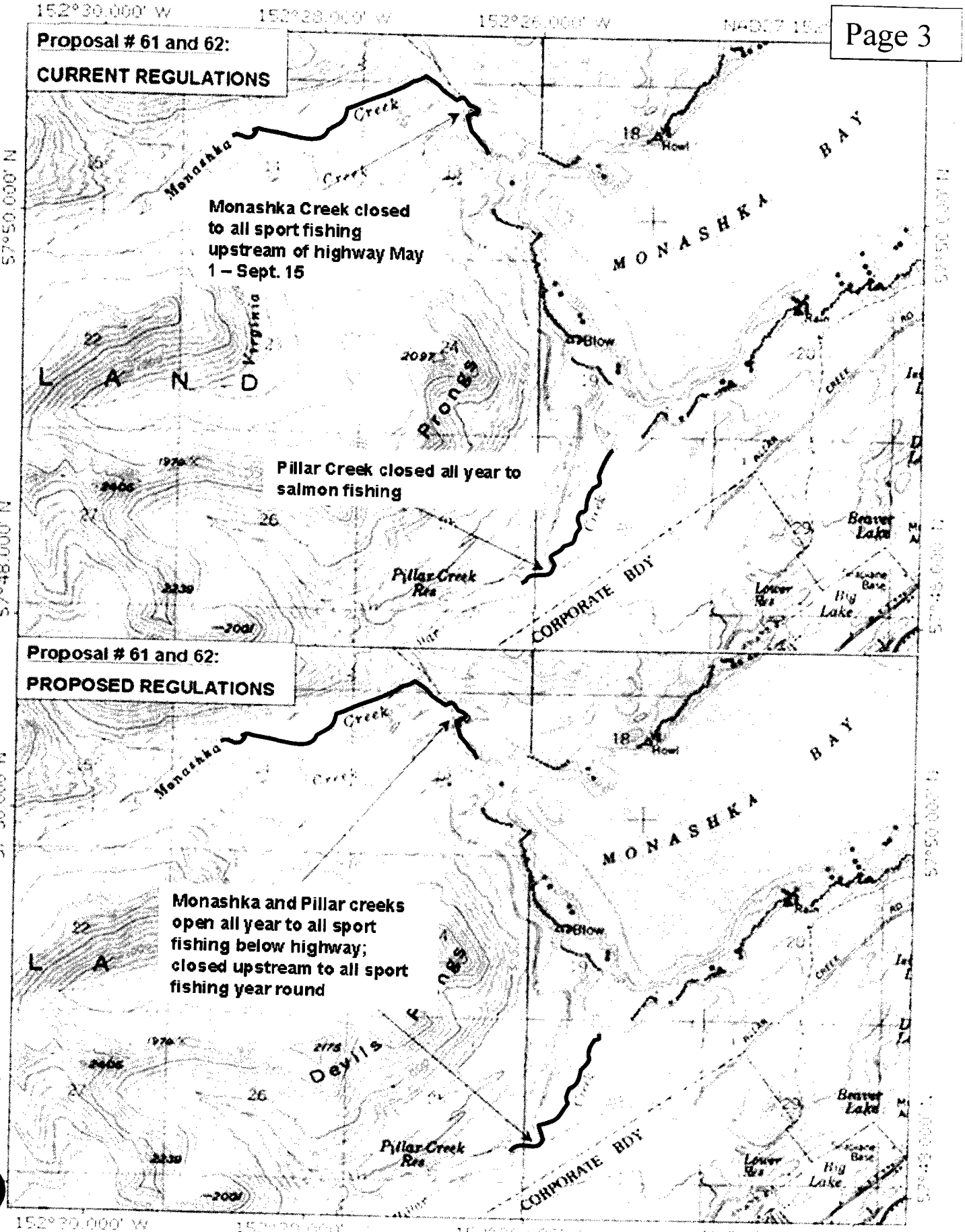
Buskin River Coho Salmon Sport Harvest and Escapement, 1998-2007.



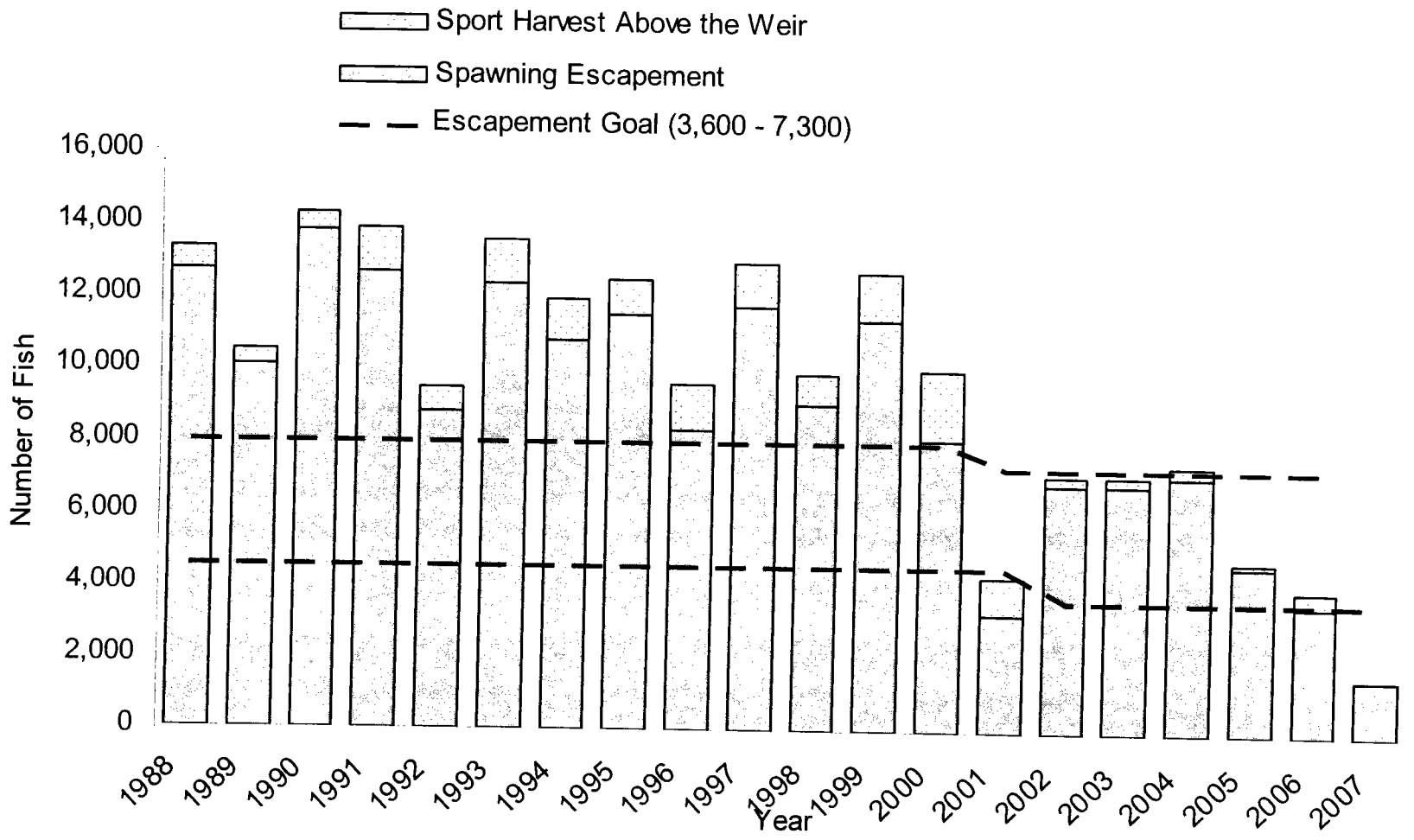
Source: ADFG Sport Fish Division – Kodiak Office

Proposal 60


Current Buskin River upriver closure
Current upriver closure
August 1 - Sept. 15
N
Buskin Lake
Buskin River
To City of Kodiak
Lake Genevieve
Boy Scout Lake
Lake Louise
Location of Detail
Kodiak Island
Chiniak Bay
Bridge 1
Devil's Creek
Kodiak Airport
0
.25
miles
Kodiak Road System


Proposal # 61 and 62:
CURRENT REGULATIONS
Monashka Creek closed to all sport fishing upstream of highway May 1 – Sept. 15
Pillar Creek closed all year to salmon fishing
Proposal # 61 and 62:
PROPOSED REGULATIONS
Monashka and Pillar creeks open all year to all sport fishing below highway; closed upstream to all sport fishing year round
MONASHKA BAY
LAND
Pillar Creek Res
CORPORATE BDY
Beaver Lake
Big Lake
152°30.000' W
152°28.000' W
152°26.000' W
57°50.000' N
57°48.000' N

Karluk River King Salmon Escapement, 1988-2007.



Source: ADFG Sport Fish Division – Kodiak Office

Karluk River King Salmon Inriver Sport Fishery Daily Average and Total Anglers* between June 10 and July 15, 2003-2007.

	Daily Average			
Year	Guided	Unguided	All Anglers	Total Angler Days
2003	13	8	20	731
2004	18	8	25	915
2005	15	7	22	804
2006	20	12	29	1,052
2007	14	8	22	801

*Includes all guided anglers fishing upstream of Karluk Lagoon, and all unguided anglers fishing Karluk River betw een Karluk Lake and low er boundary the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge

Karluk River Total Inriver King Salmon Catch* thru July 15, 2003-2006, plus Total Catch by Guided Anglers only, 2007.**

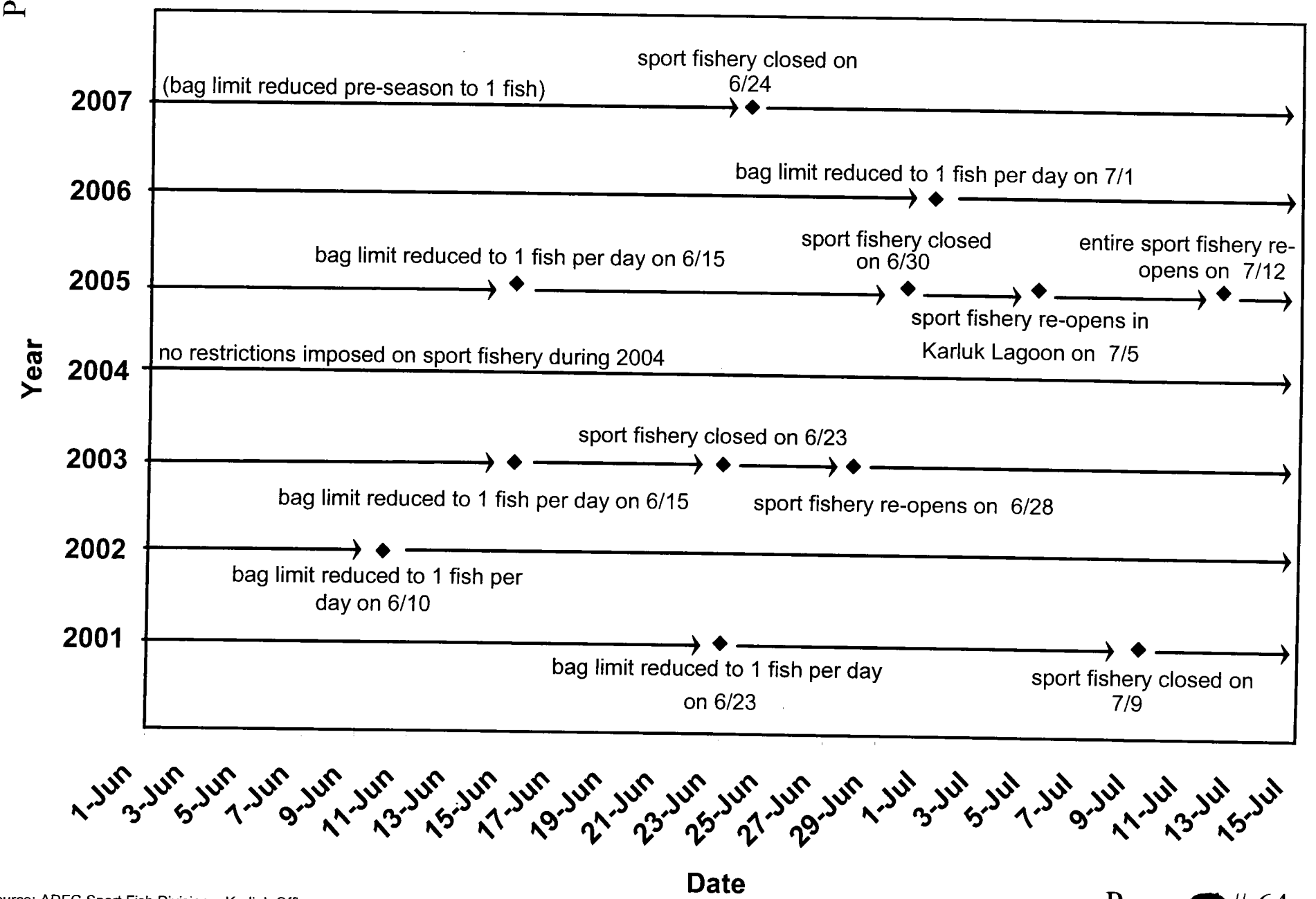
Year	Harvested	Released
2003	291	1,513
2004	719	1,359
2005	192	132
2006	761	392
Guided Anglers Only		
2007	146	368

*2003-2006 figures from upriver angler census.

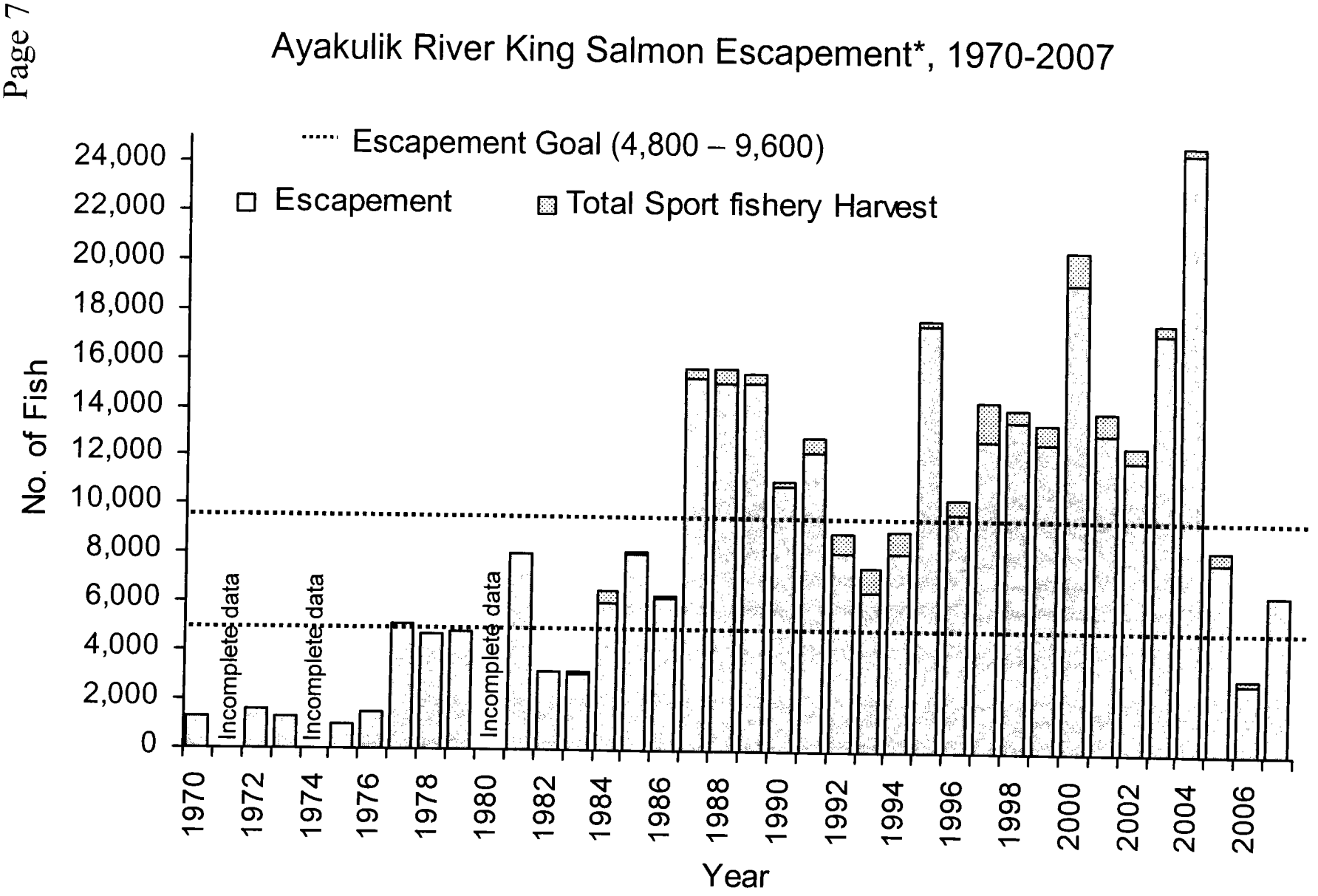
**2007 figures from ADF&G log books.

Source: ADF&G Sport Fish Division – Kodiak Office
Upd[illegible]12/24/07

Karluk River King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Actions, 2001-2007

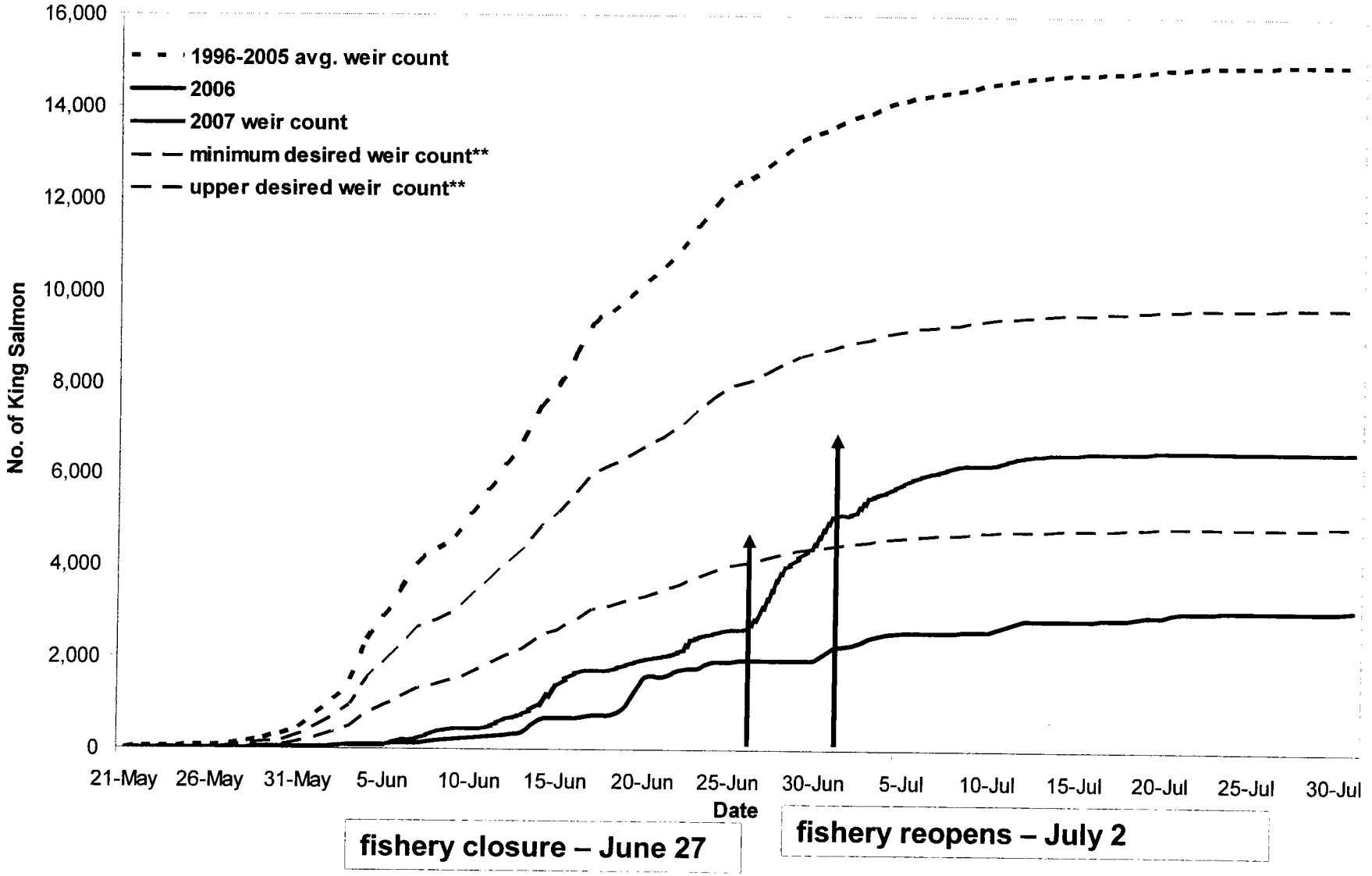


Source: ADFG Sport Fish Division – Kodiak Office



*Escapement = weir count - total sport harvest

Ayakulik River King Salmon run timing, 1996-2007.



** desired weir count includes an estimated upriver sport harvest of 100 fish based on 2006 survey data

Ayakulik River King Salmon Sport Fishery Daily Average and Total Anglers* between June 1 and July 7, 2003-2004, plus Daily and Total Guided Anglers only between June 1 and July 25, 2005-2007.

	Daily Average			
Year	Guided	Unguided	All Anglers	Total Angler Days
2003	14	22	37	1,625
2004	11	24	36	1,331
Guided Anglers Only				
2005	12	-	-	611
2006	17	-	-	525
2007	11	-	-	562

Ayakulik River Sport Fishery Total King and Sockeye Salmon Catch between June 1 and July 7, 2003-2004, plus Total Catch by Guided Anglers only between June 1 and July 25, 2005-2007.

	King Salmon		Sockeye Salmon	
Year	Harvested	Released	Harvested	Released
2003	434	4,312	807	3,287
2004	401	7,049	676	3,221
Guided Anglers Only				
2005	232	2,521	789	2,396
2006*	54	884	525	1,913
2007**	116	1,688	658	1,662

*2006 king and sockeye salmon sport fisheries closed by EO for season on July 1.

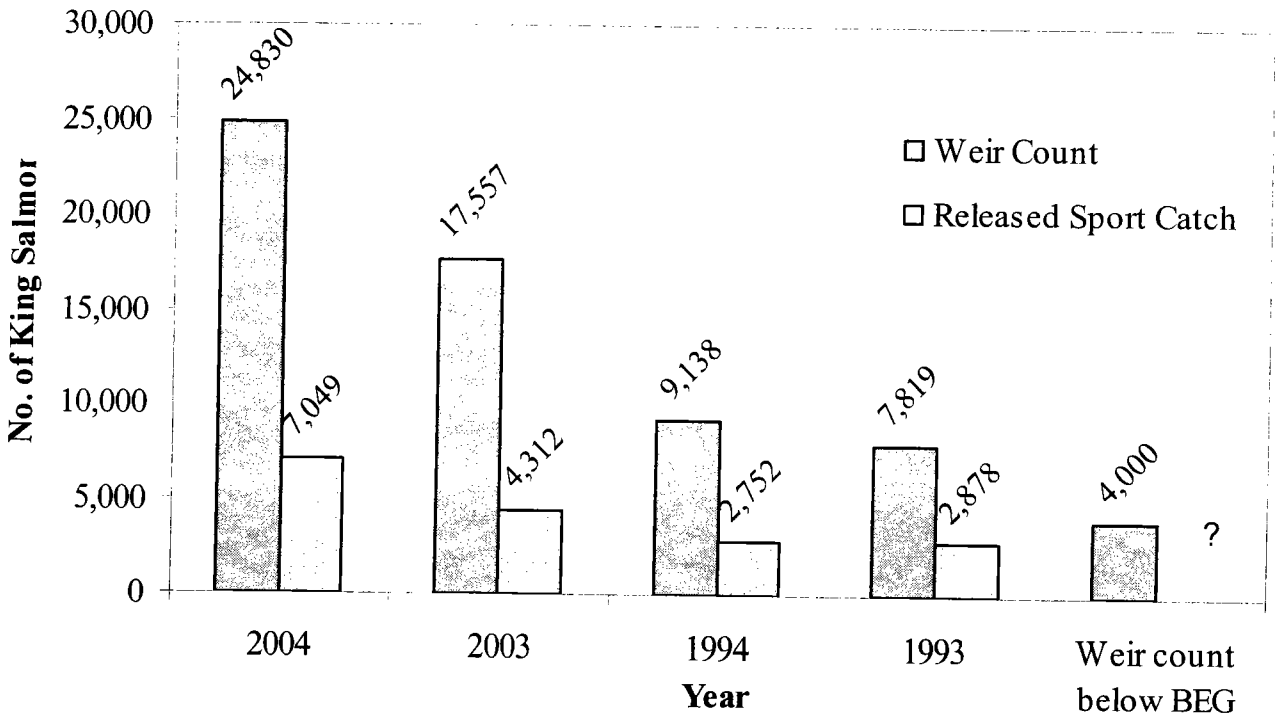
**2007 king salmon sport fishery closed by EO June 27-July 2; sockeye salmon sport fishery closed by EO June 27 - July 28.

Source: ADF&G Sport Fish Division – Kodiak Office
Updated: 12/24/07

Ayakulik River King Salmon Weir Counts vs. Released Sport Catch and Associated Hooking Mortality

Year	Weir Count	Released Sport Catch*	Estimated Hooking Mortality**
1993	7,819	2,878	201
1994	9,138	2,752	193
2003	17,557	4,312	302
2004	24,830	7,049	493

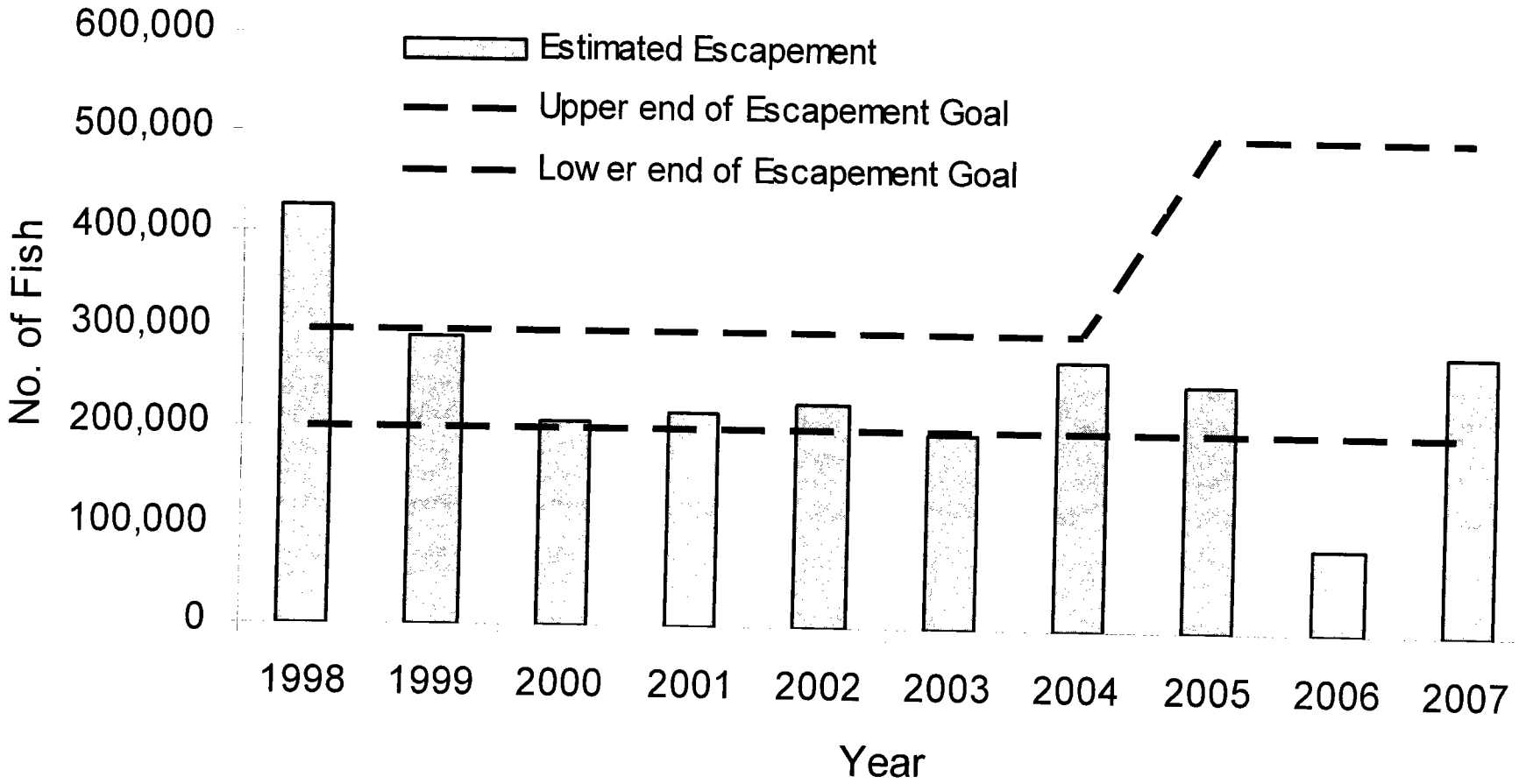
*Catch figures from on site angler census conducted in 1993-1994, and again in 2003-2004.
**Hooking mortality = 7% of released catch.



Source: ADFG Sport Fish Division – Kodiak Office

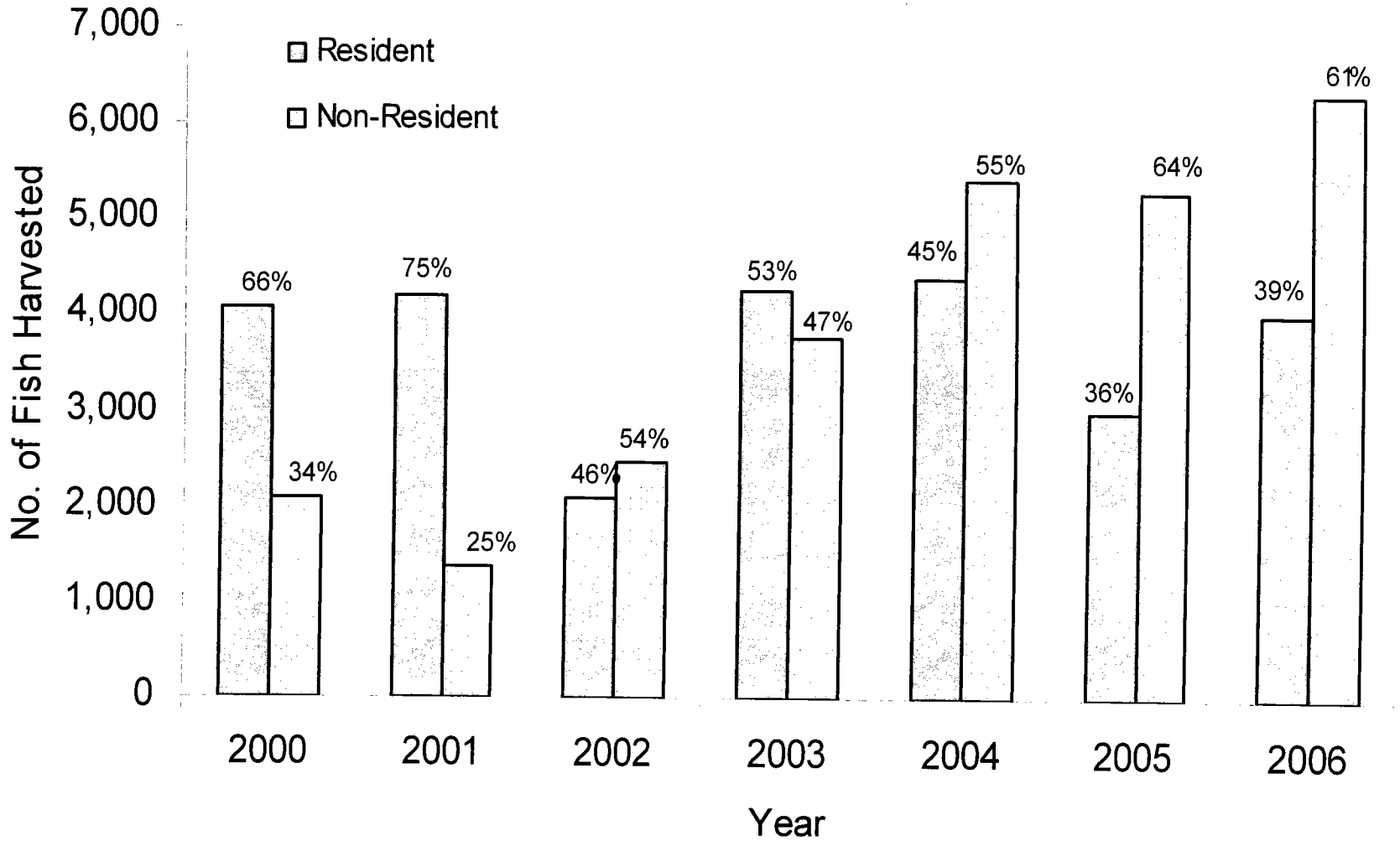
Proposal # 65

Ayakulik River Sockeye Salmon Escapement, 1998-2007



Source: ADFG Sport Fish Division – Kodiak Office

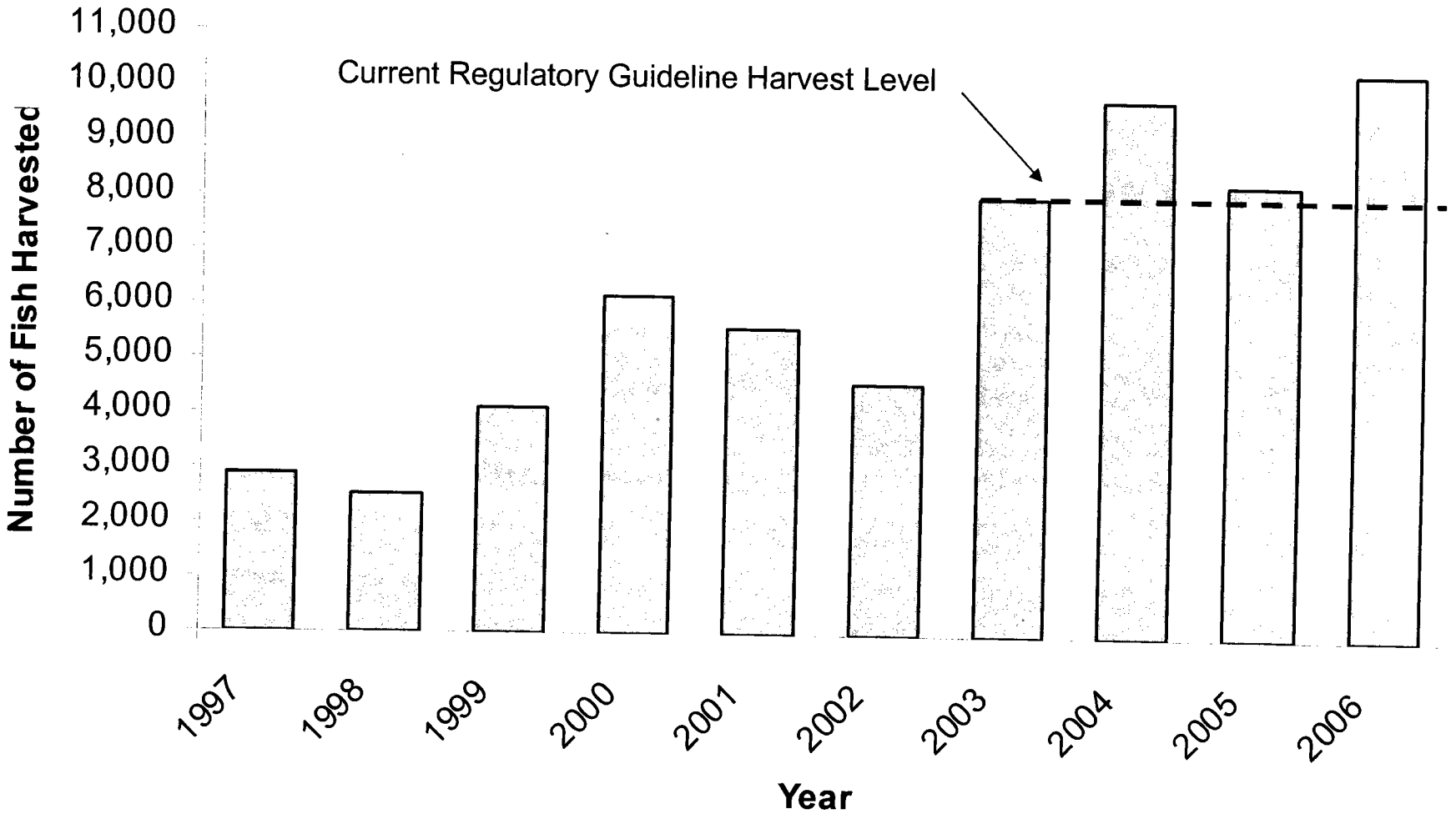
Total Kodiak Saltwater King Salmon Harvest by Residency, 2000-2006.



Source: ADFG Sport Fish Division – Kodiak Office

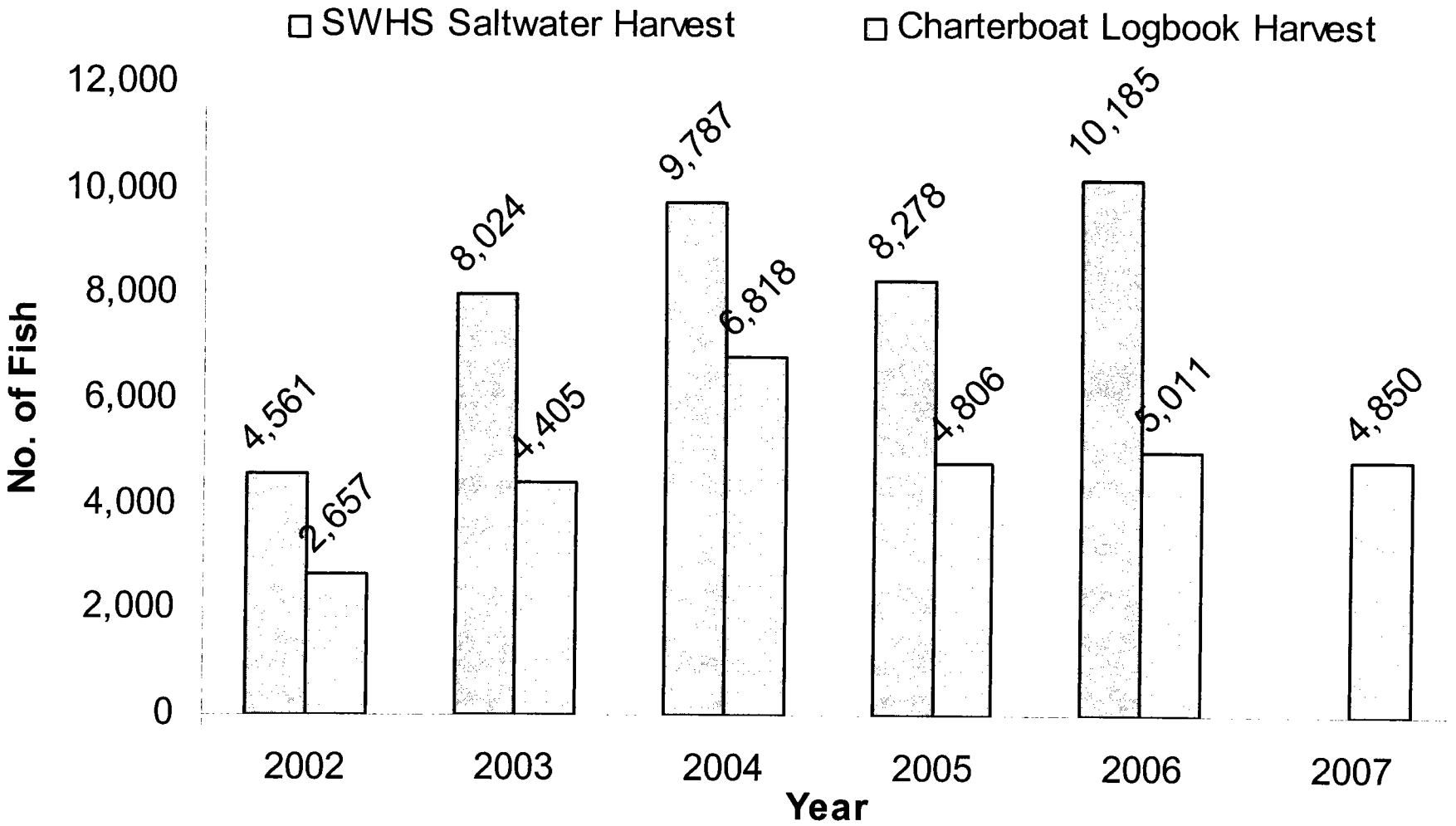
Proposal # 71

Kodiak Regulatory Area Saltwater King Salmon Sport Fishery Harvest, 1997-2006.



Source: ADFG Sport Fish Division – Kodiak Office; harvest estimate from ADFG statewide harvest survey

Kodiak Total Saltwater King Salmon Harvest as reported in SWHS vs. Harvest reported for Guided Anglers only in Charter Boat Logbooks, 2002-2007.



Source: ADFG Sport Fish Division – Kodiak Office

Sport Fishing Charter Boats Operating in Kodiak Waters, 2003-2007

	Charter Boats Operating in Kodiak Waters	
Year	Home ported in Kodiak	Not home ported in Kodiak
2003	105	11
2004	87	15
2005	99	28
2006	105	26
2007	111	17

Source: ADF&G logbook database.

Source: ADFG Sport Fish Division – Kodiak Office

Updated: 12/27/07

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

January 12, 2008

pc 32

Subject: Kodiak Area Finfish Proposals 51, 52, 56, and 57

Dear Mel Morris (Chairman) and the Board of Fisheries:

We appreciate your consideration of our comments on proposals 51, 52, 56, and 57 when you make regulatory changes at the January, 2008 BOF meeting in Kodiak, Alaska

Proposal 51 5AAC 18362 Westside Kodiak Management Plan.
Proposal 52 5AAC 18.310 Fishing Seasons.

SUPPORT

We would like to see the pulse management method currently applied to the Alitak Bay District commercial salmon fishery extended to the Westside Management Plan. This would prevent the catch of Olga Bay sockeye salmon stocks bound for Alitak District from being caught in substantial numbers within the Westside Management area for the following reasons:

- Strengthen the sockeye salmon stock returns to Alitak Bay District and Westside Management area.
- Having fished commercial gillnet salmon in the Alitak District (Alitak, Moser, Olga bays) for the last fourteen years (salmon seasons) and in that time have observed and/or researched the following:

1. Substantial numbers of Olga Bay salmon stocks have been caught within the Westside Management area during critical salmon migration periods and lengthy fishing periods.

2. ADF&G sockeye tagging studies, the return of gillnet marked sockeye observed by both fishers and ADF&G weir personnel in the Alitak District.

3. Poor salmon stock returns and salmon catch within the Alitak District during salmon seasons when openers where implemented for lengthy periods (weeks to 30 days in length) within the Westside Management area and during critical time periods of Olga Bay salmon stock migration along the Westside of Kodiak Island.

Proposal 56 5AAC 18.361 Elimination of equal and staggered times for fishing periods within Alitak District.

STRONGLY OPPOSE

We oppose the return to equal and concurrent fishing times and support the continuation of equal and staggered fishing periods within the Alitak District for the following reasons:

- Equal and staggered times was only implemented three years ago during poor sockeye salmon stock returns and therefore there is no significant evidence to suggest equal and staggered times is not effective and/or poses a problem for fishermen in the Alitak District.
- We have participated and exhibited full fishing effort in all three bays, (Olga, Moser, and Alitak) of the Alitak District over the past three seasons and are unique in that we are the only fishers in the Alitak District that own and operate salmon gillnet sites in all three bays of Alitak District. We have experienced two significant factors: One, an increase in the efficiency of tendering services because staggered catches contributed to an increase in the quality of salmon product to processors and buyers by reducing the length of time salmon leaves the water and reaches processors. Two, we believe it has increased safety for fishermen in the Alitak District by reducing the waiting time fishermen are in rough weather, poor conditions, and/or darkness in order to sell their fish.
- Being among the few fishermen in the Alitak District that can testify to implementing full fishing effort in all three bays over the past three fishing seasons since the equal and staggered openers have been implemented, we consistently observed the majority of fishers in Olga bay choosing not to exhibit full fishing effort during fishing periods. Most fishermen in Olga bay with the exception of ourselves and a few others have consistently pulled their gear the day prior to the closure reducing their fishing time twelve hours or more and in turn reducing their salmon catch. We have exhibited a consistent effort over the past three years fishing the full fishing periods in all three Alitak District bays including Olga Bay pulling our gear within two hours of the set closure times which has resulted in a significant impact on our seasonal salmon catches.

Proposal 57 5AAC 18.361 Alitak District Salmon Management Plan change for allocation to Olga Bay.

STRONGLY OPPOSE

As salmon sockeye fishers (Olga Bay permit owner) of Olga Bay we strongly oppose this proposal for allocation of salmon catch within Olga bay for the following reasons:

- We believe it to be similar to the Chignik Co-op allocative plan and therefore unconstitutional.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Ed Fisher Judy Fisher Corina Watt

Edwin Fisher
Judy Fisher
Jason Watt
Corina Watt
Alitak Bay Setnet Fishermen
P.O. BOX ALZ
Kodiak, AK 99615

Comments to the Board of Fisheries on proposals 38, 39 and 40
(Closure of Alitak Bay to pelagic pollock trawling or require 100% observer coverage)

Al Burch, Executive Director, Alaska Draggers Association

FC33

January 14, 2008

Mr. Chairman and members of the Board,

My name is Al Burch. I am 71 years old and came to Alaska in 1946 when I was ten years old. I have lived in Alaska for 61 years. I'll admit I was absent from Alaska for a couple of years since I was drafted into the Army in 1959 and served until 1961. Otherwise, all my years in Alaska have been directly connected to the waterfront.

My first job was cracking clams so that we could use them for hanging bait for Dungeness crab fishing. After graduation from Seward High School, I worked on a log tow boat and then a harbor tug for the Alaska Freight liner moving barges. I sold my two airplanes and a 1956 Ford Victory and partnered up with my brother investing money in our first commercial fishing boat, the Marigold, built in 1898. We converted the vessel so we could fish shrimp; the shrimp fishery was in the very early stages of exploration and development then. We upgraded and bought the Vita and then the schooner Celtic. When the earthquake hit in 1964 we were wiped out in Seward and had to start all over again.

My brother and I purchased the Endeavour next, an 85 foot herring and tuna seiner out of Long Beach, California. We converted the boat to fish king crab since all the shrimp plants had been wiped out by the earthquake. Ocean Beauty Seafoods helped us out with the purchase of the pots; we were only allowed thirty pots in those days. Ocean Beauty formed a Joint Venture with Korea and asked us to convert back to shrimp and deliver to Port Williams. The Koreans disappeared and stuck us and Ocean Beauty with one million pounds of processed shrimp. We then fished for Dave Woodruff and Roy Feurfort delivering shrimp and some crab to the Sonia in Old Harbor, that processor burned so we were again without a market.

A new plant was built in Kodiak, B and B Fisheries, and Oral and I were offered a job fishing shrimp. The Shrimp market was improving and the biomass was increasing. B and B Fisheries offered to help us buy another boat if we would put it to work for them delivering shrimp. We bought the new vessel the Dawn in 1970. New England fish moved to town and offered us financial help if we would move our two boats to Gibson Cove and deliver to them. New England said if we didn't buy another new shrimp boat they would finance some one else to compete against us, so in 1974, we sold the Endeavour, and bought another new vessel, the Dusk. We were on top of the world - two new boats!! New England went bankrupt in short order and we had a demand note come due. Thanks to National Bank of Alaska, we survived.

Next, the shrimp and crab stocks went to hell in the late 1970's. Efforts were started to develop the whitefish fisheries. I and others made many trips to Europe to gain knowledge in whitefish harvesting, processing, and marketing. Shrimp and crab vessels were converted to otter trawl to harvest whitefish. Many of us had to put our boats into the Joint Venture fisheries in the Bering Sea, not a good place for our small Gulf boats, but there were no other opportunities. In 1978 we created the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation to receive federal dollars. AFDF used this money to give grants to processing plants in Alaska so that the cod and pollock fisheries could be developed. Alaska needed capacity on shore in order to move the foreign fleet and the Joint Ventures off the fishing grounds. This was accomplished in the early 1990's. The fisheries are now Americanized - the most diverse sustainable fisheries in the world.

The point of detailing my fishing history is to show that things change, challenges happen, fish biomasses swing up and down and to remain competitive you have to adapt. I didn't wait for the shrimp and crab to come back nor did other fishermen or processors. Now, we have year-round fisheries in Alaska. We are fortunate to have a year-round resident work force here in Kodiak. Trawling alone did not create all this but we certainly had a large part in it.

In my opinion the problem for the crab stocks is the decadal shift that happened in the late 1970's. It was not good for shellfish but did bring in high reproduction and survival of cod, pollock, halibut and other finfish: all predators of crab. Closing the trawl fleet down will not bring the crab stocks back!! Vast areas have been closed for over 25 years, yet the crab stocks have continued to decline. Other areas have been closed for sea lion issues; the crab stocks continue to be depressed. Bycatch for the trawl fisheries is not the problem for the crab stocks.

In closing, Alaska Draggers Association has been very proactive in research and promotion of all fisheries. We have not spent our time poking at the other gear types, trying to take fish away or closing fishing areas, we have been promoting all fishers and fish species. ADA realizes that for the community of Kodiak to stay economically healthy it takes all gear types to make the town go.

1/14/08

Trawlers worry about possible Alitak Bay closure

Article published on Thursday, Jan 10th, 2008
By RALPH GIBBS
Mirror Writer

Local fisherman Kurt Waters has been a part of the fishing community for about 24 years; he has given a lot to the fishery, including nearly the use of his hand.

Several years ago, as a crabber in the Bering Sea, he had the bright idea for an improvement to the crab-pot holding system.

"There are these air-dogs that usually hold the (crab) pot together," Waters said. "We were breaking the dogs, so we put hydraulic dogs on it, bringing a little trawler mentality to the crab industry."

The not-so-workable improvement ended up crushing his hand, costing him two fingers. The incident didn't deter him from continuing the fishing life or his dream of someday owning his own boat.

Now he and fellow trawl fishermen are worried and frustrated.

They are worried that a series of proposals to limit or eliminate trawl fishing in Alitak Bay will be adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in a meeting scheduled for next week.

If passed, trawl fishermen say the measures will have a tremendous economic impact on the Kodiak 40-vessel trawl fleet and the trawl community.

"In terms of the volume for the fleet, pollock is probably the biggest moneymaker," said Julie Bonney, executive director of the Alaska Groundfish Data Bank in Kodiak. "As much as 70 percent of the 620 (fishing area) quota comes out of that bay. It's a really important fishery area."

Waters said that in 2006 he caught 7 million pounds of fish.

"A million pounds of it came out of y," he said.

Fish and Game estimates pollock harvested from Alitak Bay in 2007 at 4.9 million pounds and 5.6 million in 2006.

The largest harvest was 11.7 million in 2004.

"It's not just the trawl fleet that benefits from the trawlers," local fisherman Alvin Burch said. "Each vessel creates two days work for 140 people every time we deliver."

Waters said the closure would represent just another of the dwindling areas where he and other trawlers can't fish. There are already a number of closures because of the Steller sea lion habitat protection measures, which is one reason trawlers say they can't relocate as easily as others might think.

"When they were discussing (the issue) at the meeting (and said), 'Well, it will be easy for these guys to fish somewhere else,' I meant what I said," Waters said. "We wouldn't be there if it was easy to catch fish somewhere else."

Waters said it's an expensive trip and takes 18 hours to get to the bay at a cost of 30 gallons of fuel per hour.

"The fleet has already given up a lot," Bonney said. "There are just not a lot of other places to go."

The study was done to gauge the impact of "trawl gear on injury rates of crab that were in the trawl path but not caught by the gear."

According to the study, of the 114 crabs recovered, five of the crabs sustained injuries and only one had injuries estimated as fatal.

Rose's study was similar.

"Unobserved mortality is a significant concern as one of the incidental effects of fishing," he wrote in his study. "In addition to direct bycatch and habitat effects, unobserved mortality has been one of the justifications used by managers for closing large areas to bottom trawling,"

In the experiment, Rose studied the rate of injuries to red king crabs after the passage of several different types of trawl gear.

Injury rates of 5, 7 and 10 percent were estimated for crabs passing under the three commercial trawl footropes.

The number of crabs captured in each tow varied from 34 to 233. Of these, 82 to 98 percent showed no signs of injury.

Rose said the two studies are a good beginning, but more research is needed.

He hopes a study he is currently working on will shed more light on the subject.

"The difference in this new study is it's going to be set up to estimate mortality, as opposed to just looking at injuries," Rose said.

In the study, to be completed later this year, researchers will hold crabs that have come in contact with trawl gear for up to a week to better determine the effects of the gear on crabs. The study will help gauge longer term effects of trawl gear.

"Another difference is this will not be just behind the footrope," Rose said. "It will also be behind the trawl and beside the trawl. Also, we'll be doing snow king and Tanner crab."

The proposals were not just concerned with trawl gear effects on crabs, but also with the effect of bycatch on other fish populations in the area such as halibut, salmon, herring, Pacific cod and Tanner crab.

According to a report generated by Fish and Game, an average of 22 vessels each year fish inside Alitak Bay.

"All Pacific salmon, Pacific herring, Tanner crab and king crab are considered prohibitive species in the pelagic trawl fishery," the report stated. "In the Gulf of Alaska, these species are required to be returned to the water and reported on fish ticket records."

From 2004 to 2007 pollock harvests totaled approximately 24.3 million pounds in Alitak Bay. Based on both fish ticket data and observer data,

The series of proposals were originally brought before the Kodiak Fish Advisory Committee by Alexus Kwachka and Peter Hannah out of concern for what they believe is the last population of king crab on the island.

"In the pelagic trawl fishing (fleet) there is a great deal of fishing actually done on the bottom," Kwachka said in his proposal. "Loss of crab due to contact with the pelagic trawl will continue and crab stocks in the area will be negatively impacted."

Hannah believes the trawlers do more than harm king crabs.

"(There is) a high potential for salmon and herring bycatch by pelagic trawl gear in Deadman's Bay on Kodiak Island," Hannah wrote in his proposal. "Salmon escapement and successful directed fisheries in Deadman's Bay will be hindered due to bycatch associated with pelagic trawling and incidental bycatch of herring will continue to affect these stocks."

Waters, Burch and Bonney said they understand the public's concern, but believe the proposals are based on emotion, not science.

Emotion

Conservation groups around the world are nearly unanimous in their condemnation of the large trawlers and have published hundreds of reports condemning their environmental impact. Greenpeace, which has led the charge against trawling vessels for years, says trawlers strip-mine the ocean and demolish ocean's ecosystem around the world.

Other environmental groups, such as Oceana and the Marine Conservation Biology Institute, also issued publications critical of trawlers.

The issue is just as emotional in Kodiak, as evidenced by several recent letters to the editor.

"I guess the question is going to be, Is the board going to react to emotion and politics or are they going to look at the scientific information in terms of doing the right thing?" Bonney asked. "Pollock fishing is a very clean fishery and it's sustainable."

Burch agreed in his Jan. 8 letter to the editor.

"It's important that people know that just because someone says something is true about trawl fishing, doesn't mean that it is true," he wrote.

What is the truth?

Roadkill research

In the last 18 years, two studies have been done on the effects of trawl gear on king crabs, one in 1990 and the other in 1996. The results of the two studies concluded that the effect was minimal.

In the 1990 study by Fish and Game researcher William Donaldson, Donaldson tethered a group of hard-shell red king crabs on the ocean's bottom, then proceeded to run over the group with trawl gear six times.

the average bycatch was less than 5 percent.

Fish ticket data had Pacific herring bycatch estimated at 1.2 percent and observer data estimated the bycatch at 0.9 percent. Fish ticket data showed Pacific herring bycatch at 1.2 percent and observer data recorded the bycatch as 1.5 percent.

King crab bycatch for the same time was estimated, based on observer data, as 59 pounds and 179 pounds for Tanner crabs.

Observers

The difference in fish ticket data and observer data leads some people to believe that more observers are necessary on trawlers. In the final proposal under consideration by the board, the proposal would require 100 percent observer data on trawl vessels inside the bay.

Trawlers balk at the idea, saying it's too expensive, as the trawler fleet will have to pay the bill.

"I've got the bill right here in my hand," Burch said. "For the month of the October, for (my boat) the Dawn, Oct. 1 and 2 ... $315 a day. I got credit for one observer day and paid for two because of travel."

He did much the same for Oct. 10-12, paying $315 a day and getting credit for only one day.

"My final bill was $2,095," Burch said.

Fish and Game supports the idea of full observer data because it would increase their knowledge base on bycatch, and also because the "Office of Law Enforcement for NMFS indicates that fishing behavior of pelagic trawl fleet is different when vessels have observer coverage."

Not so, said NMFS special agent in charge Ken Hanson.

In fact, he said he has no idea where that statement came from.

"I don't know who reportedly made that statement," Hanson said. "I don't know how or where that came from. This is totally a state issue; we don't regulate trawling in Alitak Bay."

In the end, Waters and the rest of the Kodiak trawling community just want a fair hearing, one based on facts and not emotion.

And if the bay is closed?

"We'll adapt," Waters said. "It'll be hard, it'll hurt, but we'll adapt."

Mirror writer Ralph Gibbs can be reached via e-mail at rgibbs@kodiakdailymirror.com.

Saltwater Inc.
733 N Street
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: (907) 276-3241
Fax: (907) 258-5999

Saltwater Inc.

Bill To:
F/V Dawn
PO Box 884
Kodiak AK 99615

Invoice

Invoice No.
100718

Date	Vessel Name
10/31/07	Dawn

Observer Name	Item	Description	Quantity	Rate	Amount
	Kodiak Group				
Benjamin Riedesel	OBSERVER DAYS	October 1-2	2	315.00	630.00
Eric Mooney	OBSERVER DAYS	October 10-12, 9NC, 1D	4	315.00	1,260.00
Benjamin Riedesel	AIRFARE-GROUP	NC	1	0.00	0.00
Eric Mooney	AIRFARE-GROUP	NC	1	0.00	0.00
Eric Mooney	MEALS-GROUP	Meals Portion	1	85.00	85.00
Eric Mooney	TAXIS-GROUP	Taxis Portion	1	30.00	30.00
Eric Mooney	EX BAGS-GROUP	Ex Bag Charges Portion	1	25.00	25.00
Eric Mooney	LODGING-GROUP	Lodging Portion	1	65.00	65.00
		Total			2,095.00

Terms - Net 15 days from receipt

Total $2,095.00

BURCH BROTHERS
Custom Transaction Detail Report
As of December 31, 2007

Type	Date	Num	Name	Amount
Jan - Dec 07				
Bill Pmt -Check	1/1/2007		SALTWATER, INC	-3,820.86
Bill Pmt -Check	2/16/2007	58228	SALTWATER, INC	-2,675.00
Bill Pmt -Check	3/24/2007	58243	SALTWATER, INC	-5,980.00
Bill Pmt -Check	5/17/2007	58329	SALTWATER, INC	-1,150.00
Bill Pmt -Check	6/28/2007	58400	SALTWATER, INC	-8,185.00
Bill Pmt -Check	7/6/2007	58412	SALTWATER, INC	-5,769.76
Bill Pmt -Check	7/30/2007	58449	SALTWATER, INC	-17,159.00
Bill Pmt -Check	8/20/2007	58479	SALTWATER, INC	-10,582.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/3/2007	58561	SALTWATER, INC	-1,390.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/19/2007	58533	SALTWATER, INC	-3,485.00
Bill Pmt -Check	12/28/2007	58729	SALTWATER, INC	-5,938.42
Jan - Dec 07			30% =	-66,135.04

Jan 14, 2008

RC 34

Testimony to the Board of Fish

(On Proposals 38, 39, 40 regarding the possible closure of Alitak Bay to pelagic pollock trawling or requiring 100% observer coverage)

by Keith M. Reynolds Skipper F/V Dawn, Kodiak

My name is Keith Reynolds. I am the captain of the trawl fishing vessel Dawn. I have lived and fished in Kodiak for twenty years. In that time I have fished all gear types. For the last fifteen years I have been a trawl fisherman.

I am writing this letter to you about these recent proposals to close the Alitak/Deadman's Bay area to mid-water / pelagic trawl fishing.

Alitak / Deadman's Bay is a very important area for the trawl fleet. To close it down would be a catastrophic blow to the trawl fleet. As for the claims of the crab and salmon bycatch, and that we fish hard on the bottom with our midwater gear, is not correct. Alitak Bay is not a place where you want to be near the bottom.

These gentlemen who have made these proposals have done so without any facts or scientific data to back up their claims. I believe that we—the trawl fleet—have come to these hearings with the facts and the data to prove these gentlemen wrong!

So I hope you make the right decision today based on our testimony and the facts.

Keep Alitak Bay open!!

Sincerely,

Keith Reynolds
Skipper F/V Dawn

RC
35

My name is Chris Holland and my husband and I own and operate a 72 ft combination pot/ longline boat out of Kodiak

While reading this proposal which is about 42 pages, I was struck by the observer data records portion of the average harvest composition during the pelagic trawl walleye pollock fishery in Alitak Bay from 2004 through 2007.

I am so tired of the rules being manipulated and the numbers being extrapolated and fish being dumped at sea and not recorded. I also wonder how you catch flathead sole in a pelagic trawl and what" other species" might be? Are they the tanner and king crab we are trying to see rebuild? What year classes where those herring they caught so many of in 2004? That extrapolated catch was way more than the commercial herring boats were allowed.

Deadman's Bay is a diverse eco system that supports part of the catches that sustain a lot of different gear groups and different fisheries.

Bycatch is something that we all need to get a handle on, not just "extrapolations" but true numbers from actual observed catches. Decisions need to be made on scientific based data and Deadman's bay is as good a place to start as any other. Since the trawl fishery in this area is important to the overall catch of the trawl fleet I believe it may help to figure out when this fishery can be prosecuted cleanly. We all need to work together to have sustainable fisheries in the Gulf, no one wants to put others out of business we just don't want to have other lucrative fisheries destroyed because of lack of true reporting.

I have been in Deadman's Bay in August of several years when a fleet of trawl vessels descends on the head of the bay in numbers I have counted as over a dozen they tow up and down the bay for days at a time. I have seen the mud stirred up in the water when the trawls pull up at the head of the bay. I understand that a pelagic trawl is supposed to be a mid water trawl but some studies site that a portion is on the bottom about 44% of the time. It is amazing to me that there is a crab sanctuary in Alitak bay and yet a net that is on the bottom 44% of the time is allowed.

We have lost our subsistence crab pot almost every year as we don't know when they will appear so most years we can't get it out of the way.

We want to have salmon, crab and herring bycatch caps instituted in the GOA, It is a way to protect and sustain the fisheries we all depend on. If it is being held up because the observer program is not working as I have heard many times... we can't do this or we can't do that because there isn't good data... we will never make a start to getting to a place where one type of fishery doesn't impact the future of other fisheries with no restraint.

Please make the first step and let's see what we are able to learn in at least this one area where so many diverse fisheries are dependent. It is possible that a BOF cycle of 100% observation of the pollock fishery in Deadman's Bay could help to understand what needs to be done to keep us all fishing in the future.

Thanks for listening to my concerns

Chris Holland

High Seas Salmonid Coded-Wire Tag Recovery Data, 2007

RC36

by

Adrian G. Celewycz[1], Jerald D. Berger[2], Jonathan Cusick[3], Nancy D. Davis[4], and Masa-aki Fukuwaka[5]
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11305 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK 99801-8626, USA
[2]NOAA, NMFS, Alaska Fisheries Science Center
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Building 4
Seattle, WA 98115, USA
[3]NOAA, NMFS, Northwest Fisheries Science Center
2725 Montlake Boulevard East
Seattle, WA 98112, USA
[4]School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington
Box 355020, Seattle, WA, 98195, USA
[5]Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute, Fisheries Research Agency
116 Katsurakoi, Kushiro, 085-0802, Japan

Submitted to the

NORTH PACIFIC ANADROMOUS FISH COMMISSION

by

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

October 2007

THIS PAPER MAY BE CITED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:
Celewycz, A.G., J.D. Berger, J. Cusick, N.D. Davis, and M. Fukuwaka. 2007. High seas salmonid coded-wire tag recovery data, 2007. NPAFC Doc. 1058. 21 pp. (Available at http://www.npafc.org).

HIGH SEAS SALMONID CODED-WIRE TAG RECOVERY DATA, 2007

ABSTRACT

Information on high seas recoveries of coded-wire tagged (CWT) salmonids (*Oncorhynchus* spp.) has been reported annually to the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (1981-1992) and to the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC, 1993-present). Data from these CWT recoveries are also reported into the coastwide on-line CWT recovery database (http://www.rmpc.org) maintained by the Regional Mark Processing Center (RMPC) of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC). This document lists recovery data for 63 CWT salmonids that will be reported to PSMFC/RMPC for the first time. These 63 CWTs were recovered from the 2006-2007 U.S. groundfish trawl fisheries in the eastern Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands (8 Chinook salmon, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha)* and Gulf of Alaska (8 Chinook salmon), from the 2006 Pacific hake (*Merluccius productus*) trawl fishery in the Northern Pacific Ocean off Washington/Oregon/California (WA/OR/CA, 44 Chinook salmon), and from 2005 and 2007 Japanese research vessel operations in the central North Pacific Ocean (3 steelhead, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*).

INTRODUCTION

Since 1981, Pacific salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.) tagged with coded-wire tags (CWTs) have been recovered in commercial fisheries and research programs in the North Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Alaska, and Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands. Data from these high seas CWT recoveries have been reported annually to the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (Dahlberg 1981-1982; Wertheimer and Dahlberg 1983-1984; Dahlberg and Fowler 1985; Dahlberg et al. 1986-1992; Margolis 1985; Margolis et al. 1989; McKinnell et al. 1991) and to the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (Dahlberg et al. 1993-97; Myers et al. 1998-2005; Morris 2004; Celewycz et al. 2006). Data from these CWT recoveries have also been reported into the coastwide on-line CWT recovery database (http://www.rmpc.org) maintained by the Regional Mark Processing Center (RMPC) of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC).

In this document, we list previously unreported data for CWT recoveries from the salmon bycatch of U.S. groundfish trawl fisheries for walleye pollock (*Theragra chalcogramma*) in the eastern Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska, from the salmon bycatch of U.S. groundfish trawl fishery for Pacific hake (*Merluccius productus*) in the North Pacific Ocean off Washington/Oregon/California (WA/OR/CA), and from Japanese salmon research vessel operations in the central North Pacific Ocean. New recoveries of CWT salmonids are compared to previous recoveries of CWTs reported to the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (INPFC, 1956-2002) and to NPAFC (2003-present).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This document lists recovery data for 63 CWT salmonids that will be reported to PSMFC/RMPC database for the first time. Of these 63 new CWT recoveries, 8 CWT Chinook salmon were recovered from the Gulf of Alaska trawl fishery in 2006 and 2007 (Table 1), 8 CWT Chinook salmon were recovered from the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands trawl fishery in 2006 and 2007 (Table 2), 44 CWT Chinook salmon were recovered from the Pacific hake trawl fishery in the North Pacific Ocean off WA/OR/CA in 2006 (Table 3), and 3 CWT steelhead were also recovered from Japanese gillnet research in the central North Pacific Ocean (Table 4).

The geographic locations of new recoveries of CWT Chinook salmon and steelhead are compared to previous recoveries and are summarized by province or state of origin (Figures 1-8). Unlike past years, there are no significant new range extensions of ocean distribution of particular stocks of salmonids to report.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Fishermen, processors, observers, and scientists who participated in the high seas CWT recovery program are gratefully acknowledged. Cathy Robinson dissected salmon snouts, decoded CWTs, and entered CWT recovery data in an electronic database.

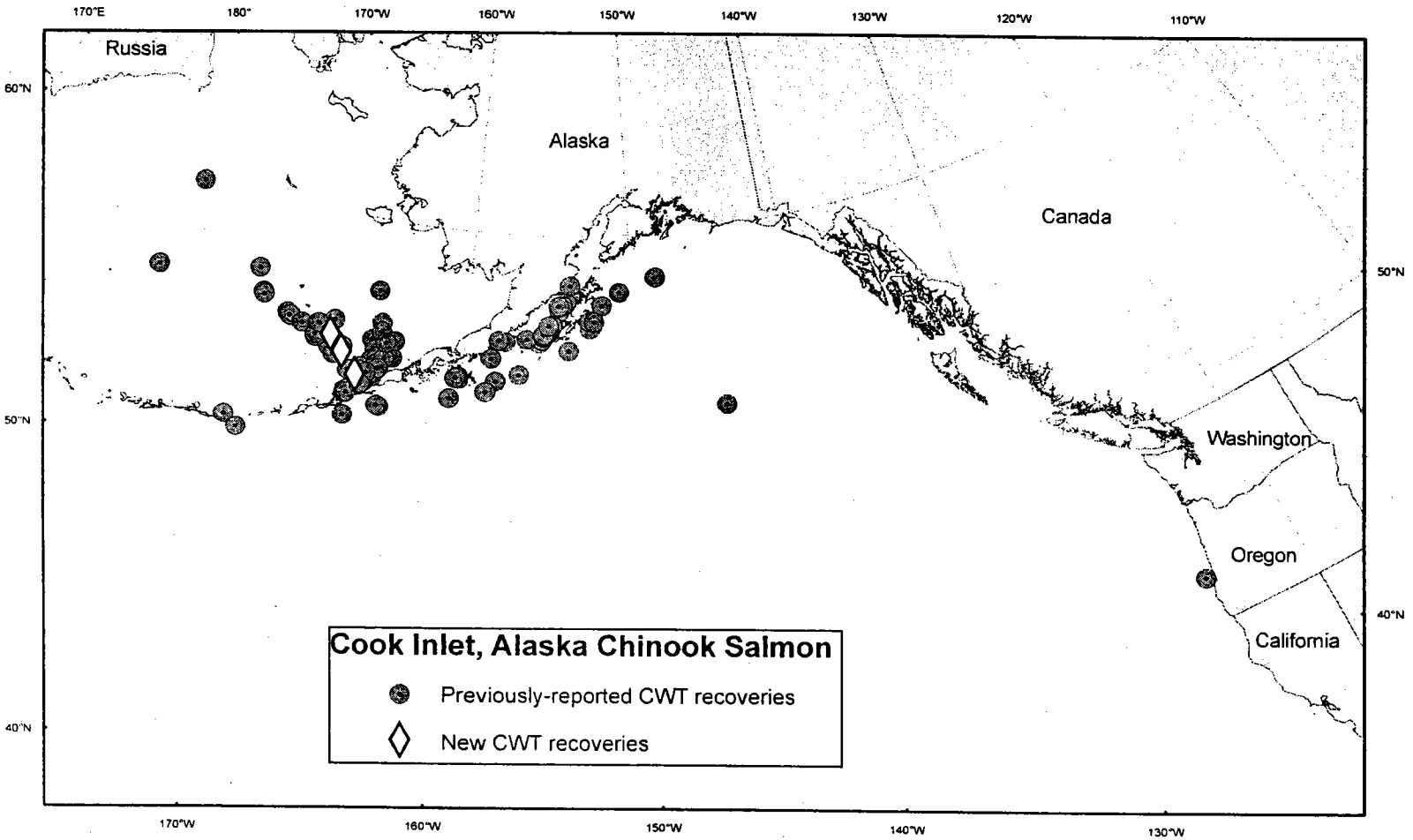

Figure 1. Ocean distribution of Cook Inlet, Alaska Chinook salmon from CWT recoveries, 1981-2007.

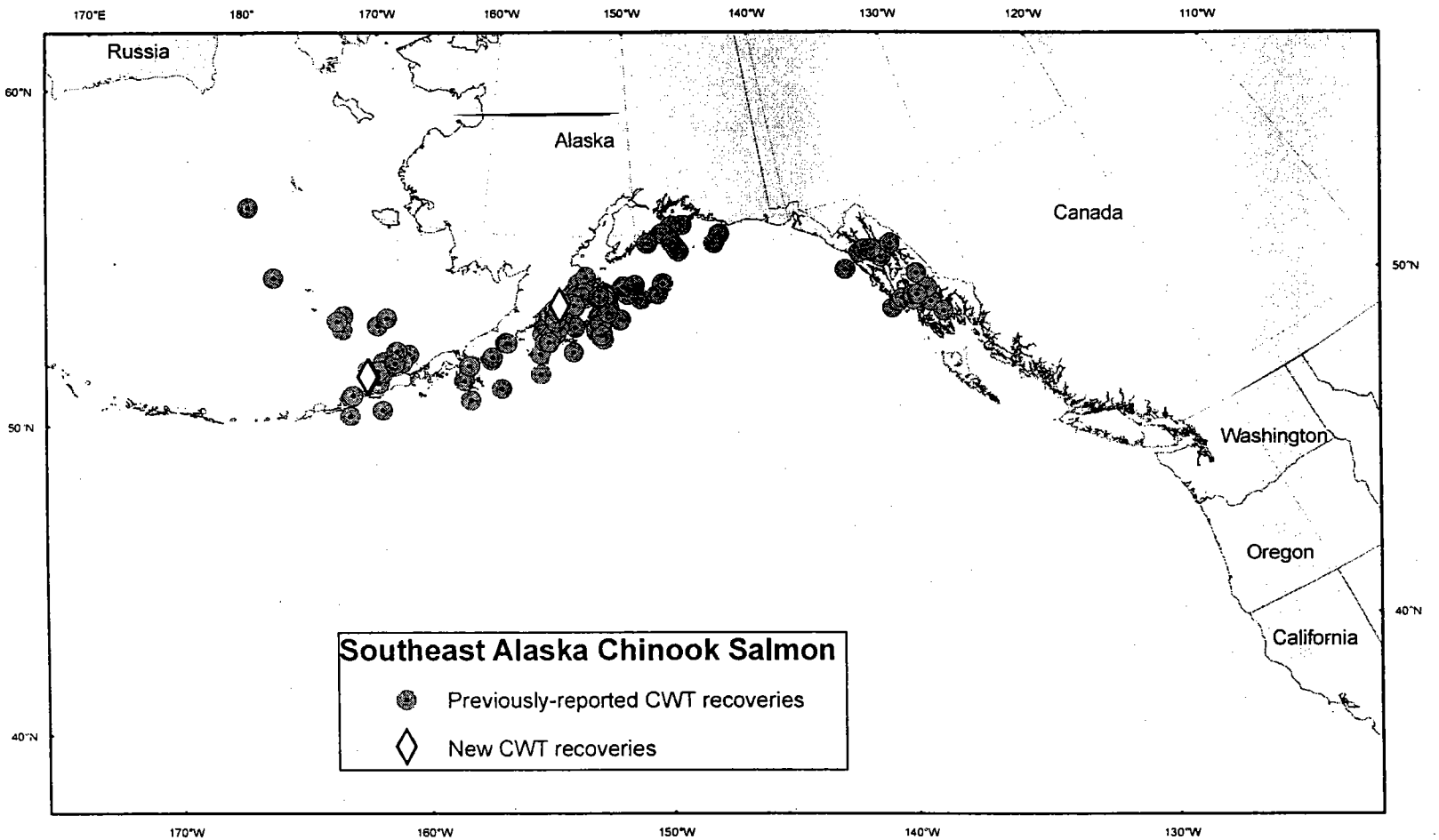

Figure 2. Ocean distribution of Southeast Alaska Chinook salmon from CWT recoveries, 1981-2007.

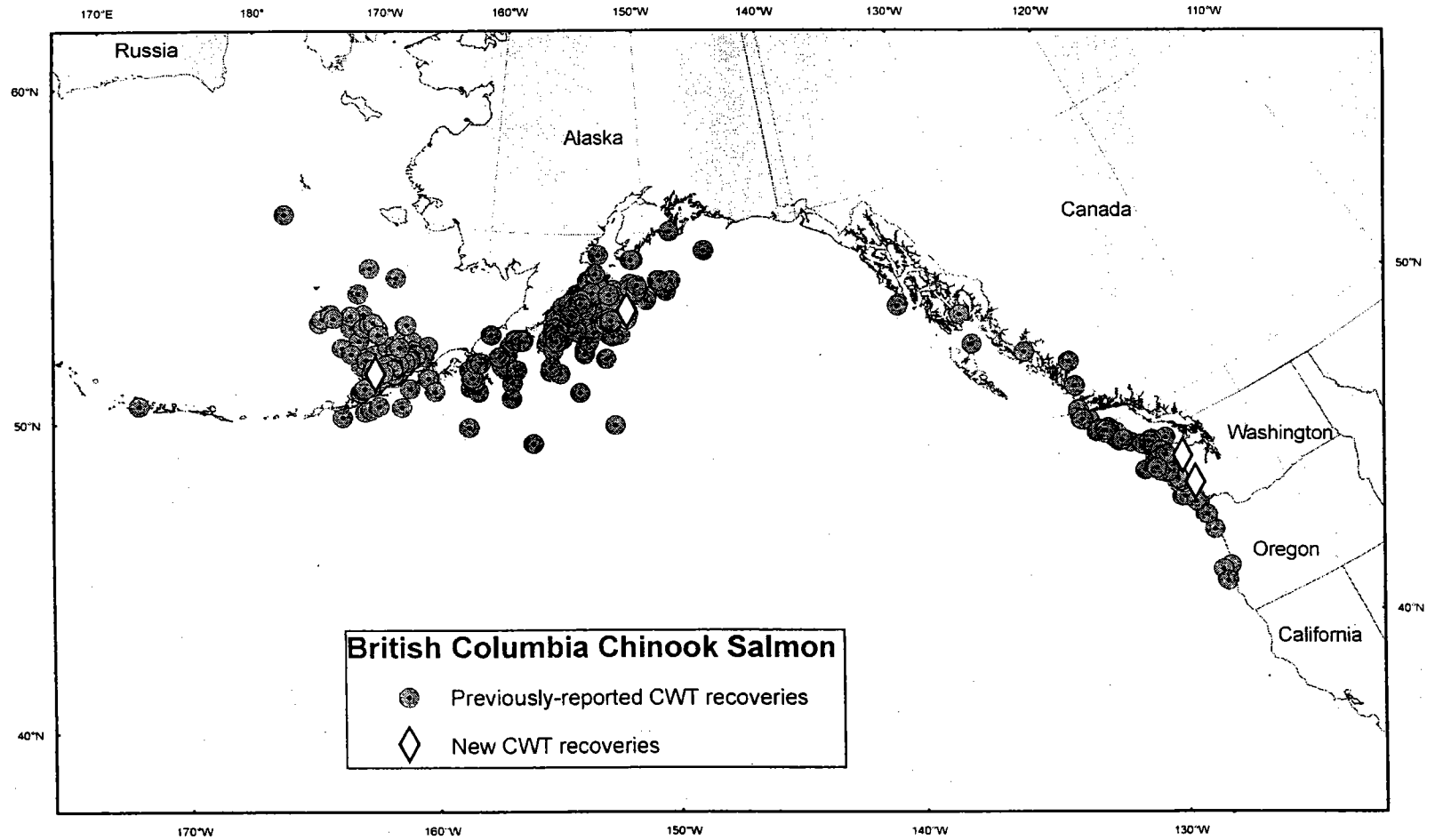

Figure 3. Ocean distribution of British Columbia Chinook salmon from CWT recoveries, 1981-2007.

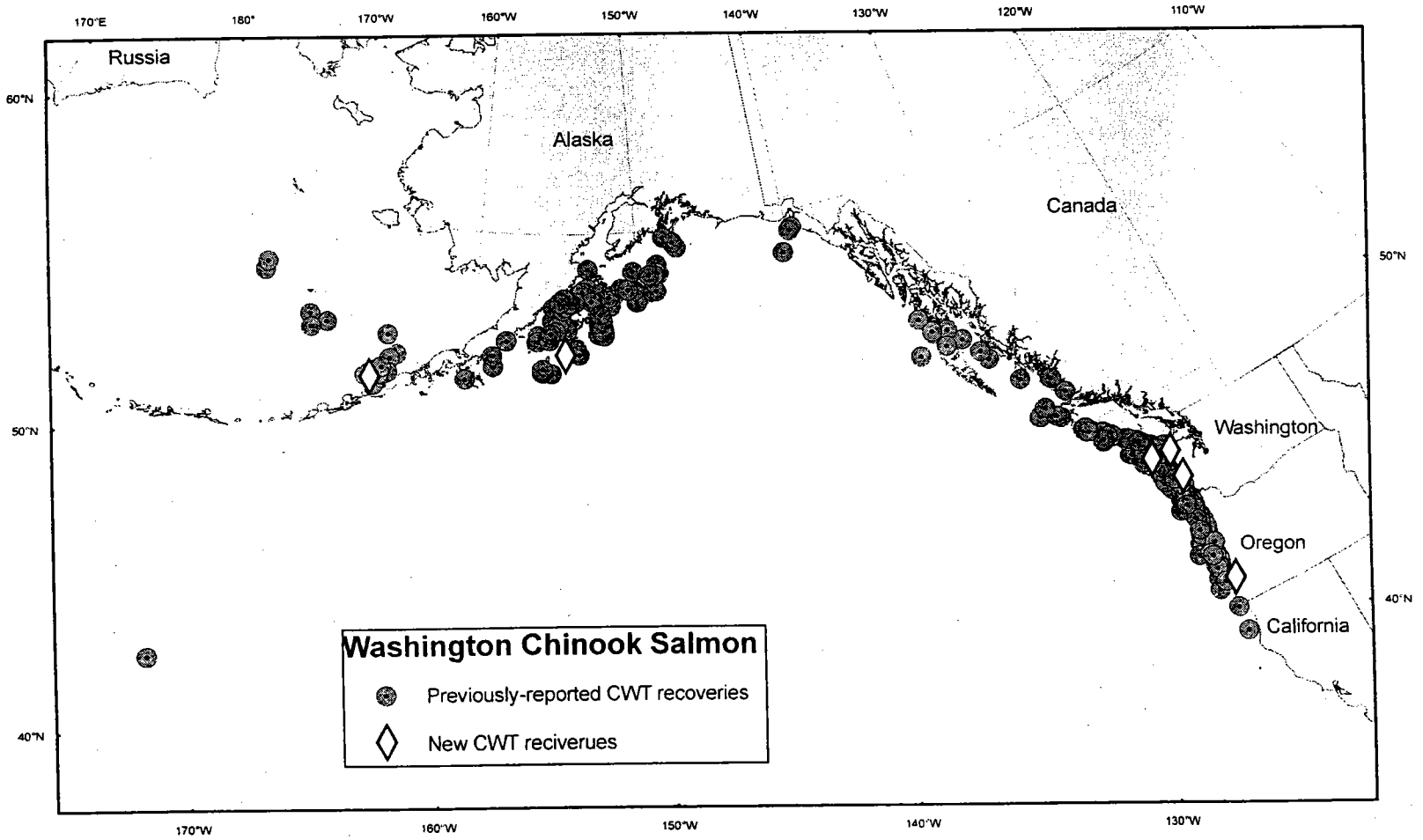

Figure 4. Ocean distribution of Washington Chinook salmon from CWT recoveries, 1981-2007.

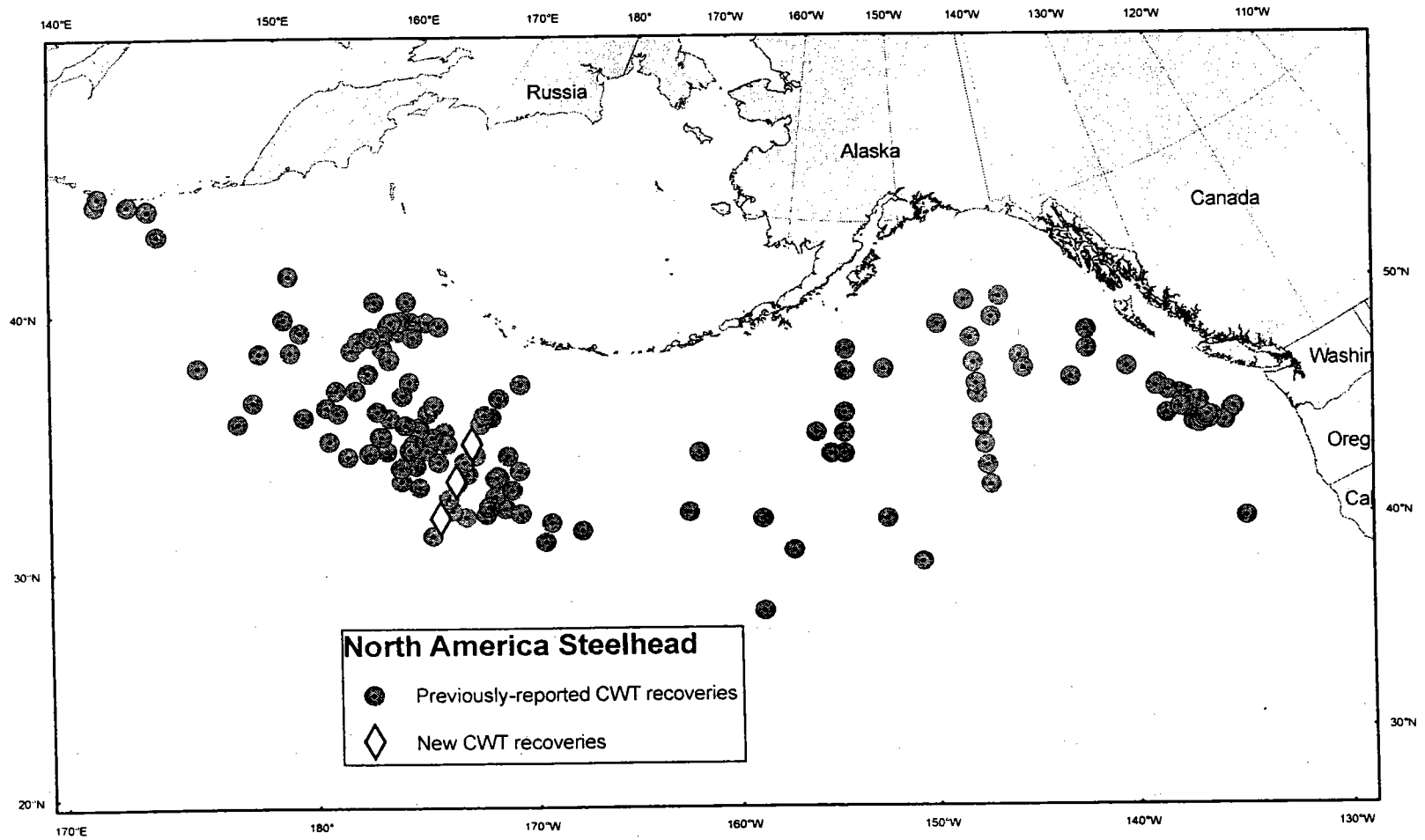

Figure 8. Ocean distribution of North America Steelhead from CWT recoveries, 1981-2007.

Re37

REVISED PERCENTAGES: My original document submitted to Board Support calculated the Alitak District Sockeye harvest to the Kodiak Island harvest. These revised percentages compare the Alitak sockeye harvest to the Westside Management Area Harvest. (suggested by Mel Morris and Jeff Wadle)

- **Proposals 51 & 52 - open up the Westside Management plan for changes**. I propose that when the sockeye escapement is lagging in the Alitak District that there be closures to extended fishing time and/or specific area closures during extended fishing time in the Westside Management Area to allow for pulses of fish to migrate to the Alitak District. The reasons for this proposal are:

  a. According to "Tyler, R.W., Malloy, D. Prokopowich, and K. Manthy. 1981. Migration of sockeye salmon in the Kodiak Archipelago, 1981. Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Commercial Fish Division, Informational Leaflet No. 245. Kodiak". "Olga Bay stocks migrated principally down the west coast of Kodiak Island".

  b. In 2002 when there were no gillnets that fished in the Alitak District there were 1,726 net marked sockeye salmon in the Frazer escapement that year. That is 1.6% of the 105,988 fish actually counted through the Dog Salmon Weir.

  c. The average Sockeye harvest in the Alitak District compared to the Westside Management Area harvest from 1979-2007 is 58.69%.

  d. The average Sockeye harvest in the Alitak District compared to the Westside Management Area harvest from 1979-1998 is 75.26% (prior to extended openings in the Westside Management Area).

  e. The average Sockeye harvest in the Alitak District compared to the Westside Management Area harvest from 1999-2007 is 23.72% (extended openings in the Westside Management Area).

  f. Each Area Management Plan is to achieve escapement and harvest objectives of sockeye returning to that Area. NO CONSIDERATION IS GIVEN FOR FISH PASSING THROUGH THAT AREA TO ANOTHER.

  Please change the Westside Management Plan to allow for pulses of fish to migrate through the fishing effort on their way to the Alitak District when the sockeye escapement is lagging in the Alitak District by implementing some closures and/or specific area closures to extended fishing time in the Westside Management Plan.

**ADF&G Kodiak verifies all of the data

Thank you for your consideration of these proposals,

Rich Blanc

Rich Blanc

Alaska Board of Fisheries

I am writing to support Rich Blonc's Proposal #58.

I have a permit and set-net in Olga Bay. My son also has a permit. I am ready to Retire and would like to transfer my permit to him for economic reasons.
The permit would also stay in the family.
With fishing being so poor we can only afford to hire a family member at this time.

Stanley Graves

Stanley R Graves

Permit So4K58841

FC 38

RC39

Rebuttal to Opposition of Proposal 58: I am the author of proposal 58 allowing a fisherman to own and fish two S04K Kodiak set gillnet permits under existing regulations as provided for by legislative action. I have fulfilled the required restructuring criteria and Proposal 58 is qualified for Board action.

1. Someone will buy another permit if proposal 58 passes and then fish it in front of me or someone else.
   - There are no stand alone permits for sale, only permit and site together. (CFEC intent to transfer list 2008)
   - It is more likely that a site with multiple permits will be forced to sell a stand alone permit if proposal 58 fails. Then someone could buy the permit and fish it in front of someone else.
2. Proposal 58 will prevent young people from entering the fishery.
   - Few if any young people are entering the fishery presently. In 2006, 35 permits (20% of the 188 permits) were not fished.
   - 35 potential crewmen were not introduced or were able to continue in the fishery.
   - Proposal 58 will allow many of these unused permits to be fished, thus allowing more crewmen to enter the fishery, get experience, save and enter into the fishery.
   - All 188 permits are presently attached to pioneered sites. It is not economically practical to pioneer a new site and cabin (refuge land is unavailable and native corporation land is expensive or not for sale) as you would have to live on a boat.
   - Proposal 58 will maintain permits in sites of origin, harvesting history, and production for processor product and F&G management.

3. Consolidation will lead to inequality within the fishery.
   - Consolidation: "This should improve the economic returns of all operations remaining in the fishery, both with those with two permits and those with a single permit." (CFEC letter to BOF, 28 Nov 06)
   - Proposal 58 will improve the average resale value of a permit that has dropped from $107,800 in 2000 to $45,400 in 2006.
   - Passage of proposal 58 "in effect, the Board would be creating additional incentives for a voluntary "market driven" fleet consolidation program that would not require a government-run fisherman funded permit buy-back program." CFEC letter to the BOF, 28 Nov 06)
   - Consolidation of the set gillnet fishery will create jobs and provide opportunity for young people to enter the fishery.
   - The Metzger's lost a permit to a disgruntled crewman and the Peterson's lost a permit when a friend of the family did not pay his IRS taxes.
   - Consolidation as a result of proposal 58 demands the owner of the two permits to be physically present to work the gear.

4. Reluctant to change....restructure.
   - "As a general statement, CFEC supports changes that will improve conditions for Alaska salmon fishermen and their families." (CFEC letter to BOF, 3 Aug 07)
   - Proposal 58 allow aging parents to continue to be involved with fishing at their site as they are able and not receive letters from CFEC with instructions to sell your permit as Frank Pagano did after a number of medical temporary transfers of his permit.
   - Proposal 58 will eliminate the legal wrangling and expense of getting a court order to permanently transfer a permit from a minor (up to age 19) in the family.
   - Change will make set gillnet operations more effective, by preserving jobs, equity, and create a stronger industry.

5. Perceived fears of what could or might happen when proposal 58 is put into regulation.
   - "The true enemies of humanity's future are those who insist on prescribing outcomes in advance. Circumventing the process of competition and experiment in favor of their own preconceptions and prejudices." (Virginia Postrel from the Future And Its Enemies)

By putting proposal 58 into regulation, no CFEC action would be required. (Letter from Jim Marcotte, executive director, BOF, 4 Jan 08)

Thank you,

Rich Blanc

RC40

9 Jan 08

State Board of Fish

Dear BOF Members:

Please support Proposal 58 allowing a fisher to own and fish two set gillnets under the present regulations.

This will help my wife and I to continue fishing our permits at our site.

Thank you,

Theodore Squartsoff

Theodore Squartsoff

12 January 2008

RC 41

Frank Pagano
Michael Pagano
2223 W 46th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99517
Phone 907 248 4414

Alaska State Board of Fish
Division of Boards
P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802

Members
Mel Morris Chairman
John Jensen Vice Chairman
Jeremiah Campbell Member
Larry Edfelt Member
Vince Webster Member
Howard Delo Member

RE: Proposal Number 58 Kodiak Restructuring proposal

Dear BOF Members;

My Name is Frank Pagano I was born at Kodiak, Alaska 24 August 1927 I have fished commercially on Purse Seine boats from Kodiak to Prince William Sound and down to Boundary Bay Washington State I have drift netted in Cook Inlet Cordova Flats, and Bristol Bay. I have been involved with the Set Net Fisheries with my son Michael for the past years.

I have asked and authorized Rich Blanc to introduce my testimony into the record.

This is testimony for support from Frank Pagano and Michael Pagano a family owned Set Net fisheries on Kodiak, Island for the restructuring proposal to allow a fisherman Permit holder for the Set Net fisheries on Kodiak Island to hold two permits and allowed to fish both..

My son Michael Pagano and I each hold a set net permit on Kodiak Island which is located in Uganik Bay. The name of the Site is called Toshwak. This fishing site has been in the family for over fifty (50) years. The past thirty seven (37) years this set net fishing site has been owned and operated by Michael Pagano and family. The grand parents to Michael, Kelly and Natalie Simeonoff now deceased. Had owned the site Michael grew up fishing with his grandparents until they were ready to retire then Michael bought them out they were able to retire with their lifetime

work from their occupation operating a Set Net fisheries. A great number of years their ownership was prior to limited Entry.

Because I was unable to be physically on site to fish I had transferred my permit to different crew members. This had created a lot of problems these crew members felt they were a full partner therefore making it very difficult to operate. Whenever I had transferred my permit under the regulations in accordance with the commercial Entry Commission regulations there was no guarantee to get it back. When it came time for the crewmembers to sign the application and transfer the permit back there was much hesitation for them to do so.

On one occasion I had to hire a person to travel to Hawaii and get the crewman to signature the application. for transfer of the permit back to me. Another time I had to write three threatening letters before the ex crewman signed the application However the worst time was when the crewman who I had medically transferred my permit Unknown to me this person was delinquent on his child support payments the fish which had been delivered to the processor on the license with his name. Unknown to me the child support division came and confiscated over fourteen thousand (14) dollars from the account listed under the permit in his name. This money was never paid back

The past years after physically being on site and fishing the permit I have requested and received medical transfers to crew members The Commercial Entry Commission has informed me that I can not have any more Medical transfers. They have limited the number of medical transfers one can receive This is not good as one gets older your medical condition does not get better it continues to deteriate The Limited Entry Commission regulations is forcing the older permit holders of the family operated Set Net Fisheries to sell their permit. I have been holding off because the sale of my permit would destroy our family operated set net Fisheries. also if I sold my permit this permit would most likely be taken down to Alitak, Moser Bay and used there to place a net in the water which would be adverse to the Set net permit holders located there

Regardless of whether your transfer is on a regular transfer the holder of the permit has the control of the money from the fish deliveries on the permit. They are able to draw the money from the account at the cannery for themselves and leave with the money and the permit
This is a serious adverse position for the family operated Set net Fisheries to be placed in by the existing law.

The existing regulation is discriminatory in a way that it does not provide the same protection as the law does for other small family owned businesses

This proposal number 58 which allows one person to have two Permits in their name and fish both has no adverse effect on anyone. I urge the board to adopt this proposal for the protection of Set net Family owned and operated business.

Thank You for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely

Frank Pagano **Michael Pagano**

RC42

Mr. Chairman and Alaska Board of Fisheries, January 14, 2008

My name is Randy Spivey, unfortunately I am unable to testify in person at the Kodiak BOF meeting as I work 9 to 5 on weekdays, thus I can only provide written comments.

I oppose proposal #62 closing Monashka Creek and I also oppose the amendment of the Kodiak AC closing both Monashka and Virginia Creeks. I would also like to see the current closure dates on Monashka Creek reduced to the time period of May 15 through September 15. The time period of the closure should correspond with the closures of the other anadromous streams on the Kodiak road system.

The reasons I am opposed to these closures are:

1. I fish for Dollys in the spring and late coho salmon and a closure would prevent this.
2. This system was a pristine creek from the road to the dam until the Sport Fish Division began their king project. The one hole at the current weir site has been ruined by the departments land use practices: cutting trees to make what may be a viewing platform the fish more visible to them, what once was a nice location for a solitary sport fisherman is now gone, there is habitat destruction: land erosion from the department installation and removal of the weir, stream bank erosion, sand bags, weir materials, and the holding pen for the returning kings, and trails coming and going (not bear trails) show the misuse of the land.
3. The stream has at least 5 good fishing holes that I routinely fish.
4. If the department has had human related problems, it is not caused by the sport fish anglers, it is more likely to come from vandals that will not be deterred by the proposed closure, only enforcement will deter that or the presence of legal sport fishermen.
5. The watershed from the dam upstream is already closed; it's posted, to the public for both hunting and fishing, a closure downstream will not affect the quality of the municipal water supply.
6. If both these streams are closed year round, they will be the only anadromous streams on the road system with this regulation, making for public confusion just like Pillar Creek has for years, since it is currently closed year round, proposal #61 seeks to open Pillar Creek and I agree with the department and the AC that it should be open.

Thank you for your attention to these proposals.

Sincerely,

Randy Spivey
1709 Three Sisters Way
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
907 486-8890

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
COMMITTEE MINUTES

RC # 43

COMMITTEE A – Groundfish
January 2008

Board Committee Members:
1. John Jensen, *Chair
2. Bonnie Williams
3. Jeremiah Campbell

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff Members:
1. Wayne Donaldson
2. Nick Sagalkin
3. Lynn Mattes

Federal Staff:
1. Ken Hansen, NMFS Enforcement
2. Rob Swanson, NMFS Observer Program
3. Tom Pearson, NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Program

Advisory Committee Members:
1. none

Public Panel Members:

1. Steve Drage,	Alaska Draggers Association
2. Jay Stinson,	fisherman
3. Al Burch,	fisherman
4. Ken Hansen	NOAA Enforcement
5. Leonard Carpenter,	fisherman
6. Julie Bonney,	Alaska Groundfish Data Bank
7. Jeff Scott,	fisherman
8. Bruce Magnusson,	fisherman
9. Theresa Peterson,	fisherman
10. Alexus Kwachka,	fisherman

This committee met January 15, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

PROPOSALS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE WERE: (6 Total)
Black rockfish (35, 36); Jig hook limits (37); Alitak Bay trawl (38, 39, 40)

PROPOSAL 35 - 5 AAC 28.406 (e). Kodiak Area Registration. This proposal specifies that a vessel registered for black rockfish under the incidental black rockfish fishery registration, would be registered in the Kodiak Area for the purposes of area registration under 5 AAC 28.020. Since the Kodiak Area is non-exclusive for black rockfish and the Chignik Area is superexclusive for black rockfish, vessels participating in the incidental black rockfish fishery in the Kodiak Area would be precluded from participating in the Chignik Area superexclusive black rockfish fishery in the same calendar year.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Tab 3

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 25, page 2

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Tab

Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 7

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Support:

- This issue was taken up during the last Board of Fisheries cycle. However the registration implications of the incidental fishery was overlooked. Therefore, there is a loophole for vessels to participate in the incidental fishery and other superexclusive black rockfish management areas.
- The original intent of the proposal was to allow for more opportunity to harvest black rockfish GHLs. The GHLs on the east side of Kodiak Island are being achieved.

Opposition:

- Allows a vessel to fish for Pacific cod and black rockfish especially if cod are not available.
- Allows vessels to fish in Kodiak and Chignik areas.
- Helps to pay for expenses.
- The 5,000 pound directed fishery is not a viable fishery in the Westside/Mainland Districts.
- Vessels were participating in the Kodiak and Chignik areas prior to Chignik becoming superexclusive.
- A small fleet targets black rockfish
- The whole Kodiak Area black rockfish quota has not been taken in recent years
- Number of vessels participating in Chignik is low.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to oppose

Substitute Language: none

PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC 28.406 (e). Kodiak Area Registration; and 5 AAC 28.472 (b). Black Rockfish Possession and Landing Requirements for Kodiak Area.

This proposal would annually determine which districts within the Kodiak Area would be open to the 2,500 pound per trip incidental harvest of black rockfish. Districts where black rockfish harvest for the preceding two years was less than 70% of the GHL would open to the 2,500 pound incidental trip limit in addition to the directed black rockfish fishery and 5% bycatch in other groundfish fisheries. Districts where black rockfish harvest was 70% or greater of the GHL would only be open to directed black rockfish harvest, and 5% bycatch in other groundfish fisheries.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Tab 3

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 25, page 6

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Tab

Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 7

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Support:

- As more vessels rely on the incidental black rockfish fishery as a safety net the incidental fishery will be harder to manage.
- Kodiak Advisory Committee recommended applying incidental fishery only to three districts: Westside, Southwest and Mainland. The original proposal in the last Board of Fisheries cycle had three sections only, not the entire management area for the incidental fishery.
- Achievement of GHLs has accelerated by 1 – 2 months.
- A vessel can harvest 1,000 pounds of black rockfish in one hour.
- A 20,000 pound GHL can be taken in a short period of time.

Opposition:

- Fleet could call in to ADF&G to provide onboard harvest information to track harvest towards GHL.
- Option to lower incidental harvest to 1,000 pounds for eastside districts (Afognak, Northeast, Eastside and Southeast districts) and leave 2,500 pound incidental fishery for westside districts (Westside, Southwest, Mainland).

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Panel Recommendation: No concensus

Board Committee Recommendation: No concensus

Substitute Language: none

PROPOSAL 37 - PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC 28.430 (g). Lawful Gear for Kodiak Area.

This proposal would prohibit mechanical jig and hand troll vessels in a groundfish fishery in the Kodiak Area from having on board the vessel more than 250 hooks, that are or could be attached, permanently or temporarily snapped onto a mainline or groundline that meets the definition of longline gear. It would effectively remove the limit on the number of jigs or jig hooks that could be onboard the vessel. Of the hooks onboard the vessel, no more than 150 may be deployed in the water as described in 5 AAC 28.430 (f).

If an adequate definition of longline gear cannot be created, then the limit of 250 hooks, in aggregate, deployed in the water and on board the vessel would be repealed.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Tab 3

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 25, page 11

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Tab

Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 7

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Support:

- Current hook limit is problematic if a vessel loses gear on the grounds. Need enough hooks to rig up more jig gear.
- Low bycatch rates in jig fishery.
- Jig fishery is entry level fishery.

Opposition:

- Difficult to enforce
- Do not want to increase bycatch.
- No onboard monitoring.
- If hook limit is resinded, could have longline type gear in use again.
- Concern for vessel operators using jig and longline gear simultaneously.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to raise hook limit to 500 hooks. Also consensus to make the jig hook limit only applicable to the state-waters Pacific cod jig fishery and the black rockfish jig fishery. (By default, hook limit would not apply to the parallel fisheries.)

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to support with substitute language.

Substitute Language:

5 AAC 28.430 Lawful Gear For Kodiak Area

(g) In the Kodiak Area, a vessel using mechanical jigging machines to take groundfish **in the black rockfish and state-waters Pacific cod fisheries** may have no more than [250] **500** hooks, in the aggregate, deployed in the water and on board the vessel, of which no more than 150 hooks may be deployed in the water as described in (f) of this section.

PROPOSAL 38 - - 5 AAC 39.165. Trawl Gear Unlawful.

Close Alitak Bay of the Kodiak Management Area to pelagic trawl gear year-round from Cape Trinity to Cape Alitak to protect crab stocks.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Tab 2

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 25, page 13

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Tab

Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 7, RC 15, RC 22, RC 24, RC 25, RC 26, RC 27, RC 33, RC 34

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Support:

- State cannot access VMS data.
- A parallel fishery, walleye pollock, interacting with a state-managed stock, king crab.
- Last major stock of red king crab in Kodiak Management Area.

Opposition:

- 6,000 – 8,000 metric tons of walleye pollock estimated in Alitak Bay. The fleet harvests about 50% of adult biomass on an annual basis.
- Fish migrate in and out of the bay on a regular basis.
- Important bay for trawl fleet.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Panel Recommendation: No concensus

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.

Substitute Language: none

PROPOSAL 39 - 5 AAC 28.450. Closed Waters In Kodiak Area

Close Alitak Bay to pelagic trawl gear year from March 1 – November 1.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Tab 2

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 25, page 20

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Tab

Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 7, RC 15, RC 21, RC 22, RC 24, RC 25, RC 26, RC 27, RC 33, RC 34

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Support:

- Good for ADF&G managers to have data.
- Peak salmon smolt emigration approximately April – May.
- Helps protect red king crab during softshell season.
- Unobserved interaction with herring and red king crab stocks.

Opposition:

- Kodiak Advisory Committee recommendation for closure April 1 – September 15 would only leave two weeks to harvest walleye pollock "C" season quota.
- Difficult to make up for closure of Alitak Bay because of other Steller sea lion closure areas.
- Fishery closure of March 1 – November 1 would take away almost all the annual harvest from Alitak Bay.
- Why is a closure necessary, is there an undocumented problem?
- Walleye pollock are predators on salmon smolt, salmon fry and juvenile crab.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to oppose

Substitute Language: none

PROPOSAL 40 - 5 AAC 28.XXX. New Section

Require observer coverage on pelagic trawl vessels for fisheries in the Kodiak Area as follows: Increase observer coverage to 100% for vessels pelagic trawling for walleye pollock within the inside waters between Cape Trinity to Cape Alitak.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Tab 2

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 25, page 28

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Tab

Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 7, RC13, RC 15, RC 21, RC 22, RC 24, RC 25, RC 26, RC 27, RC 33, RC 34, RC 35, RC 52

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

NMFS: NMFS stated that vessels must carry observers during 30% of fishing days in each fishing quarter of calendar year and one trip requirement in each fishing category (walleye pollock, Pacific cod, rockfish, flatfish, sablefish, other species) for categories the vessel participates in. There is a $1,000/day penalty for violating 30% observer coverage.

Changing amount of observer coverage in Alitak could potentially change the amount of observer data in other federal fisheries or could provide lots of observer data in one area and very little in other areas.

Currently there are 300 certified groundfish observers in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska areas.

Observer coverage should be designed depending upon the question being asked and the level of confidence you want to receive in the estimate.

Observer data is a key component in estimating prohibited species catch (PSC). Walleye pollock fleet is not currently constrained by PSC caps. All non-PSC species are basket sampled to estimate bycatch. PSC catch (king and Tanner crab, all salmon, halibut, herring, steelhead trout) are whole haul sampled and NMFS is extremely confident in those estimates.

Support:

- Small vessels are not observed.
- Willing to take ADF&G observers, but not willing to pay for contract observers for 100% observer coverage.

- All user groups should have observer coverage.
- Underreporting on non-observed trips.
- Different fishing practices between observed and non-observed trips.

Opposition:

- The Alaska groundfish trawl fleet is the best observed fleet in the world.
- Olex display during public testimony indicated this area is not an area that can be fished very successfully on the bottom with regard to impacts to trawl net.
- A pelagic trawl net costs between $70,000 to $100,000.
- Department's comments do not indicate high bycatch levels of salmon or crab.
- Derelict crab pots have more impact on crab bycatch than trawls.
- Other users in Alitak have a greater impact on crab than trawlers.
- Not enough observers available to cover increased coverage. There are 30 trawlers and 75 longline vessels registered. There would be a several month time lag to get more observers trained.
- All fisheries need to be covered and observers paid for by the government.
- The estimates produced are statistically valid at 30% observer coverage.
- Other areas, such as U.S. east coast have 10% observer coverage.
- Cost/day for observer is about $500 which includes airfare, per diem and salary.
- Trawlers do not always plan to go to Alitak Bay, but may want to fish there after leaving port due to changes in fish distribution or weather.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to oppose

Substitute Language: none

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE B
Subsistence and General Salmon
January 16, 2008

Board Committee Members, Committee B:
1. Vince Webster* Chair
2. Larry Edfelt
3. Howard Delo

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff Members:
1. Jeff Wadle
2. Jim McCullough
3. Geoff Spalinger
4. Steve Honnold
5. Rob Baer (note taker)
6. Iris Caldentey (note taker)
7. Al Cain
8. Mark Witteveen
9. Matt Foster
10. Dave Sterritt
11. Patti Nelson
12. Elizabeth Andrews
13. Bridget Easley
14. Kerri Tonkin

Advisory Committee Members:
1. Don Fox, Kodiak AC

Public Panel Members:
1. Bruce Schactler, KMA Fisherman
2. Stan Ness, KMA Fisherman
3. Rick Ellingson, KMA Fisherman
4. Kevin Fisher, KMA Fisherman
5. Rich Blanc, KMA Fisherman
6. Leigh Gorman, KMA Fisherman
7. Kip Thomet, KMA Fisherman
8. Gordon Jensen, KMA Fisherman
9. Hunter Berns, KMA Fisherman
10. Roland Maw, UCIDA/NPAFC, Cook Inlet
11. Duncan Fields, Old Harbor/Ouzinkie Native Corporation, KMA Fisherman

Federal Subsistence Representative:
1. Rod Campbell, USFWS/OSM

The Fishery Committee met January 15, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. and adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

PROPOSALS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE WERE: (12 Total) Herring: (41-43), Kodiak Subsistence Salmon: (44-45), Kodiak Commercial Salmon: (46-50, 58-59)

PROPOSAL 41 – 5 AAC 27.505. Descriptions of Kodiak Area Districts and Sections. This proposal would redefine several section lines within the KMA, in order to clarify and simplify regulations, reduce enforcement problems, and/or allow greater opportunity for fishermen to harvest herring when the section in question is open to fishing. This proposal also eliminates the Portage Bay Section, and recombines it with portions of the Sulua Bay and Inner Alitak sections.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral tab 4, Written Tab 15
taff Comments: RC 2, tab 25, page 36

AC Reports: RC 2, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, PC, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 7

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: ADF&G submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it. The department would like to clarify that it is not recombining the two sections

Support:

- Creates clearer more concise section lines that follow current management in these locations.

Opposition:

- None.

SSFP:

- Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Supports.

Kodiak AC: Supports.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 42 - 5 AAC 27.535. Harvest strategies for Kodiak Area. This proposal would suspend the current management plan until more Kodiak herring gillnet fishermen participate in the fishery. This proposal requests that until there are at least 20 herring gillnet landings by at least five distinct permit holders, the current management plan be suspended and a new plan be developed.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 5, Written Tab 16

Staff Comments: RC 2, tab 25, page 39

AC Reports: RC 2, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, PC, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 7, 28

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: ADF&G is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal; however, is **OPPOSED** to creating unusually complicated and burdensome management plans.

Support:

- Enables gillnetters to harvest quota that typically goes unharvested due to market condition and less effort.
- Suggestions include; preseason registration, call in via satellite phone, management triggering device, bay by bay gear, collaboration with seiners .
- Conservation/Economic issues. Fuel used, fish quality, market conditions.
- Amendments submitted by Duncan Fields including "checking in and out" with ADF&G.

Opposition:

- May create burdensome management plans for ADF&G.

SSFP:

- Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Neutral on allocative aspects, Opposed to creating unusually complicated and burdensome management plans.

Kodiak AC: No action.

Public Panel Recommendation: No action, recommend panel work group meet with ADF&G to work out details of the proposal.

Board Committee Recommendation: No consensus.

Substitute Language: 5 AAC 27.510 (a) (4) is amended to read;

(4) **Between April 1 and April 14** [BEFORE PARTICIPATION IN THE SAC ROE HERRING FISHERY AFTER MAY 8,] a CFEC permit holder must be registered with the department **if they intend to participate in the sac roe herring fishery**.

5 AAC 27.553(e)(1) is amended by adding a new subparagraph to read:

(1) based on the department's assessment of.....

(C) harvest effort the department may allow one gear type to operate in an area during any open period without regard to the allocation specified in this subsection;

PROPOSAL 43 - 5 AAC 27.525. Seine specifications and operations for Kodiak Area. This proposal would permit ADF&G to specify seine gear length limitations of 75 fathoms and/or seine gear depth limitations of "3 strips" in situations when ADF&G believes that a "full fleet and capacity" opening may exceed the GHL.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 5, Written Tab 16

Staff Comments: RC 2, tab 25, page 43

AC Reports: RC 2, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, PC, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 7, 28

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: ADF&G is **NEUTRAL** on any allocative aspects of this proposal which request that ADF&G specify gear or length limitations in situations where a "full fleet and capacity" opening may exceed the GHL. ADF&G is **OPPOSED** to having two different seine net specifications in this fishery, which could become an enforcement issue.

Support:

- None.

Opposition:

- Author has requested this proposal to be withdrawn.

SSFP:

- Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Neutral on allocative aspects. Opposed to having two different seine net specifications in this fishery which could become an enforcement issue.

Kodiak AC: No action.

Public Panel Recommendation: Author has requested withdraw of this proposal.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 44 - 5 AAC 01.520. Lawful gear and gear specifications. This proposal would clarify the legal use of a subsistence gillnet and seines; restricting subsistence nets to obstruct no more than one half the wetted width of any fish stream open to subsistence salmon fishing.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 4, Written Tab 15 and 17

Staff Comments: RC 2, tab 25, page 45

AC Reports: RC 2, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, PC 4, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 7

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: ADF&G submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it.

Federal Subsistence Management Program: Supports this proposal as amended, this is already in the general provisions of the federal regulations.

Support:

- With amended language: limit to 1hr in a 24 hr period (Kodiak AC).
- Concern that this would reduce some harvest of salmon stocks in local streams, and limit future subsistence fishing opportunities.

Opposition:

- None.

SSFP:

- Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Supports.

Kodiak AC: Supports with amended language (RC 53).

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support with amended language.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to support with substitute language.

Substitute Language: (RC 53).

PROPOSAL 45 - 5 AAC 01.530. Subsistence Fishing Permits and 5 AAC 01.545. Subsistence Bag and Possession Limits. This proposal would eliminate the harvest limits on subsistence salmon permits in a portion of the KMA.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 4, Written Tab 15, 17 and 22

Staff Comments: RC 2, tab 25, page 47

AC Reports: RC 2, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, PC 4, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 6, 7

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: ADF&G submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it.

Federal Subsistence Management Program: Supports. This proposal would provide more accurate harvest information.

Support:

- This may alleviate the regulation confusion of permits and harvest limits and may allow more accurate information of harvest to ADF&G from subsistence users off the road system.

Opposition:

- Concern that this may lead to abuse of the fishery, i.e. areas fished, abuse of quantity of fish, wanton waste.
- Concern that this may create animosity amongst people who fish different areas and live in different areas.
- Educating subsistence users on permit use likely a better idea than changing a regulation.

SSFP:

- Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Supports.

Kodiak AC: Opposed as written.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.
Board Committee Recommendation: No consensus.
Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 46 - 5 AAC 18.200 (a). Description of Districts and Sections. This proposal would amend the description of the Duck Bay Section.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 4, Written Tab 15

Staff Comments: RC 2, tab 25, page 50

AC Reports: RC 2, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 7

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: ADF&G submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it. ADF&G considers this proposal a housekeeping measure to correct an error in regulation.

Support:

- Clarifies regulation.

Opposition:

- None.

SSFP:

- Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Supports.

Kodiak AC: Supports.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 47 - 5 AAC 18.200 (c). Description of Districts and Sections. This proposal would amend the description of the Inner Karluk Section.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 4, Written Tab 15

Staff Comments: RC 2, tab 25, page 52

AC Reports: RC 2, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 7

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: ADF&G submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it. ADF&G considers this proposal a housekeeping measure to correct an error in regulation.

Support:

- Clarifies regulation.

Opposition:

- None.

SSFP:

- Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Supports.

Kodiak AC: Supports.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 48 - 5 AAC 18.350 (a). Closed waters. This proposal would amend the regulation to create a closed water area in Izhut Bay.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 4, Written Tab 15

Staff Comments: RC 2, tab 25, page 54

AC Reports: RC 2, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 7

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: ADF&G submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it. ADF&G considers this a housekeeping measure.

Support:

- Clarifies regulation.

Opposition:

- None.

SSFP:

- Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Supports.

Kodiak AC: Supports.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 49 - 5 AAC 18.350. (a)(5)(A)(v). Closed waters. This proposal would amend the description of closed waters in the Pasagshak Section.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 4, Written Tab 15

Staff Comments: RC 2, tab 25, page 56

AC Reports: RC 2, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 7

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: ADF&G submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it. ADF&G considers this proposal a housekeeping measure.

Support:

- Clarifies regulation.

Opposition:

- None.

SSFP:

- Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Supports.

Kodiak AC: Supports.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 50 - 5 AAC 18.337. (a). Purse Seine Practice Sets. This proposal would amend the regulation allowing practice purse seine sets.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 4, Written Tab 15 and 17

Staff Comments: RC 2, tab 25, page 58

AC Reports: RC 2, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 7

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: ADF&G submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it. ADF&G considers this a housekeeping measure.

Support:

- Clarifies regulation.

Opposition:

- None.

SSFP:

- Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Supports.

Kodiak AC: Supports.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL - 58 AAC 18.331. Gillnet specifications and operation; and 5 AAC 39.280 Identification of stationary fishing gear. This proposal would allow a set gillnet fisherman to own and operate two CFEC permits.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 4, Written Tab 15 and 17

Staff Comments: RC 2, tab 25, page 59

AC Reports: RC 2, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: PC 1, 10, 13, 14, 15, 19, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 7, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 38, 39, 40, 41

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: ADF&G is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. However, this proposal removes regulatory language referencing permit holders with a single permit. If the BOF chooses to adopt this proposal, ADF&G requests the retention of the current language pertaining to one permit holder in gear specifications and operations.

Support:

- Allows permits to stay in the family.
- Alternative suggestion: enable two names to fish one permit.
- Enforcement suggestion: 1) List name and both permit CFEC numbers and "D" on signs and buoys and list in 5AAC 18.331, not in 5AAC 39.280. 2) Adopt cork markings similar to Bristol Bay requiring both CFEC permit numbers to be written on corks every 10 fathoms, put in 5AAC 18.331.
- Can take more than 1 permit to make it worthwhile to fish (i.e. viable).

Opposition:

- Concerns of consolidation, reallocation, permit stacking, difficulty for new and "young" fishermen to get involved in fishery.

SSFP:

- Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Neutral.

Kodiak AC: Opposed as written.

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

Board Committee Recommendation: No consensus.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 59 - 5 AAC 18.330. Gear. This proposal would allow the use of power and/or hand trolls as legal commercial salmon gear in the KMA.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 4, Written Tab 15 and 17

Staff Comments: RC 2, tab 25, page 61

AC Reports: RC 2, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: PC 11, 12, 19, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 7, 9, 21, 28, 36

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: ADF&G is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. ADF&G is **OPPOSED** to this proposal, until such a time as the potential increase in gear and effort, the uncertainty of effects of such a fishery on local and non-local stocks are more fully explored and addressed, and the complexity of the effects of this proposal with regard to the Pacific Salmon Treaty is addressed.

Support:

- When crew members leave for the season, the captain is still able to continue fishing alone.
- Reduces the amount of fish caught due to trading gear out for a troll.
- The fish market quality would improve.

Opposition:

- Question of whether or not the Board has authority to pursue this proposal without being tabled to a restructuring committee upon CFEC consent.
- May create a new interception fishery.
- May increase cost for a private person to participate.
- The written verbiage does not clearly address coho salmon.

SSFP:

- Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G: Neutral on all allocative aspects. Opposed until such a time as the potential increase in gear and effort, the uncertainty of such a fishery on local and non local stocks are more fully explored and addressed, and the complexity of the effects of this proposal with regard to the Pacific Salmon Treaty is addressed.

Kodiak AC: Supports with amended language (RC 7).

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.
Substitute Language: None.

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Committee Report

RC # 45
COMMITTEE C
Kodiak Commercial Salmon
January 16, 2008

Board Committee Members:

1. Larry Edfelt, *Chair
2. Howard Delo
3. John Jensen

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff Members:

1. Jeff Wadle – Kodiak Area Management Biologist
2. Joe Dinnocenzo – Assistant Kodiak Area Management Biologist
3. Mark Witteveen – Finfish Research Biologist
4. Matt B. Foster – Finfish Research Biologist
5. Dave Sterritt – Regional Finfish Management Supervisor
6. Patti Nelson – Deputy Director of Commercial Fisheries
7. Philip Tschersich – Note taker
8. Elisa Russ – Note taker

Advisory Committee Members:

1. Don Fox – Kodiak Advisory Committee

Public Panel Members:

2. Nina Burkholder – Alitak District/Set gillnet; Author of #56
2. Bruce Schactler – Seine fishery
3. Hunter Berns – Self
4. Drew Sparlin – UCIDA
5. Duncan Fields – Old Harbor/Ouzinkie Fishermen & Kodiak/Set gillnet
6. Rick Ellingson – Alitak District/Set gillnet
7. Rich Blanc – Alitak District/Set gillnet
8. Kevin Fisher – Alitak District/Set gillnet
9. Leigh Thomet – Set gillnet
10. Kip Thomet – Self
11. Roland Maw – UCIDA

Federal Subsistence Representative:

1. Rod Campbell – USFWS/OSM

The Committee met January 16 at 9:00 a.m. and adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

PROPOSALS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE WERE (7 total): Westside Kodiak (51, 52); Cape Igvak allocation (53); North Shelikof (54, 55); Alitak Bay (56, 57)

PROPOSAL 51. – 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management. Delay opening Westside Kodiak salmon fishery until June 16.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 4, Written Tab 15

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 25 pg 66

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab;

Record Comments: RC 19, 20, 28, 32, 37; RC 7 pg 5

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: Opposed based on the biological concerns for sockeye salmon overescapement into the Karluk watershed. This proposal would limit management flexibility with the early-run sockeye salmon fishery. The lower escapement goal for the Karluk River early sockeye salmon run has been achieved by June 15 and the upper escapement goal has been exceeded by July 15, in nine of the past ten years.

Question was raised to department staff whether there is definitive stock separation data available and the response was no. The department staff was also asked when has fishing time in Ayakulik exceeded 30 days and the response was that it had been a long time. Implication from public panel was that a discussion may be warranted to review Westside Kodiak management plan.

Department of Law indicated that the BOF has no administrative or fiscal authority over the ADF&G and therefore cannot direct the department to conduct specific research.

Support:

- None for proposal as written.
- The possibility of reviewing the Kodiak Westside Salmon Management Plan was raised to introduce windows to allow the passage of Moser Bay-bound salmon stocks through the Southwest Kodiak District when actions for the conservation of those stocks are implemented in the Alitak District.

Opposition:

- ADF&G opposes the change to the Westside Kodiak Management Plan due to biological concerns over being able to control escapement levels for the Karluk River early sockeye salmon run.
- The Kodiak Advisory Committee supports the department's opposition to the proposal.
- The possibility of reviewing the Kodiak Westside Salmon Management Plan was raised to introduce windows to allow the passage of Moser Bay-bound salmon stocks through the Southwest Kodiak District when actions for the conservation of those stocks are implemented in the Alitak District. There was a general opposition to changing the proposal for this end as it would exacerbate the potential for overescapement into Karluk.

SSFP: Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Opposed.

AC Positions: The Kodiak Advisory Committee is opposed.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to oppose as written. Suggestion made to review Westside management plan and other Kodiak management plans through public hearings.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 52. – 5 AAC 18.310. Fishing Seasons. Delay opening Outer Karluk salmon fishery until June 16 as follows:

5 AAC 18.310 Fishing Season.
Salmon may be taken only from June 1 through October 3; except in the Inner and Outer Karluk Sections, salmon may be taken only from June 16 through October 3.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 4, Written Tab 15

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 25 pg 71

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 19, 20, 28, 32, 37; RC 7 pg 6

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: Opposed based on biological concerns for sockeye salmon overescapement into the Karluk watershed. This proposal would limit management flexibility with the early sockeye salmon run. The lower escapement goal for the Karluk River early sockeye salmon run has been achieved by June 15 and the upper escapement goal has been exceeded by July 15, in nine of the past ten years. If adopted, this proposal would also close the Inner and Outer Karluk sections on October 3. ADF&G is opposed to modifying the season ending date because ADF&G considers this coho salmon run healthy.

Support:
- None.

Opposition:
- Same as Proposal 51.

SSFP: Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Opposed.

AC Positions: Kodiak Advisory Committee is opposed.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 53. – 5 AAC 18.360. Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan. Modify Cape Igvak salmon allocation formula as follows:

The department will manage the Cape Igvak Section whereby the number of sockeye salmon taken will approach as near as possible 19% of the total sockeye salmon catch in the Chignik Management Area.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 4, Written Tab 15

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 25 pg 76

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 10, 11, 28; RC 7 pg 6

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: Neutral on the allocative aspects of this proposal. If adopted, this proposal would somewhat simplify the Cape Igvak Management Plan by removing the 80% Chignik Area-bound sockeye salmon harvest in the Area M Southeast District Mainland fishery from the Cape Igvak allocation calculation.

After inquiry from Board committee regarding the guidance needed from BOF if the proposal were adopted, the department determined that there are provisions in regulation to calculate the Chignik Area harvest when excess escapements occur due to an inability of Chignik fishermen to harvest excess salmon.

Support:

- None.

Opposition:

- It was suggested that if the new formula were adopted, in years of high abundance of Chignik sockeye salmon it would result in a slight decrease in the Cape Igvak allocation compared to the current formula. In years of low Chignik sockeye salmon abundance, it was suggested that the allocation at Cape Igvak would increase slightly. It was perceived as a net loss to Area K fishermen.
- In the absence of new information such as a stock composition study of harvests at Cape Igvak, changing the allocation formula was questioned.
- The department stated that they did not have difficulty in calculating the Cape Igvak allocation using the current formula.
- The full 15% allocation at Cape Igvak has not been harvested by Area K fishermen in 23 of the 30 years since the plan was implemented in 1978. In 7 of the past 30 years, the 15% allocation was met or exceeded.
- It is perceived to be a departure from the original intent of the BOF when the Cape Igvak Management Plan was established.

SSFP: Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Neutral.

AC Positions: The Kodiak Advisory Committee is opposed.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 54. – 5 AAC 18.363. North Shelikof Strait Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Modify North Shelikof Sockeye Salmon Management Plan as follows:

1. Revise plan to end on July 20 (change from July 25).
2. Increase the Shoreward Zones in the Dakavak Bay, Outer Kukak Bay, Hallo Bay, and Big River sections of the Mainland District and in the Shuyak Island and Northwest Afognak sections of the Afognak District to include those waters within one-half mile off the outer points when the current cap is triggered.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 4, Written Tab 15

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 25 pg 79

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 28; RC 7 pg 6

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: Neutral on the allocative aspects of this proposal. ADF&G does not have additional stock composition data.

Support:

- Local sockeye salmon stocks contribute to achieving the cap, which triggers the closure of the seaward zones of the fishery, reducing harvest opportunity on all species of salmon.
- The conditions in 1988 which resulted in the record harvest of Cook Inlet-bound sockeye salmon stocks in the Shelikof Strait (calm weather, an Area K seine fleet near its historically highest participation level, a historically large upper Cook Inlet sockeye salmon run, no outside 3-mile state waters restriction for fishing, etc.) were an anomaly which the current plan is based on.
- Most Cook Inlet-bound sockeye salmon stocks have passed the fishery by July 20.
- Not being able to harvest fish in traditional cape sets in the upper Shelikof Strait causes seine fishermen to fish other areas where gear conflicts with setnetters can arise, and cause a *de facto* reallocation in those areas.
- Kodiak salmon fisheries should not be affected by the implementation of sockeye salmon enhancement projects in Cook Inlet.

Opposition:

- There are no escapement goals in place for the five local sockeye salmon systems being targeted by Area K fishermen in the upper Shelikof Strait, and therefore no basis for gauging overescapement concerns.
- Liberalized fishing in the Shelikof could adversely impact sockeye salmon enhancement projects in lower Cook Inlet which rely on cost recovery programs to be funded.
- Moving the end date of the current management plan forward by five days would impact non-local stocks still transiting the fishery.
- Fishery typically only restricted less than 10 days, between July 6 and July 25.

SSFP: 1.(C) Data uncertainty: (Oppose) there needs to be a genetic study to determine stock composition to resolve the relative contribution of Cook Inlet and local sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery. (Support) data is available and based on average weights of fish harvested per statistical section per day.
1. (E) (F) (Support) Return to traditional fishery – 1970 until 1988, local stocks fished heavily until plan was changed.
2. (G) (Oppose)
6. (A-E) (Support)

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Neutral.

AC Positions: The Kodiak Advisory Committee supports.

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

Board Committee Recommendation: No consensus.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 55. – 5 AAC 18.363. North Shelikof Strait Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Link opening of Northern District Shelikof Strait sockeye season to Kenai River preseason sockeye forecast to not allow commercial fishing in the North Shelikof management areas unless the preseason forecast or in-season estimate for the Kenai River is greater than 3,000,000 sockeye salmon.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 4, Written Tab 15

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 25 pg 83

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 7 pg 7

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: Neutral on the allocative aspects of this proposal. ADF&G is opposed to unusually complicated or burdensome regulations, as this regulation would direct ADF&G to reevaluate the Kenai forecast inseason. ADF&G is opposed to regulations based on preseason forecasts.

The author would formally withdraw this proposal if Proposal 54 is not passed.

Support:

- Initial intent of author was to put something on record in response to concerns from Cook Inlet fishermen that they feel that Kodiak fishermen should share in the conservation burden of Upper Cook Inlet sockeye salmon stocks.

Opposition:

- The Kodiak AC agreed with ADF&G staff comments that adoption of this proposal would effectively close the North Shelikof fishery.
- Cannot base management plan on preseason forecast.
- Fish caught in North Shelikof are also destined for Karluk and Eastside systems, not only Upper Cook Inlet. Fish have been documented backing out of Karluk Lagoon and caught at Black Cape.
- Concerns about models used for forecast, and that forecasts can be variable and inaccurate.
- Discussion of concerns with cap presented during Proposal 54.

SSFP: Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Neutral/Opposed.

AC Positions: The Kodiak Advisory Committee is opposed.

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.

Substitute Language: A suggestion was made that during the North Shelikof Strait Sockeye Salmon Management Plan, the 15,000 sockeye salmon cap would be eliminated and fishing would only be allowed inside the ½ mile shoreward zone.

PROPOSAL 56. – 5 AAC 18.361 (b-c). Alitak District Management Plan. Modify Alitak District Management Plan to require equal and concurrent fishing periods in the Cape Alitak, Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay sections.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 6, Written Tab 17

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 25 pg 87

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 17, 21, 28, 32; RC 7 pg 8

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: Neutral on the allocative aspects of this proposal. However, ADF&G is opposed to creating unusually complicated or burdensome regulations.

Department staff was questioned about complexity of management and replied that equal and concurrent fishing periods are simpler to manage. Staff stated that since the staggered openings have been put in effect (last 3 years) , there have been relatively lower returns and therefore could not speak to what the effect would be in Olga Bay during larger return years.

Kodiak AC recommends leaving current management plan in effect in order to evaluate through another BOF cycle.

It was not clear if there would be consensus among Olga Bay set gillnetters.

Support:

- Author was present and stated the intent of BOF actions was to allow more fish to reach Olga Bay but that has not been result.
- Study in 1981 showed that fish take 3.5 days to move from the outer Cape Alitak District to the salmon enumeration weirs; 2002 study showed 2.5 days. Although staggered openings have a 2.9 day closure within a 10-day period (adopted 1999) for each section, this results in only a 45-hour period without gear in the water for Alitak Bay in its entirety. Subsequently, there is not enough time for fish to move through the entire district into Olga Bay.
- The last 3 years have experienced lower sockeye salmon returns, creating concern that during big years, when management would allow more fishing time, Olga Bay would actually realize a lower percentage of the Alitak District harvest.
- Difficulties arise for Olga Bay fishermen who must remove their nets from the water by 9 a.m. due to darkness, therefore they often have to pull their gear the night before.
- Because of staggered openings, fishermen from outer sections come to Olga Bay during the earlier staggered opener and then return to fish later staggered openers, creating increased competition for Olga Bay fishers.
- Staggered openings have created a situation where seine gear is allowed to fish 6 hours prior to set gillnet gear in certain areas.
- Increased quality of fish would not change through the elimination of staggered openings because other improvements have been made independently (co-op, fish bled & iced) and most

set gillnetters are able to hold fish in totes of slush ice prior to delivery to tender. Floating processor is affected by tide and a tender announced that it would not pick up fish in the dark, therefore not tied directly to fishery periods.

Opposition:

- Because there have been low sockeye salmon returns since the staggered openings were implemented (last 3 years), the current management plan should remain in effect through another BOF cycle to effectively evaluate the resulting harvest allocation.
- Staggered openings were created to increase harvest opportunity in Olga Bay because it opens 6 hours earlier.
- Because of staggered openings, fishermen from other sections fish in Olga Bay during earlier opening and then return to outer sections to fish during later staggered openings, creating more opportunity for those fishers.
- Improved the timely delivery and the quality of fish as there was less waiting time for the tender. There is a potential to have to hold fish longer during concurrent openers while waiting for tender.

SSFP: Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Neutral.

AC Positions: The Kodiak Advisory Committee is opposed.

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 57. – 5 AAC 18.361. Alitak District Management Plan. Modify Alitak District Management Plan to require the BOF to allocate a percentage of the Alitak District sockeye salmon catch to be harvested in the Cape Alitak, Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay sections.

Staff Reports: RC 2, Oral Tab 6, Written Tab 17

Staff Comments: RC 2, Tab 25 pg 92

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab

Record Comments: RC 17, 21, 28, 32; RC 7 pg 8

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: Neutral on the allocative aspects of this proposal. However, ADF&G is opposed to creating unusually complicated or burdensome regulations and supports regulations that stabilize management and promote orderly fisheries.

The Board Committee questioned the legality of the proposal and whether the BOF has the authority to allocate within a fishery that is not based on historical catch, geographically divided areas, or divided between gear types. The committee sought advice from the Department of Law, who concurred with concerns, but could not say definitively if the proposal would be invalidated if adopted.

Support:

- Author of proposal not present. No support was voiced.

Opposition:

- Would not treat Kodiak Area set net permit holders equally.
- Consensus by public panel to oppose.

SSFP: Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Neutral.

AC Positions: Kodiak AC opposed.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.

Substitute Language: None.

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
COMMITTEE REPORT

RC # 46
COMMITTEE D
Kodiak Sport Fish
January 17, 2008

Board Committee Members:

1. Jeremiah Campbell, *Chair
2. Bonnie Williams
3. Vince Webster

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff Members:

1. Rob Bentz
2. Jim Hasbrouck
3. Matt Miller
4. Len Schwarz
5. Donn Tracy
6. Suzanne Schmidt – Note taker

Federal Staff:

1. Rod Campbell — USFWS - OSM

Advisory Committee Members:

1. Roland Ruoss, Kodiak AC

Public Panel Members:	Affiliation
1. Larry Shaker	Eagle Adventures
2. Dennis Harms	Self – Alaska Trophy Safaris
3. Dave Jones	Self – Alpenview Wilderness Lodge
4. Amy Fredette	Self – Ayakulik Adventures
5. Ken Newman	Runnamuck Charters
6. Chris Fiala	Kodiak Island Charters
7. Tom Simkowski	Self – Alaska Trophy Safaris
8. Roland Maw	Harvest Time Charters
9. Dick Rohrer	Self – Rohrer's Bear Camp

This committee met January 16, from 9:00-12:00 p.m.

Proposals before the Committee: (13 Total) Buskin River closure (#60); Pillar/Monashka creek closures (#61-62); Fresh water king salmon bag limit (#63); Karluk River use of bait (#64); Ayakulik River king/sockeye/coho salmon OEG/management plan (#65-69); Ayakulik River early catch and release (#70); Salt water king salmon sport fishery management plan (#71); Charter vessel operator exclusive registration area (#72)

PROPOSAL 60 - 5 AAC 64.022(b)(1)(B). Waters; season; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

Adoption of this proposal would remove the sport fishing salmon closure for the Buskin River drainage upstream of Bridge 1 from August 1 – September 30.

Staff Reports: Oral report - RC #2, Tab #1; Written report RC #2, Tab #11

Staff Comments: RC #2, Tab 25, page # 100

AC Reports: RC #1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: none

Record Comments: RC # 31

Narrative of Support and Opposition

The department submitted and supports this proposal because it will provide additional angling opportunity on a harvestable surplus of salmon without jeopardizing sustainability of the resources.

Support:

- Provides additional harvest opportunity for anglers.
- Additional inriver harvest will mitigate recent trend of exceeding the escapement goal.
- Simplifies Buskin River sport fishing regulations.
- Done by EO the last two years.
- Possibly reduce fishing on smaller streams that are not monitored by weir.

Opposition:

There were no comments in opposition of this proposal.

Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy:

- In alignment with the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADFG Position: Support

Kodiak AC Position: Support

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to support

Substitute Language:

PROPOSAL 61 - 5 AAC 64.022 (b)(1)(C). Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

Adoption of this proposal would open Pillar Creek to salmon fishing year round.

Staff Reports: Oral report - RC #2, Tab #1; Written report RC #2, Tab #11

Staff Comments: RC #2, Tab 25, page #'s 101-102

AC Reports: RC #1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: none

Record Comments: RC # 31

Narrative of Support and Opposition

The department submitted and supports this proposal because it would provide angling opportunity on a harvestable surplus, develop orderly fisheries, and provide regulatory consistency between two similar drainages in close proximately on the Kodiak road system.

The Kodiak AC supports this proposal.

Support:

- Provides year round angling opportunity for salmon in Pillar Creek.
- Provides an orderly fishery.
- Simplifies sport fishing regulations for adjacent drainages and makes them consistent.

Opposition:

There were no comments in opposition to this proposal.

Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy:

- In alignment with the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADFG Position: Support

Kodiak AC Position: Support

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to support

Substitute Language:

PROPOSAL 62 - 5 AAC 64.051(1). Waters closed to sport fishing in the Kodiak Area; and 5 AAC 64.022 (b)(1)(C). Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

Adoption of this proposal would close both Pillar Creek and Monashka Creek drainages to all sport fishing year round upstream of the highway.

Staff Reports: Oral report - RC #2, Tab #1; Written report RC #2, Tab #11

Staff Comments: RC #2, Tab 25, page #'s 101-102

AC Reports: RC #1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: none

Record Comments: RC # 31, 42

Narrative of Support and Opposition

The department submitted and supports this proposal because it would develop an orderly fisheries by separating anglers from industrial facilities, and provide regulatory consistency between two similar drainages in close proximately on the Kodiak road system.

The Kodiak AC supports this proposal with amendment clarifying that the upriver year round closure of Monashka Creek would be inclusive of its tributary streams, including Virginia Creek. Kodiak AC supports this proposal as it would help to protect the Monashka Bay king salmon brood stock

Support:

- Provides an orderly fishery by separating anglers from municipal water supplies and hatchery facilities.
- Simplifies sport fishing regulations for adjacent drainages and makes them consistent.

Opposition:

There were no comments in opposition to this proposal.

Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy:

- In alignment with the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADFG Position: Support

Kodiak AC Position: Support

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to support

Substitute Language:

PROPOSAL 63 - 5 AAC 64.022 (1)(A)(i). Waters; season; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

Adoption of this proposal would change the freshwater king salmon daily bag and possession limit for king salmon that are 20 inches or greater in length to 2 fish.

Staff Reports: Oral report - RC #2, Tab #1; Written report RC #2, Tab #11

Staff Comments: RC #2, Tab 25, page # 103

AC Reports: RC #1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: none

Record Comments: none

Narrative of Support and Opposition

The department submitted and supports this proposal because it simplifies regulations without significantly impacting harvest opportunity. Reducing the freshwater daily bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length to 2 fish with no further size restrictions will simplify the freshwater regulations, and bring them into closer alignment with the current saltwater bag limit. This proposal is housekeeping.

Industry supports this proposal as the current regulation is confusing.

Support:

- Simplifies area wide sport fishing regulations for king salmon.
- May help conserve currently depressed local king salmon stocks in Karluk and Ayakulik rivers by reducing overall harvest in each drainage.

Opposition:

There were no comments in opposition to this proposal.

Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy:

Not discussed; this is a housekeeping proposal and not a conservation issue.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADFG Position: Support

Kodiak AC Position: Support

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to support

Substitute Language:

PROPOSAL 64 - 5 AAC 64.022. Waters; season; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

Adoption of this proposal would prohibit the use of bait in the Karluk River drainage downstream of Karluk Lake from June 1 through July 25.

Staff Reports: Oral report - RC #2, Tab #1; Written report RC #2, Tab #11

Staff Comments: RC #2, Tab 25, page # 104

AC Reports: RC #1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: none

Record Comments: RC # 31

Narrative of Support and Opposition

The department opposes this proposal, since they already have the authority to restrict the king salmon fishery, including prohibiting the use of bait, by emergency order and has used this tool in the past as a means to achieve the escapement goal.

Public panel members stated that bait is a very effective method to catch king salmon, is helpful for novice anglers and should be available when stocks are healthy.

Kodiak AC opposes this proposal and feels that the department is doing a good job with the current use of emergency orders.

Support:

- There were no comments in support of this proposal.

Opposition:

- The department already has emergency order authority to prohibit the use of bait.
- Eliminates use of bait as a means for increased harvest opportunity (unless allowed by Emergency Order) when king salmon runs exceed the escapement goal.

Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy:

- In alignment with the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADFG Position: Opposed

Kodiak AC Position: Opposed

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to oppose

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to oppose

Substitute Language:

PROPOSAL 65 - 5 AAC 64. (New section). Ayakulik River King Salmon Management Plan.

This proposal seeks to create a management plan for the Ayakulik River king salmon sport fishery. The plan would establish an optimal escapement goal (OEG), and set interim weir count goals.

Staff Reports: Oral report - RC #2, Tab #1; Written report RC #2, Tab #11

Staff Comments: RC #2, Tab 25, page #'s 105-106

AC Reports: RC #1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: PC # 7, 8

Record Comments: RC # 4, 7, 23, 31, 63, 64

Narrative of Support and Opposition

The department is neutral on this proposal since it requests the creation of a management plan and an OEG which could be allocative in nature. Although this plan would only restrict recreational users, management plans are typically allocative in nature addressing issues affecting multiple user groups. The decision to create an OEG is a board function and takes into account biological and allocative factors.

The Kodiak AC addressed this proposal through formation of a study group comprised of AC members and stakeholders. The study group recommended support of this proposal with amendment (RC 7, 23) which was subsequently adopted by the AC.

The department preference for management of the fishery was not to establish an OEG but to use the tools already at its disposal. The departments approach would be to implement a non-retention fishery as soon as the run was projected to be low in abundance. This would reduce the early harvest and allow the department to wait longer before determining the BEG would not be achieved and the fishery closed. The department also stated that recent run timing has been unusually late. Waiting longer to project if the escapement goal will be achieved will prevent closing the fishery and them reopening it later.

Several public panel members expressed the need to have an orderly fishery and to know in advance how the season will be managed. Many of their clients travel from off island and it is very difficult and expensive to change travel plans, many which have been made two years prior.

A harvest strategy was proposed by a member of the public panel which would start the season with non-retention – unbaited artificial lures with a single hook and king salmon must be immediately released; once the lower end of the BEG was projected – a) the artificial lure and hook restriction would be eliminated, b) the bag and possession limit would be one fish, c) annual limit of two fish, d) harvest record required; once the upper end of the BEG was projected a) the bag and possession limit would be two fish, b) annual limit of five fish, c) harvest record required.

The department stated it could consider starting the season with non-retention, no bait, and single hook if warranted. The department already has emergency order authority to implement these changes.

Hooking mortality issues were raised by the committee. The department stated that they estimate hooking mortality of king salmon at 7%, based on a study conducted on the Kenai River. Bait vs. non bait and single hook vs. multi hook questions were raised. Use of bait increases hooking mortality. Hooking location is also critical.

The legality of a non-retention fishery when the lower end of the BEG has not been achieved or projected was questioned by public members. The department responded that the Department of Law investigated the issue and stated the department has the authority for either non-retention or closure.

Members of the public panel desire to have either a date or escapement number when the department would close the fishery.

Support:

- Avoids disruption of the sport fishery and consequent financial loss to guides and other service providers and by providing a non-retention alternative to complete fishery closure during weak runs.

Opposition:

- Escapements already below the BEG may be further reduced by hooking mortality attributable to catch and release.

Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy:

- In alignment with the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADFG Position: neutral

Kodiak AC Position: None offered

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to oppose

Substitute Language:

PROPOSAL 66 - 5 AAC 64. (New section). Establish an optimal escapement goal (OEG) for king and/or sockeye salmon on the Ayakulik River.

This proposal seeks to establish an optimal escapement goal (OEG) for king and sockeye runs in the Ayakulik River, set at some level below the biological escapement goal (BEG) for king salmon and sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for sockeye salmon to allow for a non-retention fishery to occur for each species whenever the respective escapement goal would not be achieved.

Staff Reports: Oral report - RC # 2, Tab #1; Written report RC # 2, Tab #11

Staff Comments: RC # 2, Tab 25, page #'s 107-109

AC Reports: RC #1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: PC # 7, 8

Record Comments: RC # 4, 5, 7, 31, 63, 64

Narrative of Support and Opposition

The department is neutral on this proposal since it requests the creation of a management plan and an OEG which could be allocative in nature. Although this plan would only restrict recreational users, management plans are typically allocative in nature addressing issues affecting multiple user groups. The decision to create an OEG is a board function and takes into account biological and allocative factors.

The Kodiak AC addressed this proposal through formation of a study group comprised of AC members and stakeholders. The study group recommended no action on this proposal (RC #7) which was subsequently agreed to by the AC.

The department explained that an OEG is not needed to extend the length of the sockeye fishery because of the relatively low conservation burden on the sport fishery due to the very low level of harvest (typically 750 fish) and large escapement goal (200,000-500,000). The need to close the fishery would not occur until very late in the run.

Several public panel members expressed the need to have an orderly fishery and to know in advance how the season will be managed. Many of their clients travel from off island and it is very difficult and expensive to change travel plans many which have been made two years prior.

A harvest strategy was proposed by a member of the public panel which would start the season with non-retention – unbaited artificial lures with a single hook and king salmon must be immediately released; once the lower end of the BEG was projected – a) the artificial lure and hook restriction would be eliminated, b) the bag and possession limit would be one fish, c) annual limit of two fish, d) harvest record required; once the upper end of the BEG was projected a) the bag and possession limit would be two fish, b) annual limit of five fish, c) harvest record required.

The department stated it could consider starting the season with non-retention, no bait, and single, barbless hook. The department already has emergency order authority to implement these changes.

Hooking mortality issues were raised by the committee. The department stated that they estimate hooking mortality of king salmon at 7%, based on a study conducted on the Kenai River. Bait vs. non bait and single hook vs. multi hook questions were raised. Use of bait increases hooking mortality. Hooking location is also critical.

The legality of a non-retention fishery when the lower end of the BEG has not been achieved or projected was questioned by public members. The department responded that the Department of Law investigated the issue and stated the department has the authority for either non-retention or closure.

Members of the public panel desire to have either a date or escapement number when the department would close the fishery.

Support:

- Avoids disruption of the sport fishery and consequent financial loss to guides and other service providers and by providing a non-retention alternative to complete fishery closure during weak runs.

Opposition:

- Escapements already below the escapement goal may be further reduced by hooking mortality attributable to non-retention.

Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy:

- In alignment with the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADFG Position: neutral

Kodiak AC Position: No action.

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to take no action (based on discussion of proposal #65)

Substitute Language:

PROPOSAL 67 - 5 AAC 64. (New section). Establish an optimal escapement goal (OEG) for king and/or sockeye salmon on the Ayakulik River.

This proposal seeks to establish an optimal escapement goal (OEG) for king and sockeye runs in the Ayakulik River, set at some level below the biological escapement goal (BEG) for king salmon and sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for sockeye salmon to allow for a non-retention fishery to occur for each species whenever the respective escapement goal would not be achieved.

Staff Reports: Oral report - RC # 2, Tab #1; Written report RC # 2, Tab #11

Staff Comments: RC # 2, Tab 25, page #'s 107-109

AC Reports: RC #1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: PC # 7, 8

Record Comments: RC # 4, 5, 7, 31, 63, 64

Narrative of Support and Opposition

The department is neutral on this proposal since it requests the creation of a management plan and an OEG which could be allocative in nature. Although this plan would only restrict recreational users, management plans are typically allocative in nature addressing issues affecting multiple user groups. The decision to create an OEG is a board function and takes into account biological and allocative factors.

The Kodiak AC addressed this proposal through formation of a study group comprised of AC members and stakeholders. The study group recommended no action on this proposal (RC #7) which was subsequently agreed to by the AC.

The department explained that an OEG is not needed to extend the length of the sockeye fishery because of the relatively low conservation burden on the sport fishery due to the very low level of harvest (typically 750 fish) and large escapement goal (200,000-500,000). The need to close the fishery would not occur until very late in the run.

Several public panel members expressed the need to have an orderly fishery and to know in advance how the season will be managed. Many of their clients travel from off island and it is very difficult and expensive to change travel plans many which have been made two years prior.

A harvest strategy was proposed by a member of the public panel which would start the season with non-retention – unbaited artificial lures with a single hook and king salmon must be immediately released; once the lower end of the BEG was projected – a) the artificial lure and hook restriction would be eliminated, b) the bag and possession limit would be one fish, c) annual limit of two fish, d) harvest record required; once the upper end of the BEG was projected a) the bag and possession limit would be two fish, b) annual limit of five fish, c) harvest record required.

The department stated it could consider starting the season with non-retention, no bait, and single, barbless hook. The department already has emergency order authority to implement these changes.

Hooking mortality issues were raised by the committee. The department stated that they estimate hooking mortality of king salmon at 7%, based on a study conducted on the Kenai River. Bait vs. non bait and single hook vs. multi hook questions were raised. Use of bait increases hooking mortality. Hooking location is also critical.

The legality of a non-retention fishery when the lower end of the BEG has not been achieved or projected was questioned by public members. The department responded that the Department of Law investigated the issue and stated the department has the authority for either non-retention or closure.

Members of the public panel desire to have either a date or escapement number when the department would close the fishery.

Support:

- Avoids disruption of the sport fishery and consequent financial loss to guides and other service providers and by providing a non-retention alternative to complete fishery closure during weak runs.

Opposition:

- Escapements already below the escapement goal may be further reduced by hooking mortality attributable to non-retention.

Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy:

- In alignment with the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADFG Position: neutral

Kodiak AC Position: No action.

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to take no action (based on discussion of proposal #65)

Substitute Language:

PROPOSAL 68 - 5 AAC 64. (New section). Establish an optimal escapement goal (OEG) for king and/or sockeye salmon on the Ayakulik River.

This proposal seeks to establish an optimal escapement goal (OEG) for king and sockeye runs in the Ayakulik River, set at some level below the biological escapement goal (BEG) for king salmon and sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for sockeye salmon to allow for a non-retention fishery to occur for each species whenever the respective escapement goal would not be achieved.

Staff Reports: Oral report - RC # 2, Tab #1; Written report RC # 2, Tab #11

Staff Comments: RC # 2, Tab 25, page #'s 107-109

AC Reports: RC #1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab

Timely Public Comment: PC # 7, 8

Record Comments: RC # 4, 5, 7, 31, 63, 64

Narrative of Support and Opposition

The department is neutral on this proposal since it requests the creation of a management plan and an OEG which could be allocative in nature. Although this plan would only restrict recreational users, management plans are typically allocative in nature addressing issues affecting multiple user groups. The decision to create an OEG is a board function and takes into account biological and allocative factors.

The Kodiak AC addressed this proposal through formation of a study group comprised of AC members and stakeholders. The study group recommended no action on this proposal (RC #7) which was subsequently agreed to by the AC.

The department explained that an OEG is not needed to extend the length of the sockeye fishery because of the relatively low conservation burden on the sport fishery due to the very low level of harvest (typically 750 fish) and large escapement goal (200,000-500,000). The need to close the fishery would not occur until very late in the run.

Several public panel members expressed the need to have an orderly fishery and to know in advance how the season will be managed. Many of their clients travel from off island and it is very difficult and expensive to change travel plans many which have been made two years prior.

A harvest strategy was proposed by a member of the public panel which would start the season with non-retention – unbaited artificial lures with a single hook and king salmon must be immediately released; once the lower end of the BEG was projected – a) the artificial lure and hook restriction would be eliminated, b) the bag and possession limit would be one fish, c) annual limit of two fish, d) harvest record required; once the upper end of the BEG was projected a) the bag and possession limit would be two fish, b) annual limit of five fish, c) harvest record required.

The department stated it could consider starting the season with non-retention, no bait, and single, barbless hook. The department already has emergency order authority to implement these changes.

Hooking mortality issues were raised by the committee. The department stated that they estimate hooking mortality of king salmon at 7%, based on a study conducted on the Kenai River. Bait vs. non bait and single hook vs. multi hook questions were raised. Use of bait increases hooking mortality. Hooking location is also critical.

The legality of a non-retention fishery when the lower end of the BEG has not been achieved or projected was questioned by public members. The department responded that the Department of Law investigated the issue and stated the department has the authority for either non-retention or closure.

Members of the public panel desire to have either a date or escapement number when the department would close the fishery.

Support:

- Avoids disruption of the sport fishery and consequent financial loss to guides and other service providers and by providing a non-retention alternative to complete fishery closure during weak runs.

Opposition:

- Escapements already below the escapement goal may be further reduced by hooking mortality attributable to non-retention.

Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy:

- In alignment with the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADFG Position: neutral

Kodiak AC Position: No action.

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to take no action (based on discussion of proposal #65)

Substitute Language:

PROPOSAL 69 - 5 AAC 64. (New section). Establish a biological and optimum escapement goal (OEG) for coho salmon on the Ayakulik River and allow a catch and release fishery.

This proposal seeks to establish a biological escapement goal (BEG) and optimal escapement goal (OEG) for the Ayakulik River coho salmon stock. It would require the department to assess stock status and determine an appropriate BEG and that the Board subsequently establish an OEG to allow for a catch and release fishery to occur whenever the BEG would not be achieved.

Staff Reports: Oral report - RC #2, Tab #1; Written report RC #2, Tab #11

Staff Comments: RC #2, Tab 25, page # 110

AC Reports: RC #1, Advisory Committee Comments tab

Timely Public Comment: none

Record Comments: RC # 5, 31, 62

Narrative of Support and Opposition

The department is opposed to the biological aspects of this proposal due to both the lack of resources available to obtain information necessary to conduct a BEG analysis, and the inability to enumerate Ayakulik coho salmon run strength and subsequently measure achievement of the BEG. The large return of coho salmon documented in this remote fishery may not require the creation of escapement goals in order to assure sustainability. The department is neutral on the allocative aspects of establishing an OEG.

The proposer (who was on the public panel) clarified that use of management measures in the commercial fishery (specifically, placing and enforcing closed water markers around the Ayakulik River mouth) would effectively address the problem identified in the proposal. Department staff from Commercial Fisheries Division clarified that such measures were taken in 2007 and will also be taken in the future. The proposer expressed his intent to submit an RC to the Board seeking withdrawal of this proposal.

Support:

There were no comments in support of this proposal.

Opposition:

There were no comments in opposition to this proposal.

Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy:

- In alignment with the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADFG Position: Opposed

Kodiak AC Position: Opposed

Public Panel Recommendation: No recommendation

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to take no action

Substitute Language:

PROPOSAL 70 - 5 AAC 64. 022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

This proposal would require the department to restrict Ayakulik River fisheries to catch and release when returns are low.

Staff Reports: Oral report - RC #2, Tab #1; Written report RC #2, Tab #11

Staff Comments: RC #2, Tab 25, page #'s 111-112

AC Reports: RC #1, Advisory Committee Comments Tab

Timely Public Comment: PC # 8, 16,63,64

Record Comments: RC # 5, 31, 63, 64

Narrative of Support and Opposition

The discussion on this proposal consisted of the following points:

1) The proposal is vague and unclear as to intent, and;
2) Aspects of this proposal were also discussed under proposal #'s 65-69.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADFG Position: Opposed

Kodiak AC: Opposed

Public Panel Recommendation: None

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to take no action

Substitute Language:

PROPOSAL 71 - 5 AAC 64.060. Kodiak Area Saltwater King Salmon Sport Fishery management Plan.

This proposal was submitted to provide the Board and the public the opportunity to review the status of the Kodiak saltwater king salmon sport fishery and consider adjustments to the current management plan.

Staff Reports: Oral report - RC #2, Tab #1; Written report RC #2, Tab #11

Staff Comments: RC #2, Tab 25, page # 113

AC Reports: RC #1, Advisory Committee Comments Tab

Timely Public Comment: none

Record Comments: RC # 31, 50

Narrative of Support and Opposition

The department supports providing an opportunity for the Board and public to review the Kodiak saltwater king salmon sport fishery management plan, but is neutral on allocative aspects of this proposal.

The Kodiak AC recommends amendment of the management plan to a guideline harvest level range of 8,000 – 10,000 with subsequent provisions that the Board may consider restrictions if in 2 of 3 years between Board cycles the harvest is between 8,000 and 10,000, but that the Board must adopt restrictions prescribed in the management plan if the harvest exceeds 10,000 in 2 of the 3 years between Board cycles.

Department staff clarified that any action on the management plan is at the Board's discretion, that the #2 restriction specified in the management plan has been implemented statewide for the last two years and will also be in effect during 2008 (the #2 restriction, which prevents saltwater guides from retaining fish while clients are onboard, was adopted to reduce halibut harvest but applies to all species of fish), and that local hatchery production (fish harvested in Monashka Bay) do not count toward the current GHL.

Support:

- Current GHL was arbitrarily selected and should not preclude a future increase to accommodate growth.
- Large hatchery contribution to local harvest should allow for some increase in GHL.

Opposition:

There were no comments in opposition to this proposal.

Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy:

- In alignment with the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADFG Position: Neutral

Kodiak AC: Supports amendment of management plan

Public Panel Recommendation: No recommendation

Board Committee Recommendation: No recommendation

Substitute Language:

PROPOSAL 72 - 5 AAC 64. (New section). Create an exclusive use area for saltwater sport fishing charter operations in the Kodiak area.

This proposal seeks establishment of a super exclusive use area for Kodiak salt water sport fishing charter operations. The super exclusive use area would prohibit salt water charter vessels from operating both in Kodiak waters and another regulatory area during the same year.

Staff Reports: Oral report - RC #2, Tab #1; Written report RC #2, Tab #11

Staff Comments: RC #2, Tab 25, page # 114

AC Reports: RC #1, Advisory Committee Comments tab

Timely Public Comment: PC # 9

Record Comments: RC # 31, 47

Narrative of Support and Opposition

The department is neutral on this proposal due to its allocative nature.

The Kodiak AC supports this proposal with amendment to approve concept of a super exclusive registration area for the salt water charter boat sport fishery and defers to department and the Board for development of appropriate regulatory language.

Several public panel members suggested amending the proposal to include all guided sport fishing operators, not just salt water charter vessel operators. Some members also suggested an amendment revising the description of waters covered by the super exclusive area to reflect the current regulatory area for the commercial fishery to include adjacent mainland waters that are occasionally frequented by Kodiak-based operators.

Department staff discussed the statewide limited entry initiative currently underway and the recent recommendation by the initiative stakeholder task force to develop a statewide sport fish guide services board as an alternative to limited entry. The guide service board would certify guide operators for up to three areas in which they could annually provide guide services.

Department staff clarified that the Board had authority to adopt the proposal, but also that as written the wording indicated that under existing statutes and regulations the proponents were in fact seeking a "super exclusive" (and not 'exclusive') area designation. The member of the public panel who submitted the proposal concurred with this interpretation.

Support:

- Provides stability and predictable levels of effort in charter boat fishery.
- Gives participants 'ownership' rights without limiting entry of new operators.
- Adoption of this proposal over creation of guided services board.
- Simplifies management and promotes resource sustainability by establishing a known number of participants in the fishery.
- May pre-empt need for further federal regulation of Kodiak sector in area 3A halibut fishery.

- May prevent economic distress due to future over-capitalization of local charter boat service industry.
- Pro-active measure; Kodiak can be a model for super exclusive designation in other areas.

Opposition:

- Does not address a biological or conservation problem attributable to the guide sport fishery.
- Charter boat fishery does not currently show signs of overcrowding.
- Guide services board will be a more effective means of achieving goals of proposal.
- Would restrict hunters from other areas from sport fishing during trips to Kodiak.
- Offers an area by are piecemeal solution to a statewide issue.

Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy:

- In alignment with the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADFG Position: Neutral

Kodiak AC Position: Support

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus

Board Committee Recommendation: No consensus

Substitute Language:

January 15, 2008

RC 47

Mr. Chairman and Board of Fish Members,

I would like to encourage you to pass proposal 72. This proposal does not intend to limit anyone from participating in the Kodiak Sport Charter Fishery, it only makes the operators and vessels choose where they would like to fish each year.

The local fleet has more interest in keeping the local stocks healthy, where transient operators may not have such a vested interest in our fish stocks.

I ask that the Kodiak Area be an exclusive area for sport charter fishing as this would help in stopping conflicts between areas as the charter fleets continue to grow and will allow our local area biologist the ability to better manage the area in a timely manner.

Larry Shaker
Eagle Adventures
M/V Chaik
Owner & Operator

Board of Fisheries Kodiak Finfish meeting of January 14 – 18, 2008 at Elk's Lodge
Kodiak, Alaska **RC Index** **RC 48**

Log #	Submitted by	Topic
1	Boards Support	BOF Workbook
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9	AK Trollers Assoc	Proposal 59
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12	Rod Campbell	Kodiak area map
13	Pete Hannah	Prop 40 support
14	Pete Hannah	Prop 58 oppose
15	Theresa Peterson	Prop 38 – 40 & 58
16	Oluf & Celestine Omlid	Prop 58 oppose
17	Bill Barker	Prop 56 – 58
18	Margaret Bosworth	Prop 58 oppose
19	Constance Jensen	Prop 51 – 52 oppose
20	Gordon Jensen	Prop 51 – 52 oppose
21	Kouremetis Family Fisheries	Porp 39 – 40 & 56-59
22	Steve Drage	Prop 38 – 40
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24	Patrick O'Donnell	Prop 38 – 40
25	Jay Stinson	Oppose Alitak closure
26	Ron Naughton	Prop 38 – 40
27	Julie Bonney	Prop 38 – 40
28	Duncan Fields	Old Harbor Fishermen's Assoc proposal comments & meeting timing comments
29	Duncan Fields	Kodiak sockeye escapement goal
30	Duncan Fields	Weatehr guidelines for set net
31	ADF&G	Prop 60 – 72 deliberation materials
32	Kevin Fisher	Prop 51 – 52 & 56 – 57
33	Al Burch	Prop 38 – 40
34	Keith Reynolds	Prop 38 – 40
35	Chris Holland	Observer program
36	Roland Maw	High seas salmonid code wire tag data
37	Rich Blanc	Prop 51 & 52
38	Stanley Groves	Prop 58 support
39	Rich Blanc	Prop 58 opposition rebuttal
40	Theodore Squartsoff	Prop 58 support
41	Frank Pagano	Prop 58 support
42	Randy Spivey	Prop 62 oppose
43	ADF&G	Committee A Report
44	ADF&G	Committee B Report

Log #	Submitted by	Topic
45	ADF&G	Committee C Report
46	ADF&G	Committee D Report
47	Larry Shaker	Prop 72 support

RC 49

RECEIVED
JAN 15 2008
BOARDS

From: Aaren Ellsworth <aarenellsworth@gmail.com>
Subject: Board of Fish comments
Date: January 14, 2008 10:53:04 AM AST
To: Larry Ellsworth <lellsworth@alaska.com>, Nadene <naustin@ptialaska.net>

Hi Larry and Nadene,

The Board of Fish meeting is starting today and we just found out that there are two proposals with significant importance for us. Would you mind faxing the following comments to 907.465.6094 by 2 pm today? No worries if you don't get this in time, just thought we'd give it our best effort...

Thanks! A&B

We would like to comment on Proposal 58. We are in opposition to this proposal. We are Uganik Bay setnet fishermen. By opening the fishery to allow two permits to be operated by one permit holder, it would allow the number of permits in Uganik Bay, among other areas, to potentially double. It could allow a redistribution of permits around the island, thereby affecting catch numbers in different areas. With the current low salmon prices, the viability of our fishery is dependant on the long fishing season. If many additional permits were fished, the fishing season could be substantially shortened. Setnet fishing is inherently based on its non-mobility. By allowing an influx of permits into or out of a given area, the catch levels could be dramatically altered from the current baselines. This proposal seems to primarily benefit one family's operation, a family who owns more than 13 permits, to the possible detriment of many other fishermen. Essentially all setnet operations are small, family operations, and all sites already have the ability to fish additional permits through the historic channels of family members or crewmen being permit holders. To change this system in order to meet the needs of one or two families, throws uncertainty into the future of all other salmon setnetters.

We would also like to comment on Proposal 59. We are in opposition to this proposal. The Board of Fish has already acknowledged that this proposal would substantially alter the structure and management of coho fishing in Kodiak. We would like the Board to consider the fact that there are many small rivers and creeks with coho returns that are not currently monitored or managed. A troll fishery could have a substantial impact on these returns. We'd also like to point out that there are many unused seine, setnet and especially beach seine permits. These permits could be purchased inexpensively by fishermen from other areas. These fishermen could then use these permits to gain access to the troll fishery. Based on our observations of how coho tend to aggregate in large schools, a large troll fleet could significantly impact coho stocks. This could have a strong negative impact on existing commercial fisheries and the sport and charter fleets.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bryan Ellsworth (permit holder), Greg Ellsworth, Aaren Ellsworth

Hope this isn't too late for giving input. Got saw on my email after 530 pm yesterday
Larry Ellsworth

U.S. - CANADA CHINOOK SALMON TREATY ALLOCATIONS TO SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISHERIES*, 2001-2007

Gear Group	Annual Percentage of Total Allocation	2001 Allocation	2002 Allocation	2003 Allocation	2004 Allocation	2005 Allocation	2006 Allocation	2007 Allocation
Set and Drift Gillnet	Fixed (2001-2005) 3.2% (2006-2007)	8,600	8,600	8,600	8,600	8,600	11,057	10,552
Purse Seine	4.3%	8,200	15,328	15,700	16,490	17,905	14,912	14,164
Sport Fishery	20% of combined troll/sport total	35,000	66,507	68,360	71,700	78,000	64,166	60,935
Troll Fishery	80% of combined troll/sport total	138,000	266,029	273,440	286,800	311,900	256,644	243,741
Total	-	190,000	356,464	366,100	383,590	416,400	346,800	329,392

Source: ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Division, Region 1
* Given in numbers of fish

Re 80

SELECTED ALASKA CHINOOK SALMON HARVESTS, 1990-2007

	FISHERY					
YEAR	KODIAK SALTWATER SPORT[a]	OTHER GOA SALTWATER SPORT[a]	GOA COMMERCIAL SALMON[b]	GOA TRAWL GROUNDFISH BYCATCH[c]	BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS TRAWL GROUNDFISH BYCATCH[c]	GRAND TOTAL
1990	<500	63,000	428,000	17,000	14,000	572,000
1991	<500	73,000	409,000	39,000	49,000	571,000
1992	1,000	61,000	338,000	20,000	42,000	524,000
1993	2,000	80,000	408,000	24,000	46,000	642,000
1994	1,000	66,000	349,000	14,000	44,000	541,000
1995	1,000	74,000	347,000	15,000	23,000	535,000
1996	2,000	77,000	307,000	16,000	63,000	544,000
1997	3,000	94,000	401,000	15,000	51,000	661,000
1998	3,000	70,000	340,000	17,000	61,000	564,000
1999	4,000	85,000	302,000	31,000	15,000	526,000
2000	6,000	77,000	294,000	27,000	8,000	495,000
2001	6,000	83,000	323,000	15,000	41,000	557,000
2002	5,000	83,000	468,000	13,000	40,000	697,000
2003	8,000	87,000	510,000	16,000	56,000	772,000
2004	10,000	99,000	590,000	18,000	63,000	889,000
2005	8,000	108,000	532,000	30,000	75,000	869,000
2006	10,000	107,000	449,000	19,000	88,000	790,000
2001-2006 Average	8,000	95,000	479,000	19,000	61,000	762,000

[a]Source: ADF&G Sport Fish Division, Statewide Harvest Survey; includes Southeast, PWS Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik and S. AK Penn. numbers rounded to nearest 1,000

[b]Source: ADF&G Commercial Fish Division, StatewideFish Tickete Database; inlcudes Southeast, PWS Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik and S. AK Penn.; numbers rounded to nearest 1,000

[c]Source: National Marine Fisheries Service, numbers rounded to nearest 1,000

Source: ADFG Sport Fish Division - Kodiak Office

Updated: 1/15/2008

Proposal # 71

Kodiak King Salmon Task Force
Local Area Management Plan Proposal to the
Alaska Board of Fisheries

September 26, 2002

Task Force Members:

1. Allan Thielen - Chair
2. David Olsen
3. Mike Amberg
4. Andy Christofferson
5. Kris Lund
6. John Witteveen
7. Pete Danelski
8. Mike Anderson - Vice Chair
9. Al Burch
10. Fred Christonson

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES CHARGE TO THE TASK FORCE COMMITTEE

The Kodiak Island King Salmon Task Force has been charged by the Alaska Board of Fisheries with exploring alternative solutions for the king salmon annual limit for the marine waters of around Kodiak. Any alternative solution should meet the Board's goal of restricting and stabilizing the harvest of king salmon during the winter fishery. (**Note to Board Members:** During their meeting the Kodiak King Salmon Task Force members concurred that reference in the Board's charge statement to the winter fishery was likely an error, transcribed from the Board's charge to the Homer King Salmon Task Force, and that members should concentrate on the entire Kodiak fishery, which mainly occurs in the spring, summer and fall.)

SUMMARY OF TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES

The Kodiak Island King Salmon Task Force met on May 8 and May 10, 2002 in order to address a charge from the Alaska Board of Fisheries for exploring alternative solutions for the king salmon annual limit for the marine waters of around Kodiak. Following are discussion points identified by the Task Force as relating to the Board's charge.

Harvest Stabilization

The best means of containing growth in the sport fishery is through establishment of an annual harvest guideline. An annual limit per angler still allows the harvest to grow if the number of anglers increases. Although angling effort in Kodiak is not expected to increase significantly in the near future, a potential exists from any increases in cruise ship traffic and general tourism. The level at which the harvest guideline should be set is 8,000 fish, which would stabilize the fishery and keep harvest within 23% of the highest harvest on record (6,169 fishing, occurring during 2000) , while allowing for limited future expansion of the saltwater sport fishery to aid in recovery and growth of the locally depressed economy

through some increased tourism. Setting the harvest guideline moderately above current harvest levels is also justified in view of the recent increase in the U.S.-Canada Chinook Salmon Treaty allocation between 2001 and 2002 from 190,000 fish to 356,000 fish, but still maintains a harvest level of < 1% of the current total Pacific west coast salmon harvest by all fisheries and gear groups.

Inseason vs. post-season management

Inseason management would provide for implementation of restrictions to keep the harvest under the guideline annually. Post-season management would impose restrictions the following year if the harvest guideline was exceeded. Inseason management would require use of charter boat log books as an index. Post season management would use the harvest figures compiled through the statewide harvest survey.

Post season management is the preferred option because of the cost to ADF&G of maintaining logbook reporting and the uncertain future of the current program. If the harvest guideline is exceeded on a given year, the excess would likely be relatively insignificant to the overall Pacific west coast harvest. An overage policy on the harvest guideline consistent with that of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan would stabilize the fishery by allowing management on trends of increasing or decreasing harvest instead of on single year anomalies.

Accounting for local hatchery production

If the new hatchery program in Monashka Bay is successful, the kings harvested should not count toward a harvest guideline. A problem with directly adding an expected hatchery return to the harvest guideline involves the difficulty in estimating how many local hatchery fish would be returning each year and the expensive cost to do so through studies. Discounting kings harvested in Monashka Bay from the harvest guideline while recognizing that some local hatchery fish will be caught outside of Monashka Bay would be the simplest and most effective means of accounting for local hatchery production.

What to do if the harvest guideline is exceeded

An important consideration for implementing management restrictions when necessary to keep the harvest within the guideline includes maintaining the normal ratio of resident to nonresident harvest. Management restrictions aimed at giving preference to resident anglers will maintain this historic harvest relationship while providing a means for uninterrupted sport fishing during periods when annual reductions in harvest are necessary. An ADF&G analysis to the Board of Fisheries showing hypothetical harvest reductions in 2000 fishery indicated that management restrictions such as lowering the saltwater bag limit, prohibiting saltwater guides from fishing and establishing a 28" size limit would reduce saltwater harvest levels by as much as 48%.

Reduction of current daily bag limit

Further assurance for stabilization of the saltwater harvest can be accomplished by lowering the current daily bag and possession limit from 3 fish to 2 fish per day. A reduced bag limit would safeguard the harvest guideline from being exceeded while still providing anglers the opportunity to fish all year long.

During the May 8 meeting a draft alternative to the 5 fish annual limit in saltwater was developed by the Task Force for further consideration, which consisted of stated management goals and objectives and a suite of preferred implementation strategies. Task Force members did not consider the 5 fish annual limit in freshwater as part of a management plan proposal since this component of the fishery was not addressed in the charge given to the committee by the Board of Fisheries. On May 10 the committee reconvened to finalize a recommended alternative along with summarized supporting information.

Following a preliminary review by the Board of Fisheries in June 2002 of the proposed management plan submitted by the Task Force, and a subsequent meeting between selected committee participants and board members on September 23, the Task Force re-finalized a recommended alternative to the annual limit regulation.

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE TO THE KING SALMON ANNUAL LIMIT

The following presents the finalized, unanimously supported recommendation of the King Salmon Task Force to the Alaska Board of Fisheries for an alternative to a 5 king salmon annual limit. It is the desire and request of the Task Force committee that the Board accept this recommendation for consideration during the earliest possible regulatory meeting.

Goal of Proposed Management Plan:

The goal of the Task Force management plan proposal is to effectively manage the Kodiak marine water chinook salmon fishery through establishment of an annual harvest guideline and other measures identified herein that are necessary to regulate and contain growth of the fishery in a rational manner.

Plan Objectives:

(1) manage the sport fishery to attain an annually specified harvest guideline;

(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the established harvest guideline;

(3) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers whenever possible; and

(4) provide stability to the sport fishery by eliminating inseason regulatory changes, except those necessary for conservation purposes.

Implementation Strategies:

(1) establish a harvest guideline of 8,000 chinook salmon in Kodiak marine waters;

(a) chinook salmon caught in Monashka Bay will not be counted towards the harvest guideline;

(b) the harvest will be estimated annually by the Statewide Harvest Survey.

(2) reduce the bag limit in salt water for chinook salmon from 3 fish per day, only 2 over 28" to 2 fish per day, with no size restrictions;

(3) management restrictions necessary to keep the chinook harvest within the established guideline will be incrementally implemented as follows:

(a) the chinook salmon bag limit for non-resident anglers will be reduced to one fish per day, with no size limit;

(b) fishing for chinook salmon by guides on chartered vessels will be prohibited;

(c) all chinook salmon harvested must be 28 inches or greater in length;

(d) the chinook salmon bag limit for resident anglers will be reduced to one fish per day.

Justification:

1. Establishment of a 8,000 fish harvest guideline -

- probable large future contribution of local hatchery production to the saltwater chinook salmon harvest occurring outside Monashka Bay
- allows for limited future expansion of the saltwater sport fishery to aid in recovery and growth of the locally depressed economy through increased tourism
- increase in U.S.-Canada Chinook Salmon Treaty allocation between 2001 and 2002 from 190,000 fish to 356,000 fish
- proposed sport guideline maintains a harvest level of < 1% of the current total GOA chinook salmon harvest by all fisheries and gear groups

2. Reduction of daily bag and possession limit from three fish to two fish -

- a bag limit reduction further stabilizes the fishery by helping ensure the guideline is not exceeded while still providing year round opportunity for anglers

3. Implementation of tiered management restrictions -

- provides for preferential consideration of resident over non-resident anglers
- ADF&G analysis to Board of Fisheries showing hypothetical harvest reductions in 2000 fishery

management restriction	estimated harvest reduction
- lower saltwater bag limit to one fish per day (all anglers)	31%
- saltwater guides prohibited from fishing	5%
- saltwater size limit 28 inches or larger	12%

- provides means for uninterrupted sport fishing during periods when annual reductions in harvest are necessary

Kodiak King Salmon Task Force
Local Area Management Plan Proposal to the
Alaska Board of Fisheries

May 13, 2002

Respectfully Submitted,
by Members of the Kodiak King Salmon Task Force:

Allan Thielen, Chair — 5/13/02 Date

Mike Anderson, Vice Chair — 5/14/02 Date

David Olsen — 5-14-02 Date

Mike Amberg — 5-14-02 Date

Andy Christofferson — 5-14-02 Date

Kris Lund — 5/14/02 Date

John Witteveen — 5/13/02 Date

Pete Danelski — 5/13/02 Date

Al Burch — 5/14/02 Date

Fred Christonson — 5-14-02 Date

Board of Fisheries Kodiak Finfish January 14 – 18, 2008 at Elk's Lodge, Kodiak, Alaska

RC 51

Public Testimony Sign Up

Name	Representing	Subject / Related RC. PC or AC
1. Don Fox	Kodiak AC & Self	Proposal comments AC 2 , RC 7
2. Peter Hannah	Self	Prop 40 & 58 RC 13 & 14
3. Ed Nelson (did not testify)	Self	Prop 58
4. Rick Nelson	Self	Prop 58
5. Frank Pagano (did not testify)	Self	Prop 58
6. Rich Blanc	Self	Prop 58, PC 1, PC 6, PC 13
7. Leonard Carpenter	Self	Prop 35 – 37
8. Jeff Scott	Self	Prop 38 – 40
9. Curt Waters	Self	Prop 38 – 40
10. Richard Starr	Self	Prop 38 – 40
11. Chan Johnson	Self	Prop 38 – 40
12. Jason Chandler	Self	Deadman's Bay
13. Leigh Thomet	Self	Prop 58
14. Theresa Peterson	Self	Prop 38 – 40 & 58 RC 15
15. Hunter Berns	Self	Prop 58 oppose
16. Jim Hamilton (did not tesitfy)	Self	Prop 38 – 40
17. Dennis Harms	Self & Ayakilik Inc	Prop 65 – 70, RC 4 & 5
18. Jay Stinson	Self	Oppose Alitak Bay closure, RC 25
19. John McCarthy	Self	Prop 38 – 40
20. Larry Shaker (did not testify)	Self	Prop 722
21. Bruce Schactler	Self	Herring & N Shelikof Mgmt plans
22. Dan Gilbert (did not testify)	Self	Herring & N Shelikof
23. Elias Olafsson	Self	Prop 38 – 40
24. Steve Drage	AK Dragger's Assoc	Prop 38 – 40, RC 22
25. Duncan Fields	Old Harbor Fishermen's Assoc	Prop 38-40, 42-43, 51-57, 59 & 72, RC 8, 28 - 30
26. Amy Fredette	Self	Prop 65 – 68
27. Alexus Kwachka	Self	Prop 38 – 58

Board of Fisheries Kodiak Finfish January 14 – 18, 2008 at Elk's Lodge, Kodiak, Alaska

Public Testimony Sign Up

Name	Representing	Subject / Related RC. PC or AC
28. Don Dumm	Self	Prop 51& 58 oppose, Prop 38-40 favor
29. Darius Kasprzak	Self	Prop 35 – 37
30. Gordon Jensen	Self	Prop 51 – 52, RC 19 & 20
31. Franke Brown	Self	Alitak Bay Pollock
32. Dave Jones	Self	Prop 65, RC 23
33. Patrick O'Donnell	Self	Prop 38 – 40, RC 24
34. Shawn Dochtermann	Self	Prop 38 – 40 & 58
35. Ron Naughton (did not testify)	Self	Prop 38 – 40, RC 26
36. Julie Bonny	AK Groundfish Data Bank	Prop 38 – 40, RC 27
37. Susan Payne (did not testify)	Self	Prop 51& 58 oppose, Prop 38-40 favor
38. Kip Thomet	Self	Prop 58, Prop 38 – 40
39. James Skonberg	Self	N Shelikof salmon
40. Vern Hall	Self	Alitak/Deadman's Bay
41. Pete Danelski	Self	Prop 58
42. Ken Newman	Kodiak Area Charterboat Operators	Prop 59, 71, 72
43. Chris Fiald	Self	Prop 59, 71, 72
44. Dick Rohrer	Self	Prop 59 & 72
45. Nina Burkholder	Self	Prop 56
46. David Hilty	Self	Prop 42
47. Al Burch	Self	Prop 38 – 40, RC 33
48. Steven Snydam	Self	Herring & Salmon 54-55
49. Freddie Christianson	Self	Alitak Trawl
50. Oliver Holm	Self	N Shelikof
51. Kent Leslie	Self	Alitak Bay
52. Walter Sargent (did not testify)	Self	Deadman Bay
53. Kevin Fisher	Self	Prop 51-52, 56-57
54. Harvey Goodell	Self	Prop 58
55. Tom Simkowski	Self	Prop 70 support

Board of Fisheries Kodiak Finfish January 14 – 18, 2008 at Elk's Lodge, Kodiak, Alaska

Public Testimony Sign Up

Name	Representing	Subject / Related RC. PC or AC
56. Chris Holland	Self	Alitak/Deadman observer, RC 35
57. Ron Kavanaugh	Self	Prop 38 – 40 & 58
58. Julie Kavanaugh (did not testify)	Self	Prop 38 – 40 & 58
59. Rick Ellingson	Self	Prop 38, 39, 51-52, 56-58
60. Drew Sparlin	UCIDA	Shelikof sockeye caps, Prop 54 oppose
61. Roland Maw		
62. Skip Woodard (did not testify)	Self	Prop 38 - 40

Federal observer coverage regulations in groundfish fisheries

RC 52

50 CFR 679.2
Definitions

Fishing day means to (for purposes of subpart E) a 24-hour period, from 0001 hours A.l.t. through 2400 hours A.l.t., in which fishing gear is retrieved and groundfish are retained. Days during which a vessel only delivers unsorted codends to a processor are not fishing days.

50 CFR 679.50
Groundfish Observer Program

(c) Observer requirements for vessels.

(1) Observer coverage is required as follows:

(iv) A catcher/processor or catcher vessel 125 ft (38.1 m) LOA or longer must carry an observer during 100 percent of its fishing days except for a vessel fishing for groundfish with pot gear as provided in paragraph (c)(1)(vii) of this section.

(v) A catcher/processor or catcher vessel equal to or greater than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA, but less than 125 ft (38.1 m) LOA, that participates for more than 3 fishing days in a directed fishery for groundfish in a calendar quarter must carry an observer during at least 30 percent of its fishing days in that calendar quarter and at all times during at least one fishing trip in that calendar quarter for each of the groundfish fishery categories defined under paragraph (c)(2) of this section in which the vessel participates.

(2) Groundfish fishery categories requiring separate coverage.
Directed fishing for groundfish, during any fishing trip, that results:

(i) Pollock fishery. In a retained catch of pollock that is greater than the retained catch of any other groundfish species or species group that is specified as a separate groundfish fishery under this paragraph (c)(2) and in a retained catch of pollock harvested in the AI directed pollock fishery

(ii) Pacific cod fishery. In a retained catch of Pacific cod that is greater than the retained catch of any other groundfish species or species group that is specified as a separate groundfish fishery under this paragraph (c)(2).

(iii) Sablefish fishery. In a retained catch of sablefish that is greater than the retained catch of any other groundfish species or species group that is specified as a separate groundfish fishery under this paragraph (c)(2).

(iv) Rockfish fishery. In a retained aggregate catch of rockfish that is greater than the retained catch of any other groundfish species or species group that is specified as a separate groundfish fishery under this paragraph (c)(2).

(v) Flatfish fishery. In a retained aggregate catch of all flatfish species, except Pacific halibut, that is greater than the retained catch of any other groundfish species or species group that is specified as a separate groundfish fishery under this paragraph (c)(2).

(vi) Other species fishery. In a retained catch of groundfish that does not qualify as a pollock, Pacific cod, sablefish, rockfish, or flatfish fishery as defined under paragraphs (c)(2)(i) through (v) of this section.

(vii) Rockfish Program. In retained catch from Rockfish Program fisheries.

Submitted by
Ken Hansen

(3) Assignment of vessels to fisheries.

At the end of any fishing trip, a vessel's retained catch of groundfish species or species groups for which a TAC has been specified under § 679.20, in round-weight equivalent, will determine to which fishery category listed under paragraph (c)(2) of this section the vessel is assigned.

RC53

Proposal 44 Advisory Committee Language

5AAC 01.520 Lawful Gear and Gear Specifications

(b) Salmon may only be taken by gill net and seine. **A subsistence fisherman's gillnet or seine shall not obstruct any fish stream open to subsistence salmon fishing For more than one hour in any twenty four hour period.**

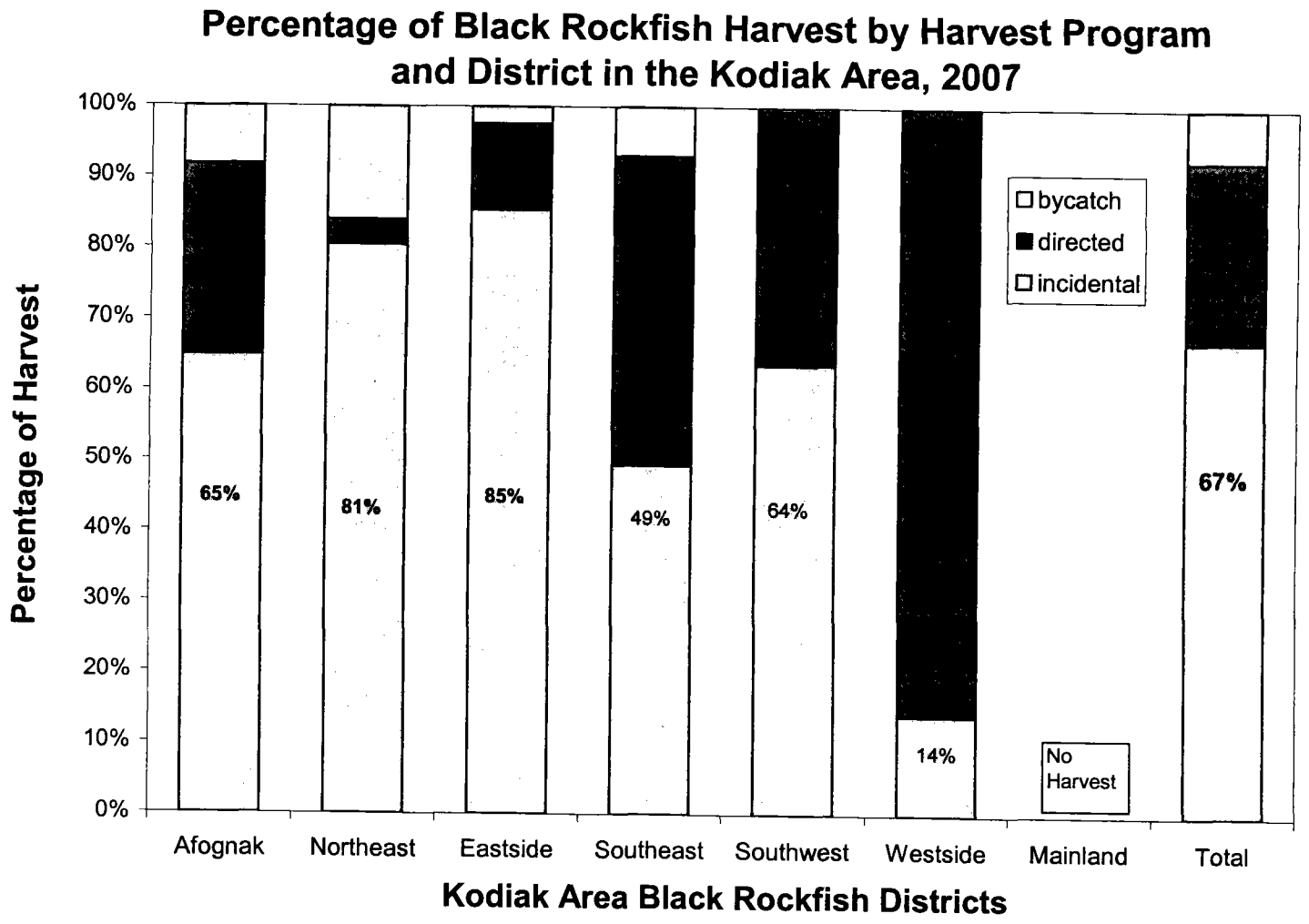
RC 54

RC #
Submitted by: ADF&G Kodiak Groundfish Staff

It was brought to ADF&G's attention that there appeared to be errors in the data for Table 2 of Staff Comments to Proposal 36 (RC-2, Tab 25, page 10) and slide number 12 of the Kodiak Area Black Rockfish and Jig Fisheries Oral Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (RC-2, Tab 3). ADF&G staff re-examined the fish ticket data, determined there were some errors in Management Program reporting. The errors have been corrected resulting in the attached updated table and graph:

Replaces Table 2 on page 10 of **RC-2, Tab 25**.

District	incidental	directed	bycatch
Afognak	64.8%	26.9%	8.2%
Northeast	80.5%	3.5%	16.0%
Eastside	85.4%	12.2%	2.4%
Southeast	49.3%	43.7%	7.0%
Southwest	63.7%	36.0%	0.4%
Westside	14.1%	85.9%	0.0%
Mainland	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	67.1%	25.5%	7.4%



Replaces graph in slide 12 of the Kodiak Area Black Rockfish and Jig Fisheries Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries oral report in **RC-2, Tab 3**.

From 2002 ALITAK District BOF Report

Table 14. Sockeye salmon harvest, by gear and area, in the Alitak Bay District, of the Kodiak Management Area, 1982 to 2001.

	Gillnet									Seine			All Gear
	Moser Bay			Olga Bay			Total District			Total District			District
Year	Permits	Harvest	%	Permits	Harvest	%	Permits	Harvest	%	Permits	Harvest	%	Harvest
1982	56	246,998	52	44	162,696	34	66	409,694	86	109	67,168	14	476,862
1983	61	183,417	40	36	85,894	19	68	269,311	59	158	190,776	41	460,087
1984	62	176,297	46	40	79,917	21	70	256,214	67	75	126,515	33	382,729
1985	70	301,634	43	45	138,677	20	75	440,311	63	125	262,924	37	703,235
1986	67	338,492	27	65	386,491	31	79	724,983	58	146	522,383	42	1,247,366
1987	60	188,343	37	61	133,861	26	73	322,204	63	153	193,206	37	515,410
1988	65	401,887	36	59	251,431	22	81	653,318	58	123	470,529	42	1,123,847
1989[a]	45	133,983	10	80	1,150,084	90	87	1,284,067	100	1	100	0	1,284,167
1990	73	507,372	35	63	237,271	17	91	744,643	52	158	690,818	48	1,435,461
1991	65	626,061	30	67	571,713	28	86	1,197,774	58	187	864,944	42	2,062,718
1992	65	197,733	38	44	78,726	15	79	276,459	53	141	248,699	47	525,158
1993[b]	64	384,487	38	35	140,168	14	76	524,655	53	116	474,096	47	998,751
1994	61	364,925	39	43	135,941	15	74	500,866	54	111	430,462	46	931,328
1995[b]	61	622,810	37	30	160,188	10	75	782,998	47	149	890,194	53	1,673,192
1996[b]	71	677,399	46	23	104,805	7	80	782,204	54	138	676,011	46	1,458,215
1997	70	318,855	47	47	84,733	12	78	403,588	59	92	282,047	41	685,635
1998[b]	61	448,625	45	30	118,947	12	77	567,572	57	71	435,018	43	1,002,590
1999[b]	72	318,283	50	42	119,977	19	76	438,260	69	50	193,096	31	631,356
2000[b]	70	265,240	47	29	55,820	10	77	321,060	57	58	237,614	43	558,674
2001	61	242,141	52	32	53,094	11	77	295,235	64	34	166,550	36	461,785
ALL YEARS AVERAGES[a]			41			17			58			42	
1982-01[a]	65	358,474	39	44	163,176	18	77	521,650	57	115	390,687	43	912,337
5-Year Averages													
1983-87	64	237,637	36	49	164,968	25	73	402,605	61	131	259,161	39	661,765
1988-93[a]	66	423,508	34	54	255,862	21	83	679,370	55	145	549,817	45	1,229,187
1994-98	65	486,523	42	35	120,923	11	77	607,446	53	112	542,746	47	1,150,192
Recent 3-Year Average													
1999-01	68	275,221	50	34	76,297	14	77	351,518	64	47	199,087	36	550,605

a Harvest patterns were unusual due to the effect of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The harvest in 1989 was not used to calculate averages.

b There were NO commercial mop-up fisheries in the normally closed watger areas of Olga Bay during year.

RC 55

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF SPORT FISH

MEMORANDUM RC 56

TO: Distribution

DATE: January 15, 2008

FROM: for Charles O. Swanton RB
Director
Sport Fish Division
And PN
for John Hilsinger
Director
Division of Commercial Fisheries

TELEPHONE: 465-6184;267-2324

SUBJECT: Sustainable Escapement Goal Thresholds

The department has established 33 Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) thresholds across the state (see attached spreadsheet) for all five species of Pacific salmon as follows: coho-3; chum-12; king-7; pink-7; and sockeye-4. The spreadsheet lists the area, specific stock, species, threshold value, and the method used to determine the threshold. It also describes the regional escapement goal review team recommendations for establishing the SEG threshold and the cited reference document.

Commissioner Lloyd asked us to explain how we justified these SEG thresholds: 1) biologically; 2) with regard to fishery management; and 3) with respect to regulations 5 AAC 39.222. Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (sustainable salmon fisheries policy - SSFP) and 5 AAC 39.223. Policy for Statewide Salmon Escapement Goals (escapement goal policy - EGP).

Since SEG thresholds are primarily precautionary against changes in productivity, harvest rate, or both to a non-targeted stock, they encompass both 1 and 2 explicitly. SEG thresholds guard against a change in productivity of a stock (a biological attribute) and/or a change in harvest rate (a fishery management attribute). While not explicitly specified in the SSFP or EGP, SEG thresholds implicitly meet the SSFP criteria of sustained yield (of the target stocks) and precaution in the face of uncertainty (setting escapement goals on non-targeted stocks is by definition precautionary).
The SEG thresholds also explicitly address the SSFP criterion of "salmon escapement and harvest management decisions being made in a manner that protects non-target salmon stocks or species"

The regional escapement goal review teams advise that SEG thresholds be used when:

1) the department has limited data on escapements, but the manager wishes to set a goal as a precaution against either an increase in harvest rate and/or a decrease in production of the stock. The manager does not actively manage to the SEG threshold in this case, but observes escapements from current management practices and only considers a management action if escapements are chronically lower than the threshold. Although only one of many methods, the risk analysis method is used to calculate the probabilities of observing a series of lower than threshold escapements from past escapements observed using current management practices. Harvest rates are thought to be low in this case;

2) the department cannot scientifically justify an upper end to a SEG range. This is because we have escapement data only and do not know the harvest rate (e.g., some mixed stock fisheries). If we set an upper bound to the goal using only the escapement data and harvest rates are actually very low, then the upper bound of the goal may not be sustainable (i.e.., does not produce yields), so we set the lower bound only. Moreover, going over the upper end of the goal on this stock would not trigger a management action since the management action would also (erroneously) affect the larger stocks that are more

rigorously managed. These are usually small stocks that are part of a larger mixed stock fishery and the small stock receives the same management actions taken on other larger stocks. Again, the manager does not actively manage to the SEG threshold in this case, but observes escapements from current management practices and only considers a management action if escapements are chronically lower than the threshold; or

3) there is not enough fishing power (commercial and/or sport) available or practical to fish the stock down to a SEG range. Even if the fishery were opened all the time, we cannot make people come and fish. In this case it makes no practical sense to set an upper range even if we knew what it should be.

An SEG threshold for Anchor River king salmon was developed largely for reason 1), and somewhat, reason 3) as described above. The department has limited data on escapements based on weir and sonar data, and it is unknown if the recent escapement data is representative of total escapements as indexed previously by aerial survey. However, the low harvest rates observed on this stock in recent years prompted the department to develop an escapement goal that would allow for a cautious incremental increase of harvest through liberalization of sport fishing regulations. This cautious approach was also preferred by the public as evident by the testimony at the recent Lower Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting. The department does not plan to actively manage to the SEG threshold in this case, but rather document escapements from current management practices, evaluate the degree that fishery liberalizations implemented by the Board of Fisheries increase harvest rates, and consider management action only if escapements will likely be lower than the threshold.

The regional escapement goal review teams recommend that the department continue to rely on these same reasons for setting SEG threshold escapement goals in the future. SEG thresholds remain the best tool for setting precautionary reference points for non-targeted stocks, so that targeting of stocks can continue with low risk of loss of sustainability of the non-targeted stock.

Department staff also asked Department of Law (DOL) staff for their interpretation on the legality of setting SEG thresholds instead of any of the other types of escapement goals specifically cited within the SSFP and EGP. The DOL responded with "The fact that SEG Thresholds are not expressly defined in 5 AAC 39.222 (SSFP) does not mean the department cannot use them for escapement goal purposes. There is nothing in the SSFP that mandates that the department only manage according to defined escapement goals."

DOL continued with "Nor is there any provision in 5 AAC 39.223 (EGP) that mandates management of salmon escapement only to the goals defined in the SSFP. Rather, in the EGP, the Board simply 'recognizes the department's responsibility to' establish escapement goals; it does not mandate any particular action."

The department believes it is justified in establishing SEG threshold escapement goals based on the information described above, and DOL agrees. We will continue to review and refine salmon escapement goals and select the most appropriate type of goal that ensures protection and sustainability of these resources into the future.

Distribution: Lloyd, Bedford, P. Nelson, Bentz, Marcotte, Cain, Regnart, Hasbrouck, L.Nelson (DOL).

Attachment: (1).

Area	Stock	Species	SEG Threshold	Method
Alaska Peninsula	Thin Point	Coho	3,000	Lower bound of current goal

Recommendation

Both commercial and subsistence fisheries are directed on this stock. However, escapement data for this stock is incomplete because weather conditions often hamper completing the aerial surveys in season and aerial surveys cannot be flown in the fall during peak coho salmon escapement due to high cost and poor survey conditions. With insufficient data to reasonably estimate a SEG for this system, particularly an upper end, the team recommended keeping the lower end of the current SEG of 3,000 to be used as a threshold to alert managers to potential overharvest or changes in productivity.

Citation

Fishery Manuscript 06-03

Area	Stock	Species	SEG Threshold	Method
Alaska Peninsula	Nelson River	Coho	18,000	Lower bound of current goal and risk analysis

Recommendation

Both commercial and subsistence fisheries are directed on this stock. However, escapement data for this stock is incomplete because weather conditions often hamper completing the aerial surveys in season, and aerial surveys cannot be flown in the fall during peak coho salmon escapement due to high cost and poor survey conditions. The team recommended keeping the lower end of the current SEG of 18,000 to be used as a threshold to alert managers to potential overharvest or changes in productivity. This seemed reasonable based on the results of the risk analysis.

Citation

Fishery Manuscript 06-03

Area	Stock	Species	SEG Threshold	Method
Alaska Peninsula	Bechevin Bay odd	Pink	1,600	Risk analysis
	Bechevin Bay even	Pink	31,000	Risk analysis

Recommendation

The Bechevin Bay Section is managed based on chum salmon escapement levels. There are currently no commercial fisheries directed on pink salmon in this section. Rather, pink salmon are coincidentally harvested while fishers target chum salmon. The team recommended a SEG threshold of 1,600 for odd years and 31,000 for even years. These thresholds could be used to alert managers to potential overharvest or changes in productivity. This seemed reasonable based on the results of the risk analysis; and that both odd and even years have had years (>5 years) of escapement below these respective thresholds that produced positive returns.

Citation

Fishery Manuscript 06-03

Area	Stock	Species	SEG Threshold	Method
Bristol Bay	Togiak River	Chinook	9,300	Risk analysis

Recommendation

The BEG of 10,000 spawners changed to a lower bound SEG of 9,300 spawners with no upper bound. The goal was estimated using the risk analysis approach with escapement data beginning in 1980. An escapement threshold of 9,300 Chinook resulted in a 15% estimated risk of an unwarranted concern, with a 15% estimated risk that a drop in mean escapement of 40% would not be detected over 3 years (Table 6; Appendix A5 in Fair et al. 2004). The desire is to maintain the median escapement at 9,900 fish assessed by aerial survey. Although this system has escapement and harvest information, it is inadequate for a BEG because the escapement data has a low contrast and there are large measurement errors associated with the aerial surveys (Fair et al. 2004).

Citation

Fishery Manuscript 06-05

Area	Stock	Species	SEG Threshold	Method
Bristol Bay	Naknek River	Chinook	5,000	Risk analysis

Recommendation

The escapement goals for Chinook salmon in the Naknek River were based on aerial survey estimates. The goal was estimated using the risk analysis approach with escapement data beginning in 1971. An escapement threshold of 4,900 Chinook resulted in a 10% estimated risk of an unwarranted concern, with a 9% estimated risk that a drop in mean escapement of 60% would not be detected across 3 years (Table 6; Appendix A4 in Fair et al. 2004). These threshold values are very near to and encompass the current escapement goal of 5,000. The desire is to maintain the median escapement at 5,000 aerial survey units.

Citation

Fishery Manuscript 06-05

Area	Stock	Species	SEG Threshold	Method
Bristol Bay	Alagnak River	Chinook	2,700	Risk analysis

Recommendation

The escapement goals for Chinook salmon in the Alagnak River were based on aerial survey estimates and were established using the risk analysis approach. Using escapement data since 1970, an escapement threshold of 2,700 Chinook resulted in a 10% estimated risk of an unwarranted concern, with a 9% estimated risk that a drop in mean escapement of 80% would not be detected for 3 years (Table 6; Appendix A2 in Fair et al. 2004). The desire is to maintain the median escapement at 3,900 aerial survey units.

Citation

Fishery Manuscript 06-05

Area	Stock	Species	SEG Threshold	Method
Bristol Bay	Egegik River	Chinook	450	Risk analysis and subsetting of aerial survey data by trib

Recommendation

The escapement goals for Chinook salmon in the Egegik River were based on aerial survey estimates and were established using the risk analysis approach. Escapement data of Egegik River Chinook salmon beginning in 1985 are the sum of aerial surveys from Gertrude, Kaye's, and Takayoto creeks only. An escapement threshold of 450 Chinook resulted in a 4% estimated risk of an unwarranted concern, with a 4% estimated risk that a drop in mean escapement of 70% would not be detected for 3 years (Table 6; Appendix A3 in Fair et al. 2004). The desire is to maintain the median escapement at 600 Chinook salmon (based on aerial surveys).

Citation

Fishery Manuscript 06-05

Area	Stock	Species	SEG Threshold	Method
Bristol Bay	Nushagak River	Chum	190,000	Risk analysis and truncation of escapement timing data

Recommendation

The escapement goals for Chum salmon in the Nushagak River were based on sonar counts and were established using the risk analysis approach. This goal applies to escapement estimates through July 20, the final day that the sonar will be in operation in future years. Using escapement data since 1979, an escapement threshold of 190,000 chum resulted in a 6% estimated risk of an unwarranted concern, with a 6% estimated risk that a drop in mean escapement of 70% would not be detected over 3 years (Table 6; Appendix C1 in Fair et al. 2004). The desire is to maintain the median escapement at 248,000 sonar counts. Although the data for this system is similar to that of Nushagak River Chinook and sockeye salmon, the difference is that chum salmon are not actively managed in the Nushagak District. For this reason, the goal was set using an SEG risk analysis approach.

Citation

Fishery Manuscript 06-05

Area	Stock	Species	SEG Threshold	Method
Bristol Bay	Alagnak River	Sockeye	320,000	Risk analysis

Recommendation

The committee recommended that the BEG of 170,000 to 200,000 aerial survey counts be changed to a lower bound SEG of 320,000 tower counts with no upper bound since this stock is not actively managed. The goal was estimated using the risk analysis approach with escapement data beginning in 1956 (Appendix B1). An escapement threshold of 320,000 sockeye resulted in a 7% estimated risk of an unwarranted concern, with a 7% estimated risk that a drop in mean escapement of 90% would not be detected in 3 years. The desire is to maintain the median escapement at 500,000 tower units.

Citation

Fishery Manuscript 06-05

Area	Stock	Species	SEG Threshold	Method
Bristol Bay	Kulukuk River	Sockeye	8,000	Risk analysis

Recommendation

Fair et al. (2004) recommended establishing a lower bound SEG of 8,000 aerial survey counts with no upper bound using the risk analysis approach with escapement data beginning in 1961 (Table 6; Appendix B10 in Fair et al. 2004). An escapement threshold of 8,000 sockeye resulted in a 5% estimated risk of an unwarranted concern, with a 5% estimated risk that a drop in mean escapement of 90% would not be detected in 3 years. The desire is to maintain the median escapement at 17,300 aerial survey units.

Citation

Fishery Manuscript 06-05

Area	Stock	Species	SEG Threshold	Method
Kuskokwim Bay	Kanektok River	Chum	5,200	15th percentile of escapement data
Recommendation				**Citation**
A SEG threshold was established as chum salmon are not targeted in the District W-4 commercial fishery. Thus, managing within a range is not practical. This goal represents an index, not an estimate of the actual number of spawners. District 4 is an intercept fishery. Commercially harvested salmon are bound for other drainages, such as the Kuskokwim River drainage (Baxter 1970). As a result, commercial harvest information is not exclusive to Kanektok River stocks.				Fishery Manuscript 06-08
Kuskokwim Bay	Middle Fk Goodnews	Chum	12,000	15th percentile of escapement data
Recommendation				**Citation**
A SEG threshold was established as chum salmon are not targeted in the District W-4 commercial fishery, thus managing within a range is not practical. Commercial harvest and age class information is for the entire drainage. It is not specific for stocks originating in the Middle Fork Goodnews River.				Fishery Manuscript 06-08
Kuskokwim Bay	Middle Fk Goodnews	Coho	12,000	15th percentile of escapement data
Recommendation				**Citation**
The District W-5 commercial fishery typically finishes before the mid-point of the coho salmon run at the weir. Thus, managing for a range is not practical. With limited data, the threshold serves as lower bound until there is enough information to develop a range (next review in 2010).				Fishery Manuscript 06-08
Norton Sound	Fish River	Chinook	100	25th percentile of escapement data
Recommendation				**Citation**
Because this stock is managed incidentally to the commercial chum salmon fishery we recommend establishing a SEG threshold of 100 chinook salmon.				Regional information Report 3A04-01
Norton Sound	Nome River odd	Pink	3,200	Lowest observed escapement that rebounded
Recommendation				**Citation**
Established from the 2001 escapement that the stock rebounded from.				Regional information Report 3A04-01
Norton Sound	Nome River even	Pink	13,000	
Recommendation				**Citation**
Established by Fair et al. in 1999 memorandum				Fair et al. 1999 memo
Norton Sound	Niukluk River	Pink	10,500	Lowest observed escapement that rebounded
Recommendation				**Citation**
Inadequate number of years for spawner-return analysis. Proposed goal is the lowest tower count escapement from which the stock has rebounded well.				Regional information Report 3A04-01
Norton Sound	Kwiniuk River	Pink	8,400	Lowest observed escapement that rebounded
Recommendation				**Citation**
Established from the 2001 escapement that the stock rebounded from.				Regional information Report 3A04-01
Norton Sound	Niukluk River	Chum	30,000	25th percentile of escapement data
Recommendation				**Citation**
SEG threshold recommended because chum salmon are managed incidentally to pink salmon in the system.				Regional information Report 3A04-01

Area	Stock	Species	SEG Threshold	Method
Norton Sound	Unalakleet/North River	Pink	25,000	Lowest observed escapement that rebounded

Recommendation

Established from the lowest observed escapement that the stock has rebounded from.

Citation

Regional information Report 3A04-01

Kodiak Island — Little River — Sockeye — 3,000 — Risk analysis

Recommendation

A SEG threshold of 3,000 fish should be established for the Little River sockeye salmon stock. Although the Little River sockeye salmon stock currently does not have a goal (eliminated during the last review; Nelson et al. 2005), the team decided to reevaluate the aerial survey data using a risk analysis (Bernard et al. unpublished) to determine if a precautionary SEG threshold would be appropriate. The stock is not actively managed and escapements cannot be accurately determined inseason; however, escapement trends can be discerned from later season surveys of the lake. Aerial survey data were used to calculate threshold escapement values. The percent difference between the minimum value and the mean was 98%; an escapement threshold of 3,000 would provide for a 0.4% chance of taking management action when none was needed and a 0.4% chance a decrease in escapement of 98% would not be detected in three consecutive years.

Citation

Recommendation memo

Kodiak Island — Uganik Lake — Sockeye — 24,000 — 25th percentile of escapement data

Recommendation

The team recommends establishing a SEG threshold of 24,000 fish for the Uganik Lake sockeye salmon stock. This stock currently does not have an escapement goal; the previous goal was eliminated during the last review (Nelson et al. 2005). The team decided to reevaluate the aerial survey data using a risk analysis (Bernard et al. unpublished) to determine if a precautionary SEG threshold would be appropriate. The data were also applied to the percentile algorithm as an alternate method (Bue and Hasbrouck unpublished). The stock is not actively managed and escapements cannot be accurately determined in season, but escapement trends can be discerned from later season surveys of the lake. The most recent aerial survey data were used to calculate threshold escapement values, resulting in an escapement threshold of 17,400, which was similar to the 15th percentile of 17,280; however, after examining the data, they did not fit well to a lognormal distribution (p=0.34). Consequently, the team considered the percentile analysis more appropriate than the risk analysis, but decided that the 25th percentile (24,000) was the best value to use as a SEG threshold because the stock is likely moderately to highly exploited.

Citation

Recommendation memo

Kodiak Island — Island-wide — Chum — 151,000 — Risk analysis

Recommendation

The consensus of the team was to eliminate the SEG thresholds for the Kodiak districts to establish an island-wide aggregate SEG threshold of 151,000 chum salmon. Currently there are six SEG thresholds for chum salmon districts: Northwest Kodiak - 53,000, Southwest Kodiak - 7,300, Alitak Bay - 28,000, Eastside Kodiak - 50,000, Northeast Kodiak - 9,000, and Mainland - 153,000 (Nelson et al. 2005). The team originally planned to reevaluate the goals for the NW, SW, and NE Kodiak districts; however, during evaluation of the data, it was discovered that an Eastside District stream was inadvertently omitted from the last analysis. We decided to reanalyze all districts and also, after discussing with management staff, estimating an island-wide aggregate chum salmon due to difficult survey conditions caused by the abundance of pink salmon. Percentile analyses (Bue and Hasbrouck unpublished) for the Northwest and Southwest districts and risk analyses (Bernard et al.unpublished) for Alitak Bay, Eastside, and Northeast districts resulted in no changes to SEG thresholds. Recent year escapement indices for the Mainland District included record low and record high values, which, when included in a risk analysis resulted in a SEG threshold of 104,000. The Kodiak island-wide percentile analysis resulted in a SEG threshold of 151,000, which is similar to the sum of the current SEG thresholds for the Kodiak Districts (147,300. The team discussed the need for district SEG thresholds and agreed that SEG thresholds for the Mainland District and Kodiak (island-wide) with management objectives for the Kodiak districts would be consistent with the pink salmon goals.

Citation

Recommendation memo

Area	Stock	Species	SEG Threshold	Method
Kodiak Island				
	Mainland District	Chum	104,000	Risk analysis
	Recommendation			**Citation**
	See above			
Chignik				
	Area-wide	Chum	57,400	Risk analysis
	Recommendation			**Citation**
	The team recommends that the current Chignik area-wide aggregate chum salmon SEG threshold of 50,400 should be changed to a SEG threshold of 57,400. Four streams were inadvertently omitted during the previous analysis conducted in 2004, so the previous risk analysis (Bernard et al. unpublished) was updated to include these streams and the additional escapement data from 2004 to 2006 for the five fishing districts (Central, Chignik Bay, Eastern, Perryville, and Western).			Recommendation memo
Prince William Sound				
	Copper River	Chinook	24,000	Sustaining current yields while keeping escapement near historic average.
	Recommendation			**Citation**
	We recommend the SEG of 24,000 or more spawners established in 2002 (Bue et al. 2002) remain unchanged. As in 2002, the review team recommends the fishery be managed for escapements that on average match the historical average escapement of 26,000 as determined from model estimates using catch-age analysis. A draft review of this analysis (Savereide In prep) has been provided to the Board of Fish. Since 1999, mark-recapture techniques along with estsimates of inriver harvest have been used to estimate total drainage escapement to evaluate whether the escapement goal has been reached and to validate and refine model estimates of escapement. Escapement estimates have had low contrast (covered a narrow range), that indicates past escapements were within a range too narrow to provide information sufficient for estimating a stock-recruit relationship, and hence a BEG. However, the average escapement since 1980 (~26,000 salmon) has produced an average since 1980 annual harvest near 48,000 salmon. No new information on production by this stock will be forthcoming until escapements move higher than observed in the recent past. Most estimates of escapement since 1980 have been less than 40,000 Chinook salmon, largest estimated escapement was ~50,000 Chinook salmon, and recent (measured) estimates have ranged from 16,000-35,000 Chinook salmon (Appendix A1). Because actively managing for higher escapements would be disruptive to the commercial, subsistence, personal use, and sport fisheries, the team recommends at least 24,000 Chinook salmon be allowed to spawn annually. This threshold was chosen to keep future escapements near the historical average without precluding the possibility that exceptionally large returns will provide new information with higher escapements.			PWS EG report
Prince William Sound				
	Coghill	Chum	8,000	Risk analysis
	Eastern Dist	Chum	50,000	Risk analysis
	Northern/Unakwik Dist	Chum	20,000	Risk analysis
	Northwest Dist	Chum	5,000	Risk analysis
	Southeast Dist	Chum	8,000	Risk analysis
	Recommendation			**Citation**
	Escapement goals for chum salmon are based on expanded counts from aerial surveys dating back to 1965. Streams are flown multiple times each year with escapement estimated using area under-the-curve calculations adjusted for estimates of stream life (Bue et al. 1998). Harvest of most chum salmon has been incidental to the harvest of pink salmon throughout Prince William Sound except in terminal hatchery harvest areas. Reliable estimates of hatchery contributions to commercial harvests of chum salmon are unavailable before 2003. Likewise, there are no reliable estimates of District of origin for wild stock chum salmon with the possible exception of the Eastern and Southeastern District. Because of this inability to determine District of origin for wild-stock harvests, the lack of hatchery contribution estimates before 2003, and because most fisheries do not target and are not managed for chum salmon, precautionary reference points, which have been called sustainable escapement goal (SEG) thresholds, were estimated for the Coghill, Eastern, Northern, Northwestern, and Southeastern Districts using historical aerial indices of escapement and analyses described in Bernard et al. (In prep).			PWS EG report

Area	Stock	Species	SEG Threshold	Method
Lower Cook Inlet	Anchor River	Chinook	5,000	Estimate of S_{MSY} from Ricker

Recommendation

ADF&G recommends an SEG threshold of 5,000 adult Chinook salmon in the Anchor River based on a full probability spawner recruit model that uses 31 years (1977–2007) of aerial survey escapement indices and inriver recreational harvest estimates, plus 5 years (2003–2007) of weir/sonar estimates of escapement and age composition. The recommended threshold is based on the point estimate (posterior median) of SMSY from the full probability model.

Continued collection and analysis of stock assessment data for Anchor River Chinook salmon is necessary to evaluate the performance of the recommended SMSY because there are no empirical production data from escapements at or near our estimate of SMSY for this stock. Based on our spawner-recruit analyses, the Anchor River Chinook salmon stock can support more harvest. The difference between the average escapement from 2004–2006 and our proposed escapement threshold is 5,685 fish. Changes to the fishery should be implemented gradually, allowing time for their impact to be evaluated and for more production data to be collected. Szarzi et al. (In prep), provides a complete description of the escapement goal analyses conducted for the Anchor River Chinook salmon stock.

Citation

Fishery Manuscript 07-04

RC 57

2006 SALTWATER LOGBOOK DATA FOR NON-KODIAK BASED VESSELS OPERATING IN KODIAK SALTWATER AREAS

# OF CHARTER VESSELS:	26
# OF CHARTERED TRIPS:	191
# OF KING SALMON HARVESTED:	12
# OF COHO SALMON HARVESTED:	443
# OF HALIBUT HARVESTED:	1,611
# OF LING COD HARVESTED:	355
# OF ROCKFISH HARVESTED:	238

PREPARED BY: ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Proposal 42 discussion following committee B meeting as requested by board member Vince Webster:

RC 58

Concerns by purse seine herring permit holders:

- Herring in most gillnet areas were unharvested due to low participation resulting from poor market conditions.
- Seiners wanted the ability to harvest herring in gillnet areas if there was little or no effort by the gillnet fleet.

Options discussed by stakeholders and the department:

- Have a preseason registration to better assess effort levels.
- Allow seiners to fish a gillnet section if there is no desire by gillnetters to fish that section.
- Provide gillnetters an opportunity to harvest their allocated GHLs if desired.
- Allow the department the ability to not allow seiners to fish in gillnet sections if overharvest concerns exist.
- Allow both gear types to fish a section when there is consensus among stakeholders to do so.

KLC 59

Notes for Committee C
Proposal 54 -Modify N. Shelikof Strait Sockeye Salmon Management Plan
January 16, 2008

1. The purpose of the North Shelikof Management Plan is to "allow traditional fisheries in the area to be conducted on Kodiak Area salmon stocks, while minimizing the directed harvest of Cook Inlet sockeye salmon stocks. The Board recognizes that some incidental harvest of other stocks has and will occur in this are while the seine fishery is managed for Kodiak Area salmon stocks."

- No one questions the historical use of Black Cape, Gull Cape and Cape Nukshak for the Kodiak seine fleet — going back at least 60 years.

- The half mile zone allows 1 set off the beach and provides traditional fishing opportunities for the fleet – particularly for local fishermen from Ouzinkie and Port Lions. Moving the fleet inside the bays changes the fishing dynamic and, often, only one or two vessels harvest local stocks. This isn't the "traditional fishery"

- Local sockeye stocks are enough to "trigger" the N. Shelikof closures. This doesn't allow for traditional fisheries in the Area to be Conducted. The 2007 management report indicates that "minor systems are generally early to mid season in timing (think July) and that a system like Swikshak "may experience strong sockeye runs in certain years but are highly variable in production."

2. While the Board recognized that some component of the N. Shelikof fishery would be non-local stocks, Cook Inlet sockeye availability in the area varies considerably.

- The fact that the "trigger" in the S.W. Kodiak district has only been caught 3 times in the last 15 years and only once since 1993 indicates that the presence of Cook Inlet fish in the area is seasonally variable and limited. In other words, the fleet is fishing throughout the period in the S.W. Afognak district out to three miles and not catching an appreciable amount of Cook Inlet fish.

- The historical data shows that the availability of Cook Inlet Sockeye in the Kodiak Management are is largely a function of the size of the Cook Inlet run. See, "average weight" stock separation studies, through 1994.

- In recent years, with average or below average Cook Inlet runs, there have not been noticeable "hits" of Cook Inlet sockeye in the Kodiak Management Area. The catches that set the "trigger" in N. Shelikof are easily local stocks. See, for example, the catch in Thorsheim creek this past summer. The locals continue to ask "why are we being shoved into the bays when there aren't any Cook Inlet fish anyway."

3. The half mile zone in the N. Shelikof area would put this issue to rest for Kodiak fishermen. It would allow for the traditional fishery while still protecting Cook Inlet stocks from targeting, should they become available. The N. Shelikof management plan represented a reaction by the Board to an immediate problem. Time and distance have better defined the extent of the problem and now it's time to modify the N. Shelikof management plan to better fit the traditional fishery.

4. With a 7 to 10 day run timing between Kodiak and the Cook Inlet commercial fishery, the vast majority of Cook Inlet sockeye that may be in the Kodiak area, are gone by July 20th.

RC 60

RESOLUTION
(Draft)

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries approved the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan in 1978;

WHEREAS, the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan allocation decisions of the Alaska Board of Fisheries were based on information from tagging studies completed in the 1960s;

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries has reviewed proposals to modify the Cape Igvak allocations at every Board of Fisheries meeting on Kodiak and Chignik issues for 30 years;

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries, throughout the 30 year implementation of the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan, has unsuccessfully tried to obtain new information regarding stock separation in the Chignik and Cape Igvak areas;

WHEREAS, when reviewing the concerns and issues regarding the Cape Igvak and Chignik fisheries it is extremely difficult to address aspects of the Board of Fisheries' Mixed Stock Policy and Sustainable Fisheries Policy without recent and accurate stock separation information;

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the legislature of the State of Alaska appropriate funding for a capital project to assess and identify the salmon stocks available to salmon fishermen in the Cape Igvak and outer Chignik areas during the June 1 to July 31 period.

Dated at Kodiak, Alaska this _____th day of January, 2008.

_____

Mel Morris, Chairman

Alaska Board of Fisheries

RC 61

Confirmation of the Withdrawl of Proposal 43 Modification of Herring Seine Gear

The Old Harbor Fisherman's Association hereby withdraws from the Board's consideration proposal 43. We believe the goals of this proposal will be obtained in working with the Department to resolve the issues raised in Proposal 42.

Duncan Fields

RC62

PROPOSAL 69 – 5 AAC 64.xx. (HQ-07F-343)
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES 2007/2008 PROPOSED CHANGES IN KODIAK REGULATIONS

I withdraw proposal 69, because my concerns have been met to guarantee an escapement of coho salmon in the Ayakulik drainage by the ADF&G.

There is no regulation prohibiting commercial fishermen from fishing the mouth of the Ayakulik river. ADF&G has made it clear that they have the authority to place markers, and commercial fishermen must fish outside of these markers and they plan to do this in the future.

This along with prudent opening and closing of the coho season should allow for an adequate escapement.

Our experience over the past 18 years has been when commercial fishermen fish the mouth of the river, weather it be coho or sockeye salmon, well over 90% of the incoming fish are intercepted.

Dennis Harms

RC#_____

AYAKULIK RIVER KING HARVEST BY FISHERY USERS 1992 to 2006
KMA KING HARVEST 1992 to 2006
AYAKULIK RIVER WEIR COUNTS AND EMERGENCY ORDERS 2006 & 2007

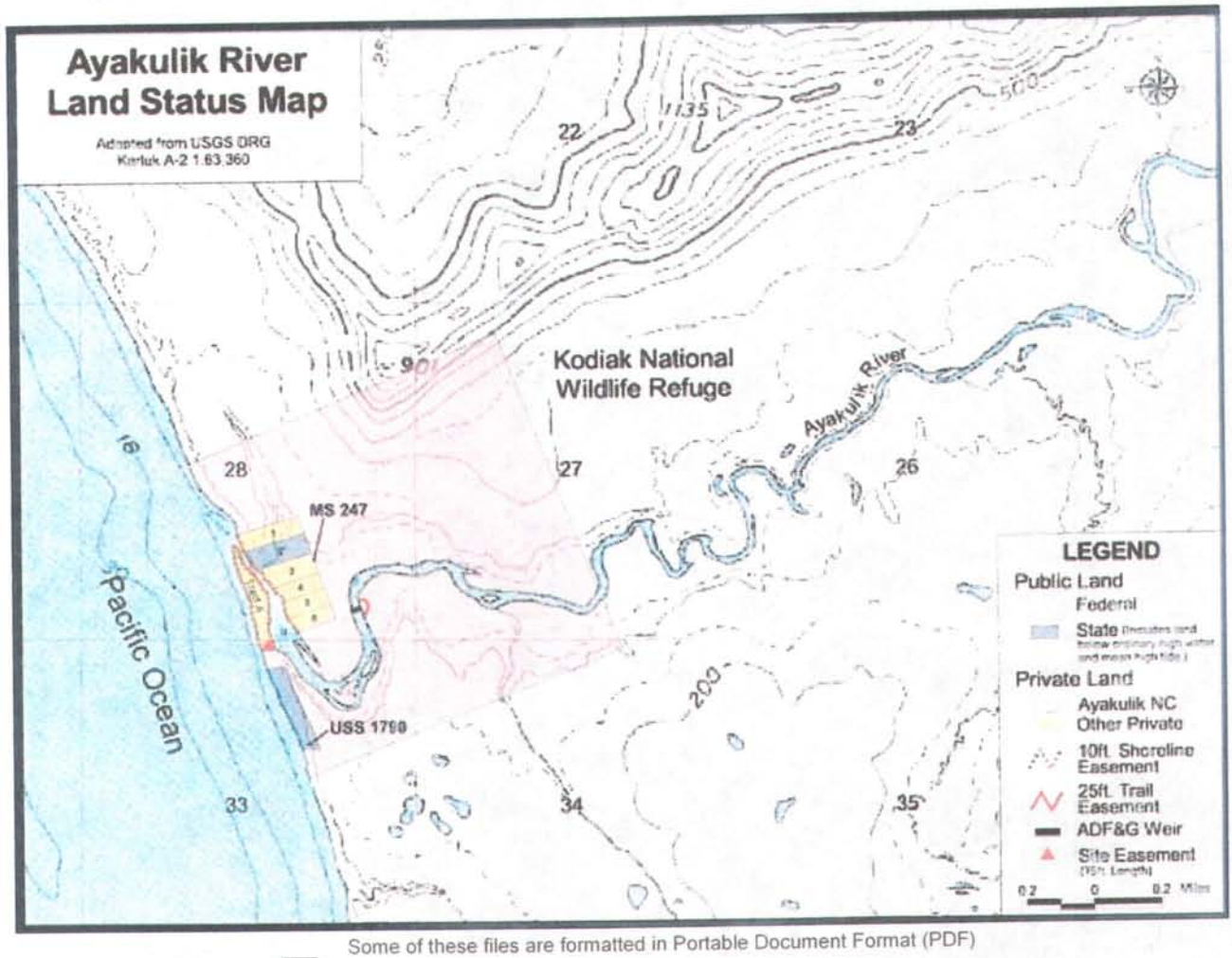
PRESENTED BY:
AMY FREDETTE
AYAKULIK ADVENTURES
3901 HARRY NEILSEN AVE.
KODIAK, AK 99615

IN REFERENCE TO PROPOSALS:
#65, #66, #67, #68 & #70

RC# 63

Ayakulik River: Land Status and Access Map

Ayakulik Home | Land Status Map | General Information | Access Home



Some of these files are formatted in Portable Document Format (PDF)

and require the Adobe Acrobat Reader or Adobe Acrobat for access.
You can download the free reader directly from Adobe.

AYAKULIK RIVER KING HARVEST BY ALL USERS OF THE FISHERY 1992 TO 2006

YEAR	# OF ANGLERS	DAYS FISHED	SPORT HARVEST	SUBSISTENCE HARVEST	COMMERCIAL HARVEST	ESCAPEMENT
1992	1,010	3,340	776	0	4,909	8,359
1993	1,016	4,566	1,004	0	2,708	6,815
1994	1,472	5,473	948	3	0	8,187
1995	461	1,299	200	4	2,367	17,497
1996	677	1,524	419	0	3,722	9,925
1997	945	3,374	1,190	0	812	13,167
1998	597	1,314	259	0	3,722	13,779
1999	557	2,165	609	26	3,366	12,868
2000	437	1,808	803	38	3,206	19,686
2001	481	3,173	568	5	6,715	13,356
2002	366	1,715	362	37	63	12,153
2003	540	2,425	344	0	0	17,106
2004	513	1,792	304	0	0	24,742
2005	579	2,515	489	0	0	8,340
2006	361	2,807	169	0	0	3,085

CITED REFERENCE

Chinook harvest by sport, # of anglers, days fished: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Participation, Catch and Harvest in Alaska Sport Fisheries During 1992 to 2006 (Mills 1992 to 1995, Howe 1994 to 2000, Fidler 1994 to 1995, Bingham 1995 to 2004, Olnes 1996 to 2000, Walker 1996 to 2000, Sundet 1996 to 2004, Jennings 2001 to 2004 Sigurdsson 2001 to 2003)
Commercial Harvest 1992 to 2006: ADF&G, KMA Commercial Salmon Fishery Annual Management Report 2006 (Dinnocenzo, Spalinger, Walde - April 2007)
Subsistence harvest: ADF&G, Review of Salmon Escapement Goals (Nelson 2004)
Escapement totals: ADF&G weir counts

CHINOOK SALMON HARVEST WITHIN THE KODIAK MANAGEMENT AREA WATERS 1992-2006
AYAKULIK & KARLUK RIVER SPORT FIHING / KMA SALTWATER SPORT FISHING AND
COMMERCIAL FISHING

Year	Ayakulik	Karluk	Saltwater KMA	Commercial KMA	Commercially Inner/Outer Ayakulik	Commercially Inner/Out Karluk	Escapement Ayakulik	Escapement Karluk
1992	776	856	585	24,299	4909	264	8359	8745
1993	1004	1634	2454	41,029	2708	3082	6815	12,310
1994	948	1483	668	22,576	0	5114	8187	10,566
1995	200	1284	1138	18,704	2367	1794	17,497	11,373
1996	419	1695	2400	13,071	3722	1662	9925	8356
1997	1190	1574	2907	18,728	812	1445	13,167	11,869
1998	259	1173	2519	17,341	3722	252	13,779	9066
1999	609	1766	4097	18,299	3366	1067	12,868	11,297
2000	803	2581	6167	12,293	3206	693	19,686	7879
2001	568	1304	5576	23,827	6715	2588	13,356	3149
2002	362	716	4561	19,263	63	1262	12,153	6574
2003	344	563	8024	18,531	0	1336	17,106	6962
2004	304	690	9787	28,899	0	?	24,742	7525
2005	489	368	8278	14,465	0	?	8340	4798
2006	169	770	10,333	20,383	0	?	3085	4112

BEG (Biological Escapement Goal) for Ayakulik and Karluk Rivers:
Ayakulik - 4800 to 9600
Karluk - 3600 to 7300

Cited Reference

Chinook harvest Ayakulik, Karluk and Saltwater sport fishing KMA 1992-2004 - Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Participation, Catch and Harvest in Alaska Sport Fisheries During 1992 to 2006 (Mills 1992 to 1995, Howe 1994 to 2000, Fidler 1994 to 1995, Howe 1994 to 2000, Bingham 1995 to 2004, Olnes 1996 to 2000, Walker 1996 to 2000, Sundet 1996 to2004, Jennings 2001-2004, Sigurdsson 2001 to 2003)

Chinook Harvest Ayakulik, Karluk and Saltwater sport fishing KMA 2005 and 2006 - Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Survey Results, ADF&G web site.

Commercial harvest 1992-2006 KMA - Alaska Department of Fish and Game, KMA Commercial Salmon Fishery Annual Management Report, 2006 (Dinnocenzo, Spalinger, Wadle - April 2007)

Commercial, recreational harvest, escapement totals Ayakulik/Karluk 1992 to 2003 / BEG counts - Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Review of Salmon Escapement Goals in the KMA (Nelson, Witteveen, Honnold, Vining, Hasbrouck 2004)

Escapement totals Ayakulik/Karluk 2004 to 2006 - Alaska Department of Fish and Game weir counts

2006 / 2007 AYAKULIK FISH COUNTS AND EMERGENCY ORDERS

The 2006 and 2007 salmon returns were low, causing the ADF&G to close the river to both king and sockeye sport fishing.

Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) for the Ayakulik River:
King:4800 - 9600
Sockeye: 200,000 - 500,000

June 15th, 2006 - Emergency order reduced bag limitof king salmon on Ayakulik River to one daily, one in possession.
Fish Count:
King - 668
Sockeye - 29,632
Projections by ADF&G from 10 year average fish return timing indicates that 60% of the BEG should already be counted by June 20th. Daily limit lowered to achieve goal.

July 1st, 2006 - Emergency order closed the AyakulikRiver to king and sockeye sport fishing.
Fish Count:
King - 2213
Sockeye - 42,012
ADF&G deemed 60% of BEG by June 20th has not been met. Fishery closed. Once fishery is closed, the full BEG count per species must be achieved before fishery per species can opened again.

Sport fishing closed for kings and sockeyes remaining 2006 season.

August 18th, 2006 - Ayakulik weir closed.
Fish Count:
King - 3085
Sockeye - 86,963
Coho - 278
Pink - 451,178
Weir is usually open til mid-September. High waters and lack of funds closed weir earlier. Past weir counts have show that sockeye salmon continue to run into river til mid-Septemeber. Counts as of August 18th, 2006 indicate an average of 500 sockeye entering river daily.

August 20th, 2006 - *Commercial* fishing opened within the Inner and Outer Ayakulik sections. 17,142 sockeyes were incidently caught. Sport fishing users felt unjustified as to sport fishing closure to sockeyes. Sockeye sport fishing couldn't be targeted nor fish retained, yet 17,142 sockeyes were commercially caught at the mouth of the river and could be retained.

June 1st, 2007 - Emergency order reduced bag limit of king salmon on the Ayakulik River to one daily, one in possession.
Fish Count:
King - 27
Sockeye - 106
ADF&G ancitpated a less than 60% BEG count by June 20th. Lowered bag limit to achieve goal.

June 27th, 2007 - Emergency order closed the Ayakulik River to king and sockeye sport fishing.
Fish Count:
King - 3081
Sockeye - 79,195
60% of BEG has not been met by June 20th. Fishery closed to sport fishing. Fishery will remain closed per species unless full BEG per species is accounted.

July 2nd, 2007 - Emergency order re-opened Ayakulik River to king sport fishing. Sockeye sport fishing remained closed.
Fish Count:
King - 5128
Sockeye - 107,805
Full BEG (4800) was met for king salmon. Sport fishing for kings re-opened. Full BEG (200,000) not met for sockeyes. Sport fishing remains closed to sockeyes.

July 21st, 2007 - *Commercial* fishing opened to Inner and Outer Ayakulik sections. 96,283 sockeye harvested.
Fish Count:
King- 6493
Sockeye - 187,710
Sport fishing users feel unjustified as sport fishing still remains closed to sockeye while commercial fishing within Inner and Outer Ayakulik sections is being allowed. Full BEG (200,000) for sockeyes has yet to be met.

July 28th, 2007 - Emergency order re-opens Ayakulik River to sockeye sport fishing.
Fish Count:
King - 6515
Sockeye - 203,195
Pink - 4835
BEG (200,000) for sockeyes has been met. Unfortunately the re-opening was too late. Sport fishing users are now off the river at this time frame. King sport fishing is the big draw. King sport fishing is closed July 26th every year as to protect the spawning king salmon.

September 14th, 2007 - Ayakulik River weir closed.
Fish Count:
King - 6535
Sockeye - 282,433
Coho - 13,312
Pink - 31,795
BEG for both king and sockeye salmon was met.

Season, bag and possession limits for sport harvest:
King salmon:
Season: Open January 1st to July 25th
Daily limits: Less than 20" - 10 daily, 10 in posession
Over 20" - 3 daily, 3 in possession. Only 2 may be over 28" long
Annual limit: No more than 5 per year; 20 " or longer. Harvest record required

Other salmon (sockeye, coho, pink, chum)
Season: Open all year
Limits: 20" or longer (total combination of all species) 5 daily, 10 in possession. Less then 20" - 10 daily, 10 in possession

PROPOSALS 65, 66, 67, 68, & 70
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES 2007/2008 PROPOSED CHANGES IN KODIAK REGULATIONS

1. Review of why a catch and release regulation for sport fishing would work on the Ayakulik river.

2. Possible wording of regulation attached.

WHY THIS WOULD WORK

1. It's simple.
2. The fish saved on the front end of the season would more than make up for the catch and release mortality later in the season if there is a weak run.
3. It allows a PREDICTABLE sport fishery on the Ayakulik river.
4. Catch and release has been very successful in several rainbow trout fisheries in Alaska, such as the Naknek river, and other species of fish worldwide.
5. As reiterated several time by the ADF&G, the catch and release mortality is very low, especially in relation to other King salmon takes by various user groups in Alaska.
6. Catch and release mortality automatically automaticaly adjusts to lower runs due to lower catches.
7. If there is a good escapement of king salmon, it allows for a harvest of excess fish.

Thank you

Dennis Harms

RC# 64

KODIAK ISLAND, AYAKULIK RIVER
SEASONS, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

King Salmon:

Season: Open January 1st to July 25th, 2008

Daily Limits: Catch and release only. Unbaited artificial lures with a single hook. King salmon must be immediately released.

During the season if ADF&G projects the escapement to exceed 4800 king salmon, by emergency order, the artificial lure and hook restriction will be elimated and the bag limit shall be 1 per day and an annual limit of 2. Harvest record required.

During the season if ADF&G projects the escapement to exceed 9600 king salmon, by emergency order, the ADF&G will allow the retention of two king salmon daily and an annual limit of 5. Harvest record required.

RC 65

Alaska Board of Fish, Kodiak Meeting 14 Jan 08.

Testimony of Richard Blanc

RE: Amend Proposal 58

Chairman Morris and members:

Mr. Al Cain of enforcement brought to my attention during Committee B, that I had attached my proposed method of identifying stationary gear with the letter "D" to 5AAC 39.280., which would make it state wide. That is not my intent and I wish to amend Proposal 58 to pertain to the Kodiak set gillnet fishery only as follows:

Add to 5AAC 18.331 Gillnet specifications and operations: (j) both of the fisherman's five digit CFEC permit serial numbers followed by the letter "D" to identify the gillnet as a duel permit set gillnet located on the king keg buoy and the sign located on the beach.

(k) both of the fisherman's five digit CFEC permit serial numbers marked on a cork every 10 fathoms on the cork line of the gillnet.

I have conferred individually with Mr. Cain and he feels these changes would make enforcement of the proposed regulation uncomplicated.

Thank you,

Richard Blanc

RC 66

Alaska Board of Fish, Kodiak Meeting 14 Jan 08.

Testimony of Richard Blanc, Kevin Fisher, Stan Ness, and Ricky Nelson.

RE: Proposal 58

The Kodiak set gillnet fishery is an economically depressed fishery. We feel the fishery can be revitalized through the restructuring opportunity provided by the legislature of owning and fishing two set gillnet permits under current regulations.

We urge you to put Proposal 58 into regulation with a "sunset clause" to expire in 3 years. Upon successful review of unintended consequences put into permanent regulation during the 2011 Kodiak Board of Fish meeting.

Richard Blanc Richard Blanc

Kevin Fisher Kevin F. Fisher

Stan Ness Stanley E. Ness

Ricky Nelson Ricky Nelson

RC 67

Alaska Board of Fish, Kodiak Meeting 14 Jan 08.

Testimony of Richard Blanc

RE: Proposal 58

Chairman Morris and members:

I will explain how the second permit will be fished in proposal 58 to avoid any confusion. The second permit will be fished as follows:

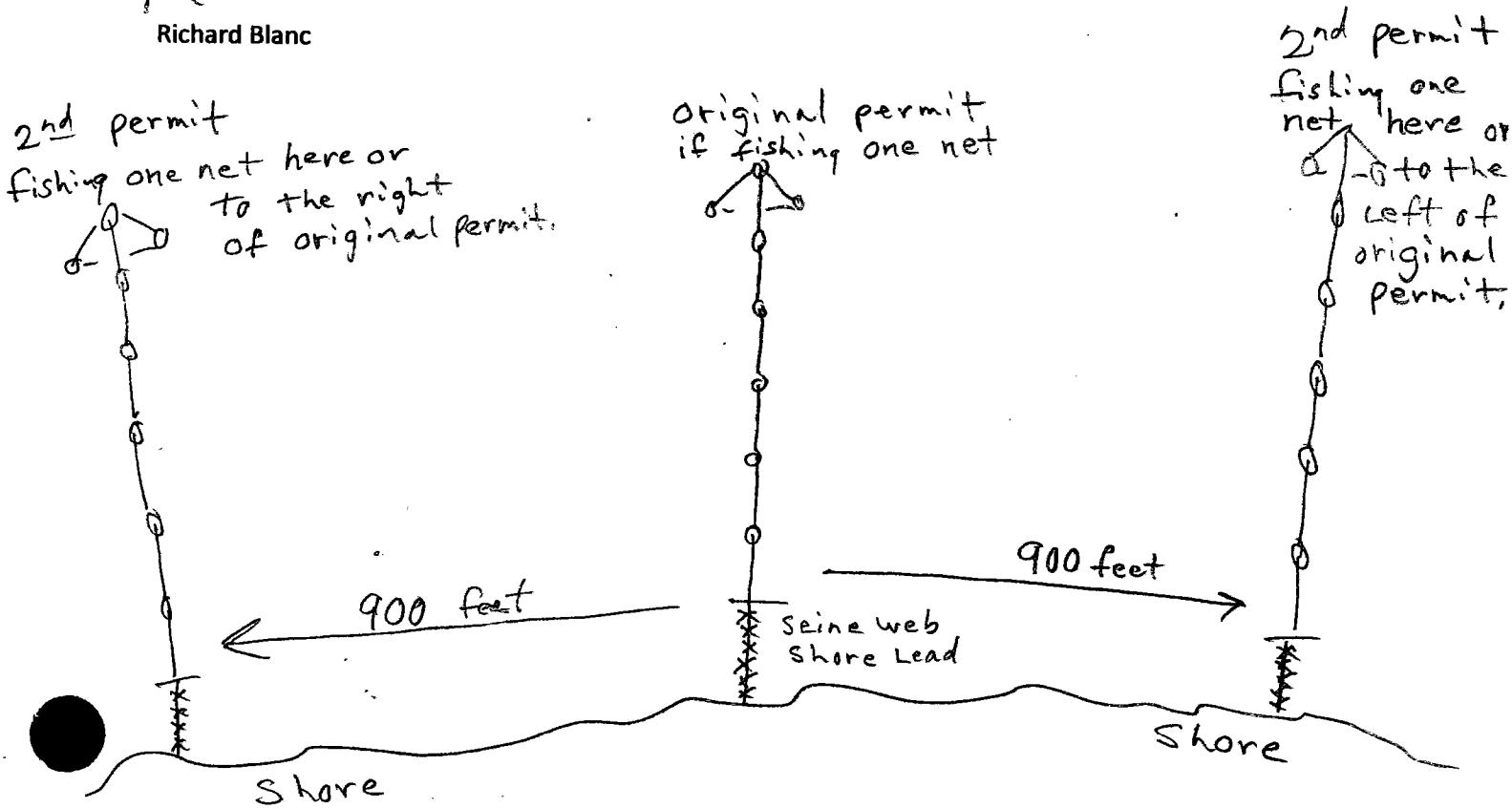
5AAC 18.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. (h) In the Alitak District, the shoreward end of a set gillnet may not begin further seaward, or in water deeper, than the limit specified for seine webbing (b) of this section. ((b) No deeper than five feet at the lowest tide of the currant day; or no more than 20 fathoms per set). See diagram below.

5AAC 18.335. Minimum distance between units of gear. No part of a set gillnet may be set or operated within 900 feet of any part of another set gillnet, or be attached to the beach within 900 feet of another net. See diagram below.

Thank you,

Richard Blanc

Richard Blanc



Alaska Board Of Fisheries

Re: RC # 43 Committee A

RC 68

Dear Chairman Morris and Board members,

I am submitting written comment in regard to proposal 35, which I authored as a result of concerns arising from the interpretation and application of the registration requirements for the Kodiak area incidental black rockfish fishery.

Some larger vessels have taken advantage of a loophole that was created when the BOF adopted a proposal that created an incidental black rockfish fishery in the Kodiak area during the 2004-2005 board cycle. These vessels will register for a specific black rockfish district in the Kodiak area under the incidental fishery, but do not register for the "directed" black rockfish fishery in the Kodiak area, and therefore are not considered registered for the Kodiak area black rockfish fishery. These vessels then take as much black rockfish out of the Kodiak area as they can, moving from one section to the next as the GHL's are achieved. When the districts close and the quota is gone they move to the Chignik area and register for the super-exclusive directed fishery there.

The Alaska Administrative Code clearly states in **5 AAC 28.020 (b) (4) (A)** that;

a vessel validly registered to take black rockfish in a superexclusive registration area <u>may not be used</u> to take black rockfish in any other registration area in the same calendar year;

By allowing these "unregistered" vessels to participate in the incidental fishery it has had an adverse impact on the vessels that have historically participated in and are dependent on the Kodiak area fishery. In 2007 approximately 20 vessels participated in the Kodiak area incidental and directed black rockfish fishery, and shared a harvest of 156,000 lbs. In 2006, those vessels that participated in the Kodiak incidental fishery and also the super-exclusive Chignik area during the same year took 12.67% of the Kodiak area total black rockfish harvest. In 2007, the second year of the incidental fishery, that percentage soared to 37.18 %, and was harvested by the same two vessels that shared the entire Chignik GHL.

Please adopt proposal 35, so vessels registered for black rockfish under the incidemtal black rockfish fishery are also considered registered in the Kodiak area for the purposes of area registration under 5 AAC 28.020. In doing so you will close the loophole that was inadvertently created when the incidental fishery was adopted in 2004-2005 cycle.

Regarding the narrative of support and opposition, I would like the record to reflect that most of the bullets under the opposition column have little or nothing to do with the proposal before you.

Bullet 1: Under this proposal vessels will still be able to target P. cod and black rockfish concurrently.

Bullet 2: Under superexclusive registration a vessel cannot fish in two registration areas in the same calendar year.

Bullets 3,4,5: Are irrelevant concerning this proposal.

Bullets 6 and 8: Are addressed above.

Bullet 7: 89% of the Kodiak area black rockfish GHL was harvested in 2007.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Leonard Carpenter

RC 69

Substitute Language Proposal 36

5 AAC 28.472 (b) In the Kodiak Area in a commercial groundfish fishery, other than a directed black rockfish fishery, a vessel operator using mechanical jigging machines or hand troll gear may not have on board the vessel or land more than 1,000 pounds (round weight) of black rockfish from the Afognak, Northeast, Eastside or Southeast Districts, or more than 2,500 pounds (round weight) of black rockfish from the Southwest, Westside and Mainland Districts, including split fish ticket deliveries.

All black rockfish taken in excess of 1,000 pounds (round weight) from the Afognak, Northeast, Eastside or Southeast Districts must be sold, weighed, and reported on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of black rockfish in excess of the 1,000 pounds (round weight) from the Afognak, Northeast, Eastside or Southeast Districts shall be surrendered to the state. A person operating a vessel under this subsection may not sell more than 2,000 pounds (round weight) of black rockfish within a five day period.

All black rockfish taken in excess of 2,500 pounds (round weight) from the Southwest, Westside and Mainland Districts must be sold, weighed, and reported on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of black rockfish in excess of the 2,500 pounds (round weight) from the Southwest, Westside and Mainland Districts shall be surrendered to the state. A person operating a vessel under this subsection may not sell more than 5,000 pounds (round weight) of black rockfish within a five day period.

Board of Fisheries Kodiak Finfish meeting of January 14 – 18, 2008 at Elk's Lodge
Kodiak, Alaska **RC Index** **RC 70**

Log #	Submitted by	Topic
1	Boards Support	BOF Workbook
2	ADF&G	Department Comments
3	ADF&G	Staff Reports
4	Dennis Harms	Proposals 65 - 68
5	Dennis Harms	Proposal 68
6	ADF&G Subisistence	Slides for Prop 45 Powerpoint
7	Kodiak F&G AC	Proposal comments
8	Duncan Fields	Comment on weather
9	AK Trollers Assoc	Proposal 59
10	Chignik Seiners Assoc	Proposal 53
11	Al Anderson	Proposal 53
12	Rod Campbell	Kodiak area map
13	Pete Hannah	Prop 40 support
14	Pete Hannah	Prop 58 oppose
15	Theresa Peterson	Prop 38 – 40 & 58
16	Oluf & Celestine Omlid	Prop 58 oppose
17	Bill Barker	Prop 56 – 58
18	Margaret Bosworth	Prop 58 oppose
19	Constance Jensen	Prop 51 – 52 oppose
20	Gordon Jensen	Prop 51 – 52 oppose
21	Kouremetis Family Fisheries	Porp 39 – 40 & 56-59
22	Steve Drage	Prop 38 – 40
23	Dave Jones	Prop 65
24	Patrick O'Donnell	Prop 38 – 40
25	Jay Stinson	Oppose Alitak closure
26	Ron Naughton	Prop 38 – 40
27	Julie Bonney	Prop 38 – 40
28	Duncan Fields	Old Harbor Fishermen's Assoc proposal comments & meeting timing comments
29	Duncan Fields	Kodiak sockeye escapement goal
30	Duncan Fields	Weatehr guidelines for set net
31	ADF&G	Prop 60 – 72 deliberation materials
32	Kevin Fisher	Prop 51 – 52 & 56 – 57
33	Al Burch	Prop 38 – 40
34	Keith Reynolds	Prop 38 – 40
35	Chris Holland	Observer program
36	Roland Maw	High seas salmonid code wire tag data
37	Rich Blanc	Prop 51 & 52
38	Stanley Groves	Prop 58 support
39	Rich Blanc	Prop 58 opposition rebuttal
40	Theodore Squartsoff	Prop 58 support
41	Frank Pagano	Prop 58 support
42	Randy Spivey	Prop 62 oppose
43	ADF&G	Committee A Report
44	ADF&G	Committee B Report

Log #	Submitted by	Topic
45	ADF&G	Committee C Report
46	ADF&G	Committee D Report
47	Larry Shaker	Prop 72
48	ADF&G Boards	RC Index to date
49	Bryan Ellsworth	Prop 58 oppose
50	?	Prop 71 committee deliberation materials
51	ADF&G Boards	Public Testimony List
52	Ken Hansen	Groundfish Observer coverage
53	Don Fox KAC	Prop 44 amended language
54	ADF&G Kodiak	RC 2, Tab 25, p 10 corrections
55	ADF&G Kodiak	2002 Alitak District
56	ADF&G Boards	Sustainable Escapement Goal thresholds
57	ADF&G SF (Rob)	Charter Harvest data from 2006
58	ADF&G Kodiak (Jeff)	Prop 42
59	ADF&G Kodiak (Jeff)	Prop 54 – Committee C comment
60	Mel Morris	Cape Igvak Resolution DRAFT
61	Duncan Fields	Prop 43 request for withdrawal
62	Dennis Harms	Prop 69 request for withdrawal
63	Amy Fredette	Ayakulik River 1992-2006 harvestsupport
64	Dennis Harms	Prop 65-68, 70 catch & release
65	Richard Blanc	Prop 58 amended
66	Richard Blanc	Prop 58 restructuring
67	Richard Blanc	Prop 58 explained
68	Leonard Carpenter	Prop 35 Committee A comment
69	John Jensen	Prop 36 substitute language
70	ADF&G Boards	RC Index updated

Substitute Intent language for proposal 58:

5 AAC 18.331

(a) Except as provided in (e) and (j) of this section, a CFEC permit holder may operate no more than 150 fathoms of set gillnet in the aggregate, nor more than two set gillnets.

(e)(7) a joint venture may operate no more than 300 fathoms of gillnet in the aggregate nor more than three set gillnets; and

(j) a permit holder owning two CFEC permits may operate no more than 300 fathoms of set gillnet in the aggregate, with no more than four set gillnets, none of which may be longer than 150 fathoms in length.

(1) Both of the permit holder's 5 digit CFEC permit serial number followed by the letter D to identify the gillnet as a dual permit set gillnet must be located on the identification buoy and the sign located on the beach.

(2) At least one cork every 10 fathoms along the cork line must be plainly and legibly marked with both CFEC permit numbers of the CFEC permit holder.

(3) The provisions of this subsection will no longer apply after December 31, 2010.

RC 72

Proposal # 56 Nina Burkholder

Map of Permit holders and how they Stand.

With the 45 hrs with no gear in the water fish, for the most part, will just barely get into Olga Bay.

22 Permits in Olga Bay

2- Oppose
3- Question
Rest Support

KC 73

PROPOSAL 113: 5 AAC 39.120. Registration of commercial fishing vessels.

PROPOSED BY: Gary W. Jackinsky

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would eliminate area registration for vessels in Upper Cook Inlet and Kodiak.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under regulation 5 AAC 39.120 a vessel can only be used in one registration area of the state. In addition under 5 AAC 39.115 a person who holds more than one permit must designate "the single area in which he desires to salmon net fish in that year."

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would allow fishermen in Kodiak and Cook Inlet to use a single vessel.

BACKGROUND: Area registration for vessels went into effect before 1982 in order to prevent fishermen and vessels from moving between fishing areas in order to spread out the "wealth".

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

COST STATEMENT: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 113 –5 AAC 21.345-Registration; and AAC 18.XXX. New Section. This proposal would eliminate area registration for vessels for Cook Inlet and Kodiak salmon as follows: Eliminate area registration for boats, same as the herring regulations for the state.

Committee B Public Panel Discussion:

Support:

- Could create statewide participation in various fishing areas similar to the herring fishery.
- Biologically, the two fisheries are different.
- Would allow fishermen in Kodiak and Cook Inlet to use a single vessel.

Oppose:

- Concern that this would benefit those with a lot of capital.
- Concern that this would turn into a situation similar to the herring fishery with allocation issues.

Other discussion

ADF&G Comments:

- Potential of adding gear to KMA.
- Could complicate management.

Kodiak AC Comments:

- Concern that this would benefit those with a lot of capital.
- Concern that this would create allocation issues as it did in the herring fishery.
- Concern that this would allow, "cherry picking" letting fishermen hit the high points of the season taking the peak of the season.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G: Neutral.

Kodiak AC: Opposed.

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

Board Committee Recommendation: No consensus.

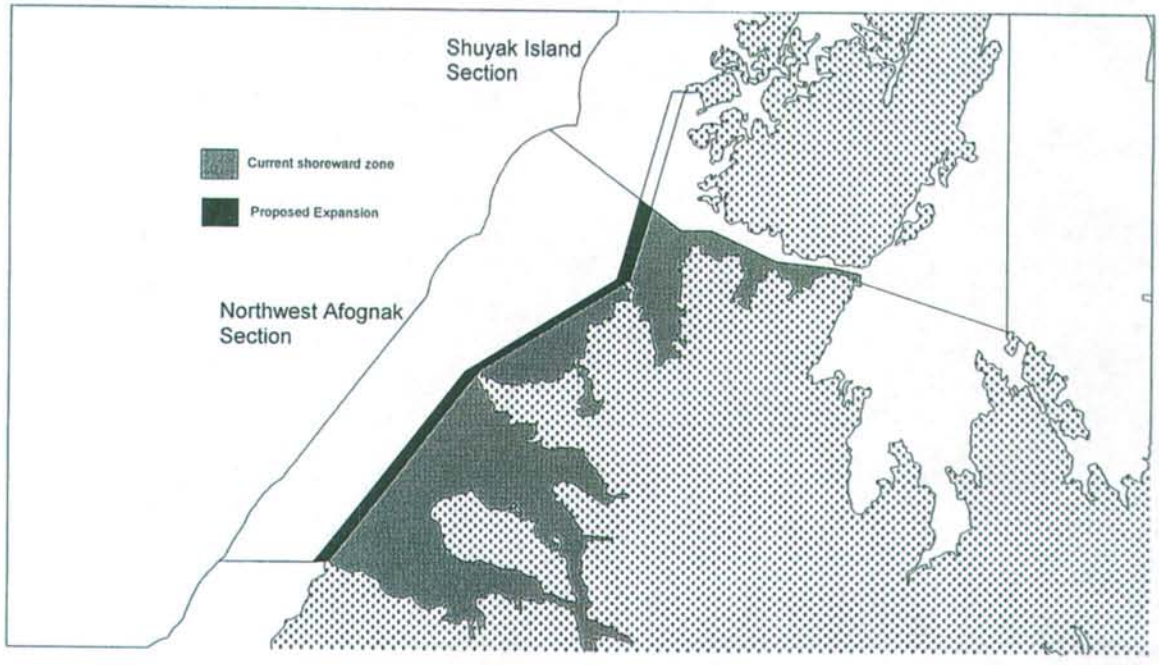
Substitute Language:

RC 74

Amended Language for Proposal 54

(B) Shuyak Island Section south and east of a line from Point Banks at 58° 37.95' N. lat., 152° 18.90' W. long., to Dark Island at 58° 38.72' N. lat., 152° 33.15' W. long., to Gull Island at 58° 35.80' N. lat., 152° 38.70' W. long., to the northern entrance of Big Bay at 58° 33.85' N. lat., 152° 40.30' W. long., to the western entrance of Blue Fox Bay at 58° 27.68' N. lat., 152° 43.65' W. long.

(C) Northwest Afognak Section south and east of a line from one-half nautical mile west of the northern entrance of Big Bay at 58° 33.85' N. lat., 152° 40.30' W. long., to one-half nautical mile west of the western entrance of Blue Fox Bay at 58° 27.68' N. lat., 152° 43.65' W. long., to one-half nautical mile west of Black Cape at 58° 24.50' N. lat., 152° 53.30' W. long., to one-half nautical mile west of Cape Paramanof at 58° 18.33' N. lat., 153° 02.65' W. long.



RC 75

To State Board of Fish

Response to Committee report C

By Kevin Fisher

During the committee discussion I mentioned some points of opposition that were left out of the report.

My family operation would be aversely affected by changing the staggered opening back to a congruent fishery because:

We have to travel from 11 to 12 miles between the 2 furthest sets we fish. Because of this distance we would loose fishing opportunity that we currently enjoy. We would have to travel during the opener, rather than during the closed period. Our approximate loss of fishing time would be at least 9 hours, possibly more if there were any problems with weather.

We purchased a site in Olga Bay specifically to capitalize on the staggered openings under the current regulations. This was an investment of $350,000. We know the staggered opening will help get fish to Olga Bay, otherwise we wouldn't have purchased this site!

Thank you,
Kevin Fisher

Kevin F. Fisher

RC 76

Proposal 54
N. Shelikof Management Plan
Suggested additions to Revised Language
RC 74

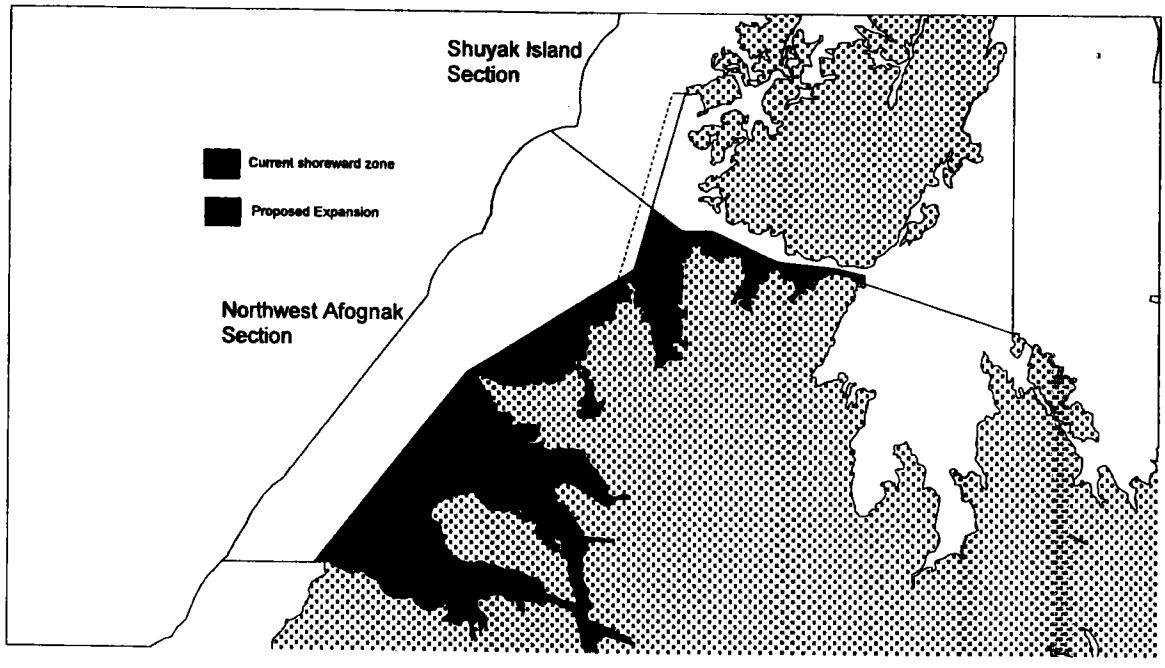
1. Sunset any changes in the N. Shelikof Management Plan on December 31, 2010.

2. Continue to accumulate catch data in the same manner as previously collected

3. Encourage genetic stock identification in the areas covered by the N. Shelikof Management Plan.

Submitted by: Roland Maw
Roland Maw

4. Prefer Revised ½ mile Corridor outlined below



RC 77

Alaska Board of Fish
Kodiak Meeting
Jan. 17, 2008

Dear Chairman Morris and board members,

Please consider the following substitute language for Proposal #72:

Create a "Super Exclusive" use area for all fresh water and salt-water guided sport fishing in the Kodiak Area defined as follows:

All fresh and salt waters identified in the ADFG Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations under 5AAC 18.100 DESCRIPTION OF THE KODIAK AREA (Area K) except the Mainland District identified in 5AAC 18.200 (g) under Description of Districts and Sections.

For the purpose of this regulation, a sport-fishing guide business must register annually with ADFG at least (30 days) before providing sport fish guiding services in the Kodiak Island Super Exclusive area.

A Charter Boat that is used to provide sport fish guiding services in any other management area of Alaska may not register for or provide sport fish guiding services in the Kodiak Island Super Exclusive area except during the months of October, November and December.

The Committee D Report RC # 46 lists 5 points of opposition to this proposal. Please consider the following answer to each of these points in the order they are listed.

1. This proposal is intended to be progressive in nature and be proactive in preventing a biological or conservation problem rather than wait until there is a problem and than be reactive with an attempted fix.
2. Whether a Charter boat fishery is overcrowded depends on the frame of reference. If we are comparing Kodiak's Charter boat fishery to Homer's fleet than Kodiak isn't overcrowded. This is exactly what the Kodiak operators desire to prevent from happening anytime soon in the Kodiak area while at the same time allowing for some growth by new entrants.

3. The ADFG Limited Entry Task Force has only begun to investigate the possibility of creating a Sport Fish Guide Services Board. Creation of such a board will require substantial legislation and accompanying regulations. The legislative effort at best would be introduced in the 2009 session and if passed couldn't be implemented for several years due to necessary Board Appointments followed by a public process to promulgate regulations.
4. The substitute language will exempt charter boats October 1-December 31 to accommodate the concerns expressed by off Island Charter services that provide transportation to Deer hunters. This will allow for incidental sport fishing during the time that most if not all deer hunting charters are provided.
5. There has been discussion for over ten years by both Federal and State staff as to how best to manage and limit the expansion of the sport fish guiding industry with a statewide solution. We have not been successful in this effort. It is now time to move forward with specific area management plans. I hope you recognize the uniqueness of Kodiak that this proposed regulation will help to perpetuate.

Thank you for your consideration,

Richard Rohrer

RC 78

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES COMMITTEE D REPORT

PROPOSALS 65, 66, 67, 68, & 70
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES 2007/2008 PROPOSED CHANGES IN KODIAK REGULATIONS

In testimony the ADF&G testified that they have gone to total closure too early, and needed to reopen the sport fishing season on the Ayakulik and Karluk rivers.

This has been not only disruptive, but destructive to the sport fishing industry on the Ayakulik River but all Alaska sport fishing.

At a minimum, I would ask the board to ask the ADF&G to state for the record that in years of low returns they will go to catch and release earlier and go to total closure later in the run.

Secondly, for the future of the Ayakulik and Karluk king salmon, it is imperitive to encourage the National Marine Fisheries to PIT tag the smolt King salmon from the Ayakulik and Karluk rivers to find out where they are being intercepted.

Thank you

Dennis Harms, Alaska Trophy Safaris

Amy Fredette, Ayakulik Adventures

Tom Simkowski, Ayakulik Guide

Ayakulik Inc. 29 Native Landowners, Ayakulik River, Owner, Ayakulik River Lodge.

Jake Fletcher, Ayakulik Guide

Dacia Hulse, Ayakulik Lodge Cook.

RC# 78

THE PLITT COMPANY
PREMIUM SEAFOOD

RC79

January 18, 2008

Via Fax 907-486-6201

Dear Alaska State Board of Fish,

I am writing in support of proposal #56. I want to begin by outlining the importance of Olga-Moser Bay sockeye to our U.S. Markets. The importance began as a seed 5 years ago when I met some energetic but defeated fishermen. They had a need to find a way to create a sustaining wage for their fishing operation, Plitt had a need to acquire quality product.

Plitt's issue has been simple. Even though every fisherman, everywhere, produces quality, our customers were not buying it. If we sell fish where the meat breaks, the scale loss is high, the meat is soft, we will match the market experience; so if you are not competing on quality, you end up competing on price. Therefore we have to buy on price. All this resulting in the fishermen getting squeezed and a sustainable wage only being available in next year's catch.

Can I prove this? Every year I have proof. Some examples:

- In 2006, Bill Barker was disenchanted when a Minneapolis grocer complained about the quality of fish of what he thought was Olga-Moser product. I explained to Bill and the grocer that we had run out of OM product and the stores were receiving product we purchased in the open market

- This year our fish ended up being quite pricey because of low production. As a result some of our big customers passed on the fish (not the grocer in Minneapolis) because of price. By the end of December, all of the customers had come back, paid the higher price and as a result I am, once again, short of inventory.

1455 West Willow Street - Chicago, IL 60622 - tel 773.276.2200 fax 773.276.3350

THE PLITT COMPANY
PREMIUM SEAFOOD

We can sell OM product with the same excitement as Copper River. But this did not happen overnight. This happened because of the hard work of some dedicated fishermen. Our customers have developed personal relationship with these people. They have become an extension of our sales force. Without their efforts, the OM product would be hardly noticed. The OM product is a recognized brand in our market.

With all this, we should be very satisfied with the OM operation. Unfortunately, we have volume issues. In 2006, we had such a small amount of fish it only satisfied a small segment of the market. In 2007, we sat most of the summer waiting for fish, driving up cost.....cost that could go to the fishermen instead of our fuel tanks. The fishermen need a sustainable wage and we need a sustainable production. Any support would be greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

THE PLITT COMPANY

Robert W. Sullivan
President

RWS/mo

1455 West Willow Street - Chicago, IL 60622 - tel 773.276.2200 fax 773.276.3350

RC 80

Action requested: Board of Fisheries to delegate to Commissioner of ADF&G authority to adopt emergency regulations, under AS 16.05.270, to align with the federal seabird avoidance rule.

Background: In the fall of 2004, the National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS), under the Endangered Species Act, promulgated seabird avoidance rules to protect various species of seabirds during longline and groundfish fisheries. The rule impacted all vessels 26 feet or greater using hook and line gear. In order to ensure protection in all waters NMFS made a request for similar actions in state waters, and the board agreed and adopted a regulation that became final in December of 2004, citing the federal rule.

Since that time, more research has been done to determine the actual areas these birds congregate, and the NMFS has now issued a new rule that became effective January 17, 2008, which eliminates the requirements for vessels fishing hook and line gear in the state waters of the Inside District of Prince William Sound, Eastern Gulf of Alaska (Southeast) and the Cook Inlet District of the Cook Inlet Management Area with the exception of three areas in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. This new rule also amends the requirements for the small boat fleet (26' – 55') fishing groundfish and halibut in the EEZ.

<u>The new rule when fishing in state waters is as follows:</u>

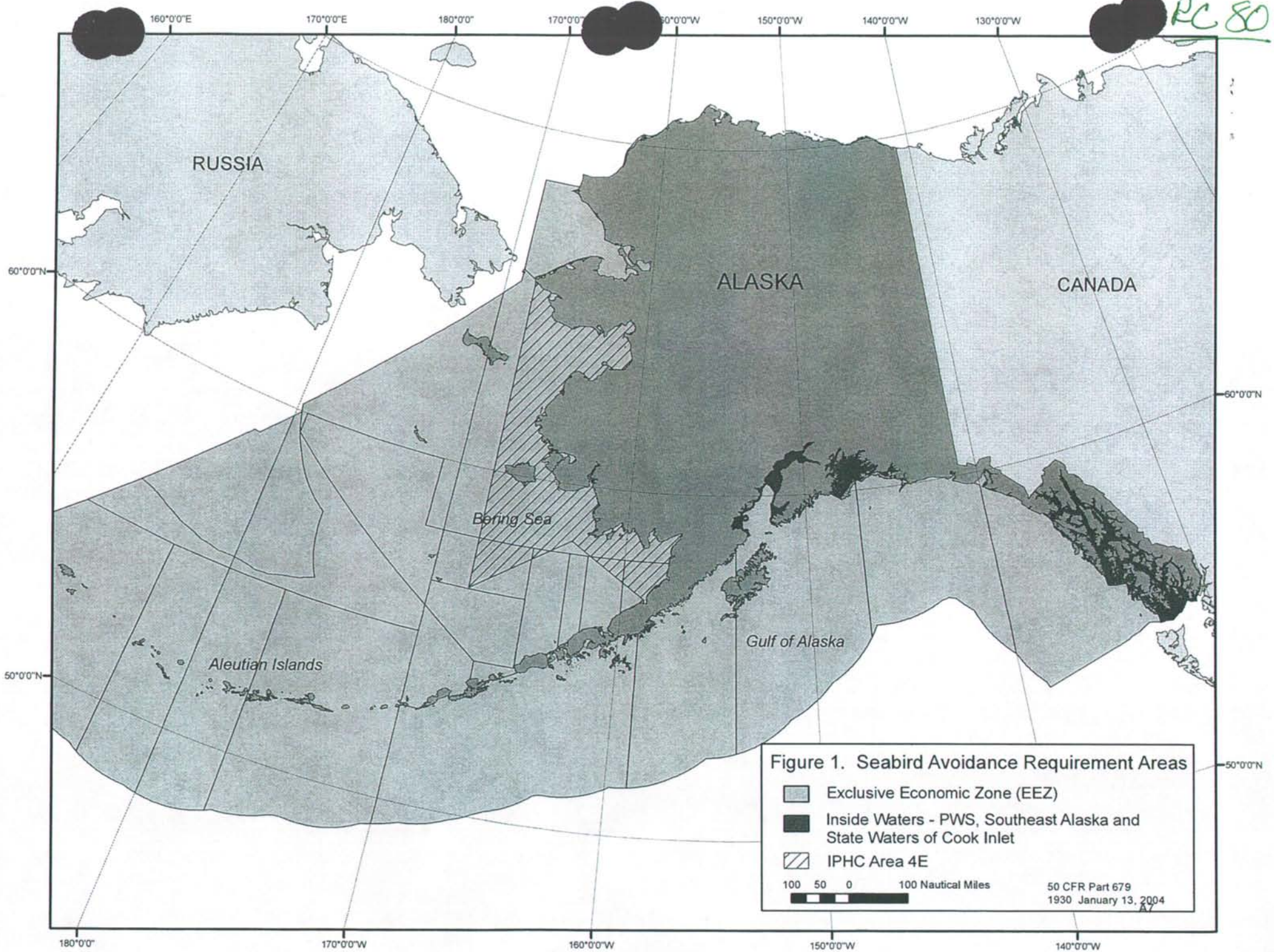
Eliminate seabird avoidance gear requirements for all hook and line vessels fishing in the state waters of the Inside District of Prince William Sound (NMFS Area 649), the Cook Inlet District of the Cook Inlet Management Area, and the Eastern Gulf of Alaska (NMFS Area 659), with three exceptions for the inside water areas of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska where hook and line vessels would be subject to the same seabird avoidance gear requirements and standards as when fishing in the EEZ. Exception areas are as follows:

1. Lower Chatham Strait south of a straight line between Point Harris (56° 17.25' N. lat.) and Point Armstrong;

2. Dixon Entrance defined as ADF&G groundfish statistical areas of 325431 and 325401;

3. Cross Sound west of a straight line from Point Wimbledon extending south through the Inian Islands to Point Lavina (136° 21.17' E).

RC 80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130°0'0"W
RUSSIA
ALASKA
CANADA
60°0'0"N
50°0'0"N
Bering Sea
Gulf of Alaska
Aleutian Islands
180°0'0"
170°0'0"W
160°0'0"W
150°0'0"W
140°0'0"W
Figure 1. Seabird Avoidance Requirement Areas
Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
Inside Waters - PWS, Southeast Alaska and State Waters of Cook Inlet
IPHC Area 4E
100 50 0 100 Nautical Miles
50 CFR Part 679
1930 January 13, 2004

RC 87

Salmon harvest from the Northwest Afognak Section of the Afognak District, 2003 – 2007, prior to the closure of the seaward zones, July 6 – July 25.

Year	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2003	3	4,837	384	12,056	829
2004	268	9,708	676	20,854	3,006
2005	13	3,923	1	5,426	37
2006	30	10,793	137	10,602	1,301
2007	34	7,550	24	1,742	87

The seaward zone can be closed from July 6 – July 25

Number of hours fished before the closure of the seaward zones*.

Year	Hours
2003	57
2004	153
2005	117
2006	134
2007	48

* Potential hours fished prior to any seaward zone closures: 0 – 315 hours.

RC 82

Supplemental Material
Committee C
Language for Board Generated Proposals

Except for biological concerns, a commercial salmon opening in the Northwest Section of the Kodiak Management Area shall not start or end if the preceding day's 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service forecast for the current day (day of opening or closure) for the Shelikof Strait area contains gale force wind warnings (35 knots or higher) and a commercial salmon opening in the Olga-Moser Bay Section of the Kodiak Management Area shall not start or end if the preceding day's 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service forecast for the current day (day of opening or closure) for the "Shuyak to Sitkinak" area contains gale force wind warnings (35 knots or higher.)

Duncan Fields

RC 83

Miscellaneous Business
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Jan. 14-18, 2008
Kodiak Finfish - Kodiak

Petition re seine gear specifications (Miscellaneous tab)	
Seabird avoidance measures	[P. Nelson]
Draft resolution on observer funding	[Williams]
Draft resolution on observer certification	[Williams]
Board generated proposal on Kupreanof Point closed waters	

Adjourn

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
Resolution on Funding the Onboard Observer Program

DRAFT (1/15/08)

RC 84

2008-xx-FB

WHEREAS, Alaska was the first state to initiate the practice of having an observer aboard commercial fishing vessels, and

WHEREAS, for a number of years there has been a federal mandate requiring an observer based on vessel size, and

WHEREAS, this mandate is federally funded in every state except Alaska, and

WHEREAS, that is an unfair and inequitable treatment of Alaska Fishermen,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Board Fisheries urges the Alaska Congressional Delegation, the Governor, and the Alaska State Legislature to work to correct and this and be consistent with funding practices throughout the rest of the United States.

ADOPTED this ____ day of January, 2008

_____
Mel Morris, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Vote: _____

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Resolution on Certification Program for Onboard Observer

DRAFT (1/17/08)

RC 85

2008-xx-FB

WHEREAS, Alaska began the observer program on commercial fishing vessels in Kodiak, and

WHEREAS, there are often not enough available certified observers, and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska systems and Kodiak Community College have extensive marine fisheries and technology training programs,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Board Fisheries urges the University of Alaska to work with the National Marine Fisheries Service to develop a community college certification program for observers on Kodiak Island,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as the program succeeds it should be expanded to the Bristol Bay, Cook Inlet and Southeast Alaska fisheries.

ADOPTED this ____ day of January, 2008

_____

Mel Morris, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Vote: _____

REVIEW DRAFT OF BOARD GENERATED PROPOSAL ON KUPREANOF POINT CLOSED AREAS 1/16/08

RC 86

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Note, this proposal affects both the Alaska Peninsula and Chignik management areas:

PROPOSAL XX - 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters; and 5 AAC 15.350. Closed waters. Repeal the closed waters area near Kupreanof Point in both the Alaska Peninsula Area and Chignik Area as follows:

Alaska Peninsula Area, Salmon Fishery

5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters

Repeal the following language:

[(37) FROM JULY 6 THROUGH AUGUST 31, WATERS OF ALASKA IN THE EAST STEPOVAK SECTION BETWEEN A LINE EXTENDING 135° FROM KUPREANOF POINT AT 55° 33.98' N. LAT., 159° 35.88' W. LONG. AND A LINE EXTENDING 207° FROM 55° 34.50' N. LAT., 159° 37.53' W. LONG.; FROM SEPTEMBER 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL CLOSE, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, THE WATERS SPECIFIED IN THIS PARAGRAPH WHEN THE WATERS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 15.350(20) ARE CLOSED TO CONSERVE COHO SALMON.]

Chignik Area, Salmon Fishery

5 AAC 15.350. Closed waters

Repeal the following language:

[(20) FROM JULY 6 THROUGH AUGUST 31, ALL WATERS OF ALASKA IN THE IVANOF BAY SECTION, BETWEEN A LINE EXTENDING 135° FROM KUPREANOF POINT AT 55° 33.98' N. LAT., 159° 35.88' W. LONG., AND A LINE EXTENDING FROM

65° FROM 55° 34.90' N. LAT., 159° 37.10' W. LONG.]

ISSUE: At the January 10-12, 2008 Chignik Finfish meeting, the Board of Fisheries considered a proposal (Proposal 29, 2007/2008 cycle) that sought to repealed the closed waters near Kupreanof Point in the Western District portion of the Chignik Management Area. The board found merit in repealing all or part of the closed waters in order to allow for expanded fishing opportunity. However, the board was hesitant to take action on only the Chignik Management Area without also considering a commensurate action on the closed waters directly to the west in the Alaska Peninsula Management Area. Because the legal notice for the January 2008 Chignik Finfish did not include the Alaska Peninsula Management Area, the board was not able to take a simultaneous action on both Chignik and the Alaska Peninsula Management areas. The board concluded it should consider both areas at the same time in a single integrated proposal.

The board heard support from the Chignik permit holders for reopening the area. The board would like to hear from additional potentially affected individuals or groups prior to eliminating or reducing the closed waters area.

The rationale for reopening the area is based on changes that have taken place in the fishery since the closed waters were established, including the availability of global positioning systems and the reduced number of permits being fished in each of the two fisheries. The board believes that this proposal will expand salmon fishing opportunity in the vicinity of Kupreanof Point and provide a potential benefit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? These potentially productive fishing grounds will remain closed.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Potentially. Salmon caught on the capes are generally high quality, especially pinks and chums.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Chignik and Area M fishermen, and communities in both fishing districts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. It would simply re-open a traditional fishing area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Another option would be to reduce the size of the closed waters areas while retaining a half-mile closed waters buffer along the boundary between the two fishing areas. This alternative could minimize potential conflicts between permit holders in the two fisheries.

A different procedural option would be to take action on the Chignik Management Area during a Chignik Finfish meeting and take action on the Alaska Peninsula Management Area during an Alaska Peninsula Finfish meeting. This approach would not allow the board to coordinate action on the two areas at one time. The Chignik and the Alaska Peninsula areas are scheduled for different years in the board's three-year cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries (HQ-09F-001)

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