

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
WORK SESSION
October 13-14, 2009
Anchorage**

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

This summary of actions is for information purposes only and is not intended to detail, reflect or fully interpret the reasons for the board's actions.

Election of Officers

Vince Webster was elected as Chair and Karl Johnstone was elected as Vice Chair.

Petitions

The board received a petition from the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation asking the board to find an emergency condition existed in the Norton Sound red king crab summer season commercial fishery and to reinstate in regulation a September 3 end date for the season due to concerns over the potential harvest of molting crab. The board heard a report from the department but found that no emergency situation exists. The department indicated it would take actions to reinstate a season closure date.

Agenda Change Requests (ACRs)

The board addressed nine agenda change requests on the basis of its policy (5 AAC 39.999) which specifies requests can be accepted only for a fishery conservation purpose, to correct an error in a regulation, or to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.

ACR 1

Action: Not accepted

Description: Change registration area boundaries in the Bering Sea District for king and Tanner crab fishery. (5 AAC 35.506(i)(3))

Discussion: The board noted that this fell under FMP Category Two guidelines, but that the criteria were not met.

ACR 2

Action: No action

Description: Close summer commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Southeast Alaska Districts 1 and 2. (5 AAC 32.110)

Discussion: The board took no action on ACR 2 based on the action taken on ACR 5.

ACR 3

Action: Not accepted

Description: Coordinate closures between all fisheries when Kenai River escapement is not met. (5 AAC 21.360(b)(4))

Discussion: The board concluded that the department emergency order authority was adequate to provide for inseason management actions consistent with existing management plans.

ACR 4 **Action:** Not accepted

Description: Synchronize sport bag limit and commercial quota changes for sablefish in Northern Southeast District. (5 AAC 47.020)

Discussion: The board discussed whether new information would be available from log books in the sport charter fishery and concluded that conservation measures were already in place.

ACR 5 **Action:** Accepted, scheduled for March 2010

Description: Close summer commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Southeast Alaska District 2. (5 AAC 32.110)

Discussion: The board concluded that additional evaluation of reasonable opportunity in the subsistence fishery was warranted. It also noted that the participation levels in the 2009 season would be available.

ACR 6 **Action:** Not accepted

Description: Change opening date for the commercial Southeast golden king crab and Tanner crab season for 2010. (5 AAC 34.110; 5 AAC 35.110)

Discussion: The department explained the importance of keeping both fishery openings together. The board did not find that the marketing conditions relative to the 2010 Winter Olympics were unforeseen.

ACR 7 **Action:** Accepted, scheduled for March 2010

Description: Adjust the total allowable catch for the 2009/2010 Bering Sea *C. opilio* Tanner crab fishery. (5 AAC 35.517(a)(2))

Discussion: The board noted that this fell under FMP Category Two guidelines. The department explained that the fishery had been overfished but stocks have since been rebuilt enough to allow fishing to a degree that had been previously unforeseen.

ACR 8 **Action:** Not accepted

Description: Close specific areas to guided sport fishing for rockfish in Juneau-Douglas area. (5 AAC 47.021)

Discussion: The department described harvest data available from the log book program. The board found that it did not have indication of a conservation problem at this time.

ACR 9 **Action:** Accepted, scheduled for March 2010

Description: Reduce the minimum size limit for Tanner crab in the Bering Sea fishery. (5 AAC 35.520; 5 AAC 35.508)

Discussion: The department indicated that the effect of the current regulations could be considered unforeseen. A 2008 fishery report and a second report anticipated in January 2010 would offer important information for the board. The board asked if it would be advisable to delay action and possibly act through an emergency regulation, but concluded that scheduling the topic for a regular meeting would allow for public input.

Board Generated Proposals

Proposal A

Action: Accepted, scheduled for January 2010

Description: Revise the management triggers in the Yukon River Summer Chum Management Plan.

Discussion: The proposal was recommended by a board member for consideration as a board generated proposal for the purpose of offering advance notice to public that it may consider revisions to the management plan.

Proposal B

Action: Accepted, scheduled for January 2010

Description: Revise the management triggers in the Yukon River Fall Chum Management Plan.

Discussion: The proposal was recommended by a board member for consideration as a board generated proposal for the purpose of offering advance notice to public that it may consider revisions to the management plan.

The board discussed a potential proposal to modify the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy but opted to ask its Sustainable Salmon Committee to review the policy and develop recommendations.

The board noted that a proposal soliciting support for a fishery reserve in the Holitna River Basin (Proposal 157 from February 2007) was previously tabled to its Habitat Committee. The board suggested the request should be considered during the January 26-31, 2010 Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Finfish meeting.

Escapement Goals and Stocks of Concern

The department presented reports on salmon escapement goals and its stock of concern recommendations for the Alaska Peninsula, Bristol Bay, and Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim areas consistent with the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy. It changed the designation for Kvichak River sockeye from a "management concern" to a "yield concern".

Salmon Industry Restructuring Proposals

The board conducted a review of nine proposals for the 2009/2010 cycle that were identified as "salmon industry restructuring" proposals in the proposal book. The review included a) determining if the proposals are complete, b) determining if there are outstanding questions or information needs, c) confirming that board has authority to act on the proposals, d) identifying whether other agencies need to be consulted on issues raised by the proposals, and e) identifying the review process and schedule if additional review is needed outside the currently scheduled meetings.

The board found that additional information was needed in order for the board to fully assess the potential economic impacts for two of the proposed changes: Proposal 15 (repeal of the 32-foot vessel limit in the Bristol Bay fishery) and Proposal 168 (repeal the 58-foot limit on salmon seine vessels throughout Alaska). The board decided to send a request to the Department of Fish and Game for additional information and analysis with the understanding that the department would coordinate with the Department of

Commerce, Community, and Economic Development and the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. The board determined that it had sufficient information on the remaining seven “restructuring” proposals scheduled for this year and did not include those in the request.

The board also noted that the public has the opportunity to bring forward any additional materials on potential impacts on fishery resources, participants, or local communities.

The other review steps were followed and the board found that the proposals were complete and that other hearings were not needed. In discussing approaches to reviewing restructuring proposals, the board recognized that the additional steps were not a fixed mandate but rather an opportunity for gathering additional information and analysis to apply.

Reports

The board received presentations on a variety of topics. These included:

- Overview of Rotenone use to eliminate invasive species such as pike in freshwater lakes.
- Overview of the department’s extended jurisdiction program, on Bering Sea Chinook salmon bycatch measures, and proposals in the 2009/2010 cycle of interest to both the Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. These included ACRs 7 and 9, Proposals 101 through 114, and Proposals 167, 173, and 174.
- Update on proposed sport fishing guide service board and on the log book program.
- Update on the 2009 season cost recovery fishing for the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association.

Tentative 2010/2011 meeting schedule

The board selected the following locations and tentative meeting dates, subject to meeting space availability:

- Worksession: October 13-14, 2010, Kenai or Soldotna
- Lower Cook Inlet Finfish: November 15-17, 2010, Homer
- Kodiak Finfish: January 10-14, 2011, Kodiak
- Chignik Finfish: January 16-18, 2011, Anchorage
- Upper Cook Inlet Finfish: February 20-March 5, 2011, Anchorage
- King and Tanner Crab, and Supplemental Issues: March 22-27, 2011, Anchorage

Proposals for the 2010/2011 meeting cycle must be received by 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 9, 2010. The deadline for agenda change requests is 5:00 p.m. Friday, August 27, 2010.