

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIESPOLICY CONCERNING QUALITY OF
ALASKAN FISHERIES RESOURCES

The Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game recognize that quality as well as volume of fisheries product influence the final benefit received by Alaskans for their renewable fisheries resources. Increased volume of fisheries resources available in Alaska and elsewhere coupled with a higher demand for fresh and frozen products has focused attention on fish quality as an important aspect of marketing Alaskan resources on a worldwide basis. Food products need to be attractive in appearance, firm of flesh and carefully handled, as well as wholesome.

The Board recognizes that the management of fisheries may have either a beneficial or negative impact on product quality. Consistent with the need for resource conservation, the Board has adjusted seasons and fishing areas to improve resource recovery and avoid times when fish or shellfish flesh is of poor quality. The degree to which these actions may be implemented depends greatly on the level of management precision available based on biological knowledge of the resource, run timing, stock distribution, fishing effort, and use patterns.

Any effective program to maintain or enhance the quality of fishery resources harvested in Alaska will require the active involvement of the primary participants, i.e., processors, fishermen, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the Board of Fisheries. The Alaska Board of Fisheries' existing public participation process is the appropriate forum to address fisheries quality improvement needs and desires in the management arena. It provides the situation under which management and industry can interface to produce the management plans, policies, and regulations necessary to improve fisheries product quality under circumstances where the participants are able to have access to the best available expertise to assure adequate consideration of the problems.

To reemphasize the Board's concern for quality in all Alaskan fisheries and the role that regulation may play in this process, the Board adopts the following policy:

Quality of harvest shall be an important factor considered by the Board in the adoption of regulations governing the conduct of Alaska's fisheries.

The Board further directs that the Department continue to consider the quality of fisheries products in its preparation and implementation of management plans for individual fisheries. It is understood that quality considerations with social or economic allocation ramifications will be addressed by the Board and that quality considerations will be secondary to the conservation needs of the resource.

ADOPTED: Anchorage, Alaska
March 31, 1980

VOTE: 6/0

