

Summary of Actions
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Prince William Sound and Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Finfish
December 1-6, 2005
Valdez, Alaska

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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.

PROPOSAL NO. 1

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Liberalize season and institute bag and possession limits for Prince William Sound (PWS) subsistence fisheries.

DISCUSSION: The board expressed intent for periods of commercial fishery closures to allow subsistence harvest opportunity. Adoption could result in increased harvest on small stocks and could create enforcement confusion by operators that have subsistence permits. The board referenced action taken in Proposal B.

PROPOSAL NO. 2

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Liberalize season and institute bag and possession limits for PWS subsistence fisheries.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action based on action taken on Proposal 1.

PROPOSAL NO. 3

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Customary and traditional use determination for the Chitina Subdistrict.

DISCUSSION: The Department of Law indicated the board must show a reason to deviate from a prior decision. If either error or significant new information is found, then the board looks into C&T criteria and analysis. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the C&T findings, as the board examined if there was error in an earlier determination because *users* not *uses* were used as the basis of the decision. Earlier court decisions such as the Payton vs. State of Alaska were referenced as were excerpts from the BOF meeting on February 5, 2003. There was discussion on dividing the Copper River Stock into sub stocks, some of which were subsistence and others personal use. The board also discussed how the same stock can be divided in different parts of the stream.

PROPOSAL NO. 4

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Require fish wheel permit holders to physically check and remove all fish from the live box at least once every 24 hours.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action based on action taken on Proposal 5.

PROPOSAL NO. 5

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Require fish wheel permit holders to physically check and remove all fish from the live box at least once every 24 hours.

AMENDMENTS: Permit holder must check the fish wheel at least once every 10 hours and remove all fish.

DISCUSSION: The board supported the amendment by public safety because it will be a useful enforcement tool. The federal program had no recommendation, but will align their new regulations with those of the state.

PROPOSAL NO. 6

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Liberalize Batzulnetas fishing season and add fyke nets to allowed gear for Tanada Creek.

DISCUSSION: The panel recommended no action. Author requested withdrawal.

PROPOSAL NO. 7

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Limit the number of households that use a fish wheel to 25.

DISCUSSION: The board discussed the reduction of harvest opportunity.

PROPOSAL NO. 8

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Require a livebox on fish wheels in the Glenallen Subdistrict.

DISCUSSION: This proposal was withdrawn by the proponent.

PROPOSAL NO. 9

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Establish a mandatory checkpoint to monitor fishing permits and salmon harvested, located five miles from Chitina.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action based on action taken on Proposal 10.

PROPOSAL NO. 10

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Establish a mandatory checkpoint to monitor fishing permits and salmon harvested, located five miles from Chitina.

DISCUSSION: The department does not have administrative powers and there is already 85 percent compliance from the harvest report. The board agreed that a checkpoint would not be valuable to monitor fishing and it would not be a productive use of resources.

PROPOSAL NO. 11

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Liberalize the Copper River District subsistence fishing season.

DISCUSSION: The board discussed amounts necessary for subsistence and reasonable opportunity. They also discussed the potential impact on the number of salmon available for user groups upstream.

PROPOSAL NO. 12

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Require personal use fishing permits be returned to the issuing office by a specified deadline.

DISCUSSION: The board discussed the adequacy of harvest reporting.

PROPOSAL NO. 13

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Increase the annual limit for personal use salmon fishing from one to five king salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict.

DISCUSSION: The proposal's intent is to reestablish the historical catch limit to 1999 levels and restore lost harvest opportunity. The board discussed the number of fisheries that would be impacted and the allocation of the fishery.

PROPOSAL NO. 14

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Require personal use salmon fishing permit holders in the Chitina Subdistrict to release all king salmon during the month of June

DISCUSSION: This is primarily a personal use and sports fishery. Because this proposal is allocative in nature, the board voted not to adopt it.

PROPOSAL NO. 15

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow a personal use salmon fishing permit holder and each member of the household an annual limit of one king salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict.

DISCUSSION: The board discussed the reduction of harvest opportunity over time in this fishery, due largely to the increasing number of users. Options to go to other areas and/or use different species of salmon were discussed.

PROPOSAL NO. 16

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Increase the annual limit for a personal use salmon fishing permit from one to two king salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict.

DISCUSSION: The department and the board discussed the history of personal use; the participants have been relatively stable numbers. The number of participants, availability of fish, use different species, and other areas were discussed.

PROPOSAL NO. 17

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Establish a cooperative of purse seine permit holders.

DISCUSSION: There are already cooperatives in place that are working and it could disadvantage the seine fleet. A decision is expected in March, 2006 on current litigation. This is the type of proposal that would fit the salmon restructuring process.

PROPOSAL NO. 18

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Limit gear type in Coghill District to purse seine only.

DISCUSSION: Board took no action based on action taken on Proposal 27.

PROPOSAL NO. 19

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit the drift gillnet fleet from access to Port Chalmers Subdistrict.

DISCUSSION: Board took no action based on action taken on Proposal 27.

PROPOSAL NO. 20

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Calculate exvessel value for allocation as a five-year rolling average.

DISCUSSION: Board took no action based on action taken on Proposal 27.

PROPOSAL NO. 21

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Expand the use of the Esther Subdistrict buffer zone.

DISCUSSION: Board took no action based on action taken on Proposal 27.

PROPOSAL NO. 22

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Eliminate the July 21 opening date for purse seine gear in Coghill District.

DISCUSSION: Board took no action based on action taken on Proposal 27.

PROPOSAL NO. 23

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow purse seine access to Armin F. Koernig Hatchery SHA and THA beginning June.

DISCUSSION: Would not be able to detect large numbers of wild stock harvest until it's too late.

PROPOSAL NO. 24

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Open Southwestern District based on strength of wild and enhanced stocks.

DISCUSSION: The department already has EO authority to open and close this fishery.

PROPOSAL NO. 25

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Remove the 58 foot length limit for purse seine vessels.

DISCUSSION: There are over 100 active PWS purse seine permits. Harvest is limited by the processors holding capacity. Processors may reduce the number of active permits based on the specifications of the vessels. Department of Law expressed concerns of the regulations being too tied up with CFEC regulations. This fishery is fully allocated.

PROPOSAL NO. 26

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Limit set gillnet harvest to 1.5 percent of the five-year rolling average of total exvessel value.

DISCUSSION: Board took no action based on action taken on Proposal 27.

PROPOSAL NO. 27

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Determine allocation of total exvessel value by gear group using only enhanced salmon.

AMENDMENTS: Conceptual language adopted addressing the catch of enhanced salmon by the various user groups.

DISCUSSION: The board appointed a working group that spent months fine tuning this plan. The working group met again in December 2005 to allow broader discussion between the user groups prior to board deliberations. This gives the department direction to address the allocation problems that have frustrated users.

PROPOSAL NO. 28

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Designate Pt. Chalmers as seine only and Coghill District as gillnet only prior to July 21.

DISCUSSION: Board took no action based on action taken on Proposal 27.

PROPOSAL NO. 29

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Remove allocation definitions and consequences of the PWS Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan.

DISCUSSION: Board took no action based on action taken on Proposal 27.

PROPOSAL NO. 30

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Replace current PWS Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan with the 1991 plan.

DISCUSSION: Board took no action based on action taken on Proposal 27.

PROPOSAL NO. 31

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Open Perry Island Subdistrict to salmon fishing with purse seine gear on July 10.

DISCUSSION: An opening date of July 10 would allow harvest of wild and enhanced chum and sockeye salmon bound for the Coghill and Eshamy districts. The area of concern is within the management plan for a hatchery subdistrict and is managed in consultation between the department and PWSAC.

PROPOSAL NO. 32

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Open Southwestern District to salmon fishing with purse seine gear on July 10.

DISCUSSION: There is an unknown stock composition prior to July 18 and the department has EO authority to open this district prior to July 18.

PROPOSAL NO. 33

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow drift gillnet and purse seine gear to be used during periods established by emergency order in the Coghill District.

DISCUSSION: Multiple gear in the same district at the same time may create conflicts in the fishery. Prior to the 1980's allocation plan, this was a seine fleet area. It is a mixed stock area. Board prefers to give the revised allocation plan a chance before further adjustments are made.

PROPOSAL NO. 34

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Close Southwestern, Coghill, and Eshamy districts and the Perry Island Subdistrict when Esther Subdistrict is open to salmon fishing.

DISCUSSION: This decreases the ability to control and manage wild and enhanced runs. The department uses concurrent openings among multiple districts to spread fleets and associated effort.

PROPOSAL NO. 35

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Open Southwestern District once per week concurrent with fishing periods in Copper River District.

DISCUSSION: Wild and enhanced fish stocks cannot be determined prior to July 18.

PROPOSAL NO. 36

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Establish an experimental fishery using an assigned harvest share for the purse seine fleet.

DISCUSSION: This proposal may encourage inactive permits to return to the fishery with limited responsibility to the long-term health of the PWS purse seine fisheries. Proposal is not clearly written and is not well understood by the active stakeholders.

PROPOSAL NO. 37

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Reduce hatchery chum salmon production for PWS and Southeast Alaska by 30 percent.

DISCUSSION: Reducing hatchery chum salmon production in Prince William Sound may have large negative financial impacts to both the PWS purse seine and drift gillnet fisheries. Board is limited in its authority regarding hatchery production; with the exception of protecting wild stocks.

PROPOSAL NO. 38

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Reduce hatchery production of pink and chum salmon in PWS by at least 50 percent of the 2003 production.

AMENDMENTS:

DISCUSSION: Board referenced their comments in Proposal 37.

PROPOSAL NO. 39

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Establish a subdistrict including Esther Passage and the west side of Esther Island.

AMENDMENTS: The proposed hatchery subdistrict would include Esther Passage and the western shore of Esther Island within 1 mile of the shore south to northern boundary of 223-40.

DISCUSSION: This will more efficiently achieve the cost recovery goal and provide a tool of access for the seine fleet harvest of the enhanced chum bound for Wally Norenburg Hatchery as stated in the management plans.

PROPOSAL NO. 40

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Establish a subdistrict including Esther Passage and the west side of Esther Island.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action based on action taken on Proposal 39.

PROPOSAL NO. 41

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Define "ceased fishing" for a purse seine as when both ends of the seine are attached to the fishing vessel.

AMENDMENTS: A purse seine is considered to have ceased fishing when both ends of the seine are attached to the fishing vessel.

DISCUSSION: Department of Public Safety encouraged the board to consider making this a statewide regulation as it will make enforcement easier and creates a safer environment for PWS purse seine crew members.

PROPOSAL NO. 42

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Redraw the southern boundary line in Coghill District.

AMENDMENTS: Amend the Coghill District with a new line position at Point Culross.

DISCUSSION: The board agreed that the narrow boundary line corner at Point Culross should be widened. This may alleviate an enforcement problem.

PROPOSAL NO. 43

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Expand Wally Noerenberg Hatchery SHA into Esther Passage.

DISCUSSION: This proposal was withdrawn by the proponent.

PROPOSAL NO. 44

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Expand Wally Noerenberg Hatchery SHA into the Esther Subdistrict within 300 fathoms of Esther Island.

DISCUSSION: This proposal was withdrawn by the proponent.

PROPOSAL NO. 45

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Establish a Marsha Bay SHA.

DISCUSSION: Marsh Lake is not an approved remote release site. The RPT agrees to releases on a case by case basis to provide option to culling fish in excess of hatchery capacity. There should not be regular releases that would require a SHA in regulation. The board prefers to operate any cost recovery through emergency order.

PROPOSAL NO. 46

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Expand the Main Bay Hatchery SHA into Falls Bay.

DISCUSSION: This proposal was withdrawn by the proponent.

PROPOSAL NO. 47

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Expand the Main Bay Hatchery SHA within Main Bay.

DISCUSSION: This proposal was withdrawn by the proponent.

PROPOSAL NO. 48

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Require the department to manage the Main Bay sub-district, and before July 21, the Crafton Island sub-district, to achieve PWSAC cost recovery.

AMENDMENTS: The department, in consultation with the hatchery operator, shall manage the Main Bay sub-district to achieve the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation's escapement goal for the Main Bay Hatchery. The purpose of the Main Bay salmon hatchery harvest management plan in this section is to provide an equitable distribution of harvest opportunity and to reduce conflicts between users in the vicinity of the Main Bay salmon hatchery.

DISCUSSION: By removing the date, the department will manage the Crafton Island sub-district through emergency order to prevent enhanced fish build-ups and maintain quality. This further standardizes hatchery management plans across PWS.

PROPOSAL NO. 49

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Expand the Cannery Creek Hatchery SHA.

DISCUSSION: This proposal was withdrawn by the proponent.

PROPOSAL NO. 50

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Expand the Armin F. Koernig Hatchery SHA.

DISCUSSION: This proposal was withdrawn by the proponent.

PROPOSAL NO. 51

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Close the drift gillnet fishery in the Copper River District from Thursday at midnight until Saturday at midnight to improve weekend dipnetting.

DISCUSSION: The Department commented this may reduce opportunity. It would create a reduction in commercial harvest with alternate resource fairly limited. The importance of each fishery to the economy was noted, involving Copper River reds and Chinook. The

safety issue of requiring fishermen to go outside Barrier Island was discussed by the board. Board agreed this "window type" fishery would not produce the desired effect, and this is an alternate to proposal 52.

PROPOSAL NO. 52

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Limit commercial fishing in the Copper River District inside the Barrier Islands to 12-hours per week during statistical weeks 20, 21, and 22.

AMENDMENTS: (1) Reduced opening period to occur within the first two statistical weeks. (2) Conceptual language changing the description of the area applied to, and (3) clarify the fishing period.

DISCUSSION: The department noted this proposal would reduce the management flexibility and reduce commercial fishing opportunity. There is harvest inside and outside the islands, but most kings are caught inside the barrier islands where a refuge area already exists. The department has met escapement objective for sockeye. King escapement goals have changed, and only limited data exists regarding of escapement and returns of kings. Diversification of escapement is important. Different stocks go up river at different times. Early run fish are those going higher up in the river. The proposal's intent is to help protect the kings that were milling before they entered the river. The milling behavior of coho, for which there is a study, was referenced by the board, but the department stated coho behavior does not necessarily relate to sockeye and king salmon. The board acknowledged that stocks were in decline and that there were unmet fishing goals up river. The board agreed that the allocation criteria were complex, and that the action would shift opportunity away from commercial to upstream opportunities and that the action was needed.

PROPOSAL NO. 53

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Increase escapement of early run salmon upstream of the Gulkana River.

AMENDMENTS:

DISCUSSION: Board took no action based on action taken on Proposal C.

PROPOSAL NO. 54

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Increase time and area for king salmon fishing on the Klutina River.

DISCUSSION: This proposal was withdrawn by the proponent.

PROPOSAL NO. 55

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Reinstate August 10 king salmon closure for Klutina River and designate below the Richardson Highway Bridge fly fishing only.

DISCUSSION: The proposal would increase the season by 10 days, and would add some additional opportunity to favor guides and guided anglers. Historically the season had those extra days which was an important stimulus to local economy. The department stated that Klutina is mid point, so it is not clearly an early or a late run. The department estimated harvest potential to be around 500 chinook salmon. Since the proposal was allocative in nature, and since the Copper River kings are already fully allocated, the board did not adopt this proposal.

PROPOSAL NO. 56

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Double the allocation of king salmon in Gulkana and Klutina sport fisheries.

DISCUSSION: Board noted that abundance on the river has been greatly reduced, in part by increased pressure.

PROPOSAL NO. 57

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Modify areas, method and means for all Copper River king salmon fisheries to protect spawning fish.

DISCUSSION: The board opposed due to the overly restrictive nature and the potential liberalization of fisheries on small spawning stocks that are currently closed to fishing.

PROPOSAL NO. 58

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow bait in June on the Gulkana River below Richardson Highway Bridge.

DISCUSSION: The board expressed conservation concerns based on hooking mortality. Human crowding is the main problem.

PROPOSAL NO. 59

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Restrict use of bait within Copper River mainstem from May 1 – September 1.

DISCUSSION: The board opposed restricting unguided anglers and those without a boat.

PROPOSAL NO. 60

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Restrict king salmon multiple hook gear to a maximum of four inches in length.

DISCUSSION: Public safety noted potential regulatory confusion. There was no information that this was a trend of use. Board believed this may increase mortality.

PROPOSAL NO. 61

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Restrict gear to single hook artificial lure from May 1 – October 31 for all freshwater drainages crossing the Copper River Highway.

DISCUSSION: The board recognized that this is a social issue, not a biological one since the escapements are being met.

PROPOSAL NO. 62

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Close entire Susitna River drainage upstream of the Oshetna River to salmon fishing.

DISCUSSION: The board expressed conservation concerns on the impact of small stocks in these systems and therefore supported this proposal to help protect those vulnerable stocks. The board acknowledged there are no allocative issues.

PROPOSAL NO. 63

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Remove regulations for rainbow trout not consistent with management policy.

DISCUSSION: Intent is to align lakes identified with background regulations of the Cook Inlet/Upper Copper River Wild Rainbow Trout Management Policy.

PROPOSAL NO. 64

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit retention of rainbow trout in the Tebay River drainage.

DISCUSSION: Intent of the proposal is to align the regulations within the entire drainage. Catch-and-release regulation is due to the estimated abundances from two years of stock assessment research on the Hanagita River determined that populations sizes were too small (< 350 spawning adult fish) to support a harvest.

PROPOSAL NO. 65

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Modify bag and possession limit for rainbow trout/steelhead drainages crossed by Copper River Highway.

DISCUSSION: This will align PWS trout limits with statewide standards. Statewide conservative guidelines are appropriate for trout in PWS as they are at or near the northern limit of their range. This changes only the regulations for Cordova roadside streams.

PROPOSAL NO. 66

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Add Moose Lake and Our Creek to conservative management category.

AMENDMENT: Combines Gulkana river drainage regulatory language.

DISCUSSION: These waters were inadvertently left out of the previously adopted AYK Regional Wild Arctic Grayling Management Plan.

PROPOSAL NO. 67

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Change bag limits and dates for Arctic grayling in Moose Lake and Our Creek.

DISCUSSION: The spawning population of Arctic grayling in Our Creek resides in Moose Lake for most of the year, and needs consistent regulatory protection throughout the year. These waters were inadvertently left out of the previously adopted AYK Regional Wild Arctic Grayling Management Plan during previous BOF meeting.

PROPOSAL NO. 68

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Impose catch-and-release fishing for Arctic grayling for the Gulkana River upstream of Paxson Lake.

AMENDMENTS: Allow a harvest of two fish of which only one may be 14 inches or greater in length. In Summit Lake from its outlet to within a 100-yard radius of the mouth of Gunn Creek the bag and possession limit for grayling is two fish of which one may be 14 inches or greater in length. In Gunn Creek and all waters within 100-yard radius of its mouth at Summit Lake the bag and possession limit for grayling is two fish of which one may be 14 inches or greater in length.

DISCUSSION: The proposal as amended will allow a minimal amount of harvest (two fish/day, only one of which can be \geq 14 inches in length) which is sustainable.

PROPOSAL NO. 69

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Allow bait in flowing waters of Tonsina River drainage downstream of Tonsina Lake.

DISCUSSION: This proposal was considered a housekeeping proposal.

PROPOSAL NO. 70

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Institute a Lake Trout Management Plan.

AMENDMENTS: Modify the proposed language for the Wild Lake Trout Management Plan.

DISCUSSION: Provides the department guidelines on managing lake trout in the Upper Susitna region.

PROPOSAL NO. 71

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Allow bait in Paxson and Summit lakes during November 1 – April 15.

AMENDMENTS: Amended language changes the bag and possession of lake trout from two fish \geq 24 inches to one fish with no size limit, thereby aligning fishery to fit within lake trout management plan.

DISCUSSION: Under current regulation, the popular burbot fishery is unnecessarily restricted. This was a compromise between the elimination of the length limit for allowing bait.

PROPOSAL NO. 72

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Reduce the bag and possession limits of rockfish for anglers onboard a vessel.

DISCUSSION: Party fishing regulations stated in the proposal are not consistent with the current management policy. Bag limit analysis indicates that this proposal will not likely result in a lower mortality of rockfish.

PROPOSAL NO. 73

ACTION: Tabled to March, 2006

DESCRIPTION: Establish an experimental fishery for spiny dogfish in the Gulf of Alaska.

DISCUSSION: The department has the authority to establish experimental fisheries. Board tabled this to its March, 2006 meeting to allow review by NPFMC.

PROPOSAL NO. 74

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Simplify regulatory language in the PWS Pollock Trawl Management Plan.

DISCUSSION: This is a housekeeping proposal to simplify regulatory language.

PROPOSAL NO. 75

ACTION: Tabled to March, 2006

DESCRIPTION: Change the GHL taken from one section for pollock pelagic trawl fishery to no more than 60 percent.

DISCUSSION: Can provide access to harvest known aggregations and reduce bycatch. Board tabled this to its March, 2006 meeting to allow review by NPFMC.

PROPOSAL NO. 76

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Include longline pots as lawful gear for harvesters of sablefish.

AMENDMENTS: Pots may be connected in the Prince William Sound sablefish fishery if each end of the buoy line is marked as specified in subsection (d) of this section.

DISCUSSION: Pot gear would stop Orca whales from stealing sablefish and reduce undocumented sablefish loss. This may help prevent some of the groundfish bycatch. Pot gear could help stop other depredation in future, and will not teach predators to steal.

Separate seasons could be used to avoid potential gear conflict. A discussion of extending or moving the season dates away from early spring when Orca whales are more likely to be present was considered. CFEC will need to file a subsequent regulation, but the conceptual language will give the department the guidance needed to move this forward. This will allow another gear type to participate. The harvest levels are already defined. The board intended that trawlers could use pot gear.

PROPOSAL NO. 77

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Establish bycatch levels for the pollock pelagic trawl fishery.

AMENDMENTS: During a directed pollock pelagic trawl fishery, the total fishery bycatch weight, apportioned among five species groups may not exceed 5 percent the total round weight of pollock harvested.

DISCUSSION: This formalizes how the department is currently managing fishery.

PROPOSAL NO. 78

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Align PWS sablefish season with the federal fishing season (March 1 – November 15).

DISCUSSION: May compromise department's commercial catch sampling ability. Registration deadline may conflict with changing dates of the IFQ halibut fishery.

PROPOSAL NO. 79

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Replace herring harvest allocation for purse seine with a herring harvest allocation for purse seine permit holders using drift gillnets.

DISCUSSION: This provides a means to obtain harvestable surplus when available. Gillnets may catch different age classes and sizes, which may alter management. Older fish have better production and gillnets will catch more large fish than seines.

PROPOSAL NO. 80

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Establish equal harvest shares of herring sac roe quotas for all herring sac roe permit holders.

DISCUSSION: This proposal was withdrawn by the proponent.

PROPOSAL A

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Amount of salmon reasonably necessary for subsistence uses in the Copper River District described in 5 AAC 24.200(a) in years when there is available surplus for a commercial salmon fishery is 3,000 to 5,000 salmon and in years when there is no surplus for a commercial salmon fishery is 19,000 to 32,000 salmon.

DISCUSSION: Board believes these are accurate amounts necessary for subsistence and affords reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvest.

PROPOSAL B

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Amount of salmon reasonably necessary for subsistence uses in the Southwestern District described in 5 AAC 24.200(i) and the waters along the northwestern shore of Green Island from the westernmost tip of the island to the northernmost tip of the island is 2,100 to 3,500 salmon. Amount of salmon reasonably necessary for subsistence uses in the waters north of a line from Porcupine Point to Granite Point and south of a line from Point Lowe to Tongue Point is 1,800 to 3,000 salmon.

DISCUSSION: Board believes these are accurate amounts necessary for subsistence and affords reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvest.

PROPOSAL C

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Amount of salmon reasonably necessary for subsistence uses in the Glennallen Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District: (1) that portion from the southern boundary of the subdistrict at the downstream edge of the Chitina-McCarthy Road Bridge to the mouth of the Tonsina River is 25,500 to 39,000 salmon; (2) that portion upstream of the mouth of the Tonsina River up to the mouth of the Gakona River is 23,500 to 31,000 salmon; and (3) that portion upstream of the mouth of the Gakona River up to the mouth of the Slana River and the waters of the Copper River described in 5 AAC 01.647(i)(3) is 12,000 to 12,500 salmon.

DISCUSSION: Board believes these are accurate amounts necessary for subsistence and affords reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvest.

PROPOSAL D

ACTION: Deferred to Jan. 2006

DESCRIPTION: Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan.

DISCUSSION: The board deferred this to its January 2006 meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Board finding on subsistence salmon fishing in Prince William Sound (2005-244-FB) The board adopted a finding that recognizes department emergency order authority to open subsistence fishing. It asked that the department exercise that authority during periods of extended commercial salmon fishing closures to ensure that reasonable opportunity for subsistence fishing is provided in the Southwestern District; the waters along the northwestern shore of Green Island from the westernmost tip of the island to the northernmost tip of the island; and the waters north of a line from Porcupine Point to Granite Point and south of a line from Point Lowe to Tongue Point.