

Summary of Actions  
Alaska Board of Fisheries

**WORKSESSION**  
**October 12 – 13, 2006**  
**Anchorage, Alaska**

**DESIGNATED REPORTER: Rita St.Louis**

*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.*

Action on Agenda Change Requests

**ACR NO. 1**

**ACTION: Failed**

**DISCRIPTION:** Change driftnet and setnet allocation percentages from 84/16 to 65/35 in Naknek River Special Harvest Area.

**DISCUSSION:** The board agreed that the proposal does have merit, but does not meet ACR criteria. Furthermore, Proposal 90 addresses this issue and will be discussed at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting in Dillingham in December 2006.

**ACR NO. 2**

**ACTION: Failed**

**DISCRIPTION:** Require fish wheels to be removed above the high water mark on the Copper River.

**DISCUSSION:** The passage of this proposal could exclude some fishermen and reduce some opportunity for individuals, but not necessarily subsistence users as a group. The board agreed that this proposal indeed has some merit, but it does not meet the criteria for ACR.

**ACR NO. 3**

**ACTION: Failed**

**DISCRIPTION:** Increase distance between fish wheels from 75 feet to 200 feet for the Copper River.

**DISCUSSION:** Reducing the number of wheels could reduce some opportunity for some individuals. The board believed this could be allocative in nature between subsistence users and thought it best be addressed in cycle. The proposal did not meet the ACR criteria.

**ACR NO. 4**

**ACTION: Failed**

**DISCRIPTION:** Adopt a customary and traditional finding for use of finfish in Upper Copper River / Upper Susitna River drainages.

**DISCUSSION:** The department noted that permits are readily available and people can fish. The board did not find that there is hardship to the people of the area, and it concluded that this proposal should be brought up in cycle.

**ACR NO. 5**

**ACTION: Accepted**

**DISCRIPTION:** Allow non-commercial harvest of aquatic plants in statewide regulation.

**DISCUSSION:** The board previously addressed this topic for Southeast Alaska but not for other regions of the state. Addressing this proposal would help clarify what activities

are or are not allowed for the harvest of aquatic plants. This proposal was scheduled for the statewide meeting in March 2007. (see Proposal 255)

**ACR NO. 6****ACTION: Failed****DISCRIPTION:** Allow Bristol Bay setnet fisherman to hold dual entry permits.**DISCUSSION:** The proponent of this proposal seeks to increase the amount of gear he has in the water. However Proposals 15 and 27 already address this issue and will be considered at the Bristol Bay meeting in December 2006. Therefore the board concluded it was inappropriate to accept this ACR.**ACR NO. 7****ACTION: Accepted****DISCRIPTION:** Create new statewide regulation to address transport of live fish.**DISCUSSION:** This ACR addresses a void in the regulations regarding statewide shell fish and finfish. The department recommended that the transportation and release of all live fish for sport and commercial purposes need to be addressed in regulation. The board accepted this proposal and scheduled it for the statewide meeting in March 2007. (see Proposal 256)**ACR NO. 8****ACTION: Accepted****DISCRIPTION:** Create statewide permit for allowing use of net pens.**DISCUSSION:** Presently the permitting process for penning is addressed only in the Kodiak area. Penning of salmon and crab is becoming more common. Regulations need to be adopted statewide. The board noted that this will help fishermen and their marketing efforts. The board accepted this proposal and scheduled it for the statewide meeting in March 2007. (see Proposal 257)**ACR NO. 9****ACTION: Failed****DISCRIPTION:** Readopt the 1993-1995 regulations for the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.**DISCUSSION:** The board noted that there are complex and competing objectives, that a lot of work would be undone if the last ten years of regulations are thrown out, and that even though the merits of this proposal are important, the outcome will have long reaching ramifications for many users and user groups. Therefore the board concluded that this issue needs to be addressed during a regular Cook Inlet regulatory meeting during which all user groups have time to enter their proposals and make comments. The proposal did not meet the ACR criteria.**ACR NO. 10****ACTION: Failed****DISCRIPTION:** Change opening date for dip net fishery on the Kenai River.**DISCUSSION:** The board noted that the personal use fishery is not afforded an inherent priority and found that the proposal did not meet the criteria for considering it out of the regular cycle.**ACR NO. 11****ACTION: Failed****DISCRIPTION:** Limit setnet fishing periods to only during flood stage tides in Nushagak District.

**DISCUSSION:** Four proposals dealing with this issue are already scheduled for the Bristol Bay meeting in December 2006. There are already at least two closures a day for this area. The board concluded that the proposal did not meet the ACR criteria.

**ACR NO. 12****ACTION: Failed**

**DISCRIPTION:** Open the Wood River Special Harvest Area (SHA) to concurrent setnet and driftnet fishing.

**DISCUSSION:** Four related proposals are scheduled for consideration in the upcoming December 2006 meeting. The proposal did not meet the ACR criteria.

**ACR NO. 13****ACTION: Failed**

**DISCRIPTION:** Change 5-year average harvest trigger to 9 percent from 5 percent for Prince William Sound salmon fishery.

**DISCUSSION:** The board found that this proposal is allocative in nature. The board concluded that the proposal does not meet the criteria for an ACR.

**ACR NO. 14****ACTION: Failed**

**DISCRIPTION:** Re-evaluate the escapement goal for the Susitna Drainage.

**DISCUSSION:** The board recommended that this issue be brought up during regular cycle and concluded that the proposal did not meet the ACR criteria.

**ACR NO. 15****ACTION: Failed**

**DISCRIPTION:** Abolish the mandatory 48 hour closure period for the Kasilof River.

**DISCUSSION:** The board noted possible unforeseen effects of the existing regulations. It discussed escapement goals, return rates, and the impact of continued over-escapement. The board concluded that this issue would best be dealt with in the regular cycle.

**ACR NO. 16****ACTION: Failed**

**DISCRIPTION:** Allow retention of snagged early-run sockeye in Russian River.

**DISCUSSION:** This proposal would change the legal means of catching salmon. The board noted that at present it is an orderly fishery and chose not to make any changes out of cycle. The proposal did not meet the ACR criteria.

**ACR NO. 17****ACTION: Accepted**

**DISCRIPTION:** Allow use of sport caught pink and chum salmon as legal bait in Southeast Alaska.

**DISCUSSION:** This proposal would change an unforeseen effect of an earlier regulation of the board. This proposal was scheduled for the statewide meeting in March 2007. (see Proposal 258)

**ACR NO. 18****ACTION: Failed**

**DISCRIPTION:** Clarify application of the 1 percent trigger rule in Upper Cook Inlet fishery.

**DISCUSSION:** The board concluded that it was clear in defining a fishing period in 2005. The board concluded that proposal did not meet the ACR criteria.

**ACR NO. 19****ACTION: Failed****DISCRIPTION:** Change escapement goal for Yentna River.**DISCUSSION:** The board agreed the issue in this proposal should be brought forth during a regular cycle for the region. It needs to be discussed fully with public input because there could be conservation implications. The proposal did not meet the ACR criteria.**ACR NO. 20****ACTION: Failed****DISCRIPTION:** Allow subsistence harvest of aquatic plants in Prince William Sound area.**DISCUSSION:** The board voted to not accept this proposal because the issue is covered in ACR 5 which addresses aquatic plant use on a statewide basis.**ACR NO. 21****ACTION: Failed****DISCRIPTION:** Allow setnet fishermen to fish the hold over tides in Naknek River Special Harvest Area.**DISCUSSION:** The board noted that this proposal does have merit, but it does not meet the ACR criteria. Three proposals that cover this issue will be considered during the Bristol Bay meeting in December 2006.**ACR NO. 22****ACTION: Failed****DISCRIPTION:** Return the lower end of the escapement goal to 600,000 sockeye for the Kenai River.**DISCUSSION:** The board recommended that this issue be addressed during the regular cycle and concluded that the proposal did not meet the ACR criteria.**ACR NO. 23****ACTION: Failed****DISCRIPTION:** Change biodegradable twine requirement for the Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery.**DISCUSSION:** The board noted that more tests may need to be conducted on biodegradable twine and acknowledged there is not funding available to do so. The board encouraged the proponent to bring data to the board to support this proposal. The proposal did not meet the ACR criteria.**ACR NO. 24****ACTION: Failed****DISCRIPTION:** Close commercial net fishing in the Kasilof Special Harvest Area.**DISCUSSION:** The board stated that this issue should be brought up during the regular cycle. The proposal did not meet the ACR criteria.**ACR NO. 25****ACTION: Failed****DISCRIPTION:** Amend Kodiak area black rockfish management plan.**DISCUSSION:** The board heard background on this topic, including that when the management plan was adopted the super exclusive area was not addressed and that one cannot register for other fisheries simultaneously. The board acknowledged that this is a complicated issue with implications on how the GHF is applied. It concluded that this issue should be brought up during the regular cycle.

**ACR NO. 26****ACTION: Failed**

**DISCRIPTION:** Amend Kodiak area Pacific cod fishery to create fairer distribution of guideline harvest level (GHL) not taken by pot gear.

**DISCUSSION:** The board discussed jig fishermen being able to fish unused pot allocation, but found the proposal did not meet the ACR criteria and that the topic would best be addressed in cycle.

**ACR NO. 27****ACTION: Failed**

**DISCRIPTION:** Return Kenai River escapement totals to a range of 400,000 - 700,000 sockeye.

**DISCUSSION:** Escapement goals were reviewed in 2005. Escapement has exceeded goals in five of the last eight years. The board noted that this issue needs to be looked at when it is in cycle for this fishery. The proposal did not meet the ACR criteria.

**ACR NO. 28****ACTION: Failed**

**DISCRIPTION:** Consider multiple changes to the Kasilof River Management Plan.

**DISCUSSION:** The board noted that this is a complicated issue including blocking the channel, fishing outside of regulatory markers, and gear conflicts. It acknowledged that parts of the management plan are confusing and it sympathized with managers; however it agreed that the Cook Inlet is a complex area with no easy solutions. The board concluded that these Cook Inlet issues should be addressed in cycle to examine the issues more comprehensively and with more public participation.

**ACR NO. 29****ACTION: Accepted**

**DISCRIPTION:** Increase subsistence fishing daily bag and possession limit in Aniak River.

**DISCUSSION:** Because of past board actions, there was the unforeseen effect of the subsistence regulations being more restrictive than the sport fishing regulations. The board agreed that this is a housekeeping proposal to change that unforeseen effect. This proposal was scheduled for the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim meeting in January 2007. (see Proposal 254)

Elections of Officers:

The board elected Mel Morris as Chair and Art Nelson as Vice Chair.

Board of Fisheries committee on Upper Cook Inlet management plans:

The board created a committee composed of members Nelson, Heyano, and Campbell to work with the department between now and the March 2007 meeting to examine the Upper Cook Inlet management plans to identify the problems and conflicts within those plans that are hindering management of these salmon stocks. The committee will provide progress reports to the board and a final report to the board in March 2007. This was seen as a first step which will aid in the development of solutions to those problems.

Federal Subsistence Proposals:

The board chose to create three board generated proposals for consideration at the Bristol Bay meeting in December 2006. These proposals include the content of federal

fishery proposals FP07-05, FP07-06, and FP07-07. They were added by the board to allow for public and board consideration prior to the Federal Subsistence Board action in January 2007. (see Proposals 251, 252, and 253)

The board also agreed with its state/federal subsistence committee's recommendation that each May the committee determine which of the federal fishery proposals to recommend the state board also address, based on conservation, enforcement, or coordination factors.

#### Essential Fish Habitat (EFH):

In August the board received a request from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that it adopt protection measures to conserve essential fish habitat in the Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska areas. The board generated a proposal to consider making permanent the regulations the state currently has in place by emergency order. These would be complementary with the recently adopted federal regulations. Action was scheduled for the statewide meeting in March 2007. (see Proposal 259)

#### Escapement Goals:

The board heard reports from the department on its escapement goals in the Bristol Bay, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, and Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island areas.

#### Stock of Concern Recommendations:

The board heard initial reports from the department on the stock of concern recommendations for salmon stocks by region. The board will address these further during the upcoming Bristol Bay and Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim meetings.

#### Department of Natural Resources report:

The board heard a report from Department of Natural Resources on the state's permitting process for the proposed Pebble Mine in the area north of Iliamna Lake.

#### Change in 3-year cycle topic:

The board moved Southeast King and Tanner Crab from the Cook Inlet/Kodiak/Statewide King and Tanner Crab meeting cycle to the Southeast/Prince William Sound meeting cycle.

#### 2007/2008 meeting schedule:

The board discussed its meeting dates and locations for next cycle. It set the following dates and locations, subject to meeting space availability:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Location</u>
Oct. 9-11, 2007	Work Session	Anchorage
Nov. 11-15, 2007	Lower Cook Inlet Finfish	Homer
Jan. 9-12, 2008	Chignik Finfish	Anchorage
Jan. 14-18, 2008	Kodiak Finfish	Kodiak
Feb. 1-12, 2008	Upper Cook Inlet Finfish	Anchorage
March 3-9, 2008	King and Tanner Crab	Anchorage

The board will also hold hearings on Upper Cook Inlet Finfish topics in Soldotna and Wasilla.