

COOK INLET REGIONAL PLANNING TEAM

March 11, 2009

Mr. John Jensen, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries
c/o Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Mr. Jensen:

Please accept the following letter as written testimony in support of **Proposal #380** at the upcoming Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting between March 16 and March 20, 2009, in Anchorage.

The Cook Inlet Regional Planning Team (CIRPT) met on March 6 in Kenai to discuss the petition submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries by Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, currently tabbed as **Proposal #380** and slated for consideration at the March meeting. The CIRPT understands that this proposal would rescind **5AAC 21.375 Bear Lake Management Plan**, and in its place adopt new provisions for **5AAC 21.XXX Trail Lakes Hatchery Management Plan**. The intent of the proposal is to create a management priority for broodstock escapement and hatchery cost recovery within the Special Harvest Areas (SHA's) for five specific CIAA sockeye salmon enhancement projects, all located in the Lower Cook Inlet (LCI) salmon management area. Language within the proposed regulation specifies that commercial common property salmon fishing within each of the SHA's be prohibited until the annual broodstock and revenue goals for CIAA's Trail Lakes Hatchery is achieved or its achievement can be projected.

Testimony taken at the CIRPT meeting showed that CIAA is currently experiencing financial difficulties. In 2009, CIAA must achieve its Trail Lakes Hatchery revenue goal or otherwise risk potential closure of that facility. **Proposal #380** is an attempt by CIAA to insure that the hatchery's revenue goal is met by establishing management guidelines that will more reliably and effectively allow hatchery fishing on the most valuable portions of the sockeye salmon returns to each of the five enhancement sites.

Because sockeye and coho salmon production from Trail Lakes Hatchery is considered extremely important to users in both Lower and Upper Cook Inlet, the CIRPT finds that the potential loss of this facility would be detrimental to a variety of salmon fisheries and user groups in both areas. As a result, the CIRPT supported adoption of **Proposal #380** by a formal vote of 3/0/3 (support/oppose/abstain). It should be noted that the three team member abstentions were all representatives of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, who each felt compelled to abstain because they were formally "neutral" on a proposal they felt was allocative in nature. Since the Department's own regulations prohibit

favoring any user groups in allocative issues, it would be inconsistent for these representatives to either support or oppose this proposal.

It should also be noted that attendance by members of the public, though small (estimated six individuals), was still considered important at the recent CIRPT meeting. These individuals actively participated in the meeting by asking questions, requesting clarifications, and providing input. In the final analysis, no outright objections to **Proposal #380** were registered by any member of the public during the meeting.

The mission of the CIRPT is to promote sound biological practices and programs in an effort to achieve optimal production of wild and enhanced salmon stocks on a sustained yield basis for maximal social and economic benefit to all communities and user groups in the region. The CIRPT recognizes the length and importance of CIAA's contributions to salmon fisheries in Cook Inlet, with particular emphasis on projects conducted via CIAA's Trail Lakes Hatchery. The CIRPT believes that closure of this facility would have a significantly negative impact on the commercial salmon fisheries in LCI, as well as both sport and personal use fisheries. Based on the discussions at our recent meeting, and the formal vote taken on this proposal, the CIRPT urges the Alaska Board of Fisheries to adopt **Proposal #380** at its upcoming meeting.

Your consideration of the CIRPT input is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee Hammarstrom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lee Hammarstrom, Chairman
Cook Inlet Regional Planning Team

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

March 16, 2009 Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, and Miscellaneous Shellfish Board of Fisheries Meeting

Department response to the CIAA petition to repeal/replace the Bear Lake Management Plan dated January 12, 2009.

PETITION REQUEST: repeal all provisions of 5 AAC 21.375 Bear Lake Management Plan and in its place, adopt new provisions for 5 AAC 21.XXX Trail Lakes Hatchery Management Plan.

The petition was accepted by the Board of Fisheries at the February 2009 Southeast Shellfish meeting in Petersburg. Since then, it has been given a proposal number, PROPOSAL 380.

5 AAC 21.375. BEAR LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

PETITIONER: Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA).

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would repeal all provisions of 5 AAC 21.375 Bear Lake Management Plan and in its place, adopt new provisions for 5 AAC 21.XXX Trail Lakes Hatchery Management Plan.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Currently **5 AAC 21.375** has a number of specific provisions that provide direction to the department for management of the sockeye salmon return to Bear Lake in Resurrection Bay near Seward. Following are the highlights:

- manage all affected fisheries to achieve the established Bear Lake sockeye salmon escapement goal;
- consider impacts of Bear Lake sockeye salmon enhancement on the ongoing coho salmon enhancement of Bear Lake and insure that sockeye enhancement does not cause a net loss in coho salmon smolt production from Bear Lake;
- ensure that Bear Lake sockeye salmon enhancement efforts strive to retain the early run timing of indigenous stocks
- defines that the primary objective of Bear Lake sockeye salmon enhancement is to provide the opportunity for a commercially viable sockeye salmon fishery, prosecuted with minimal conflict with the recreational fishery
- directs the department to manage the commercial sockeye salmon seine fishery in waters of Resurrection Bay to achieve a harvest allocation (number of fish) of 50% to the seine user group and 50% to CIAA

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would repeal the department's mandate to manage the Resurrection Bay commercial salmon fishery to achieve an equal harvest allocation by numbers of fish between the common property harvest by the purse seine fleet and the cost recovery harvest by CIAA. Additionally, it creates a priority to annually manage all CIAA hatchery Special Harvest Areas (SHA's) in Lower Cook

Inlet (LCI) exclusively for hatchery cost recovery until each year's cumulative corporate revenue goal for Trail Lakes Hatchery is achieved. Finally, provisions of this proposal would create regulatory descriptions of four CIAA SHA's in LCI.

BACKGROUND: Provisions of 5 AAC 21.375 were last addressed by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) during the 2004 meeting to consider LCI salmon fisheries issues. At that meeting, the board adopted a CIAA proposal to provide for an equal allocation of the harvestable surplus of enhanced sockeye salmon (in numbers of fish) returning to Bear Lake in Resurrection Bay near Seward between the common property seine fleet and CIAA. In the four seasons since those provisions became effective, the department estimates that the cumulative division of harvest in Resurrection Bay was approximately 51% for the seine fleet and 49% for CIAA. CIAA contends that this allocation formula fails to account for the price-per-pound differential paid to the two harvesting groups, and that CIAA receives substantially less for fish CIAA agents harvest in Resurrection Bay. The Bear Lake return is one of the earlier and more valuable returns in the state, beginning in late May. However, the sockeye salmon that CIAA harvests from this return are of lower quality than those harvested by seiners because the CIAA harvest occurs in freshwater at a weir and/or late in the run after commercial effort has shifted elsewhere. As a result, CIAA has routinely failed to meet its annual Trail Lakes Hatchery combined cost recovery revenue goal in recent years for the various sockeye salmon enhancement projects it conducts in Cook Inlet.

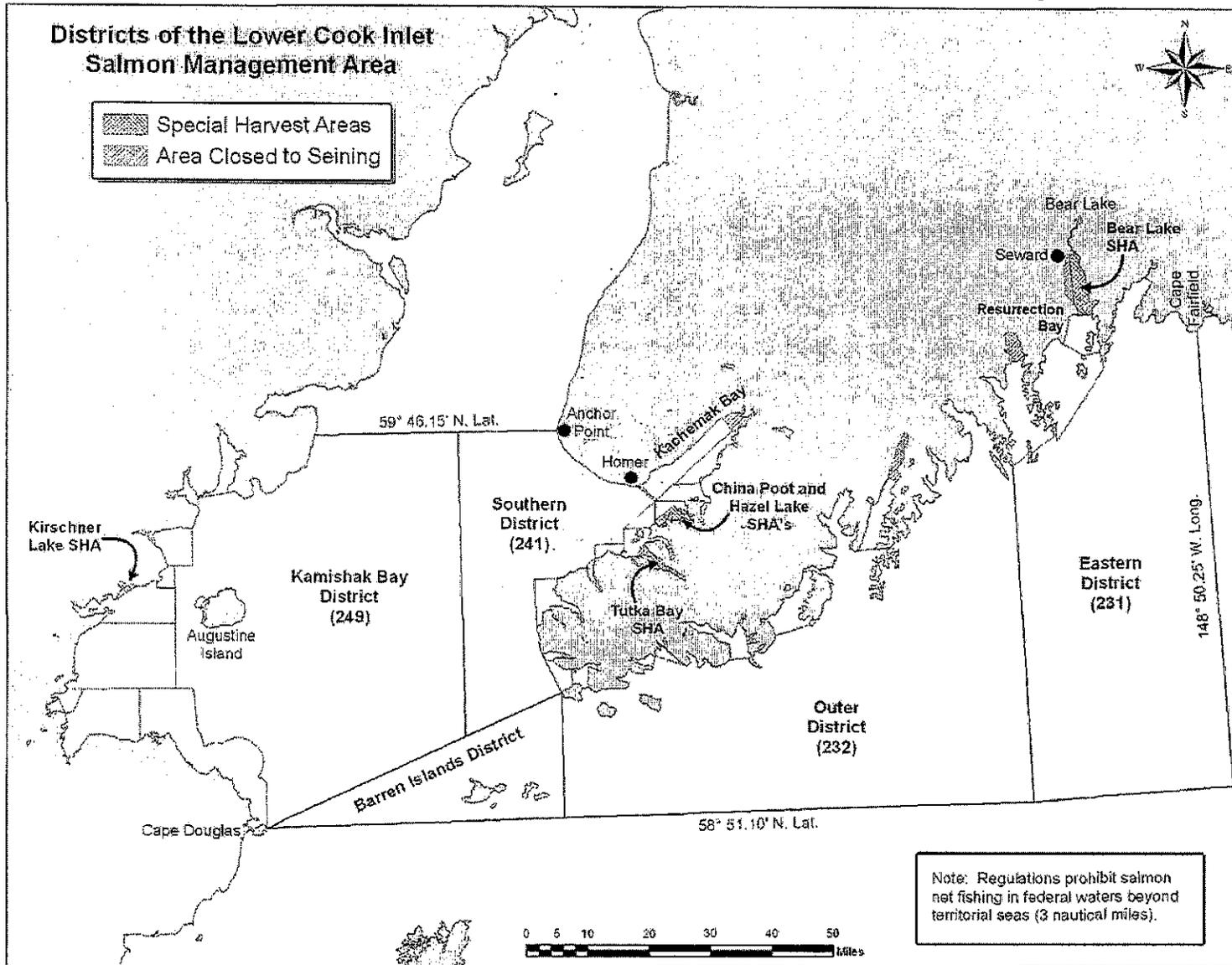
Fisheries enhancement has played a major role in LCI salmon production for three decades. Since their inception in the mid 1970s, enhancement and rehabilitation projects have made significant contributions to both commercial and non-commercial harvests. The estimated cumulative contributions of CIAA sockeye salmon enhancement specific to this proposal has ranged from 39% to 84% of the annual LCI commercial sockeye salmon harvest in numbers of fish (hatchery and common property). This production represents an important component of the commercial exvessel value in this salmon management area. CIAA enhanced sockeye salmon runs in Resurrection Bay and Kachemak Bay additionally provide substantial sport and personal use harvest opportunities in those areas.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

COST STATEMENT: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

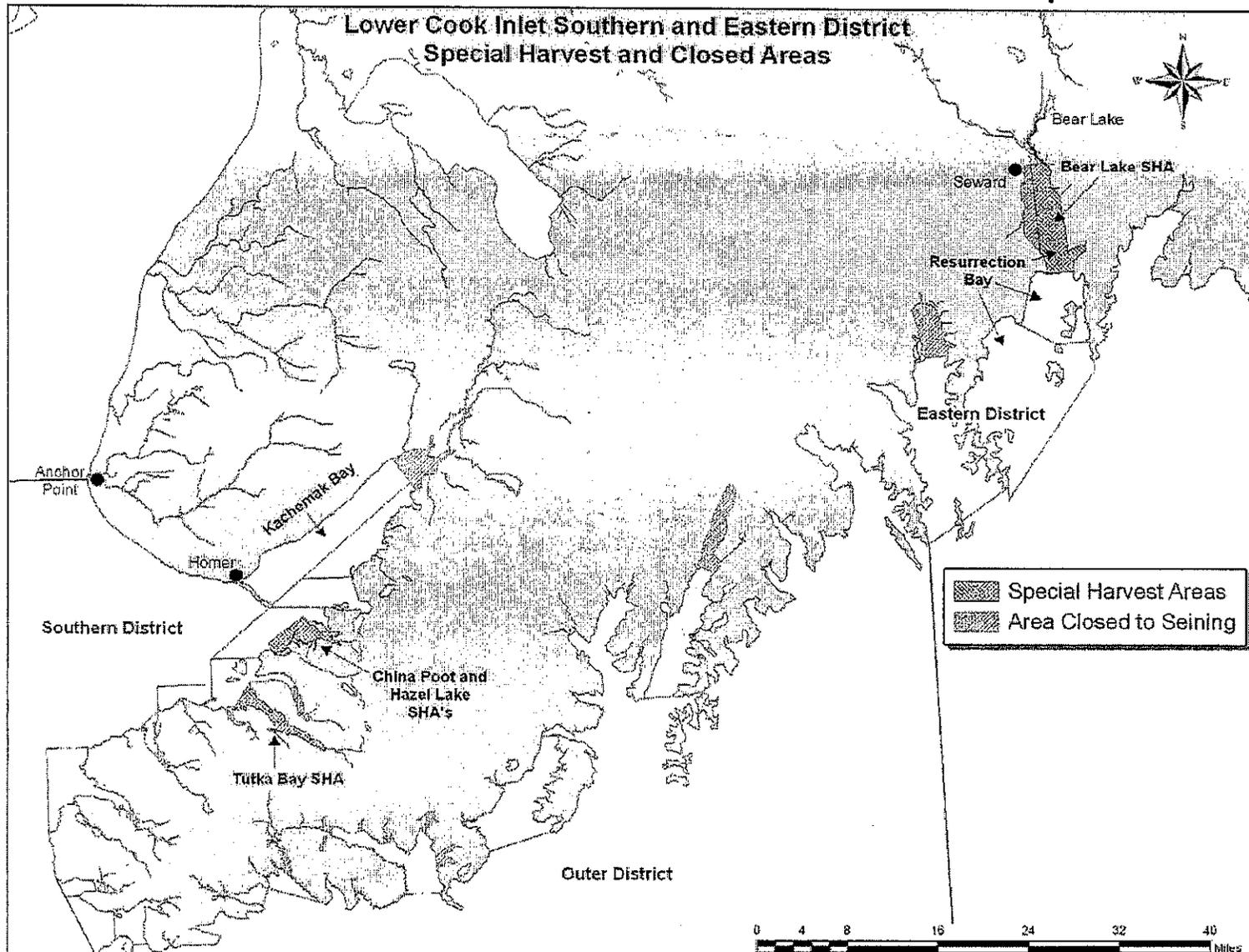
Map A1

Proposal #380



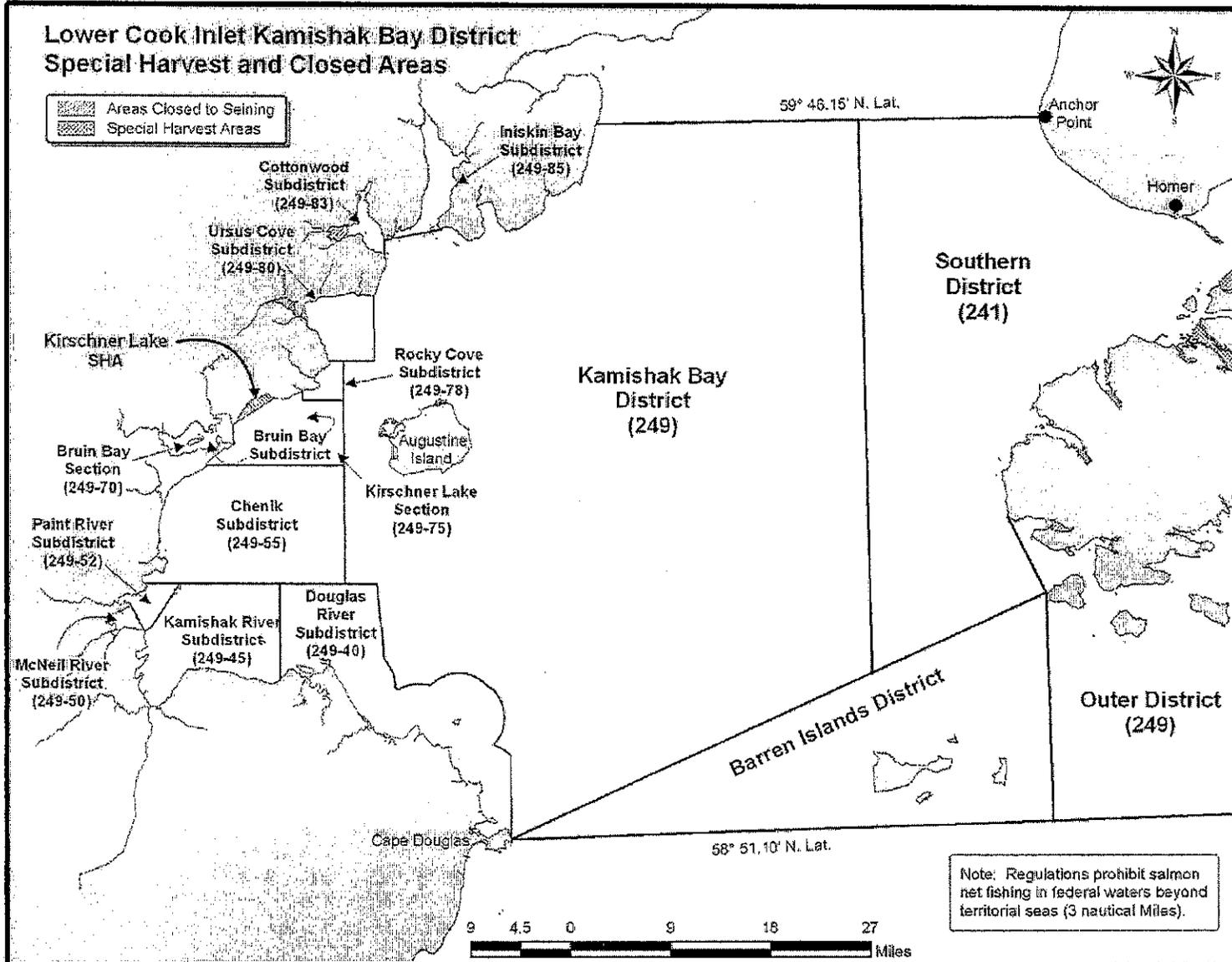
Map A2

Proposal #380

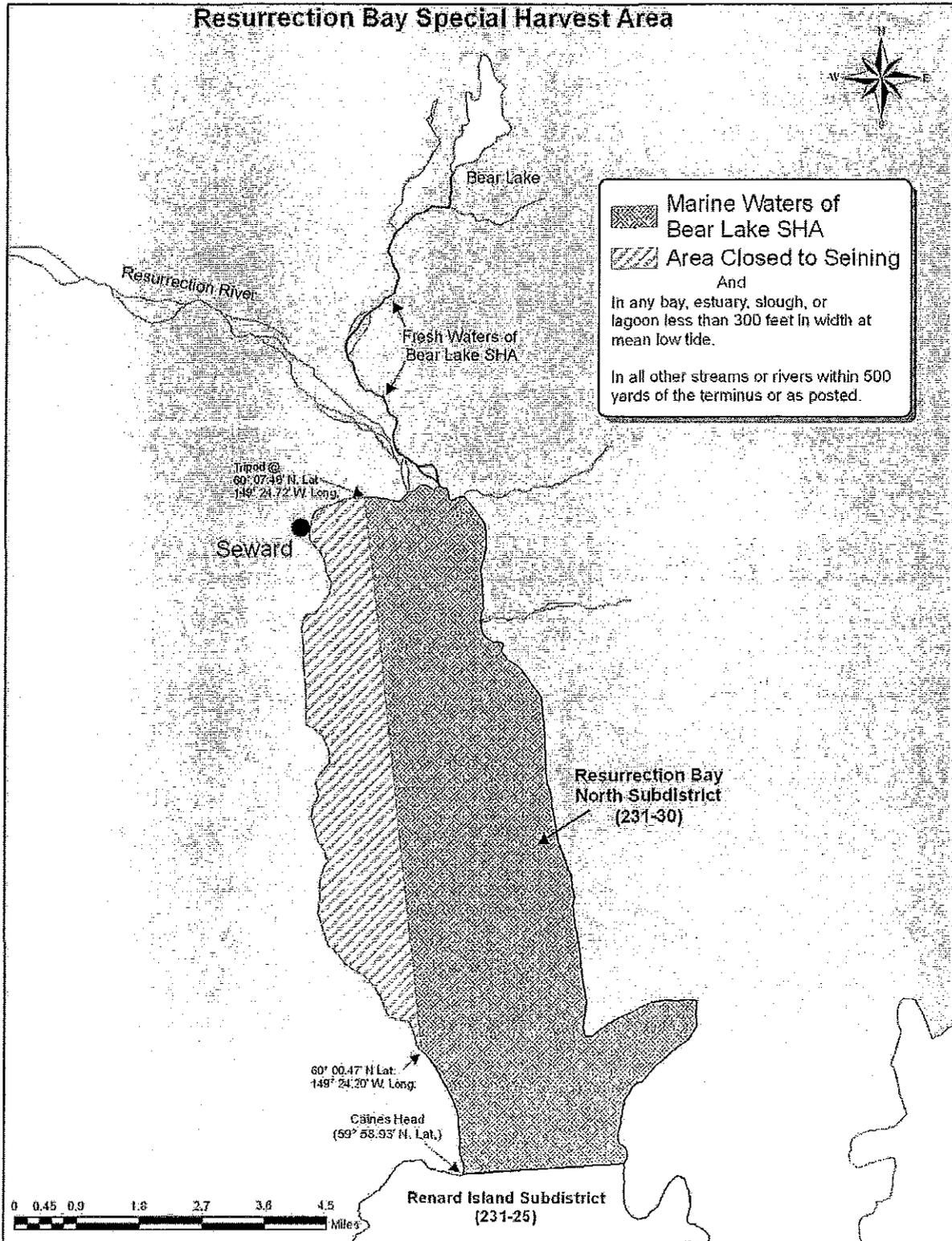


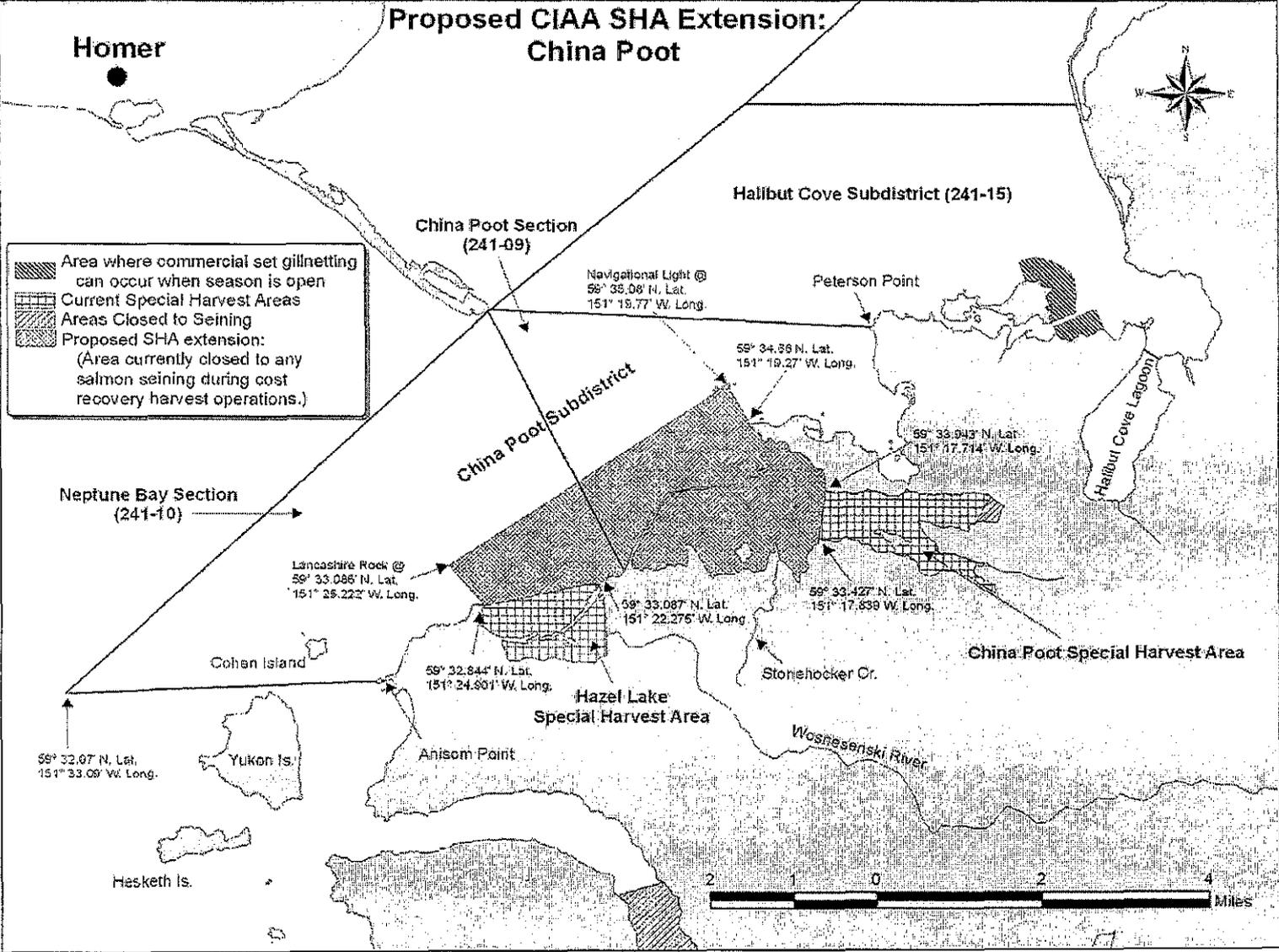
Map A3

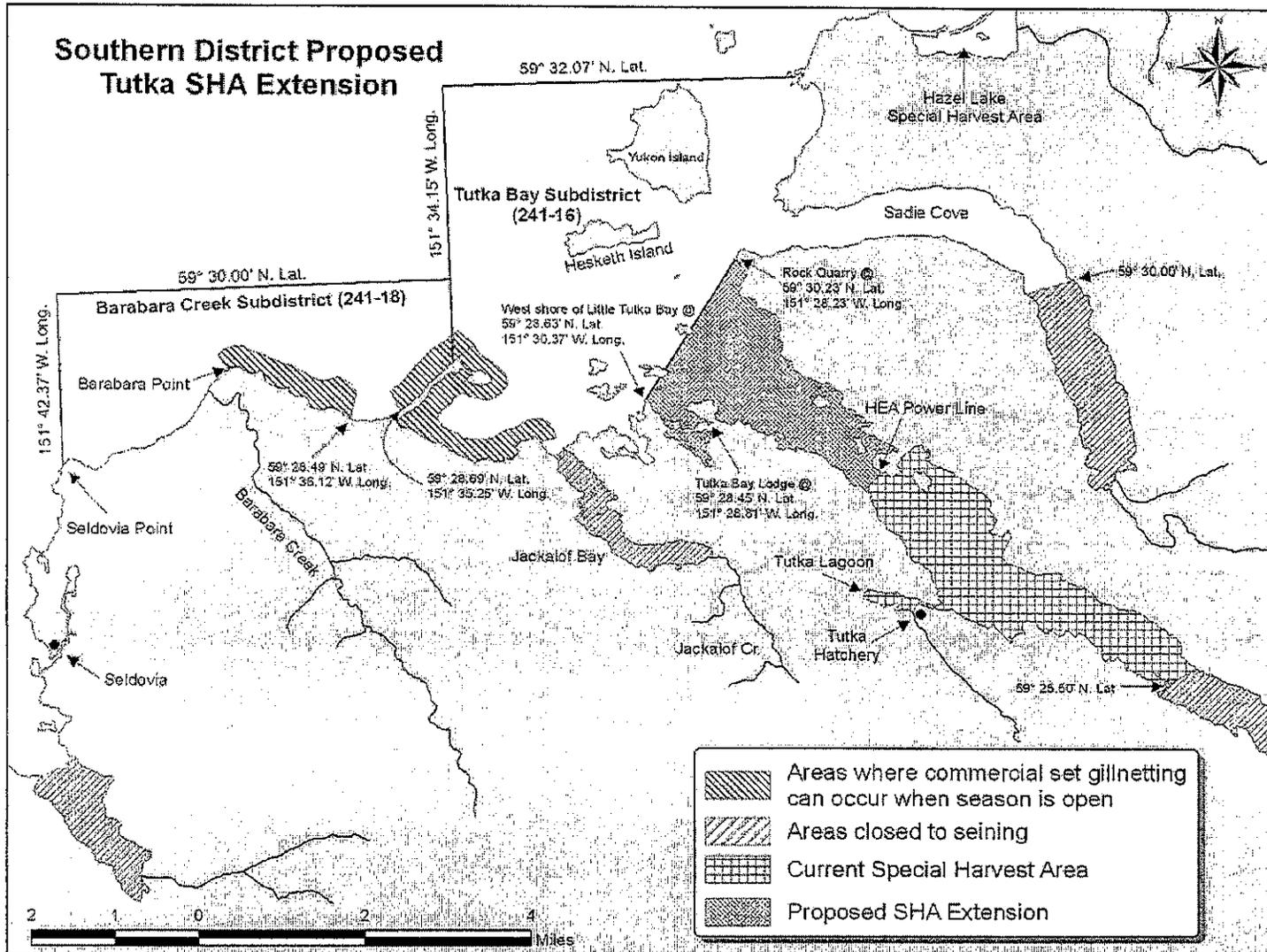
Proposal #380



Link to Map A4







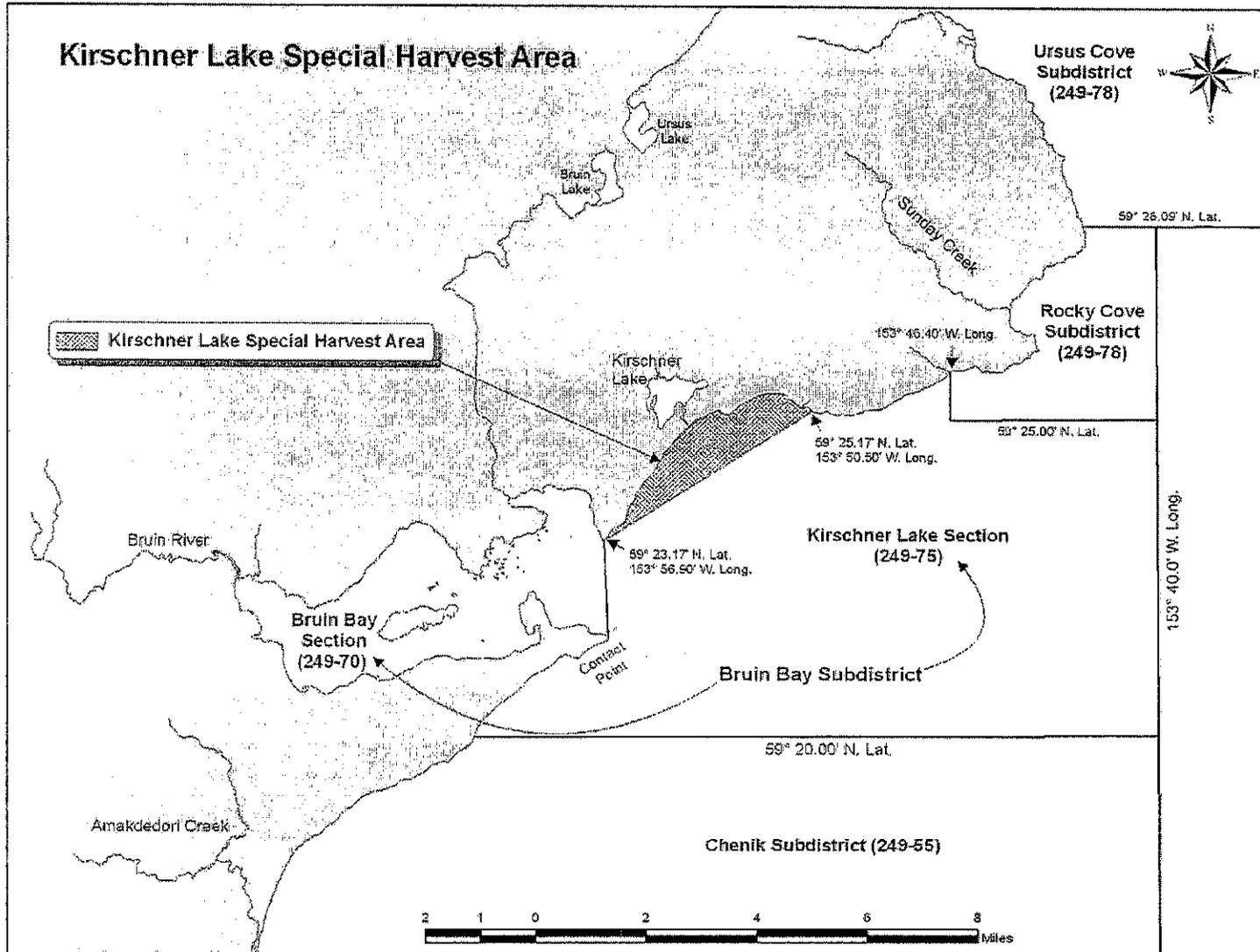


Figure A1

Proposal #380

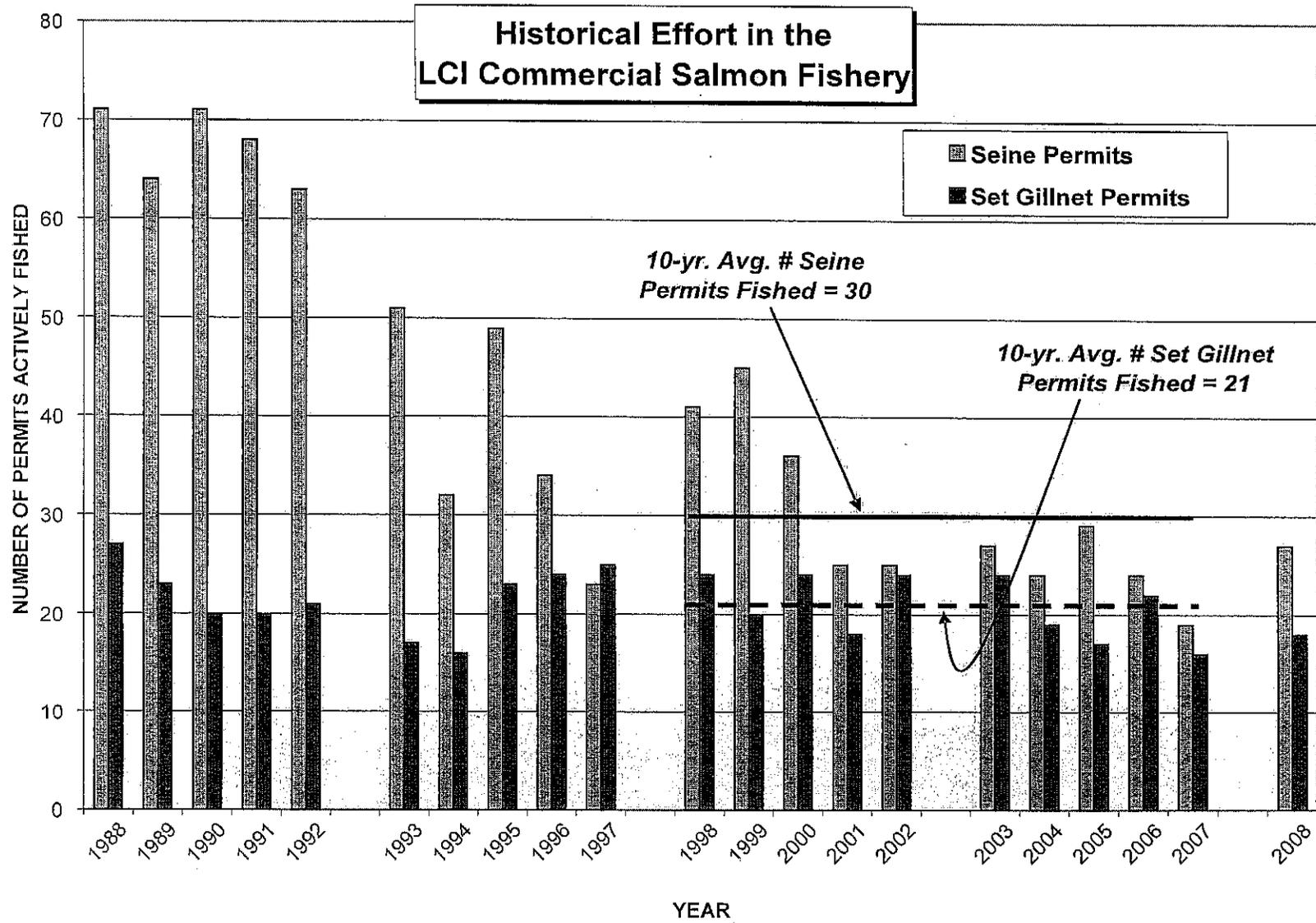


Figure A2

Proposal #380

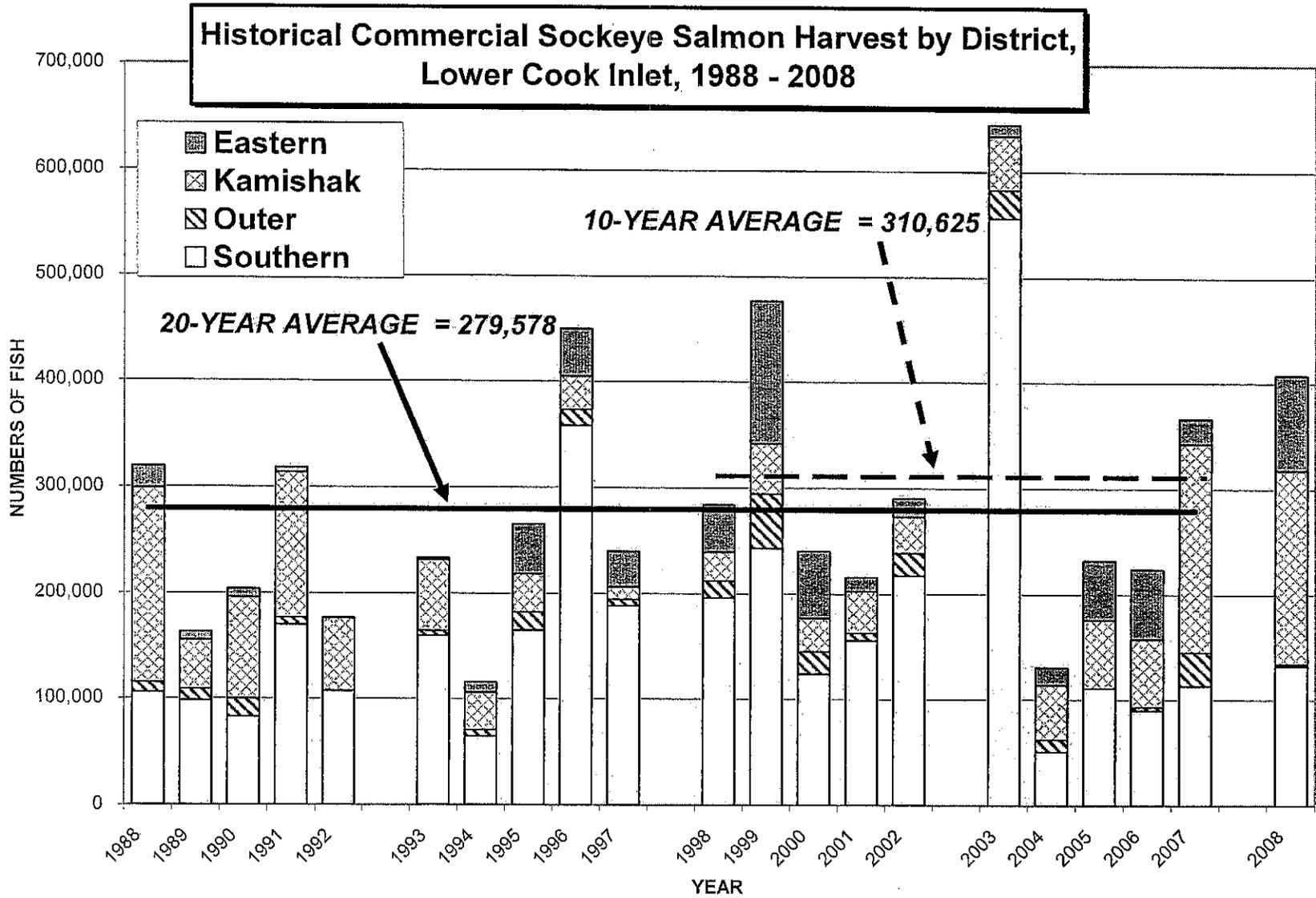


Figure A3

Proposal #380

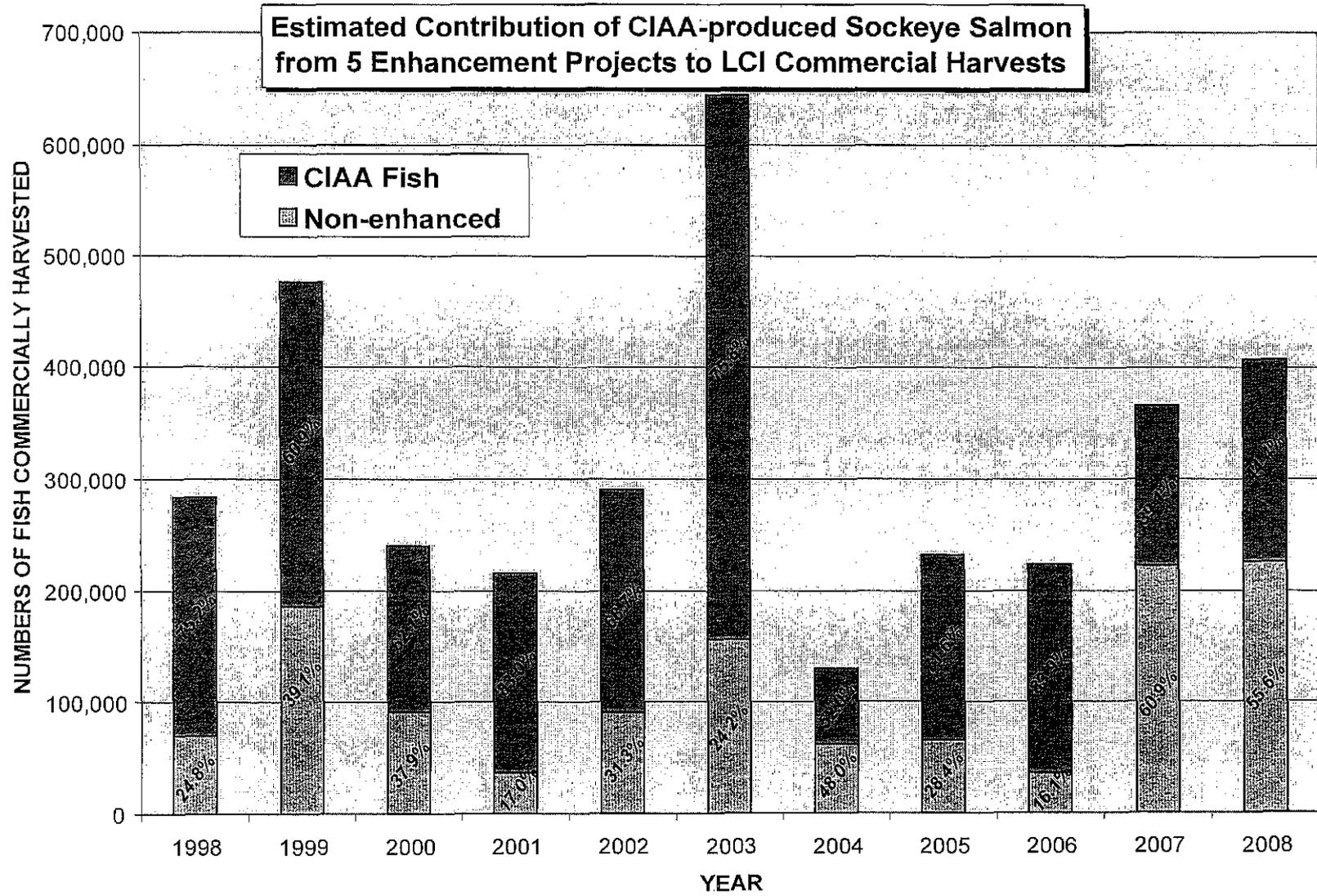


Figure A4

Proposal #380

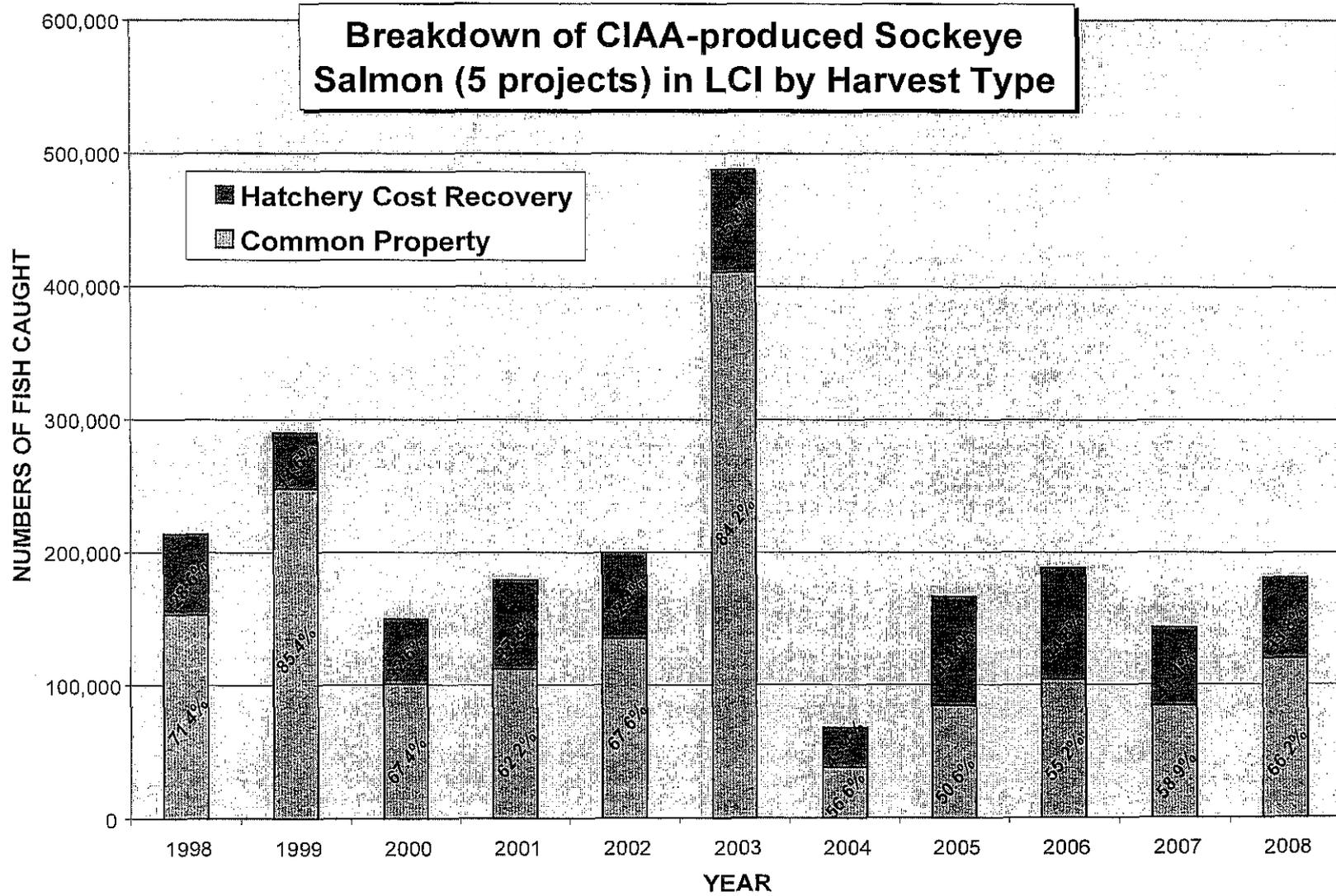


Figure A5

Proposal #380

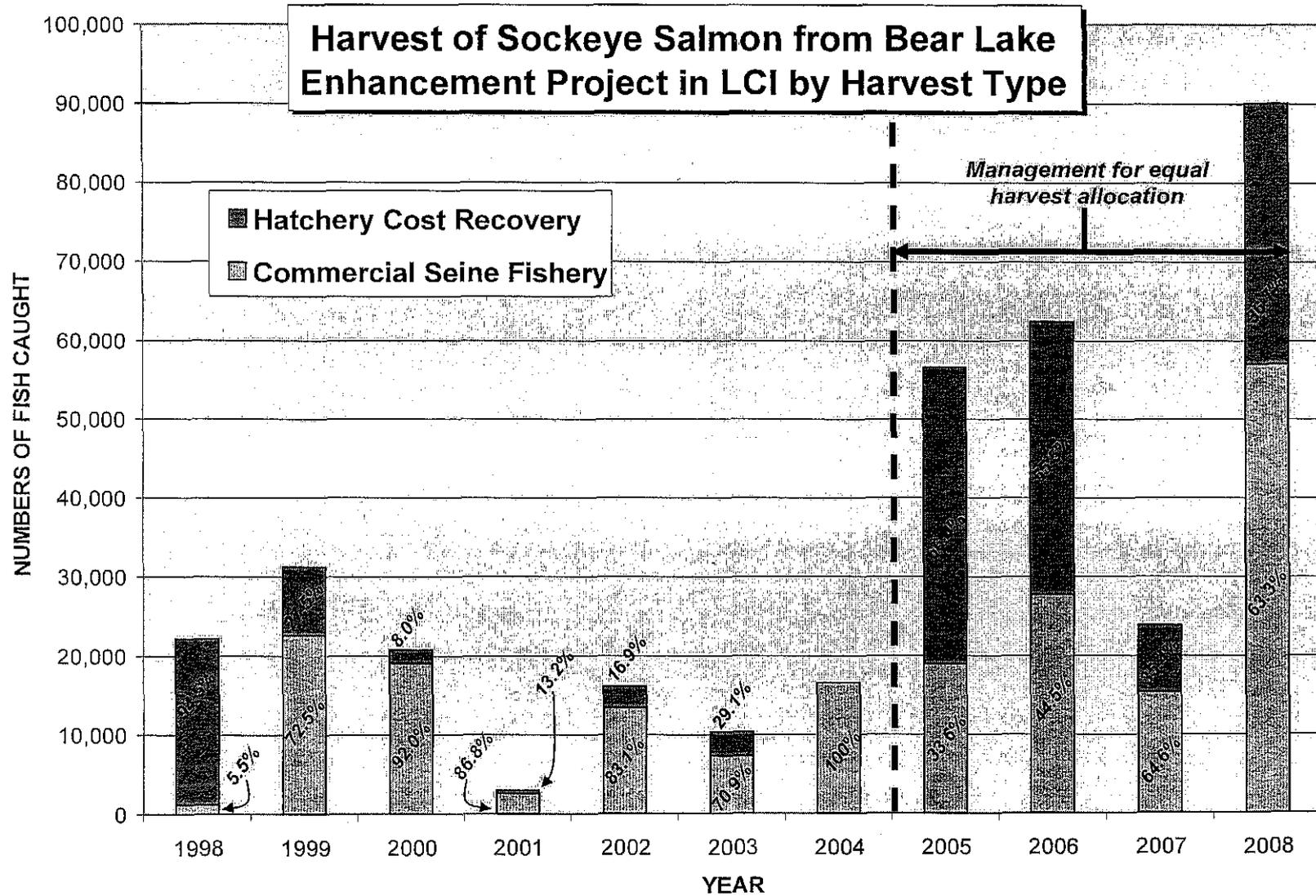


Figure A6

Proposal #380

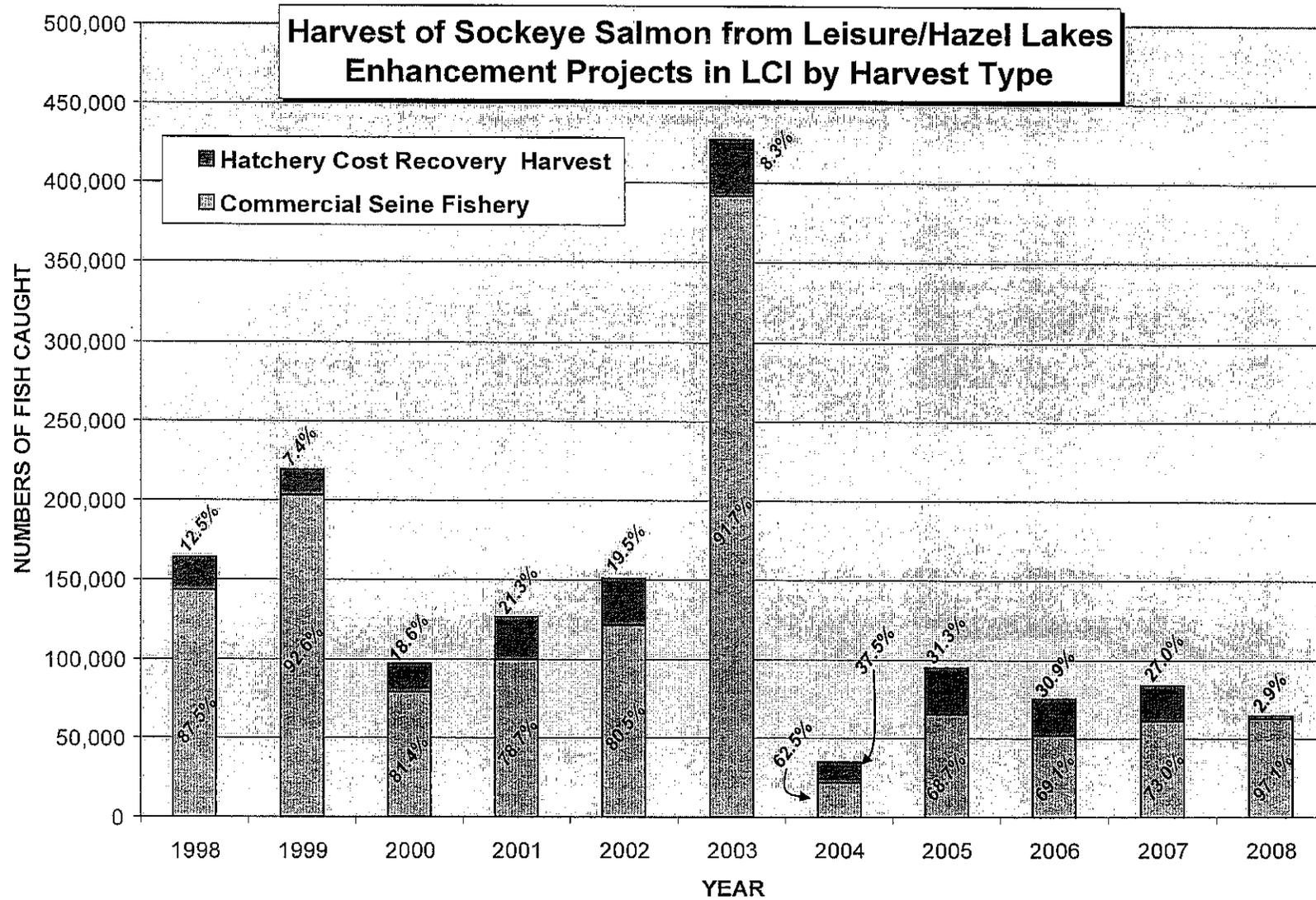


Figure A7

Proposal #380

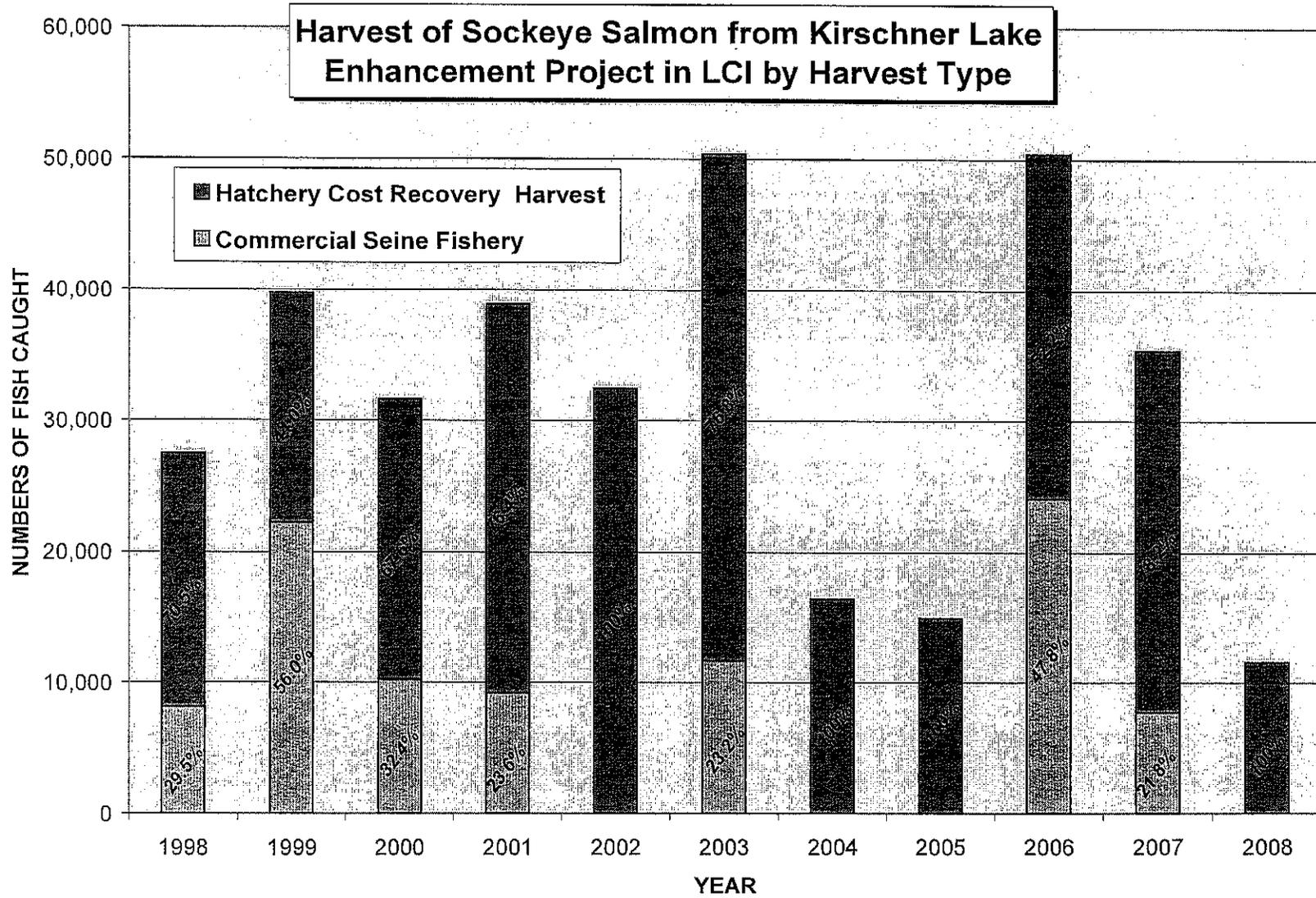


Figure B1

Proposal #380

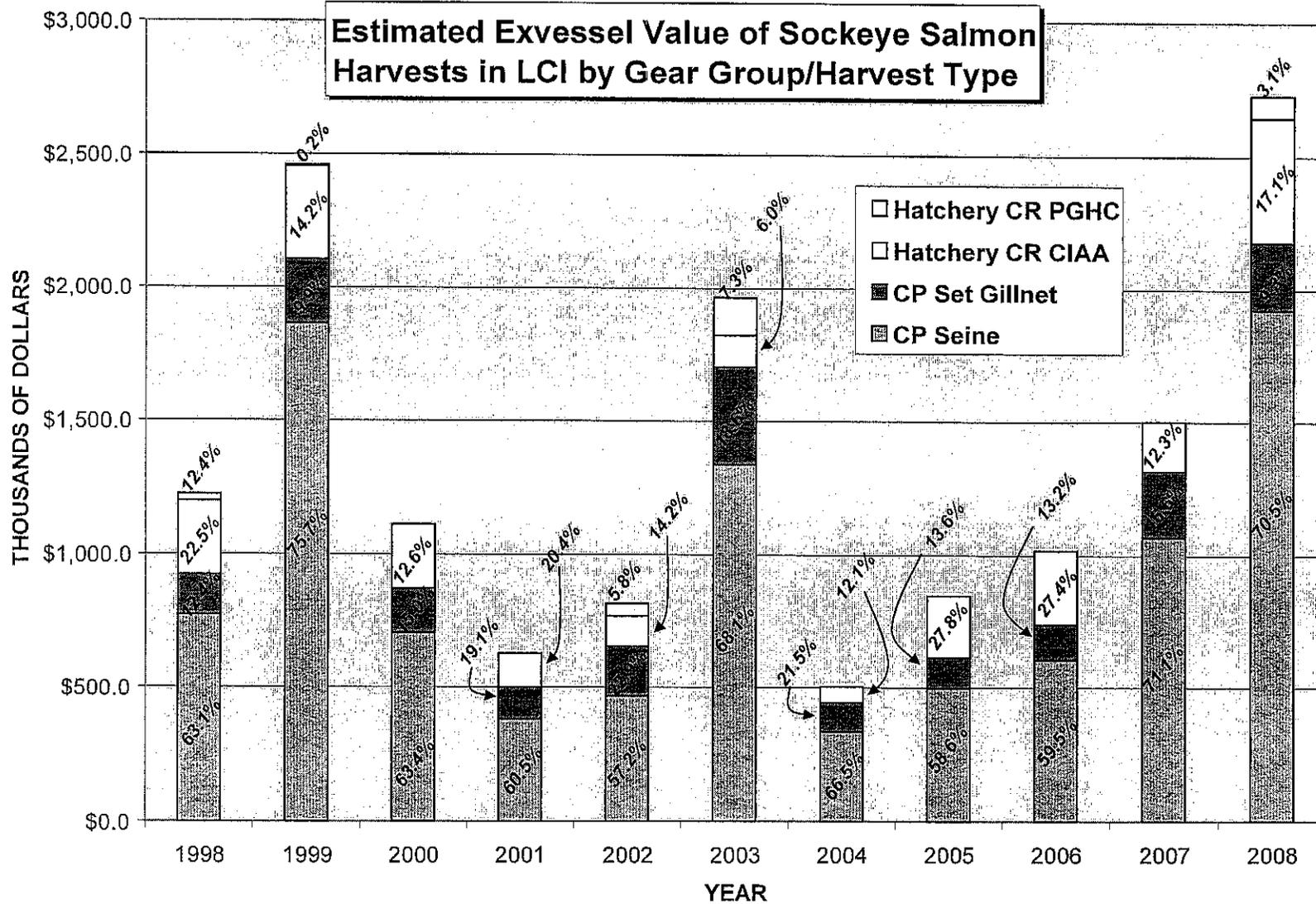


Table A1

Proposal #380

Table A1.—Commercial sockeye salmon catch for all gear and harvest types in numbers of fish by district, Lower Cook Inlet, 1988 – 2008.

Year	Southern	Outer	Kamishak	Eastern	Total
1988	105,302	9,501	183,952	20,253	319,008
1989	98,052	10,286	46,395	8,538	163,271
1990	82,412	17,404	96,397	7,682	203,895
1991	170,224	6,408	136,612	4,703	317,947
1992	106,793	572	68,847	432	176,644
1993	159,747	4,613	67,650	1,824	233,834
1994	64,531	5,930	35,296	9,661	115,418
1995	164,798	17,642	36,427	46,556	265,423
1996	358,163	14,999	31,604	44,919	449,685
1997	188,402	6,255	11,733	33,783	240,173
1998	196,262	15,991	27,502	44,274	284,029
1999	243,444	51,117	46,913	135,305	476,779
2000	123,574	21,623	31,636	64,099	240,932
2001	155,411	7,339	39,712	13,809	216,271
2002	218,203	21,154	33,921	17,376	290,654
2003	556,037	26,615	51,253	10,352	644,257
2004	50,699 ^a	11,082	51,657	16,645	130,083
2005	110,739 ^a	1	64,987	56,951 ^a	232,678
2006	89,522 ^a	3,198	64,577	67,048	224,345
2007	112,672 ^a	32,461	197,228	23,864	366,225
2008	132,279 ^a	1,704	183,512	90,096	407,591
20 -Year Avg.	167,749	14,210	66,215	31,404	279,578
1988 –1997 Avg.	149,842	9,361	71,491	17,835	248,530
1998 –2007 Avg.	185,656	19,058	60,939	44,972	310,625
2008 % of Total	32.45%	0.42%	45.02%	22.10%	100.00%

Source: ADF&G fish ticket database *Unpublished*

^a 2004 - 2008 totals do not include a very small number of fish retained for personal use.

Table A2

Proposal #380

Table A2. Estimated contribution of CIAA enhancement projects^a to the LCI commercial salmon fishery (*sockeye only*).

Year	Numbers of sockeye caught		% Enhanced
	LCI Total	Enhanced only	
1998	284,000	213,700	75.2%
1999	476,800	290,260	60.9%
2000	240,900	149,542	62.1%
2001	216,300	179,600	83.0%
2002	290,700	199,800	68.7%
2003	644,300	488,100	75.8%
2004	130,100	67,600	52.0%
2005	232,700	166,700	71.6%
2006	224,300	188,200	83.9%
2007	366,200	143,100	39.1%
2008	407,600	181,000	44.4%
'98-'07 Avg.	310,630	208,660	67.2%
'99-'08 Avg.	322,990	205,390	63.6%

^a Projects include only Bear, Leisure, Hazel, and Kirschner Lakes, and Tutka Lagoon remote release.

RC 5

Table A3

Proposal #380

Table A3. Estimated catch breakdown of sockeye salmon produced by CIAA enhancement projects^a in LCI.

Year	Numbers of sockeye caught			%	
	Total CIAA Fish	Common Property	Cost Recovery	Common Property	Cost Recovery
1998	213,700	152,654	61,046	71.4%	28.6%
1999	290,260	247,960	42,300	85.4%	14.6%
2000	149,542	100,746	48,796	67.4%	32.6%
2001	179,600	111,638	67,962	62.2%	37.8%
2002	199,800	135,062	64,738	67.6%	32.4%
2003	488,100	410,789	77,311	84.2%	15.8%
2004	67,600	38,237	29,363	56.6%	43.4%
2005	166,700	84,340	82,360	50.6%	49.4%
2006	188,200	103,952	84,248	55.2%	44.8%
2007	143,100	84,338	58,762	58.9%	41.1%
2008	181,000	119,865	61,135	66.2%	33.8%
'98-'07 Avg.	208,660	146,972	61,689	70.4%	29.6%
'99-'08 Avg.	205,390	143,693	61,698	70.0%	30.0%

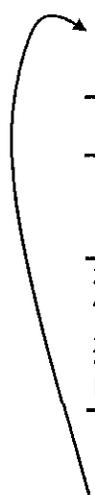
^a Projects include only Bear, Leisure, Hazel, and Kirschner Lakes, and Tutka Lagoon remote release project.

Table A4

Proposal #380

Table A4. Historical catch and escapement of sockeye salmon ("early run") at Bear Lake in the Eastern District of Lower Cook Inlet, 1991 - 2008.

Year	Commercial Seine Fishery		Hatchery Cost Recovery Harvest	Total Combined Harvest	Escapement plus Broodstock	Total Adult Return
	# of Permits	Harvest				
1991					748	748
1992					1,921	1,921
1993	*	*	*	1,654	5,033	6,687
1994	*	987	8,051	9,038	8,592	17,630
1995	18	23,655	20,930	44,585	8,328	52,913
1996	17	35,944	7,944	43,888	8,004	51,892
1997	9	8,933	10,056	18,989	7,945	26,934
1998	*	1,229	21,000	22,229	8,431	30,660
1999	11	22,630	8,600	31,230	7,814	39,044
2000	13	19,145	1,670	20,815	11,904	32,719
2001	*	2,629	400	3,029	12,801	15,830
2002	7	13,447	2,729	16,176	12,473	28,649
2003	10	7,341	3,011	10,352	13,233	23,585
2004	8	16,645	0	16,645	11,923	28,568
2005	15	19,018	37,654	56,672	13,407	70,079
2006	13	27,793	34,655	62,448	12,398	74,846
2007	11	15,407	8,457	23,864	12,841	36,705
2008	11	57,060	33,036	90,096	13,444	103,540
All Years Average	10	16,992	11,121	25,554	9,513	35,719
* To comply with AS 16.05.815 CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF CERTAIN REPORTS AND RECORDS, effort data has been masked where fewer than four vessels or permits fished in a given area.						
2005-08 Average	13	29,820	28,451	58,270	13,023	71,293
2005-08 % of Total Harvest		51.2%	48.8%			



Management for equal harvest allocation (numbers of fish)

RC 5

Table A5

Proposal #380

Table A5. Historical estimated catch of sockeye salmon for the combined Leisure/Hazel Lakes enhancement projects in the Southern District of Lower Cook Inlet, 1998 – 2008.

Year	Commercial Seine Fishery		Hatchery Cost Recovery Harvest	Total Combined Harvest
	# of Permits	Harvest		
1998	35	143,421	20,579	164,000
1999	37	203,161	16,139	219,300
2000	29	78,997	18,103	97,100
2001	19	99,863	27,037	126,900
2002	19	121,583	29,517	151,100
2003	21	391,770	35,557	427,327
2004	19	21,621	12,991	34,612
2005	23	65,333	29,737	95,070
2006	16	52,020	23,283	75,303
2007	13	61,216	22,586	83,802
2008	13	62,761	1,907	64,668
All Years Average	22	118,341	21,585	139,926
Avg. % of Total Harvest		84.6%	15.4%	

Table A6

Proposal #380

Table A6. Historical catch of sockeye salmon for the Kirschner Lake enhancement project in the Kamishak Bay District of Lower Cook Inlet, 1998 – 2008.

Year	Commercial Seine Fishery		Hatchery Cost Recovery Harvest	Total Combined Harvest
	# of Permits	Harvest		
1998	4	8,112	19,390	27,502
1999	*	22,256	17,504	39,760
2000	*	10,236	21,391	31,627
2001	*	9,198	29,740	38,938
2002	*	0	32,492	32,492
2003	*	11,671	38,741	50,412
2004		0	16,372	16,372
2005		0	14,969	14,969
2006	*	24,130	26,310	50,440
2007	*	7,725	27,719	35,444
2008		0	11,588	11,588
All Years Average	4	8,484	23,292	31,777
Avg. % of Total Harvest		26.7%	73.3%	

* To comply with AS 16.05.815 **CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF CERTAIN REPORTS AND RECORDS**, effort data has been masked where fewer than four vessels or permits fished in a given area.

Table B1

Proposal #380

Table B1. Estimated exvessel value of commercial sockeye salmon harvests in the LCI management area (THOUSANDS of dollars).

Year	Common Property		Hatchery		Total
	Seine	Set gillnet	CIAA	PGHC	
1998	\$772.9	\$151.6	\$275.7	\$24.0	\$1,224.2
1999	\$1,862.5	\$244.1	\$348.6	\$4.0	\$2,459.2
2000	\$705.0	\$166.6	\$240.8		\$1,112.3
2001	\$379.7	\$119.8	\$127.7		\$627.2
2002	\$467.0	\$186.8	\$115.8	\$47.4	\$816.9
2003	\$1,337.3	\$366.0	\$118.9	\$142.7	\$1,964.8
2004	\$334.3	\$108.0	\$60.8		\$503.1
2005	\$497.4	\$115.5	\$235.5		\$848.5
2006	\$605.4	\$134.3	\$278.6		\$1,018.4
2007	\$1,068.1	\$249.5	\$184.3		\$1,502.0
2008	\$1,924.4	\$254.7	\$465.8	\$83.2	\$2,728.2
98-'07 Avg.	\$803.0	\$184.2	\$198.7	\$54.5	\$1,207.7
99-'08 Avg.	\$918.1	\$194.5	\$217.7	\$69.3	\$1,358.1

FC 6

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MAR 04 2009

BOARDS

Board of Fisheries

Re: Proposal 366

I am opposed to the proposed closure for shellfish harvest in Kachemak Bay. I do not understand how the Department can be NEUTRAL on this allocative proposal.

I am Alaskan born and raised and have been in the waters of Kachemak Bay since I was 5 years old. My husband and I are property owners in Peterson Bay. We spend most weekends there on a year round basis (weather permitting). We live in Homer and my husband works in Halibut Cove and Peterson Bay.

Many people on the Peninsula feel strongly about supporting the Center for Coastal Studies. The Center has a great mission and we typically support their efforts. We do not agree with their assertions about the situation or their request for a closure.

Shellfish in Kachemak Bay are a resource that belongs to all Alaskans and the resource is already fully allocated. A Shellfish closure for the benefit of a commercial entity with paying customers sends the wrong message about the resources of Alaska. The Coastal Center is a non-profit with an education mission but, they are still a business with paying customers as are other eco tour business in the bay.

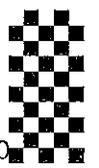
Personal use and sport harvest of shellfish has not recently expanded to Otter Rock. Otter Rock is an area where area residents have always been able to access and harvest mussels and do so with regularity. They have done so since before the Coastal Center existed. They do it in small groups of one or two people and not in the large groups the Coastal Center takes to Otter Rock. Large numbers of visitors from the Coastal Center to Otter rock have changed it. Changes to Otter Rock have also occurred due to natural causes like Otters, storms, tides and water temps.

China Poot is an ever changing environment with channels moving all the time. The tide comes in and out and the channels are dynamic. I concur with the Department that it may be difficult to maintain regulatory markers at this location". I think that is quite the understatement.

We feel that putting 500-600 k-12 students as well as 500-600 summer visitors into small fragile environments defeats the purpose of protecting the environment. We believe this many customers has an immeasurable impact on the areas. We would like to see them spread out their activities over larger areas and take out smaller groups to reduce their high density impact..

We are concerned about the potential for Coastal Center staff being in a position to educate people outside of their tour groups about the regulation or even worse attempt to enforce the regulation. Coastal Center staff love Kachemak Bay and have the best intentions. My husband and I have observed center staff attempting to act as enforcers of the bay. It did not go well.

The Coastal Center is not the only business out there doing eco tours and working to educate people about our marine environment. Adoption of these regulations could encourage others to apply for special regulations.



If we need to protect the Octopus then it should be done in all of Kachemak Bay. We could start by reducing the numbers of Sea Otters. We heard about 10 instances of Otters eating octopus last summer. We personally saw it three times. Many folks are not aware that this happens. It does seem to be happening more often. A regulation to prohibit anyone from attempting to look at or harass Octopus, in or out of their dens could be put in place.

If it is illegal to harvest seaweed then enforce the rule everywhere for everyone. Don't select small areas to protect for only specific groups. If it is happening why is there no enforcement?

Is someone harvesting Gumboot Chitons? Are they at risk?

We believe shellfish need better regulation. A good place to start would be to reduce the excessive bag limits. No one needs a bag limits of 1000 Littlenecks or 700 butter Clams. We believe these bag limits are ridiculous and are having significant negative impact on Kachemak Bay.

We believe the Otter population in this area is out of control and the Otters are damaging clam beds and eating Octopus at alarming rates.

Are there are resources available, ie money and manpower, to provide new regulations for in Kachemak Bay ? If so, new regulations should be for the good of the Bay with valid science behind them and a purpose to appropriately manage or protect the public's resources. My understanding is we do not have the manpower or funding to adequately enforce the regulations on the books. Why would you create and regulation that no one intends to enforce? Why does the Department cost analysis not address the cost to even try to enforce this proposed regulation?

We need to make sure this does not become an ethnic issue about ethnic foods. This is a regulation matter and should only be about the need to regulate the resources of the State of Alaska.

Sharon Minsch

907-399-4266

Proposition 366

PO Box 469

Homer, Alaska 99603

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BOARDS

PL7

Kotzebue Advisory Committee comments on Proposal 378 :

Kotzebue Advisory Committee supports the intent of Proposal 378 to protect salmon passage. However, the proposal as written would outlaw common local subsistence fishing practices, for whitefish and pike in particular, where people do block more than half or two-thirds of small channels with nets.

The advisory committee would support a version of Proposal 378 allowing small-scale blocking of streams with nets, for fish other than salmon, with appropriate safeguards and restrictions.

This longstanding practice is well documented, including in Whitefish: Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Subsistence Fishing in the Kotzebue Sound Region Alaska by Susan Georgette, Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Attamuk Sheidt, Maniilaq Association, Technical Paper 290, January 2005.

(Link to the paper on OSM website:

<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/pdf/fisheries/reports/02-040final.pdf>).

The Kotzebue Advisory Committee submitted comments in 2000 to the Northwest Arctic RAC in support of RAC Proposal 39 which led to subsistence fishing regulations for federal public lands in the Kotzebue region specifically allowing nets across streams:

(Subsistence Management Regulations ... on Federal Public Lands and Waters of Alaska April 1, 2008 - March 31, 2009, page 22)

Special Provisions (fourth bullet)

You may not obstruct more than one-half the width of a stream, creek or slough with any gear used to take fish for subsistence uses, *except when fishing for whitefish or pike in the Selawik and Kobuk River drainages as follows:*

Kobuk and Selawik River drainages

In the Kobuk River drainage from May 15 --July 15 and from August 15 --October 31, and in the Selawik River drainage from May 15 -October 31, you may take whitefish or pike in streams, creeks, and sloughs. Only one gillnet 100 feet or less in length with a stretched-mesh size from 2 1/2 inches to 4 1/2 inches may be used per site. You must check your net at least once in every 24-hour period.

The Kotzebue Advisory Committee notes that the restrictions on locations, dates, species, mesh size, net length and frequency of checking, serve to protect salmon runs.

The Noatak River and coastal areas should be included with the areas listed above.

PLB

Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Teleconference Meeting

Wednesday, February 18, 2009, 11:00 am

Draft minutes, BOF comments, one page

RECEIVED
MAR 10 2009
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Committee co-chair Milton Cheemuk called to order about 11:25.

Online, AC members Frank Kavairlook (Koyuk), Leonard Kobuk, Milton Cheemuk (St. Michael), Dwayne Johnson, Clarence Towarak and Paul Johnson (Unalakleet). No one from Shaktoolik. Peter Martin Sr. joined later as alternate from Stebbins. DFG staff: Brendan Scanlon, Scott Kent, Letty Hughes, Tony Gorn, Susan Bucknell NPS: Ken Adkisson NSEDC: Wes Jones

Because of teleconference, minutes of last meeting were deferred to next meeting.

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Scott Kent

Scott reviewed the harvest data from 2008.

BOF Proposal 378 Passed 7/0 Paul moved and Leonard seconded, to support 378, to aid enforcement. Carried unanimously.

Wes said that NSEDC directed him to help write BOF proposals for any communities. He's working on proposals allowing rod and reel for subsistence, for Koyuk and Shaktoolik. Wes and Frank agreed to talk when NSEDC meets in Koyuk.

Leonard asked about current regulations. He always uses rod and reel for subsistence. Wes said he could draft language to include all of Southern Norton Sound, if the committee wants.

Clarence asked him to exclude Unalakleet River and all it's drainages. Unalakleet wants to maintain a clear distinction between subsistence and sport fishing, because sometime in the future that might be important.

Leonard and Pete Martin want St. Michael and Stebbins included. Wes will draft a proposal allowing rod and reel for subsistence "from Bald Head south, excluding Unalakleet River drainage". Susan Bucknell will circulate the draft for approval. This was moved by Paul and seconded by ?? and approved by the committee.

(End of BOF items.)

Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee meeting
February 12, 2009, Kawerak Board Room, Nome
Draft minutes, BOF excerpt, two pages

RC9

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MAR 11 2009
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AC Members Present

At Meeting Site: Roy Ashenfelter (Nome), Adem Boeckman (Nome), Charlie Lean (Nome),
Chuck Okbaak (Teller), Nate Perkins (Nome), Mike Quinn (Nome), Raymond Seetot (Wales)
Dan Stang (Nome)

Via Teleconference: Jack Faegerstrom (Golovin), Tom Grey (White Mountain), Charles
Saccheus (Elim)

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Susan Bucknell, Tony Gorn, Lettie Hughes, Jim Magdanz

National Park Service

Ken Adkisson, Marci Johnson

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Mike Wade

Public

Austin Ahmasuk (Nome Eskimo Community), Kevin Keith (NSEDC) Jack Omelak (Kawerak),
Tim Smith (Nome)

Quorum was confirmed. Agenda was adopted, with the understanding it was flexible. Minutes
were approved from October 11, 2007 meeting and January 18, 2008 teleconference meeting.

Fisheries

BOF Proposal 378, Blocking Streams.

Jim Menard reviewed the history of the proposal. People viewed a photo of the net that
prompted the ACR.

There was extensive discussion. People suggested shorter net size, like fifty feet, or
require nets to be attended. Maybe shorter nets could be left unattended. They asked, do we
need a regulation, affecting everyone, to deal with this one person? Mike Wade said there are
other places where people leave nets unattended more than half way across -from the air you
can see them full of salmon. He would like the the regs cleaned up so he can deal with people.

Jim pointed out that this proposal is about regulatory language, to address braided channels or streams, basically a housekeeping proposal. He suggested people submit new BOF proposals by the April 10th deadline for these other issues.

People agree on wanting to prevent wanton waste and allow escapement. Motion for no action on 378 failed. People recognized Jim Menards efforts to correct a problem.

Charlie moved and Chuck seconded to oppose 378. Charlie, Jim and Roy will work on a draft to circulate for AC member approval in time for the March 16 BOF meeting. NNSAC members had one week to review the following committee comment:

Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee Comments on Proposal 378
5AAC 01.010 (c)
Proposal 378 Failed 0/12

The existing regulation addresses set gill nets being deployed across one half of fish streams. It is thought that this regulation was intended to address set gillnets, not drift gillnets. The idea of the regulation proposal is to allow a portion of the migrating fish to pass the net site and so the issue boils down to how much catch is too much. If one critically examines what determines where salmon migrate in rivers one will find that it is different for every species, making one regulation inadequate to address the broad range of situations. Pink salmon utilize most of the river cross section, Chinook salmon and coho salmon tend to run up the thalweg (deep Channel), chums and sockeye tend to move on banks. All bets are off as they approach spawning areas. The specific situation that brought this proposal on is best addressed by permit conditions.

In this case, the net was deployed across a deep channel, one of four or five braids, by no means the only option for salmon in higher water years. It was the channel preferred by sockeye salmon, the target species by the fisher. If the proposed wording were put in place it would be a simple matter to move downstream a hundred yards and place a single angle in one's net and artificially create what was done using the gravel bar and net. In other words, the situation would need to be addressed using net length, and time area closures in the permit conditions.

The permittee was limited in their harvest by the annual harvest limit of 200 sockeye salmon. They were required to check their net and to conform to the fishing schedule. Other subsistence gillnetting and seining downstream frequently block the main avenues of migration using nets and geographic/topographic features. All are limited by harvest limits and time limits which were also in effect at this site too.

The NNSAC believes the existing regulation should be allowed to stand as is or with the modification that it applies to setnets only. It is needed in remote sites where it may be

one of the only regulations in effect. It allows for limited fish passage during fishing and provides for unimpeded boat traffic. The proposed regulation will affect subsistence opportunity. It is more about appearances of alternative migration tracks than about actual fish behavior.

NNSAC opposes proposal 378. We suggest changing “gillnet” in the existing regulation to “set gillnet”.



SMOLTS

Providing and Protecting Your Salmon Resource



RC 10

Trail Lakes Hatchery Sockeye Salmon Management Plan

Approval of New Plan Critical

The programs of Trail Lakes Hatchery provide salmon returns that are harvested in the commercial, recreational and personal use fisheries in Resurrection Bay, Kachemak Bay and Kamishak Bay. Over the last four years 98 percent of the fish returning to these sites have originated from the supplemental production provided by this facility. It is, therefore, obvious that without these hatchery-based projects there would be no harvestable salmon returns at these five sites.

To keep these projects operating it is necessary to stabilize the hatchery's revenue base which is a cost-recovery program conducted within defined special harvest areas. To accomplish that stabilization the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) must revise the applicable management plan and receive the approval of the Board of Fisheries for that revision.

In 2005 the Board of Fisheries approved the Bear Lake Management Plan which contained a cost-recovery component intended to provide the financial resources CIAA needed to continue Trail Lakes Hatchery salmon enhancement programs. That is the plan which is now in effect and has turned out to be inadequate to generate the revenue needs of 2009 and beyond.

That inadequacy became apparent in 2008 when CIAA did not meet its cost-recovery harvest expectations at any of the five locations. A thorough post-season review of the cost recovery harvests showed sufficient returns were available for meeting CIAA's financial goals and for providing a common property harvest. The location and timing of the cost-recovery harvests caused the shortfall.

The Bear Lake Management Plan focuses on cost recovery efforts in Resurrection Bay and allocates 50% of the harvest of fish returning to the CIAA project site to the cost-recovery effort. Since 2005, the average actual harvest by CIAA at this site has varied from 32% to 63% and averaged 47%. A 2008 review of the most recent four years of data revealed that, while CIAA harvested an average of 47% of the fish in the combined commercial and cost recovery harvests; the value of the cost recovery harvested fish averaged only 36% of the value of the combined commercial and cost recovery harvests. From a different perspective over the last four years the average per fish price received for cost recovery fish in Resurrection Bay has been only 64% of that paid for commercially caught fish. This is so because CIAA's cost-recovery allocation is taken from the temporal and spatial end of the return when quality and prices are low. In summary because the cost recovery effort secured 47% of the fish instead of 50%, and received only 64% of the price paid for commercially caught fish, CIAA's annual cost-recovery income has been inconsistent and lower than projected.

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Kenai Office

Gary Fandrei - Executive Director
Paul Blanche - Senior Biologist
Dan Frisbie - Field Biologist
Nathan Weber - Field Biologist
Ron Carlson - Project Technician
Dawne Schmidt - Admin. Assistant
Cathy Cline - Seasonal Assistant

Trail Lakes Hatchery

Tom Prochazka - Manager
Mark Thomas - Assistant Mgr.
Grant Sill - Fish Culturist
Jen Mevissen - Seasonal Assistant

CIAA Board of Directors

Brent Johnson - President
Mike Wiley, -1st Vice President
Steve Tsvenstrup - 2nd Vice Pres.
Dave Martin, - Secretary
R. Drew Sparlin, Sr., - Treasurer

Teague Vanek - CIFF
Charles Walkden - CI Seiners
Nathan Wise - CI Seiners
Gene Palm - KPFA
Jessie Nelson - N. Pacific Fisheries
Kenny Rodgers - NDSN
Frankie Derossitt - UCIDA
James Butler III - At Large
Dyer Van Devere - At Large
Mark Roth - City of Homer
Beaver Nelson - City of Kachemak
John French - City of Seward
Paul Fischer - Kenai Peninsula
Brian Bohman - Mat-Su
Sam Cotten - Anchorage
Stephen Vanek - Village of Ninilchik
Tim Schmidt - Processor Rep.
Ken Tarbox - KAFC

Board of Directors Election

As defined in CIAA's By-Laws, five (5) Board of Directors seats are Inlet Wide Commercial Fishermen Representatives who are elected "at-large" by all permit holders. Nomination petitions were mailed to all Cook Inlet (Area H) Limited Entry Permit Holders in November of 2008.

CIAA received nomination petitions of two (2) eligible candidates, Christine Brandt and John McCombs. Because the number of nomination petitions was less than the number of vacant seats (4) in this election cycle, no election was required and the two previously mentioned candidates will be seated uncontested at the 2009 Annual Meeting of CIAA's Board of Directors. Two (2) vacant seats will remain until the next election cycle scheduled in fall 2009.

Staffing Changes

Ed Mears began his employment with Trail Lakes Hatchery in the summer of 2007 as a seasonal worker just after he had completed the building maintenance program at AVTEC in Seward, Alaska. Ed had many years experience working on Alaska fishing boats, tenders and work boats. Ed became the Maintenance Technician at Trail Lakes Hatchery for Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association in January, 2008. Ed left CIAA in early September for other endeavors.

In March of 2008, Grant Sill was hired as the Fish Culturist at Trail Lakes Hatchery. Grant, his wife Tina and their daughter Brooke, are from the greater Portland, Oregon area. Grant studied fisheries technology at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, Oregon. Grant brings several years of hatchery experience from Skamania Steelhead Hatchery and Washougal Salmon Hatchery in Washougal, Washington to his present position with Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association.

In July 2008, Paul Blanche was promoted to Senior Biologist from the Field Biologist position. Paul will continue to lead CIAA field projects and staff as they continue the Susitna River project and other CIAA hatchery support projects.

In January 2009, Nathan Weber was hired to fill the vacant Biologist position. Nathan graduated from the University of Kentucky with a B.S. in Natural Resource Conservation and Management. Nathan has worked with CIAA as a Seasonal Assistant for the previous two summers.

CIAA is excited to have Grant and Nathan as a part of our team.

Trail Lakes Hatchery - Tom Prochazka, Manager

In the beginning of 2008, Trail Lakes Hatchery, along with the Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC), hosted the Alaska Hatchery Managers' Meeting in Seward. Mark Thomas, Assistant Hatchery Manager, put together a very good program for the meeting that was well received by those who attended. The meeting included two days of presentations by those in attendance, tours of the Trail Lakes Hatchery, the ASLC, and Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery, and a dinner banquet.

This last year, the staff at the hatchery took a long, hard look at the prior well redevelopments, consulted with some experienced professionals, and came up with a plan that was most likely to succeed. After the initial phase of the redevelopment was begun, the results indicated that some methods included in the original plan could be pared back, while other methods could be pursued more aggressively to attain the most cost effective results. The hatchery has been using one of the wells continually since the redevelopment was completed in late fall and the results have been very good. This year, Eklutna Hatchery will not have to be opened to rear Trail Lakes Hatchery fish.

Salmon Management Plan - continued

The Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association petitioned the Board of Fisheries in January 2009 to repeal the Bear Lake Management Plan and adopt the Trail Lakes Hatchery Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. The petition was accepted and is scheduled for a public comment period and will be heard by the Board of Fisheries at the March 2009 meeting in Anchorage.

The Trail Lakes Hatchery Sockeye Salmon Management Plan will incorporate much of the Bear Lake Management Plan and establish a priority for hatchery cost recovery harvests and broodstock needs, in addition to the expansion of Special Harvest Areas in Kachemak and Kamishak Bays traditionally used by CIAA. The existing constraints designed to protect coho salmon production from Bear Lake, maintain the early-run timing of Bear Lake sockeye stocks and minimize conflict between recreational and commercial fisheries will remain in place. The priority for cost recovery harvests should allow those harvests to take fewer fish because they will be of greater value and continue the projects that make recreational, personal use and commercial salmon harvests possible at these sites.

CIAA wishes to implement the Trail Lakes Hatchery Sockeye Salmon Management Plan for the 2009 season if the Board of Fisheries accepts the regulations. Support from the recreational, personal use and commercial users would be welcomed and would help to assure the continuation of these productive projects. In the absence of a successful cost-recovery program, they will all be lost and with them over 100,000 fish out of the annual common property fisheries, including the coho salmon produced for designated recreational fisheries in Resurrection and Kachemak Bays.

Prior to the March meeting of the Board of Fisheries CIAA will request a Regional Planning Team meeting for additional public review.

Susitna Project Expansion

CIAA is currently conducting a complete enumeration of both the juvenile and adult migrations on seven (7) lakes thought to be key sockeye salmon producers in the Susitna River system and collecting water quality data to better understand the entire salmon life cycle by isolating variables in the lakes that may be limiting productivity. CIAA and ADF&G realize the current cooperative studies need to be expanded to encompass the scale and duration fisheries research demands to build accurate models and management strategies. These projects extend the time frame of the current study and identify additional lakes and creeks where analysis is critical to understanding the factors limiting production in the Susitna River basin. It is this adult to juvenile relationship that allows us to analyze and evaluate the production and rearing conditions of each lake in the study. The goal is to collect sound biological data to provide the foundation on which decisions for management and rehabilitation strategies will be drawn.

CIAA is in the final stage of the current ongoing study, CIAA received monies to date to operate the study on seven lakes from July 2006 through June 2009. In the fall of 2008, CIAA staff submitted several grants in cooperation with ADF&G to expand the project to fourteen lakes for an additional three years. Two grants totaling \$2.4 million dollars funding the project through 2012 were accepted through the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund (AKSSF), contingent upon negotiation of the statement of work. Although details regarding budgeting and the scope of the project is still premature, the Susitna River project looks to continue. The map on page 5 shows the location of existing and new lakes in the Susitna River project, CIAA projects are also highlighted.

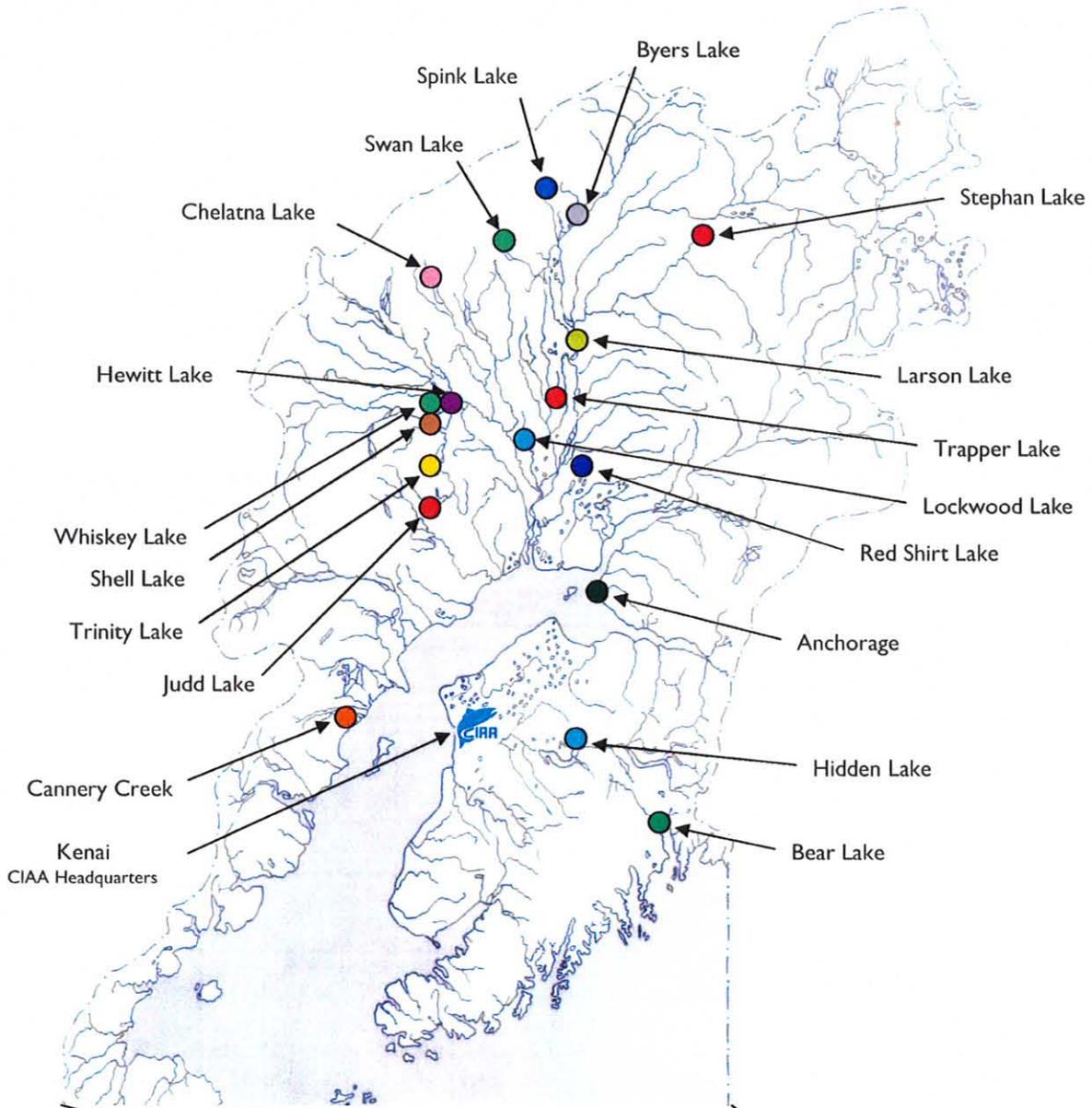
Student Conservation Association (SCA) Partnership

In the spring of 2008, CIAA developed a partnership with the Student Conservation Association (SCA). This partnership is a great marriage of human resource capacity and program development. The SCA pre-screened and recruited qualified applicants to participate in our internship program. The SCA also participates in the AmeriCorps scholarship program and many of our interns qualified for a \$1000 scholarship. The AmeriCorps program allows students to use the monies for tuition and other qualified expenses in pursuit of their respectable degree programs.

The summer of 2008 was a great year for our internship program, CIAA hosted 35 interns in two sessions for staffing our smolt and adult field camps at Hidden Lake and the Susitna River project. The 2008 class was a very well rounded and engaged class of students from over 22 University and Colleges from every corner of the nation.

The upcoming 2009 field season looks to be a very busy and exciting year! With the expansion of the Susitna Project looming, CIAA looks to host up to 50 interns in meeting our program requirements. The SCA and CIAA will continue our endeavor to place the next generation of conservation professionals to work in understanding production problems in the Susitna River Basin. These students will take the knowledge and skills learned by working with our organizations to continue the pursuit of well managed natural resource systems well into the future. CIAA is excited to be engaged in the greater mission, the education and mentoring of our youth.

Cook Inlet Drainage



This map indicates all of the areas that the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association will be enumerating juvenile or adult salmon in 2009.

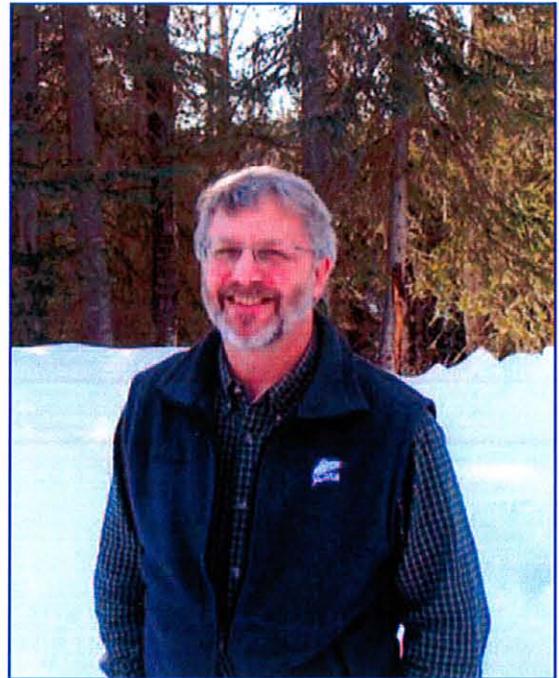
*CIAA Headquarters and Anchorage are shown for reference.



From the Executive Director's Desk

It looks as if 2009 is setting up to be a milestone year for the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association. Several issues, including the future of Trail Lakes Hatchery and CIAA fish production are set to be addressed. I am hopeful that implementing the new cost recovery plan will alleviate the problems that have plagued the program in the past. I am anxious to see the Association finally move forward with a plan that will leave the organization financially viable now, and well into the future.

As we look to reconcile the cost recovery program for Trail Lakes Hatchery, the Association continues to develop strong programs to address the production problems of the Susitna River system in the northern district of Cook Inlet. CIAA has already taken a lead in working with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in running fish weirs to document adult escapement and smolt production on several key lakes. Our staff has secured funding to move forward for an additional 3 years, this will double our efforts in the Susitna River system and expand the project to additional lakes where information is vital in developing remediation strategies.



Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association

40610 Kalifornsky Beach Road
Kenai, Alaska 99611
(907) 283-5761

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"Providing and Protecting Your Salmon Resource"

STATE OF ALASKA

Central Peninsula Fish & Game Advisory Committee

RC 11

Sarah Palin, Governor

David Martin, Chair
PO Box 468
Clan Gulch, AK 99568

Feb. 27, 2009

Board of Fisheries
John Jensen, Chairman,

Dear Board Members,

Our Advisory Committee and the public present unanimously passed support for Proposal #380. The importance of passing this proposal cannot be understated. Without the adoption of the new Trail Lakes Hatchery Sockeye Salmon Management Plan as written CIAA will not be able to afford to keep Trails Lake Hatchery open resulting in the loss of all hatchery enhancement projects and possible CIAA itself. Every one would lose! Please pass Proposal #380.

Thank you,



David Martin, Chair

RC 12

March 9, 2009

Board of Fisheries
John Jensen, Chairman,

Dear Board Members,

I support passage of proposal #380 as written.

I am a 38 year Cook Inlet salmon seiner and drifter. The passage Trail Lakes Hatchery Sockeye Salmon Management Plan is the only option to guarantee the continuation of the hatchery stocking programs and the continuation of CIAA. This plan puts CIAA on the same cost recovery program as other aquaculture associations in the state. Cost recovery must pay for the programs or the programs will terminate.

Anyone opposed to #380 is only greedy for their short term gain and is not looking at the long term continuation of the hatchery projects or CIAA's survival that will benefit everyone for years into the future.

Please pass #380. There is no other practical or logical alternative.

Thank you,



David Martin

RC 13

March 2, 2009

Board of Fisheries
John Jensen, Chairman,

Dear Board Members,

Cook Inlet Fisherman's Fund (CIFF) strongly supports the passage of proposal #380.

Cook Inlet Fisherman's Fund is one of the oldest fishing groups in Cook Inlet. Established in the early 1970's and is one of the original founding groups of Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association. CIFF has over 460 members representing all gear groups. CIFF mission is to be an advocate to promote and protect the fisheries, habitat and fish resource of Cook Inlet.

CIAA is a vital element for the availability, research and conservation of the fisheries resources that are harvested and enjoyed by sports, guided sport, personal use and commercial fishermen. CIAA's Trail Lake Hatchery programs benefit everyone. Without passage of Proposal #380 as written these programs will disappear along with CIAA. The State will not be able to provide what CIAA does. This benefits no one and is an unnecessary lose to everyone.

Thank you,



Doug Blossom, President

RC 14

Petersburg Vessel Owners Association

PO Box 232

Petersburg, AK 99833

Phone & Fax: 907.772.9323

pvoa@gci.net • www.pvoaonline.org

March 10, 2009

Honorable Sarah Palin
Governor, State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

RE: SUPPORT BOARD OF FISH ACTION ON BLACK COD SPORT LIMIT

Dear Governor Palin,

Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) would like to express our support for the recent action at the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) Southeast finfish meeting to limit anglers to 2 black cod per day, 4 in possession, and 8 fish annual.

The action taken at the Board is extremely important to help ensure that reasonable expectations are created in regards to harvest and commercial opportunity is maintained to continue to feed the Alaskan and American public. Sustaining the commercial black cod fishery is extremely important to preserving public access to this species as commercial harvesters supply millions of meals to the public each year who otherwise do not have the means or resources to come to Alaska to sport fish.

A brief web search of Southeast lodge operations that target black cod found that the average stay is 4 days with 16 clients per period, and 18 periods per season. This would allow one lodge (with each client harvesting the annual bag limit) to harvest 17,900 pounds of black cod (see attachment) which is slightly higher than the amount allocated to an individual permit holder for the Northern Southeast inside area (NSI). The majority of pictures found in the web search showed clients holding two black cod each which indicates the Board acted appropriately in setting a two fish per day bag limit.

PVOA appreciates the work done at the Board of Fisheries to ensure that reasonable expectations are created for sport harvesters and realistic bag limits are established. The commercial fishery is conservatively managed by the State of Alaska, and harvesters are held accountable for each pound of fish through State fish tickets and severe fines for illegal actions. Most sport black cod harvest appears to be done with commercial downriggers (jigging machines) at remote lodges with no State creel sampler to verify data collected in logbooks.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue. PVOA is a diverse group of commercial fishermen based in Alaska operating primarily in Southeast. Our members participate in a variety of fisheries managed by the State of Alaska including, cod, salmon, herring, crab, and shrimp.

Sincerely,

Julianne Curry via email

Julianne Curry
Director

Attachment

CC via email: Cora Crome, Office of the Governor
Jim Marcotte, Director Alaska Board of Fisheries
John Jensen, Chair, Board of Fisheries
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Blackcod Bag Limit Effects for Northern Southeast Inside (NSI) District

Curry, PVOA 2/26/09
Attachment

2008 NSI TAC = 1,508,000
 2008 Permit Holders = 96
 2008 Pounds per permit = 15,708

SE Total anglers 2008 = 133,560
 10% of total 2008 anglers = 13,356
 5% of total 2008 anglers = 6,678
 1% of total 2008 anglers = 1,336

Average pounds per fish = 7.8

Effects of 8 fish annual limit:	lbs	NSI permits equivalent
10% of total 2008 anglers =	833,414	53
5% of total 2008 anglers =	416,707	27
1% of total 2008 anglers =	83,341	5

Effects of 1 lodge harvesting 8 fish limit:		
Clients per period =	16	
Periods per season =	18	
Clients per season =	288	
Annual limit =	8	
	lbs	NSI permits equivalent
Effect of each client harvesting limit =	17,971	1

Effects of 2 lodges harvesting 8 fish limit:		
Clients per period =	32	
Periods per season =	36	
Clients per season =	576	
Annual limit =	8	
	lbs	NSI permits equivalent
Effect of each client harvesting limit =	35,942	2

PC15



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 110
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1172
(907) 586-2820
(907) 463-2545 Fax
E-Mail: ufa@ufa-fish.org
www.ufa-fish.org

March 13, 2008

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094

RECEIVED
MAR 13 2009
BOARDS

RE: Proposal #375

Dear Chairman Jensen and Board of Fisheries members,

United Fishermen of Alaska reviewed Proposal #375 at our recent board meeting. While we have member groups involved in groundfish fisheries all throughout the state, none of the member groups could fully understand the language as written in Proposal #375 after being amended in Cordova.

We believe that the intent of this proposal is for full accounting of all harvested groundfish but as written the regulation is unclear. We would request that the Board continue to work on this proposal considering alternative language that would make the intent of the proposal and final regulation more understandable to the industry.

UFA represents 37 Alaska commercial fishing associations from fisheries throughout the State and its offshore waters. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Mark Vinsel
Executive Director

My name is Larry Edfelt, I'm from Juneau, and I'm representing the Juneau Charter Boat Association, the Sitka Charter Boat Association, the Petersburg Charter Boat Association, two lodges on Shelter Island, and the Territorial Sportsmen from Juneau.

For a fishery involving so few participants, these groups have never been so united, unified by the emergency created by the board over sablefish.

You have before you a petition to recognize this emergency and raise the sport bag limit from two to four. We support that petition. In fact, what you should really enact is the amended proposal you adopted 6 to 1 after public hearing, after committee discussion, and after honest deliberation - the 4-8-12 option. We can accept that option or the petition, but we can't abide the two fish limit reconsidered in haste at the last minute.

How we got to this point is not a sterling example of public regulatory process in action. Immediately before adjournment, a board member referenced some last minute RC's submitted by commercial longliners that grossly extrapolated the sport catch to a large percentage of the commercial catch, based on the preposterous premise that 10% of all anglers will participate and take 12 sablefish each.

The board, without seeking input from staff or public, used the expansions as "new information" and changed its regulation, although there was no real deliberation, just a vote. Two members had already left.

It is true there is no hard data on the sport take of sablefish. But that lack of information can be used as a guide. Ask the Department if their creel checkers have ever seen sport-caught sablefish. If they haven't seen very many mature-sized fish in the creel census, you can bet the catch is extremely low. Ask how many ling cod, rockfish or king salmon are seen in the same creel surveys. Those ratios can be comparative measures of the magnitude of the sport sablefish catch, far more accurate than an expansion from an absurdly false assumption.

The action in Sitka has precipitated two emergencies.

The first is trust in the board process, which depends on the integrity of the members and the information they use to remedy an allocation dispute. The process is jeopardized when a sympathetic board member will use exaggerated overcooked data submitted by one side as "new information". If

new information involves “data”, the data should be reviewable by some minimum standard, or else the previously adopted regulation should stand.

The second emergency is to the two lodges who have developed a small niche market for sablefish, and to residents.

Who will spend lots of money for the prospect of catching only two sablefish in a day of fishing? Despite the contrary evidence from advertising photos, the wind blows in Southeast Alaska more days than not, making four consecutive days of deepwater fishing for sablefish virtually impossible.

Few, if any, Juneau resident boats will leave the harbor to run all the way to Chatham Strait for two 7- or 8-pound sablefish. The cost of fuel is too great for so little catch. You can argue that boats already go that far for halibut, but I assure you no boat would run that far for two 7-or 8-pound halibut.

You can argue that residents can just go drop a longline and catch all they want under personal use, but I know of no sport boats that have the hydraulics necessary to haul a longline up from 2000 feet, let alone the deckspace to pile a half-mile of line. No one can even lift a half-mile of line on deck, so a resident personal use fishery for sablefish is not going to happen. Rod and reel is the most efficient way for a resident to catch sablefish, and residents are now priced out of the fishery because of the low bag limit.

You can argue that a two-fish limit was somehow necessary for conservation, but the fact that not a single change was made in the vastly larger commercial fishery indicates the conservation argument is either not persuasive, or not effective. You can close the sport fishery and have no measurable impact on conservation. In the history of the Board of Fisheries, no fishery has ever been curtailed from an unrestricted catch to a two fish limit in the absence of facts to justify it.

In summary, please adopt a reasonable sport limit for Southeast sablefish. The current regulation creates an emergency harming two lodges, and it forever prices residents out of the fishery. Restoring the four fish limit will also restore a measure of trust in the process, the breach of which has unified so many disparate groups from a large region of the state.

Thank you.

RC 17

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

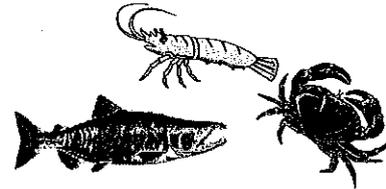
9369 North Douglas Highway

Juneau, AK 99801

Phone 907-586-6652

Fax 907-523-1168

Website: <http://www.seafa.org>



E-mail: seafa@gci.net

March 13, 2009

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Board Support Section
Alaska Dept of Fish and Game
Attn: John Jensen, Chairman
PO Box 15526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RECEIVED
MAR 13 2009
BOARDS

RE: Opposition to Petition to Change Southeast Sablefish Bag Limit

Chairman Jensen and Board of Fish Members,

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance is opposed to the petition to change the daily sport fish bag limit for sablefish. A petition requires meeting specific criteria including that an emergency exists that this petition does not qualify for (see staff comments).

There are currently 4 ways that changes to regulations can occur.

1. An emergency petition that is discussed above.
2. A proposal the public, an advisory committee or the board submitted on time for the regulatory cycle. The next opportunity for changes to Southeast Finfish issues and the daily sport fish bag limit for sablefish is 2011/2012 cycle with proposals due before April 10, 2011.
3. An agenda change request submitted on time for the fall worksession - The issue of the daily bag limit for sablefish would not meet the ACR criteria #2 which states the Board will not accept an ACR that is predominantly allocative in nature in the absence of new information found by the board to be compelling. The petition submitted by Richard Yamada does not provide any new information that wasn't already part of the public record. The issue of weather and tides was part of the oral testimony provided by Stan Malcolm (tape log 2/18/09 5:07 pm).
4. A board generated proposal. The board can generate a proposal during the regulatory cycle for that area but once the gavel came down at the end of the meeting the regulatory cycle for Southeast Alaska finfish ended. The

board did discuss during the reconsideration of the sablefish bag, possession and annual limits at the end of the February Sitka meeting of developing a board generated proposal that could then be legally tabled for consideration at another time (March 2010) when more information would be available from the 2009 season. The board did not choose to develop the proposal at that time therefore this issue will need to wait until the next Southeast finfish meeting.

SEAFAs members are not thrilled with the action taken by the Board of Fish on sport fish bag, possession and annual limit for sablefish as they don't believe the annual limits are restrictive enough based on the current stock status but we are pleased that the Board did implement bag, possession and annual limits. Since neither side is satisfied with the results on this issue, maybe the board did reach a reasonable compromise between the sectors based on the information available and precautionary on the part of the data that is unavailable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathy H", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kathy Hansen
Executive Director

CC: Governor Palin
Cora Crome - Fisheries Advisor
Denby Lloyd - Commissioner of Fish and Game

RC 18

HOMER FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 10, 2009
Meeting began 6:05

- Members Present: Marv Peters (Chair), Trina B. Fellows (Sec), Michael Craig, Lee Martin, Cliff Calkins, George Matz, Thomas Hagberg, Skip Avril, Gus Van Dyke, Tom Young, Dave Lyon, Tabor Ashment & Elise Wolf (Alternate).

Excused: Jim Meesis, Pete Wedin, Joey Allred.

Public: Marlyn Sigman, Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies.
Gary Fandrei, Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association.

RECEIVED

MAR 12 2009

BOARDS
ANCHORAGE

Fish & Game Biologist: Lee Hammarstrom, Nicki Szarzi.

Proposal 363 1 Favor 0 Abstain 12 Oppose
F & G Biologist Oppose all 3 of these Razor Clam proposal.

Discussion:

Wouldn't it benefit the clam size to lower the limit so more clams grow to 5,6 inches?
Most clams now are 4 inches. Over harvest could be a problem.

Proposal 364 0 Favor 0 Abstain 13 Oppose
No discussion

Proposal 365 0 Favor 0 Abstain 13 Oppose
No discussion

Proposal 366 9 Favor 1 Abstain 2 Oppose
Discussion:

Drop limit on butter clams-then people wouldn't bother that area.
Why not just close Otter Rock it has the same diversity of species.
Don't approve of every organization that comes along wants to close every thing down to the public. So it's open from September 15 to April 15 great the locals can go over and clam in the winter.

Proposal 380 13 Favor 0 Abstain 0 Oppose

Discussion: Local sports fishermen worried about seiners catching kings. This is a special area it is just a portion of legal area. Never have caught kings in seine - they must be deeper. Could the cost be taken from all areas? Not just Seward.

Amemdment: Under C (1) Except that the fresh water fishing shall not open until the desired in river goal for Bear Lake sockeye is assured.

With amendment: 13 Favor 0 Abstain 0 Oppose

Meeting adjourned 8:30

P.O. Box 7482
Ketchikan,
Alaska
AK 99901

6th March 2009

RECEIVED

RC 19

MAR 12 2009

BOARDS
ANCHORAGE

For the attention of Fishery Board,

This letter provides our concerns about the Sport Fishing Guide Services Board and Licensing Bill/ referenced 26-LS0521/A, dated 2/18/09 which is currently at the draft stage. If our interpretation of the Bill is correct, my wife and I will be put out of business at the end of 2009, and will be forced to leave southeast Alaska.

About Us

My wife and I, and two children moved to Southeast Alaska in the spring of 2002 in order to get away from big city living and its associated problems. We established a small Bed and Breakfast remote from the road system at Loring in Naha Bay which is about 20 miles north of Ketchikan. Ketchikan is an economically depressed city which has not fully recovered from the closure of the pulp mill in 1997. Loring is a very small remote community with no job opportunities. We have only been able to move to this beautiful area of southeast Alaska by establishing our own business. If our business fails as a result of changing regulations we will be forced to leave our home in southeast Alaska.

When we established our small B&B, we decided to limit the number of guests to 6, and typically the groups that book with us are smaller and consist of no more than 2, 3 or 4 people. We started by offering lodging and self-guided skiff rentals and we made arrangements for third party charters when required. Hiring of independent charters proved to be difficult and unreliable due to our remote location. Hiring of independent freshwater guides was (and still is) impossible due to the fact that there are no independent guides operate in our area. In the spring of 2007, I obtained my US Coast Guard Captains license, and we started to offer our own saltwater charters and guided freshwater fishing as part of our lodging, with myself being the charter captain and freshwater guide. The increased income, reliability and flexibility arising from offering our own guide and charter service has significantly improved the long term viability of our small business.

We have chosen to keep our business small and diversified in order to limit our impact on our neighbors and the surrounding environment. Most days, when I charter fish, I operate in saltwater areas with no other charter boat or private fishing boat. When I guide on the remote rivers to the north of us, we do not encounter any other anglers whatsoever.

Our business model targets small family groups who want a remote Alaskan experience and who want to experience several styles of Alaskan fishing. A typical booking for example may involve 6 nights accommodation with a day of charter fishing, a day of guided freshwater fishing, a day of self-guided fishing and possibly some non fishing

guided days such as marine wildlife tours or nature walks. Overall, saltwater charters and guided freshwater fishing only make up about 30% of our total fishing days, but guests choosing a small number of guided days make up over 90% of our business. In other words, just about all of our guests want at least one of two days of saltwater charters or guided freshwater fishing as part of their longer stay with us.

Any impact on our ability to provide guide and charter and guide services for our guests will have an immediate and devastating impact on our business and way of life. We do not believe that we are unique, and there are many similar small scale "ma and pa" operations who are also threatened by the proposals within the Sport Fish Guide Services Board and Licensing Bill.

Impact of the Sport Fish Guide Services Board and Licensing Bill on Us and Other Small Businesses Like Ours.

Generally, we believe that the Bill as currently written will fail to achieve its objective of protecting the resources whilst providing a safe experience's for visitors and is in fact unnecessary. To date, Alaska's fish resources have been expertly managed by Alaska Department of Fish and Game and there are currently no concerns about fish species under the management of AKF&G. If there are concerns at localized "hot spots" about the number of guides, this should be addressed by legislation that manages this issue at these particular hot spot locations.

Also, we feel that this legislation will unfairly impact small guide businesses and B&B type lodges such as ourselves which are the back bone of the Alaska tourist experience and economy. These businesses are also essential to the Alaskan remote way of life and economy of small communities. This Bill will result in the closure of these small businesses and drive customers to the larger lodges and guide services. This will result in an increase in concentration of fishing effort at specific places of businesses. In other words, the effect of the legislation will be the exact opposite of what is trying to achieve.

We can support the above statements by highlighting our concerns about specific portions of the bill and how they impact us directly. We also know that we are not unique and our concerns are shared by other small businesses such as ours.

First, it is unclear from the language of the bill how existing self-employed guides operating their own business as allowed by the current Combined Sport Fishing Guide - Business License will be grandfathered into the new system of licenses. The Bill makes no mention of this type of guide/business. This in itself is creating a significant degree of stress and uncertainty. We, like other owner operated guide businesses take bookings a number of years in advance. We already have bookings for 2010 and are currently responding to enquiries for 2011. We are now facing the prospect that a future change in regulations that prevents us from providing guide or charter services will leave us in breach of our current obligations.

Section 08.57.110. of the proposed bill says "The Department shall issue a sport fishing guide-outfitter license to a natural person if the person (8) has been licensed as and performed the services of a sport fishing assistant guide in the state for at least 20 days in

each of three years and received favorable recommendation from at least one licensed sport fishing guide-outfitter”.

Taken at its literal sense, this implies that to qualify for the new sport fishing guide-outfitter license you must have worked for someone else for 3 years. This would exclude me and many others like me who are self-employed and who have operated our own businesses with the current Combined Sport Fishing Business and Guide License. It is also totally unrealistic for me to have to work for someone else for the next 3 years to obtain a guide license. Even if there were guide jobs available, the pay would not be sufficient for me to support my family. We would also have to close down our business and lose the goodwill and reputation that we have worked so hard to build up over the last seven years.

The reference to a qualifying number of days is also an area of significant concern to me and other small owner/operated guide businesses. My number of guided days in 2007 was around 12. In 2008 it was around 10. I currently have commitments for 2009 for 19 guided days. If 20 days per year over 3 years is in fact to be some form of qualifying criteria, me and many other small self employed owner/operators will be excluded from obtaining a guide license. In effect, small owner/operated guide businesses will be punished for developing small sustainable business models.

For me, and many other similar small owner/operated guide businesses, the impact of not being allowed to guide on our B&B business will be devastating. As stated above, whilst the number of guided fishing days is relatively small compared with larger lodge and guide operations, these guests make up over 90% of our business. If I cannot guide, my wife and I lose over 90% of our entire revenue. This will put us out of business immediately.

We have looked at alternatives and can advise the following:

- It will be impossible for me to take a job as an assistant guide for a three year qualifying period. Even if job opportunities were available, the pay will not be sufficient for me to support my family. In the meantime our existing business is closed down with the loss of seven years good will and reputation.
- Our remote location makes booking third party charters very expensive and unreliable. Our business cannot withstand the increased costs of hiring independent charter boats. Our remote location makes hiring independent freshwater guides impossible. There are no other independent freshwater guides operating in our area.
- Our business model does not support the salary and overheads associated with directly employing licensed captains and guides. We would need to increase the guest capacity to support more staff. Our premise is not large enough to accommodate additional guests and staff. Increasing the size of our business with more guests and staff will have a negative impact on our neighbors living in our small community (which is the exact opposite of the intent of the Guide Bill!),

and local government planning restrictions in fact prevent us from expanding at our current location. Relocating is also not a viable alternative.

As sated above, we do not believe that the Bill will achieve its objectives. We request that this Bill should be withdrawn and legislation drawn up to study and address the issue of excessive guides operating at localized hot spots.

Failing this, if this legislation is going to progress, we request that the following proposal is incorporated into the Bill in order to alleviate the disproportionate effect this Bill will have on small owner operated guide business currently operating with the current Combined Sport Fishing Guide and Business License.

We propose that the following text (highlighted in red) is added to Section 08.57.110.

Section 08.57.110. Sport fishing Guide-Outfitter License

“The Department shall issue a sport fishing-outfitter license to a natural person if the person:

re-number clause (8), as (8.1) then add a new text and clause (8.2). so over all this section reads as:

..... start revised text.....

(8.1) has been licensed as and performed the services of a sport fishing assistant guide in the state for at least 20 days in each of three years and received favorable recommendation from at least one licensed sport fishing guide-outfitter.

Or

(8.2) has been licensed as and has performed the services of a combined sport fishing guide and sport fishing business for 3 years, and has maintained the required liability insurance for these 3 years, and has received favorable recommendation from at least one client for each of these 3 years.

..... end revised text.....

(Note: The above proposal assumes that the legislation will come into effect in 2010 and the minimum qualifying years are 2007, 2008 and 2009.)

We very much hope that our proposals are considered, and if the Bill continues to move forward we very much hope that our amendment is incorporated in the Bill in order to avert the disproportionate and devastating impact that this Bill will have on small owner operated guide businesses.

We very much thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions, please call me on 907 617 2895.

Regards

Mark & Miriam Edwards
Naha Bay Outdoor Adventures

Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee
2/25/09, 7 – 10 PM, MTA Building, Palmer
Agenda

RC 20

- 7:00 PM: Call meeting to order
- Roll Call: quorum present (at least 8 members)?

Kenny	Barber	Present
Brian	Campbell	Present
Mark	Chryson (secretary)	Present
Andy	Couch	Present
Stephen	Darilek	Present
Bennett	Durgeloh	Present
Gerrit	Dykstra	Present
Ken	Federico	Present
Bill	Folsom	Present
Melvin	Grove	Excused
Glen	Holt	Present
Rob	Kuchenoff	Excused
John	Otcheck	Present
Guiseppe	Rossi	Present
Tony	Russ	Present
Max	Sager	Present
Troy	Vincent	Present

15 present

- Approve minutes from meeting of 2/11/09
Minutes were approved by email and submitted in time for BOG deadlines.
- Calendar of events:
 1. Next meeting 3/11/09 at MTA, 7-10 PM
BOG meetings 2/27 to 3/09 in Anchorage; anyone can attend and testify as individual
BOF meeting for Statewide shellfish March 16-20 in Anchorage, comments due 3/02/09
- Reports and Comments:
 1. Recognize guests and/or department staff:
Group Representatives
ADF&G Staff Present:
Law Enforcement Doug Massie
Legislative Representatives
 2. Other announcements and/or agenda items?

3. Public testimony

- Old Business:

1. Report from Bennett Durgeloh about first Susitna Forestry Guidelines citizen's advisory committee meeting on 2/17.

We need to be concerned if we want to develop any habitat

Very diverse group, we need to make inputs. The plan seems to restrict timber cutting rather than encourage healthy productive forestry management.

2. Main points for our Rep. to BOG meetings starting Friday (email).

Comments for 13 moose proposal 96.

Andy Couch moves to make a clarification for moose to allow non residents back to hunting when residents are allowed to harvest spike-fork, 50" or 3 brow tine antlered moose. Seconded by Bill Folsom.

Motion passed without dissent.

Unit 13 has both tier 2 and tier 1 moose hunting. This only exists in this area. We actually voted in the past remove unit 13 from subsistence.

ANS numbers are confusing in this area. Present number is 600.

What we would like to see Tier 2 stays at 150, Tier 1 raised to 700. Surplus over 700 can have non resident hunts.

There is an abundance of 3 brow tine bulls. Not many 4.

If we lower to 3 brow tines we will have a surplus of legal bulls.

When all subsistence hunters are satisfied then non residents can hunt.

Comments to be made:

We don't want tier 2 expanded. 150 not 300. We would like a 700 minimum number. Spike fork 50 4 brow tine.

Passed 14-1

The Committee has a difference of opinion on what ANS means.

- New Business:

1. Any suggestions for BOG to improve:

- 1) submitting proposals
- 2) getting the books
- 3) getting the dept comments (I'm sure that one will come up...)
- 4) having time to get your meetings and comments done
- 5) etc , etc

Get the books to the committee chairs so he can give them to the newly elected ac members. Books come to us late where new members are not even seeing the books or comments.

2. BOF statewide shellfish proposals - #356-367, and Supplemental Proposals 368-378. As of 2/20/09, #379 was still scheduled for 2011. Pages 376-384 in current BOF book (green) and on web at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/fishinfo/meetinfo/fprop.php>. Comments due March 2.

BOF

Discussion

BOF proposal 363 statewide shell fish change limit on razor clams
We would like to see an aerial count and statewide study and hear from area biologists. Require to pack out shells

Motion to approve andy couch, seconded by steve darilek.

Commercial interests, access to clam beds.

Statewide,
Motion failed
0-15-0

Proposal 364 Clam Gulch
Motion to approve andy couch, seconded by steve darilek.

Reduction for clam gulch alone to 15

Motion fails
0-15-0

Proposal 368
Establish possession limits to one days bag limit non resident.
Motion to approve andy couch, seconded by steve darilek.

Out of area. More pressure, remote, not taken that large of numbers. Non residents have not been a problem in general. This situation may resolve itself by lack of tourists.

Motion fails
0-12-3

Proposal 379
Not on docket
Put off to 2010
Dept didn't follow through with original intent.

Motion to support
Motion passed
15-0-0

Andy adds clarification to moose hunts WC.

Rifle hunters have given up the most for the moose management. And predator management has to be emphasized.

Steve Darilek moves approve letters to all AC's on predator management. We ask that all AC's take a unified stand to support the current position. Seconded by Guiseppi Rossi

Motion passed
15-0

Mark will send to sherry and ac list.

Predator management proposals from AOC.
Andy Couch moves to allow Tony Russ or AC representatives the flexibility to speak on our behalf. Seconded by Steve Darilek.

They know the consensus of our opinion and we need to make our opinions known.

Sale of Bear Parts.
Only in management areas. As an incentive to harvest bear parts. Skulls/hides only.

Motion passed
15-0-0

Meeting adjourned 9:40
Next meeting 3/11/09

RC21

**Comments Regarding any Potential Conflicts for Howard Delo for the March 2009
BOF Meeting**

I have one area of potential conflict with the supplemental items regarding Cook Inlet salmon during this meeting:

- my mother-in-law owns a commercial set-net permit for Cook Inlet waters;

Latent set-net permit for Cook Inlet waters

- **Income derived from fishing the permit**

My 87-year old mother-in-law has owned her permit since it was originally issued by the state back in the 70's when the state started the limited entry program on commercial salmon fishing in Cook Inlet. She has not fished the permit in over fourteen (14) years and her health is such that she will never fish the permit again. She can barely walk around her house, but she wants to "keep going." She does not live with my wife and I – we are in Big Lake and Mildred lives in Homer.

I spoke with her about this situation during the November, 2007, Lower Cook Inlet BOF meeting in Homer. My impressions are that the only reasons she is keeping the permit are: 1) she has always had it – no one else has ever owned THAT permit; and 2) it is a reminder to her of earlier times in her life which she wants to remember – the nostalgia factor, if you will.

Since she has not fished her permit in over 14 years and is physically unable to do so again, the issue of income derived from fishing the permit is a moot point and is no longer an area of potential conflict with my participation in this meeting.

- **Actions which may affect the value of the permit**

I do not dispute that actions taken by the BOF on these issues could have some influence on the value of a commercial fishing permit. However, my understanding is that for a conflict to exist, there must be SIGNIFICANT financial or personal gain or loss involved. I submit that other factors beyond the board's control have a much greater bearing on the value of a commercial fishing permit. Specifically, these other factors are market conditions and the price being paid for fish.

According to Gunnar Knapp, a fisheries economist with the University of Alaska, Anchorage, "It is always important to keep in mind that fish prices are driven by lots of different factors, and you need to look at all their combined effects to even begin to understand what might be driving a price. And it is often hard to separate how much influence each effect has." He further stated that two things always should be considered for prices of Alaska fish products: supplies from around the world and currency exchange rates (*Fish prices may not follow economic trends*, Laine Welch, Anchorage Daily News, Feb. 28, 2009).

According to an article in the Anchorage Daily News (*Iceless Seafoods to farm fish in Chile*, Wesley Loy, April 29, 2007), "Salmon farming began to explode in the early 1990's, and today production greatly exceeds the millions of Alaska salmon caught in the wild with nets and hooks. One result of all this new salmon has been generally lower prices for Alaskan fishermen and processors. The impact has

been so severe, in fact, that hundreds of fishermen and several processors have parked their boats or shut down their plants.” Further on in the article, a spokesman for Icicle Seafoods stated that Alaska currently only accounts for about 12-14 % of the world’s salmon production and that share is shrinking every year.

Compare the graph taken from page ii of *THE GREAT SALMON RUN: Competition Between Wild and Farmed Salmon*, by Gunnar Knapp, et.al. 2007, (page 3) with the graph of the value of a Cook Inlet set-net permit (page 4). I got the values for this graph from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission website.

Two things jumped out at me when I compared this graph with Knapp’s ex-vessel fish price graph: first, how closely the value of a set-net permit seemed to track the price paid for fish; and the fact that the BOF has made numerous and important changes to the Cook Inlet commercial/sport fishery since 1996, yet the value of a set-net permit has actually declined until the last few years. According to Fishery Management Report (FMR) No. 07-64, *Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fisheries Annual Management Report, 2007*, on page 4, “The average price per pound paid for UCI salmon has slowly been increasing over the past few years.: Again, on page 20 of the same report, “The average price per pound paid to fishermen for their catch in 2007 was very similar to what they received in 2006, with both years reflecting significant increases from the average prices paid during 2000-2005.”

I think that last sentence is directly reflected in the slight jump in the value of Cook Inlet set-net permits noted on the tail-end of the graph of permit values.

Another point I would like to make is that, since I have been a member of this board, I have repeatedly heard that, in areas like Chignik, Kodiak, Cook Inlet, and in some parts of Southeastern Alaska, there are large numbers of latent commercial permits and that these permits were not being fished because of market conditions and fish prices. Not once did I hear anyone say the permits were latent because of BOF actions. For example, in Cook Inlet, according to FMR No. 07-64, on page 21, “CFEC also shows that there are 738 active set gillnet permits in Cook Inlet, with 83% being issued to Alaskan residents. From this total, 468 reported fishing in UCI in 2007.”

A total of 270 set gillnet permits were not fished. There must be a reason why more than a third (36%) of the permits are not being fished. I submit that it is because of market conditions and fish prices, not BOF actions. If market conditions and fish prices are not seen as attractive enough to fish a permit, I would expect those same factors would bear significantly on the actual value of the permit itself.

While action on the supplemental issues could have a general benefit to one user group or another, because of the large number of users involved in all the different groups potentially affected by board actions on these issues, any benefit that would accrue to me or my family members as a result of my participation on those issues would be insignificant and negligible.

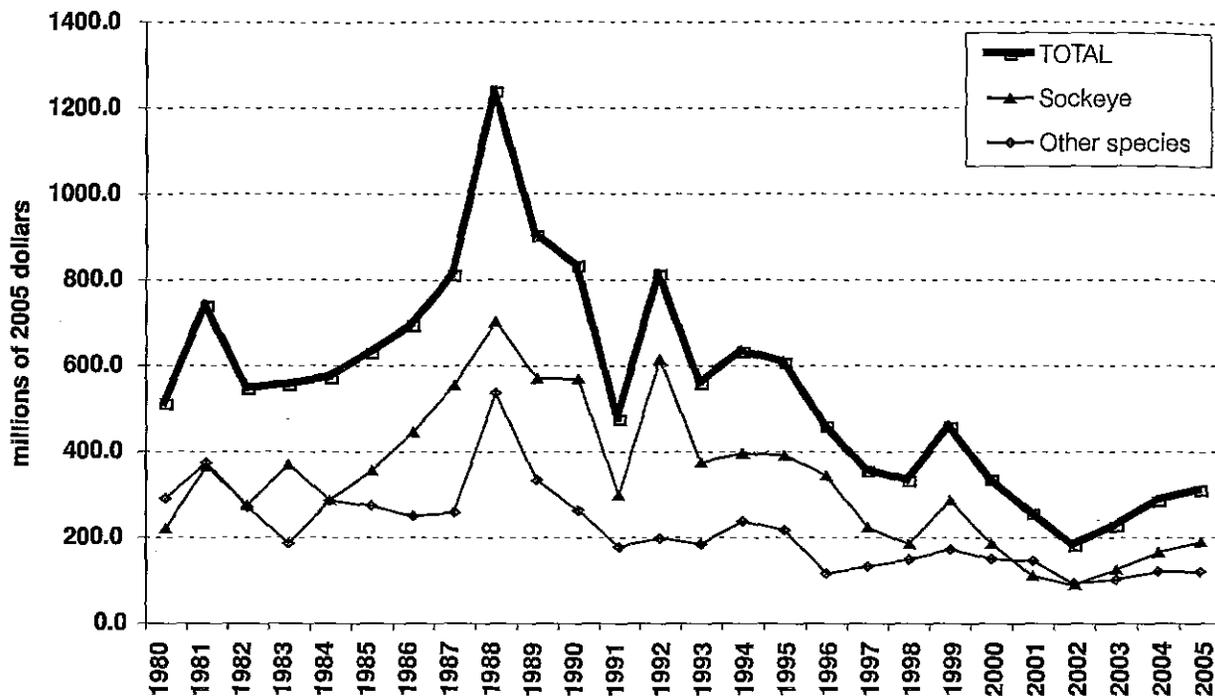
My mother-in-law maintains her own residence about 280 miles from where my wife and I reside. The permit belongs to my mother-in-law. As long as she lives, that permit will remain latent. If she survives beyond my tenure on this board, I will have gained nothing and will have lost the opportunity to participate in much of the work currently before this board.

Conclusion

I feel that I do not have a conflict with any of the supplemental issues before the board at this meeting.

Figure 2

Real Ex-Vessel Value of Alaska Salmon Catches, 1980-2005



Source: CFEC Alaska Salmon Summary Data 1980-2005. Adjusted for inflation based on Anchorage CPI.

The growth of farmed salmon and the decline in the value of wild salmon has given rise to two broad sets of questions:

- How has salmon farming affected wild salmon resources and the wild salmon industry?
- What should be done to protect wild salmon resources and strengthen the wild salmon industry?

Inherent within these questions are numerous, wide-ranging and complex issues. These issues are often oversimplified and misunderstood, leading to ill-conceived policy recommendations. The primary purpose of this report is to inform people who care about these issues—particularly policymakers, the environmental community, and the fishing industry—about the wild and farmed salmon industries and the economic relationships between them, to provide a sound basis for achieving environmental and economic goals.

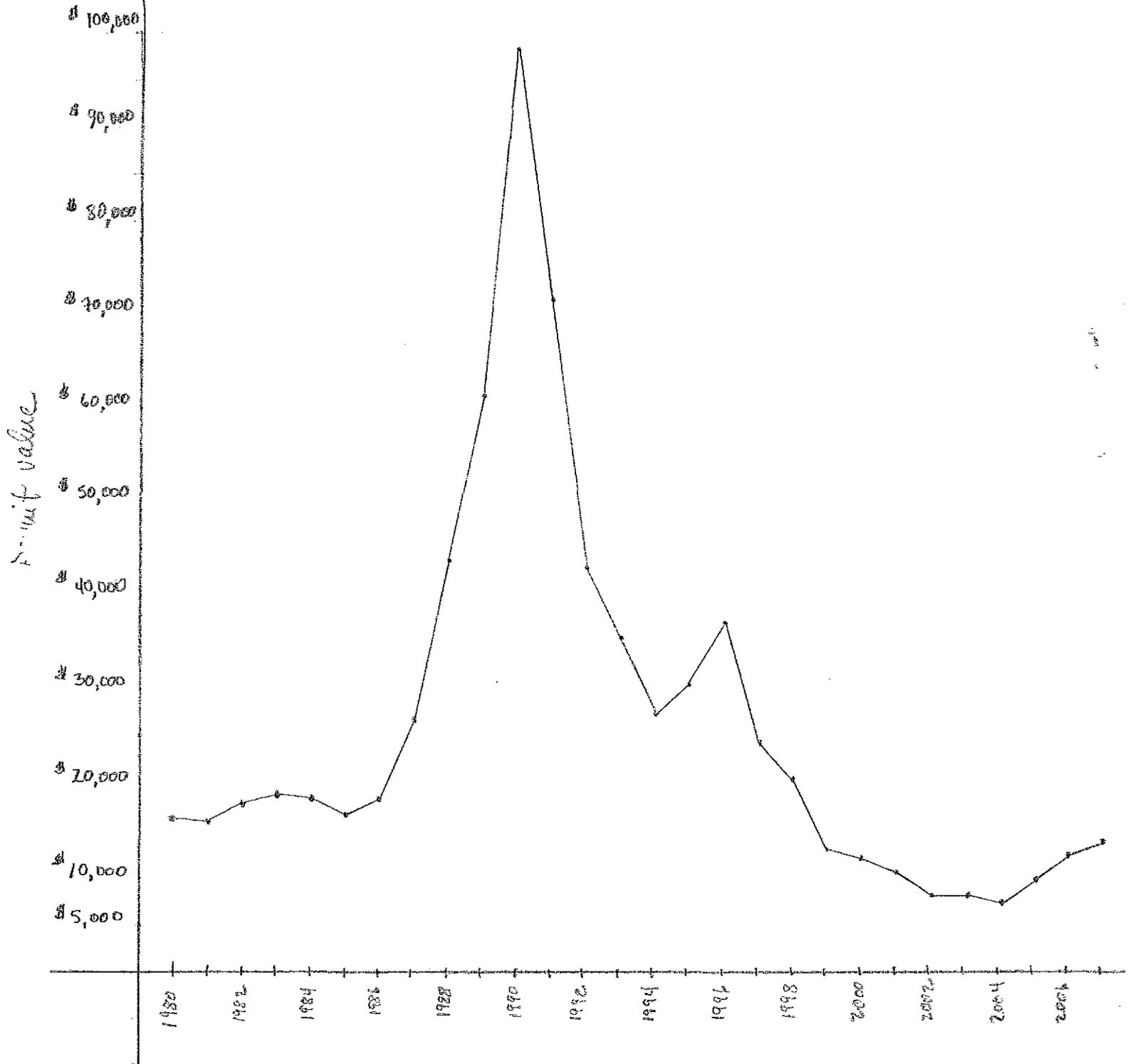
Readers seeking simple answers about salmon issues will be disappointed. Nothing is simple about salmon, salmon fisheries or salmon markets. An understanding of salmon biology, fisheries management, hatcheries and aquaculture is fundamental to understanding relationships between wild and farmed salmon. An understanding of salmon products, markets, consumers and the distribution chain is fundamental to understanding how and why prices have changed.

This report consists of twenty chapters. The table below summarizes major questions addressed by each

The remainder of this executive summary reviews selected major conclusions of the report. Readers are strongly encouraged to refer to the full report for the detailed analyses on which these conclusions are based.

(www.cfec.state.ak.us/purvalue/x-504h.kfm)

Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission Estimated Permit Value Report Salmon, Set Gillnet, Cook Inlet



1980: 16,254	84: 17,881	88: 43,766	92: 43,000	96: 37,100	00: 12,200	04: 7,600
81: 16,058	85: 16,312	89: 61,511	93: 35,200	97: 24,700	01: 10,600	05: 10,000
82: 17,200	86: 18,191	90: 98,514	94: 28,400	98: 20,600	02: 8,000	06: 12,500
83: 18,340	87: 26,837	91: 41,900	95: 30,300	99: 13,200	03: 8,600	07: 14,111

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**March 16, 2009 Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, and Miscellaneous
Shellfish Board of Fisheries Meeting**

**Backup Material for Proposal 44A
From the December 2008 PWS Board of Fisheries Meeting**

**5 AAC 31.260 Prince William Sound Pot Shrimp Fishery
Management Plan.**

Document Listing:

Document	Page	Author	Description
RC 107	1	Gordon Scott	Determination of pot limit
RC 108	2	Gordon Scott	Determination of guideline harvest level
RC 118	4	ADF&G	Draft PWS pot shrimp mgmt. plan, as amended at the 2008 PWS BOF meeting, with maps
Backup Material (Dec BOF)	10	ADF&G	Committee deliberation materials for 2008 PWS BOF shellfish proposals
December Shrimp Powerpoint Presentation (RC4, Tab6)	14	ADF&G	Powerpoint presentation to the BOF at the PWS December 2008 meeting in Cordova

Gordon Scott, Box 847, Girdwood AK 99587
To the Board of Fisheries

December 6, 2008

Re: Commercial Spot Shrimp Management Plan

Determination of Pot Limit and other items in 5 AAC 31.224 (e) for the PWS Spot Shrimp Commercial Fishery

Proposed Language:

The maximum number of shrimp pots that may be operated in 2009 from a vessel is 100. In future years this pot limit will be raised and lowered each year in a direct proportion to the ratio of the future GHL divided by the 2009 GHL

(There should be no other language about the department being able to alter the pot limit.)

Background:

There are concerns about the economic viability of the fishery. The ability for a fisherman to make ends meet financially is directly related to the amount of gear he is allowed to use. In public comments, I and others expressed concern that a fisherman may need 150 or 200 pots to make this fishery profitable. There are other elements which interplay in this equation, many of which can not be controlled, so one may not be able to draw an exact line as to how many pots it would take to be profitable.

One of the controllable other factors which affects economic viability is the restriction to fishing for 8 hours per day.

Justification:

The Catch per Unit Effort is an unknown in this fishery, and will change through time. Regulations need to be put into effect which can ensure an economically viable fishery now and in the future.

The Department should not be able to change the pot limit. They have many other regulatory tools to manage the fishery.

Conclusion:

I support a pot limit of 100 pots, as potentially being marginally economically viable. To ensure such viability, please consider making it closer to 150 pots.

If the resource gets stronger, then there is a mechanism to allow the fishery to become more economically viable.

I accept the biological concerns expressed about catching more of the "too small" shrimp by increasing hours, and will accept 8 hours per day with increased pot limits.

Gordon Scott, Box 847, Girdwood AK 99587
To the Board of Fisheries

December 6, 2008

Re: Commercial Spot Shrimp Management Plan

Determination of Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) for the PWS Spot Shrimp Commercial Fishery

Proposed Language:

The guideline harvest for shrimp harvested by pot gear will be calculated as 93% of the remainder of the Harvestable Surplus after reduction by the high end of the C&T determination for subsistence.

Or

GHL = 93% of (Harvestable Surplus minus the High end of the Customary and Traditional (C&T) Use Range)

(Harvestable Surplus is equivalent to Surplus Production (SP))

Background:

ADFG determined current Surplus Production (SP) for Spot Shrimp = 96,500 pounds
(from RC 4 – Tab 6: p.7)

C&T range is 9,000 to 15,000 pounds for subsistence. Determined in 2000 by BOF.
(from RC 54: p. 12)

Justification:

The commercial fishery in the 1980's was a very large percent of the total catch at the time, averaging 206,263 pounds per year from 1980 – 1988 (RC 4 – Tab 6: p.1). Non commercial fisheries existed at the time (RC54, p. 12), with no available catch data, and no user proportion data, so an exact percent can not be calculated. Non commercial fisheries comprised mainly local Whittier residents who occasionally caught some shrimp, and recreational boaters catching a few shrimp for dinner or to take home. If the high end of the C&T range was the actual catch during that period, the non-commercial share would have been 6.8% of the entire catch for that period. It is probably more likely that the non-commercial catches were closer to the mid-range of the C&T, which would have represented 4.2% of the entire catch. The stock of spot shrimp was considered to be quite healthy at the time, with the GHR being increased twice: Mid-lines of the range set to 115,000 pounds in 1982, and to 175,000 pounds in 1985.

The oilspill early in 1989 interrupted the season, and for various reasons (some unknown) the fishery collapsed at that time. Limited commercial openings in 1990 and 1991 showed how depressed the stock was, and the commercial fishery has been closed since that time.

RC 108

From RC 54, page 5, slide 10, the actual non-commercial catch from 1994 through 2000 was in the 4,000 – 6,000 pound range. These poundage totals included subsistence, personal use, and sport fisheries. During that time, per person and per vessel limits were more liberal for subsistence than those for sport and personal use. Therefore, it is highly likely that the majority of that 4,000 – 6,000 pound range was caught under the subsistence umbrella.

From 2001 through 2005, a permit was required for all of the three non-commercial categories, and the pot and vessel limits were equal for either of the uses. The Department has theorized in Committee that users who returned the permits more or less randomly checked which of the 3 categories they were fishing under, and that to break the poundage up by category would most likely not be reflective of the fishermen's intentions. Therefore it would be improper to say that the subsistence use was a dominant or otherwise component of those catch years.

From 2001 through the present the subsistence use may have remained the same as before or increased slightly, as evidenced by the fairly level catches (of which subsistence probably made up the majority) from 1994 through 2000. The increased catches after that time are largely sport and personal use.

Conclusion:

A healthy commercial fishery used to co-exist with a healthy and adequate non-commercial fishery. At that time, the best information available says that they co-existed with a ratio of utilization of approximately 93% to 96% commercial and 4% to 7% non-commercial. The commercial fishery was closed "until the stock recovers and the board has approved a management plan..." (5 AAC 31.260)

While the stock was depressed and rebuilding, the non-commercial fisheries have enjoyed 100% of the utilization of the resource. The non-commercial fisheries have been booming, and there has not been anywhere near full exploitation of the resource.

The currently proposed management plan offers commercially closed productive waters near ports and villages. And there are no locations that are closed to non-commercial fishers. the utilization of the resource should be returned to it's historical proportions. A C&T determination has been made for subsistence use that is considerably higher than documented subsistence landings for the history of this fishery to the present time.

By allocating the C&T number off the top of the Harvestable Surplus to subsistence, the remainder of the harvestable surplus should be allocated 100% to the commercial fleet. To account for possible claims of uncertainties as to whom exactly are subsistence users and who are sport and personal users, 7% of that remainder (after C&T deduction) should go towards non-commercial fishers. There is ample opportunity and space for the non-commercial users to catch their shrimp. This leaves 93% of the remainder for commercial utilization, and nearly a quarter of the total allowable catch for non-commercial fishers.

Proposal 44 (as amended during the
December 2008 BOF meeting)

RC118

PAGE 1

DRAFT PWS COMMERCIAL POT SHRIMP MANAGEMENT PLAN

5 AAC 31.260. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND POT SHRIMP FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN. (a) The Prince William Sound pot shrimp fishery expanded dramatically during 1979 – 1987, declined during 1988-1991 and ultimately remained closed from 1992-2008. Two species of shrimp are harvested in this fishery; spot shrimp *Pandalus platyceros* and coonstripe shrimp *Pandalus hypsinotus*. Spot shrimp historically comprised greater than 95 percent of the harvest. Therefore, it is necessary to base management of this fishery on spot shrimp.

(b) The Alaska Board of Fisheries recognizes the need for conservative management of shrimp fisheries in the established fishing area of western Prince William Sound. Management of the fisheries in this area are described in 5 AAC 31.200 – 260

5 AAC 31.206. AREA E REGISTRATION (is amended to read)

- a) Registration Area E is a nonexclusive registration area for vessels fishing for shrimp with trawl gear.
- c) Registration Area E is a superexclusive registration area for vessels fishing for shrimp with pot gear.
- d) A vessel participating in the Area E shrimp pot fishery must obtain an area registration by close of business April 1.

5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E.

a) Shrimp may be taken in those waters of the Inside District west of a line from Middle Point at 60° 20.00' N. lat., 147° 00.00' W. long. north to a point at 60° 40.00' N. lat., 147° 00.00' W. long., then northeast to the Coast Guard marker light on Goose Island to Knowles Head from April 15 to September 15 unless closed by emergency order. Fishing within this area will be rotated on an annual basis between the following areas:

- (1) waters north of 60° 40.00' N. lat. and east of 148° 00.00' W. long.
- (2) waters south of those described in (1) above and north of 60° 25.00' N. lat.
- (3) waters south of 60° 25.00' N. lat.

b) In all other waters of Registration Area E, shrimp may be harvested only under the terms of a commissioner's permit. The permit may restrict gear, fishing areas, and fishing periods and allowable harvest and other conditions the commissioner determines necessary for the conservation and management of the resource.

5 AAC 31.215. Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area E.

a) The guideline harvest for shrimp harvested from the area described in 5 AAC 31.210 (a), by pot gear will be calculated as ~~xx%~~ of the total allowable harvest for the area.

5 AAC 31.224. Lawful shrimp ~~pot gear~~ for Registration Area E.

- a) Shrimp may be taken with pots in Registration Area E only as specified in this section.
- (b) A shrimp pot may not have
 - (1) more than one bottom
 - (2) a vertical height of more than 24 inches;

(3) more than four tunnel eye openings, which individually do not exceed 15 inches in perimeter

(4) a bottom perimeter exceeding 124 inches

(c) The sides of a shrimp pot may only be

(1) at a right angle to the plane of the bottom of the pot; or

(2) slanted inward toward the center of the pot in a straight line from the bottom of the pot to the top of the pot.

(d) A shrimp pot must be entirely covered with net webbing or rigid mesh. At least two adjacent sides or 50 percent of the vertical or near-vertical sides must be covered with net webbing or rigid mesh that allows the passage of a seven-eighths inch diameter by 12 inch long wooden dowel, which upon insertion into the web, must drop completely through by its own weight, without force.

(e) Shrimp pots may be operated only as follows

(1) the maximum number of shrimp pots that may be operated from a vessel is 50.

(2) the department will announce annually, prior to the start of the commercial fishery, the number of pots per vessel that may be operated in the commercial fishery for that season. In determining the annual pot limit the department will consider the total number of registered vessels, estimated catch per unit of effort, and the magnitude of the GHF.

(3) a vessel operator may have only shrimp pot gear owned by that person on board the vessel at any time.

(4) shrimp pot gear may be deployed or retrieved only from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. each day ; the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the fishing season in a district or a portion of a district and immediately reopen the season during which the time period allowed to deploy and retrieve shrimp pot gear may be increased or decreased to achieve the guideline harvest level.

(5) all shrimp pots left in saltwater unattended longer than a two-week period must have all bait containers removed and all doors secured fully open.

(f) A registered shrimp vessel may not have, at any time in the aggregate, more than the legal limit of pot gear on board the vessel, in the waters in fishing condition, and in the water in non-fishing condition.

5 AAC 31.226. Shrimp pot marking requirements for Registration Area E. (a) if required by the department, in addition to the requirements of 5 AAC 31.051, each shrimp pot must have one identification tag issued by the department attached to the pot. If required by the department under this section, identification tags will be issued before the fishing season, uniquely numbered for that registration year, and issued at the time of vessel registration for that vessel only. The vessel owner, or the owner's agent, shall apply for identification tags at a department office designated to issue tags. Replacement of tags lost during the season is permitted if the vessel operator submits a sworn statement or affidavit describing how the tags were lost and listing the numbers of the lost tags.

(b) All shrimp pots on board a registered shrimp vessel must be marked as specified in (a) of this section.

(c) Shrimp pots deployed on a longline, consisting of more than five pots, must have at least one buoy attached to each end of the longline. The buoys must be properly marked as specified in 5 AAC 31.051 and the pots must be marked as required in (a) of this section.

5 AAC 31.235. Closed waters in Registration Area E.

(see maps at back – board would have to decide intent for individual closures and ADF&G would provide location information)

5 AAC 31.240. Registration Area E shrimp vessel inspection and inspection points is amended to read:

(b) Unless required under (c) of this section, a vessel fishing for shrimp in Registration Area E is not required to undergo an inspection, as specified in 5 AAC 31.030

(c) The commissioner, by announcement, may require that vessels fishing for shrimp in Registration Area E be inspected as specified in 5 AAC 31.030.

(d) If the commissioner requires a vessel inspection under (c) of this section, the inspection points for Registration Area E are described in (a) of this section.

5 AAC 31.243 Reporting requirements for Registration Area E.

(a) An operator of a vessel participating in the Prince William Sound shrimp pot fishery shall obtain and complete a logbook provided by the department. The vessel operator must have the logbook on board the vessel at all times and must submit to the department, each logbook page that corresponds with each ADF&G fish ticket.

(b) The owner or operator of a catcher-seller vessel registered to take shrimp in Registration Area E shall complete a fish ticket indicating the weight of the shrimp on board by species before any shrimp are removed from the vessel.

(c) Prior to landing shrimp, the owner or operator of a catcher-seller vessel registered to take shrimp in Registration Area E shall contact the Cordova office at a telephone number specified by the department at the time of registration and provide:

(A) the permit holder's name;

(B) the name and ADF&G number of the registered vessel;

(C) the following information for each ADF&G fish ticket that pertains to that trip;

(i) the preprinted fish ticket number;

(ii) the date of landing;

(iii) the statistical areas fished;

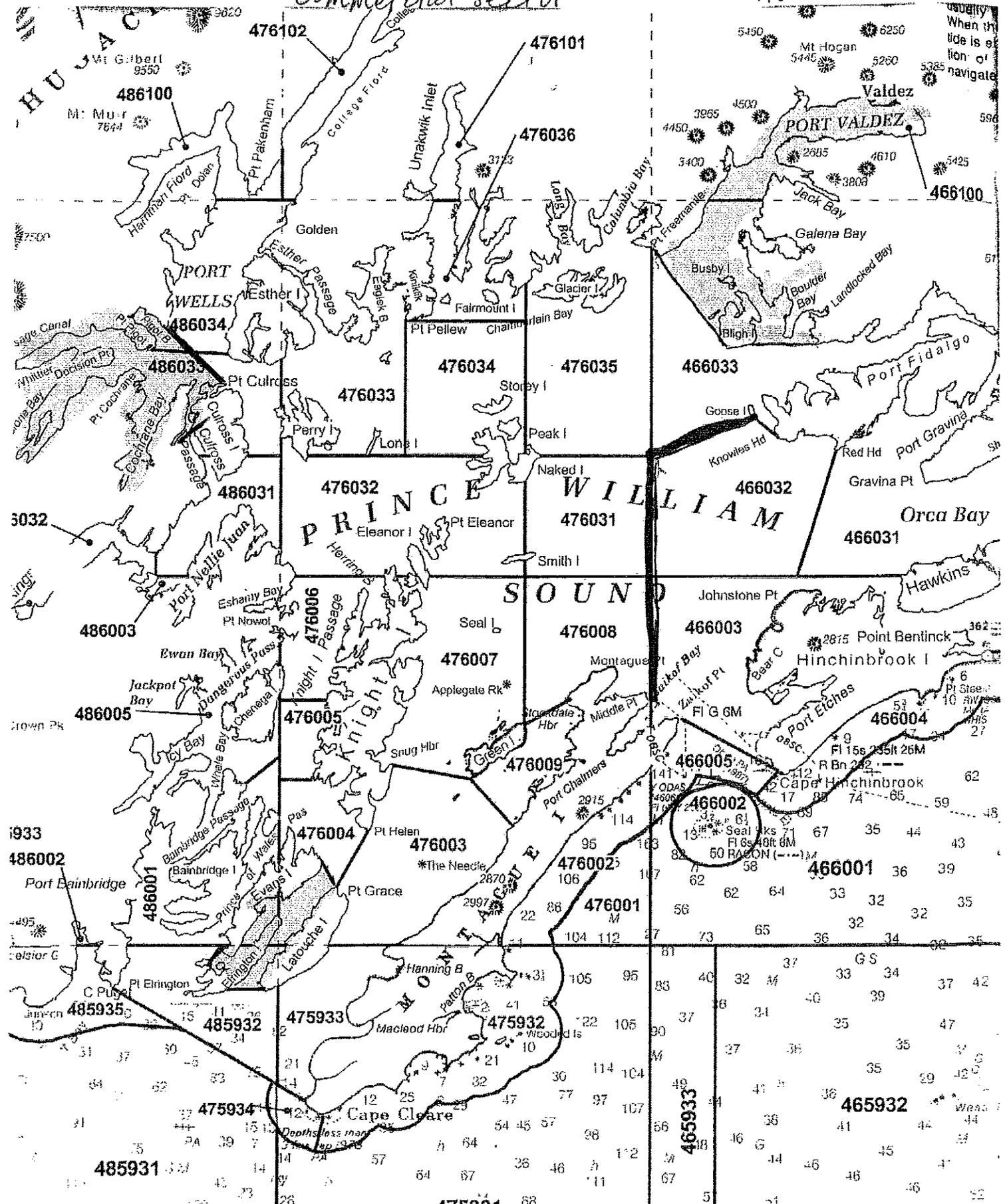
(iv) the number of pot lifts for each statistical area;

(v) the round weight of all shrimp taken by species and statistical area.

Detail of Prince William Sound statistical chart.

Commercial sector

RC118 PAGE 5



Committee/deliberation materials for 2008 PWS BOF shellfish proposals

POT SHRIMP FISHERY:

- Proposal 44 – PWS pot shrimp management plan.
- Proposal 45 – Shrimp pot fishing seasons for PWS.
- Proposal 46 – Establish a commercial fishery in PWS.
- Proposal 48 – Establish GHIL comparable to that in mid 1980's.
- Proposal 49 – Establish exclusive vessel registration for commercial and sport spot shrimp fishery.

CURRENT POT SHRIMP FISHERY REGULATION and MANAGEMENT

- 5 AAC 31.210 No open commercial season in the PWS Area.
- 5 AAC 02.10, 5 AAC 55.022 and 5 AAC 77.555: Subsistence shrimp season. Sport fish season, Personal use shrimp fishery.
 - April 15 through September 15.
 - No more than five pots per person, with no more than five pots per vessel.
 - Pot specifications, mesh size to allow passage of 7/8" wooden peg.
- 5 AAC 31.053 Operation of other pot gear. A person may not participate in a commercial shrimp fishery if he or she:
 - Operated commercial, sport, personal use or subsistence shrimp gear during 14 days prior to the opening of a commercial fishery with the registration area.
 - Operated a vessel or vessel operated by another person in commercial, sport, personal use or subsistence shrimp gear during 14 days prior to the opening of a commercial fishery with the registration area.
 - Operated gear or vessel 14 days following the closure of a fishery unless gear is placed in storage and vessel registration cancelled.
- Commercial Harvest history:
 - Fishery occurred at low levels 1970 – 1978, average harvest 11,188 lb.
 - Between 1978 – 1986 rapid expansion in the fishery.
 - Number of vessels increased from 17 to 80 = 370% change.
 - Number of landings increased from 98 to 540 = 541% change.
 - Harvest peaked 1986 at 290,632 lb.
 - 1987 number of vessels peaked at 86.
 - 1991 harvest of 17,540 lb by 15 vessels in 45 landings, season closed by E.O.
 - Commercial fishery closed since 1992.
- Non commercial fishery:
 - Open year round through 1999: Pot/Vessel Limits; Sport & PU - 5/10; Subsistence – 10/20.
 - 2000 BOF established a season of April 15 – September 15 to avoid the egg bearing period. Pot/Vessel Limits; all fisheries – 5/5. Permit required 2001 – 2005 only.
 - No bag or possession limit.
 - Customary and traditional use determination 9,000 - 15,000 lb for subsistence.

- Department assessment survey:
 - Declined from 0.85 lb/pot in 1989 to 0.29 lb/pot in 1998.
 - Increased from 0.48 lb/pot in 1999 to 2.58 lb/pot in 2008.
 - Department survey gear designed to capture all size and age classes.
 - Market size shrimp ≥ 32 mm carapace length (= large male, transitionals and female).
 - Catch of marketable shrimp increased from 0.187 lb/pot in 1999 to 1.023 lb/pot in 2007.

DISCUSSION:

- Proposal 44 – PWS pot shrimp management plan.

The department submitted and supports this proposal

- Pre-fishery registration deadline.
 - Season March 1 – April 15.
 - GHR – total available harvest for all fisheries is 96,500 lb.
 - Minimize user conflicts.
 - Rotate harvest.
 - Define standard pot gear to allow comparison of catch rates over time.
 - Maximum 50 pots/vessel. Annual pot limits based upon number of registrants and GHL (DOL: Can this be adjusted by E.O.?).
 - Standardize fishing time 08:00 – 16:00.
 - Provisions for gear storage and to enforce gear limits.
 - Buoy requirement on each end of set.
- Proposal 45 – Shrimp pot fishing seasons for PWS.
 - Provides some structural elements, seasons (4/1 – 5/12 and 9/4 – 12/5), GHL, exclusive area registration, exclusive sport fish zones.
 - Proposed season dates not exclusive of egg bearing period or noncommercial season.
 - Proposed is GHL not specific and not reflective of stock status.

The department opposes this proposal

- Department opposed to extending season into egg bearing period.
- Department supports concepts of controlling effort and reducing user conflicts.

- Proposal 46 – Establish a commercial shrimp fishery in PWS.
 - Proposal provides no structural elements to prosecute a fishery.

The department opposes this proposal

- Proposal 48 – Establish GHL comparable to that in mid 1980's.
 - Department favors a GHL based upon current stock assessment data.

The department opposes this proposal.

- Proposal 49 – Establish exclusive vessel registration for commercial and sport spot shrimp fishery.
 - Regulation 5 AAC 31.053 has some temporal restrictions regarding the use of vessels in both commercial and noncommercial fisheries.

Department is neutral to any allocative aspects of this proposal.

 - Department recognizes benefits of temporal separation to avoid gear conflicts and provide for a more orderly fishery.
 - Department encourages the BOF to explore other options to achieve objectives.

SHRIMP TRAWL FISHERY:

- Proposal 47 – Incorporate provisions of commissioner's permit into new regulation.
- Proposal 50 – Redefine boundary between Central and Northwest Sections at 147°30.00' W. long.

CURRENT TRAWL SHRIMP FISHERY REGULATION and MANAGEMENT

- 5 AAC 31.230 Commissioner's permit requirement.
 - No more than 20% by weight of the shrimp in possession may be pink shrimp or other pandalid species.
 - Report the current trip. Shrimp harvest and discard by species and area to be reported to ADF&G in Cordova each Thursday morning during regular business hours and before initiating a new trip.
 - Completed logbooks must be returned to the Cordova ADF&G office with each fish ticket.
 - Accommodate a department observer upon request.
- 5 AAC 31.205 Description of Registration Area E districts and sections.
 - Inside District of PWS divided into Central Section, Wells Section, Northwest Section and Southwest Section.
 - Boundary of Central and Northwest Section at 147°20.00' W. long.

DISCUSSION:

- Proposal 47 – Incorporate provisions of commissioner's permit into regulation.

Department supports this house keeping proposal.

 - Commissioner's permit has provided means to develop management tools that can now be incorporated into formal regulation.
- Proposal 50 – Amend boundary between the Central and Northwest Sections.
 - Redefine boundary between the Central and Northwest Sections from 147° 20.00' W. long to 147° 30.00' W. long.

Department supports this proposal

Moving the boundary between the Central and Northwest Sections will not negatively affect shrimp trawl management or jeopardize the resource.

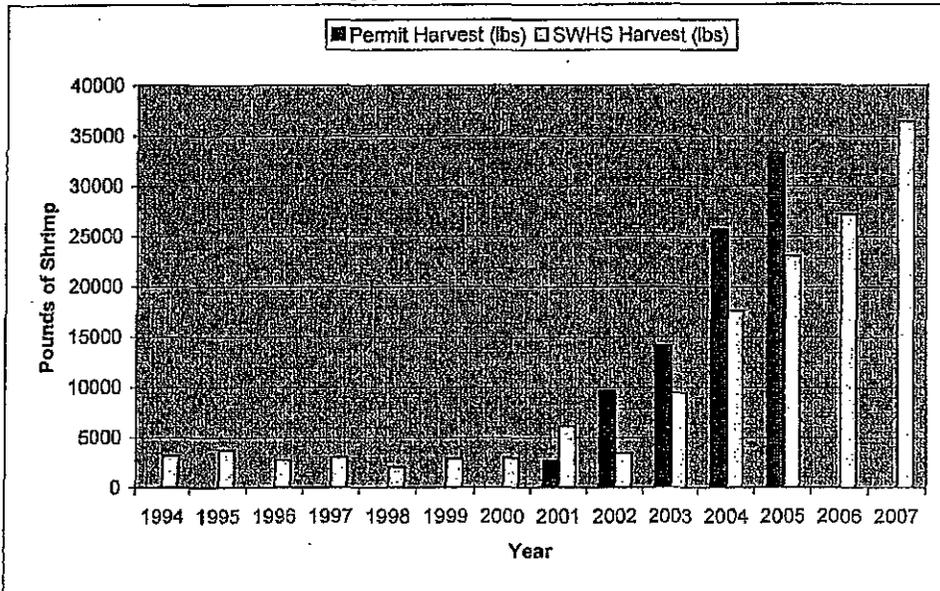
Proposal 56

Proposal 56: Prince William Sound Statewide Harvest Survey and Permit (details) Shrimp Data

PWS Shrimp Permit Summary	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Permits Issued	562	717	1061	1,649	2,112	no permits	
Permits Returned	265	599	968	1363	1,762		
Reported As Did Not Fish	90	214	354	461	560		
Total Estimated Effort (pot-days)	7,112	9,324	23,626	30,847	38,449		
Permit Estimated Harvest (lbs)*	2,731	9,620	14,136	25,702	33,285		
SWHS Estimated Harvest (lbs)*		3,432	9,439	17,609	23,076	27,218	36,418

Year	Permit Harvest (lbs)	SWHS Harvest (lbs)
1994		3,190
1995		3,722
1996		2,758
1997		3,024
1998		2,059
1999		2,882
2000		3,002
2001	2,731	6,115
2002	9,620	3,432
2003	14,136	9,439
2004	25,702	17,609
2005	33,285	23,076
2006		27,218
2007		36,418
10 Yr Ave	20,686	13,125

Reminder letter not sent to shrimp permit holders in 2001, data uncertain.



CENTRAL REGION SHELLFISH & GROUND FISH



Kenneth J. Goldman Ph.D., Charles E. Trowbridge,
Robert Berceci, Mike Byerly, Margaret Spahn and Xinxian Zhang
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

RC 4; Tab 6; December

1

This presentation was given to the Alaska Board of Fisheries in December 2008 by Dr. Kenneth J. Goldman, ADF&G Central Region groundfish/shellfish fishery biologist.

h1

Spot Shrimp Life

Protandrous Hermaphrodites: Individuals spend early mature part of life as a male and later transform into a female for the remainder of its lifetime.

In PWS, longevity from tagging studies ranges from seven to 10 years

Size at transition – Females first appear at ~35 mm carapace length, males may persist into lower 40's.

Fecundity: May have between 2,000 to greater than 4,000 eggs per female

Egg bearing period is winter: Spawning is typically over by the end of October and hatching typically occurs in March to mid-April.

Harvest, estimated price per pound, value and adjusted value in 2008 dollars of Prince William Sound spot shrimp, 1980-1991

Year	Estimated price/lb	Harvest (lb) whole shrimp	Value	CPI ^a	Value in 2008 dollars
1980	\$3.12	84,787	\$264,535	2.20	\$580,740
1981	\$4.00	153,017	\$612,068	2.03	\$1,243,346
1982	\$3.00	205,746	\$617,238	1.93	\$1,189,482
1983	\$3.04	198,719	\$604,106	1.89	\$1,143,051
1984	\$3.75	198,729	\$745,234	1.82	\$1,354,118
1985	\$3.12	271,928	\$848,415	1.77	\$1,505,175
1986	\$3.30	286,105	\$944,147	1.74	\$1,643,936
1987	\$3.27	265,707	\$868,862	1.73	\$1,507,259
1988	\$3.16	191,630	\$605,551	1.73	\$1,046,610
1989	\$3.64	28,884	\$105,138	1.68	\$176,673
1990	\$4.45	36,378	\$161,882	1.58	\$256,200
1991	\$3.24	17,302	\$56,058	1.51	\$84,856

a = Anchorage Consumer Price Index

Note: Fishery harvest data begin in 1960. Between 1960 and 1979, total harvest averaging 10,200 lbs per year (ranged from 749 lbs to 52,000 lbs)

Historical commercial fishery harvest information. Value of the fishery is presented for each year between 1980 and 1991 and in 2008 dollars for comparison.

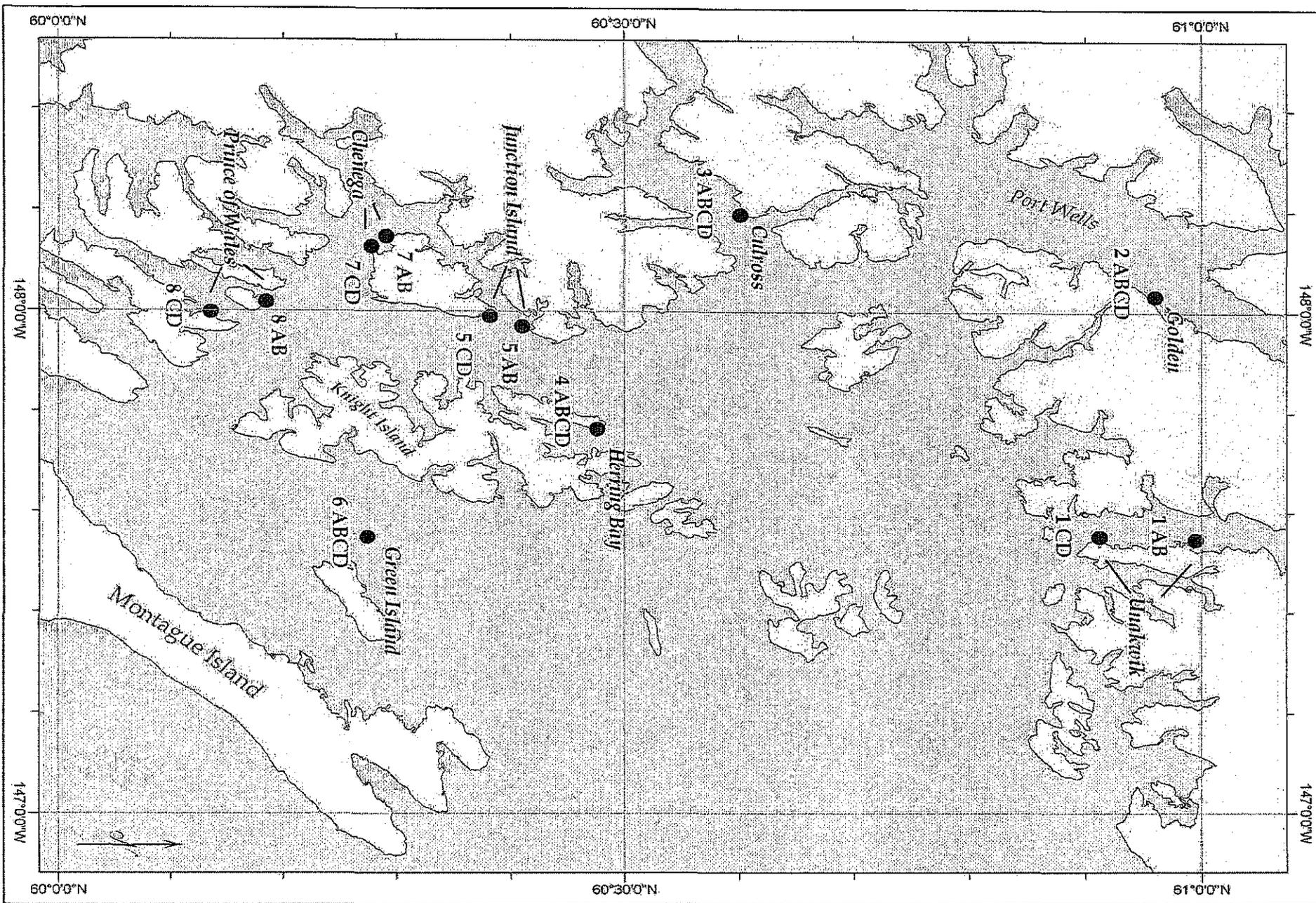
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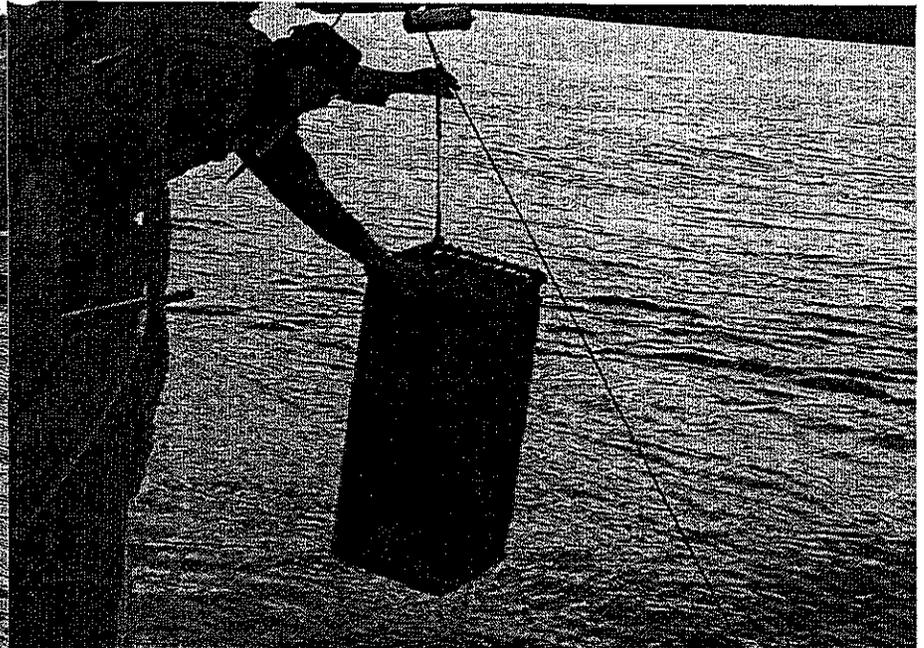
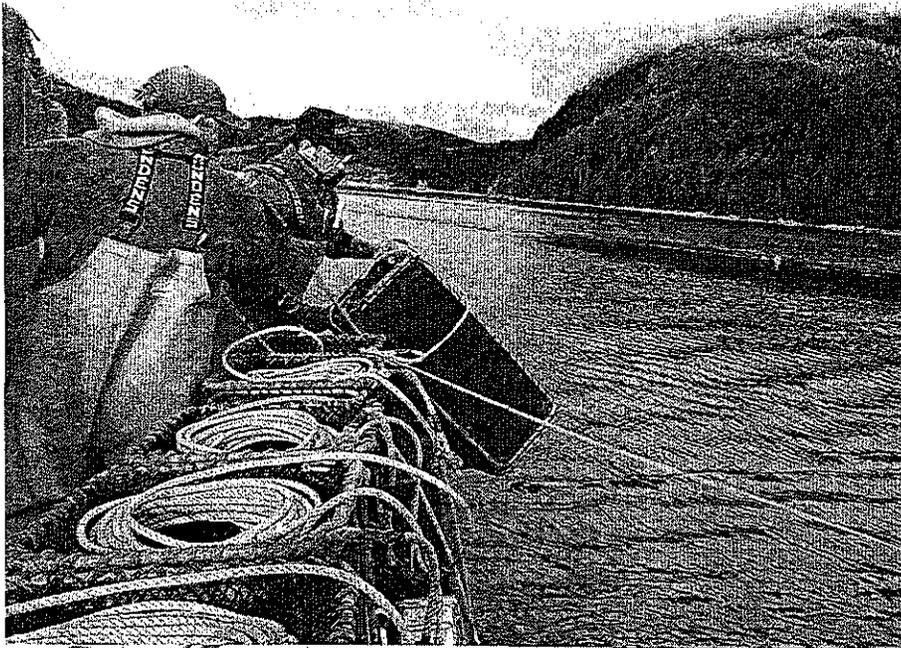
a = Anchorage Consumer Price Index

Currently: 10,000 lbs harvest \approx \$30,000

Historical commercial fishery harvest information. Value of the fishery is presented for each year between 1980 and 1991 and in 2008 dollars for comparison. Slide also indicates current value per 10,000 lbs of harvest.

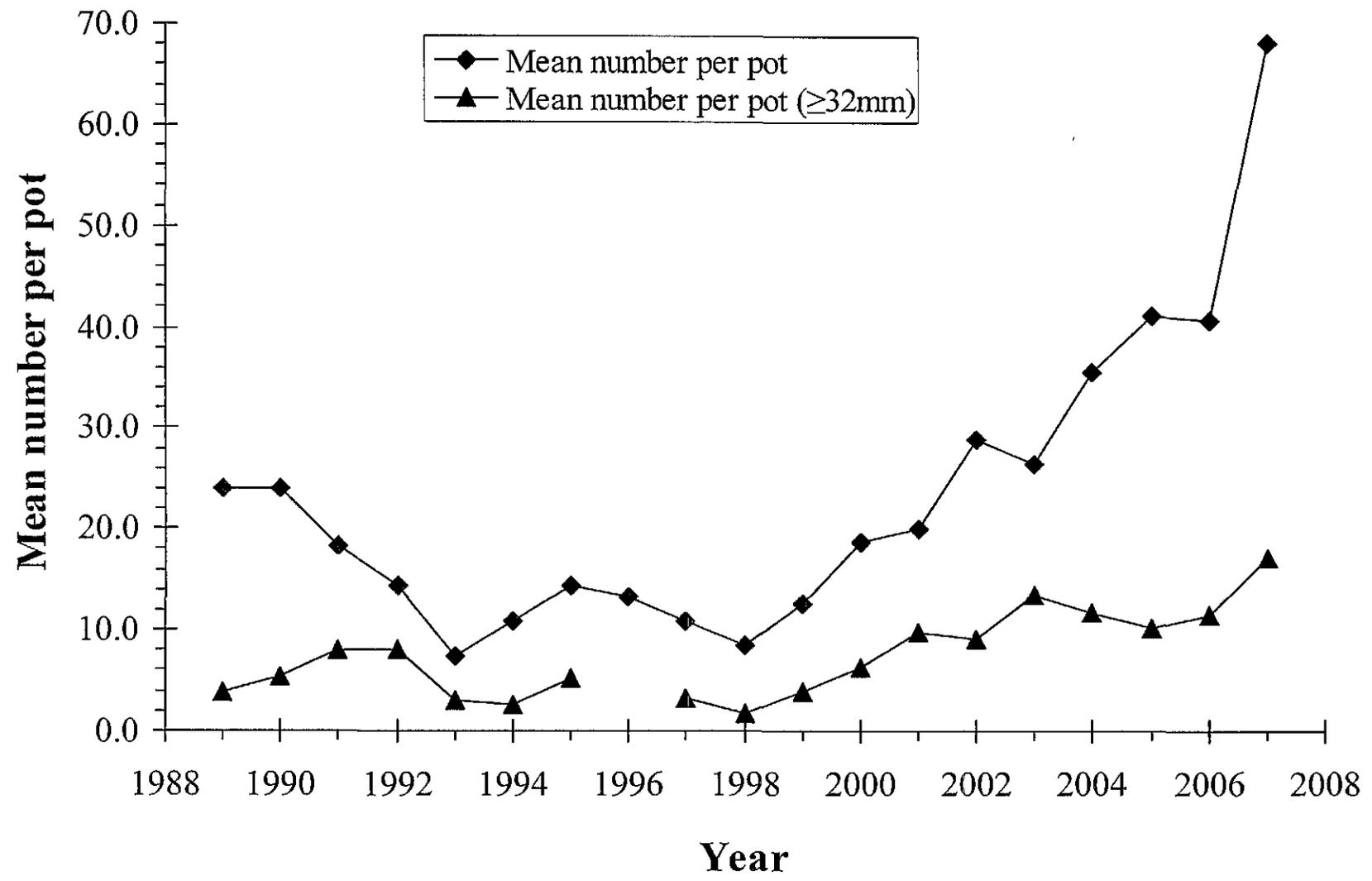


Alaska Department of Fish and Game survey locations for spot shrimp in Prince William Sound. Survey locations are: Site 1- Unakwik Inlet, Site 2 – Golden, Site 3 – Culross, Site 4 – Herring Bay, Site 5 – Junction Island, Site 6 – Green Island, Site 7 – Chenega, Site 8 – Prince of Wales. Four strings of pot gear, each with 11 pots, are set at each of the eight survey locations. Letters (A, B, C and D) indicate the set location of individual pot strings.



Images showing setting, haul-back and catch of shrimp. Small mesh is used in order to capture shrimp of all sizes. Soak times are approximately 24 hours.

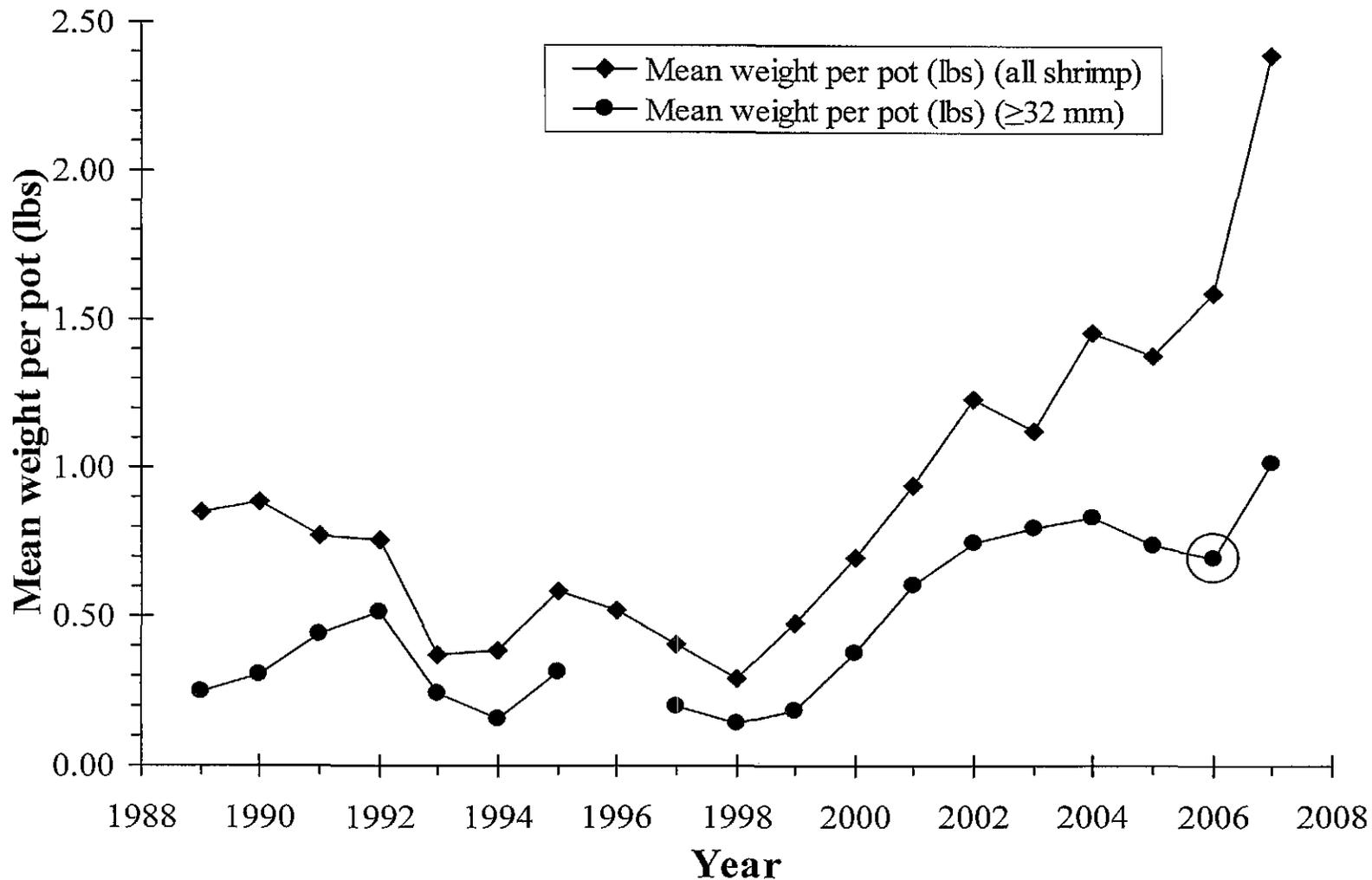
Mean number of spot shrimp per pot and mean number of commercially marketable shrimp per pot (≥ 32 mm carapace length)



Note: Data for spot shrimp ≥ 32 mm not available for 1996.

Mean number of spot shrimp per pot and mean number of commercially marketable shrimp per pot (those equal to or greater than 32mm in carapace length) from the ADF&G survey between 1989 and 2007. Note: Data for spot shrimp 32mm and greater not available for 1996.

Mean weight of spot shrimp per pot and mean weight of commercially marketable shrimp per pot (≥ 32 mm in carapace length)

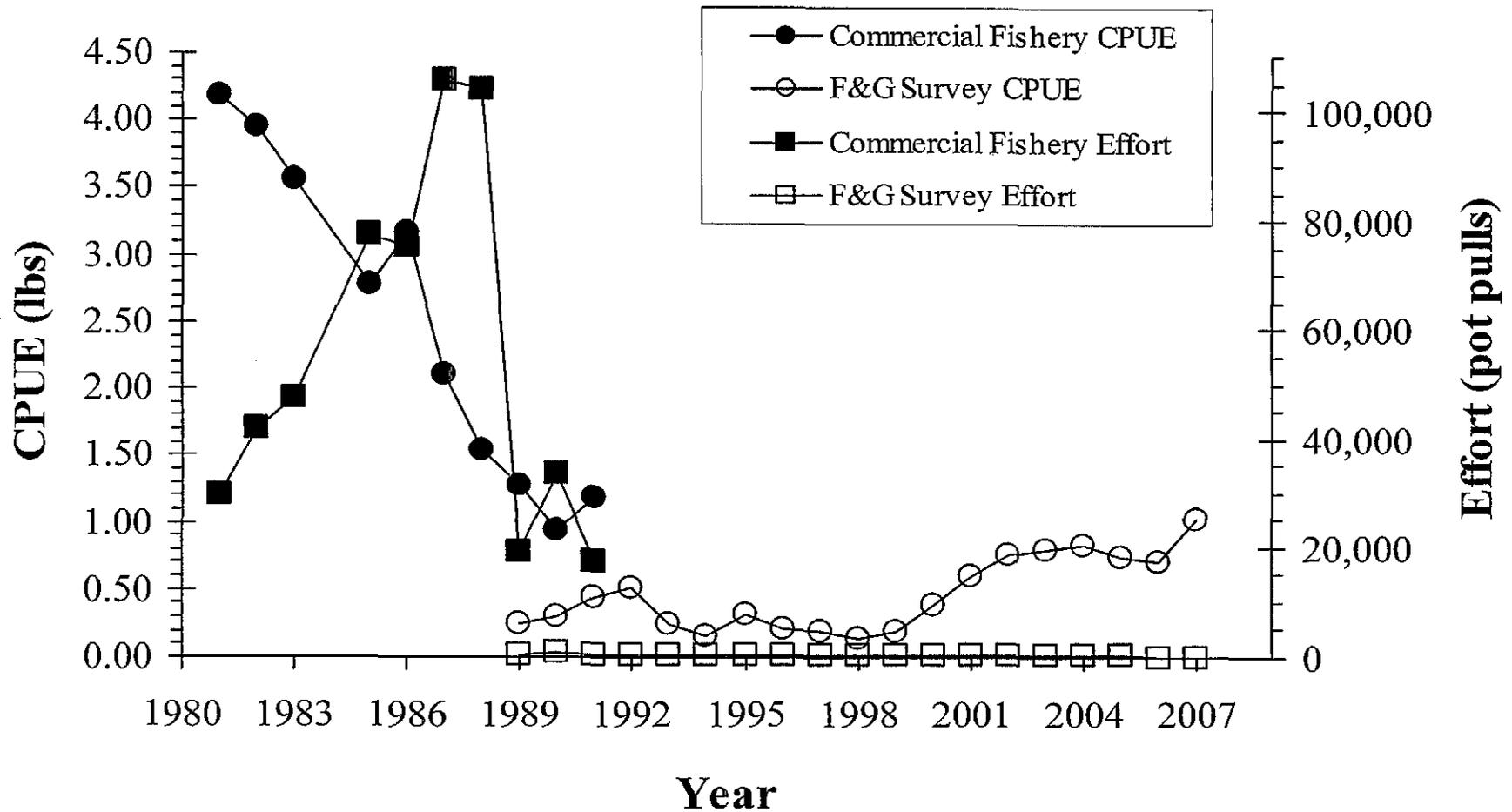


Note: Mean weights (per pot) of shrimp ≥ 32 mm for all years were estimated from the 2006 weight-length data (large open circle). Data for spot shrimp ≥ 32 mm not available for 1996.

Mean weight of spot shrimp per pot and mean weight of commercially marketable shrimp per pot (those equal to or greater than 32mm in carapace length) from the ADF&G survey between 1989 and 2007. Large open circle around 2006 data point for shrimp 32mm indicates empirical data from a length-weight relationship from individuals measured in 2006; data points for all other years for shrimp 32mm and up were estimated from the 2006 weight-length data. Note: Data for spot shrimp 32mm and greater not available for 1996.

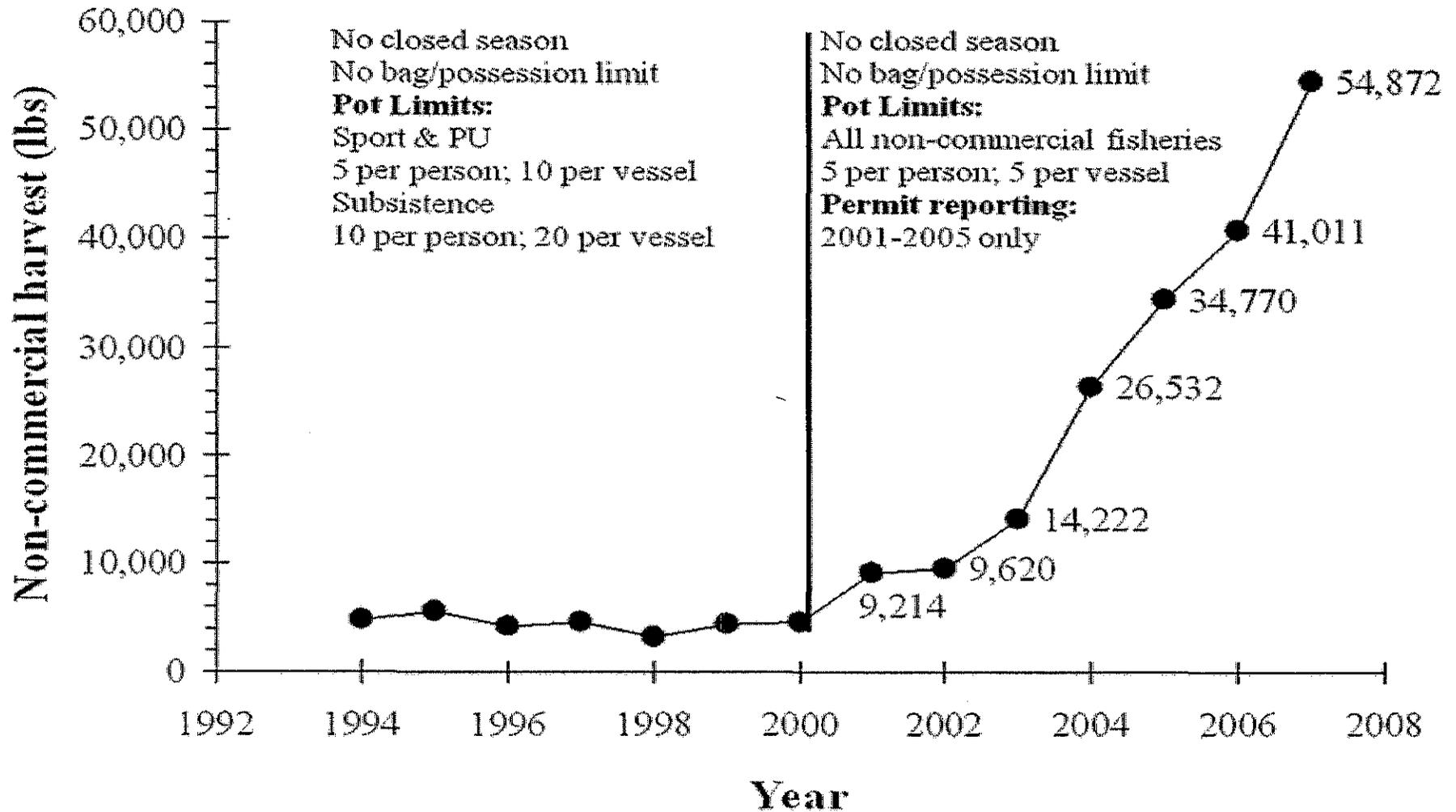
21

Commercial Fishery and Fish and Game Survey Data Showing Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE) and Effort

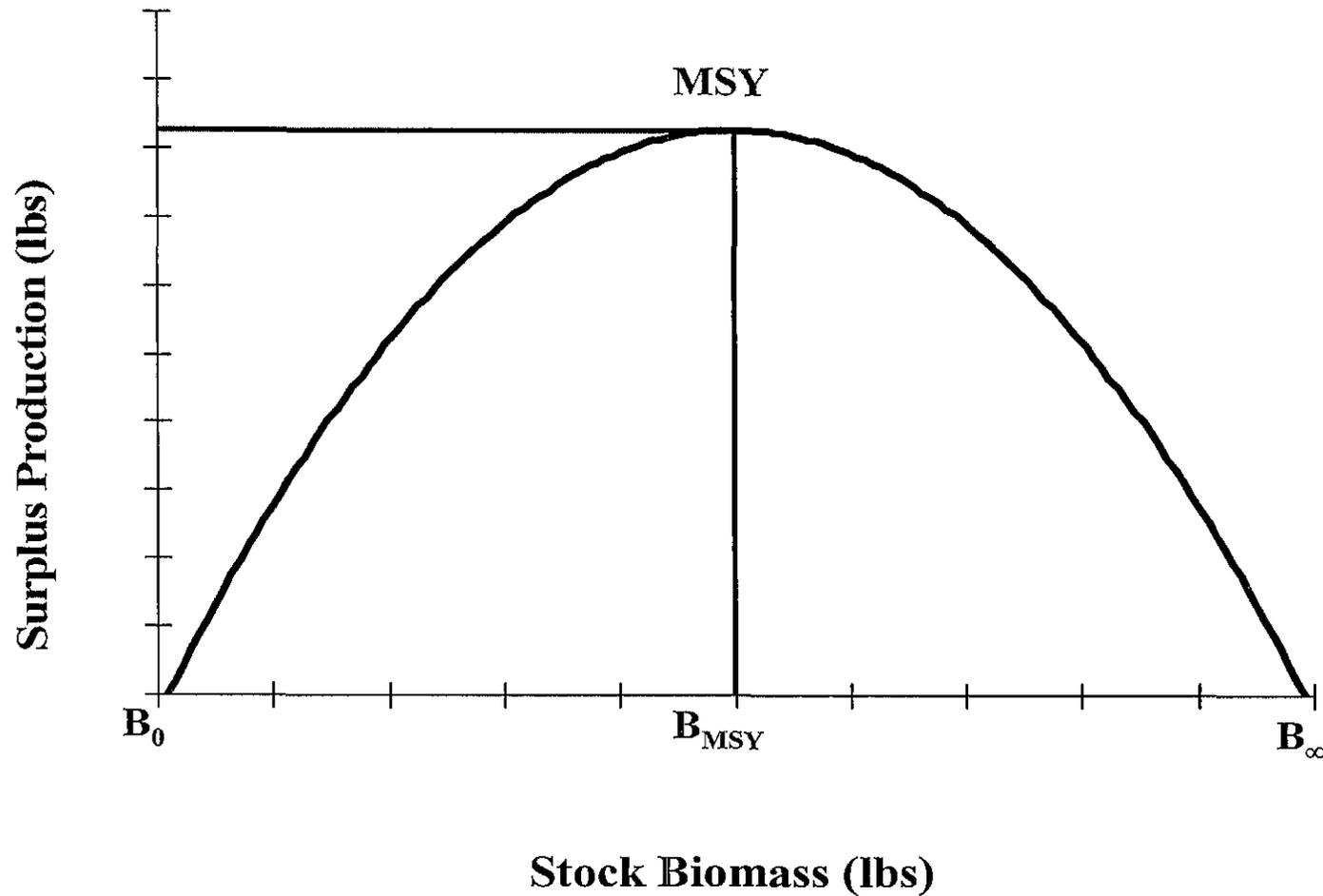


Available CPUE and effort data from the commercial fishery from 1981 through 1991 (filled circles and squares, respectively) and from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game pot survey from 1989 through 2007 (open circles and squares, respectively). Trend shows collapse of fishery and signs of rebound in the survey.

Non-Commercial Fishery Harvest Data

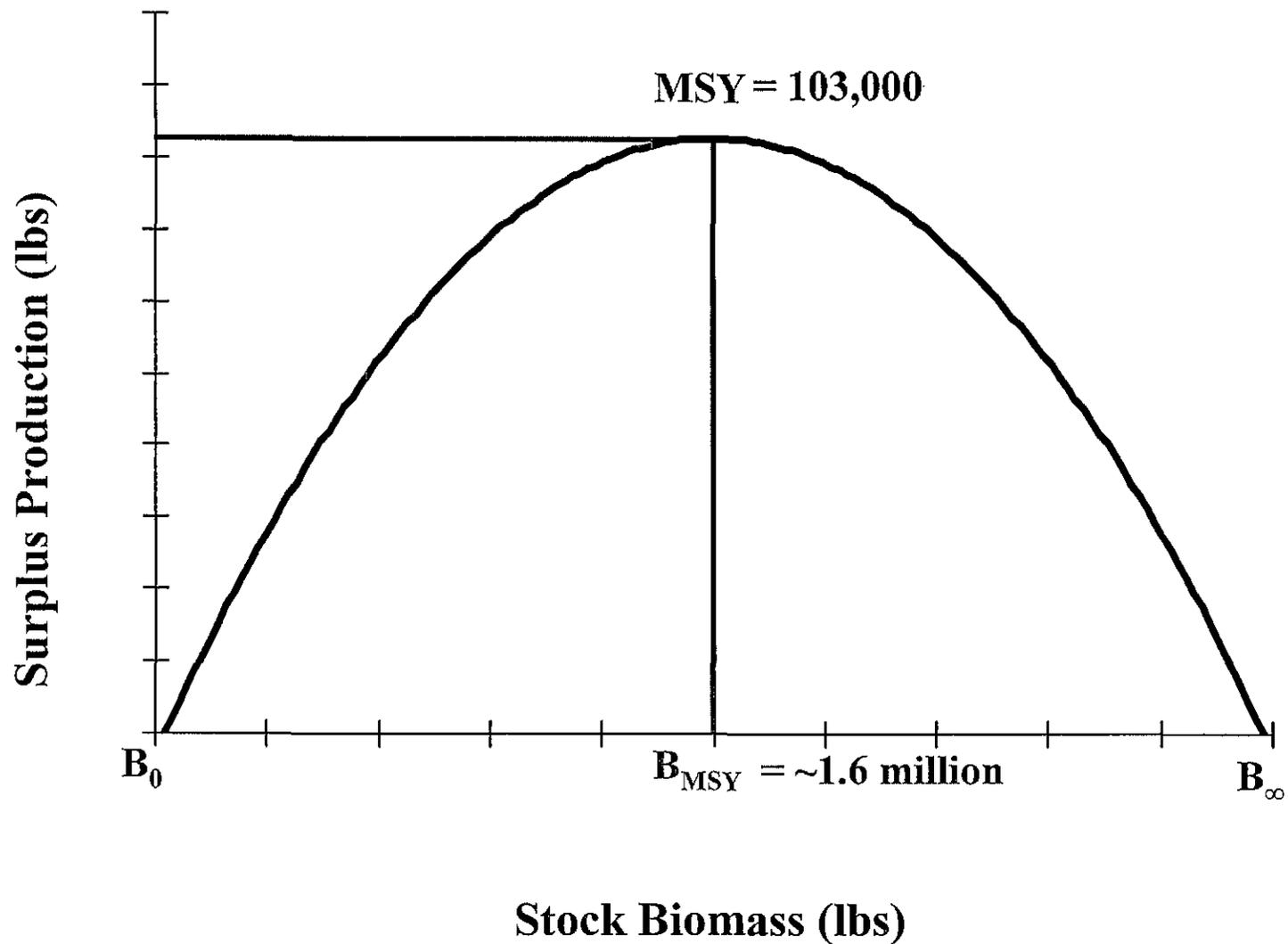


Non-commercial pot shrimp harvest from 1994 through 2007. Values from 1994 through 2001 are estimates from the ADF&G Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS). Values from 2003 through 2005 are estimates from ADF&G permits. Values presented for 2006 and 2007 are based on SWHS estimates adjusted by the average proportional difference between SWHS estimates and the noncommercial harvest estimates from permits issued between 2003 and 2005.



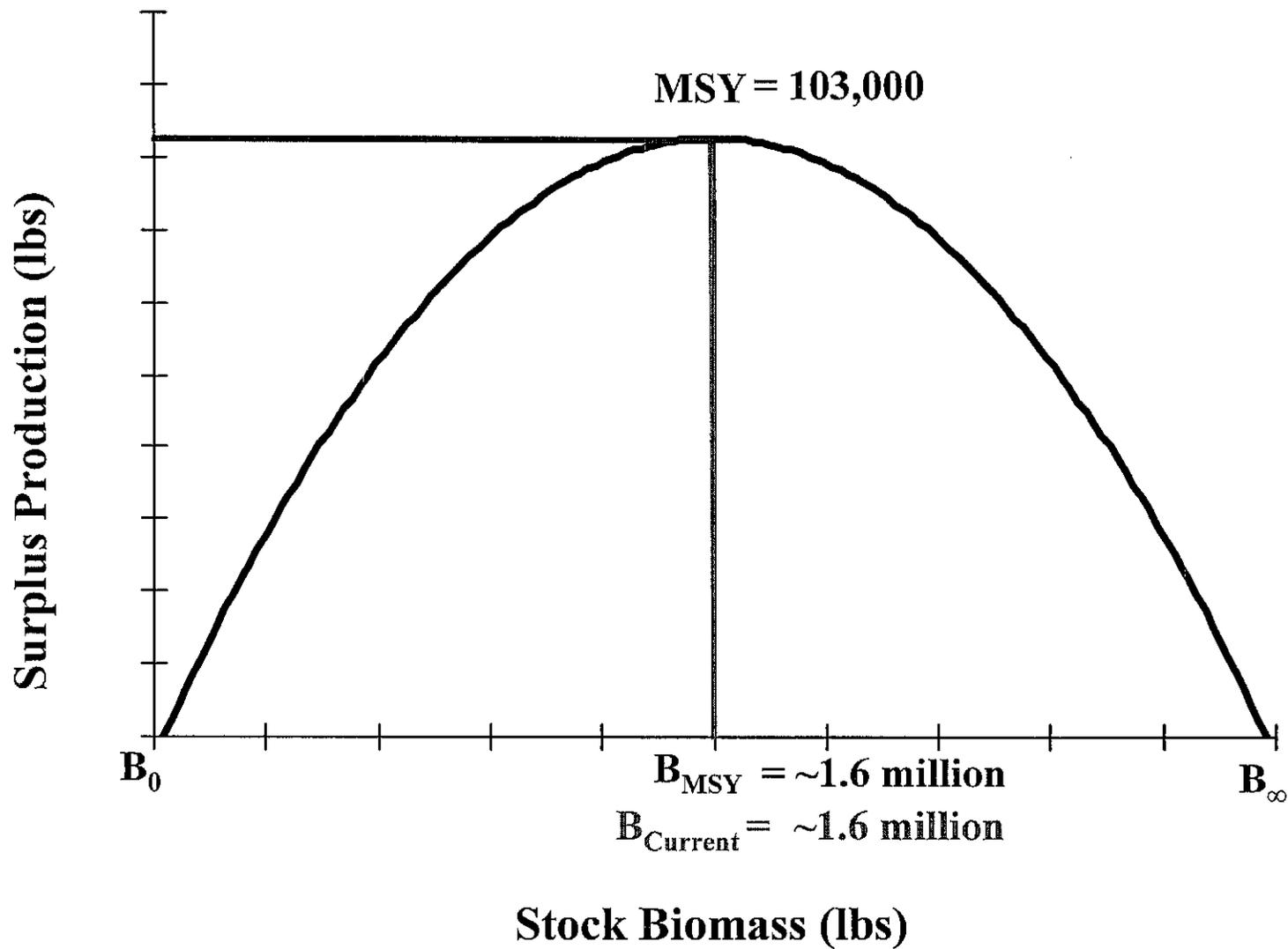
11

The next five slides walk through a Schaefer surplus production model that was used to estimate the total amount of spot shrimp biomass available for harvest. The model incorporates all available harvest and effort data (from all fisheries and surveys). This figure shows a basic premise in fisheries biology that is used by the Schaefer model. The figure shows a population biomass curve with the population going from zero biomass to an infinite biomass along the x-axis with the related amount of surplus production (or potential harvest) on the y-axis. The basic premise shown here is that fisheries theory states that the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) occurs at 50% of the available biomass (BMSY).



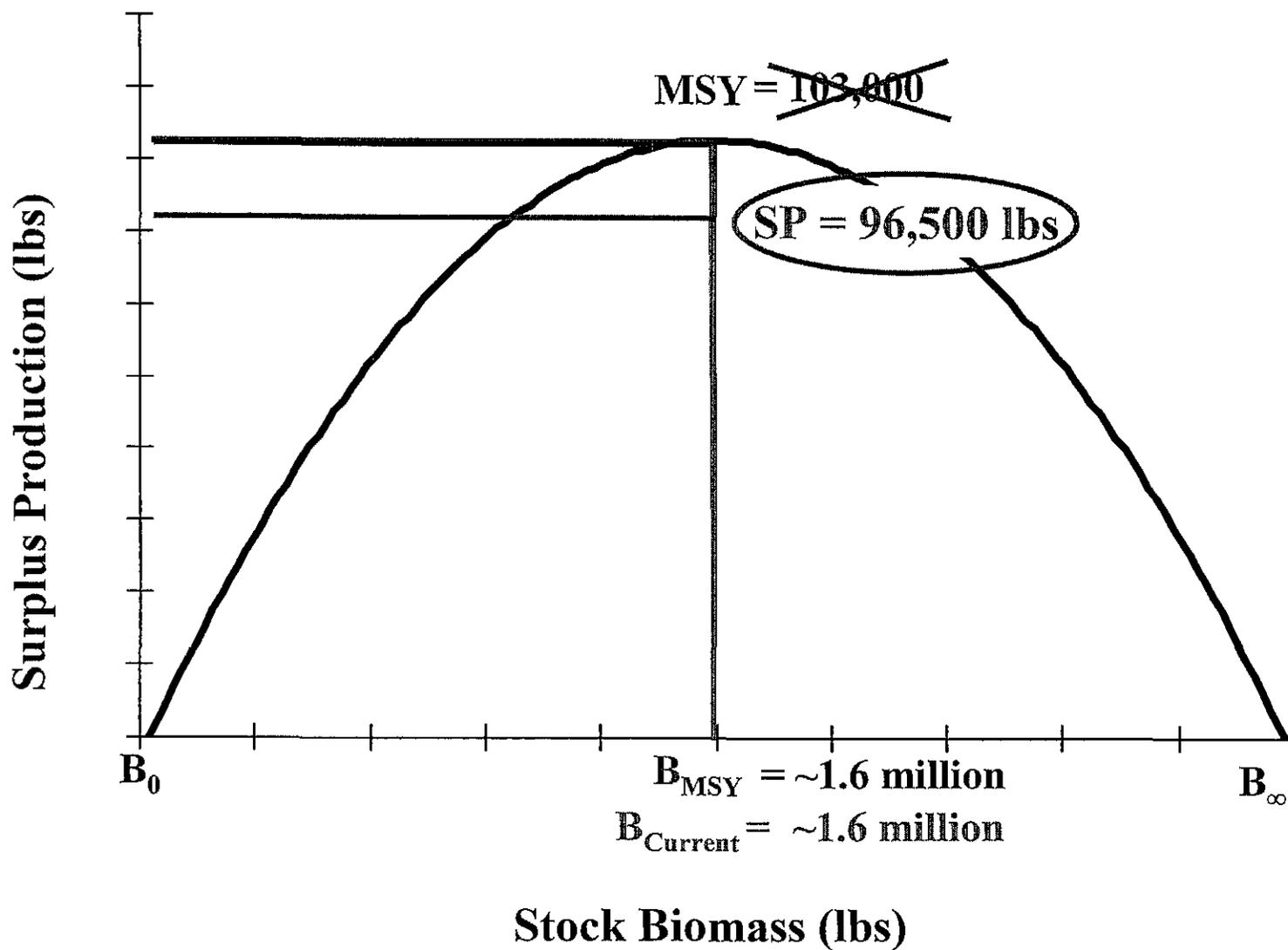
Results from the Schaefer model indicated that **IF** the population was fishable at, or near, MSY that the BMSY would have to be ~ 1.6 million pounds, and the related harvestable amount from the population would be 103,000 pounds of spot shrimp.

25



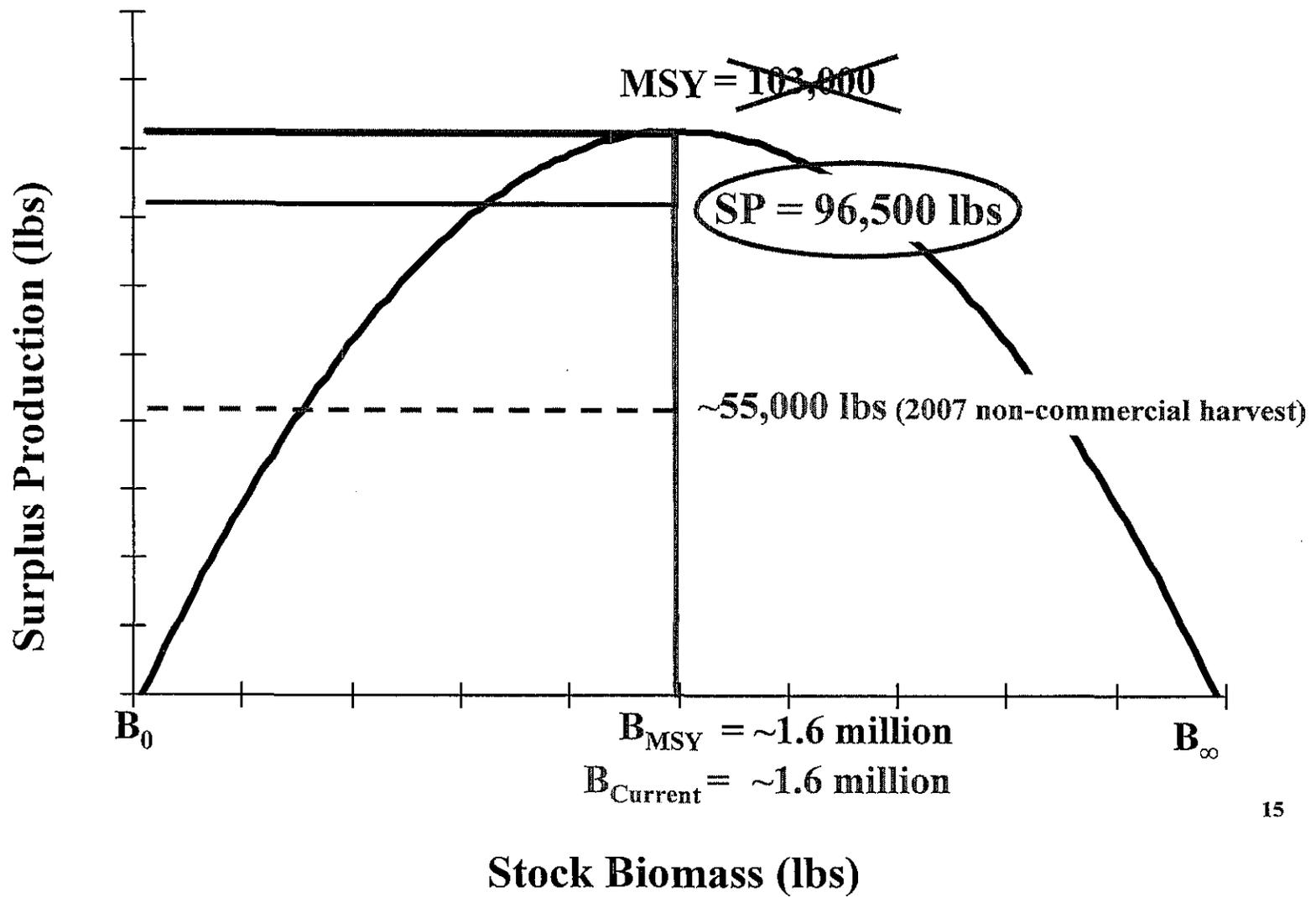
13

The model also provides an estimate of what the current biomass is (BMSY), which for our model would include data through 2007. The estimate of BMSY was ~1.6 million pounds of shrimp. Theoretically, this means that the population could be fished at MSY.



14

However, fishing at MSY is now typically considered a tenuous approach to managing fisheries. The Department strongly prefers to set a relatively conservative estimate of total allowable harvest; therefore, the lower 90% confidence interval value of 96,500 pounds was recommended to the Alaska Board of Fisheries as the harvestable amount available.



This slide indicates that it is important to remember that the estimated harvest by non-commercial fisheries in 2007 was approximately 55,000 pounds.

Management Elements for Consideration: Registration Area E

Registration Deadline: March 15

Season Dates: April 15 through May 31

Harvestable Surplus (GHL): 96,500 lbs for 2009

Lawful Gear: Define legal gear similar to “small pot” definition in Southeast AK

Gear Limits: Calculated based on fishery GHL and number of registrants
(maximum number of pots per vessel?)

Fishing Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; pots unchecked longer than 2 weeks must be unbaited and open

Catch Reporting: Log books; in-season catch reporting (critical), particularly for catcher-seller and catcher-processors

Catch Sampling: Devise catch sampling program – consider staff observers?

16

Preliminary list of potential management elements to consider if a commercial spot shrimp fishery were opened in Prince William Sound.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



We thank the Alaska Board of Fisheries and members of the audience for their time and attention to this presentation

We are happy to address any questions you may have



RC 23

Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, Inc.

P.O. Box 2225, Homer, Alaska 99603 • 907/235-6667 • Fax 907/235-6668 • Email info@akcoastalstudies.org • www.akcoastalstudies.org

Additional
Information
for
Proposal 366

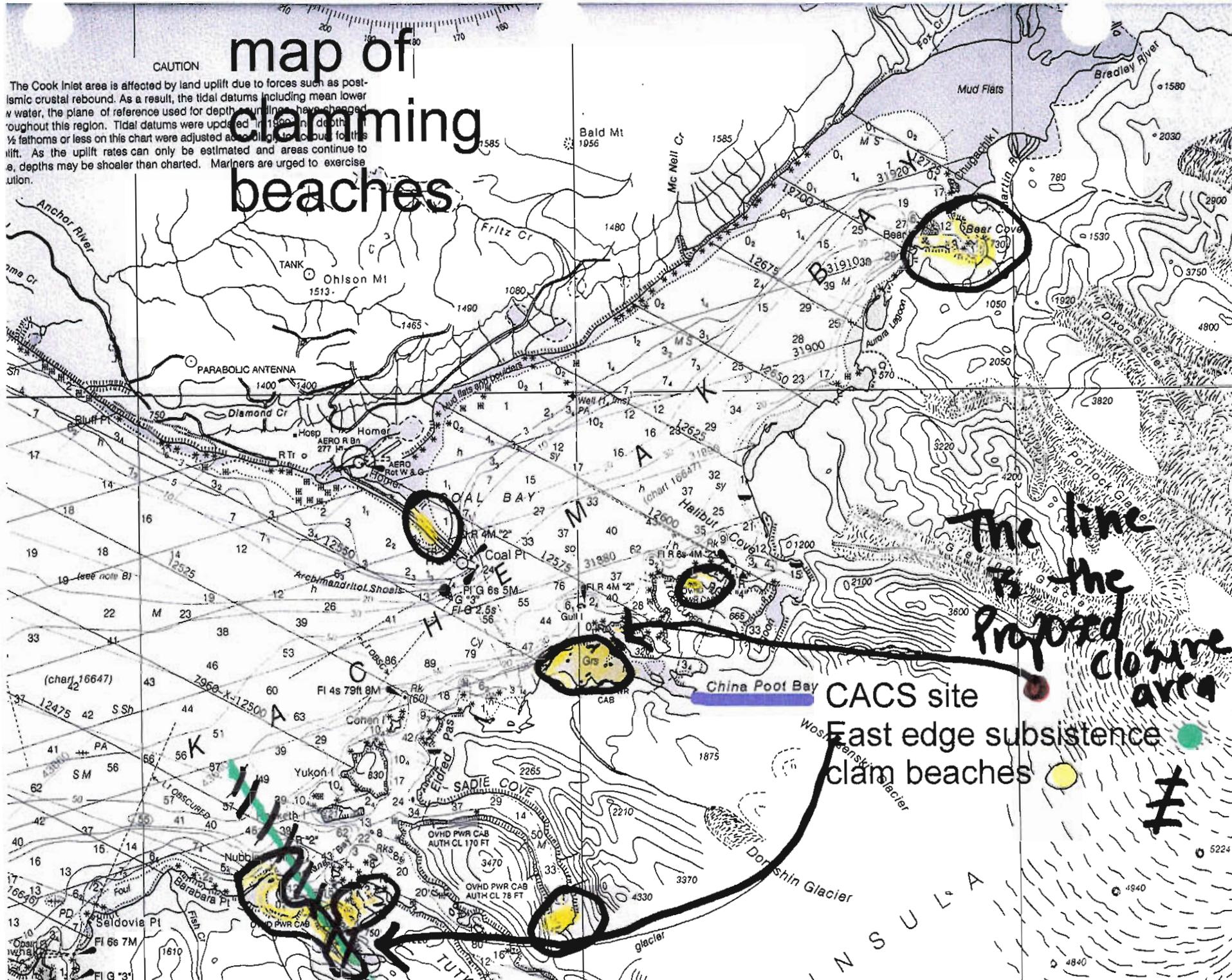
Submitted by
Marilyn Sigman



printed on recycled paper

map of clamming beaches

CAUTION
 The Cook Inlet area is affected by land uplift due to forces such as post-tectonic crustal rebound. As a result, the tidal datums including mean lower low water, the plane of reference used for depth soundings, have changed throughout this region. Tidal datums were updated in 1990 in depth 1/2 fathoms or less on this chart were adjusted accordingly to compensate for this lift. As the uplift rates can only be estimated and areas continue to e, depths may be shallower than charted. Mariners are urged to exercise caution.



The line is the proposed closure area

CACS site
 East edge subsistence clam beaches

≠



China Poot Bay proposed closure area = 18069 m²=4.46 acres=194,493 ft²



Peterson Bay proposed closure 13,075 m² = 3.23 acres = 140,738 ft²



Office of the Mayor
James C. Hornaday

Homer City Hall
491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603-7624

Phone 907-235-8121 x2229
Fax 907-235-3143

Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies
P.O. Box 2225
Homer, Alaska 99603

March 9, 2009

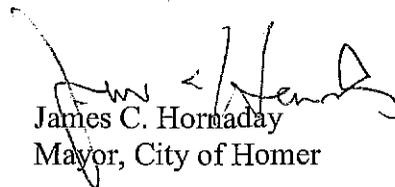
Dear Educators:

Homer is a Gateway City for access to Kachemak Bay waters, beaches, State park, and other important natural resources. The citizens of Homer recognize the importance of Kachemak Bay's rich intertidal areas for educational purposes and the need to be good stewards of these popular, yet fragile areas.

The City of Homer is an important educational destination for visitors to the area, who provide support for the area's tourism industry. Educators and volunteers have done an excellent job in educating the school children of the Kenai Peninsula and the general public about intertidal areas. They have taught our students and visitors in proper etiquette for marine habitat, providing both their time and resources.

I urge all citizens to support these programs and thank the educational groups for teaching our students and visitors in proper intertidal etiquette for the benefit of all.

Sincerely,



James C. Hornaday
Mayor, City of Homer

"Where the land ends and the sea begins"

THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE



* HONORING *

* CENTER FOR ALASKA COASTAL STUDIES *

The members of the Twenty-fifth Alaska State Legislature would like to commend the Center for Alaska Coastal Studies Homer, Alaska for 25 years of outstanding work and dedication to solving the environmental issues in Alaska.

The Center for Alaska Coastal Studies, an environmental education not-for-profit organization, was established in 1982. The Center works to foster responsible interaction with our natural surroundings, and to generate knowledge of the marine and coastal ecosystems of Kachemak Bay through environmental education and research programs including community-based coastal monitoring, beach clean-ups, monitoring the impacts of climate change, and wildlife surveys.

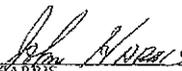
The organization delivers educational programs and has guided over 10,000 students and other visitors on coastal tours. It has grown to over 350 members and has more than 70 active volunteers.

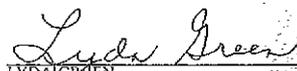
Since its inception the Center has worked to inspire citizens to make decisions and take actions that promote the health and integrity of ecosystems. It has been engaging citizens and students in the process of science through acquisition of scientific data that is needed to monitor the long-term processes and health of coastal ecosystems.

The Center pays special attention to students and teachers, providing various educational programs and professional development courses. The Center organizes nature tours and educational hikes, which open up a new world to young people, deepening their knowledge and appreciation of the uniqueness of Kachemak Bay and Alaska.

The Alaska State Legislature would like to recognize the Center for Alaska Coastal Studies for its work as a great contributor to the protection of the environment.




JOHN HARRIS
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE


LYDA GREEN
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE


PAUL SEATON
PRIME SPONSOR


GARY STEVENS
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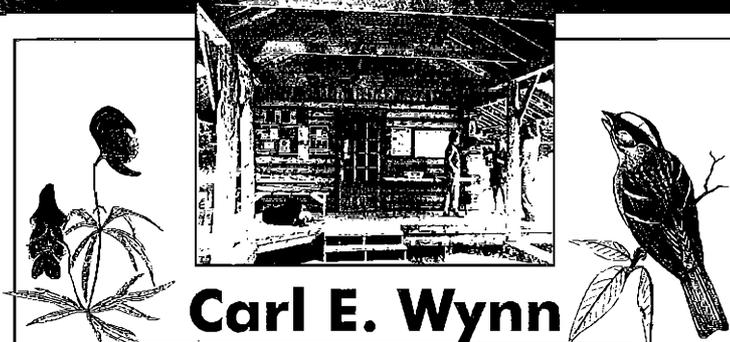
Rc 24



PROPOSAL 366. The sandy part across the water would remain open to clammers. The rocky part would be designated as an Education Beach from April to September. Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies school group, May 2008.



Submitted by Lee Mayhan



Carl E. Wynn

nature center

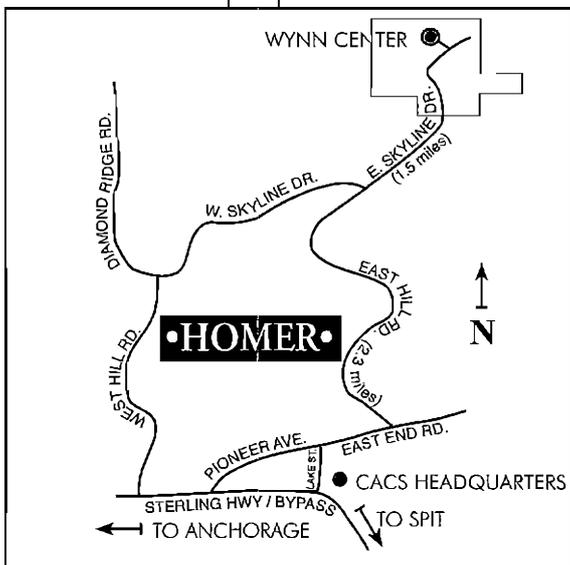
East Skyline Drive

**DAILY GUIDED TOURS AT 10 AM & 2 PM
MID-JUNE TO LABOR DAY**

Hours: 10 am – 6 pm Daily • Friday until 8 pm

Visit easy walking trails that meander through lush spruce forest and wildflower meadows. Enjoy hands-on exhibits in the cozy visitor cabin. Experience songbirds, moose, and a wide diversity of wildflowers.

- Self-guided Tours • Evening Lectures**
- Weekly Children's Programs**
- Weekend Family Programs**
- Handicapped-accessible Boardwalks** 
- Visually-impaired Trail**



CACS Harbor

yurt

Homer Spit

**DAILY GUIDED TOURS
AT 1 PM & 4 PM
JUNE TO MID-AUGUST**

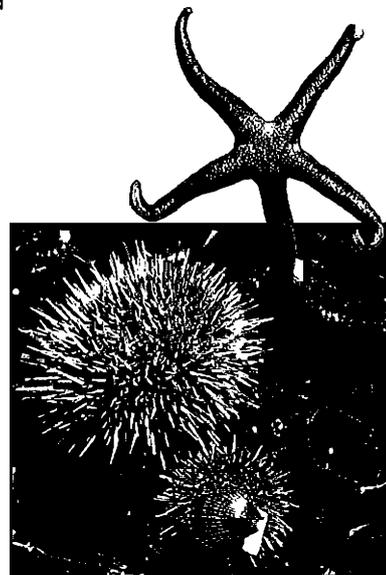
CREATURES OF THE DOCK TOURS

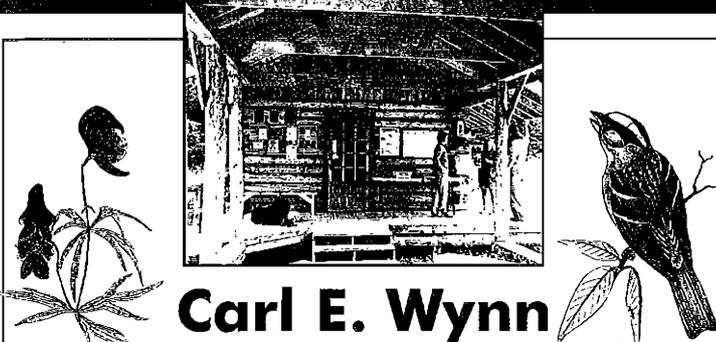
Discover the fascinating life that lives below and attached to the docks in the Homer Harbor. Tours start at yurt. Located behind Mako's Water taxi.



YURT ALSO OFFERS:

- Visitor Information
- Check-in Office for Peterson Bay Tours
- Gift Shop





Carl E. Wynn nature center

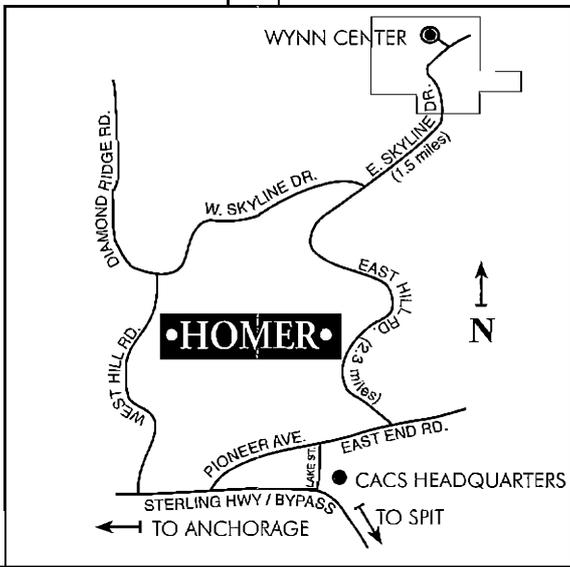
East Skyline Drive

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MEMBERSHIP

Join the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies
A non-profit educational organization

We believe that knowledge leads to
understanding and caring for the environment

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Free admission to the Wynn Nature Center
- Coastlines newsletter
- Program discounts and invitations to special membership events
- \$100 or more receives a complimentary gift

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Life	\$2500	Family	\$50
Benefactor	\$500	Individual	\$25
Patron	\$250	Junior (6-18yrs)	\$5
Supporting	\$100		

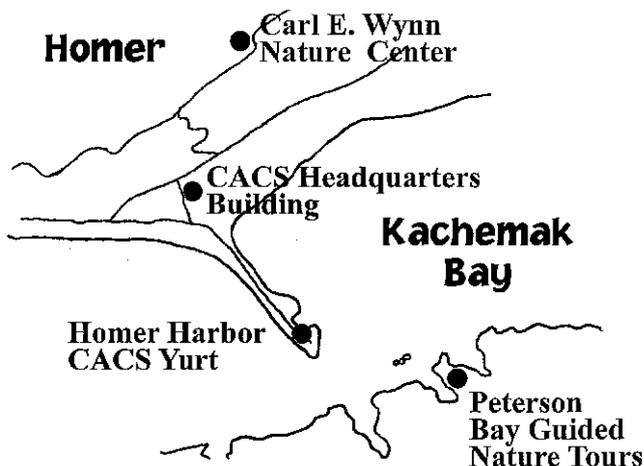
(907) 235-6667

CACS, Box 2225, Homer AK 99603

www.akcoastalstudies.org

info@akcoastalstudies.org

WHERE WE ARE



BRINGING YOU T

Peterson Bay field station Across the Bay

DAILY GUIDED TOURS MEMORIAL DAY TO LABOR DAY

BEACH AND COASTAL FOREST NATURE HIKE



Experience the incredible richness exposed by the Bay's tidal range, hike in a coastal forest, view the seabird rookery of Gull Island, and relax at the Field Station. This is a wonderful opportunity for visitors looking for an all day educational hands-on experience. All tours guided by Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies naturalists. Departs at 8 am and returns 4 pm.

NATURE HIKE AND KAYAK COMBO

Combine a morning hike with an afternoon kayak trip. No kayaking experience necessary. Departs 8 am and returns 6 pm.



OVERNIGHT YURT STAYS



Extend your experience across the bay with an overnight in one of four yurts. Guests have use of Field Station kitchen, dining, and campfire facilities. Depart at 4 pm, return 4 pm next day after tour.



State of Alaska
Department of Public Safety
Division of

RC25

Alaska Wildlife Troopers

Sarah Palin, Governor
Joseph A. Masters,
Commissioner

410 Adams Street, Suite 204
PO Box 817
Seward, AK 99664
(907) 224-3935 Telephone
(907) 224-2446 Facsimile

03/13/09

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in response to a request from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to describe enforcement activities along the Resurrection River. It is specifically regarding Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association's (CIAA) proposal to manage the Resurrection Bay Sockeye fishery on a simple cost-recovery basis and eliminate or severely restrict the public's opportunity for legitimate harvest.

CIAA alleges that 900 sockeye salmon were harvested illegally from Bear Creek/Salmon Creek each year. At face value, this number seems inflated. As the local Wildlife Trooper, I base my patrol aircraft at Bear Lake in the summer and drive by the weir nearly every day at various times. CIAA routinely reports illegal harvest in the area, so I always give it an extra-long look or stop and walk around the area. It appears that the weir operates on a very limited schedule - closed most days or open for a very brief period only. Why CIAA wouldn't operate the weir when the "fish are in" and stacked up is a question I've often pondered. On numerous occasions I've witnessed dime-bright fish floating back down the creek from apparent exhaustion and/or damage sustained in their attempt to get through the weir. Another contentious issue when the fish pile up below the weir is that they become a huge bear attractant and feeding station, requiring further Public Safety responses. Seward has a considerable Brown Bear concern which is at the forefront of most conversations... particularly during that time of year. The weir closures are detrimental to not only the returning Sockeye, but the local bear management efforts and public safety in the area.

Of the abundant "fish poaching" complaints, 90% are ultimately foundationless. I've responded countless times on these complaints to find nothing to substantiate the claim. These reports have become the proverbial "cry wolf", without any license plate numbers attached and/or descriptions of the perpetrators. I've actually had complaints come in while I was minutes away or in one case on-scene patrolling for illegal activity. Additional complaints involving nets stretched across the tributaries

"Public Safety through Public Service"

E Detachment
410 Adams - Seward, AK 99664
Voice (907) 224-3935 - Fax (907) 224-2446

are a norm. While flying in and out of Bear Lake, I fly the creeks looking for any sign of this illegal activity. Only once have I found a net, and that was in 2004 when I first arrived in Seward. The lack of details associated with the complaints makes it nearly impossible for me to substantiate most of the reported incidences. Are fish poached out of the system? Yes, without question; however I can't find cause to warrant devoting more patrol time to what appears to me a small fresh water management concern. Of note is that CIAA has not contacted Seward AWT for any follow-up regarding contacts, citations, and other enforcement action regarding their claim of large scale poaching (and 900 sockeye taken illegally is "large scale" for this minor fishery). My estimation is that poaching has likely remained stable or even decreased slightly. Since the opening of the red fishery in Salmon Creek, I have dedicated significantly more time enforcing the regulations, particularly at the saltwater/freshwater line. Last season I didn't find one angler with more than the legal limit. Mostly, my time was spent educating folks on this relatively new fishery and nuances regarding the regulations governing it. Much of this work was done in plain clothes as this allows me a better perspective of what's really occurring. By simply driving into the parking lot in a marked unit, word travels rapidly down the line that the Game Warden is here. I also witnessed that CIAA had a routine presence in the area presumably noting the same activity I was. I've also spent considerable time at the weir in plain clothes watching tourists and locals interact with the fish and the bears and noted no poaching, but appalling stupidity with respect to human/bear interaction.

Clearly the commercial fishery is where the lions-share of these sockeye are harvested. The saltwater snag fishery is a very distant second and where most sport fished reds get harvested by the general public. The freshwater fishery however (single hook artificial lure and reduced bag limit) in June is simply inconsequential to the overall harvest. Most of these freshwater anglers actually help enforcement as they don't appreciate or tolerate violations. I don't concur that closing the freshwater fishery would in any way improve CIAA's bottom line. If this fishery does close however, I fully expect that poaching (illegitimate harvest) will increase significantly and essentially keep the harvest at current levels. I state this because many times people have commented that the fish are going to be taken regardless; now they finally have a legitimate way to harvest the fish and not have to sneak around and risk getting caught. As we all know, people are crazy about sockeye and willing to go to extraordinary lengths to obtain them.

Trooper Marc Cloward
Alaska Wildlife Troopers
Seward Post

"Public Safety through Public Service"

E Detachment
410 Adams - Seward, AK 99664
Voice (907) 224-3935 - Fax (907) 224-2446

WHITTIER FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING **RC 26**
MARCH 7, 2009

Members Present: Steve Aberle, Gordon Scott, Mike Durtschi, Dave Goldstein, Jon Van Hynning, Dale Etheridge, Ric Vrsalovic

Members Absent: Brad Von Wichman, Milt Stevens, David Pinguoch, Brian Lee

Public Present: Mark Sears

ADF&G Present: Dan... (Sport fishing biologist)

Meeting started at 13:03 hrs.

The last minutes from November 15, 2008 were read.

Jon Van Hynning reported on the Board of Fish meeting held in Cordova, December 2008, regarding many proposals presented for PWS. The BOF took no action regarding drift gillnet and seining allocation issues.

There was no answer from the City of Whittier regarding a plan to develop a recreation area at the head of Passage Canal. There was some concern about creation of a lagoon to stock salmon. Dave Goldstein suggested calling Ed Barrett (Whittier Harbor Master) to come to the meeting as he was close by in the building.

Next the chairman made an extended presentation about the proposals to open the Pot Shrimping in PWS as discussed in BOF in Cordova.

COMMERCIAL POT SHRIMPING IN PWS

Gordon Scott reported he was also at the BOF meeting and participated in several committees to pin down some regulations to satisfy all interested groups.

1) The proposal to open 3 separate areas to be rotated on an annual basis. The BOF idea is to let the 2 areas recuperate while the fleet harvests the next area. (It takes 3 years for the shrimp to become mature for harvest.)

2) The super exclusive registration area for pot shrimping is "Vessel Registration" only.

At this moment, se stopped Scott's presentation to allow the Harbor Master (Ed Barrett) time to fill us in about the plan for the head of Passage Canal Recreation Development. The plan Ed said, is in the study stage. Response from the public has been mixed. The locals and existing boat owners don't particularly support

such a plan because it may over crowd PWS. The group from Anchorage, Mat-Su Valley is in favor. The chance of development of a breakwater is promising.

At this time we went back to Gordon Scott to continue his presentation:

Mike Durtschi asked if there could be a split pot shrimp season for commercial and non commercial fishing. Response – BOF are not in favor to extend the season during the egg bearing time.

3) Rotation of Harvest areas: The AC committee would like to have a clarification if area 2 will include Port Wells and Port Nellie Juan. Comments that area 3 is so far away that not many vessels will participate if they can only work with 50 pots or so.

Dave Goldstein asked the group why it takes 1 year to collect data from fishermen when the fishermen register with the ADG&G prior to harvest and 2 years if there are no registration requirements. There were no good answers.

4) The shrimp pot size: The consensus is we don't like size and shape limitations, but we will go along if it's included.

5) The Double bottom: question as to why this matters.

6) Time to retrieve pots is between 8AM and 4PM: The Whittier AC does not agree with this restriction.

7) Two buoys system: OK

8) The area closest to commercial fishing: we agree with the map presented by the commercial fleet (page 5 on draft)

9) Allocation: A note from David Pinquoch (representing the sport/charter group) asked for 50/50 split between commercial and non commercial. Gordon Scott (representing the commercial group) requested a 93% allocation to commercial. He bases his request on the traditional way it was done before the pot season was closed.

Jon Van Hynning will present both sides of the request to the BOF meeting March 16-18, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 4: 40pm.