

Steve Aberle

Chairman Johnstone, Board Members;

My name is Steve Aberle and I am the vice-chair of the Whittier Advisory Committee. There are ten members on this advisory committee coming from a variety of backgrounds: two members are sport charter operators, several are groundfish and shrimp fishermen, one is a shrimp trawl fisherman, one a general charter operator, another member is a seine fisherman and I am a drift gillnetter.

At our most recent meeting, November 5th, after conducting elections we addressed several BOG proposals, and a number of shellfish proposals including several sponsored by our Advisory Committee that will be considered at your Statewide Crab and Shrimp meeting in Anchorage later this winter.

We also discussed and deliberated a number of finfish proposals that you will consider at this meeting. The first was **proposition 43**, seeking to ban commercial bottom gear within 3 miles of shore inside PWS. This proposal is sponsored by the PWS Charter Boat Assn. Only one of our sport charter operators was present at the meeting but he stated that he opposed this proposal. He is a member of the PWS charter Boat Assn but stated that he is opposed to this proposal feeling that it would be difficult to enforce and for all practical purposes could virtually eliminate the commercial bottomfish and shrimp fisheries in the Sound. Other members agreed, feeling that there is no economic basis for this proposal and that commercial and sport fishermen should be respectful of each other's needs and that this proposal is very self serving. The feeling of all members present was that there must be room in PWS for all user groups. **Opposition to this proposal was unanimous.**

We next considered **Proposal 44** sponsored by one of our members to increase the rockfish bycatch allowance to sidestripe shrimp and sablefish from 10 to 30 percent.

Sponsor Jon Van Hyning, a trawl shrimper, stated that the rockfish harvest in the shrimp trawl fishery in PWS is minimal. He stated that when deep-water rockfish move into an area it is obvious and other fish and shellfish move off. Deep water halibut, black cod and trawl shrimp fishers harvest incidental rough eye rockfish that are not a stock concern for ADF&G. Current regulations mandate any bycatch of rockfish over 10% be surrendered to the State. The feeling of the proposer and the Advisory group is that bycatch of rough eye rockfish up to 30% should be retained by the fisher and not surrendered to the State. **There was unanimous consent for this proposal.**

Our advisory committee next discussed **Proposal 79** after I put it on the floor. Prop 79 would ban the use of deep gillnet gear in the Port Chalmers sub-district prior to openings for deep gear in other gillnet districts. My contention along with many other gillnet fishers is that some fishers move from the Port Chalmers sub-district to other gillnet districts without changing from deep gear before it is legal in other districts, creating an illegal advantage. There have been numerous arrests by Protection Officers for this offense. There was lengthy discussion by committee members and no agreement on what should be done. No action was taken on this proposal.

We next considered **Proposal 93** sponsored by one of our Advisory Committee members to create exclusion zones for commercial seine fishers to benefit sport fishers pursuing coho salmon in PWS. Discussion was robust. Commercial fishermen are constrained by EO, and time and area allowing for coho salmon to pass through seine districts. A number of committee members felt that there was adequate opportunity for sport fishers to harvest cohos without this restriction. Vote for **Prop 93**: favor-1, opposed 5, abstain 2.

We put **Proposition 100** on the table; it would restrict commercial driftnet fishers from fishing inside ADF&G markers at the head of Eshamy Lagoon until maximum escapement goals have been met. This proposal was submitted by one of our own committee members to give sport fishers more opportunity inside Eshamy Lagoon. Normally Eshamy Lagoon is closed to the drift gillnet fleet. It is opened by EO and results in an aggressive cleanup fishery and gear conflicts when sport fishermen are present. It was noted that there is ample harvest opportunity for the drift fleet on Eshamy sockeye in the rest of the Eshamy District. Ensuring that the escapement goal is reached is important for the sport and commercial fleet. Our vote was split on this proposal. **6 in favor, 2 opposed, our committee supports this proposal.**

The last finfish proposal we discussed was **Proposal 120**. This proposal was submitted by one of our committee members and would increase the daily and possession limit of Eshamy sockeye when salmon escapement reaches 20,500 past the Eshamy weir. It would also allow snagging in the Eshamy Lagoon. ADF&G biologist Dan Bosch stated that Eshamy Lagoon was the only area in PWS that was closed to snagging. Sportfishing inside the Lagoon would be closed to sport fishing if the department had escapement concerns. This proposal is closely related to Prop 100 and would allow for an increased harvest by sport fishermen while having a very small impact on the commercial fleet. **Decision to support was unanimous, 8-0**



December 2, 2011

Karl Johnstone, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries
PO Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

RC 28

RE: Record Comment on Proposal 98

Dear Mr. Johnstone,

PWSAC believes Proposal 98 is a housekeeping proposal as outlined in the text of the submitted proposal. Attached is a copy of the 2005 Board of Fisheries meeting record in which the Granite Bay Subdistrict was established. As you will see, the record is quite clear that the intent was to create a "hatchery subdistrict" to provide the department the ability to manage the Wally Noerenberg Hatchery chum salmon fishery adjacent to the Esther Island within the migratory terminus to the hatchery. Below are excerpts from the 2005 department comments:

Background: " ... While the department does not manage for enhanced fish outside of hatchery subdistricts, it can be problematic for managers to open an area with the expectation that the fleet will focus on a specific wild stock, only to have the majority of vessels focus on enhanced fish instead. This proposal would limit the ability of the drift gillnet fleet to harvest a portion of the enhanced chum salmon return outside of the Esther Subdistrict. However, this proposal would also allow managers to more effectively focus fishing effort on returning wild stocks of sockeye salmon."

Department Comments: " ... The department is SUPPORTS the intent of the proposal to more efficiently achieve the cost recovery goal. Creating a separate subdistrict ... would also allow managers to focus fishing effort on returning Coghill sockeye."

Comment Submitted By:

David Reggiani
General Manager

2005 Board of Fish Proposals

PROPOSAL 38 - 5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound management and salmon enhancement allocation plan. Amend this regulations as follows:

Reduce hatchery production of pink and chum salmon in Prince William Sound by at least 50 percent of the 2003 production. This reduction is only what the hatchery management promised the board and the governor in RC 360 at the January 2001 board meeting.

Note: A similar proposal is submitted for the Southeast Alaska Area.

ISSUE: Enhanced salmon, pink and chum, replacing wild stocks. Competition from hatchery salmon in the marine environment on wild stocks.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Wild stocks will continue to be at low abundance.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All wild stocks of pink, chum and sockeye salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? In the long run, all fishers in Alaska.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Virgil L. Umphenour (HQ-05-F-184B)

[REDACTED] - 5 AAC 24.200. Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections. Amend the regulation by adding the following:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

[REDACTED] (HQ-05-F-225)

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

**STAFF COMMENTS
ON SUBSISTENCE, PERSONAL USE, SPORT, GUIDED SPORT, AND
COMMERCIAL FINFISH REGULATORY PROPOSALS**

**FOR THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND-
UPPER COPPER/UPPER SUSITNA MANAGEMENT AREAS**

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING
VALDEZ, ALASKA**

DECEMBER 1-6, 2005



The following staff comments were prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for use at the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) meeting, December 1-6, 2005 in Valdez, Alaska. The comments are forwarded to assist the public and Board. The comments contained herein should be considered preliminary and subject to change, as new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral public testimony presented to the Board.

permit written for each hatchery. The current production levels are based on the Prince William Sound / Copper River Phase 3 Comprehensive Salmon Plan. The purpose of the Phase 3 Plan is to achieve optimum production of wild and enhanced salmon stocks on a sustained yield basis. The plan establishes three fishery goals: 1) increase fishing opportunities for salmon resource users, 2) achieve equitable allocation of the harvestable surplus of wild and enhanced salmon while minimizing impacts to historic wild stock fisheries, and 3) achieve an economically self-sustaining fishery. Additionally, the Phase 3 Plan recommends that five biological and economic criteria be employed to achieve an optimum production level including: 1) wild stock escapement goals must be achieved over the long term, 2) the proportion of hatchery salmon straying into wild-stock streams must remain below 2% of the wild-stock escapement over the long term, 3) the growth rates of juvenile salmon during the early marine period must be density independent over the long term, 4) the abundance of juvenile salmon predators must be independent of juvenile salmon abundance over the long term, and 5) the long-term average cost of hatchery operation, management, and evaluation must remain below 50% of the value of hatchery production. See Proposal 37, Table 1 and Figures 1 and 2, for specific information regarding PWSAC chum and pink salmon.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this proposal. Any forced reductions to area hatchery production levels must be more fully considered and justified, by a number of applicable authorities.

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

[REDACTED] - 5AAC 24.200. Fishing Districts, subdistricts, and sections.
Amend the regulation by adding the following:

Create a new subdistrict encompassing waters one mile offshore of the west side of Esther Island and all waters of Esther Pass not already included in the Esther Subdistrict.

[REDACTED]

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulations state that in seasons where the purse seine fleet has access to Esther Subdistrict, as the result of a harvest disparity in the previous year as described in 5AAC 24.370, "during fishing periods where the Esther Subdistrict is open to purse seine gear,

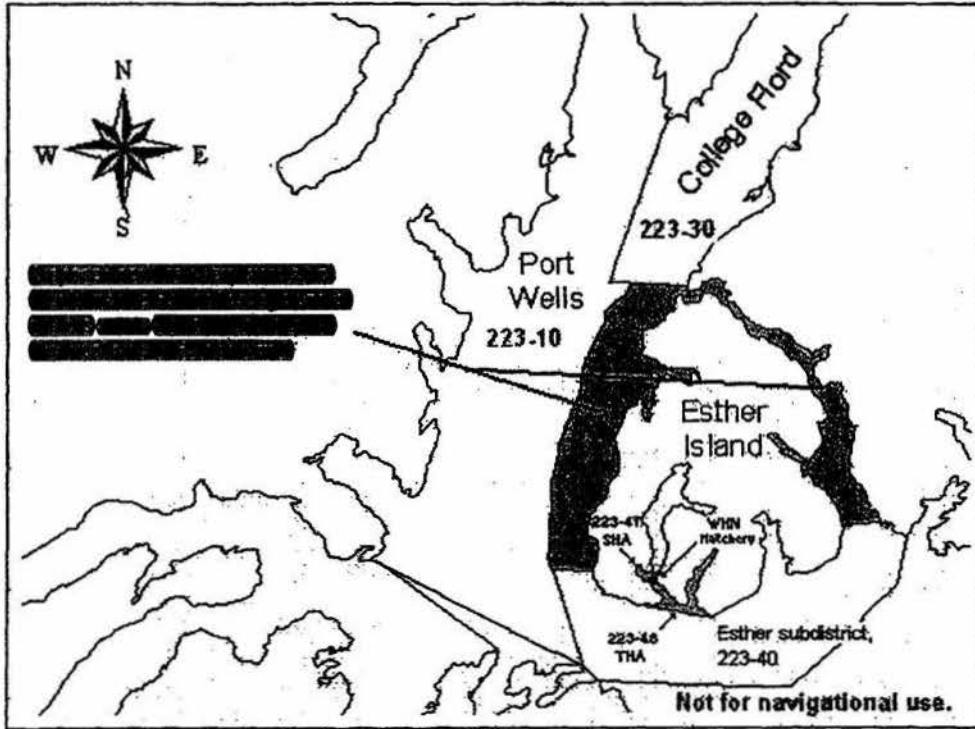
the waters of Port Wells south of 60 degrees 52.71'N Lat. buffer zone line and the waters of Esther Passage south of 60 degrees 50.84' N Lat. buffer zone line are closed to the operation of drift gillnet gear. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

BACKGROUND: The department must be able to effectively manage wild salmon stock interception. Prior to July 21, management in the Coghill District is driven primarily by the wild sockeye salmon run to Coghill Lake, with openings determined by the cumulative escapement level. Frequently permit holders choose to focus on returning enhanced stocks: either in the southern portion of the Coghill District targeting Main Bay sockeye salmon at Culross Point, or along the west shore of Esther Island and in Esther Passage targeting Wally Noerenberg enhanced chum salmon. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED] would include Esther Passage and western shore of Esther Island within 1 mile of shore south to northern boundary of 223-40.

[REDACTED] The department is NEUTRAL on the allocative aspects of this proposal [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

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

PAGES
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██████████ 5 AAC 24.200. Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections. Amend the regulation by adding the following:

Create a new subdistrict encompassing waters one mile offshore of the west side of Esther Island and all waters of Esther Pass not already included in the Esther Subdistrict.

Staff Reports: RC2 White tab 1

Staff Comments: RC 9, page 56

AC Reports: RC, AC

Public Comment: RC 1 public comment tab

Record Comments: RC

Narrative of Pro's and Cons

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██
Dual permit: Supports - Allow PWSAC to more efficiently achieve chum salmon cost recovery goals thereby allowing the common property fleet access to the Esther Subdistrict and the Coghill District sooner.

Drift gillnet: Only a problem when WNH is behind on cost recovery. Not certain how this regulation would work because it may put additional pressure in the Copper River District by displacing vessels from the Coghill District.

Purse Seine: Supports proposals 39 and 40. Prevents drift gillnet fleet from harvesting enhanced chums bound for WNH. Provide assurance that PWSAC can achieve their chum salmon cost recovery goals especially in years of small enhanced chum salmon returns (i.e., 2004)

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus was reached on this proposal.

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Substitute Language:

The Granite Bay Subdistrict: waters on east side of Port Wells within 1 mile of shore between a line at 60° 48.06' N. lat., 148° 08.54' W. long. and the north end of Esther Passage at 60° 55.40' N. lat., 148° 04.48' W. long. and all of Esther Passage north of a line at 60° 49.51' N. lat.,

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

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

PROPOSAL NO. 38

ACTION: Failed

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

AMENDMENTS:

DISCUSSION: Board referenced their comments in Proposal 37.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PROPOSAL NO. 41

ACTION: Carried as amended

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

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

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

PROPOSAL NO. 42

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Redraw the southern boundary line in Coghill District.

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

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

PROPOSAL NO. 43

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Expand Wally Noerenberg Hatchery SHA into Esther Passage.

DISCUSSION: This proposal was withdrawn by the proponent.