

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES DECISIONS ON NORTON SOUND-PORT CLARENCE AREA PROPOSALS

The Alaska Board of Fisheries met in Fairbanks from January 12-16, 2016. Proposals submitted to the board by the department, other agencies and the public were heard and voted on.

At the meeting the department presented reports for stock status for chum salmon in Subdistrict 1 (Nome), and subdistricts 2 (Golovin), and 3 (Elim), and king salmon in subdistricts 5 (Shaktoolik) and 6 (Unalakleet) of the Norton Sound District. The department recommended continuation of a yield concern for all stocks, except the Nome Subdistrict chum salmon stock of concern status which was discontinued.

Proposals submitted regarding fisheries in Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area are listed below with the board's action.

Proposal 129 – Require the release of any species taken during beach seining that are being protected because of conservation concerns throughout Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area. **Proposal passed; 7-0.**

Proposal 130 – Allow gillnet mesh size to be restricted in subsistence fisheries throughout Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area. **Proposal passed; 7-0.**

Proposal 131 – Increase subsistence gillnet fishing time in Subdistrict 1 (Nome) and change the fishing schedule during the summer salmon season. Also, increase the length of the season when beach seining is allowed. Subsistence gillnet fishing schedule from June 15 through August 31 will be 5 days per week from 6 p.m. Wednesday until 6 p.m. Monday in fresh waters and from June 15 through August 15 in the marine waters west of Cape Nome. East of Cape Nome marine waters remain open 7 days a week. Beach seining opportunity during subsistence gillnet fishing time was expanded from the previous dates of June 15 through July 25 to a new end date of August 15. **Amended proposal passed; 7-0.**

Proposal 132 – Allow cast nets and dip nets to be a legal gear type in subsistence fisheries for salmon and fish other than salmon throughout the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area. **Proposal passed; 7-0.**

Proposal 133 – Allow a commercial beach seine fishery for chum and pink salmon in subdistricts 5 (Shaktoolik) and 6 (Unalakleet). **Proposal passed; 7-0.**

Proposal 134 – Change the salmon boundary description between the Yukon Area and Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area at Point Romanof from the latitude of Point Romanof to a line going northwest from Point Romanof. **Proposal passed; 7-0.**

Proposal 223 – Limit commercial crab permit holders to 20 pots during the winter through the ice only fishery and require commercial pot tags. **Proposal passed; 7-0.**