RC 27

COOK INLET
AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

40610 KALIFORNSKY BEACH ROAD
KENAI, AK 99611
(907) 283-5761
FAX: (907) 283-9433
email: info@ciaanet.org
http://www.ciaanet.org

CIAA Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
11 March 2009

The meeting began at 2:06 PM. Present were Executive Committee members Brent Johnson, Frankie DeRossitt, Ken Tarbox, Mike Wiley, and Dave Martin; and staff member Gary Fandrei. Mark Roth participated by teleconference. The main objective of the meeting was to review and confirm CIAA's cost recovery harvest plans for the upcoming Board of Fisheries (BOF) meeting and CIAA's BOF proposal #380.

Brent Johnson opened the meeting by asking Gary Fandrei to introduce the concerns he has heard regarding CIAA's proposed cost recovery harvest plans. Gary explained that he has had several conversations with CIAA Board members and fishermen and there was confusion about CIAA's proposed harvest strategies for the various cost recovery harvest areas. Gary reported much of the concern focused on the idea that CIAA would attempt to secure all its cost recovery harvest from Resurrection Bay and harvest from other areas only if the cost recovery goal was not obtained from Resurrection Bay. Gary also reported some fishermen have requested further information on CIAA's future stocking plans.

The Executive Committee discussed CIAA's cost recovery harvest plans and made the following points:

1. Projected returns for 2009 are very low and it appears CIAA will need to cost recover all projected returns to meet the 2009 cost recovery goal.
2. Until a reserve account is established, not achieving the cost recovery harvest goal may result in the termination of all TLH programs.
3. CIAA plans to begin building a reserve account immediately (i.e. with the 2009 harvest). Once a reasonable reserve account is established, CIAA can assume greater risk in securing its cost recovery harvest and will be in a position to distribute its cost recovery goal among the various cost recovery harvest areas.
4. CIAA has a process in place that is open to the public for establishing its cost recovery harvest strategy. The CIAA Board of Directors reviews the cost recovery needs each year and sets the goal for each special harvest area. The proposed goals are included in a draft Trail Lakes Hatchery Annual Management Plan. The Management Plan is presented to and reviewed by the Regional Plan Team. CIAA Board and committee meetings and Regional Planning Team meetings are open to the public.

The Executive Committee also made the following observations in their discussion:

1. Short-term viability of the hatchery is in the long-term interest of the fishermen.
2. A majority of the Lower Cook Inlet fishermen are in favor of the proposed Trail Lakes Hatchery Management Plan.
3. CIAA plans to build its reserve account in 5 to 8 years.
4. CIAA uses part of the 2% Salmon Enhancement Tax to cover the TLH's corporate administrative costs

The Executive Committee briefly discussed the recent RPT meeting and the Homer and Seward AC meetings in which the proposed Trail Lakes Hatchery management Plan was discussed (i.e. BOF proposal #380). Gary reported the RPT, Homer and Seward ACs supported the proposed management plan. The Seward AC supported the proposed plan with an amendment to extend the 50/50 split used in Resurrection Bay to all cost recovery areas and the Homer AC supported the proposed plan with an amendment to not open the freshwater sportfish harvest in Resurrection Bay until after the cost recovery and broodstock goals can be projected to be reached. Gary distributed the RPT's letter of support that was submitted to the BOF.

Gary then informed the Executive Committee that long-time CIAA Board member Howard Davis had passed away. The Executive Committee directed Gary to send a card and flowers to Howard's family.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Fandrei

Gary Fandrei, Executive Director

Central Peninsula Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2009

RC 28

Call to order at 7:15 pm.

Members Present: Robert Clucas, David Martin, John McCombs, Doug Blossom, Richard Mondor, Gary Dieman, Mike Schuster, Norbert Miller, Steve Vanek, Max Fjelstad

Members Absent Excused: Jeff Berger, Teague Vanek, Terry Hepner

Members Absent Unexcused: Max Fjelstad

Minutes of the last meeting 11-25-08 were read by Steve Vanek and approved as read.

Announcements of the upcoming BOF meetings dates, items up for discussion and location.
BOF Call for Proposals due April, 2009 covers AK Peninsula/Aleutian Islands finfish, AYK finfish, Bristol Bay finfish and Statewide finfish.

Southcentral RAC meeting will have a teleconference.

ADF&G held a public meeting in Homer on the status of Brown Bear on the Kenai Peninsula.

Elections were held with the following results: Jeff Berger, David Martin, John McCombs, and Steve Vanek for the three year seats; Max Fjelstad and Richard Mondor for the one year alternates.

Election of Officers: David Martin, Chair; Gary Deiman, Vice Chair; Steve Vanek, Secretary.

BOF Proposal comments

Proposal 363 Final Vote: 9-0 Support as amended
Reduce razor clam bag limit to the first 30 clams harvested
Amendment: Specific to the area described from Kenai River to southernmost tip of the Homer Spit and a possession limit of 60 clams. Vote on the amendment:9-0
Discussion: There has been an increase in use of the resource and an observation of people taking their limit and throwing away half of what they harvest. One member did not like the idea of reducing, as he prefers to get his freezer full in one trip. The limit is much smaller in Washington. Around the corner, the local residents are left to pick up the mess left behind. The size of the clams are also noticeably smaller. Reducing in half still provides ample opportunity for harvest. There are conservation concerns by the local people.

Proposal 364 Final Vote: No action
Reduce razor clam limit in Clam Gulch to the first 15 dug.

Discussion: The committee took no action based on their vote on Proposal 363.

Proposal 365 Final Vote: No action
Reduce razor clam limit to 25
Discussion: The committee took no action based on their vote on Proposal 363.

Proposal 367 Final Vote: 9-0 Support
Allow for written permission to use another person's shrimp or crab gear.
Discussion: This gives you permission to pull the pots for a friend. Pot raiders may check the pot and they may rebait it, but you also may lose the coordinates (3-400 feet from where it was when the water is choppy).

Miscellaneous

A letter to the Governor's office regarding the appointment of a non-consumptive user to the Board of Game will be drafted by Mike Schuster on behalf of the Central Peninsula Advisory Committee to be signed at the next meeting.

Next meeting will be held Monday, January 26 at 7 pm at the Nilnilchik School (once BOG proposal books are received).

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

RC 29

Greetings Board of Fish and Game,

I have seven points that I want to make in **opposition to Proposal #380:**

1. Prior to 2005 CIAA had **no** cost recovery for Resurrection Bay. In 2005 the Board allocated up to 50% of the harvest in Res Bay to cover the costs of the Res. Bay stocking and management. In three of the four following years CIAA over collected revenues from Resurrection Bay. In fact, in 2008 Cook Inlet Aquaculture collected $232,506.00 **more** than the cost of the Resurrection Bay project. Resurrection Bay is already paying for itself and there is *NO* justification for changing the 50/50 rule. In fact, Bear Lake is self sustaining and CIAA should withdraw from it completely.

2. For years CIAA has received millions of dollars in grant money thanks to Ted Stevens and yet at the same time they have *closed* two of the three hatcheries that they manage and returns to Upper Cook Inlet have suffered. In my opinion, this reflects the overall poor management of CIAA.

3. According to Gary Fandrei's own words the problem with CIAA is a financial shortfall because the earmark grants have gone away, and, surprisingly, no one else wants to throw money at CIAA.

4. A **grant shortfall** by a user group does is *not a good reason for an emergency order* by the Board of Fisheries. It is the nature of grants to apply for them and, if received, perform the proposed program within the grant budget. Lack of grant funding has nothing to do with the **operational budget** of the Resurrection Bay fishery, which I believe has not been adequately disclosed.

5. At no time should a single natural resource like (Resurrection Bay) be designated to **fund or meet the budget demands of a single organization**, ever.

6. Allocation of 100% of **any natural resource** to benefit a single user group is a very dangerous precedent and I urge the Board to not set this precedent.

From CIAA's own Board President "the best project in lower Cook Inlet would be to re-open Tutka Bay as a pink salmon facility…which has the potential to establish a consistent common property fishery and funding sources …."

In fact, CIAA is spread to wide with too many diverse interests to be successful in the future. **CIAA needs to be disbanded and the user groups in the three main areas, Upper Cook Inlet, Lower Cook Inlet and the Outer/Eastern District need to step in and manage their own resources at ground level.**

Thank you,

Marguerita McManus
PO Box 1508
Seward, AK 99664
marguerita.mcmanus@gmail.com

RC 30

We, the undersigned permit holders of Seward are **OPPOSED TO PROPOSAL 380** for the following reasons:

CIAA never approached the permit holders with this plan and that's an unethical way to do business.

Under the current guidelines for cost recovery goal for Bear Lake, CIAA is allocated 50% of the surplus sockeyes. The Bear Lake project costs about $110,000 to operate, From Table 3 of CIAA reports, last
year cost recovery took 31,300 sockeyes out of a total catch of 85,500 for a total value of $343,500 over 3 times the amount it costs to operate Bear Lake. While Leisure and Hazel Lake cost recovery took 1900 sockeyes out of a total catch of 64,700 for a value of $9400 considerably lower then previous years.

CIAA and ADF&G should try to adequately manage ALL projects to maximize the 50% cost recovery from each project

CIAA needs to operate and manage their programs with budgets that are sustained by the fish tax and up to the 50% cost recovery – other aquaculture associations successfully operate on the same or less.

If a 50% cost recovery and fish tax is not enough to support a project then the project should be deemed a failure and be discontinued.

All the permit holders in Seward agree that the proposal 380 is not fair to the seiners. We should not have to give 100% of the sockeyes returning to Bear Lake to CIAA when they have other projects that can also do cost recovery, Besides if a project is run only for CIAA benefits and does not benefit the fisherman why have that project.

Funding an entire organization from the fish returning to only one of CIAA's projects is bad management and sets a bad precedent. When CIAA doesn't receive their budget from Resurrection Bay, because the run isn't there, what resource will they take next, all the fish in Homer, and what will happen when that's not enough?

Thomas M. Buchanan

Darwin E. Wood

Thomas A. Buchanan

Arnie Hatch for Ralph Hatch

Perry S. Buchanan

Val Anderson

Table 3. The value of CIAA (TLH) sockeye salmon enhancement projects with cost recovery harvests from 2005 through 2008.

Bear Lake (Resurrection Bay) Estimated Return and Harvest Allocation

	Total Return	Enhanced Return	Sport Harvest	Estimated Poaching	Escapement	Commercial Harvest	Cost Recovery Harvest
2008	110,300	104,800	5,400	900	12,800	54,200	31,300
2007	41,900	39,800	4,000	900	12,200	14,600	6,900
2006	80,200	76,200	4,200	900	11,800	26,400	32,900
2005	76,000	72,200	4,700	900	12,700	18,100	30,600

Bear Lake (Resurrection Bay) Estimated Value Based on Ex-Vessel Price

	Total Return	Enhanced Return	Sport Harvest	Estimated Poaching	Escapement	Commercial Harvest	Cost Recovery Harvest
2008	$ 1,601,300	$ 1,521,500	$ 78,400	$ 13,100	$ 185,800	$ 786,900	$ 343,500
2007	$ 326,400	$ 310,100	$ 31,200	$ 7,000	$ 95,100	$ 113,700	$ 28,800
2006	$ 587,200	$ 557,900	$ 30,800	$ 6,600	$ 86,400	$ 193,300	$ 112,500
2005	$ 286,300	$ 271,900	$ 17,700	$ 3,400	$ 47,800	$ 68,200	$ 87,900

Leisure Lake and Hazel Lake Combined Estimated Return and Harvest Allocation

	Total Return	Enhanced Return	Sport Harvest	Personal Use Harvest	Unharvested	Commercial Harvest	Cost Recovery Harvest
2008	70,300	70,300	600	4,900	100	62,800	1,900
2007	89,900	89,900	600	4,900	500	61,200	22,600
2006	81,700	81,700	600	4,900	800	52,000	23,300
2005	100,600	100,600	600	4,900	-	64,900	29,700

Leisure Lake and Hazel Lake Combined Estimated Value Based on Ex-Vessel Price

	Total Return	Enhanced Return	Sport Harvest	Personal Use Harvest	Unharvested	Commercial Harvest	Cost Recovery Harvest
2008	$ 392,100	$ 392,100	$ 3,300	$ 27,300	$ 600	$ 350,200	$ 9,400
2007	$ 357,400	$ 357,400	$ 2,400	$ 19,500	$ 2,000	$ 243,300	$ 76,600
2006	$ 361,400	$ 361,400	$ 2,700	$ 21,700	$ 3,500	$ 230,000	$ 90,000
2005	$ 367,700	$ 367,700	$ 2,200	$ 17,900	$ -	$ 237,200	$ 92,000

Kirschner Lake Estimated Return and Harvest Allocation

	Total Return	Enhanced Return	Unharvested	Commercial Harvest	Cost Recovery Harvest
2008	14,800	14,800	2,000	1,200	11,600
2007	37,400	37,400	2,000	7,700	27,700
2006	50,400	50,400	-	24,100	26,300
2005	16,500	16,500	1,500	-	14,800

Kirschner Lake Estimated Value Based on Ex-Vessel Price

	Total Return	Enhanced Return	Unharvested	Commercial Harvest	Cost Recovery Harvest
2008	$ 59,500	$ 59,500	$ 8,000	$ 4,800	$ 30,200
2007	$ 142,400	$ 142,400	$ 7,600	$ 29,300	$ 42,200
2006	$ 184,200	$ 184,200	$ -	$ 88,100	$ 50,800
2005	$ 52,000	$ 52,000	$ 4,700	$ -	$ 22,100

Tutka Lagoon Estimated Return and Harvest Allocation

	Total Return	Enhanced Return	Unharvested	Commercial Harvest	Cost Recovery Harvest
2008	20,100	20,100	5,500	-	14,600

Tutka Lagoon Estimated Value Based on Ex-Vessel Price

	Total Return	Enhanced Return	Unharvested	Commercial Harvest	Cost Recovery Harvest
2008	$ 86,700	$ 86,700	$ 23,700	$ -	$ 54,400

This table is based on ADF&G and CIAA return, weight, price and survival data.

3/15/'99
Wood

RC 31

To Whom it may concern:
Gentlemen:

My name is D.E.Wood, I have fished the upper and lower inlet, for fifty nine yrs.,(59).During this time I have seen a distinct pattern emerge,especially in Ressurection Bay,it is thus-as soon as it is proven that Ressurection Bay can sustain a lucrative commercial salmon run,the management immediately proposes to shut it down.As a matter of fact,this move is just the latest.
All these hatcheries are to enhance the Commercial Fishery,these fish belong to us,and we pay you to raise them for us,with a fish tax,license and permit payments etc.,now if that tax is not enough you shouldn't take our fish away from us,just raise the tax until your expenses are paid.What you are now proposing is to take our fish to assure your jobs,while denying us a livelyhood.If you take it all,you are in essence raising those fish for YOU,not us.I do believe that our Representatives in Juneau might want to look into this. It certainly follows the pattern.

Ressurection Bay,could easily,(and has)sustained a multi-million dollar fishery,humpies,dogs and reds,it just needs management.WE can police it ourselves.No conflict with Sport fisheries.
Let Katchemak hatcheries pay their own way,if you have to take allthe fish for cost recovery,again you are only raising them to pay for your jobs,at our expense.
We don't need a Biologist sitting Homer crouched behind his desk in abject terror,of getting off the ground on a slightly overcast day, with a mild zephyr blowing,we need someone who can bet out there and take a look,or at least contact the fishermen in the area for their opinion. I can guarantee you that there are few biologists who actually know more about those particular fish than some of the old fishermen who have fished them for 30/50 yrs.Try it you'll like it.

There are litterally millions of dollars worth of fish going to waste in Area H,yearly because our biologist sits at his desk with seat belt fastened.You really should have two biologists,one in Seward,who is cognizant of the fact that fishermen are people to.
He could learn a lot.

Sincerely,
D.E.Wood

Submitted by
Tim McDonald

Alaska Crab Coalition
3901 Leary Way N.W. Suite #6
Seattle, Washington 98107
206.547.7560
Fax 206.547.0130
acccrabak@earthlink.net

RC 32

March 22, 2007

Representative Paul Seaton,
Chair
Alaska House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol, Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Rep_Paul_Seaton@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Representative Seaton:

On behalf of the members of the Alaska Crab Coalition (ACC) representing Bering Sea crab vessel owners since 1986, I am writing to comment in support of House Bill # 16 to extend the sunset date on the vessel limitation program for the weathervane scallop and Bering Sea hair crab fisheries, which will end on December 30, 2008, unless state legislation is passed to extend the sunset date. Failure to pass this legislation will result in the fisheries reverting to open access.

The experience of our members results in concerns that concur with those of the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, that if the fisheries revert to open access, it will exacerbate management of the fisheries and increase fishing pressure on the stocks.

The hair crab fishery has been closed for rebuilding of the stocks for several years, and needs to be carefully monitored when it reopens, as the quota will be very low. If the fishery reverts to open access, management of the fishery would be exceedingly difficult.

The scallop fishery has been operating quite well under the limited access system and there are only a small number of boats fishing in a cooperative. The scallop fishery has observers on all boats, paid for by the vessel owners, 100% observer coverage, to monitor crab bycatches. Under the cooperative program crab bycatch has been greatly reduced, as the boats work together and communicate amongst each other to identify "hot spots" of high crab bycatch and they avoid these areas. Since the beginning of the cooperative, made possible by the limited entry program, the fleet has remained well below the overall bycatch limitation caps.

Sincerely,

Arni Thomson
Executive Director

Board of Fisheries
Anchorage, Alaska

14 March 2009

RC 33

Dear Board of Fisheries Members,

The purpose of this letter is to comment on Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association's (CIAA) proposal for a cost recovery plan for the Trail Lakes Hatchery. I sit on the CIAA Board of Directors as the representative for Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition, a sport fish group. KAFC has no financial interest in the outcome of this decision and the organization supports this proposal. However, I would also like to give you a personal perspective as a CIAA Board of Director member.

When I became active over a year ago with CIAA they were in and still are in financial stress – to the point that they would not be solvent without major reorganization of their business plan. In fact, within one month of my joining CIAA they needed to take a state loan for 750,000 dollars to keep the doors open – this increased their debt load to over 3 million dollars and current revenues forecasted would not cover it.

In response to this, I and others worked over a year on a new business model that would bring CIAA into financial stability. It would take significant changes to the income stream as unrestricted grant monies had been eliminated due to political and recession factors.

As a start we defined our core budget – paying the director, keeping our office running and having one biologist to write grant proposals. We realized that the hatchery programs and grant studies like the Susitna River sockeye program had to be self sustaining. The 2 percent fisherman tax only covered the core expenses.

The grant studies were easy to handle. CIAA is doing significant work in the Susitna River basin on sockeye salmon in co-operation with ADF&G. These two million dollar studies can be fully funded within the grant parameters as long as the core expenses of the organization are covered.

However, in looking at the hatchery programs it was obvious that the Trail Lake Hatchery was a significant drain on the financial resources of the CIAA. The reason was not fish production but the distribution of value of

the fish product. CIAA was taking all the risk of the program and the common property fishery was getting a significant pass on sharing the risk of a run failure or cost of the program. This just could not continue as the organization would be insolvent by the end of 2009, which would result in the loss of commercial, sport, and personal use salmon programs along with numerous jobs.

As an organization we set out to define how cost recovery could work for the Trail Lake Hatchery and the proposal before you is the result of hours and hours of discussion with all parties who wanted to participate.

My personal reasons for supporting this plan are as follows:

1. CIAA is too important to fail as an organization. Losing research programs and other attributes that CIAA brings to the community is not an insignificant loss.

2. The Trail Lake Hatchery projections of revenue indicate that CIAA can recover the annual operating expenses, start to repay the Trail Lake debt, and maintain the facility with this proposal.

3. Commercial fisherman in the lower inlet in the long term will recover more money than the present 50/50 split. This is acceptable to CIAA as the proposal reduces risk to CIAA of a run failure which would cause the organization to be insolvent. Thus short term benefit to CIAA is traded off for long term benefit to the commercial fishery.

4. CIAA provides fish to a number of sport fish projects from the Trail Lake Hatchery and these may continue or expand with a viable CIAA.

5. Lower inlet seine fisherman who fish Resurrection Bay can also fish out of the Homer area. Their permit is not limited to Resurrection Bay so a lost of revenue in that area will be available in other common property fishing areas that receive Trail Lakes Hatchery fish.

6. The Trail Lake Hatchery is a facility that produces fish with minimal impact on natural wild stock fisheries and should be a model for hatchery development. Barren Lake stocking or in the case of Bear Creek using a stock that has already been significantly altered by past ADF&G practice is a good choice.

7. The annual cost recovery budget will be decided by the CIAA Board in consultation with ADF&G. The CIAA Board represents a variety of user groups and local governments. It is an open public process and fishermen have never been restricted in making their points.

8. Numerous other options were considered, like splitting a portion of costs between areas, was just too risky at this point to implement. If cost recovery is not successful CIAA has no reserves to cover operations and thus in my opinion must close the facility.

In summary, the cost/benefit of this proposal is good for the State of Alaska and all user groups. I would encourage the Board to realize that CIAA is a valuable organization, that it does not make decisions lightly and that without this proposal passing the future of other programs like Susitna River sockeye studies are also at risk.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E Tarbox,

Kenneth E. Tarbox
907-262-7767

RC 34

March 16, 2009

Members of the Board of Fisheries and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G):

Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee supports efforts by Susitna Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee to see an action plan developed to address the dramatically declining Alexander Creek king salmon population. Perhaps, as pointed out by ADF&G, the Alexander Creek king salmon population may not exactly fit the definition of "Stock of Concern," however, would anyone deny that if the current rate of decline continues for even a couple additional years there may be no Alexander Creek king salmon population to designate concern over.

The Board of Fisheries took conservative action last year by totally closing Alexander Creek and waters near the streams junction with the Susitna River to sport king salmon fishing. The king salmon population, however, may be declining even more rapidly. 2005 is the last year the Alexander Creek king salmon spawning escapement met the 2,100 - 6,000 fish spawning goal when 2,140 fish (only 40 kings over the goal minimum) were counted. Alexander Creek king salmon spawning escapement counts dropped to 885 in 2006, 480 in 2007, and only 150 in 2008. This past summer's spawning escapement count of 150 king salmon is less than one tenth of the minimum spawning escapement goal, and If this current declining trend continues or accelerates, ADF&G runs a significant risk of returning with a zero Alexander Creek king salmon spawning escapement count within the next few years -- possibly even before the next Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting. Therefore, Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee urges the Board and ADF&G to take immediate action in order to halt the decline of the Alexander Creek king salmon population as soon as possible.

In past testimony before the Board, ADF&G has placed most of the blame for declining Alexander Creek king salmon numbers on non-native Northern pike within the Alexander Creek drainage. Test netting by ADF&G in the drainage this summer confirmed one of the densest Northern pike infestations within the entire Susitna River system. Current restrictive pike sport fishing regulations for Alexander Creek have turned Alexander Creek into a Northern pike nurturing sanctuary -- even as the threat of extinction rapidly approaches for Alexander's king salmon population. Sport anglers, willing to reduce the out-of-control pike population, have very little effect under the current regulations. This needs to be addressed.

The other human controlled limiting factor -- harvest within the Northern District commercial king salmon fishery -- should also be changed so that all user groups more equally share in the protection of the remaining Alexander Creek king salmon population. Such a change could also have the added benefit of helping several Northern District king salmon streams which failed to meet escapement goal counts in 2008 -- including Deshka River (received approximately half of minimum), Lake Creek, Willow Creek, Goose Creek, Prairie Creek. In addition, Chuitna River, Lewis River, and Theodore Creek, the only three drainages with established sustainable king salmon escapement goals in the West Cook Inlet Management Area, also failed to reach

minimum king salmon escapement count levels in 2008. We hope the Board and ADF&G will agree, that because of the circumstances mentioned above, it is time to take conservative action to maintain the Alexander Creek king salmon population.

Sincerely,

Andrew N. Couch

Andrew N. Couch by request of Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Tony Russ, Chair
574 Sarah's Way
Wasilla, AK 99654

907-376-6474

SEWARD FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 19, 2009
FISHING PROPOSAL MINUTES

RC 35

The Seward Fish and Game Advisory Committee met on Thursday, February to discuss proposals being put forth for consideration at the BOF Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, Misc. Shellfish, and Supplemental Issues meeting to be held in Anchorage in March.

The following is a list of the proposals we discussed:

PROPOSAL 363 **-5 AAC 77.518. Personal use clam fishery.** Amend the regulations to reduce the daily clam limit to 30 clams per day.
Motion to adopt by Dianne. Second by W.C.
Discussion centered on the lack of a biological imperative. Voted to oppose, 9-0-1

PROPOSAL 364 -5ACC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits and special provision for Cook Inlet- Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.
Reduce the daily bag limit for razor clams in Clam Gulch to the first 15 clams dug.
Motion to adopt by Dianne, seconded by Robin. Same reasoning as Prop 363.
Opposed 9-0-1

PROPOSAL 365 - AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits and special provision for Cook Inlet- Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.
Reduce bag limit of clams to 25.
Motion to adopt by Dianne, seconded by Ezra. We thought this proposal was poorly written. What types of clam are being discussed? The reduction is excessive. We voted to oppose 9-0-1.

PROPOSAL 366 - 5ACC 38.3xx; 58.022; 77.5xx. New Sections. Amend to close areas of Kachemak Bay to sport, commercial, and personal use harvest of shellfish from April 15 until September 15. This proposal would seek to close 2100 feet of shoreline along Shipwreck Cove and three acres of beach by Otter Rock.
Motion to adopt by Dianne, seconded by Jim. We think that it is a bad precedence to have exclusive areas. Such areas would exclude all other user groups for the benefit of another. We opposed this proposal 9-0-1.

PROPOSAL 380- Seeks to repeal 5 AAC 21.375, the Bear Lake Management Plan, and replace it with a Trail Lakes Hatchery Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.
Motion to adopt by Dianne, seconded by Arnie.

SEWARD FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 19, 2009
FISHING PROPOSAL MINUTES

We departed from the traditional meeting rules for this discussion as we had several members of the public that wanted to have their voices heard during our deliberations and outside of the public comment period. We debated this proposal for two hours in a round table format.

Members of the public and several AC members felt this proposal being put forth as a petition circumvented the proposal process.

Are there any other fisheries managed primarily for cost recovery and broodstock? We are against a fishery to be primarily managed for the hatchery, as this proposal is written, and not for the fishermen. Resurrection Bay fisherman would carry the burden if this proposal passes.

CIAA stated that fishermen will still be able to fish Resurrection Bay, just not in the Special Harvest Area, south of Caines Head. There are no catchable fish outside of the Special Harvest Area.

Resurrection Bay reds are the money fish. The run comes in early. Being on the road system eliminates tender costs. These fish command a higher price on par with Copper River reds.

CIAA told us they need 1.2 million dollars to operate this year. The 2% fish tax collected from all Cook Inlet Fishermen was $440,000. Of this amount, $60,000 was collected from LCI seiners who see the most benefit of the CIAA programs. It costs the hatchery 1.2 million to grow reds for the seiners. CIAA receives $60,000 in return. There is no easy solution to this problem.

We discussed the 50-50 fish ticket split that passed the BOF in 2005. CIAA told us the plan is in effect, but the fishery has never been managed that way,

We discussed an increase of the fish tax to 10%. This idea was discarded as the tax would hit all of the fishermen in Cook Inlet, drifters and setnetters. Seiners are the group that primarily benefits from CIAA programs.

The discussion kept coming back to the fact that CIAA needs 1.2 million $ to raise fish for primarily one user group. Return on raw fish tax from the seiners in $60,000.

There must be a more equitable solution to spread the burden out amongst all users. Resurrection Bay's money fish should not bear the burden of being managed for the hatchery, cutting out the fishermen from the money fish.

CIAA told us that the dollar amount needed would be for this year only. They hope to have adequate funding in place by 2010. No funding would mean a loss of broodstock which is hard to get going again once it's lost.

We discussed amending the Proposal as written.
Our amendment would allow fishing on alternate days to be split between fisherman and the hatchery. The alternate days would include all of the LCI Southern District Special Harvest Areas. This would spread out the burden and not focus only on Resurrection Bay.

The fishery would revert back to a common property one after CIAA gets the money and broodstock it needs.

As CIAA believes they need this funding only for this year we added a sunset clause. If needed, the hatchery would then have its proposal heard during the regular cycle for LCI in 2010.

The amendment was passed as follows. **Alternate days fishing, including all of the Special Harvest Areas, for common property and CIAA. Once the financial concern [1.2 million] and broodstock needs are complete, alternate fishing days would revert to a common property fishery. This arrangement would last for one year. The amendment passed 8-0-2.**

Proposal 380 passed as amended 8-0-2.

The Chair on our AC always abstains except in a tie. The other abstention stated he did not understand the proposal or amendment and felt he could not make a decision on information that he had no time to become familiar with.

RC 36

Committee C
Deliberation Materials for
Cook Inlet Cost Recovery Fishery

Division of Sport Fish

Figure 1. Map of the Resurrection River Sport Fisheries

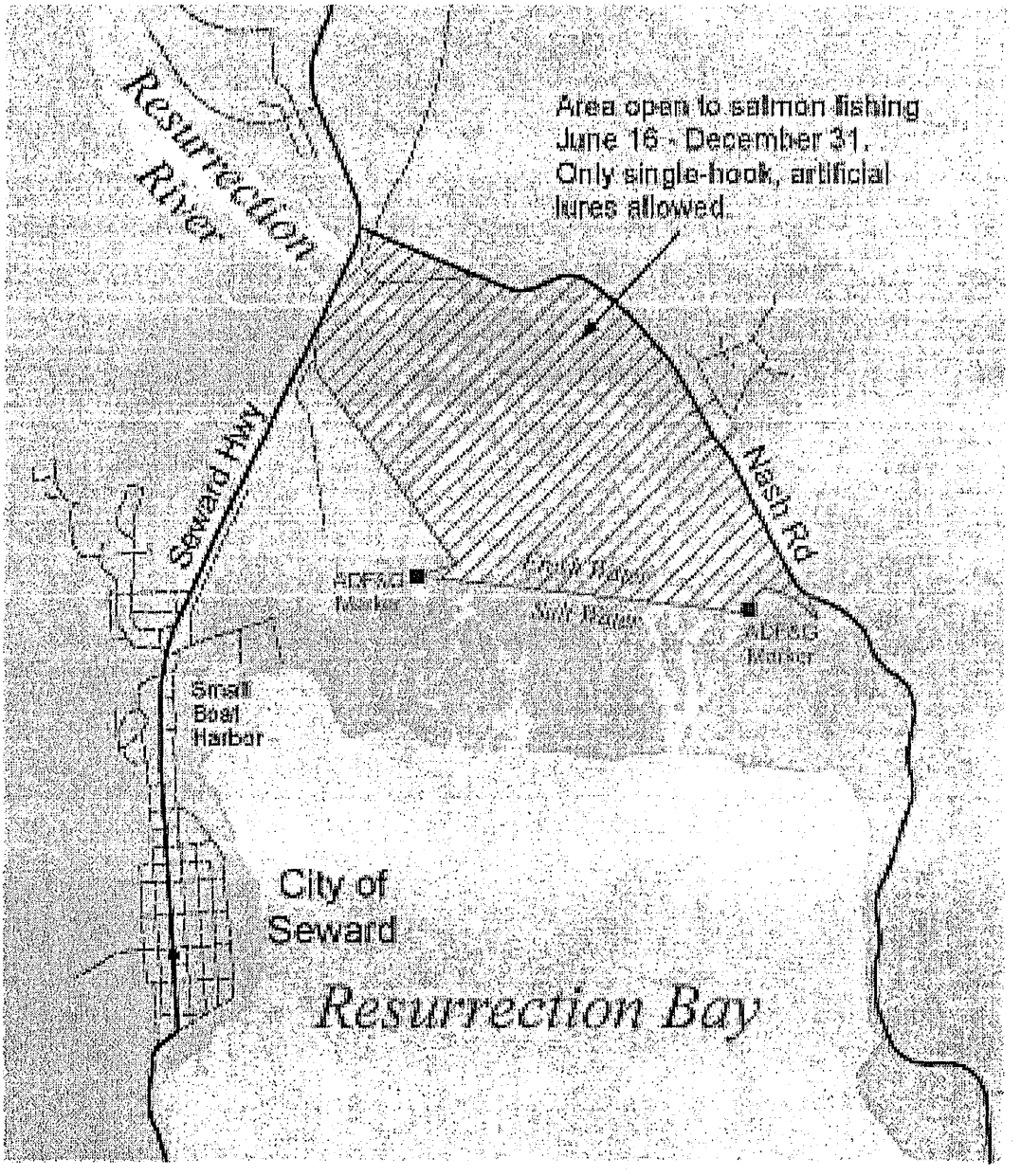


Table 1. Recreational sockeye salmon catch and harvest (SWHS) for Resurrection Bay.

	Boat		Shore		Total	
Year	Catch	Harvest	Catch	Harvest	Catch	Harvest
2001	1,267	746	374	265	1,641	1,011
2002	1,338	1,094	900	773	2,238	1,867
2003	1,371	960	717	587	2,088	1,547
2004	1,662	1,521	888	779	2,550	2,300
2005	2,736	2,230	2,960	2,692	5,696	4,922
2006	3,403	2,348	2,292	2,024	5,695	4,372
2007	2,777	2,179	2,765	1,981	5,542	4,160
Average	**2,079**	**1,583**	**1,557**	**1,300**	**3,636**	**2,883**

Table 2. Resurrection Bay Sport Regulations and Management Objective

Saltwater

- Resurrection Bay saltwaters are open year-round to fishing for salmon
- The limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is 6 per day, 6 in possession; all 6 may be coho salmon

Freshwater

- Resurrection Bay fresh waters are closed year-round to fishing for salmon, except the Resurrection River drainage downstream of the Seward Highway and Nash Road is open to for fishing for salmon, other than king salmon, from June 16 – December 31.
- Legal gear is one unbaited single- hook artificial lure.
- The limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is 3 per day, 3 in possession of which only 2 may be coho salmon

Bear Lake sockeye salmon are managed for a SEG of 700- 8,300 and brood goal for CIAA of 4,920 sockeye for an in-river goal of 5,620-13,220.

Table 3. Non-commercial sockeye salmon harvest for China Poot Bay, 1983-2007.

Year	Sport Harvest China Poot Creek[a]	Sport Harvest China Poot Bay[b]	PU Dipnet harvest China Poot Creek	Commercial Harvest	Total Return
1983			5,466	84,020	84,020
1984			1,794	114,360	114,360
1985	75		796	61,500	61,500
1986			1,815	18,530	18,530
1987		36	1,231	21,500	21,500
1988			1,910	91,469	91,469
1989	117	17	5,416	79,714	79,714
1990		10	5,835	49,587	49,587
1991		268	1,528	117,000 [c]	117,000
1992	247	49	3,468	89,791 [c]	89,791
1993	231	168	4,260	114,677 [c]	114,677
1994	152	214	5,715	50,527 [c]	50,527
1995		426	8,605	145,392 [c]	145,392
1996		206	[d]	200,000 [c]	
1997		60	[d]	120,900 [c]	
1998		122	[d]	164,000 [c]	
1999		214	[d]	219,300 [c]	
2000	702	518	[d]	97,100 [c]	
2001	58	445	[d]	126,900 [c]	
2002			[d]	151,100 [c]	
2003			[d]	427,327 [c]	
2004	261		[d]	34,612 [c]	
2005	413		[d]	95,070 [c]	
2006			[d]	75,303 [c]	
2007			[d]	83,802 [c]	
Mean	251	197	3,680	113,339	79,851

[a] Number of respondants less than 6.

[b] Number of respondants less than 12.

[c] Includes fish returning to Hazel Lake.

[d] Not available

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Sport Fish

5 AAC XX.XXX. Prince William Sound Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan

(a) In the Prince William Sound Management Area noncommercial shrimp fisheries,

(1) the guideline harvest for shrimp taken by pot gear allocated to noncommercial users will be calculated as XX% of the total allowable harvest for the area;

(2) the sport harvest will be estimated annually by the department's statewide harvest survey;

(3) shrimp may be taken with pots as follows:

(i) may be taken April 15-September 15;

(ii) no bag, possession, or size limits;

(iii) no more than five pots per person, with no more than five pots per vessel;

(4) If the noncommercial fisheries are projected to exceed their allowable harvest, the department may use its emergency order authority to restrict the noncommercial fisheries. Restrictions may be implemented preseason based on the most recent harvest estimates for the noncommercial fisheries and the determined allowable harvest for that year. Restrictions may include a reduction of the allowable number of pots and/or time and area.

(5) If the noncommercial fisheries are not projected to exceed their allowable harvest, the department may use its emergency order authority to liberalize the noncommercial fisheries. Liberalizations may be implemented preseason based on the most recent harvest estimates for the noncommercial fisheries and the determined allowable harvest for that year. Liberalizations may include increasing the allowable number of pots.

Kenai/Soldotna Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes 02/18/2009

RC 38

Called to Order

Roll Call

Present: Chair Mike Crawford, Secretary Christine Brandt, Dyer VanDevere (late), George Hunt, Joe Hardy, Joe Mandurano, Nate Corr, Pegge Bernecker, Reubin Payne (late), Rik Bucy, Dick Dykema, Andrew Carmichael, Brent Burnett, John Lucking. Excused: Vice Chair Paul A. Shadura II, Bill Tappan. Absent: Wade Beard

Agency Staff Present: Jeff Selinger

A. Bucy moved to approve the minutes from 2/11/09, Carmichael seconded. Unanimous.

B. Board of Fish proposals

BOF

Proposal 44- Mandurano moved to approve, Bucy seconded. Not even information to approve management plan. Concern about abundance of shrimp. 0/12/0

Proposal 49- Bucy made a motion to approve, Burnett seconded. 0/12/2

Break – Payne present.

Brandt made a motion for Chair Crawford to travel to Anchorage to represent the Kenai/Soldotna Fish & Game Advisory, Corr seconded. 13/0/0

Board of Game proposals

Proposal 134-140- Crawford moved to take no action based on action taken on 132, Corr seconded. 13/0/0

Proposal 143- Crawford moved to adopt, Bucy seconded. Unfair to nonresidents. 0/13/0

Proposal 144-Crawford made a motion to approve, Brandt seconded. Crawford withdrew his motion. Crawford moved to take no action based on Seward AC, Corr seconded. 10/2/1

Proposal 156 – Bucy made a motion to approve, Corr seconded. Motion withdrawn. Brandt moved to take no action, Corr seconded. 13/0/0

Proposal145- Crawford moved to adopt, Brandt seconded. 0/13/0

Proposal 146- Hardy made a motion to adopt, Crawford seconded. Hunting not decreasing population. 0/13/0

Proposal 147- Crawford moved to take no action based on 146, Bucy seconded. 13/0/0

Proposal 148- Crawford moved to adopt, Corr seconded. Concern about depleting bull moose. 0/13/0

RC 39

COOK INLET
AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

40610 KALIFORNSKY BEACH ROAD
KENAI, AK 99611
(907) 283-5761
FAX: (907) 283-9433
email: info@ciaanet.org
http://www.ciaanet.org

January 12, 2009

Mr. John Jensen, Chair, Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Re: A Petition to Repeal the Bear Lake Management Plan (5 AAC 21.375) and adopt a Trail Lakes Hatchery Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

Chairman Jensen,

As per the Joint Board Petition Policy (5 AAC 96.625), the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) petitions the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) to repeal the Bear Lake Management Plan (5 AAC 21.375) and adopt a Trail Lakes Hatchery Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

Nature of the Petition: To maintain the financial future of CIAA and the Trail Lakes Hatchery salmon enhancement programs and prevent the loss of commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries in Lower Cook Inlet, CIAA must secure a coordinated cost recovery harvest priority that provides a reasonable distribution of the harvest of sockeye salmon from enhancement projects among seine and set gillnet commercial fisheries and CIAA. The current Bear Lake Management Plan, which is limited to Resurrection Bay, must be amended and expanded to other areas in Lower Cook Inlet where Trail Lakes Hatchery cost recovery harvests are conducted.

CIAA requests the BOF recognize the eminent loss of commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries in Lower Cook Inlet as an emergency and adopt the attached Trail Lakes Hatchery Sockeye Salmon Management Plan which:

- Incorporates much of the Bear Lake Management Plan,
- Establishes a priority for hatchery cost recovery harvests and broodstock needs, and
- Expands the Special Harvests Areas in Kachemak and Kamishak Bays traditionally used by CIAA.

Why the Proposed Regulatory Changes are an Emergency: Failure of the BOF to act on CIAA's request this winter will result in the closure and return of two State hatcheries, the loss of six full-time and ten seasonal jobs, threaten the ability of the Association to meet its debt obligations to the State and eliminate eleven sockeye and coho stocking projects resulting

in a reduction of commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries worth more than $2,500,000. Recent high energy costs, low interest rates, the loss of electrical power to the Tutka Bay Lagoon enhancement project, and lower than expected cost recovery harvests in 2008 has resulted in a significant and unforeseen financial crisis for CIAA.

Background: CIAA identified the need to secure a coordinated cost recovery harvest strategy in 1993 and initiated the development of a Resurrection Bay sockeye salmon return dedicated to cost recovery harvest. This initial effort, which focused on a late run timing sockeye stock, failed because CIAA harvest efforts were restricted to freshwater or near freshwater resulting in the harvest of poor quality fish.

In the late 1990's, CIAA modified the cost recovery enhancement project by utilizing an early run sockeye stock. However, this put CIAA's cost recovery harvest in conflict with the Resurrection Bay commercial sockeye fishery developed by CIAA through another stocking program. In 2001, CIAA asked the BOF to adopt a management plan that allocated 50% of the ex-vessel value of the sockeye salmon commercially harvested in Resurrection Bay to CIAA. The sockeye salmon returning to Resurrection Bay are the result of CIAA enhancement activities and half of the fish released to Resurrection Bay were reared to develop the return for cost recovery harvest. The BOF request for a management plan allocating 50% of the ex-vessel value to CIAA was denied.

In 2004, CIAA asked the BOF to adopt a management plan that allocates 50% of the sockeye salmon commercially harvested in Resurrection Bay to CIAA. This request was approved and is the current Bear Lake Management Plan under which CIAA has operated since 2005.

In 2004, CIAA also lost access to Tustumena Lake which provided the brood source for the sockeye stocking projects in Kachemak and Kamishak Bays. As a result, it was necessary for CIAA to modify several TLH stocking programs resulting in the release of larger fish. Doubling the biomass of fish produced at TLH (Table 1) has increased production costs and is expected to improve survival rates. These fish have not yet returned.

Contributing Issues: While the 2005 Bear Lake Management Plan appeared to provide the financial resources CIAA needed to continue its Trail Lakes Hatchery salmon enhancement programs, several issues beyond CIAA's control have conspired to make the Bear Lake Management Plan inadequate for the cost recovery needs of 2009 and beyond. Two key issues that have contributed to the need for a Trail Lakes Hatchery Sockeye Salmon Management Plan are:

1. Each year CIAA expects to receive income from five established cost recovery harvest locations in Lower Cook Inlet (Table 3). CIAA did not meet its cost recovery harvest expectations at any of these locations in 2008. During the harvests, CIAA was aware that the returns to four of the five locations were lower than expected; however, in November, when harvest numbers became available and CIAA was able to conduct a thorough review of the cost recovery harvests, it was apparent sufficient returns were available for meeting CIAA's financial goals and for providing a common property harvest (Table 2). This loss of income significantly hinders CIAA's ability to operate Trail Lakes Hatchery; and, if a

similar loss of income continues into 2009, CIAA will be unable to operate Trail Lakes Hatchery.

2. The November 2008 review (Table 3) also revealed that the 2005 Bear Lake Management Plan is not meeting the cost recovery harvest needs of CIAA. The Bear Lake Management Plan allocates 50% of the harvest to CIAA. Since 2005, the average allocation to CIAA has varied from 32% to 63% and averaged 47%. The November 2008 review revealed that, while CIAA harvested an average of 47% of the resource, the value of the harvested resource averaged only 36% of the value of the resource harvested by the commercial fishery. Because CIAA's allocation is taken from the end of the return when quality and prices are low, CIAA's annual income has been inconsistent and lower than projected. CIAA has historically been forced to use its financial reserves and currently has no reserve funds available. Until an adequate reserve fund becomes available, CIAA cannot risk not meeting its cost recovery harvest goals.

In addition to the above key issues, the following also contributed to the need for a Trail Lakes Hatchery Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

1. Hatchery operations require a significant investment in electrical and fuel energy resources to continuously pump large volumes of water for rearing and to heat water for the thermal (otolith) marking required by the State. Not only did CIAA's energy costs increase dramatically due to the unstable world markets in 2008; but, the fuel used by Trail Lakes Hatchery to thermally mark fish has doubled. In addition, other Alaskan and international hatchery programs are thermally marking fish and the thermal marks CIAA must now use are much more complex requiring more fuel.
2. Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill punitive damages question. This ruling substantially reduced the settlement payment CIAA will receive from the oil spill. While CIAA does not wish to rely on the Exxon settlement payment for operations, the Association had considered using any funds received as an interest earning reserve fund. Given the world's current financial crisis, earning interest will likely be very difficult over the next two to three years; and, with the smaller settlement payment, interest earnings are likely to be negligible.
3. In the past, CIAA received some of the financial resources needed to operate Trail Lake Hatchery and its sockeye salmon enhancement programs through federal grants. Given the state of the country's economy, it is questionable and unlikely that these financial resources will be available in the future.
4. CIAA has taken steps to improve future cost recovery harvests through the development of a sockeye salmon return to Tutka Bay Lagoon. To develop this return, CIAA has been temporarily rearing, imprinting, and sexually maturing sockeye salmon with freshwater pumped from the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery. In December 2008, CIAA was informed by the Homer Electric Association (HEA) that the line supplying electrical power to the hatchery facility was failing and would be "retired" in February 2009 unless CIAA agrees to pay the cost of replacing the line. CIAA currently does not have the $200,000 in funds required to replace the failing line. The lack of electrical power at the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery will limit future harvests from this project.

Other Options Considered: To address the inconsistent and lower than projected income from cost recovery harvests, CIAA's considered a variable Salmon Enhancement Tax (SET)

option. For this option, CIAA could request the SET for Lower Cook Inlet be adjusted annually to secure the funds needed to operate Trail Lakes Hatchery. CIAA rejected this option because it was not possible to implement in a short time period, the process has not been previously used, implementation of a variable tax would require development of emergency regulations by the Department of Revenue, it would not provide financial resources the first year because of the delay in allocating tax revenues to the Association and considerable risk remains that the Association would not secure its minimum financial need.

Conclusion: Based on the information that became available in the fall and early winter of 2008, CIAA is asking the BOF to recognize CIAA's inconsistent and lost cost recovery harvest income as unworkable and the eminent loss of future commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries in Lower Cook Inlet as an emergency. Recent high energy costs, low interest rates and the potential loss of electrical power to the Tutka Bay Lagoon enhancement project without a substantial financial commitment by the Association has resulted in a significant and unforeseen financial crisis for CIAA. These issues can be mitigated by adopting a hatchery management plan, as the BOF has done in other areas of the State, which provides a priority for CIAA's cost recovery harvest needs. Without a Trail Lakes Hatchery Sockeye Salmon Management Plan in place for 2009, CIAA will not be able to operate Trail Lakes Hatchery's salmon enhancement projects. Cost recovery, commercial, sport, and personal use harvest opportunities will be lost and the future viability of CIAA threatened.

CIAA believes this petition meets the Joint Board Petition Policy (5 AAC 96.625) and asks the BOF to consider the petition at its January 21 to 27 meeting in Petersburg, Alaska meeting. If accepted, the proposed regulatory changes could then be published for the 30 day comment period and a public hearing held at the BOF's March 16 to 20 meeting in Anchorage. Prior to the March meeting CIAA will inform all Cook Inlet permit holders of the proposed regulatory changes and request a Regional Planning Team meeting for additional public review.

Sincerely,

Brent Johnson, President
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association

Gary Fandrei, Executive Director
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association

Xcopy: Jim Marcotte, Executive Director, Board of Fisheries
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Lee Hammarstrom, Area Management Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Andy Macaulay, Loan Officer, Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Senator Gary Stevens
Senator Tom Wagoner
Representative Mike Chenault
Representative Kurt Olson
Representative Paul Seaton

Table 1. TLH stocking from 1999 through 2008.

Year	Number	Biomass (Kg)
1999	11,080,500	5,865.80
2000	13,564,000	8,084.60
2001	4,132,000	2,144.39
2002	19,436,000	13,882.03
2003	16,889,000	14,582.65
2004	18,268,000	16,943.90
2005	11,150,000	18,927.00
2006	**7,430,000**	**29,659.05**
2007	**13,625,000**	**25,030.95**
2008	**13,895,000**	**37,754.55**

Fish released after 2005 are still at sea and have not yet returned.

)le 2. The value of all CIAA (TLH) sockeye salmon enhancement projects from 2005 through 2008.

	Total Return	Enhanced Return	Sport Harvest	Personal Use Harvest	Unharvested & Escapement	Commercial Harvest	Cost Recovery Harvest	% the Cost Recovery Harvest is of the Total Commercial Harvest
2008	$ 2,451,100	$ 2,271,100	$ 100,600	$ 51,800	$ 319,800	$ 1,229,300	$ 437,500	26%
2007	$ 1,272,100	$ 1,095,600	$ 53,400	$ 37,300	$ 233,600	$ 520,200	$ 147,600	22%
2006	$ 1,633,100	$ 1,359,800	$ 44,100	$ 37,900	$ 265,700	$ 572,100	$ 253,300	31%
2005	$ 995,000	$ 853,900	$ 34,900	$ 30,700	$ 97,100	$ 403,600	$ 202,000	33%

This table is based on ADF&G and CIAA return, weight, price and survival data.

Table 3. The value of CIAA (TLH) sockeye salmon enhancement projects with cost recovery harvests from 2005 through 2008.

Bear Lake (Resurrection Bay) Estimated Return and Harvest Allocation

	Total Return	Enhanced Return	Sport Harvest	Estimated Poaching	Escapement	Commercial Harvest	Cost Recovery Harvest
2008	110,300	104,800	5,400	900	12,800	54,200	31,300
2007	41,900	39,800	4,000	900	12,200	14,600	6,900
2006	80,200	76,200	4,200	900	11,800	26,400	32,900
2005	76,000	72,200	4,700	900	12,700	18,100	30,600

Bear Lake (Resurrection Bay) Estimated Value Based on Ex-Vessel Price

	Total Return	Enhanced Return	Sport Harvest	Estimated Poaching	Escapement	Commercial Harvest	Cost Recovery Harvest
2008	$ 1,601,300	$ 1,521,500	$ 78,400	$ 13,100	$ 185,800	$ 786,900	$ 343,500
2007	$ 326,400	$ 310,100	$ 31,200	$ 7,000	$ 95,100	$ 113,700	$ 28,800
2006	$ 587,200	$ 557,900	$ 30,800	$ 6,600	$ 86,400	$ 193,300	$ 112,500
2005	$ 286,300	$ 271,900	$ 17,700	$ 3,400	$ 47,800	$ 68,200	$ 87,900

Leisure Lake and Hazel Lake Combined Estimated Return and Harvest Allocation

	Total Return	Enhanced Return	Sport Harvest	Personal Use Harvest	Unharvested	Commercial Harvest	Cost Recovery Harvest
2008	70,300	70,300	600	4,900	100	62,800	1,900
2007	89,900	89,900	600	4,900	500	61,200	22,600
2006	81,700	81,700	600	4,900	800	52,000	23,300
2005	100,600	100,600	600	4,900	-	64,900	29,700

Leisure Lake and Hazel Lake Combined Estimated Value Based on Ex-Vessel Price

	Total Return	Enhanced Return	Sport Harvest	Personal Use Harvest	Unharvested	Commercial Harvest	Cost Recovery Harvest
2008	$ 392,100	$ 392,100	$ 3,300	$ 27,300	$ 600	$ 350,200	$ 9,400
2007	$ 357,400	$ 357,400	$ 2,400	$ 19,500	$ 2,000	$ 243,300	$ 76,600
2006	$ 361,400	$ 361,400	$ 2,700	$ 21,700	$ 3,500	$ 230,000	$ 90,000
2005	$ 367,700	$ 367,700	$ 2,200	$ 17,900	$ -	$ 237,200	$ 92,000

Kirschner Lake Estimated Return and Harvest Allocation

	Total Return	Enhanced Return	Unharvested	Commercial Harvest	Cost Recovery Harvest
2008	14,800	14,800	2,000	1,200	11,600
2007	37,400	37,400	2,000	7,700	27,700
2006	50,400	50,400	-	24,100	26,300
2005	16,500	16,500	1,500	-	14,800

Kirschner Lake Estimated Value Based on Ex-Vessel Price

	Total Return	Enhanced Return	Unharvested	Commercial Harvest	Cost Recovery Harvest
2008	$ 59,500	$ 59,500	$ 8,000	$ 4,800	$ 30,200
2007	$ 142,400	$ 142,400	$ 7,600	$ 29,300	$ 42,200
2006	$ 184,200	$ 184,200	$ -	$ 88,100	$ 50,800
2005	$ 52,000	$ 52,000	$ 4,700	$ -	$ 22,100

Tutka Lagoon Estimated Return and Harvest Allocation

	Total Return	Enhanced Return	Unharvested	Commercial Harvest	Cost Recovery Harvest
2008	20,100	20,100	5,500	-	14,600

Tutka Lagoon Estimated Value Based on Ex-Vessel Price

	Total Return	Enhanced Return	Unharvested	Commercial Harvest	Cost Recovery Harvest
2008	$ 86,700	$ 86,700	$ 23,700	$ -	$ 54,400

This table is based on ADF&G and CIAA return, weight, price and survival data.

Board of Fisheries Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, Misc Shellfish, and Supplemental Issues held at Egan Civic & Convention Center in Anchorage, AK

RC 40

Public Testimony Sign Up

Name	Representing	Subject / Related RC. PC or AC
1. Don Fox	Kodiak F&G AC	Prop 356 – 358 AC 7
2. Steve Vanek	Central Peninsula AC & Self	Cost recovery Prop 390 RC 11
3. Marv Peters	Homer AC	Comments on proposals RC 18
4. Jim Stubbs	Anchorage AC	Comments on proposals
5. Marilyn Sigman	Center for AK	Prop 366 RC 23
6. Lee Mayhan	Self	Prop 366 RC 24
7. Larry Edfelt	Territorial Sportsmen, Juneau, Sitka & Petersburg Charterboat Association and 2 lodges	.....Petition re: sport sablefish RC 16
8. John Blair	SE AK Guide's Organization	Petition re: sport sablefish
9. Marguerite McManus	Self	Oppose Prop 380 RC 29
10. Tom Buchanan	Self & Resident Seiners of Resurrection Bay	Prop 380 oppose RC 30
11. Tim McDonald	Self	Prop 380 RC 31
12. Phil Cutler	AK Sportfish Association	Prop 380
13. Steven Roth	Self	Proposed Trail Lk Mgmt plan
14. Paul Shadura	Kenai Peninsula Fishermen Assoc	Cost recovery Committee C
15. Eric Baehman	Self	
16. Roland Maw	United Cook Inlet Drift Assoc.	Cost recovery Committee C
17. Beaver Nelson	Self	Prop 380
18. Andy Craig	Cordova District Fishermen's United	Prop 44A, 49
19. Jim Stone	AK Scallop Assoc	Prop 358
20. John Lemar	Self F/V Arctic Hunter	Prop 358
21. Thomas Minio	Self	Prop 358
22. Tom Minio	Self F/V Provider	Prop 385 Scallops
23. Andrew Couch	Self	Alexander Creek King salmon petition
24. Mel Grove	PWS CBA	Prop 44
25. Bruce Knowles	Self	Alexander Creek petition
26. Michael Baines	Sitka AC	Prop 357, 367, and petitions
27. Rick Vrsalovic	Self	PWS pot shrimp

Board of Fisheries Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, Misc Shellfish, and Supplemental Issues held at Egan Civic & Convention Center in Anchorage, AK

Public Testimony Sign Up

Name	Representing	Subject / Related RC. PC or AC
28. Melanie Rotter	Self	Prop 361 & 362 subsistence crab
29. Gary Fandrei	Cook Inlet Aquaculture Assoc.	Prop 380 RC 27
30. Aaron Bloomquist	Self	Shrimp
31. Gordon Scott	Self	PWS spot Shrimp
32. Rick Ellingson	Self	Comments on proposals
33. Mike Crawford	Kenai/Soldotna AC	Pot shrimp proposals
34. Dianne Dubuc	Seward AC	Comments on proposals
35. Steve Runyan	Susitna Valley AC	Alexander Creek petition
36. Jon Van Hyning	Whittier AC	Pot Shrimp PWS RC 26

Board of Fisheries Kodiak Finfish meeting of January 14 – 18, 2008 at Elk's Lodge
Kodiak, Alaska **RC Index** **RC 41**

Log #	Submitted by	Topic
1	ADF&G Boards Support	BOF Workbook
2	ADF&G	Department Comments
3	ADF&G	Department Written Reports/Oral Reports (contained within RC 2)
4	Cook Inlet Regional Planning Team	Comments in support of #380
5	ADF&G	Report for CIAA Petition (prop 380)
6	Sharon Minsch	Prop 366
7	Kotzebue AC	Prop 378
8	Southern Norton Sound AC	Prop 378
9	Northern Norton Sound AC	Prop 378
10	Cook Inlet Aquaculture Assoc.	Newsletter with Trails Lake Plan
11	Central Peninsula AC	Comment supporting 380
12	David Martin	Comment supporting 380
13	Cook Inlet Fishermen's Fund	Comment supporting 380
14	Petersburg Vessel Owners Assoc.	Comment on blackcod petition
15	United Fishermen of Alaska	Prop 375
16	Larry Edfelt	Comments on blackcod
17	SE AK Fishermen's Alliance	Comment on blackcod
18	Homer F&G AC	Comments on Prop 363-366, 380
19	Mark & Miriam Edwards	Letter re: SF Guide Service Board
20	Mat Valley AC	Prop 363-364, 368, 379
21	Howard Delo	Ethic appendix
22	ADF&G	Prop 44A back up material
23	Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, Inc submitted by Marilyn Sigman	Prop 366 additional information
24	Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, Inc submitted by Lee Mayhan	Prop 366 pictures and brochure
25	Dianne Dubuc	AK Wildlife Troopers Resurrection River enforcement information
26	Whittier F&G AC	Proposal comments
27	Gary Fandrei	CIAA Executive Committee minutes of March 11, 2009
28	Steve Vanek	Central Peninsula minutes with proposal comments
29	Marguerita McManus	Prop 380 oppose
30	Tom Buchanan	Prop 380 oppose
31	Tim McDonald	Testimony of D.E. Wood
32	Jim Stone	AK Scallop Assoc. Bering Sea Crab
33	Roland Maw	Ken Tarbox re: Cost recovery petition
34	Andy Couch	Mat Valley AC re: Alexander Creek petition
35	Seward AC	Comments on proposals
36	ADF&G / SF	Committee C Deliberations

Log #	Submitted by	Topic
37	ADF&G / SF	Pot shrimp mgmt plan
38	Kenai/Soldotna AC	Prop 44 & 49 comments
39	Cook Inlet Aquaculture Assoc.	Petition to repeal Bear Lk hatchery plan and adopt Trails Lk hatchery plan
40	ADF&G / Boards	Public Testimony list
41	ADF&G / Boards	RC Index to date

Faxed to (907) 465-6094

Paul Costello
962 Bennett Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712
March 12, 2009 .
RE: Proposals #44 thru #56 on PWS Pot Shrimp Fishery

RC 42

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear ADF&G & BOF:

I have been fishing and shrimping in Prince William Sound (PWS) since 1994. **I am writing in opposition** to any and all Proposals # 44 thru # 56, concerning the re-establishment of any COMFish PWS Pot Shrimp Fishery.

As the letter from Ken Larson so clearly points out:

"As is so aptly stated in BOF's Green Book PROPOSAL 44, PWS Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan, under ISSUE: **"The ...(PWS) shrimp pot fishery was closed by emergency order from 1992 until 2000 when the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted a regulation closing the fishery."** And it has remained closed since. An examination of ADF&G representative Brian Marston's 2007 Slide Show Report, titled ***Shrimp in Prince William Sound***, and the data therein, comments on abundance: **"PWS has productive fisheries but current commercial catches and shrimp surveys by ADF&G are below long term averages."** And **"Sport catches have steadily increased over time."**

An examination of Marston's data slide entitled ***PWS commercial shrimp pot fishery harvest, 1960 – 1991***, indicates that the commercial shrimp pot fishery peaked in 1985 at about 300,000 lbs with 100 COMFish vessels participating. That fishery seriously tanked by 1991, resulting in the closure that's been in effect since 1992, and I can remember how slim my shrimp sport catch was then also. Marston's data slide entitled ***PERMIT RETURNS (2001-2005)***, indicates that in 2005, Sport Fishermen were already removing a permit-estimated 33,285 lbs, which was over an 11-fold increase from 2001's 2,731 lbs. My first hand experience in PWS shows the Sport Fish Shrimp harvest has continued to grow and a simple graph extrapolation suggests that the 2008 harvest was at least 50,000 lbs and could easily reach 65,000 lbs in 2009. **I reference these numbers to show that the PWS Sport Fish Shrimp Pot take is already about 22% of COMFish's historical high 1985 catch, AND IS GROWING!**

If a COMFish Pot Shrimp Fishery is reopened in PWS, their typical catch practices will once again decimate the shrimp harvest for everyone, as they have so aptly demonstrated many times in many places. I have long been a participant in the ongoing COMFish Vs. Sportfish Halibut allocation battles, wherein the COMFish lobby effectively gained control of almost 85-90% of the annual Halibut Fishery with their COMFish IFQ's. **I do not want to ever see another fishery allocation take place where quantity, season and location controls result in less than 50% of the fishery being dedicated to the Sport and Subsistence users in Alaska!** And that includes Shrimp! **I vote NO on reopening any COMFish shrimp pot fishery!"**

I SECOND HIS POSITION, NO RE-OPENING ON ANY COMFISH SHRIMP POT FISHERY!

Sincerely,

Paul C Costello

Gordon Scott, Box 847, Girdwood AK 99587 March 16, 2009

Comments to Alaska Board of Fisheries

RC 43

Re PWS SHRIMP Proposals: 44, 49

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board

I firmly believe that we need a Commercial Spot Shrimp fishery in Prince William Sound. In conjunction with subsistence effort a fishery existed in the past, accounting for 95% of the catch. The shrimp stocks collapsed since then. Nine years ago (in 2000), YOU, the Board of Fish, closed the fishery and requested the Department create a management plan. The Department did nothing. Six years ago, and then again 3 years ago, you requested the same thing. In 2006 you even chided the department, requesting a policy be prepared. And the department still did nothing towards creating a management plan.

Now we have proposal 44 and 49 before us, fleshed out at the Cordova meeting in December. These provide a framework for a commercial fishery to proceed. However AS HASTILY WRITTEN, IT IS SET UP FOR FAILURE. Many items need to be modified in this plan to make an economically viable long term plan to protect and utilize the fishery resource. Very simply put, a conservative TAC as referenced in section 260 (b) is the main tool to use to manage this fishery. It does not need to be micromanaged by fear of consequences.

I have listed detailed changes below with their explanations. I urge you to consider them in creating a management plan.

One of the most important elements of this plan is the allocation of the resource to the users. During the 80's, the catch was 95% commercial and 5% subsistence and other non-commercial uses. Then the fishery collapsed due to the oilspill and other unknown factors. It was closed by EO until 2000, when it was closed by the Board until a commercial management plan was in place. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT YOU, THE FISH BOARD, INTENDED FOR SHRIMP TO REMAIN WITHOUT A MANAGEMENT PLAN for NINE years. In the meantime while the department shirked their responsibility to manage the resource, the non-commercial fisheries blossomed. They have enjoyed essentially a 100% allocation since 1990. There has been no balance. There has been no catch data from commercial fishers to assist the department in assessing resource strength. Many sport users have been "filling their freezers" each year with spot shrimp.

The allocation determination clock should be set back to the time that the Department began ignoring their responsibility to manage the resource. The commercial fishery should be given a share of the resource in balance with the past when there were both commercial and non-commercial users. RC-108 outlines and justifies how the Shrimp resource should be allocated to the user groups.

We must create a commercial fishery plan to utilize and fairly share the resource, to allow all Alaskans access, and to maximize and sustain the fishery. This must be done in a manner that will provide economic incentive to those who choose to commercially fish. The plan as outlined in Proposal 44 needs to be modified to allow this balance and incentives. Despite the department's inaction in the past, we can not wait another 3 years to create a Management Plan.

Specific CHANGES NEEDED TO PROPOSAL 44 as written in RC-118

Section 206: Registration

I am not sure of all the definitions and if the wording needs to be changed, but this should be worded if possible so that one of the intents of Proposal 49 is achieved. The intent is that people need to decide which fishery they will participate in, in order to have a more orderly transition of commercial and non-commercial fishery management.

Section 210, section "a" Rotational harvest areas

There needs to be clarification as to which subarea Perry Pass and Port Wells are in. By the page 4 map it appears it is in AREA 2. It is not clear to me from the wording which area (if any) Port Wells and Perry Pass are in. The wording needs to be assessed and corrected.

The concept of rotational harvest areas is set up for failure, and will not be conducive to an economically viable and an orderly fishery. . All commercial fishers will be herded into a small area. Commercial effort will be concentrated extremely such that there will be gear conflicts, and over-fishing The fleet needs to be able to move around. Fishermen will fish the more productive areas, and leave the depleted/ less productive areas. With the proposed small areas, everyone will know everyone's productive spots and will congregate around them, causing serious local depletion. . In these overfished areas, commercial CPUE data will be falsely depressed soon after opening due to concentrated gear effort.

Also there will be non-commercial removals from these areas when commercially closed. These are not reported as to amount and location of catch. Therefore conclusions about commercially closed years will be fairly meaningless as to what

Section 224, (e) (4) Restricted Hours
Drop this or extend to 6 am to 10 pm.
The 8 hour restriction is problematic. Especially when people are fishing in the lower section, travel times to port are going to be considerable. This will make people miss much fishing time, and allow more predation by octopus while waiting to pull gear legally (wasting the resource). There are other reasons why this time restriction is not good. Among them are the weather and safety factors. The weather can be horrible during the day, and calm at night.

Section 235 Closed Waters (Closed only to commercial)
The areas depicted in yellow on page 5 represent most of the historical grounds heavily used by non commercial fishers. The intent is to leave the grounds close to ports entirely for the non commercial fisheries. Sport / personal use / subsistence users generally do not travel far from port. This allows them to not be competing with commercial interests. (However it does not restrict them from setting shrimp pots anywhere.)

Section 240 Vessel inspection (a housekeeping change)
This is unclear. There is no subsection (a) as referenced in subsection (d).

they mean to the effects of the commercial rotational harvest system. If those areas were also closed to ALL shrimp removals, then perhaps some useful conclusions could be drawn.

The subareas are not equal. There will likely be very few commercial participants for Area 3, unless things are changed to provide economic justification. The distance from ports to Artea 3 with all of the restrictions proposed will make it not worth fishing in the southern area.

The goal of reducing the pressure of the fishery on the shrimp stocks can be reached by setting a CONSERVATIVE TAC which is addressed in other areas of the proposal and supported. The rotational harvest through the 3 areas should be scrapped. If there is data showing serious depletion in certain areas, those areas can be closed by EO. If ADFG wants to experiment with area rotation, then they should close only one stat area at a time.

Section 215: Allocation
Historical commercial catch has been 95%. The sport/personal use catches have blossomed in recent years. At this time, the percentage of sport/ personal use/ subsistence has bee 100%. This is because the commercial fishery has been closed, and the Department has failed to come up with a management plan as requested by the BOF continuously for the last nine years, so the commercial fishery has remained closed We must set an allocation based on historical catches. The commercial fishery should be allotted 93% of the remainder of the harvestable surplus after deduction of the C&T allocation. See the Justification for this in RC-108.

Section 224 (b) and (c) Lawful gear
The design restrictions especially stifle fishermen's ability to experiment to create more effective pots, or pots that work well with their operation. Instead of particular shape descriptions, I suggest that a volume restriction is put in place if thatis intended. There could be different volume pots allowed.

Section 224, (e) (1) Pot limit Set at 150 pots
The pot limit is only a regulatory cap. Set the pot limit higher. ADFG can retain the language that they will set the pot limit per info available at close of registration. This tool will be especially useful if there is a large rush into the commercial fishery. The pot limit must be enough as to provide economic incentive when the fishery is slow or if there are only a few participants. It must not be set unreasonably low from the commercial fishing perspective. It should be set at 150 (the pot limit established when the fishery was last open.) This will not harm the fishery in any way.

RC 44

5 AAC 21.376. Resurrection Bay Salmon Management Plan

(a) Since the beginning of significant commercial harvests of pink and chum salmon in Resurrection Bay, there have been some conflicts between recreational and commercial fishermen. The issues are the protection of coho and king salmon for the recreational fishery, and the management of surplus pink and chum salmon stocks in a manner that provides for a commercial fishery while minimizing the incidental catch of coho and king salmon.

(b) The commissioner shall, by emergency order,

(1) manage Resurrection Bay coho and king salmon stocks primarily for recreational use;

(2) manage the indigenous pink and chum salmon stocks primarily for commercial use, insofar as that harvest does not interfere in time or area with the recreational fishery;

(3) manage the commercial fishery in Resurrection Bay in a manner that does not interfere with the recreational fishery.

History: Eff. 6/10/89, Register 110; am 6/11/2005, Register 174

Submitted by Dianne Debuc

RC 45

March 17, 2009

Members of the Board of Fisheries and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G):

Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee supports efforts by Susitna Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee to see an action plan developed to address the dramatically declining Alexander Creek king salmon population. As pointed out by ADF&G, the Alexander Creek king salmon population may not exactly fit the definition of "Stock of Concern," however, if the current trend of decline continues there may be no Alexander Creek king salmon population to designate concern over.

The Board of Fisheries took conservative action last year by totally closing Alexander Creek and streams conjoining the Susitna River to sport king salmon fishing. 2005 is the last year the Alexander Creek spawning king salmon met escapement of 2140 with 2100 being the minimum goal. Alexander Creek king salmon spawning escapement counts have dropped ever since with only 150 in 2008. This is less than one tenth of the minimum spawning escapement goal, and if this trend continues ADF&G runs a significant risk of returning with a zero. Therefore, Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee urges the Board and ADF&G to take immediate action in order to halt the decline of the Alexander Creek king salmon population as soon as possible.

ADF&G has placed most of the blame for declining Alexander Creek king salmon numbers on non-native Northern pike within the Alexander Creek drainage. Test netting by ADF&G in the drainage confirmed one of the densest Northern pike infestations within the entire Sustina River system. Current restrictive pike sport fishing regulations have turned Alexander Creek into a Northern pike nurturing sanctuary -- even as the threat of extinction rapidly approaches for Alexander's king population. Sport anglers, willing to reduce the out-of-control pike population, have very little affect under the current regulations. This needs to be addressed and managed for abundance.

The other controlling factor is harvest within the Northern District commercial king salmon fishery. Management of the fishery should be changed so that all user groups equally share in the protection of the Alexander Creek's king salmon population. This change would also benefit several Northern District king salmon streams which failed to meet escapement goals in 2008 -- including Deshka River, which met half of the escapement goal, Lake Creek, Willow Creek, Goose Creek, Prairie Creek. Additionally, Chuitna River, Lewis River, and Theodore Creek with established sustainable king salmon escapement goals in the West Cook Inlet Management Area failed to reach minimum king salmon escapement count levels in 2008. There is obviously an alarming trend that must be addressed. We hope the Board and ADF&G will agree, that because of the circumstances mentioned above, it is time to take conservative action to maintain the Alexander Creek king salmon population.

Sincerely,

Melvin B. Grove Jr.
By election of Matanuska Valley Fish
and Game Advisory Committee

Tony Russ, Chair
574 Sarah's Way

March 16, 2009

Members of the Board of Fisheries and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G):

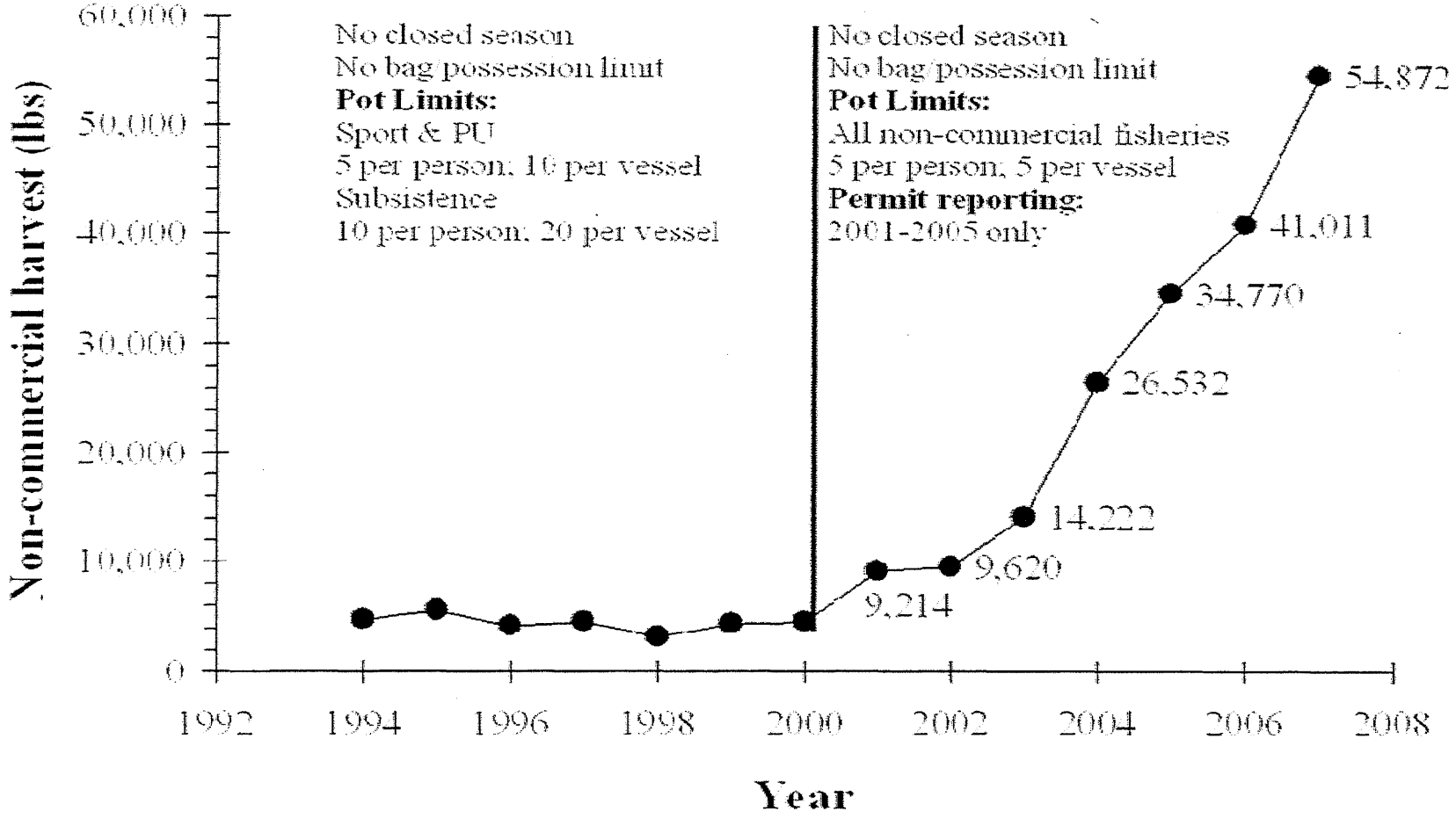
The Matsu Advisory council voted unanimously 12/0 in opposition to Proposal 44 to the opening of a commercial shrimp pot fishery. Brian Marston, Division of Sport Fish, states in his Shrimp In PWS slide show that "PWS has productive fisheries but current commercial catches and shrimp surveys by ADF&G are below long term averages". Although sport fish catches have steadily increased over time, the opening of a commercial shrimp pot fishery could be premature and result in overfishing the resource. The ADF&G PWS Shrimp Report (Dec 08) (Slide15) indicates that a conservative surplus production is estimated at approximately 96,500lbs. According to the former commissioner of F&G, Mr. Bentz, the resource is "owned by everyone" and currently the public is utilizing up to 55,000lbs or 57% of this share for personal subsistence. Public utilization of the resource should be the prime consideration for estimating the allowable harvest and based on the growing projections (Slide 10) the personal subsistence will be approaching the sustainable surplus. Unless, better F&G research indicates a much larger biomass existing within PWS to sustain a "long term" average yield, the fishery appears to yield only enough resource to sustain personal non-commercial subsistence. We highly recommend a commercial shrimp pot fishery not be established at this time.

Sincerely,
Melvin B. Grove Jr.
By election of Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee

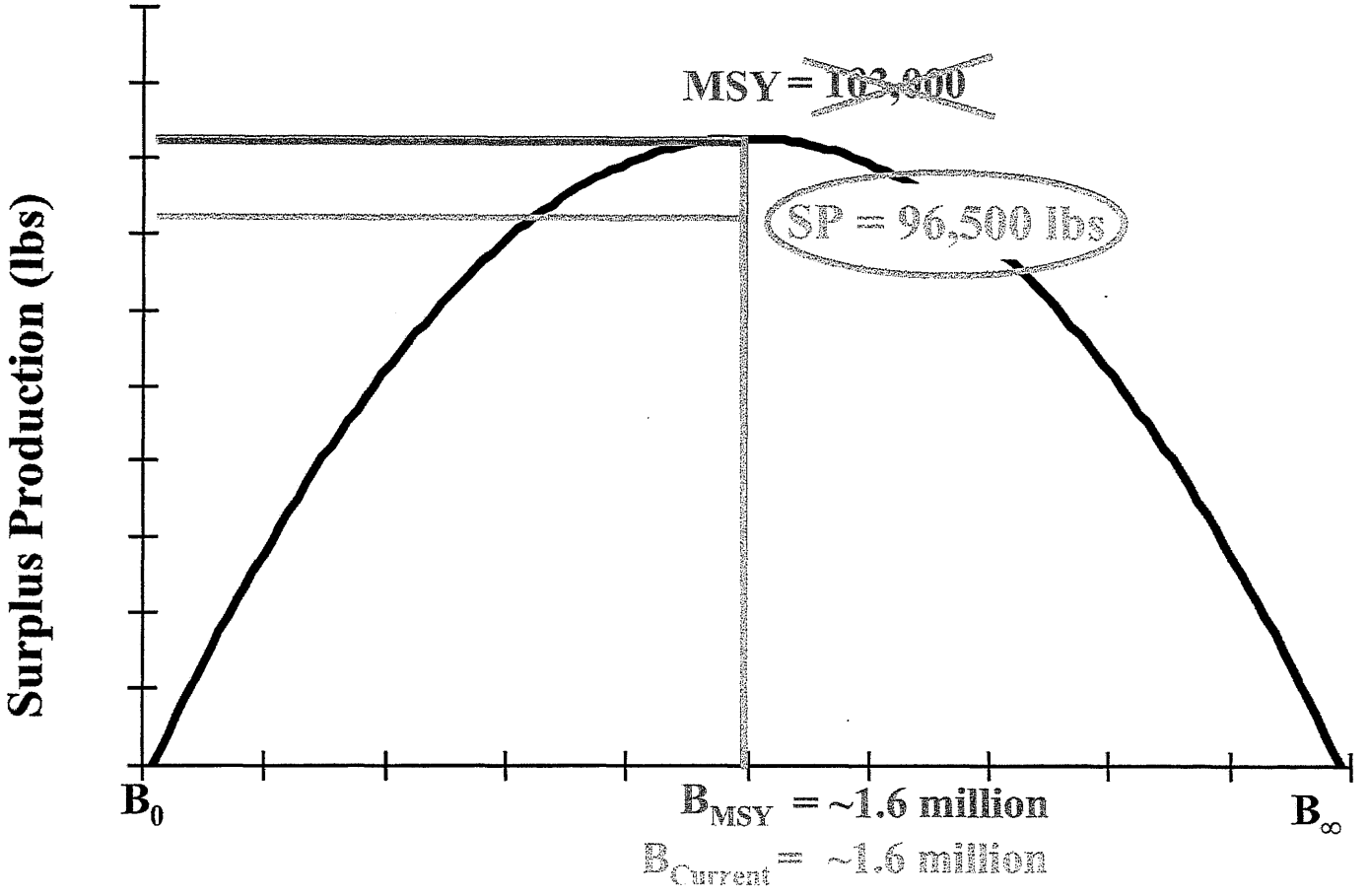
Tony Russ, Chair
574 Sarah's Way
Wasilla, AK 99654
907-376-6474

Attch:
Stock Biomass
Non-Commercial Fishery Harvest Data

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.



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.

submitted by Steve Runyan

Susitna AC

RC46

Problem: Low and declining numbers of Chinook salmon in Alexander Creek due to degraded habitat. The cause of habitat degredation is illegally introduced northern pike. There is a chronic failure by Alexander Creek Chinook salmon to achieve escapement thresholds, as defined in 5 AAC 39.222, the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (hereafter written as the SSMP). The policy defines "chronic inability" as the "***continuing* or anticipated inability** to meet escapement thresholds over a four to five year period, which is approximately the generation time for most salmon species." Alexander Creek has not met the minimum SEG in 2006, 2007, or 2008, and was only 40 fish above the SEG in 2004. Though this run has only completely missed SEG for 3 straight years, it is *anticipated* (ADF&G 2009 preseason forecast) to fall short again in '09, which meets the definition of "chronic inability...over a four to five year period."

Discussion: At the spring '08 BOF meeting the problem with Alexander Creek escapement was brought up. The Susitna AC agreed with the department that action must be taken to address the problems. The Susitna AC agreed to some restrictions of the sport fishery on Alexander Creek, but not the complete closure. We felt that this would not be "sharing the burden of conservation" with all user groups. We also asked for a new plan for pike management, and we were opposed to extending the Northern District Set Net season by having the first one or two openings occur in May. The board agreed that there was a problem in Alexander Creek, and ordered a complete closure to the consumptive sport fishery. No management changes were made for the pike, and the Northern District Set Net season was expanded from 3 openers to 5.

The department's position on the Alexander Creek petition is that the criteria for an emergency under 5AAC96.625(f) has not been satisfied, because the low return in 2008 "was not unexpected!" If it was not unexpected, then it was expected! The decline of the Chinook run was foreseen; perhaps even the precipitous collapse evidenced in 2008 was. In 2008 the actual escapement was 150 fish, even with the closure of sport fishing. I think that was unexpected. The Department testified at the BOF meeting of '08 that the closure of sport fishing should allow escapements to remain near the '06 and '07 levels. It did not. This is why we are requesting the board take immediate emergency action, because this fishery is teetering on the brink of disappearing completely. We disagree with the Department's position that no emergency exists. We believe that the SSMP DOES justify an emergency declaration for Alexander; while a low escapement was expected, the critically low escapement in '08 was NOT expected; in fact it was very unexpected. In addition, "a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action, (waiting for next cycle before taking action) and such delay will be significantly burdensome to the petitioners (sportfishermen) because the resource will be unavailable in the future." The SSMP was put in place to prevent fisheries from collapsing and going extinct, not as a means to expedite that extinction.

There are 4 major sources of salmon predation that the Department can restrict in the hopes of stabilizing and restoring this fishery. They are pike, commercial fishing, subsistence, and sport fishing. To restore this fishery, pike numbers have to be reduced. The three main fisheries on this stock must also be restricted. The state is charged with "sharing the burden of conservation" among all user groups, and so far has placed it only upon the shoulders of sport fishermen. Not only that, but paradoxically the board **expanded** the commercial fishery prosecuted upon the same stock! This despite

testimony by the area biologist that not only Alexander Creek, but the Deshka River and nearly half the enumerated Susitna and Yentna drainages were below, or just barely above threshold levels. The board also took no action on pike, as the Department needed to study them more.

Proposal: Enact the following Emergency Action: (the Board can take this action, with an automatic 120 day sunset. It can be acted upon again in 2010, with full discussion in cycle in 2011).

1. No restrictions on the West side subsistence fishery, but collect data on numbers of Chinooks harvested in this fishery.

2. Allow two openings for Northern District Setnet, the first to be June 11, as this is the quarter point of the run in the Deshka River. This will give Fish and Game hard data on king numbers in system before allowing excess harvest.

3. Sport fishing will remain closed on Alexander Creek and all waters of the Big Su within half a mile of the mouth.

4. Begin drafting a comprehensive management plan for the Alexander drainage that will maximize angler efforts to harvest numbers of edible size pike. The current slot limit acts as a deterrent to anglers, as a 22" pike is too small, and the distance to Alexander Lake and Creek too long, to be attractive to most pike anglers. We propose dropping the slot, and replacing it with a threshold of 30" (this could be amended up to 36", depending on age structure in that size range). Under 30", no limit. Over 30", keep 1 pike. The reason is that by leaving some large fish, they predate the smaller fish, keeping overall numbers lower. In addition, seek legislative funding to expand gillnetting by Fish and Game that will reduce the numbers of pike in the system. Finally, explore the implementation of a bounty system for northern pike in the Mat-Su Valley.

What will happen if nothing is done: The Alexander Drainage will likely lose its Chinook return completely in the next few years, the sport fishery on Chinook will be gone, and that component of the northern district set net catch that originated in Alexander Lake will no longer be available.

Cost to commercial fishers is unknown, but this action will likely reduce their catch. There will be two open periods, a reduction of 1 period from pre-2008 levels.

Cost to sport fishing: unknown. Lodges operating Chinook charters have already closed. Guides looking for places to fish while the Deshka is closed will be unable to utilize this fishery, but this is not a new cost, as the cost was first established in 2008.

Buchanan
page 1 of 2

RC47

Board of Fish

We suggest that the board direct the Division of Commercial Fisheries to assign a biologist specifically for the Eastern/Outer district to monitor the fisheries in those two districts. This will ensure better harvests for LCI fisherman and increased revenue through fish taxes to CIAA. The existing area is too large for a single biologist to manage efficiently.

We suggest that under new management, dedicated to the Eastern/Outer area, LCI fisherman be allowed to fish the traditional pink and chum fishery in Res. Bay while ensuring a minimal bycatch of cohos.

We adamantly oppose opening the freshwaters downstream from the weir on Bear Lake* because it may harm the natural species of trout, hooligan, reds and coho that live or travel those streams.

* for cost recovery

We oppose any attempt to fund CIAA on a single minority class of fisherman who live and work in Res. Bay. An equitable and fair source of revenue for CIAA is an increase in the fish tax paid by all beneficiaries.

I submitted RC-30 which was signed by myself and 5 other permit holders in Seward and I spoke to the following permit holders on the evening of March 16th, 2009:

Perry S Buchanan
Thomas A Buchanan
Darwin E Wood
Amie Hatch

and was unable to reach Mr. Anderson.

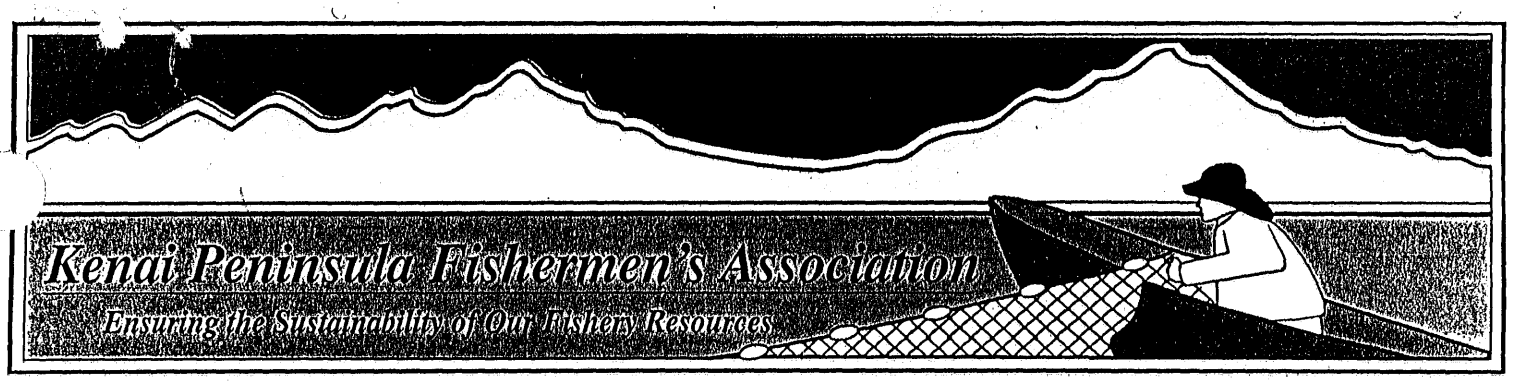
We all talked about and agreed to the issues and statements written on page 1 of this 2 page document.

Thomas M. Buchanan

Thomas M Buchanan
P.O. Box 925
Seward, AK 99664

I also agree to the statements and issues written on page 1 of this document. Marguerita McManus

MARGUERITA McMANUS P.O BOX 1508 SEWARD AK 99664



43961 Kalifornsky Beach Road • Suite F • Soldotna, Alaska 99669-8276
(907) 262-2492 • Fax: (907) 262-2898 • E Mail: kpfa@alaska.net

RC48

March 17, 2009

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Boards Support Section
Chair, John Jensen
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Proposal 380 - Support

Chairman Jensen, Members of the Board

The Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association has been part of the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association since its inception. We hold two seats on this very diverse community minded Board of Directors.

Approximately 745 set net fishermen are permitted to harvest salmon in the Inlet waters. Some operate in the Northern District, some in the Kachemak Bay region and many in the Central District.

Our group represents the majority of setnet fishermen who believe in our organizations goal to "ensure the sustainability of our fishery resources".

We would request the Alaska Board of Fisheries to consider the future of the commercial fisheries within our southcentral community. Take for a moment the consideration of the total of; 573 drift net, 85 seine and the 745 set net limited entry salmon permits in operation. This represents 1,404 potential small businesses that operate within three boroughs of the most active communities in the state, helping to support 60% of the population. To break this down in types of gear, we would have; 6% seine operations, 40% drift operations and 53% setnet operations.

Decisions that you make relative to 5 AAC 21.375 Bear Lake Management Plan will either continue the Association's effort to improve and enhance fisheries development within the waters of Resurrection Bay, the Kenai Peninsula the Mat-Su Valley and the

entire Cook Inlet waters or it will shut down the potential to improve productivity, mitigate threats to sustainability and take away any probability of contributing to the future common property interests.

Our Association is funded on the success of our fisheries commerce within or southcentral communities. It has been painfully apparent that with the cost of using the best available science, the best available technologies and the careful use of enhancement the monetary costs are high. The Association has been through some painful experiences and we have made many improvements.

CIAA contributes 12% of the total salmon harvest and 15% of the Sockeye as reported in the Alaska Salmon Enhancement Program 2007 Annual Report to the Cook Inlet region. From 2000 to 2007, among the four regional associations, CI enhancement operations have maintained a strong second in total numbers of sockeye harvested. In fact over the same time frame, with the cost recovery excluded, we have attained the highest gross earnings for the commercial harvest of all sockeye production of the four associations reported.

Our Board of Directors is committed to keeping the Association a viable entity. With comparison to other hatchery operations, our exposure to over capitalization and operations loans have been kept to a low level. Unfortunately, many of our avenues to Federal and State dollars in these trying times have become burdened with traffic. Many entities are competing for the same grants. We are determined to pay our way and continue to offer the community and of course the fishermen a consistent source of opportunity for the future.

We would respect the Department and the Board to assist the fishermen who will contribute for the good of the Association. In 5 AAC 21.376 Resurrection Bay Salmon Management Plan ... (b) (2) manage the indigenous pink and chum salmon stock primarily for commercial use... We believe that the Seward community has prospered with the help of the CIAA. We have been a good neighbor and we strongly recommend that the Board will give adequate direction to the Department to ensure that opportunities to harvest all surplus stocks will be given their direct attention. The Association will do its part in mitigating any interference within with any other resource uses.

KPFA is here to assist BOF members with questions they may have from our fishermen's stand point. Please feel free to request further information from us at any time.

Thank You,

Paul A. Shadura

Paul A. Shadura II
Executive Director

43961 Kalifornsky Beach Road • Suite F • Soldotna, Alaska 99669
(907) 262-2492 • Fax: (907) 262-2898 • E Mail: kpfa@alaska.net

RC 49 (1)

Dear Council Members.

My name is Ron Blake I live In Cordova and I have been a commercial Shrimp fisherman for 10 yrs. I have targeted shrimp In Yakutat and Southeast Alaska as well as In Hawaii. One of the things that make me Unique is that I have fished Commercially on Shrimp stocks for years without compitition and have learned what leads to the depleation of stocks and how to keep stocks healthy from a fishing perspective, As often We found myself fishing Area's were the quota was to large and It was in my best interest to keep them healthy.

Berries

When I heard that there were proposals to open the shrimp fishery I hoped to be able to be involved in the discussion at the meeting in Cordova but unfortunatly I was still fishing in Southeast. When I got home I learned that most of my concerns had been addressed, Small pot Limit (50 pots) a super Exclusive registration.

2

And a conservative quota (100,000 lbs). I would like to address my concerns that I have over the current proposal. My concerns are primarily based around the rotating fishing Ideah and the 60 to 40 distribution.

The way I think the fishery must be managed to ~~minimize~~ minimize the risk of overfishing ~~while~~ while maximizing the total return to all usergroups, is by doing the following

continued→

1. Harvest a equal Amount of Shrimp every year from each of the Areas. Shrimp Actually move very Little in there Lives, and since they carry there eggs until they hatch, the Shrimp Acthally don't expand very fast. I have fished out one side of a bay, Then fished the other side doing very well for well 7 yrs now and the fished down side still has no Shrimp. The only difference is we never catch the Little Shrimp of the other side, we stack out first.

2. Rather than 8 to 4 haul time allow only 1 pick of each pot. This further reduces the chance of catching the smaller shrimp, as the larger Shrimp (which have alot higher mortality Rate) will chase out the smaller ones.

3. divide the Shrimp Area's up In alot more than 3 areas. In both of the Successful major Shrimp fisheries they have divided the fisheries into small subdistrics

(4)

which eliminates over harvesting in certain Areas while under harvesting others. I would suggest 8 to 10 districts. minimum. (Southeast has 16 district with 20 ~~management~~ different Area's ~~catch~~ with there own quota)(Canada has over 100)

4. I the Area's with alot of Sport fishing close ~~the~~ them ~~to~~ to Commercial fishing, but give the Commercal fisherman no less than 75%. There is really no Argument from the sport fisherman ~~those~~ here because they historically fish primarally 2 Areas which will be closed and fishing In Unalaska will not effect future fishing in Valdez or Ester.

Thank you for your time And If you have any question feel free to call me on my cell @ (907)253-7002

Ron Blake

Ron Blake

BSFA

The FAIR ADVOCATE

FISHERIES, AWARENESS, INFORMATION, AND RESPONSIBILITY

A PUBLICATION OF THE BERING SEA FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION MARCH 2009

Chinook Salmon Bycatch Decision Soon

Action Alert: now is the time to get involved

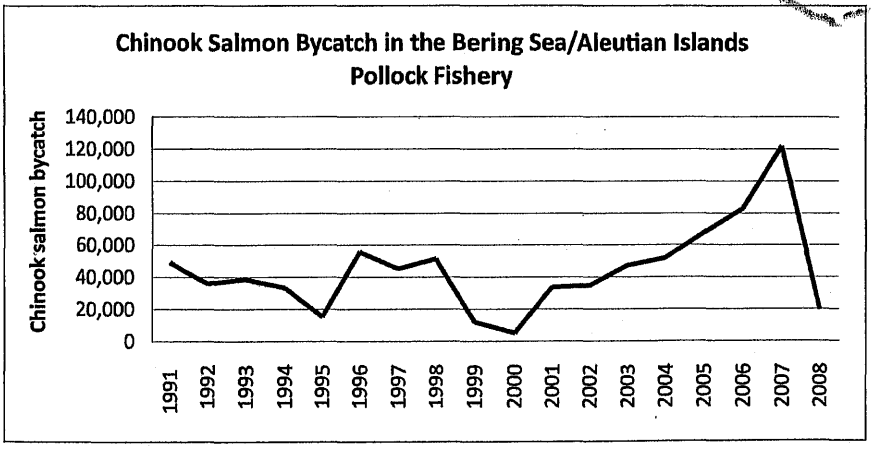
A History of Chinook Salmon Bycatch Measures in the Bering Sea

The groundfish fisheries off the coast of Alaska have undergone significant management changes in the past four decades. Prior to the adoption of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA) in 1976, groundfish harvests (and their associated bycatch) had been largely unregulated and un-monitored off the coastline of Alaska by foreign fleets. After the passage of the MFCMA, these largely foreign-operated fisheries continued, but with some US oversight and regulation. It wasn't until the mid-1980's that the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) fisheries began being "domesticated", through a phase-in period commonly known as "joint-venture" operations, where new U.S. stakeholders partnered with foreign fishing companies to learn about these fisheries that the foreigners had been exploiting for years.

Early efforts to limit non-target Chinook salmon (bycatch)

Even before the passage of the MFCMA in 1976 (and later amended to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA)), the groundfish fisheries off the coast of Alaska there had been minor efforts to limit the bycatch of non-target species, including Chinook salmon. The groundfish fisheries off the coast of Alaska were largely, or entirely, harvested by foreign fleets from Japan, the USSR, and Korea. After the passage of the MFCMA, the first significant U.S. effort to limit Chinook salmon bycatch took place in 1982, when a bycatch limit (a hard cap) of 55,250 Chinook salmon was placed on the foreign trawl fisheries. The next year, in 1983, a subsequent Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) amendment was adopted by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council) to further limit/reduce the Chinook salmon bycatch limit by 75% over a 5-year period. This reduction

... CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



A Range of Alternatives Under Consideration

The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (the Council) is preparing to take final action on measures to address the recent surge in Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. The Council is considering four main alternatives and a wide variety of options under each of those alternatives, but most of the attention has been on the creation of a "hard cap" for Chinook salmon bycatch that would, if reached, close the pollock fishery.

Alternative 1 calls for "status quo" which would be the same as taking no action to further limit Chinook salmon bycatch. An option for status quo is always included and analyzed in the Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), mainly as a comparison of what the other alternatives would actually do. It is not likely that the Council would choose this alternative and take no action on the matter.

Alternative 2 deals with some sort of a Chinook salmon hard cap for the pollock fishery. Within this alternative, there is a broad range of numbers available to choose from with which to set a Chinook salmon hard cap. These hard cap amounts range from a low of 29,323 up to 87,500 Chinook salmon. Most of the options for the hard cap amount represent some form of a historical average of the bycatch for a chosen range of years (see the accompanying table with the range of caps under consideration and an explanation of each). Within Alternative 2 are a variety of other options that deal with other details such as:

- Distributing the hard cap between the A and B seasons, as well as possibly allowing unused A

... CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

INSIDE

History

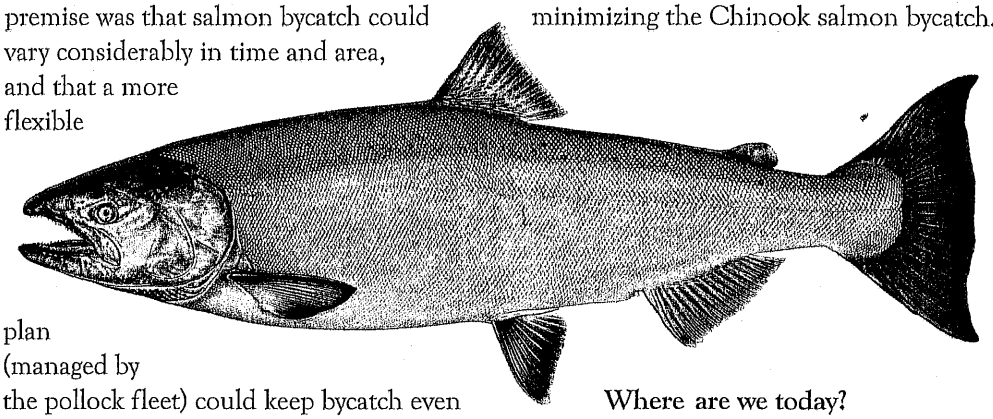
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

meant an eventual Chinook salmon bycatch hard cap of 13,812 on the foreign fleets (who were the only ones making significant groundfish harvests at the time). These changes were put into place following an estimated Chinook salmon bycatch exceeding 100,000 fish in the Bering Sea groundfish fisheries in 1979 and 1980. According to a document from the Council staff, the Japanese fleet was able to adapt to the new restrictive limits by making bycatch allocations to each fishing vessel (Witherell and Pautzke, 1997).

The fisheries were considered "Americanized" after the joint-venture period of the late 1980's. Since the previous Chinook salmon bycatch limit applied only to the foreign groundfish fleets, the restriction went away. Chinook salmon bycatch stayed relatively low for a few years but in 1993 and 1994 Chinook salmon bycatch increased again and the Council initiated another FMP-amendment to put new controls into place. Those new measures, implemented in 1996, recognized that a large portion of the Chinook salmon bycatch was taken by the pollock fishery in relatively discrete areas north of Unimak Island. The new protection instituted a "triggered" closure that would close the high bycatch areas when Chinook salmon bycatch in the pollock fishery reached 48,000. In 2000, the Council established a 4-year schedule to reduce the trigger down to 29,000 Chinook salmon. While this wasn't a "hard cap" that closed the pollock fishery altogether, it was acknowledged that a large portion of the Chinook salmon bycatch had been occurring in the areas that would closed under these triggers. Western Alaskans thought that this approach would keep Chinook salmon bycatch from continuing to increase.

Only a few more years went by when the bycatch stayed within "reasonable" levels. But it began increasing again. The American Fisheries Act (AFA) that "rationalized" the pollock fishery was signed into law in 1998, essentially ending the "race for fish" and allocating the pollock harvest to groups of vessels called "cooperatives." Under the AFA, these vessels could slow the rate of their pollock harvest, thereby increasing the value of their pollock catch by targeting the most valuable fish and also maximizing their product recovery.

In 2004, the Council began considering ways to relax the rigid triggered area closures at the request of the pollock industry participants who claimed that with more flexibility, they could further reduce salmon bycatch under "inter-cooperative" agreements that implemented "voluntary rolling hot spots" (VRHS). The underlying premise was that salmon bycatch could vary considerably in time and area, and that a more flexible plan (managed by the pollock fleet) could keep bycatch even lower than rigid, triggered closure areas in Federal regulation could allow. Western Alaska stakeholders largely agreed, and since 2006, pollock vessels that were participating in the VRHS program were exempted from the fixed/triggered closures established in federal regulation.



Chinook salmon bycatch had been gradually increasing since 2000 and in 2005, the Chinook salmon bycatch began to climb to unprecedented numbers in recent history, with Chinook salmon bycatch at 67,363 in 2005, 82,647 in 2006, and 121,638 in 2007. Chinook salmon bycatch may have been even worse absent the VRHS program and triggered area closures, but VRHS certainly failed to keep bycatch well within acceptable levels.

"Competing" National Standards

Fishery management decisions are guided by ten National Standards, as written into the MSFCMA. These standards, while somewhat general, provide guidance about how to approach fishery decisions, and what factors must be considered. In this case, two of the Standards seem to be at odds with one another:

National Standard #1: "Conservation and management measures shall prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery for the United States fishing industry."

National Standard #9: "Conservation and management measures shall, to the extent practicable, (A) minimize bycatch and (B) to the extent bycatch cannot be avoided, minimize the mortality of such bycatch."

Fishery management decisions in this case will represent a balance between the two, one that tries to achieve the optimum yield (note the standard does not say "maximum" yield) from the pollock fishery, while minimizing the Chinook salmon bycatch.

Where are we today?

Many Chinook salmon runs across western Alaska have seen significant declines in recent years. In 2008, returns to the Yukon River, while already expected to be low, came in even lower than predictions. There was no directed commercial fishery for Chinook salmon on the Yukon River, and the commercial fishery to target summer chum salmon (whose run timing overlaps significantly with the Chinook salmon run) was significantly restricted to protect the migrating Chinook salmon. Subsistence harvesting times were reduced by half during much of the summer and, many subsistence fishermen have reported that they did not meet their subsistence needs. The letter written by Mr. Nick Tucker from the lower Yukon village of Emmonak highlighted the economic plight of rural western Alaska...the high fuel and grocery prices were exasperated by the disastrous Chinook salmon return. Lower Yukon commercial salmon fishermen typically do not make a whole lot of money, compared to other commercial fishers across the State, but the little they do regularly make is tremendously important in a region where

... CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

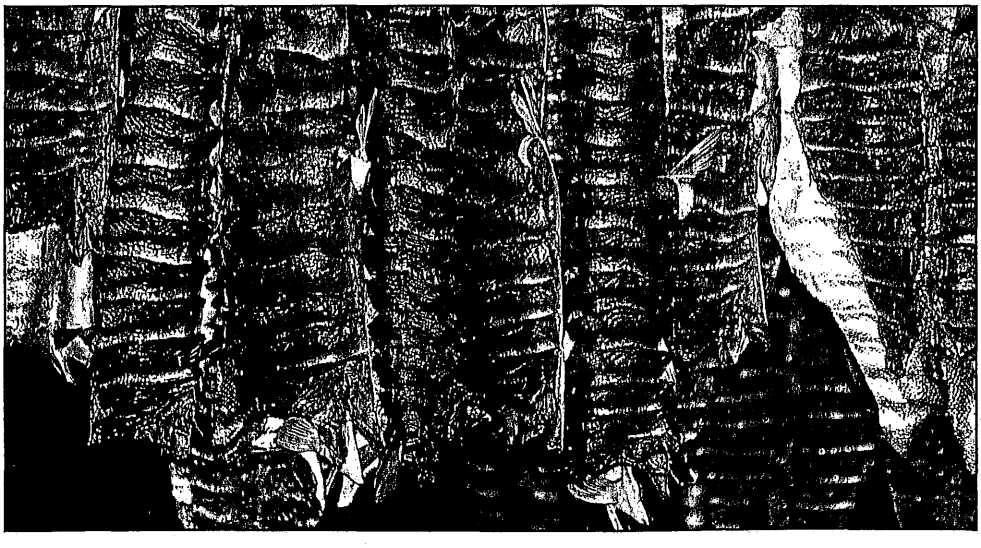
Bering Sea Fishermen's Association's Position

Bering Sea Fishermen's Association is recommending a Chinook salmon hard cap of 32,482 to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council). A hard cap at this level will provide increased protection for vulnerable western Alaska Chinook salmon runs, some of which have failed to meet escapement objectives in recent years, despite significant restrictions to subsistence and commercial fishermen. A more specific rationale for the Chinook salmon hard cap recommendation is that 32,482 represents the average Chinook salmon bycatch from 1992 through 2001; this is the most appropriate time frame upon which to base the hard cap because the Yukon River Salmon Agreement, which was ratified by the United States in 2002, pledged to "increase the in-river run of Yukon River origin salmon by reducing marine catches and bycatches of Yukon River salmon."

We are troubled that a hard cap as high as 68,392 is being considered, as it represents a number that has been exceeded in only two out of the last 18 years (2006 and 2007). The long-term average bycatch (1991-2008) is just under 44,000 Chinook salmon. We feel that a cap of 68,392 would not significantly reduce bycatch in most years or provide the protection needed for many troubled western Alaska Chinook salmon runs.

As we discuss in another article in this issue of the FAIR Advocate (A history of Chinook salmon bycatch measures in the Bering Sea), the Council has made numerous attempts to control Chinook salmon bycatch in the past but those measures largely had failed to provide long term protections. At odds are the competing natures of National Standards #1 and #9. To paraphrase, National Standard #1 seeks to achieve the full harvest potential from the pollock fishery while National Standard #9 seeks to minimize bycatch. We feel that a hard cap as high as 68,392 does largely nothing to minimize bycatch, and instead seeks to maximize the pollock harvest at all costs.

BSFA is also recommending that the Council divide the overall Chinook salmon hard cap between the pollock fishery sectors based on their pollock allocations, and not based on bycatch history. Dividing bycatch caps to each sector based on that sector's historical bycatch performance simply rewards the dirty fishing practices of the past by giving them a higher bycatch allocation. Similarly, those in the pollock fishery that have had lower bycatch in the past get penalized with lower hard cap allocations. We feel that a simple approach to dividing the hard cap based on their pollock allocations levels the playing field for all pollock fishery participants and does not reward previous bad behavior in regard to Chinook salmon bycatch. ❖



Proposed Action

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

season hard cap amounts to be "rolled over" into the B season.

- Allocating the hard cap amount between the inshore, catcher/processor, and mothership sectors of the pollock fishery.
- Allowing the transfer of hard cap allocations between sectors.
- Allocating the hard cap amounts beyond the sector-level and down to individual fishery cooperatives and considering inter-cooperative transfer provisions.

Alternative 3 considers "triggered" area closures. This alternative would close areas that have high Chinook salmon bycatch when a certain trigger amount of bycatch is reached. Under this alternative, pollock fishing would be allowed to continue outside the closed areas without further restriction.

Alternative 4, otherwise known as the Preliminary Preferred Alternative (or PPA), was created at the Council's June 2008 meeting and is a specific set of options chosen from Alternative 2 (hard cap) with an additional element that includes provisions implementation of Chinook salmon bycatch "incentive" plans from the pollock industry. In summary, the PPA would allow a hard cap of 68,392 Chinook salmon if the pollock industry can present an acceptable incentive plan (or plans) that rewards and/or penalizes vessels based on their Chinook salmon bycatch performance. If the industry doesn't come up with an acceptable incentive plan, then they get a hard cap of 47,591 Chinook salmon. The full PPA can be found at http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current_issues/bycatch/salmonbycatchmotion608.pdf

The PPA specifies three general requirements for the incentive plans (ICA):

1. An ICA must provide incentive(s) for each vessel to avoid salmon bycatch under any condition of pollock and salmon abundance in all years.
2. Incentive measures must include rewards for salmon bycatch avoidance and/or penalties for failure to avoid salmon bycatch at the vessel level.
3. The ICA must specify how those incentives are expected to promote reductions in actual individual vessel bycatch rates relative to what would have occurred in absence of the incentive program. Incentive measures must promote salmon savings in any condition of pollock and salmon abundance, such that they are expected to influence operational decisions at bycatch levels below the hard cap.

Range of Chinook Salmon Hard Caps Under Consideration

Suboption	Overall Fishery Hard Cap	CDQ Allocation	Non-CDQ Cap (all sectors combined)
i)	87,500	6,563	80,938
ii)	68,392	5,129	63,263
iii)	57,333	4,300	53,033
iv)	47,591	3,569	44,022
v)	43,328	3,250	40,078
vi)	38,891	2,917	35,974
vii)	32,482	2,436	30,046
viii)	29,323	2,199	27,124

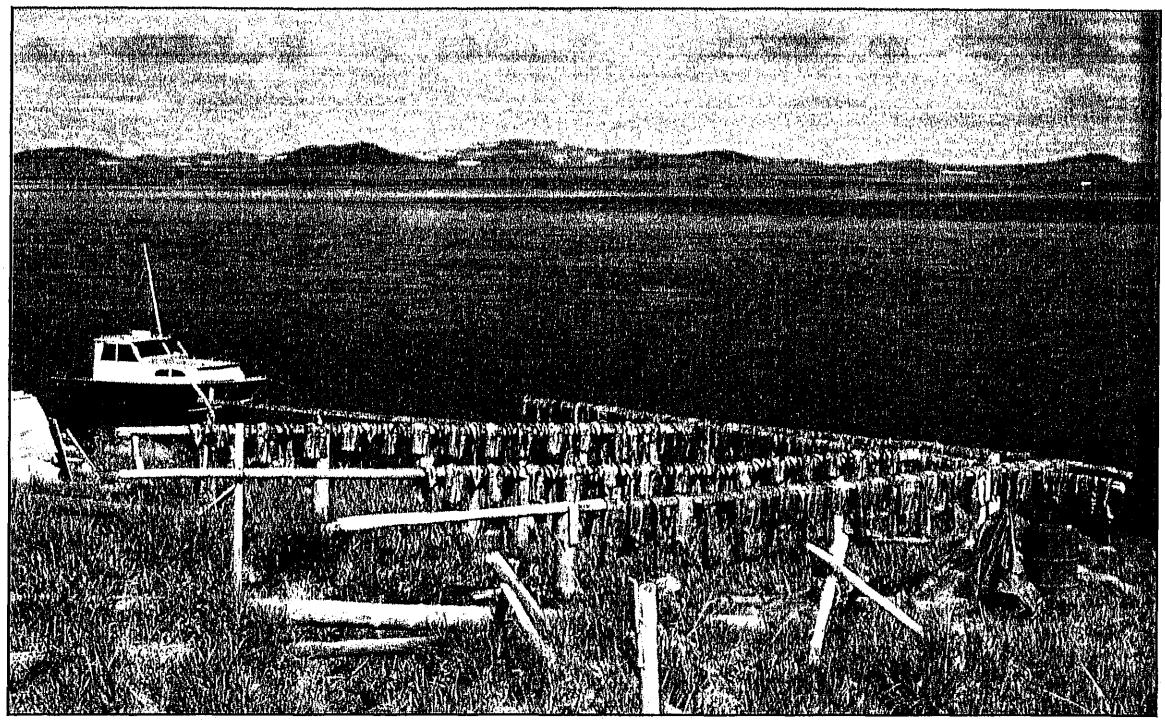
- **Suboption i** is the amount authorized under an Incidental Take Statement relating to Endangered Chinook salmon stocks in the Pacific northwest.
- **Suboption ii** is the 3-year average from 2004 to 2006.
- **Suboption iii** is the 5-year average from 2002 to 2006.
- **Suboption iv** is the 10-year average from 1997 to 2006, with the lowest year (2000) dropped prior to averaging because an injunction on the fishery altered normal fishing patterns in that year.
- **Suboption v** is the straight 10-year average including all years from 1997 to 2006.
- **Suboption vi** is the 10-year average from 1997 to 2006, but with the highest year of bycatch (2006) dropped prior to averaging to provide contrast with suboption iv.
- **Suboption vii** is the 10-year average from 1992 to 2001.
- **Suboption viii** is the 5-year average from 1997 to 2001.

At this time, there are two different incentive plans being discussed by the pollock industry. The first plan, commonly called the "Legacy Plan" would allocate bycatch "credits" to individual vessels, and allow these credits to be traded (or sold) among the fleet. Over time, the amount of credits allocated annually to each vessel may rise or fall depending on their bycatch performance (a "cleaner" vessel would get more credits allocated in subsequent years, while a "dirtier" vessel would receive fewer credits). The other proposed plan, called the "Undercatch Incentive Plan" calls for each vessel to "ante" a certain amount of money into a fund each year, based on their pollock allocation. Depending on their bycatch performance, a cleaner vessel would not only get their ante back, but would also get additional money out of the fund. A dirtier vessel may get less than their ante back, or no money back at all. More information on the incentive plans was presented at the February 2009 Council meeting and can be found at http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current_issues/bycatch/bycatch.htm

Other specifications within the PPA:

- Distribution of 70% of the hard cap to the pollock A season and 30% to the B season. Additionally, 80% of unused A season bycatch allowance can be rolled over into the B season of each year.
- An allocation scheme between the fishery sectors (including CDQ) that blends historical bycatch performance with each sector's allocations of pollock. This formula is weighted, with 75% of the allocation based on historical bycatch performance and 25% based on pollock allocations. It also allows for

... CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



(photo by Dave Cannon)

History

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

cash and jobs are scarce.

In Norton Sound, the Chinook salmon return to the Unalakleet River, the largest Chinook salmon run in the region, was the lowest on record. There was no commercial fishery for Chinook salmon, and the subsistence fishing opportunity (and harvests) were dramatically reduced.

Chinook salmon are fully allocated throughout their entire range and are prized by the subsistence, commercial, and sport users that depend upon them. According to several studies, between 50 to 60% of the Chinook salmon taken as bycatch in the pollock fishery are of western Alaska origin.

The Council has again re-initiated a proposed action to limit Chinook salmon bycatch in the pollock fishery. While there are a variety of approaches in the suite of alternatives for the Council to choose from, most of the emphasis has been on implementing a hard cap that would close the pollock fishery, if reached. See related article in this newsletter, "Proposed Council Action".

Sources:

David Witherell and Clarence Pautzke. 1997. A Brief Overview of Bycatch Management Measures for Eastern Bering Sea Groundfish Fisheries. Marine Fisheries Review 59(4):15-22. http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/sci_papers/MFR.pdf

Witherell, D., D. Ackley, and C. Coon. 2002. An Overview of Salmon Bycatch in Alaska Groundfish Fisheries Alaska Fisheries Research Bulletin 2002 Summer; Vol. 9(1):53-64. http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/pubs/afrb/vol9_n1/withv9n1.pdf ❖

Proposed Action

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

full transferability of unused hard cap amounts between sectors.

- It further subdivides sector hard cap amounts down to individual pollock fishery cooperatives, and allows inter-cooperative transfers of unused Chinook salmon hard caps.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has prepared a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that analyzes each of the alternatives and their costs and benefits. The draft EIS can be found at: http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/bycatch/default.htm

The draft EIS underwent a public comment period that ended on February 23. BSFA submitted comments on the draft document that can be found at: http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/bycatch/salmon/chinook/comments/C32_Nelson_Art_Bering%20Sea%20Fishermen's%20Association.pdf

After NMFS reviews all public comments and makes changes to the draft EIS, they will issue a final version of the EIS.

The Council is scheduled to take final action on the Chinook salmon bycatch measures at their March 30-April 7, 2009 meeting in Anchorage. In this issue of the FAIR Advocate is the position that the BSFA Board of Directors has taken on the alternatives as our recommendation to the Council. Also in this issue is more information about how you can get involved (the deadline for submitting your written comments to the Council is March 25).

This is one of the most significant fishery issues for western Alaska in a long time. **Your participation is considered necessary to help ensure that the Council fully understands how important Chinook salmon are for your way of life and the economies of western Alaska.** ❖

How to Get Involved

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council) plans to take final action on the issue of Chinook salmon bycatch at their March 30-April 7, 2009 meeting in Anchorage at the Hilton Hotel. The agenda for the meeting can be found at http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/Agendas/409Agenda.pdf

Written comments to the Council must be received by 5:00 pm on March 25, 2009 and can be sent to:

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252
Fax: (907) 271-2817

This is one of the most important fishery issues facing western Alaskans. If the Council's decision falls short, it may potentially affect your Chinook salmon runs. Please take the time to provide written comments to the Council. Helpful things to mention could be:

- How important Chinook salmon is to you, your family and your community through subsistence and commercial fishing.
- How have the recent low returns of Chinook salmon affected you, your family and your community?
- How expensive it is for you to buy other food, if you cannot catch enough Chinook salmon for subsistence.
- If you commercial fish, what percent of your cash income comes from commercial Chinook salmon fishing. How important is this income to you and your family?
- What do you think the Chinook salmon hard cap should be? BSFA has taken the position that the hard cap should be no more than 32,482 Chinook salmon. A number of other western Alaska organizations such as Kawerak Inc., Tanana Chiefs Conference, the Association of Village Council Presidents, and Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association are also recommending a hard cap at this level, or less.

Time is short! BSFA staff would be happy to help you develop your comments. You can call us toll-free at 1-888-927-2732. If you are not able to submit your written comments to the Council before to the March 25 deadline, send them to us and we can present them at the Council meeting in April. Our fax number is 907-258-6688; you can mail them to 110 W. 15th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501, or email them to karen.gillis@bsfaak.org

BSFA also has a general petition to the NPFMC about Chinook salmon bycatch. While it is very important for you to submit written comments to the Council, you can also sign on to the petition at the BSFA website http://www.bsfaak.org/

If you don't have internet access, you can call us toll-free at BSFA (1-888-927-2732) for a copy of the petition. ❖

Bering Sea Fishermen's Association
110 W. 15th Ave, Unit A
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Anchorage, AK
Permit #537

RC 51

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Committee Report

COMMITTEE A

Shellfish Reporting and Gear
March 17, 2009

Board Committee Members:

1. Mel Morris, *Chair
2. Howard Delo
3. Bill Brown

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff Members:

1. Mark Stichert - Asst. Area Management Biologist, Commercial Fisheries Division
2. Jim McCullough – Regional Supervisor, Commercial Fisheries Division
3. Wayne Donaldson – Regional management Biologist, Commercial Fisheries Division
4. Trent Hartill – Asst. Area Management Biologist, Commercial Fisheries Division
5. Al Cain – Enforcement Specialist, Sport Fish Division
6. Dan Bergstrom – Regional Management Biologist, Commercial Fisheries Division
7. John Linderman - Regional Supervisor, Commercial Fisheries Division

Advisory Committee Members:

1. Mike Baines – Sitka AC
2. Don Fox – Kodiak AC

Public Panel Members:

- Rick Ellingson - self
- Dan Ernhart -self
- Larry Edfelt - self
- Tom Minio – scallop fisherman
- Jim Stone – scallop fisherman
- John Lamar – scallop fisherman
- Melanie Rotter - self
- Thomas Minio – scallop fisherman

Federal Subsistence Representative:

1. Rod Campbell - USFWS

The Committee met March 17, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. and adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

PROPOSALS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE WERE: (9 total) 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 375, 378

PROPOSAL 356 – 5 AAC 32.033. Tenders for Dungeness crab.

This proposal would allow validly registered vessels fishing for Dungeness crab to simultaneously harvest and transport their own Dungeness crab catch in addition to tendering Dungeness crab from other validly registered vessels fishing for Dungeness crab in the Kodiak District of Registration Area J.

Staff Reports: RC 3, Oral Tab 2.

Staff Comments: RC 2.

Deliberation Materials: None.

AC Reports: AC 7.

Timely Public Comment: None.

Record Comments: None.

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: Should apply just to Kodiak District, not statewide.

Department of Law: AS 16.05.671 transporter statute limited to salmon, herring, and Pacific cod.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Support:

- Late in season no salmon tenders
- Fuel costs
- Long distance to processor

Opposition:

- Live crab might be subjected to more handling mortality if tendered
- Tender liability issues (undersize crab and deadloss)
- Tender must be agent of the processor (issue fish ticket at time of delivery)

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Neutral.

AC Positions: Support: Kodiak.
Oppose: None.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Board Committee Recommendation: Support.

Substitute Language:

5 AAC 32.40X Tenders For Kodiak District Dungeness Crab.
In the Kodiak District of Area J, a vessel registered to fish for Dungeness crab may tender Dungeness crab from other registered Dungeness crab vessels. A tender vessel operator must be an authorized agent of a processor and shall register with ADF&G in Kodiak as a tender. A tender operator must issue a fish ticket at the first point of delivery.

PROPOSAL 357 – 5 AAC 39.145 (1). Escape mechanism for shellfish and bottomfish pots.

This proposal seeks to change the statewide biodegradable twine requirement in commercial, personal use, subsistence, and sport Dungeness crab pots from 60 thread to 90 thread.

Staff Reports: RC 3, Oral Tab 2.

Staff Comments: RC 2.

Deliberation Materials: None.

AC Reports: AC 7.

Timely Public Comment: None.

Record Comments: None.

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: Oppose.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Support:

- Washington has 120 thread
- Dungeness are hardy
- Big boats haul pots quicker resulting in greater stress on twine

Opposition:

- Fairly easy to change
- Dungeness crab are cannibalistic
- Some pots ghost fish for a decade or longer
- Difficult to make comparisons to Washington State twine size regulation
- Lack of specific data on degradation time for 90 thread

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Opposed.

AC Positions: Support: Sitka.
Oppose: Kodiak.

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

Board Committee Recommendation: Opposed.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 358 – 5 AAC 38.425. Closed waters for scallops in registration area J.

This proposal would open an area currently closed to scallop fishing near the south end of Kodiak Island. In the proposed area, fishing would be authorized under an exploratory fishing permit issued by ADF&G. This proposal would also increase the Kodiak Area (Area K) weathervane scallop guideline harvest range (GHR) of zero to 300,000 pounds of shucked meats to a GHR of zero to 400,000 pounds of shucked meats.

Staff Reports: RC 3, Oral Tab 2.

Staff Comments: RC 2.

Deliberation Materials: None.

AC Reports: AC 7.

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab, PC 10.

Record Comments: RC 32.

Narrative of Support and Opposition: Proposer stated support for the 100,000 pound increase for the GHL was withdrawn.

Department: Discussed alternative methods of establishing crab bycatch caps, area to be opened as well as establishing an exploratory fishery GHL. Crab bycatch cap for established scallop fisheries based on total surveyed crab population estimates and not calculated as a percentage of the targeted species.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Support:

- Known scallop populations in area
- 100% observer coverage; ability to control crab bycatch
- Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) onboard vessels to determine location
- Mostly a coop fishery
- Groundfish trawl fishery has no crab bycatch cap
- Scallop vessels are working with department and want to avoid crab bycatch
- Vessels willing to take department staff as well as observer

Opposition:

- Gear conflicts with longline gear
- Potential for stakeholder conflicts over crab resource

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Department was opposed to proposal as submitted; however, staff believes the modified proposal submitted by the proposer to keep the scallop GHR at 300,000 pounds for the Kodiak Area, along with conservative crab bycatch and scallop harvest levels, could be used to gain information from an exploratory Commissioner's Permit fishery. Staff intends to establish a harvest level of 20,000 to 30,000 pounds (to be determined in June when area-wide GHLs are established), a Tanner crab bycatch cap of 10,000 – 15,000 crab depending on the scallop GHL, and a king crab bycatch cap of 50 - 100 red king crab.

AC Positions: Support as amended: Kodiak.
Oppose: None.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Board Committee Recommendation: Support.

Substitute Language:

5 AAC 38.XXX Fishing Areas For Scallops In Registration Area J.

(a) In the Kodiak Scallop Registration Area (5 AAC 38.076 (b)(5) a person may only take weathervane scallops in those waters of the Southwest District (5 AAC 34.405 (c)) south of a line from the westernmost tip of Cape Ikolik to the southernmost tip of Cape Kilokak, and west of 155° W Long., and north of 56° 07' N Lat., and east of 156° 20.22' W Long., only by commissioner's permit as specified in 5 AAC 38.076 (e).

5 AAC 38.425 Closed Waters For Scallops In Registration Area J.

(1) waters south of the latitude of Cape Ikolik (57° 17.33 N. lat.), west of the longitude of Cape Barnabas (152° 52' W. long.), east of the longitude of Kilokak Rocks (156° 19' W. long.), and in Old Harbor Narrows west of 153° 16' W. long., **except the waters south of a line from the westernmost tip of Cape Ikolik to the southernmost tip of Cape Kilokak, and west of 155° W Long., and north of 56° 07' N Lat., and east of 156° 20.22' W Long. scallops may be taken as specified in 5 AAC 38.420 (b).**

Subsequent to the committee meeting staff recommends the following housekeeping amendment.

5 AAC 38.420 Fishing Seasons For Scallops In Registration Area J.

[IN SCALLOP REGISTRATION AREAS K, M, O, Q AND R, WEATHERVANE SCALLOPS MAY BE TAKEN FROM JULY 1 THROUGH FEBRUARY 15.]

(a) In Scallop Registration Area J weathervane scallops may be taken as follows:

1. **in management Area K (Kodiak) from July 1 through February 15;**
2. **in management Area M (Alaska Peninsula) from July 1 through February 15;**
3. **in management Area O (Dutch Harbor) from July 1 through February 15;**
4. **in management Area Q (Bristol Bay-Bering Sea) from July 1 through February 15;**
5. **in management Area R (Adak) from July 1 through February 15;**

PROPOSAL 359 – 5 AAC 38.076. Alaska Scallop Fishery Management Plan.

This statewide housekeeping proposal seeks to place those management elements typically listed on the scallop vessel area registration into regulation. These include registration area check-in and check-out, catch reporting requirements, logbook requirements, completion of weekly fish tickets, and providing all king crab to the onboard observer.

Staff Reports: None.

Staff Comments: RC 2.

Deliberation Materials: None.

AC Reports: None.

Timely Public Comment: None.

Record Comments: None.

Narrative of Support and Opposition: None.

Department: Housekeeping proposal; places existing registration terms into regulation. Registration terms have not changed in over 10 years.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Support:
- Housekeeping
- Simplify regulation

Opposition:
- None

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Support.

AC Positions: Support: None.
Oppose: None.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Board Committee Recommendation: Support.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 360 – 5 AAC 38.325. Permits for Scallops.

The housekeeping proposal seeks repeal 5 AAC 38.325(a), the commissioner's permit requirement for scallop fishing in the Kamishak District of the Cook Inlet Area and to place into regulation those management elements listed as permit stipulations.

Staff Reports: None.

Staff Comments: RC 2.

Deliberation Materials: None.

AC Reports: None.

Timely Public Comment: None.

Record Comments: None.

Narrative of Support and Opposition: None.

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Support:
- Housekeeping
- Simplify regulations

Opposition:
- None

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Support.

AC Positions: Support: None.
Oppose: None.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Board Committee Recommendation: Support.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 361 – 5 AAC 02.011 (D)(1) Subsistence fishing by proxy.

This proposal would allow a proxy to harvest subsistence shellfish on behalf of multiple beneficiaries in Bering Sea waters north of the Alaska Peninsula and east of Scotch Cap Light (166° 44' W long.).

Staff Reports: RC 3, Oral Tab 2.

Staff Comments: RC 3.

Deliberation Materials: None.

AC Reports: None.

Timely Public Comment: None.

Record Comments: None.

Narrative of Support and Opposition: Proposer indicated there are 40 beneficiaries in Sand Point. Port Moller and Herendeen bays would be excluded from the new regulation; otherwise, the area affected would be from Scotch Cap light on Unimak Island to Cape Menshikoff. Proposer indicated that king crab in the South Peninsula are slowly recovering but was concerned with increased subsistence harvests. The proposer wants 5 people on a vessel to fish for the 40 beneficiaries in Sand Point. Others noted this would be a difficult enforcement issue. If Sand Point was allowed to participate, other communities and user groups would want also like to participate.

Department: Enforcement Specialist relayed information from Department of Law that under AS 16.05.405 (e) the Board is only allowed to authorize one beneficiary. One option that might be explored is under AS 16.05.330(c), community harvest permits.

Department of Law: See above.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Support:

- Willing to comply with new permitting and reporting requirements
- Would provide elders with king crab
- With crab rationalization there are fewer opportunities to obtain king crab

Opposition:

- Increased subsistence harvest may impact commercial harvest
- Difficult to enforce
- Lots of complex issues
- Statewide regulation
- May be asking more than what BOF has authority to accomplish

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Opposed.

AC Positions: Support: None.
Oppose: None.

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

Board Committee Recommendation: No consensus.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 362 – 5 AAC 02.520. Subsistence king crab fishery.

This proposal seeks to increase the pot limit for the subsistence king crab fishery in Bering Sea waters north of the Alaska Peninsula and east of Scotch Cap Light (166° 44' W long.).

Staff Reports: RC 3, Oral Tab 2.

Staff Comments: RC 2.

Deliberation Materials: None.

AC Reports: None.

Timely Public Comment: None.

Record Comments: None.

Narrative of Support and Opposition: No discussion; refer to comments for proposal 361.

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Support: See proposal 361.

Opposition: See proposal 361.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: See proposal 361.

AC Positions: Support: None.
Oppose: None.

Public Panel Recommendation: See proposal 361.

Board Committee Recommendation: Opposed.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 375 – 5 AAC 28.070. Groundfish possession and landing requirements.

This proposal seeks to amend this regulation to require that all groundfish taken in a commercial fishery be reported on a fish ticket.

Staff Reports: None.

Staff Comments: RC 2.

Deliberation Materials: None.

AC Reports: None.

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab, PC 13.

Record Comments: RC 15..

Narrative of Support and Opposition

Department: Department proposal to address discarding of bycatch overage in groundfish fisheries.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Support:
- General agreement
- Limits wanton waste
- Helps enforcement

Opposition:
- None

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Support.

AC Positions: Support: None.
Oppose: None.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Board Committee Recommendation: Support.

Substitute Language: As written in staff comments RC2, page 14 and15.

PROPOSAL 378 – 5 AAC 01.010. Methods, means, and general provisions; and **5 AAC 77.010. Methods, means, and general provisions.**

This housekeeping proposal would clarify subsistence and personal use regulations that prohibit the obstruction of more than one-half or two- thirds of a stream or channel. If adopted, these regulations would apply to the width of a stream or any channel or braid of any stream.

Staff Reports: None.

Staff Comments: RC 2.

Deliberation Materials: None.

Advisory Committee Comment: RC 7, 8, 9.

Timely Public Comment: None.

Record Comments: None.

Narrative of Support and Opposition:

Department: Department submitted this proposal to clarify the statewide channel blocking regulation based on a case from 2008 near Nome (Pilgrim River). The proposal would apply to any channel or braid of a stream. Based on further review of various regulations around the state, the department prefers to seek a delegation from the board to the commissioner to adopt a housekeeping edit to all similar area regulations that address this steam blocking issue. The commissioner would clarify existing area regulations: that a gillnet or other stationary fishing device may obstruct no more of any channel or braid to a stream than allowed for under existing area regulations. This regulation would apply to subsistence and personal use fisheries, not commercial fisheries.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: USFWS indicated that state and federal regulations are currently coordinated with regard to this issue; however, if this proposal were to pass, the USFWS would discuss this issue with the federal Subsistence Board.

Support:

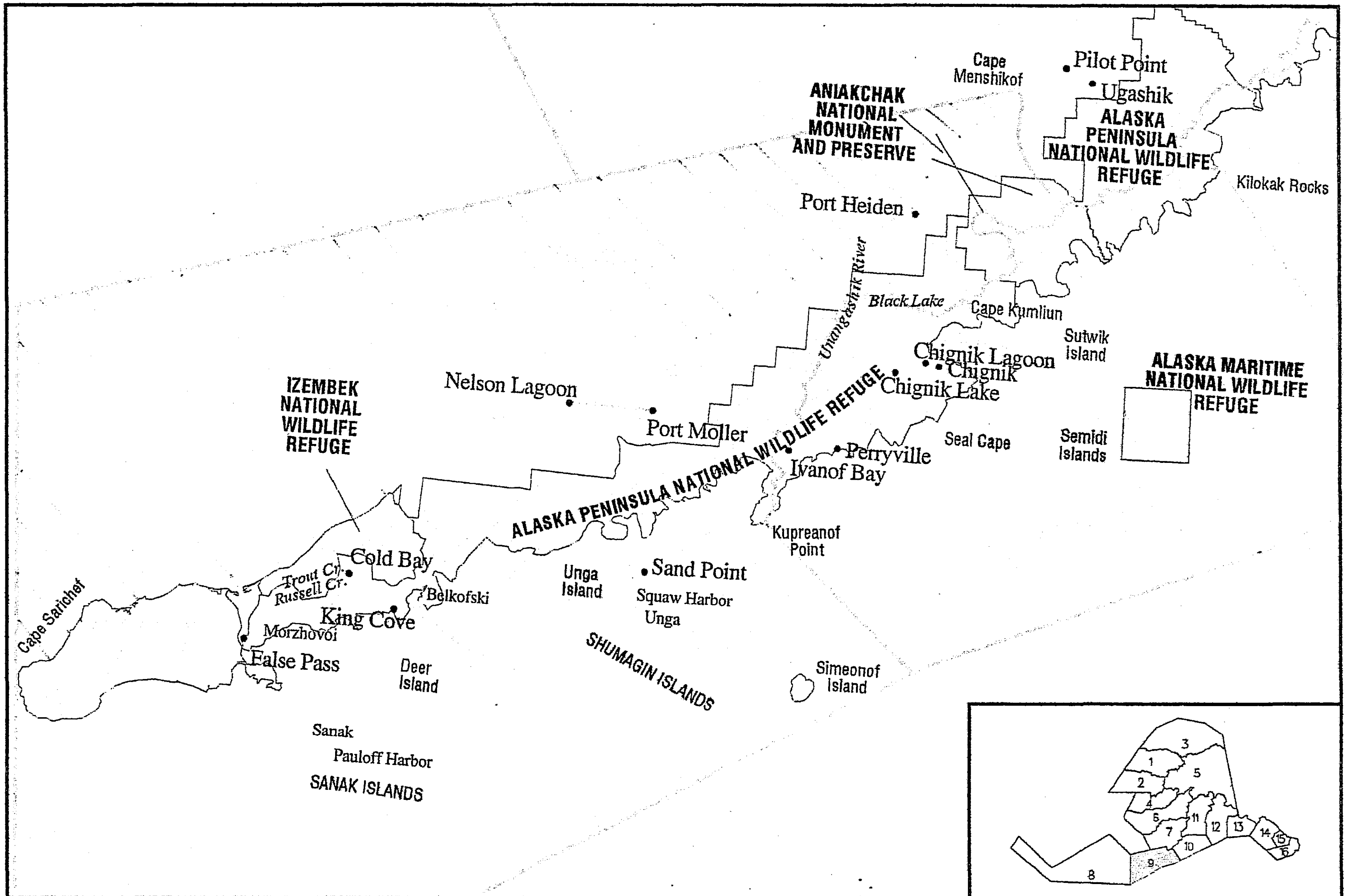
- Housekeeping
- Helps enforcement

Opposition:

- None

SSFP: Not discussed.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



N

Map 9 Alaska Peninsula and Chignik Areas

FWS Administered Land
NPS Administered Parks
NPS Administered Preserves
BLM Administered Land
BLM Non-navigable Waters Only
USFS Administered Land
Closed to Subsistence
Roads
Area Boundary
Federal Boundary

Page 17 – proposal 36/p 362

RC 52

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Committee Report

COMMITTEE B

Shrimp, Razor Clams, Misc. Shellfish, Supplemental Issues, and deferred proposals
March 17, 2009

Board Committee Members:

1. Vince Webster, *Chair
2. Bonnie Williams
3. Karl Johnstone

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff Members:

1. Tom Vania - Division of Sport Fish
2. Ken Goldman - Division of Commercial Fisheries
3. Charlie Trowbridge - Division of Commercial Fisheries
4. Robert Berceli - Division of Commercial Fisheries
5. Matt Miller - Division of Sport Fish
6. Nicky Szarzi - Division of Sport Fish

Advisory Committee Members:

1. Jon Vanhyning - Whittier AC
2. Mike Crawford - Kenai/Soldotna F&G AC
3. Steve Runyan - Susitna Valley F&G AC
4. Mel Grove - Mat Valley F&G AC
5. Jim Stubbs - Anchorage F&G AC

Public Panel Members:

1. Marilyn Sigman - Center for Alaska Coastal Studies
2. Lee Mayhan - self
3. Art Nelson - self
4. Zach Stubbs - self
5. Gordon Scott - self
6. Bruce Knowles - Blue Ribbon Committee, Mat Valley
7. Paul Shadura - KPFA
8. Roland Maw - UCIDA
9. Andy Couch - Susitna R. Drainage Fish Guide
10. Andy Craig - CDFU

Federal Subsistence Representative:

1. None.

The Committee met March 17, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. and adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

PROPOSALS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE WERE: (9 total) 44A, 49, 363-367, and 377

PROPOSAL 44A – 5 AAC 31.260 Prince William Sound Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. Describe the conditions under which a commercial shrimp pot fishery in Prince William Sound may occur.

Staff Reports: RC 3, Oral Report Tab 3, Written Tab none.

Staff Comments: RC 2.

Deliberation Materials: RC 22.

AC Reports: None.

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab, PC 2, 3, 5–7, 9, 11, 12, 14–17.

Record Comments: RC 22, 26, 37, 38, 40–44, 119.

Narrative of Support and Opposition: None.

Department:

- Clarified exclusive and superexclusive commercial fisheries terms.
- Biological based season already in place, April 15 is adequately known as end of spawning season. These dates were picked for biological reasons. No conservation concern with season dates. Questions were addressed about migration and tagging study data that showed there is very little movement of shrimp. Information about shrimp biology was presented in Cordova at BOF meeting.
- Clarification on season dates, current
- Spring survey information from 1989 found shrimp starting to hatch around middle of March. Literature indicates that shrimp are egg bearing into late March, early April period. Answered question that percent of recruits is unknown.
- Clarification of the three commercial harvest sections. Open one section for one year and close it for 2 years.
- Answered questions that shrimp generation time is approximately every 3 years and the longevity is about 7-10 years.
- Answered question about how boundary areas were determined and how difficult it would be to manage by statistical area as there is not enough info to manage with current data.
- Explained the concept of the commissioner's permit and terms, gives ADF&G tools to put stipulations on fishery and control when no management plan is in regulation. Department does not anticipate a lot extra resources to monitor commissioner based fishery.
- Discussed model and that numbers used for guideline harvest ranges are extremely conservative.
- Answered questions about tools to manage inseason harvest. Explained the Statewide Harvest Survey and how information collected by it is 2 years behind and described possible management measures it may produce.
- Discussed the fishable habitat in the areas and coming back in 3 years with data collected to modify the management plan.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Support:

- Superexclusive registration: Whittier AC – Support intent of superexclusive registration to be further defined to include the type of fishery. Superexclusive designation should be expanded to split up use between sport and commercial. If someone is commercial fishing, then that person should not be allowed to participate in the personal use or subsistence fisheries, and likewise, if participating in the personal use or subsistence fisheries then not be allowed to participate in the commercial fisheries. Consensus support superexclusive registration.
- Registration deadline (April 1): Support/Neutral to include registration cut off date, this year would be an exception due to amount of time to become law. Consensus to support.
- Fishing seasons (April 15 – September 15): Support to open commercial fishery as early as biologically possible. Whittier AC supports opening early as majority of the personal use harvest is caught in noncommercial fishing areas. Wanted to have an earlier date, March 15th, to prevent market interference with PWS shrimp trawl fishery. .However, would support April 15 date as most shrimp have released eggs by April 15th. Support to keep current season dates due to egg release variability from year to year. No consensus.
- Harvest sections and rotation of three areas: Support to divide commercial fishing area into 3 sections by latitude and rotate fishing one area every three years. No consensus.
- Commissioner's permit: Support use of commissioner's permit as it is used to manage shrimp trawl fishery in Eastern PWS where abundance and harvest is small. These permits would remain the same as they are in current regulations. No consensus.
- Guideline harvest ranges (allocation): No consensus.
- Gear: Support because regulation is exactly the same as SE small pots and works well there, easy for enforcement. Troopers agree that regulations work well. Consensus to support.
- Gear operations: Support to keep fishery with 50 pot limit. Whittier AC neutral. Troopers support set number pots as they have to physically count pots on boat or in the water to know if legal or not; more difficult to enforce if different limits set by area. No consensus on number of pots, time, or leaving pots in the water. Consensus to allow ADF&G to declare the number of pots, one pot owner onboard the vessel, and only one legal complement of gear onboard. No concensus.
- Pot tags: Consensus to support.
- Identification of shrimp pots: Consensus to support.
- Two buoys (one on each end of the line): Consensus to support.
- Reporting requirements: Susitna Valley AC support, but would like additional logbook reporting in order to allow ADF&G closely monitoring of fishery. Trooper discussed that SE shrimp ticket completed every day and reporting submitted to ADF&G once a week. No consensus.
- Closed water areas: Support for current areas based on historical use, no one fished in proposed closed (grey areas) because they were left for subsistence fishing for local people. Proposed areas intend to give sport fishermen port access. No consensus on option B. Consensus on area A (close 3 dark sections).

Opposition:

- Fishing seasons (April 15-September 15): Mat Su AC had concerns about which areas would open on April 15th and if there would be conflicts with personal use shrimp fishers. Anchorage AC supports keeping season dates status quo so that the commercial fleet does not harvest all the shrimp harvested prior to the noncommercial fisheries. Soldotna AC support opening commercial fishery earlier for conservation reasons only. No consensus.
- Harvest sections and rotation of three areas: Whittier AC opposed to three sections; could not figure out how to make viable. They would like to fish areas equally and concerned that areas would be difficult to change in future. Also oppose three section concept due to concerns for safety, lost gear, and local shrimp population depletion as people will only fish the best spots leading to depressed CPUE values. Support restricting both sport and commercial fishing effort for two years in particular areas at same time and making areas smaller. Opposition to Area 3 because it's the furthest away from ports and is largely known not to be productive. Therefore, it would not be used by many participants. Support opening entire PWS and manage by statistical areas with closures one stat area at a time, rotating every two years for all shrimp fisheries. Anchorage AC opposed; want to make conservation top priority. Kenai-Soldotna AC opposed the proposed areas but in favor of rotation cycle. No consensus.
- Commissioner's permit: Opposition to commissioner's permit as it might be considered a test fishery. Anchorage AC concerned about ADF&G cost to monitor fishery. No consensus.
- Guideline harvest ranges (allocation): Some opposed because more accessible areas closer to ports will have higher fishing pressure because more accessible and potentially more harvest. Anchorage AC opposed because of concern that a harvest cap at a certain percent could lead to a reduction in sport harvest. Suggestion that if total harvest drops below a certain percent then close the commercial fishery. No consensus.
- Gear: None.
- Gear operations: Opposition against set pot limits; suggested that more congested sport and personal use areas be capped at 50 pots and more spread out areas be capped at 150 pots. Anchorage AC concerned about ADF&G personnel and resources to manage pot limit. Susitna Valley AC concerned that overharvest by the commercial fishery could cause penalty to sport fishermen or conversely if the 50 pot limit is not actively managed. No consensus. No consensus on number of pots, time, or leaving pots in the water. Consensus to allow ADF&G to declare the number of pots, one pot owner on board the vessel, and only one legal complement of gear on board.
- Vessel inspection: Would like statewide consistency. No consensus.
- Reporting requirements: Opposition discussion included limited cell phone reception in PWS and limited other means to report harvest; may not be timely information to ADF&G. No consensus.
- Closed water areas: Anchorage AC, Mat Valley AC, and Kenai/Soldotna AC oppose current area descriptions and would like to include Culross, Perry, and Esther Islands (that are popular areas for sport and personal use shrimping) be closed to commercial fishing. There are additional areas that some would like to see closed. No consensus on option b. Consensus on area A (close 3 dark sections).

One board member discussed an option where the harvestable surplus would be allocated 50%/50% between commercial and noncommercial users. Set a commercial fishery threshold at 150,000 lbs, but the noncommercial harvest could only harvest it's 50% allocation.

Kenai/Soldotna AC support as long as noncommercial fishers can be assured a reasonable expectation of success and commercial fishermen can have a somewhat profitable fishery with conservation in mind as number one priority. Would like areas protected that contain close access to small boats to prevent overharvest by commercial, sport, and personal use users. Would also like to see a limit on all harvest (commercial and sport) or put a permit system in place for sport users since the Statewide Harvest Survey takes so long to get information.

Susitna Valley AC suggested that closing College Fjord and Perry Island areas would satisfy a lot of sport fish users.

Anchorage AC discussed the amount necessary for subsistence numbers from 2000 and suggested that these numbers need to be looked at again since effort has increased with tunnel access to Whittier. They are also concerned about capping noncommercial users, who are the largest user group, in order to bring in a small user group, commercial fishermen, when sport users have been asking to increase pot limits.

Staff discussed plan layout options for the commercial fishery and clarified current regulations, what EO authority would be, and clarified what EO authority would be if allocation was going to be exceeded.

Opposition included dislike for the eight hour (8:00 am to 4:00 pm) restriction idea on the commercial fishery. If the commercial fishery is restricted, then the sport fishery should also be restricted for eight hours. No consensus.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Supports a management plan but is neutral on any allocative aspects of the proposal.

AC Positions: Support: See above text under each management plan section.
Oppose: See support.

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

Board Committee Recommendation:

- **5 AAC 31.206. Area E registration**:
  - Registration deadline (April 1): Consensus to support.
  - Superexclusive registration: Consensus to support.
- **5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E:**
  - Fishing seasons (April 15 – September 15): Consensus to support.
  - Harvest sections and rotation of areas: No consensus.
  - Area open by commissioner's permit: Consensus to support.
- **5 AAC 31.215. Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area E:**
  - Minimum threshold: Consensus to support.
  - Allocation of harvestable surplus: Consensus to support.
- **5 AAC 31.224. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area E:**
  - Maximum number of pots: Consensus to support as amended
  - Operate pot gear from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm: Consensus to support.
- **5 AAC 31.226. Shrimp pot marking requirements:**

- Identification of shrimp pots: Consensus to support.
- Two buoys (one on each end of the line): Consensus to support.

- **5 AAC 31.235. Closed waters in Registration Area E:** Consensus to support Option 2.
- **5 AAC 31.240. Registration Area E shrimp vessel inspection:** Consensus to support.
- **5 AAC 31.243 Reporting requirements for Registration Area E:** Consensus to support.
- **Noncommercial EO authority (RC 37):** No consensus.

Substitute Language:

PWS COMMERCIAL POT SHRIMP MANAGEMENT PLAN

5 AAC 31.2XX. Prince William Sound Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. (a) The Prince William Sound pot shrimp fishery expanded dramatically from 1979 to 1987, then declined between 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 of Prince William Sound. Management of the fisheries in this area are described in 5 AAC 31.200-260.

5 AAC 31.2XX. 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 31.2XX. 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, fishing periods, allowable harvest, and other conditions the commissioner determines necessary for the conservation and management of the resource.

5 AAC 31.2XX. Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area E.

(a) Before a commercial fishery is prosecuted, the minimum total allowable harvest will be greater than 110,000 lbs.

(b) ~~[(A)]~~ The guideline harvest for shrimp harvested from the area described in 5 AAC 31.210 (a) by pot gear will be calculated as 40% of the total allowable harvest for the area.

5 AAC 31.2XX. 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" in perimeter;

(4) a bottom perimeter exceeding 124"

(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 as follows

(1) the maximum number of shrimp pots that may be operated from a vessel is **100** ~~[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 GHL.

(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 am until 4:00 pm each day; the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the fishing season in a district or 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, **as set annually by the department,** on board the vessel, in the waters in fishing condition, and in the water in non-fishing condition.

5 AAC 31.2XX. 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 31.2XX. Closed waters in Registration Area E. (See maps in RC informational packet. The board will have to decide intent for individual closures and ADF&G would provide location information)

5 AAC 31.2XX. Registration Area E shrimp vessel inspection and inspection points.

[~~B~~]**(a)** Unless required under [~~C~~]**(b)** 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~~]**(b)** 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~~]**(c)** If the commissioner requires a vessel inspection under [~~C~~]**(b)** of this section, the inspection points for Registration Area E are **Cordova, or Valdez, Whittier, and Seward after making arrangements with local enforcement staff** [~~DESCRIBED IN (A) OF THIS SECTION~~].

5 AAC 31.2XX Reporting requirements for Registration Area E.

(a) [~~AN OPERATOR OF A VESSEL~~] **A permit holder** participating in the Prince William Sound shrimp pot fishery shall obtain and complete**, by the close of fishing each day,** a logbook provided by the department. **It is unlawful to falsify a logbook entry.** The [~~VESSEL OPERATOR~~] **permit holder** must have the logbook on board the vessel at all times**, make the logbook available upon request to ADF&G or enforcement staff,** and must submit to the department, **the completed logbook pages with each corresponding** [~~EACH LOGBOOK PAGE THAT CORRESPONDS WITH EACH~~] ADF&G fish ticket.

(b) The owner or operator of a catcher-seller **or catcher processor** 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. **In addition, prior to landing shrimp, the owner or operator of a catcher-seller or catcher-processor 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 or registration and provide the following information:**

(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; and

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

(c) **Each week an owner or operator of a shrimp pot fishing vessel operating in the waters of Registration Area E shall contact, by telephone, the ADF&G area office in Cordova before 12:00 noon Wednesday during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. at a telephone number specified by the department at the time of registration; the following information must be**

provided at the time of contact: [~~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; and

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

(X) In the Prince William Sound Management Area noncommercial shrimp fisheries,

(1) the guideline harvest for shrimp taken by pot gear allocated to noncommercial users will be calculated as 60% of the total allowable harvest for the area;

(2) a harvest permit is required as specified in 5AAC 75.016. [~~THE SPORT HARVEST WILL BE ESTIMATED ANNUALLY BY THE DEPARTMENT'S STATEWIDE HARVEST SURVEY~~]

(3) shrimp may be taken with pots as follows:

(i) may be taken April 15-September 15;

(ii) no bag, possession, or size limits;

(iii) no more than five pots per person, with no more than five pots per vessel;

(4) If the noncommercial fisheries are projected to exceed their allowable harvest, the department may use its emergency order authority to restrict the noncommercial fisheries. Restrictions may be implemented preseason based on the most recent harvest estimates for the noncommercial fisheries and the determined allowable harvest for that year. Restrictions may include a reduction of the allowable number of pots and/or time and area.

(5) If the noncommercial fisheries are not projected to exceed their allowable harvest, the department may use its emergency order authority to liberalize the noncommercial fisheries. Liberalizations may be implemented preseason based on the most recent harvest estimates for the noncommercial fisheries and the determined allowable harvest for that year. Liberalizations may include increasing the allowable number of pots.

5AAC 77.553 Personal use Shrimp
(x) A person may only take shrimp under this section under a permit issued by the department under 5AAC 77.015

5AAC 55.022 Geneal Provisions for seasons, bag , possession, and size limits and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

(x) A person may only take shrimp under this section under a permit issued by the department under 5AAC 75.016.

5AAC 02.210. Subsistence shrimp fishery

(x) A person may only take shrimp under this section under a permit issued by the department under 5AAC 02.015

PROPOSAL 49 – 5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area; and 5 AAC 31.206. Area E registration. Prohibit persons or vessels from participating in the both commercial and sport fish pot shrimp fisheries.

Staff Reports: RC 3, Oral Report Tab 3, Written Tab none.

Staff Comments: RC 2.

Deliberation Materials: RC 22.

AC Reports: None.

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab, PC 3, 11, 14, 17.

Record Comments: RC 38, 40–43.

Narrative of Support and Opposition: None.

Department: Dependent on Proposal 44. Also noted that the BOF could restrict participation in both fisheries by registered shrimp vessels.

Department of Law:

- Stand down periods (two weeks before and after fishery) are to avoid prospecting and is not viewed as an exclusive regulation; is a statewide regulation. There is no definition of "participation".

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Support:

- Support the intent for people to decide to participate in either commercial or noncommercial fishery. One person cannot participate in both fisheries in one year in attempt to slow down fishery effort.

Opposition: None.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Neutral.

AC Positions: Support: None.

Oppose: None.

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 363 – 5 AAC 77.518. Personal use clam fishery. Amend the regulation to reduce razor clam daily limit to 30 clams per day.

Staff Reports: RC 3, Oral Report Tab None, Written Tab 6.

Staff Comments: RC 2.

Deliberation Materials: None.

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab, AC 5, 9.

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab, PC 17.

Record Comments: RC 18, 28, 35, 41.

Narrative of Support and Opposition: None.

Department:

- The current bag limit is 60 razor clams per day and 120 in possession. Clam abundance is determined at the two most heavily harvested locations. There are eight sample sites annually used to assess age and length. Harvest rate is low throughout the area. Clam abundance varies due to environmental changes and is not related to harvest. There is a good representation of all age classes and recruitment throughout all beaches. Effort has been fairly stable the past few years. The decline in harvest is because of an adult die off at Clam Gulch in 2004. The average clam size has stayed relatively the same in Ninilchik while Clam Gulch area clam size has decreased due to an increase of new recruits, the recent large adult die off and a period of slow growth from 2005-2007. Growth rates returned to normal in 2008.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Support:

- Support to reduce bag limits and close certain clam beaches or areas of certain beaches.
- Support to restrict, close, or reduce areas open to clamming and base daily bag limit on annual surveys.
- Support to reduce bag limit as clam size has become smaller and spread harvest out among different beaches.

Opposition:

- Opposition due to distance and travel by residents who live farther away.
- Opposed to reduction in harvest, limit should remain as it currently is due to economics, and distance of travel and cost. Participants should be able to harvest small clams if they choose to.

Other comments:

Troopers note that in recent years there have been fewer citations issued for gross overharvest limit of clams when previously there were hundreds of citations issued annually. Troopers can also cite diggers for not keeping all clams up to the bag limit.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Opposed to this proposal but neutral on allocative issues.

AC Positions: Support: Susitna Valley AC.

Oppose: Mat Valley AC.

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to oppose

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 364 – 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession , and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Reduce daily bag limit for razor clams in Clam Gulch to 15 so that the daily limit for razor clams is the first 15 dug.

Staff Reports: RC 3, Oral Report Tab none, Written Tab 6.

Staff Comments: RC 2.

Deliberation Materials: None.

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab, AC 9.

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, RC 1, Public Comment Tab, PC 17.

Record Comments: RC 18, 28, 35, 41.

Narrative of Support and Opposition: See proposal 363.

Department: Same as Proposal 363.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Support:

- Same as Proposal 363.

Opposition:

- Same as Proposal 363.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Neutral.

AC Positions: Support: Susitna Valley.

Oppose: Mat Valley.

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 365 – 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession , and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Reduce bag limit of clams to 25 razor clams.

Staff Reports: RC 3, Oral Report Tab none, Written Tab 6.

Staff Comments: RC 2.

Deliberation Materials: None.

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab, AC 9.

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab, PC 17.

Record Comments: RC 18, 28, 35, 41.

Narrative of Support and Opposition: Same as 363.

Department: Same as Proposal 363.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Support:

- Same as Proposal 363.

Opposition:

- Same as Proposal 363.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Neutral.

AC Positions: Support: Susitna Valley.

Oppose: Mat Valley.

Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 366 – 5 AAC 38.3XX; 58.022; 77.XXX. New sections. Amend the regulation to close areas of Kachemak Bay to sport, commercial, and personal use harvest of shellfish from April 15 until September 15.

Staff Reports: RC 3, Oral Report Tab none, Written Tab 6.

Staff Comments: RC 2.

Deliberation Materials: RC 1, 2.

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab, AC 9.

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab, PC 1, 4, 8.

Record Comments: RC 6, 18, 23, 24, 35, 40, 41.

Narrative of Support and Opposition: None.

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Support:

- Support for closing this area to consumptive use. This would not impact fisheries because little effort occurs in this area. The public can still access the beach, but they would not be able to harvest.

Opposition:

- None.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Neutral.

AC Positions: Support: None.

Oppose: None.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.

Board Committee Recommendation: No consensus.

Substitute Language:

5 AAC 38.314 Closed waters for clams and mussels in Registration Area H.

(e) the intertidal beach along Shipwreck Cove in China Poot Bay from N 59° 34.34' W 151° 18.11' to 59° 34.13' W 151° 17.75' encompassing 194,493 ft^2 (4.5 acres).

(f) the intertidal beach by Otter Rock in Peterson Bay encompassed by the points N 59° 34.78' W 151° 17.84' to 59° 34.70' W 151° 17.68' to 59° 34.79' W 151° 17.68' measuring 140,738 ft^2 (3.2 acres).

5 AAC 58.022 Waters; seasons; bag, possession and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

(2)(F) the following waters are closed to the taking of all shellfish,
(i) the intertidal beach along Shipwreck Cove in China Poot Bay from N 59° 34.34' W 151° 18.11' to 59° 34.13' W 151° 17.75' encompassing 194,493 ft^2 (4.5 acres) is closed to the harvest of shellfish.

(ii) the intertidal beach by Otter Rock in Peterson Bay encompassed by the points N 59° 34.78' W 151° 17.84' to 59° 34.70' W 151° 17.68' to 59° 34.79' W 151° 17.68' measuring 140,738 ft^2 (3.2 acres) is closed to the harvest of shellfish.

5 AAC 77.5XX Personal use shellfish. The following areas are closed to the taking of all shellfish,

(1) the intertidal beach along Shipwreck Cove in China Poot Bay from N 59° 34.34' W 151° 18.11' to 59° 34.13' W 151° 17.75' encompassing 194,493 ft^2 (4.5 acres) is closed to the harvest of shellfish.

(2) the intertidal beach by Otter Rock in Peterson Bay encompassed by the points N 59° 34.78' W 151° 17.84' to 59° 34.70' W 151° 17.68' to 59° 34.79' W 151° 17.68' measuring 140,738 ft^2 (3.2 acres) is closed to the harvest of shellfish.

PROPOSAL 367 – 5 AAC 77.019. Prohibitions on shellfish pot gear. Revise allowable written permission for use of another person's shrimp or crab gear.

Staff Reports: RC 3, Oral Report Tab none, Written Tab none.

Staff Comments: RC 2.

Deliberation Materials: RC 1, 2.

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab, AC 1, 5, 9.

Timely Public Comment: RC 1, Public Comment Tab, PC 17.

Record Comments: RC 28, 40.

Narrative of Support and Opposition: None.

Department: Recommend that the board look at this on a regional basis instead of a statewide basis.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Support:

- Some Troopers support as an area regulation, not statewide regulation.

Opposition:

- Opposition included added burden for local PWS residents to carry written permission from others in village to pull pots for them.
- Uncertain on how long authority of written permission should extend.

Other comments:

Verbal permission is already required by Troopers; this is enforceable. Troopers can contact a pot owner to check to make sure it is okay for someone else to pull their pots. Troopers are unlikely to cite someone for not having a written permission slip. They are looking for people who are stealing gear, crab, or shrimp from others pots. Some troopers like idea of having written permission.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Neutral.

AC Positions: Support: None.

Oppose: None.

Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to not make this a statewide regulation.

Board Committee Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.

Substitute Language: None.

PROPOSAL 377 – 5 AAC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Increase allowable length of set gillnets from 25 fathoms to 35 fathoms for the Naknek River Special Harvest Area in Bristol Bay.

Staff Reports: RC 3, Oral Report Tab none, Written Tab none.

Staff Comments: RC 2.

Deliberation Materials: RC 1, 2.

AC Reports: RC 1, Advisory Committee Comment Tab, AC 6, 8.

Timely Public Comment: None.

Record Comments: RC 1, 2.

Narrative of Support and Opposition: None.

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Support:

- Support discussion delivered from people that participate in this fishery was that two nets are the preferred option. Two nets of existing standard size are already on beach ready to go.

Opposition:

- None.

Other comments:

Discussion to give the board some options regarding this proposal. Board could do nothing, but there are surplus fish in this area. Because of the 500 ft limit from shore, 35 fathoms would not work unless the 500 ft limit was extended to 750 ft. Another option would be to allow two 25 fathom nets inside the river. Harvest would increase with more nets in the river but could possibly interfere with subsistence. If there is a lot of extra fish, some setnetters could get overwhelmed and not be able to pull all their gear out of the water by the end of the period. Option three: since the department lowered the escapement goal on the Kvichak River the chance of going into the Naknek River Special Harvest Area is small. The board could take no action or this proposal could be tabled and taken up at the regular board cycle.

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADF&G Position: Support the use of additional gear in the NRSHA and neutral on the possible allocative aspects of the proposal.

AC Positions: Support: None.

Oppose: None.

Public Panel Recommendation: None.

Board Committee Recommendation: No recommendation

Substitute Language:
5 ACC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.

(d)(1) no more than **35** [25] fathoms of set gillnet may be used to take salmon;

(3) beyond **750** [500] feet from shore, all gear associated with set gillnet fishing must be removed when it is not being used to fish in the NRSHA.
(4) a vessel may not have more than **70** [50] fathoms of set gillnet on board a vessel

(e)(3) a vessel may not have more than 150 fathoms of drift gillnet or **70** [50] fathoms set gillnet on board the vessel.

RC 53

Committee C
Deliberation Materials for
Cook Inlet Cost Recovery Fishery
Coho Salmon

Division of Sport Fish

Table 1. Resurrection Bay saltwater sport catch (1990-2007) and harvest (1986-2007) of coho salmon (From Statewide Harvest Survey).

	Boat									
	Charter		Private		Total		Shore		Total	
Year[a]	Catch	Harvest	Catch	Harvest	Catch	Harvest	Catch	Harvest	Catch	Harvest
1986		2,125		8,364		10,489		3,929		14,418
1987		2,209		16,652		18,861		5,359		24,220
1988		1,473		9,932		11,405		6,221		17,626
1989		2,889		13,444		16,333		2,851		19,184
1990	10,039	7,487	21,392	16,631	31,431	24,118	8,403	5,643	39,834	29,761
1991	8,265	7,335	20,484	18,452	28,749	25,787	5,827	5,177	34,576	30,964
1992	5,830	5,263	19,199	15,976	25,029	21,239	7,823	6,665	32,852	27,904
1993	13,957	12,907	31,728	27,018	45,685	39,925	8,512	7,647	54,197	47,572
1994	6,872	6,377	23,510	21,248	30,382	27,625	11,337	10,840	41,719	38,465
1995	9,150	8,172	25,737	21,713	34,887	29,885	12,717	10,213	47,604	40,098
1996	24,093	18,696	51,346	41,898	75,439	60,594	19,217	15,214	94,656	75,808
1997	30,300	24,010	75,463	50,188	105,763	74,198	16,771	13,015	122,534	87,213
1998	19,501	16,288	63,145	42,552	82,646	58,840	11,537	10,306	94,183	69,146
1999	29,891	24,053	54,169	44,500	84,060	68,553	8,628	7,067	92,688	75,620
2000	25,706	22,708	47,222	42,079	72,928	64,787	7,186	5,984	80,114	70,771
2001	41,739	36,873	53,011	45,990	94,750	82,863	15,969	13,607	110,719	96,470
2002	38,944	34,018	62,642	54,811	101,586	88,829	10,486	9,730	112,072	98,559
2003	26,697	22,834	69,385	54,401	96,082	77,235	11,275	8,776	107,357	86,011
2004	40,552	32,599	88,060	69,087	128,612	101,686	8,318	6,230	136,930	107,916
2005	50,211	43,371	107,126	81,440	157,337	124,811	13,399	11,135	170,736	135,946
2006	27,541	24,700	66,789	53,291	94,330	77,991	5,063	4,708	99,393	82,699
2007	50,314	43,547	74,566	60,177	124,880	103,724	2,971	2,246	127,851	105,970

Source: Mills (1979-1994), Howe et al. (1995, 1996, 2001a-d), Walker et al. (2003), and Jennings et al. (2004, 2 112,199 80,761

[a] 1996-1999 estimates were recalculated due to error in original, published data analysis

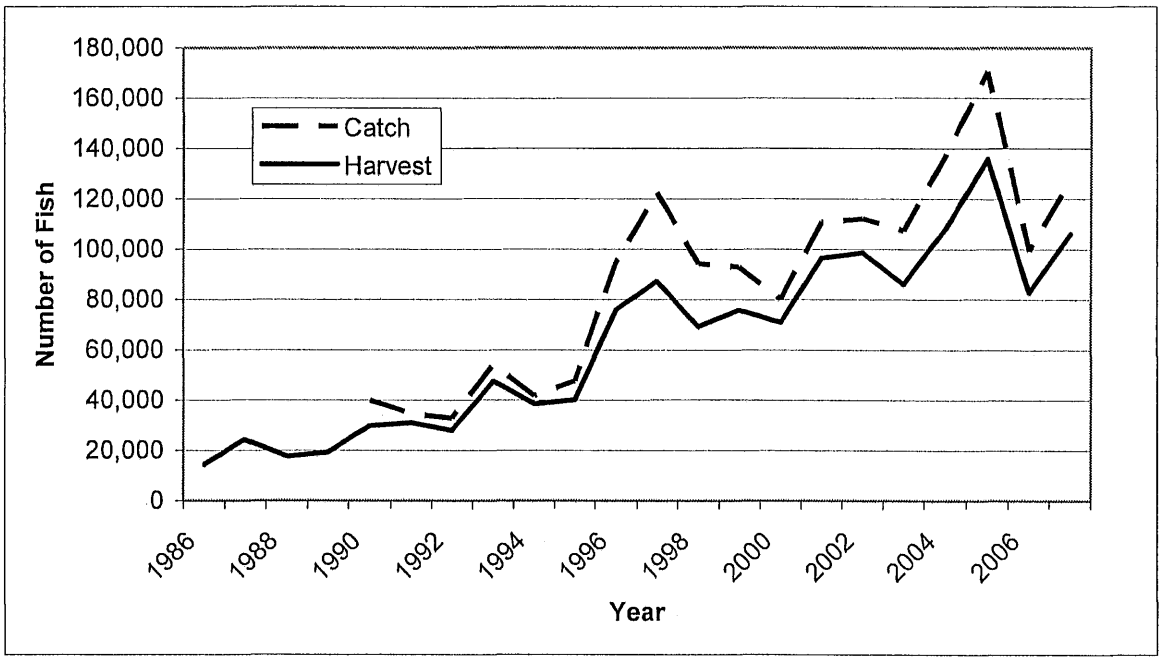


Figure 1.- Total saltwater coho salmon harvest landed at the Port of Seward, 1986-2007.

Table 2. Resurrection Bay anadromous hatchery releases (1998-2008).

Species	Location[a]	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Coho fry	Bear Lake	409,000	306,000	316,000	310,000	404,700	404,800	406,000	400,500	447,300	521,000	360,000
Coho smolt	Bear Creek	177,000	51,000	102,000	120,500	123,800	253,400	285,000	488,200	115,300	237,000	142,000
	Lowell Creek	65,687	62,580	54,184	125,618	119,512	124,225	131,989	132,276	131,261	130,862	
	Seward Lagoon	74,365	109,142	145,693	124,703	121,743	123,718	131,798	132,229	131,326	132,811	233,365
	Seward Sealife							192,000		146,100		
Chinook smolt	**Lowell Creek**	101,992	85,502	109,461	114,748	93,296	110,331	89,388	100,088	0	0	0
	Seward Lagoon	205,133	88,066	212,873	113,147	100,314	109,976	109,600	114,847	226,621	0	0
	Seward Sealife							30,066	96,702	76,596	117,842	142,469
Sockeye fry	Bear Lake	265,000	1,380,000	1,796,000	145,000	2,407,700	1,467,000	2,406,000	2,416,000	2,413,900	2,437,000	2,400,000
Sockeye smolt & Pre-smolt	Bear Lake	506,703				802,600	334,000	603,000	1,005,700		619,000	
	Bear Creek									979,200		1,600,000
	Grouse Lake	1,514,000										
Total		3,318,880	2,082,290	2,736,211	1,053,716	4,173,665	2,927,450	4,384,841	4,886,542	4,667,604	4,195,515	4,877,834

[a] **ADF&G salmon release sites: Lowell creek , Seward Lagoon**
CIAA salmon release sites: Bear lake, Bear Creek, Grouse lake

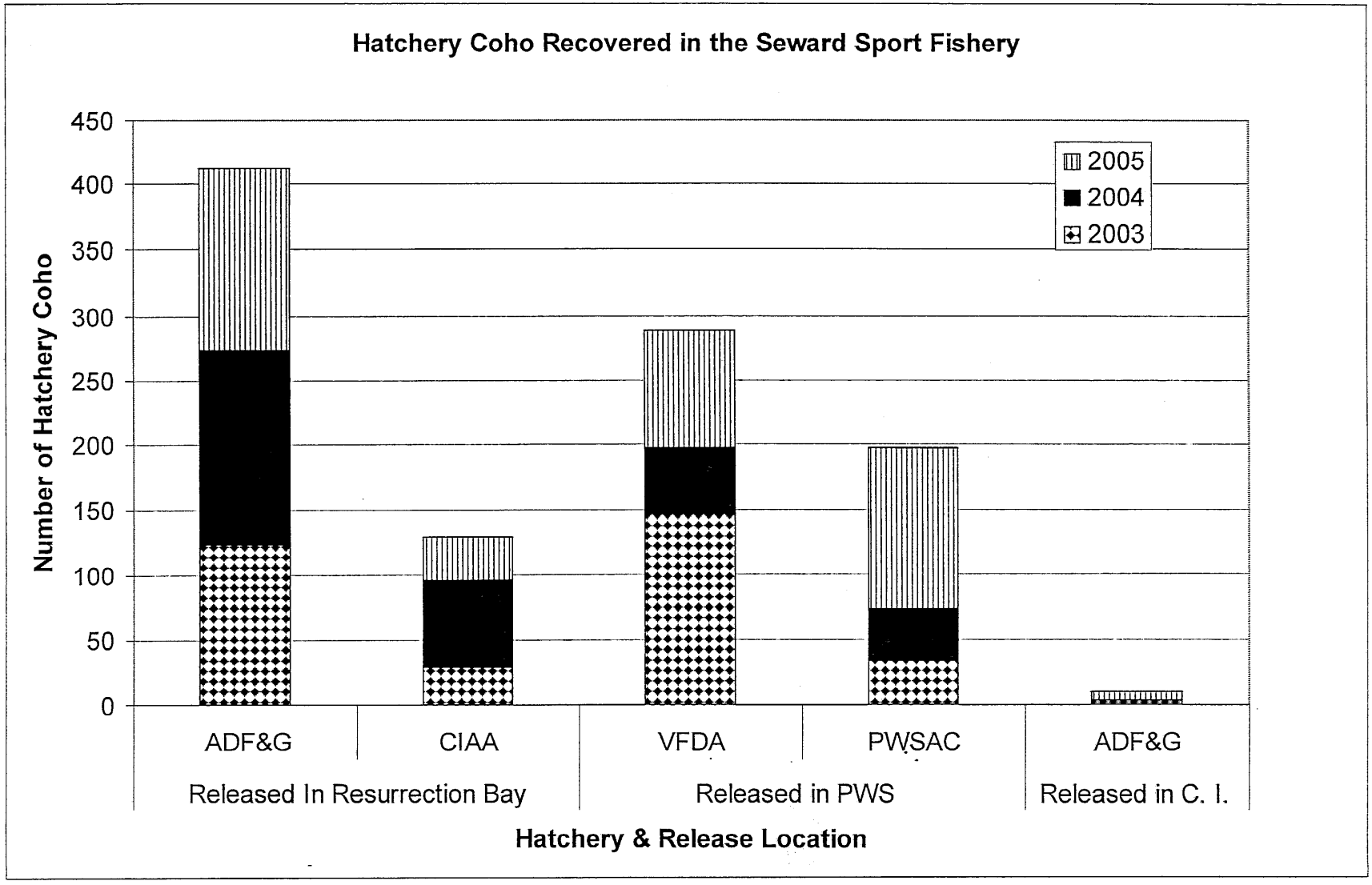
Total Hatchery Contribution of coho salmon to Seward Sport Fisheries by Year.

2003 = 33%

2004 = 24%

2005 = 33%

Table 3. Marked coho salmon recovered in Resurrection Bay sport fisheries by hatchery and year (2003-2005).



Board of Fisheries
Regarding Proposal #380 March 18, 2009 RC 54

Opposition to the change in the Proposed Trail Lakes Hatchery Sockeye Salmon Management Plan 5AAC 21.375 **(h)**

We, the resident seiners of Seward and the Seward A.C. Dianne Duboc, oppose any action to designate the freshwaters of Bear Lake, from the weir to the saltwater estuary, including all tributaries, as open for cost recovery for Cook InletAquaculture. We know of no other cost recovery efforts statewide in fresh water and we do not want to see it established in Seward.

We see this any attempt at cost recovery in freshwaters as a potential for destruction of habitat for the other natural species that use the river, such as trout, hooligan, silvers and the natural run of reds that are headed to Grouse Lake.

The freshwaters listed above constitute a wetlands as designated by the Corps of Engineers and any attempt to construct any facility for cost recovery, however temporary, may be met with opposition from that agency as well as the vocal sport fishing groups that have worked to open that area to single hook fishing.

We also see a potential threat to the livelihood of the LCI Seiners if CIAA is allowed to block access to the reds at the mouth of the river, effectively eliminating the need for seiners to catch the salmon. In theory, a weir could be placed at the mouth; a processsing plant could be built; and CIAA would be vertically integrated. This is one of the reasons we fought for statehood. Fisherman should not become employees of CIAA.

Thomas M Buchanan

Dianne Duboc
Seward A.C.

for himself and for:

Thomas A Buchanan
Perry S. Buchanan
Arnie Hatch
Val Anderson
Darwin E. Wood

Board of Fisheries
Proposal #380 March 18, 2009 RC 55

In the spirit of compromise and to provide support to CIAA we recognize the need for early cost recovery efforts in salt water to increase the value of the fish taken for cost recovery.

We request that the Board of Fisheries direct the Divison of Commercial Fishing to operate and manage the Resurrection Bay fishery for enhanced sockeye salmon in the following manner:

Dedicate the days of Monday and Tuesday to cost recovery by the LCI Seiners
Dedicated the days of Wednesday, Thursday and Friday to common property fishing by the LCI Seiners
Close Resurrection Bay to all commercial fishing (cost recovery and common property) on Saturday and Sunday so as not to impact the recreational fishing

We believe that this will provide a maximum return of fish to CIAA and provide an opportunity for CIAA to receive increased value for the percentage of the fish that they receive under the above split. We do not intend that the cost recovery catch of fish in terms of number of fish caught exceed *_____ % of the total harvest of enhanced sockeyes in Resurrection Bay. *This percentage to be determined by the Board of Fisheries.

CIAA states that thispetition reflects a budget shortfall for the current year only (2009) and we strongly suggest that any compromise be written so as to expire with this current year and that any additional issues be brought up in cycle next year in 2010 to allow for greater public participation.

I represent myself and 5 other resident of Seward LCI Seiners on this issue and we are in agreement on this compromise as long as the percentage is not, effectively, a 100% assignment of the sockeye salmon return to Resurrection Bay.

Thomas M. Buchanan for himself and for

Thomas A. Buchanan
Perry S. Buchanan
Arnie Hatch
Val Anderson
Darwin E. Wood

BOF RE: Prop #380
submitted by Dianne Duboc
Seward AC

RC 57

In response to questions raised by the Board concerning what would most likely occur should CIAA have to cease operations.

Please refer to the attached state reports which state that the enhanced returns have been consistently poor compared to natural returns which remain healthy.

2008

Hatchery. PWSAC cost recovery and broodstock harvest was approximately 13% of the total pink salmon run to PWSAC hatcheries.

The 2008 preseason forecast for the pink salmon harvest in Prince William Sound was 29.5 million fish. This estimate included 3.5 million wild stock fish, 9.8 million Valdez Fisheries Development Association (VFDA) hatchery fish, and 16.2 million PWSAC hatchery fish. Approximately 3.5 million pink salmon (30%) of the projected 16.2 million pink salmon returning to the PWSAC hatcheries were anticipated to be needed for cost recovery and broodstock. The remaining 12.7 million PWSAC fish would be available for CPF harvest. Approximately 5.0 million pink salmon (51%) of the projected 9.8 million pink salmon returning to the VFDA Hatchery were anticipated to be needed for cost recovery and broodstock. The remaining 4.8 million VFDA fish would be available for CPF harvest. A total harvest of 1.5 million wild stock pink salmon was forecasted for CPF leaving 2.0 million pink salmon for escapement.

Despite limited fishing opportunity outside of hatchery subdistricts, inseason wild pink salmon aerial survey escapement estimates were below cumulative anticipated levels in all but Coghill and Northwestern districts. The 2008 total Prince William Sound wild stock pink salmon escapement of 862,000 was below the even-year SEG lower bound of 1.3 million fish, and was the lowest escapement since 1992. The preliminary Prince William Sound wild stock pink salmon harvest of 1.4 million fish, 140,000 below the 2008 commercial harvest forecast midpoint estimate, was the third lowest wild stock harvest contribution by number (second lowest by percent of total harvest) in the last 30 years. The ratio of enhanced pink salmon to wild pink salmon in the 2008 commercial common property harvest was 32:1.

Coho Salmon

The purse seine fleet harvested 158,000 coho salmon in the Eastern District. The majority of these coho salmon were assumed to be VFDA stock. The purse seine fleet also harvested 37,000 coho salmon in the Coghill District (the majority assumed to be PWSAC enhanced stock). VFDA harvested a total of 24,230 coho salmon, of which 1,460 fish were utilized for brood, 420 fish were given away, and 22,360 fish were sold.

The 2008 VFDA coho salmon run was anticipated to be 211,000 fish. A total of 2,000 salmon were anticipated to be needed to meet VFDA broodstock objectives.

COOK INLET

Lower Cook Inlet

The 2008 Lower Cook Inlet all-species commercial salmon harvest of just over 1.092 million fish was the third lowest during the past decade, representing slightly more than 60% of the recent 10-year average of 1.786 million fish. The overall harvest failed to achieve the cumulative preseason forecast of 1.252 million fish, in large part due to much smaller than anticipated harvests of natural runs of pink salmon. Nonetheless, the sockeye harvest of 407,600 was the third highest in the last decade and exceeded the recent 10-year average of 310,600 by over 30%. The chum harvest of 175,700 was the second highest since 1988 and was almost triple the recent 10-year average of 63,300. Increased prices paid for salmon this season yielded an estimated exvessel value of approximately $3.96 million, making the value of the 2008 Lower Cook Inlet harvest the highest since 1988 and the fourth highest since statehood.

2008

For the third consecutive season, Lower Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvests in 2008 were not dominated by hatchery and enhanced fish production. This is primarily because no pink salmon returned to the Tutka Hatchery facility, where operations were suspended after 2004, and also because the minimal pink return to Port Graham Hatchery did not contribute to commercial catches. Hatchery production did contribute to sockeye catches, with approximately 40% of the Lower Cook Inlet sockeye salmon harvest attributed to lake stocking and fertilization projects. Most of these projects were originally begun by ADF&G, but are currently maintained by Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association. These projects were conducted at Leisure and Hazel Lakes in the Southern District, Kirschner Lake in the Kamishak Bay District, and Bear Lake in the Eastern District. Two newer sockeye salmon enhancement projects in the Southern District, one conducted by the Port Graham Hatchery Corporation in Port Graham and the other undertaken by Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association in Tutka Bay, contributed an additional 10% to Lower Cook Inlet catches. Virtually all fish from these projects were utilized for hatchery cost recovery. The proportion of the Lower Cook Inlet salmon harvest utilized for hatchery cost recovery in 2008 (8.5%) was significantly less than the historical average normally taken by Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and Port Graham Hatchery Corporation to support the stocking and hatchery programs. Hatchery harvest in 2008 generated approximately 14% of the exvessel value of the 2008 Lower Cook Inlet salmon fishery.

Sockeye Salmon

The 2008 sockeye catch of 407,600 fish accounted for about 37% of the Lower Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvest in total numbers of fish, yet provided approximately 70% of the exvessel value of the entire salmon fishery this season. The 2008 Lower Cook Inlet commercial sockeye harvest was characterized by much weaker than expected returns to key enhanced systems at Leisure and Hazel Lakes (Southern District), Bear Lake (Eastern District), and Kirschner Lake (Kamishak Bay District). In contrast, natural sockeye returns within the management area ranged from good to outstanding, with 4 of 5 major systems achieving or exceeding their respective SEGs. The fifth system fell slightly short of its SEG based on aerial surveillance, but video escapement counts showed more escapement than estimated aerially. Two additional systems with both natural and enhanced production also attained their respective desired inriver returns. Of particular note was the formerly enhanced system of Chenik Lake, located in the Kamishak Bay District on the west side of Lower Cook Inlet, where the sockeye return this season was one of the best on record. The resulting 2008 commercial catch in nearby waters totaled over 171,000 fish, which was over 2.5 times the average catch for that area during the previous 4 seasons. Stocking of Chenik Lake was discontinued after the 1996 season, thus all present production is considered natural, and this season's return was estimated at approximately 182,500 sockeyes, continuing a 6-year trend of excellent returns to the system.

Pink Salmon

Natural returns of pink salmon, usually the dominant species in numbers of commercially harvested salmon in Lower Cook Inlet, were considered variable this year. For the first time in many seasons, Lower Cook Inlet catches of pink salmon were entirely the result of natural production. The numerous and fairly liberal openings to target these natural stocks produced overall catches totaling nearly 506,000 fish. The 2008 harvest figure is only about 36% of the most recent 10-year average and represents the second lowest catch of this species during that timeframe, primarily due to the lack of hatchery production. Pink salmon SEGs were achieved at virtually all monitored systems in the management area.

Chum Salmon

For the eighth year out of the past 9 seasons, Lower Cook Inlet chum salmon returns were relatively strong, producing a harvest of nearly 176,000 fish, the second highest catch for the species in that area since 1988. Interestingly, the majority of this season's chum harvest occurred in Port Dick of Lower Cook Inlet's Outer District, not normally a prominent area for catches of this species, rather than Kamishak Bay which has historically dominated catches. The catch of 87,500 chums in Port Dick was the highest catch for that area since 1981, even greater than that of the strong 1988 season. Kamishak Bay catches this season totaled slightly more than 73,000 chums, considered very good. Escapements into most Lower Cook Inlet chum systems were sufficient to achieve goals, with the exception of McNeil River, where the escapement fell short of its established goal range for the 14th time in the last 19 years.

Coho Salmon

The coho salmon resource is not extensive in the Lower Cook Inlet management area, and as a result this species rarely attains commercial prominence. The commercial harvest of approximately 3,000 coho salmon in 2008 was the lowest since 1977 and was only about one-quarter of the recent 10-year average for this species. The Eastern District accounted for around 55% of the area-wide coho harvest. This district frequently produces the bulk of the Lower Cook Inlet coho catches because of the Seward Silver Salmon Derby and Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association hatchery cost recovery at Bear Lake. The remainder of the Lower Cook Inlet commercial coho catch was split between seiners (24%) and set gillnetters (20%) in the Southern District. One aerial survey was flown specifically for coho salmon this season, indicating good escapement into Clearwater Slough, the major coho salmon index stream at the head of Kachemak Bay in the Southern District.

Chinook Salmon

The 2008 harvest of Chinook salmon, not normally a commercially important species in Lower Cook Inlet, totaled fewer than 200 fish, or less than 20% of the average during the last decade and the lowest catch since 1975. Virtually all of the catch came from the Southern District, with the majority taken in Tutka Bay Subdistrict. Set gillnetters accounted for 79% of the Southern District Chinook catch, with purse seiners taking the remaining 21%.

Upper Cook Inlet

The 2008 Upper Cook Inlet commercial harvest of 2.8 million salmon is approximately 1.5 million fish below the average long-term harvest (Table 1). While all 5 species of Pacific salmon are present in Upper Cook Inlet, the primary focus of the commercial fishery is sockeye salmon. Sockeye salmon escapement goals are monitored in 6 systems in Upper Cook Inlet. In 2008, 2 were within, 2 were below, and 2 were over the goal ranges.

Sockeye Salmon

The preseason forecast for the 2008 season projected a run of 5.6 million sockeye salmon, with a harvest estimate (sport, personal use and commercial) of 3.9 million fish. The total run to the Kenai River, generally the largest producer in Upper Cook Inlet, was forecasted to be 3.1 million fish. This resulted in managing for an inriver sonar goal range in the Kenai River of 750,000 to 950,000 fish. Two regularly scheduled fishing periods plus up to 51 hours of additional fishing time in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery were allowed with this run size under the

2007

With the suspension of operations at Tutka Bay Hatchery after the 2004 season, no pink salmon were slated to return to that facility for the second consecutive year. Thus, the only hatchery-produced pink salmon returning to LCI would be at Port Graham, with a forecasted harvest of just 77,000 fish, all of which would be likely be required for cost recovery. The projection was based on typical recent-year survivals from a release of approximately 14 million fry from Port Graham Hatchery in 2006 (Appendix A31). Broodstock requirements were expected to total an additional 200,000 pink salmon at Port Graham Hatchery.

Reasonably good pink salmon escapements to major systems in 2005 contributed to a harvest projection of nearly 1.0 million naturally produced pink salmon throughout the entire LCI management area this season. Port Dick, Windy Bay, Rocky Bay, and Port Chatham Subdistricts in the Outer District, Ursus Cove and Rocky Cove Subdistricts in the Kamishak Bay District, and Humpy Creek and Seldovia Bay Subdistricts in the Southern District, all figured to provide the potential for harvestable surpluses, but the projected fishing effort in the remote districts was debatable due to uncertain markets and questionable levels of available tender service.

Due to seven consecutive seasons of relatively strong chum salmon runs and catches in LCI, the chum salmon harvest outlook in 2007 once again appeared bright. Most west-side LCI systems experienced good escapements during the 2002 and 2003 parent years, and recent years' runs to area systems have continued to display a generally encouraging trend. Numerous systems, especially those in northern Kamishak Bay, seemed to effectively rebound from chronic low level returns in the 1990s decade, while chum runs to the larger Big and Little Kamishak Rivers have also been comparatively strong during the past seven years. The good catches during the last seven seasons, as well as the recent overall trend, suggested that harvest opportunities for chum could be numerous in 2007.

2007 SUMMARY BY SPECIES

Chinook Salmon

The 2007 harvest of Chinook salmon, not normally a commercially important species in LCI, totaled just under 500 fish (Table 2), or less than 40% of the average during the last decade and only one-third of the long-term average of just over 1,400 fish (Appendix A12). Virtually all of the catch came from the Southern District, with the majority taken in Halibut Cove Subdistrict, the location of a remote release site. Even though this Chinook salmon enhancement project, and a similar one in Seldovia Bay of the Southern District, is intended to primarily benefit recreational fishermen, adult fish returning to both stocking sites are incidentally taken in the commercial fishery. Set gillnetters this season accounted for 94% of the Southern District Chinook salmon catch, with purse seiners taking the remaining 6%.

Sockeye Salmon

The 2007 sockeye salmon harvest of 366,200 fish (Table 3; Figure 8) was the third highest for LCI since 1996, exceeding the 20-year average of 273,700 fish (Appendix A13) by over 33%. Sockeye salmon accounted for 55% of the LCI salmon harvest in total numbers of fish, yet provided over 90% of the exvessel value of the entire salmon fishery this season (Table 7). The 2007 LCI commercial sockeye salmon harvest was characterized by much weaker than expected returns to key enhanced systems at Leisure and Hazel lakes (Southern District) and Bear Lake (Eastern District). In contrast, natural sockeye salmon returns within the management area ranged from good to outstanding, with all five major systems achieving or exceeding their

2007

respective sustainable escapement goals (SEG's). Of particular note was the formerly enhanced system of Chenik Lake, located in the Kamishak Bay District on the west side of LCI, where the sockeye salmon return this season was one of the best on record. The resulting 2007 commercial catch in nearby waters totaled over 160,000 fish, which was over five times the average catch during the previous three seasons (Appendix A16). Stocking of Chenik Lake was discontinued after the 1996 season, thus all present production is considered natural, and this season's return was estimated at approximately 180,000 sockeye salmon, continuing a five-year trend of good returns to the system. The English Bay Lakes system, with both natural and (at times) enhanced production, also attained its desired inriver return. As has been the case during past seasons, non-local stocks were thought to have intermixed with local stocks while migrating through the Southern District terminal harvest areas, providing additional sockeye salmon for harvest there.

Sockeye salmon runs to Southern District enhancement sites, which frequently provide the bulk of the annual LCI sockeye salmon catch, were weak for the fourth consecutive season, continuing a recent pattern of relatively meager runs to these enhancement sites. Harvests of enhanced runs of sockeye salmon returning to Leisure and Hazel lakes were predicted to cumulatively total about 106,000 fish in 2007, but the estimated combined harvest amounted to only around 83,800 fish (Figure 9; Appendix A15). This figure was well below the recent 10-year average of over 157,000 sockeye salmon and also represented the fourth lowest combined total since adults began returning to both the Leisure and Hazel lakes enhancement sites in 1991 (prior to that year, only Leisure Lake sockeye salmon contributed to the harvests).

Also in the Southern District, the sockeye salmon run to English Bay Lakes was considerably better than expected, achieving the desired inriver escapement goal while also providing modest harvest opportunities for commercial set gillnetters in Port Graham Subdistrict and subsistence set gillnetters from the two local native villages. Both the commercial and subsistence set gillnet fisheries in waters of Port Graham Subdistrict remained closed for the early portion of the sockeye salmon run in order to protect fish for escapement purposes. The subsistence fishery in those waters was only allowed to reopen on June 23 after the escapement goal was assured, while the commercial fishery opened just over a week later, resulting in a seasonal harvest of approximately 4,300 sockeye salmon (Table 3) for the latter user group. The continued viability of the sockeye salmon returns to the English Bay Lakes system may rest on the future success of the inconsistent rehabilitation project originally initiated by ADF&G in the late 1980s and presently being conducted by Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC) in conjunction with NSEP, operated by the village of Nanwalek. This sockeye salmon project has encountered setbacks in recent seasons due to viral and disease outbreaks in the pen rearing of juveniles, as well as years when no or reduced numbers of broodstock were collected. For the 2007 season, no juvenile sockeye salmon were released back into the English Bay Lakes system for the second consecutive season, but just under 400 sockeye salmon were collected for broodstock.

In the Kamishak Bay District, the enhanced run of sockeye salmon to Kirschner Lake produced a catch of over 35,000 fish (Table 3) or about 37% greater than the preseason harvest forecast of 25,900 fish. Just over three-fourths of the sockeye salmon returning to Kirschner Lake in 2007 were utilized for hatchery cost recovery, with the remainder taken by commercial seiners.

At Bear Lake in Resurrection Bay of the Eastern District, the cumulative seine and hatchery catch of "early run" sockeye salmon destined for Bear Lake totaled 23,900 fish (Table 3), falling far short of the original preseason harvest forecast of 100,000 sockeye salmon. Nonetheless, the

2006

in over a decade and commercial harvests totaling 33,000 and 47,000 sockeye salmon during those years, respectively. Because of the unexpectedly strong runs the previous three seasons, the outlook for the adult sockeye return at Chenik Lake in 2006 was cautiously optimistic, with fishermen hoping for reasonable harvest opportunities.

With the suspension of operations at Tutka Bay Hatchery after the 2004 season, no pink salmon were slated to return to that facility for the first time in nearly 30 years. Thus, the only hatchery-produced pinks returning to LCI would be at Port Graham, with a forecasted harvest of 491,000 fish, all of which would be likely be required for cost recovery. The projection was based on typical recent-year survivals from a release of approximately 27 million fry from Port Graham Hatchery in 2005 (Appendix A34). Broodstock requirements were expected to total an additional 200,000 pink salmon at Port Graham Hatchery.

Fair pink salmon escapements to major systems in 2004 contributed to a harvest projection of only around 309,000 naturally produced pink salmon throughout the entire LCI management area this season. Port Dick, Windy Bay, Rocky Bay, and Port Chatham Subdistricts in the Outer District, as well as Ursus Cove and Rocky Cove Subdistricts in the Kamishak Bay District, all figured to provide the most potential for harvestable surpluses, but the projected fishing effort in these remote districts was uncertain due to the modest forecast, uncertain markets, and unknown levels of available tender service.

Due to six consecutive seasons of relatively strong chum salmon runs and catches in LCI, the chum salmon harvest outlook in 2006 once again appeared bright. Most west-side LCI systems experienced reasonably good escapements during the 2001 and 2002 parent years, and recent years' runs to area systems have continued to display a generally encouraging trend. Numerous systems, especially those in northern Kamishak Bay, seemed to effectively rebound from chronic low level returns in the 1990's decade, while chum runs to the larger Big and Little Kamishak Rivers have also been comparatively strong during the past 6 years. The good catches during the last six seasons, as well as the recent overall trend, suggested that harvest opportunities for chum could be numerous in 2006.

2006 Summary by Species

Chinook Salmon

The 2006 harvest of Chinook salmon *O. tshawytscha*, not normally a commercially important species in LCI, was the second lowest for this species since 1980 at 639 fish (Table 2; Appendix A12), or less than half of the 20-year average of 1,430. Virtually the entire catch came from the Southern District, with about half coming from Halibut Cove Subdistrict, the location of a remote release site. Even though this Chinook enhancement project, and a similar one in Seldovia Bay of the Southern District, are intended to primarily benefit recreational fishermen, adult fish returning to the stocking sites are incidentally taken in the commercial fishery. Set gillnetters accounted for about 91% of the LCI Chinook catch, considered near the historical proportion for that gear group, with purse seiners taking the remaining 9%.

Sockeye Salmon

The 2006 sockeye salmon harvest of 224,300 fish (Table 3; Figure 8) was the third lowest for LCI since 1996, representing about 82% of the 20-year average of 274,000 fish (Appendix A13). Despite accounting for only 12% of the LCI salmon harvest in total numbers of fish, sockeye salmon still provided slightly more than half of the exvessel value of the entire salmon fishery

this season (Table 7). The 2006 LCI commercial sockeye harvest was characterized by much weaker than expected returns to key Southern District enhanced systems at Leisure and Hazel Lakes, a much stronger than anticipated enhanced return to Kirschner Lake in the Kamishak Bay District, and a return achieving the preseason forecast at the Bear Lake enhancement site in the Eastern District. Natural runs to systems within the management area were considered fair to good, with those of Chenik Lake in the Kamishak Bay District and Desire Lake in the Outer District contributing to commercial seine harvests. As has been the case during past seasons, non-local stocks were thought to have intermixed with local stocks while migrating through the Southern District terminal harvest areas, providing additional sockeye salmon for harvest there.

Sockeye salmon runs to Southern District enhancement sites, which frequently provide the bulk of the annual LCI sockeye catch, were even weaker than the poor returns experienced in 2005, continuing a 3-year trend of relatively meager runs to these enhancement sites. Harvests of enhanced runs of sockeye salmon returning to Leisure and Hazel Lakes were predicted to cumulatively total about 148,000 fish, but the estimated combined harvest amounted to only around 75,000 fish (Figure 9; Appendix A15). This figure was well below the recent 10-year average of nearly 164,000 sockeye and also represented the third lowest combined total since adults began returning to both the Leisure and Hazel Lakes enhancement sites in 1991 (prior to that year, only Leisure Lake sockeye salmon contributed to the harvests).

Also in the Southern District, the sockeye run to English Bay Lakes was considerably better than expected, achieving the desired inriver escapement goal while also providing modest harvest opportunities for subsistence set gillnetters in the two local native villages. The commercial set gillnet fishery in waters of Port Graham Subdistrict remained closed for the duration of the sockeye salmon run in order to protect fish for escapement purposes, while the subsistence gillnet fishery in those waters was only allowed to reopen once the escapement goal was assured. The continued viability of the sockeye salmon returns to the English Bay Lakes system may rest on the future success of the inconsistent rehabilitation project originally initiated by ADF&G in the late 1980's and presently being conducted by Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC) in conjunction with NSEP, operated by the village of Nanwalek. This sockeye project has encountered setbacks in recent seasons due to viral and disease outbreaks in the pen rearing of juveniles, as well as years when no or reduced numbers of broodstock were collected. For the 2006 season, no juvenile sockeye salmon were released back into the English Bay Lakes system for the first time since 2002, and no broodstock were collected from the system for the second consecutive season.

In the Kamishak Bay District, the enhanced run of sockeye salmon to Kirschner Lake produced a catch of over 50,000 fish (Table 3) or more than twice the preseason harvest forecast of just over 24,000 fish. Approximately 48% of the sockeye salmon returning to Kirschner Lake in 2006 were utilized for hatchery cost recovery, with the remainder taken by commercial seiners.

At Bear Lake in Resurrection Bay of the Eastern District, the cumulative seine and hatchery catch of "early run" sockeye salmon destined for Bear Lake totaled over 62,000 fish (Table 3), falling short of the original preseason harvest forecast of 74,000 sockeye salmon but virtually achieving the revised forecast of 63,300 sockeye that was issued by CIAA just prior to the fishing season. The desired inriver sockeye goal for Bear Lake was also achieved.

The LCI management area has only six lake systems with significant naturally occurring sockeye salmon runs, and five achieved or slightly exceeded their sustainable escapement goals (SEG's)

in 2006, while the sixth system has no formal escapement goal. In East Nuka Bay Subdistrict of the Outer District, Delight Lake escapement, enumerated via a picket weir and aerial surveys, fell within the goal of 6,000 to 12,600 sockeye with an estimate of 10,900 fish (Appendix A23). The peak daily aerial survey escapement estimate at nearby Desire Lake totaled 18,600 sockeye, slightly exceeding the SEG range of 8,800 to 15,200. Only limited commercial seine fishing effort on the sockeye salmon run bound for the Desire Lake system in East Nuka Bay was allowed in 2006, thus the resulting harvest totaled a modest 3,100 sockeye for the season (Table 3). A third system in East Nuka Bay, known as Delusion (Ecstasy) Lake, is a recently formed glacial system that supported no documented salmon run prior to the mid 1980's. The sockeye run to this system showed a peak aerial escapement estimate of 1,000 sockeye salmon in 2006.

Similar to the previous two seasons, targeted fishing effort was allowed on sockeye salmon returning to Chenik Lake in the Kamishak Bay District for only the third time since 1993. From 1994 through 2002, returns to that system had been poor due to the after-effects of an outbreak of IHNV, a naturally occurring viral disease, in the early 1990's. The outbreak caused increased mortality to young salmon, subsequently resulting in weak adult returns, and CIAA ultimately suspended a traditional stocking program at Chenik Lake after the 1996 season. The sockeye run to Chenik this year, the fourth consecutive good run, was not as strong as the previous two, with a total return estimated at 25,700 sockeye salmon, consisting of a commercial seine harvest of 11,800 fish and an approximate escapement of 13,900 (Appendix A16). The latter figure slightly surpassed the escapement goal range of 2,000 to 9,300. It is important to note that all adults returning to Chenik Lake in the last four seasons were the result of natural production since the stocking program has not been conducted at this system since 1996.

Waters of Aialik Bay in the Eastern District were opened to commercial fishing in mid-July of 2006 after verification that the Aialik Lake sockeye salmon SEG had been achieved, and despite the minimal effort that ensued, a surprising harvest of 4,600 sockeye resulted (Table 3). The final estimate of escapement at Aialik Lake based on aerial surveys was just under 4,800 fish, falling within the SEG range of 3,700 to 8,000 sockeye (Table 3; Appendix A23). At Mikfik Lake in the Kamishak Bay District, a relatively strong run resulted in an escapement estimated at around 17,700 sockeye (Table 3; Appendix A23), which exceeded the established goal range of 6,300 to 12,200. Despite the good return, only minimal seine effort targeting Mikfik sockeye salmon occurred despite continuous fishing time allowed in June, and the resulting harvest totaled just fewer than 1,300 sockeye (Table 3).

Coho Salmon

The coho salmon resource in the LCI management area is not extensive, therefore this species rarely attains commercial prominence. However, returns of coho to some areas of the management area were uncharacteristically strong in 2006, resulting in a commercial harvest of over 32,000 fish (Table 4), which is the second highest LCI total for this species on record and approximately three times the average catch during the past 10 years (Appendix A17). This season, the largest percentage of coho in LCI was harvested by seiners in the Kamishak Bay District, with a total take of over 24,000 fish (Table 4), or about three-fourths of the management area total. In most years, the greatest proportion of the LCI coho harvests are taken in Resurrection Bay of the Eastern District, but this season the combined catches of hatchery cost recovery operations at Bear Lake and entries into the Seward Silver Salmon Derby totaled about 3,800 fish, or 12% of the area-wide total. It should be noted that the organizer of the derby, the

5 AAC 28.070. Groundfish possession and landing requirements. (a) Unless otherwise provided in this chapter,

(1) in a groundfish fishery, a CFEC permit holder may not have on board a vessel operated by that permit holder, bycatch of any other species or species group of groundfish;

(2) in a halibut fishery, a CFEC permit holder may not have on board a vessel operated by that permit holder, bycatch of any species or species group of groundfish.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section or any other provision of this chapter, during times when the commissioner determines it necessary for conservation of the resource, to avoid waste of a bycatch species, to prevent overharvest of a bycatch species, [OR TO FACILITATE CONSISTENCY OF THE REGULATIONS IN AN AREA WHERE STATE AND FEDERAL JURISDICTION OVERLAP], **or to facilitate consistency of state and federal regulations for a species,** the commissioner may close and reopen fishing seasons to provide for changes to groundfish bycatch levels, as provided in this subsection. The commissioner, by emergency order, may close a directed groundfish season and immediately reopen a season during which a CFEC permit holder may have on board a bycatch level of another groundfish species, established by the commissioner and stated in the emergency order, of up to 20 percent, by weight, of the directed groundfish species on board the vessel. Regarding a directed halibut fishery, the commissioner, by emergency order, may close and immediately reopen the fishing season for a bycatch groundfish species during which a CFEC halibut permit holder may have on board a bycatch level of that groundfish species, established by the commissioner and stated in the emergency order, of up to 20 percent, by weight, of the halibut on board the vessel. If a CFEC permit holder has on board the permit holder's vessel fish taken in more than one directed fishery for which a bycatch level has been established under this subsection, each applicable bycatch level percentage is applied to the weight of the fish taken in the applicable directed fishery and the resulting amounts are added together to determine the total weight of the bycatch species that may be on board the vessel.

(c) In the waters of Alaska,

(1) a CFEC permit holder who has a groundfish species on board the permit holder's vessel may not operate groundfish gear in an area in which the taking of that species of groundfish is prohibited;

(2) a CFEC permit holder, while taking fish in an area or having taken fish in an area during the same trip, may not have on board the permit holder's vessel an aggregate amount of a groundfish species that exceeds the amount allowed by regulation for that area, regardless of where the groundfish were taken.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, if the operator of a catcher/processor vessel has written authorization from the department, the operator may retain on board the vessel an amount of processed fish that exceeds a limit set by this chapter. The department will issue the written authorization if completed fish tickets for all fish on board the vessel have been submitted to the department or an authorized

department representative before the beginning of the next fishing period in which the operator intends to fish.

(e) A CFEC permit holder operating a vessel fishing for groundfish shall retain

(1) all pollock and Pacific cod taken when a directed fishery for pollock or Pacific cod is open; or

(2) the maximum retainable bycatch of pollock and Pacific cod taken, specified in 50 C.F.R. 679.20, revised as of October 1, 1996 and amended through January 23, 2009, when a directed fishery for pollock or Pacific cod is closed.

(f) a person delivering groundfish shall notify the processor if any groundfish remain onboard the vessel after the delivery. A processor shall report a landing as a partial delivery if any groundfish remain aboard the delivering vessel.

(1) except where a delivery is reported as a partial delivery within the eLandings system or on an ADF&G fish ticket form, a person delivering groundfish to a processor shall land all groundfish aboard the vessel.

(2) a processor or processor's agent that accepts delivery of or purchases groundfish from a vessel shall sort and weigh by species all groundfish landed by a vessel. Groundfish may be returned to a vessel only after the landing is reported as specified in 5 AAC 39.130.

(3) groundfish present on board a vessel at any landing may not be considered discarded at sea for eLanding or ADF&G fish ticket reporting purposes.

(4) after making a partial delivery from a vessel, and prior to making a final delivery, a person may not offload any groundfish remaining onboard the vessel unless making a final delivery and landing all groundfish aboard the vessel.

RC 59

Submitted by Susitna AC
Steve Runyan, chair

Proposal to liberalize pike limits in Alexander Lake:

Problem: Pike were illegally introduced to Alexander Lake. Current size restrictions in the lake, while allowing large pike to remain in the lake and keeping a valuable sport pike fishery in the lake, have done nothing to reduce the overall number of pike in the lake. Pike predation on salmon smolt has reduced the Chinook and Coho runs to a fraction of their historical strength, with the '06 and '07 Chinook returns at less than half the threshold SEG, and the '08 Chinook return at 150 fish, about 8% of the minimum SEG.

If nothing is done to increase harvest of Northern Pike in Alexander Lake, there will soon be no salmon return in this drainage. This proposal is the beginning of an effort to increase angler effort on small pike in Alexander Lake, while still leaving large pike to predate heavily upon smaller pike. Remove the slot limit for pike in Alexander Lake. The current slot limit is limiting angler effort in Alexander Lake. I hope the Department will also develop and implement a comprehensive plan and budget to quickly reduce pike numbers in Alexander Lake and drainage. We are requesting the board take action on this out of cycle because of the extremely low returns of Chinook the last 3 seasons. Delaying action another 2 years will serve only to depress numbers of rearing Chinook further and make it more difficult to restore the fishery.

Allowing 5 lines will result in a much higher harvest of pike in the targeted size range, and will provide more incentive for anglers to travel to Alexander Lake.

The new regulation will read as follows:

Alexander Creek drainage, ***cont'd***
• In Alexander Lake, these daily limits apply to northern pike: less than **30"** [22"] long—no bag limit; [22" to 30" long—*NO RETENTION*;] longer than 30"—1 per day/1 in possession.
• Spears or bow and arrow are not allowed for taking northern pike in Alexander Lake.

Five lines will be allowed through the ice.

This proposal will improve the chances of recovery of all salmon stocks affected by the Northern Pike in Alexander Lake and drainage.

Who will benefit if this is implemented? People likely to benefit from this proposal are those who enjoy eating pike larger than half a pound, and those who like fishing with a very good chance to catch a trophy size pike. The natural balance of the Alexander Lake drainage will also benefit.

Who will suffer if this is implemented? No one.

Other solutions: In addition to this proposal, provide a wanton waste exemption on all pike smaller than 20". This would allow anglers to kill and dump pike too small to easily process for human consumption, rather than releasing them back into the system because they're too much bother. It would not likely become a problem ecologically, as canid and fowl scavengers such as

fox, coyote, eagles and ravens all eat pike carcasses, and this size is small enough to be easily carried away.
Rejected because I didn't want to give the Board too complex a proposal. Though I feel strongly that this is a very valid topic of discussion, this may not be the time for that, as the main problem at hand is pike predation and we need a simple way to more effectively begin reducing their numbers.

Cost to department to implement: none

RC 60

Submitted by Alaska Department of Fish and Game as requested by the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

5 AAC 61.112. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

Amend this regulation as follows:

(E) in Alexander Lake, the size and bag limits for northern pike are as follows:

(i) northern pike less than **27** [22] inches in length; no bag or possession limit;

[(ii)NORTHERN PIKE 22 INCHES IN LENGTH TO 30 INCHES IN LENGTH MAY NOT BE RETAINED;]

(iii) northern pike greater than 27 [30] inches in length; bag and possession limit of one fish;

(7) in the flowing waters of **Alexander Lake,** Fish Creek (lower Susitna River drainage), Fish Creek (Kroto Slough), and Witsoe Creek, five lines may be used to fish for northern pike through the ice; allowable gear is limited to standard ice fishing gear as specified in 5 AAC 61.110(8) (B); fishing gear must be closely attended as specified in 5 AAC 75.033; all other species of fish caught must be released immediately.

RC 61

re: Prop 358

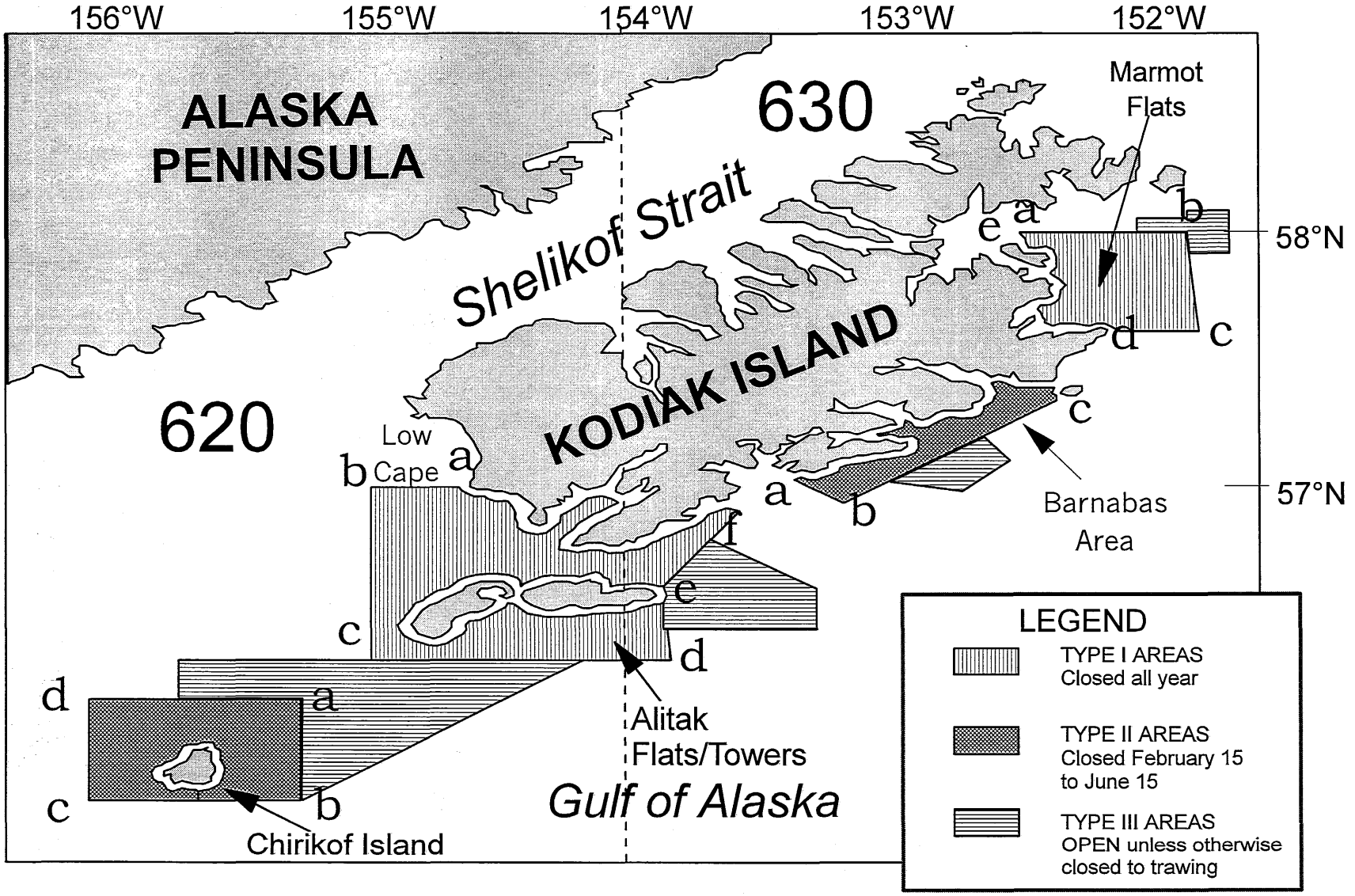
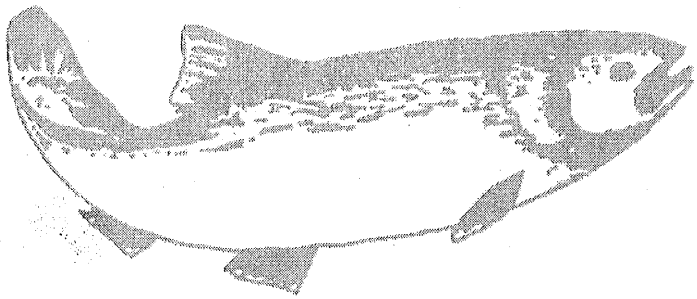


Figure 5 to Part 679–Kodiak Island Closure Status for Vessels Using Non-pelagic Trawl Gear (see § 679.22(b)(1))
a. Map

NORTHERN DISTRICT SET NETTERS ASSOCIATION OF COOK INLET
Est. 1954
P.O. Box 101480 ♦ Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1480



RC 62

18 March 2009

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Anchorage, Alaska

SUBJECT: Susitna Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee Emergency Petition re: Alexander Creek King Salmon Stocks

We have reviewed this petition and offer the following comments for Board of Fisheries consideration:

- This issue was thoroughly addressed by the Board of Fisheries at their February 2008 Upper Cook Inlet meeting, and there is no new information presented in this petition that was not addressed at that regular cycle Upper Cook Inlet meeting.
- The decline of king salmon in Alexander Creek is reportedly due to an invasion of pike in that system that has decimated the salmon runs there. Until the pike problem is addressed, the king salmon situation in Alexander Creek will not improve. Restrictions in the Northern District king salmon fishery will not address the Alexander Creek king salmon problem.
- The Susitna king salmon run is 100,000 to 150,000 strong with Alexander Creek contributing a small percentage to this total. The Northern District king salmon fishery is a mixed stock fishery, not targeting on any one stock, and certainly having a small effect on Alexander Creek. From 1993 to 2008, this fishery has averaged less than 2,500 king salmon a year with a peak harvest of approximately 3,900 in some years. As noted by the Department at the February 2008 Board of Fisheries meeting, this harvest is relatively small compared to the overall run size.
- The longer king salmon season provides an opportunity for the Northern District set netters to harvest a relatively modest number of king salmon from a stock of 150,000 to 200,000 with no disproportionate harvest of small stocks (e.g., the harvest is spread out over the entire run and does not focus on any specific stock) early in the season to fill custom markets.
- The annual average harvest in this fishery in the last four years (2005, 2006, 2007, 2008) was approximately 3,500 king salmon in a fishery with a commercial cap of 12,500. An average of 62 fishers fished in this fishery in the last four years. Area registration will continue to work to not attract additional fishers to this fishery.
- There was no public notice of which we are aware related to this petition that is asking for the Board to revisit an allocation decision that the Board addressed fully in February 2008.
- The Department has authority to close the Northern District King Salmon fishery by E.O. if escapement indicators warrant such an action. This has occurred in the past, including the 2008 fishing season, with the support of the Northern District Set Netters.

Thank you.

Stephen Braund, President

RC 63

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Board Support Section
Attn: John Jensen
Box 15526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

March 17, 2009

Dear Chairman;

As a lifetime resident of Petersburg and a commercial fisher participating in Sablefish fisheries I would heartily recommend upholding recent actions taken by the Board of Fisheries in establishing sport fishing bag limits for black cod/sablefish in Southeastern Alaska.

Because of my personal experience in observing the Charter Fleets action in the Southwestern Southeast Alaska, I believe we can count on the maximum bag limit being experienced for each angler. I have listened to communications between charter vessels numerous times as they work near Craig, between the units of effort, establishing maximum harvest on rockfish, lingcod, halibut, and salmon for their clients. I have talked to employees of these firms whom attest to every client maximizing his or her experience in catching the full value of their trip via those bag limits. I have observed at the larger resorts what appears to be an almost commercial style processing center as they cut, wrap, and freeze the client's product for shipping home. Any Alaskan whom travels via commercial aircraft has witnessed the numerous fish boxes exiting local communities for points south with these same clients.

I believe, that when bag limits were established, it was not thought that every sports fisher would get their limit. Or, perhaps bag limits were established with out really determining the net removal of fish from the system. Now, I think it is time to review all bag limits, for all species, and to determine if every sports fisher catches the limit, how it will effect overall management for sustainability. Things have changed, and the "sports fishing industry" has the potential for similar impacts to our resources as our heavily managed commercial fishery.

Watching 60 or more sport fishing boats, on a short stretch of coast line near Craig, Alaska, communicating on private radio channels, each with 4 clients, fishing seven days a week, gives one a sampling of how powerful a consumer of resources this industry is.

Sincerely

Eric Rosvold

Eric Rosvold
Box 1144
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

RC 64

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Board Support Section
Attn: John Jensen, Chairman
PO Box 15526
Juneau, Ak 99811-5526

I am a permit holder for both Chatham and Clearance blackcod. I have made a substantial investment in these fisheries. I provide 4 additional Alaska State resident fishermen and their families jobs from these fisheries. Over the past several years we have seen a substantial quota reduction in Chatham and a small quota reduction in Clearance. We all have seen the erosion of 2C halibut by the charter industry and although they have no historical target on Chatham or Clearance blackcod they are now beginning to make blackcod a target species. The charter industry is going after blackcod with very sophisticated gear. This gear should really be questionable as being sports gear. It might really fall under the definition of commercial gear being that it is on level with commercial harvest potential.

I believe the board has acted correctly on this harvest issue by the commercial charter industry. I also feel that the board could go further and limit the means of harvest by defining sport gear as hand deployment and hand cranking only as a definition. The board should eliminate all forms of power, electric, solar, hydraulic, or fuel driven gear retrieval as illegal.

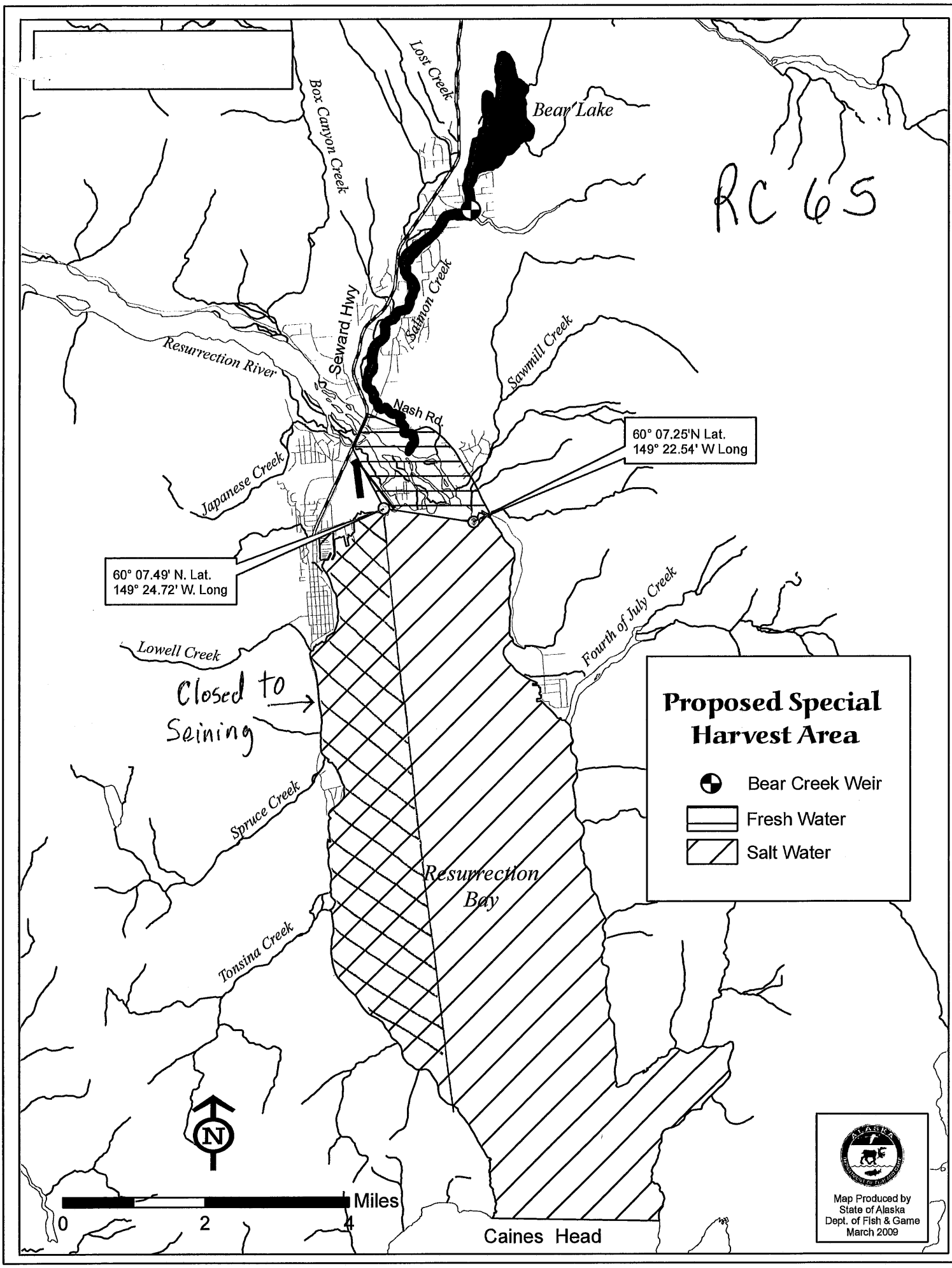
Chatham and Clearance are vital to the health of our local communities for secure income and job employment that is very historical to our local economies of southeast Alaska, which are losing jobs and population during this very real recession. Our communities need this stability now, especially in light of the declining blackcod biomass for Chatham, Clearance, and southeast and all so on our 2C halibut.

Please continue your support of our jobs and communities and the board of fish decision.

Thank you.

Bill Connor
Box 1124
Petersburg Ak, 99833
907-772-9211

3-13-09


RC 65
Bear Lake
Lost Creek
Box Canyon Creek
Seward Hwy
Salmon Creek
Sawmill Creek
Resurrection River
Nash Rd.
Japanese Creek
60° 07.25'N Lat.
149° 22.54' W Long
60° 07.49' N. Lat.
149° 24.72' W. Long
Lowell Creek
Fourth of July Creek
Closed to Seining
Spruce Creek
Resurrection Bay
Tonsina Creek
Caines Head
Proposed Special Harvest Area
Bear Creek Weir
Fresh Water
Salt Water
N
0
2
4
Miles
Map Produced by
State of Alaska
Dept. of Fish & Game
March 2009

RC 66

2008 Licensed Businesses and guides based on the region fished.

	Freshwater			Saltwater		
		Guide Type			Guide Type	
Region	Total Businesses	Combo*	Guide Only**	Total Businesses	Combo*	Guide Only**
I	71	59	117	459	427	418
II	513	518	762	430	439	292
III	73	68	158	0	0	0
Totals***	657	645	1037	889	866	710
Statewide	**630**		**1637**	**888**		**1562**

* A combo guide is the guide who owns and operates a business already counted under Total Businesses
** A guide only is a guide who works for a business but does not own one.
*** Numbers aren't additive as businesses and guides can cross regional boundaries.

The statewide total represents unique numbers in that there is no duplication in the count.

PREPARED BY ADF+G, Div. of Sport Fish

3-19-09

RC 67

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Northern District Commercial King Salmon Harvests Information

Requested by the Board of Fisheries

March 19, 2009

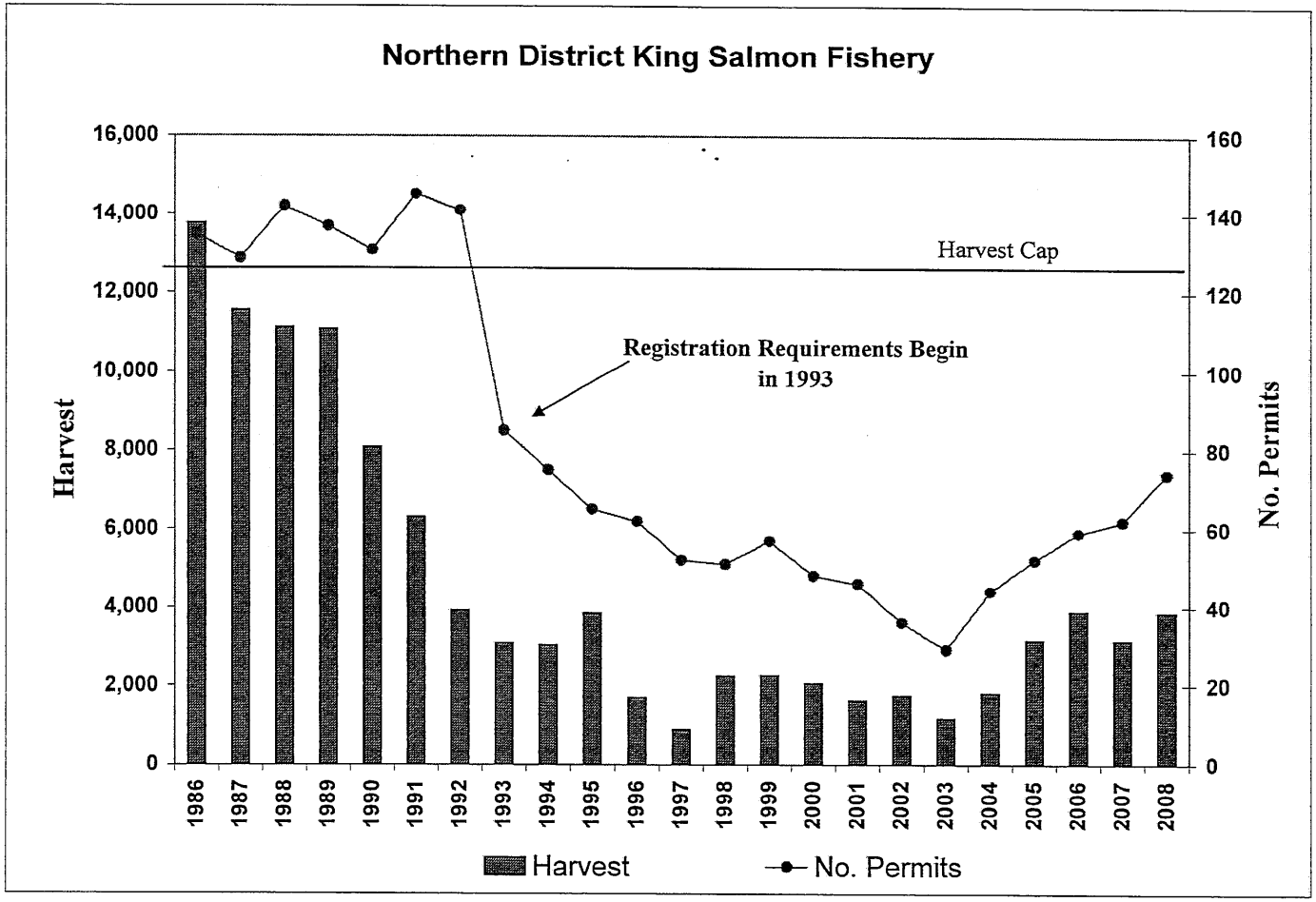
Northern District Chinook Salmon Harvest, 1996-2008

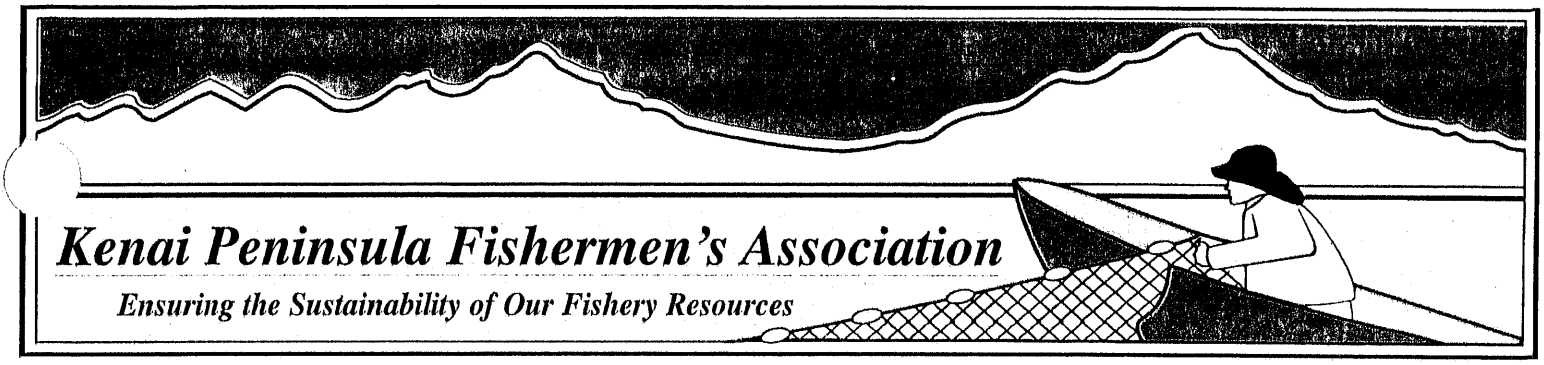
Year	Date	Deliveries	Harvest	Unique Permits
1986	06/02/86	76	3,842	135
1986	06/09/86	101	5,218	
1986	06/16/86	96	4,711	
			13,771	
1987	06/01/87	76	3,365	129
1987	06/08/87	63	3,397	
1987	06/15/87	96	3,754	
1987	06/22/87	68	1,025	
			11,541	
1988	06/06/88	103	3,511	142
1988	06/13/88	106	3,676	
1988	06/20/88	90	3,935	
			11,122	
1989	06/05/89	100	4,148	137
1989	06/12/89	105	4,935	
1989	06/19/89	93	1,985	
			11,068	
1990	06/04/90	110	2,928	131
1990	06/11/90	115	3,041	
1990	06/18/90	125	2,103	
			8,072	
1991	06/03/91	100	2,854	145
1991	06/10/91	107	1,688	
1991	06/17/91	99	1,431	
1991	06/24/91	71	332	
			6,305	
1992	06/01/92	62	911	141
1992	06/08/92	117	2,191	
1992	06/15/92	100	816	
			3918	
1993	06/07/93	60	1,196	85
1993	06/14/93	75	1,757	
1993	06/21/93	37	118	
			3,071	
1994	06/06/94	59	1,680	75
1994	06/13/94	57	1,326	
			3,006	
1995	06/05/95	66	3,837	65
			3,837	
1996	06/03/96	66	1,690	62
			1,690	

Year	Date	Deliveries	Harvest	Unique Permits
1997	06/02/97	46	834	52
1997	06/23/97	16	60	
			894	
1998	06/01/98	46	1,325	51
1998	06/08/98	32	915	
			2,240	
1999	06/07/99	53	1,834	57
1999	06/14/99	35	425	
			2,259	
2000	06/05/00	43	1,017	48
2000	06/12/00	34	823	
2000	06/19/00	22	206	
			2,046	
2001	06/04/01	33	632	46
2001	06/11/01	34	793	
2001	06/18/01	12	191	
			1,616	
2002	05/27/02	15	270	36
2002	06/03/02	33	810	
2002	06/10/02	23	667	
			1,747	
2003	05/26/03	16	179	29
2003	06/02/03	20	349	
2003	06/09/03	21	644	
			1,172	
2004	05/31/04	27	354	44
2004	06/07/04	38	1,066	
2004	06/14/04	25	399	
			1,819	
2005	5/30/05	39	1163	52
2005	6/6/05	35	1,163	
2005	6/13/05	28	824	
			3,150	
2006	5/29/06	42	640	59
2006	6/5/06	48	1,376	
2006	6/12/06	44	1871	
			3,887	
2007	5/28/07	38	498	62
2007	6/4/07	47	1,270	
2007	6/11/07	49	1364	
			3,132	
2008	5/26/08	44	499	74
2008	6/2/08	49	597	
2008	6/9/08	67	1,688	
2008	6/16/08	52	1,071	
2008	6/23/08	0	closed	
			3,855	

Northern District King Salmon Fishery

Year	Number	Permits
1986	13,771	135
1987	11,541	129
1988	11,122	142
1989	11,068	137
1990	8,072	131
1991	6,305	145
1992	3,918	141
1993	3,072	85
1994	3,006	75
1995	3,837	65
1996	1,690	62
1997	894	52
1998	2,240	51
1999	2,259	57
2000	2,046	48
2001	1,616	46
2002	1,747	36
2003	1,172	29
2004	1,819	44
2005	3,150	52
2006	3,887	59
2007	3,132	62
2008	3,855	74
1986-1992 Avg	9,400	137
1993-08 Avg	2,464	56





Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association

Ensuring the Sustainability of Our Fishery Resources

43961 Kalifornsky Beach Road • Suite F • Soldotna, Alaska 99669-8276
(907) 262-2492 • Fax: (907) 262-2898 • E Mail: kpfa@alaska.net

March 19, 2009

RC 68

ATTN: BOF Comments
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Boards Support Section
Chair, John Jensen
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Proposal 44 - SUPPORT

Chairman Jensen, Members of the Board;

We would like to support any regulation that increases the opportunity to small boat fishermen in the near shore waters of Alaska. There is very little opportunity for new fishermen and there are limited fisheries that are still open that allow diversification from other fisheries. Successful commercial fishermen in the small boat category need to rely on as many fisheries as possible to remain economically viable.

Referring to RC 37, (a) (1) we believe that the GHL should first consider subsistence harvesters as required by law.

The remaining allowable harvest should be split evenly at 50%. The commercial fisheries have been burdened 100% for conservation reasons for several years. New and expanding fisheries relative to the sports fishing licensed users have not shared this same burden and in fact have taken advantage of the fishery to at this point be an exclusive fishery. This is not equitable nor is it reasonable to continue to restrict the commercial harvest and allow the sports fishery to continue to grow unchecked.

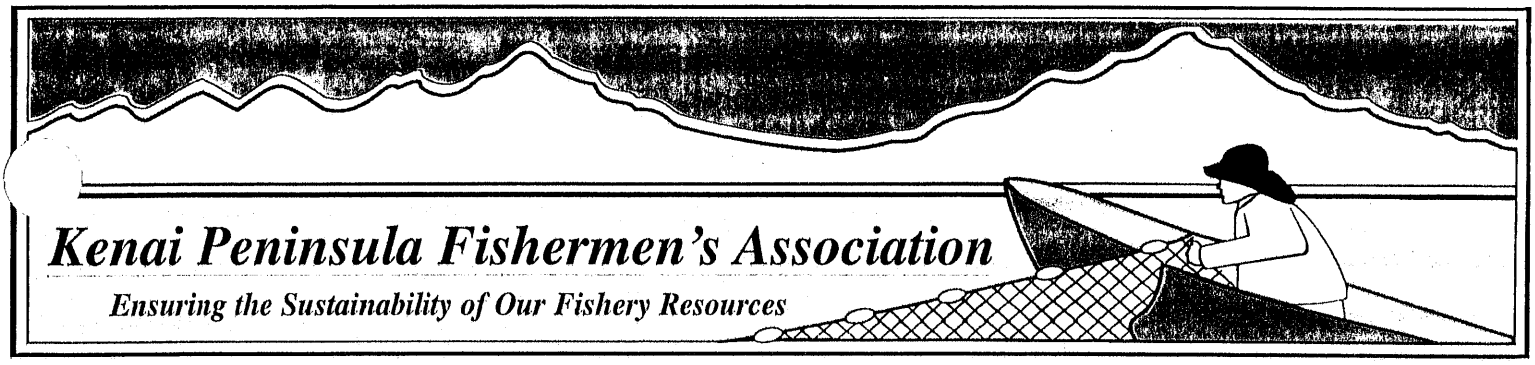
We would also like to comment on the differential on requirements for commercial vs. sports pots. We believe to remain consistent for evaluating size of harvest, and to be able to restrict or liberalize uniformly that the gear size should be the same. We are not sure of the numbers of pots allowed in the non-commercial fisheries but we would suggest that a limited number of pots per registered user be implemented to again be able to manage this fishery.

Since there is a lag in reporting data from the non-commercial user the number and size of the pots could give managers a better way to determine the size of the harvest by the number of users and the average productivity.

Thank you,

Paul A. Shadura II
Executive Director

43961 Kalifornsky Beach Road • Suite F • Soldotna, Alaska 99669
(907) 262-2492 • Fax: (907) 262-2898 • E Mail: kpfa@alaska.net



Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association

Ensuring the Sustainability of Our Fishery Resources

43961 Kalifornsky Beach Road • Suite F • Soldotna, Alaska 99669-8276
(907) 262-2492 • Fax: (907) 262-2898 • E Mail: kpfa@alaska.net

RC69

March 19, 2009

ATTN: BOF Comments
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Boards Support Section
Chair, John Jensen
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Proposal 380 - SUPPORT

Chairman Jensen, Members of the Board;

We would like to incorporate comments in RC 48 with our comments here.

In consideration of a "sunset" provision, we would agree with setting the fall 2010 LCI regulatory in-cycle meeting to be the review date. This would allow two "seasons" to see if the system will improve.

Our intentions as Board of Directors of CIAA are to establish commercial fisheries opportunities where they are biologically prudent. With the assistance of our hatchery facilities and our habitat enhancement expertise, we will continue to provide for the common property; subsistence, personal use and sportfishing. We believe in mitigating adverse impacts due to harvesting oversights and over utilization of the resource.

It is imperative that the community maintain a non governmental entity capability to maintain and improve the resource so that users can act in conjunction to better create increased opportunity in an expedient manner. Highly impacted fully utilized fisheries require extraordinary vigilance in order to accomplish High Sustained Yields.

We fear that lack of base line consistency in our Trail Lakes Cost recovery program will end all our current programs and future programs. The majority (90%) of SET has been derived for years from Cook Inlet drift and set-net fleet. Many programs that benefit our

group have been limited as we are not able to cost recovery in the Upper and Northern Districts to the degree necessary to fund our facilities.

By agreement at the time of implementing the limited entry system, seining and some set-netting have been limited to the reaches of Kachemak Bay, Kamishak Bay and Resurrection Bay. Prior agreements with LCI seiners have been very successful in the reaches of Kachemak Bays and Kamishak Bays. In Resurrection Bay cooperative plans have not worked with the limited local fleet in that even though they have cooperated in making the plans for cost recovery they have been reluctant to do the cost recover or share fairly in harvest timing.

Resurrection Bay had at one time an allowed area for setnet fisheries. Many setnet fishermen would be more than happy to participate in this and other terminal harvest cost recovery special harvest areas.

This temporary action we request at this time will prioritize the harvest for cost recovery as it is a common practice to do around the entire state. Upon building a reserve we will be in better financial shape to procure matching grants and solid enough to pursue limited revolving loan funds. We are confidant that we would then request openings to maximize the surplus harvest for the benefit of commercial fishermen.

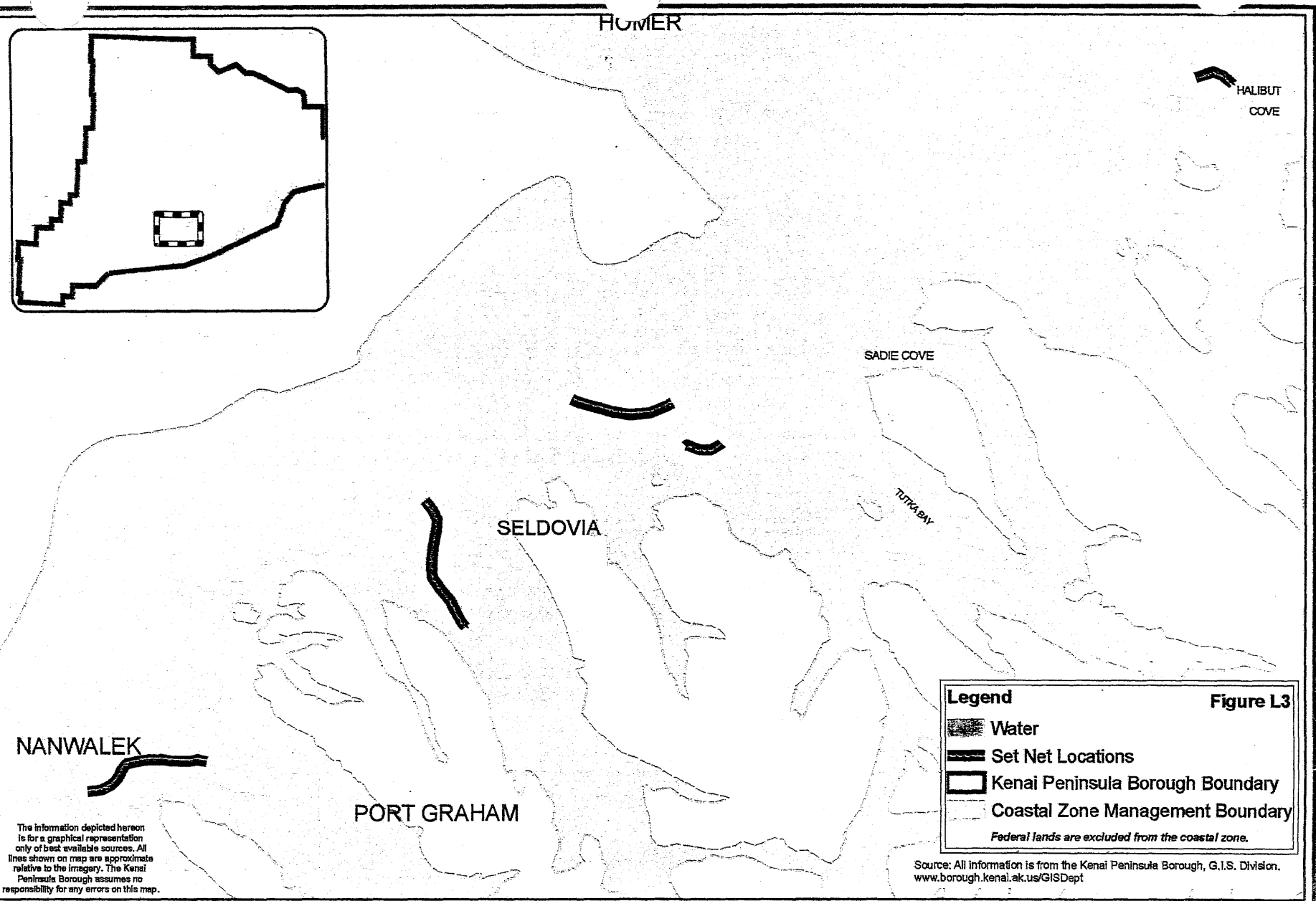
In the Fisheries Enhancement Revolving Loan Fund Program Overview, dated April 2007, you will see that CIAA operates with a very conservative loan accumulation from yearly operating costs or long term histories. This has been submitted as a separate RC but was available to all BOF members from the October BOF Hatchery Committee held in Fairbanks, AK.

Please review the submitted material with this comment paper.

Thank You,

Paul A. Shadura II
Executive Director

43961 Kalifornsky Beach Road • Suite F • Soldotna, Alaska 99669
(907) 262-2492 • Fax: (907) 262-2898 • E Mail: kpfa@alaska.net



ALASKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

NOAA

SALMON SET NET FISHING SOUTHERN AREA

0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10 Miles

Funding for this publication was provided by the Alaska Coastal Management Program under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended in 1990 and 1996, administered by the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

N W E S

DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2006

Submitted by Paul Shadura

RC 70

RC 71

Fishery Management Report No. 08-03

Alaska Salmon Enhancement Program 2007 Annual Report

by

Bruce White

February 2008

Alaska Department of Fish and Game **Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries**

Submitted
Paul A.
Shaedun *

ABSTRACT

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game oversees and regulates all state and private sector salmon enhancement and rehabilitation projects. Protection of Alaska's natural salmon stocks requires stringent permitting processes. Geneticists, pathologists, and biologists review all projects prior to the issuance of a permit to operate a salmon ranching facility, transfer eggs or fish, or release any fish into Alaska waters. Pathology, genetic, coded wire tag, and otolith processing laboratories are maintained to provide both diagnostic information to Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers, and inseason and technical expertise to the private sector. An estimated 80 million salmon of hatchery origin returned in 2007. Hatchery operators collected over 1.7 billion salmon eggs and released over 1.5 billion juvenile fish. Of the 193 million salmon harvested in the common property commercial fishery, approximately 58 million or 30% were produced from ocean ranching by the Alaska salmon enhancement program. Enhanced salmon provided over $64 million or 19% of the preliminary exvessel value of the commercial common property harvest. The ocean ranching program employs hundreds of Alaskans in seasonal and fulltime jobs. It is considered the largest agricultural industry in Alaska.

Key words: Alaska salmon enhancement program, salmon hatchery, annual report, ocean ranching, private non-profit corporation, Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, egg take, cost recovery, Chinook, pink, chum, coho, sockeye

INTRODUCTION

Prince William Sound and Southeast Alaska are the predominant regions with salmon enhancement programs and pink and chum salmon are the predominant species produced. Production levels, in terms of egg takes and releases, have largely stabilized (Figure 1); programs have matured and are generally operating at planned capacities.

The salmon enhancement program is composed of the following:

- 21 private nonprofit corporation (PNP) owned and operated hatcheries.
- 11 state owned and PNP operated hatcheries.
- 2 state owned and operated hatcheries.
- 2 Federal or Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) hatcheries.
- Streamside incubation and restoration projects.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Division of Sport Fish operates two state hatcheries, primarily to produce salmonid species intended for sport fisheries. The PNP corporations produce salmon mainly for commercial harvest. PNP's recoup their operational costs from a special harvest of returning adult fish, called a cost recovery harvest. All other returning adult fish are available for harvest in Alaska's common property fisheries open to the public (sport, personal use, subsistence). Federal hatcheries are generally used for scientific research. Streamside incubation projects enhance stocks of fish inexpensively. Stream restoration projects involve restoring streams degraded by human activity.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2007

- The preliminary statewide commercial salmon harvest was 213 million fish, with an ex-vessel value of over $374 million. The Alaska salmon enhancement program produced 80 million salmon, and approximately 58 million were harvested in the common property commercial fishery (Figure 2). The preliminary exvessel value of enhanced salmon was over $64 million. Compared to 2006, the preliminary exvessel price paid for pink, chum, and

sockeye salmon remained about the same. The price for coho salmon increased, while the price paid for Chinook salmon was lower.

- The preliminary exvessel value of the statewide common property commercial salmon harvest increased 8% from 2006 and was due in large part to the increased number of pink salmon in the harvest.
- Enhanced salmon accounted for approximately 19% of the total exvessel value of the statewide common property commercial harvest. Enhanced salmon accounted for 66%, 35%, 22%, 12%, and 6% of the exvessel value of the chum, pink, coho, Chinook, and sockeye salmon, respectively.
- Statewide, the enhanced pink salmon return of 64 million was the second highest on record. Of the 5 species of salmon produced in the enhancement program, returns were dominated by pink and chum salmon (Figure 3). The enhancement program produced 55% of the chum, 37% of the pink, 20% of the coho, 11% of the Chinook, and 4% of the sockeye salmon in the common property commercial harvest. The following is an enhancement summary by region:

  Prince William Sound: Enhanced fish were 79% of the salmon in the common property commercial harvest. Enhanced chum, pink, coho, and sockeye salmon accounted for approximately 99%, 81%, 44%, and 31% of the common property commercial harvest, respectively. In addition, enhanced salmon contributed over $37 million, or 56% of the value of the common property commercial harvest.

  Kodiak: Enhanced fish were 26% of the salmon in the common property commercial harvest. Enhanced coho, chum, pink, and sockeye salmon accounted for approximately 34%, 29%, 27% and 10%, of the common property commercial salmon harvest, respectively. Further, enhanced salmon contributed approximately $5.7 million, or 21% of the value of salmon in the common property commercial harvest.

  Cook Inlet: Enhanced fish were 12% of the salmon harvested in the common property commercial fisheries. Approximately 15% of the sockeye salmon harvested in the common property commercial fishery were of hatchery origin. Further, enhanced salmon contributed approximately $3.3 million or 14% of the value of salmon in the common property commercial harvest.

  Southeast: Enhanced fish were 10% of the salmon in the common property commercial harvest. Enhanced chum, coho, Chinook, and sockeye salmon accounted for approximately 73%, 22%, 18%, and 3% of the common property commercial harvest respectively. Further, enhanced salmon contributed nearly $19 million or 22% of the value of salmon in the common property commercial harvest.

- Statewide, sport anglers harvested an estimated 345,564 hatchery-produced fish representing 8 species (Chinook, coho, pink, chum, and sockeye salmon; rainbow trout, arctic char and arctic grayling).
- A new hatchery was permitted for the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association. The Sawmill Creek hatchery (located in Sitka) will produce summer run coho salmon.
- In 2008, over 54 million fish are projected to return from Alaska hatchery releases.

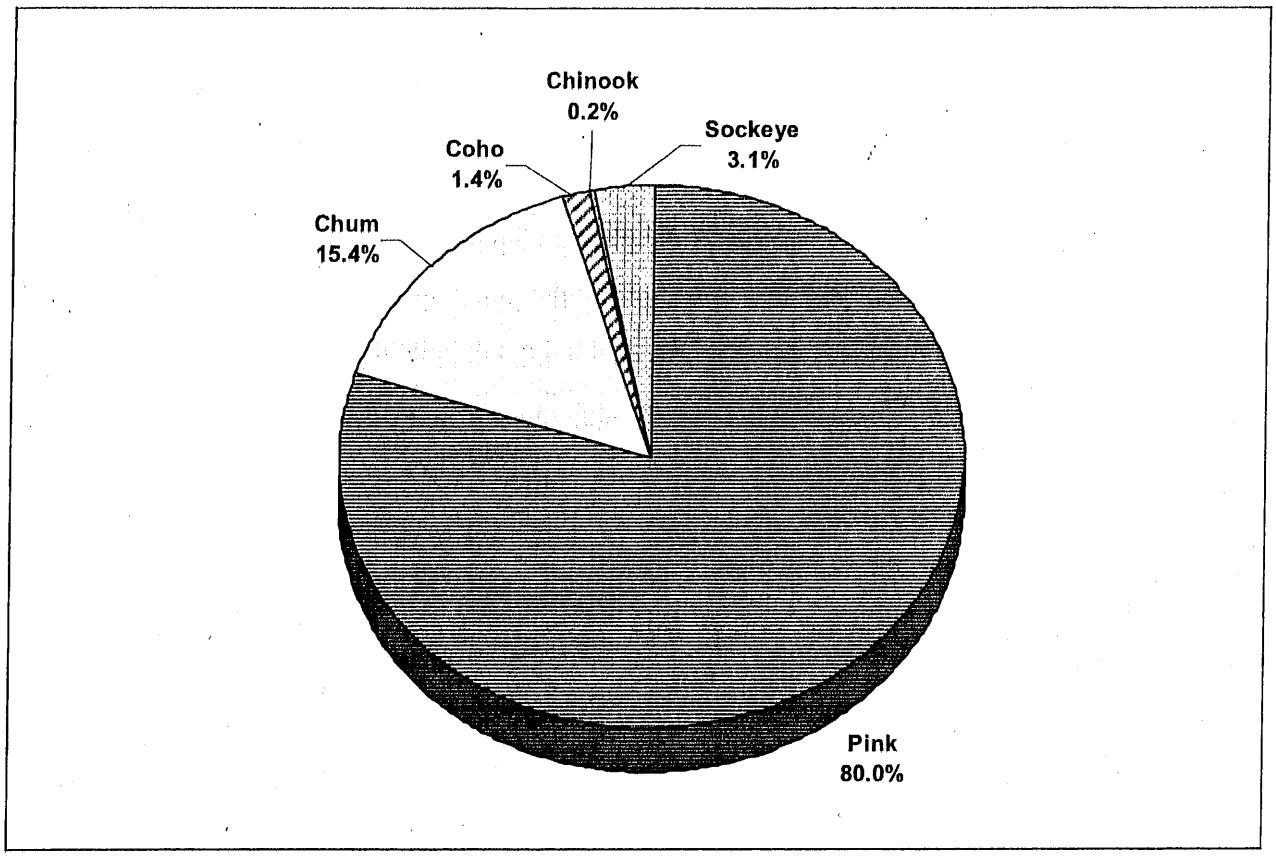


Figure 3.–Alaska salmon hatchery returns by species in 2007.

ENHANCED HARVEST NUMBERS

Seine, gillnet, troll harvest of enhanced fish

Kodiak

Species	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Grand Total
Chinook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chum	303,783	216,625	88,724	459,815	238,389	91,814	176,051	209,446	1,784,647
Coho	133,238	151,732	209,259	135,049	128,269	151,729	152,143	125,781	1,187,200
Pink	3,659,698	13,272,127	6,696,774	5,013,172	2,052,846	10,963,488	1,840,106	6,211,529	49,709,740
Sockeye	460,098	411,527	625,581	799,382	277,331	215,236	113,585	207,469	3,110,209
Grand Total	4,556,817	14,052,011	7,620,338	6,407,418	2,696,835	11,422,267	2,281,885	6,754,225	55,791,796

Cook Inlet

Species	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Grand Total
Chinook	726	586	755	772	1,125	626	639	600	5,829
Chum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coho	9,900	5,379	10,754	3,621	6,407	-	-	48	36,109
Pink	8,580	108,735	9,791	2,924	1,523	4,779	5,000	-	141,332
Sockeye	216,149	656,309	754,609	1,080,584	1,112,259	924,377	382,433	517,527	5,644,247
Grand Total	235,355	771,009	775,909	1,087,901	1,121,314	929,782	388,072	518,175	5,827,517

Prince William Sound

Species	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Grand Total
Chinook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chum	2,967,471	1,546,838	3,556,743	1,797,459	1,202,465	1,383,287	1,199,263	2,458,842	16,112,368
Coho	453,746	149,488	28,232	72,756	36,044	183,223	324,379	136,384	1,384,252
Pink	21,950,759	15,506,063	7,872,596	34,177,600	8,665,717	35,111,016	10,010,169	41,499,793	174,793,713
Sockeye	490,077	922,124	1,069,745	1,204,824	415,362	328,986	832,471	913,476	6,177,065
Grand Total	25,862,053	18,124,513	12,527,316	37,252,639	10,319,588	37,006,512	12,366,282	45,008,495	198,467,398

Southeast

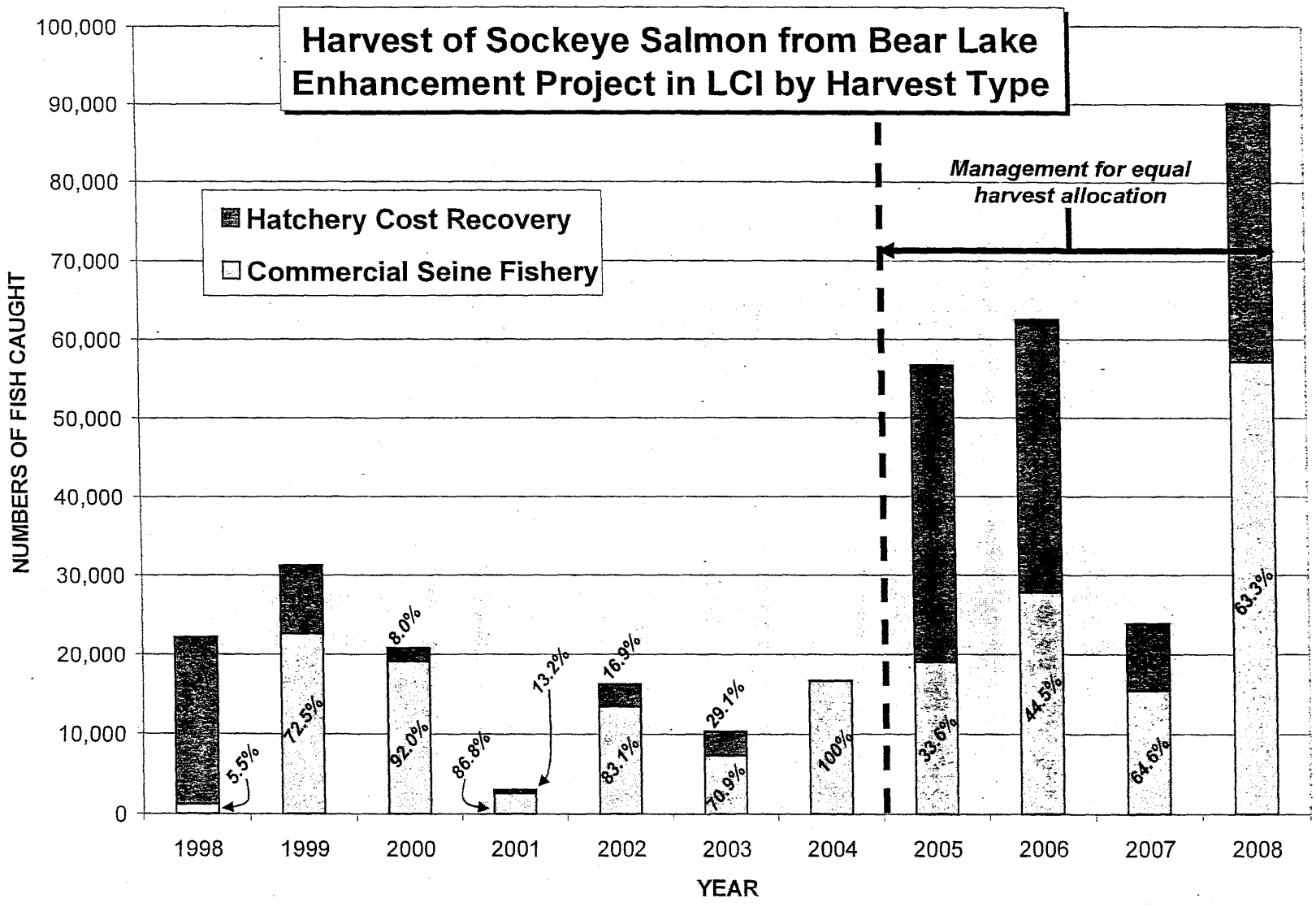
Species	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Grand Total
Chinook	57,626	48,488	51,584	42,595	58,917	49,738	41,189	56,653	406,790
Chum	8,372,358	3,493,645	3,097,783	4,001,556	4,534,418	2,770,177	7,776,868	4,385,416	38,432,221
Coho	337,893	567,059	640,152	496,196	472,806	482,659	317,981	419,520	3,734,266
Pink	191,040	1,164,761	947,928	501,841	548,838	771,627	298,663	583,766	5,008,464
Sockeye	176,516	289,453	84,308	83,800	349,402	131,533	252,690	62,028	1,429,730
Grand Total	9,135,433	5,563,406	4,821,755	5,125,988	5,964,381	4,205,734	8,687,391	5,507,383	49,011,471

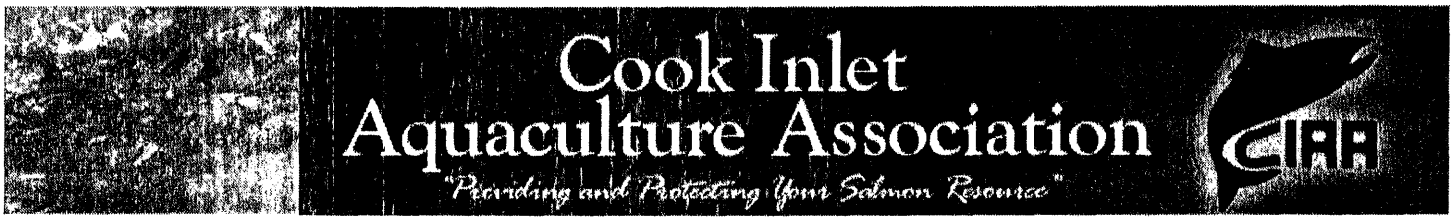
total 309,098,182

total (se,pws,ci,kod)

Species	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Grand Total
Chinook	58,352	49,074	52,339	43,367	60,042	50,364	41,828	57,253	412,619
Chum	11,643,612	5,257,108	6,743,250	6,258,830	5,975,272	4,245,278	9,152,182	7,053,704	56,329,236
Coho	934,777	873,658	888,397	707,622	643,526	817,611	794,503	681,733	6,341,827
Pink	25,810,077	30,051,686	15,527,089	39,695,537	11,268,924	46,850,910	12,153,938	48,295,088	229,653,249
Sockeye	1,342,840	2,279,413	2,534,243	3,168,590	2,154,354	1,600,132	1,581,179	1,700,500	16,361,251
Grand Total	39,789,658	38,510,939	25,745,318	49,873,946	20,102,118	53,564,295	23,723,630	57,788,278	309,098,182

Figure A5 **Proposal #380**





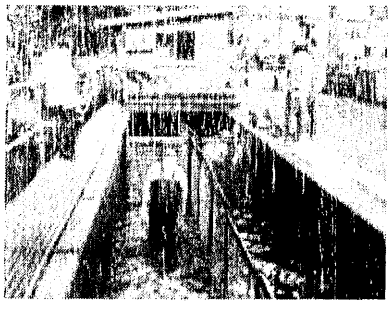
CIAA News
CIAA Directory
Hatcheries
Projects
Data
Cost Recovery
Education
Employment
Meeting Calendar
Home

Projects
Bear Lake

| Salmon Release Projects | | Habitat Projects | | Other Projects |

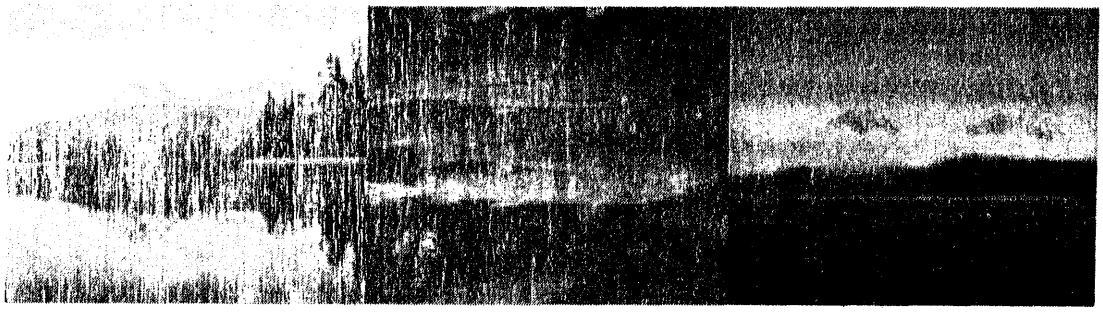
Bear Lake is located on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula near the community of Seward, Alaska and has been the site of salmon enhancement activities since 1962. Initial enhancement activities, conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Sport Fish Division, focused on coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) and the control of predator and competitor species.

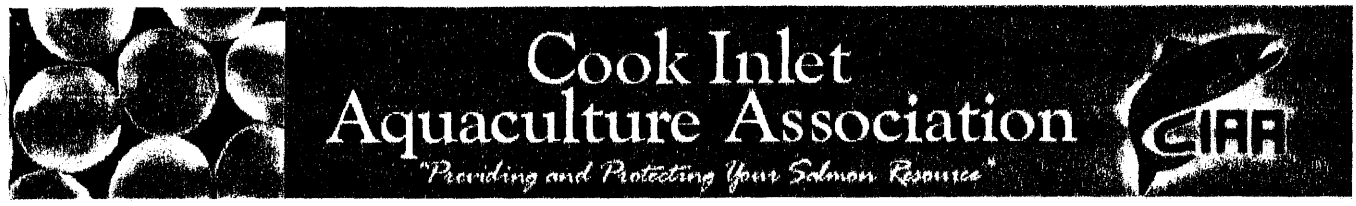
In 1988, the Alaska Board of Fisheries revised the management plan for Bear Lake. The revision allowed for the enhancement of sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*).



The revised Bear Lake management plan developed in 1988 was soon followed by a cooperative agreement between ADF&G, Sport fish Division, ADF&G Fisheries Rehabilitation, Enhancement and Development (FRED) Division, and the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA). The cooperative agreement, which became effective in August 1989, allowed CIAA to operate and maintain the Bear Lake coho salmon enhancement project and to begin sockeye enhancement activities in the lake. The agreement also provided CIAA with the responsibility of operating and maintaining the Bear Creek weir site.

Current enhancement activities at Bear Lake now target both sockeye and coho salmon with control of predator and competitor species. The objectives are to create a commercial sockeye fishery and to maintain the coho sport fishery enhancement program. To accomplish the objectives CIAA monitors the number of marked fish resulting from fry, pre-smolt, and smolt releases in sockeye and coho adult migrations and evaluate the success of enhancement through the recovery of marked fish.





CIAA News
CIAA Directory
Hatcheries
Projects
Data
Cost Recovery
Education
Employment
Meeting Calendar
Home

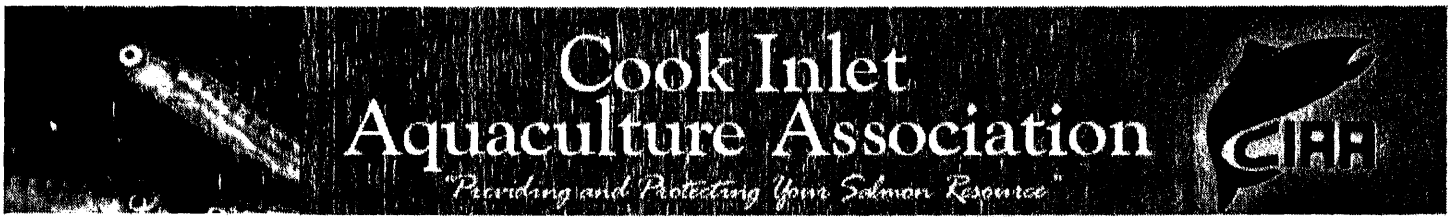
Data

Fry/Smolt Release

| Fry/Smolt Release | | Salmon Enumeration | | Project Reports |

Release Archives; 1998-1999 2000-2007

2008 SALMON RELEASE					
Facility	Release Site	Species	Life Stage	Size (g)	Number Released
TLH	Bear Lake	Sockeye	fry	.60	2,400,000
	Bear Lake (Res. Bay release)	Sockeye	smolt	10.4	1,600,000
	Big Lake	Sockeye	fry	.70	3,610,000
	Big Lake	Sockeye	smolt	10.1	433,000
	Hidden Lake	Sockeye	unfed fry	.095	917,000
	Leisure Lake	Sockeye	fry	.16	2,053,000
	Hazel Lake	Sockeye	fry	.15	1,161,000
	Kirschner Lake	Sockeye	fry	.18	300,000
	Bear Lake	Coho	fry	1.4	360,000
	Bear Creek	Coho	smolt	12.5	142,000
	Homer Spit	Coho	smolt	11.7	95,000
	Seldovia	Coho	smolt	12.0	88,000
	Tutka Lagoon	Sockeye	smolt	14.5	480,000
	Nanwalek	Sockeye	fry	2.8	246,000



CIAA News
CIAA Directory
Hatcheries
Projects
Data
Cost Recovery
Education
Employment
Meeting Calendar
Home

Data

Bear Lake Sockeye Adult

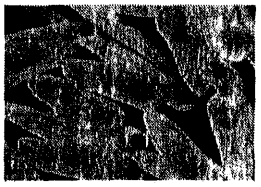
| Fry/Smolt Release | | Salmon Enumeration | | Project Reports |

Cumulative total reflects escapement into Bear Lake and those fish harvested at Bear Creek Weir. Sockeye salmon escapement to Bear Creek was considered complete on July 31, 2008.

2008 Bear Lake Adult Sockeye Enumeration

Date	Escapement	Harvest	Cumulative
5-25	0	0	0
5-26	0	0	0
5-27	0	0	0
5-28	0	0	0
5-29	0	0	0
5-30	3	0	3
5-31	1	0	4
6-1	5	0	9
6-2	18	0	27
6-3	18	0	45
6-4	63	0	108
6-5	40	0	148
6-6	77	0	225
6-7	58	0	283
6-8	175	0	458
6-9	59	0	517
6-10	148	0	665
6-11	42	0	707
6-12	77	0	784
6-13	114	0	898
6-14	94	0	992
6-15	196	0	1,188
6-16	192	0	1,380
6-17	229	0	1,609
6-18	296	0	1,905
6-19	185	0	2,090
6-20	96	0	2,186
6-21	120	0	2,306
6-22	190	0	2,496
6-23	294	0	2,790
6-24	452	0	3,242
6-25	844	0	4,086
6-26	1,568	0	5,654
6-27	971	0	6,625
6-28	730	0	7,355
6-29	917	0	8,272
6-30	612	0	8,884

7-1	305	0	9,189
7-2	455	0	9,644
7-3	497	0	10,141
7-4	1,197	0	11,338
7-5	417	0	11,755
7-6	974	0	12,729
7-7	469	0	13,198
7-8	158	0	13,356
7-9	58	0	13,422
7-10	1	281	13,696
7-11	0	462	14,158
7-12	0	988	15,146
7-13	0	428	15,574
7-14	8	287	15,869
7-15	21	40	15,930
7-16	0	263	16,193
7-17	0	80	16,273
7-18	0	164	16,437
7-19	0	212	16,649
7-20	0	63	16,712
7-21	0	43	16,755
7-22	0	106	16,851
7-23	0	63	16,924
7-24	0	46	16,970
7-25	0	50	17,020
7-26	0	57	17,077
7-27	0	12	17,089
7-28	0	12	17,101
7-29	0	41	17,142
7-30	0	0	17,142
7-31	0	0	17,142



Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association

"Providing and Protecting Your Salmon Resource"

CIAA News
CIAA Directory
Hatcheries
Projects
Data
Cost Recovery
Education
Employment
Meeting Calendar
Home

Paul A. Shadura II

Data

Bear Lake Smolt

| Fry/Smolt Release | | Salmon Enumeration | | Project Reports |

The Bear Lake smolt weir was opened on May 16, 2008. The smolt migration was considered complete and the Bear Lake smolt weir closed on July 8, 2008.

2008 Bear Lake Smolt Enumeration

Date	Sockeye Daily	Sockeye Cumulative	Coho Daily	Coho Cumulative
5-16	0	0	0	0
5-17	0	0	0	0
5-18	0	0	0	0
5-19	0	0	0	0
5-20	0	0	0	0
5-21	0	0	0	0
5-22	0	0	0	0
5-23	0	0	0	0
5-24	0	0	0	0
5-25	0	0	0	0
5-26	3,857	3,857	174	174
5-27	19,386	23,243	284	458
5-28	10,286	33,529	269	727
5-29	27,040	60,569	637	1,364
5-30	6,124	66,693	215	1,579
5-31	9,387	76,080	384	1,963
6-1	9,563	85,643	303	2,266
6-2	25,973	111,616	474	2,740
6-3	5,026	116,642	653	3,393
6-4	19,160	135,802	1,825	5,218
6-5	3,032	138,834	289	5,507
6-6	4,891	143,725	532	6,039
6-7	18,288	162,013	790	6,829
6-8	28,736	190,749	817	7,646
6-9	15,368	206,117	937	8,583
6-10	13,169	219,286	1,545	10,128
6-11	9,950	228,876	7,564	17,692
6-12	16,120	244,996	6,270	23,962
6-13	2,681	247,677	4,223	28,185
6-14	6,230	253,907	4,660	32,845
6-15	2,330	256,237	4,230	37,075
6-16	8,610	264,847	6,390	43,465
6-17	6,890	271,737	5,360	48,825
6-18	10,600	282,337	2,480	51,305
6-19	9,830	292,167	4,300	55,605
6-20	7,640	299,807	950	56,555
6-21	3,000	302,807	730	57,285
6-22	1,634	304,441	1,191	58,476
6-23	897	305,338	128	58,604
6-24	1,314	306,652	204	58,808
6-25	956	307,608	383	59,191
6-26	32	307,640	617	59,808
6-27	167	307,807	128	59,936
6-28	139	307,946	1,206	61,142
6-29	216	308,162	808	61,950
6-30	61	308,223	202	62,152
7-1	80	308,303	348	62,500
7-2	186	308,489	525	63,025

7-3	16	308,505	127	63,152
7-4	23	308,528	118	63,270
7-5	48	308,576	168	63,438
7-6	36	308,612	292	63,730
7-7	27	308,639	213	63,943

RC 73

Miscellaneous Business
Alaska Board of Fisheries
March 16-20, 2009
Statewide Shellfish, Anchorage

Petition from Richard Yamada on black cod (RC 1 Petition Tab)

Petition from Susitna Valley AC on SSFP (RC 1 Petition Tab)

Petition from Ken Tarbox on SSFP (RC 1 Petition Tab)

Petition from Ken Tarbox on Emergency Order authority (RC 1 Petition Tab)

Delegation of authority re allowing registration via email in Bristol Bay fishery [Tonkin]

Charge statement for possession limits task force (RC 74)

Letter to NPFMC re Chinook bycatch (RC 75)

Resolution re funding for research (RC 76)

Discussion of board procedures [Williams]

- handling conflict of interest determinations (RC 77)
- guidelines for meeting sites (RC78)
- written public comment (RC80)

Other letters

Adjourn

DRAFT (3.20.09)

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
Charge Statement for Task Force on Possession Limits

2009-26x-FB

At the 2006 Board of Fisheries Southeast Finfish meeting in Ketchikan, a workgroup was to be developed to discuss a proposal that had been submitted regarding changes to the definition of possession limits. Similar issues had been identified in other regions of the state. A charge statement for the workgroup was not developed, nor was a workgroup established.

Again during the 2009 Board of Fisheries Southeast Finfish meeting in Sitka, proposals on possession limits were considered. The board acknowledges that the issues raised merit additional consideration. The board believes a more thorough discussion by management, enforcement, and user groups is warranted. Therefore, the board is forming a task force to evaluate, research, and develop a recommendation for a comprehensive approach to the application, recording, and enforcement of bag and possession limits in sport fisheries throughout the state.

Issues the task force should consider include, but are not limited to, the following: 1) the definition of possession limit; 2) preserved vs. unpreserved fish; 3) possible changes to the daily and possession limits for individual species; 4) labeling of sport-caught fish; 5) transfer of possession; and 6) access to catch for enforcement purposes.

The Possession Limit Task force will consist of:

Two Board of Fisheries members
Five charter industry representatives as follows:

- single boat charter operator;
- lodge operator;
- multi-day charter operator;
- assisted-unguided lodge operator; and
- charter operator at large.

One processor of sport-caught fish
Two resident sport fishermen
Two subsistence users
Two commercial fishing representatives

Task force members will attend meetings at their own expense. The Department of Fish and Game may assist the group by providing a meeting space or teleconference capabilities and any requested information about the fisheries or effects of proposed regulations.

This Possession Limit Task force will be appointed and work will commence as soon as possible, but no later than fall 2009. The task force will conclude its work by providing

recommendations to the Board of Fisheries at the Statewide Finfish meeting in March 2010. After receiving the task force recommendations, the board may generate proposals to submit as part of its regular three-year regulatory cycle.

Adopted this __ day of March, 2009

_____

John Jensen, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Vote: _____

RC 75

DRAFT letter to Council from Board of Fisheries re Chinook Bycatch (1.20.09)

Mr. Eric Olson, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
[address]

Dear Chairman Olson and members of the Council,

We are writing to provide our comments regarding Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. As you are well aware, the Board of Fisheries is responsible for managing the fishery resources in the waters of the State of Alaska. We are encouraged that the Council is attempting to take action to resolve the issue of Chinook salmon bycatch, including the consideration of a hard cap on the bycatch.

The Board has followed the issues associated with salmon bycatch for some time and has received considerable public comment about the negative impacts on salmon fisheries in western Alaska and along the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. During a February 2007 Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim finfish meeting, the Board heard concerns by the public over reduced Chinook runs, as well as hearing an industry report on the efficacy of rolling hotspots. Last April during the Joint BOF/Council meeting Council staff provided an overview of the status of the environmental impact statement for salmon bycatch. More recently at the Joint Protocol committee meeting in September 2009, an update was provided that described actions being considered such as area closures and applying a hard cap. It is also our understanding that the Council is also reviewing alternatives developed by industry for voluntary cooperative measures to control bycatch.

The Board is concerned that the Chinook salmon bycatch rose throughout most of this decade and to unprecedented levels, reaching an all-time high of almost 122,000 Chinook salmon in 2007.

Typically, Chinook salmon are fully allocated in the subsistence, commercial and sport salmon fisheries throughout Alaska. Any significant level of bycatch in the offshore groundfish fisheries is likely to result in reduced available harvests to the inshore and inriver users.

We would urge the Council to take forceful actions, either through the adoption of a hard cap of 32,482 Chinook salmon or some other combination of measures to insure that the needs of residents of Western and Interior Alaska are met.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

cc: Governor Palin
Commissioner Lloyd

RC 76

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FISH

WHEREAS every meeting brings forth numerous questions which cannot be answered by Fish and Game staff because research has not yet been done to resolve those questions, and

WHEREAS this results in both the Board of Fish and the staff of the Department to make decisions and determinations based on "best information available" that is also incomplete information, and

WHEREAS this can and has resulted in good faith decisions that turned out to be wrong,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Fish urges the Governor of Alaska and the Alaska State Legislature to focus resources into research within the Department of Fish and Game and resources used as grants within the University of Alaska system focused on salt water and fresh water finfish and shellfish research.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be provided to Governor Palin, the members of the Alaska State Legislature, and the Alaska Congressional Delegation.

Submitted by Bonnie Williams, BOF

RC 77

PROCEDURES OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISH : MEETING RULES

- Immediately prior to the start of board deliberations and votes, the Chair shall require that any board member who missed part or all of public testimony shall certify to having listened to all public testimony tapes, and to having read all received RCs. A member who cannot so certify shall refrain from voting.
- When a member of the Board of Fish is conflicted out on a given proposal, that member shall leave his or her seat, and the meeting hall, for the duration of discussion, debate and voting on that given proposal or issue.
- It is standard practice for one or more attorneys in the Department of Law to review all proposals immediately upon publication. Such attorney shall consider each and every proposal, in relation to the known fishing activities of each board member; the board member shall be contacted and discussion of potential conflict of interest shall be considered. Where a difference of opinion occurs as to possible conflict, the attorney shall notify the chair of the board (or if the chair, the vice chair) of such difference of opinion, so that sufficient discussion can take place prior to a ruling on conflict. (Note: this has been standard practice for a number of years, but such practice was not formalized into Board rules of procedure.)

RC 78

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION OF FUTURE MEETING SITES : BOARD OF FISH

Each of the following factors shall be considered in determining and selecting a site for a given future meeting of the Board of Fish:

- Whether the community has commercial jet or turbine service
- cellular phone service
- high speed internet available
- Adequate dining facilities/capacity for the BOF, F&G staff, and expected members of the public traveling from other communities
- Adequate meeting room facility and associated staff requirements (ie: copy machine, etc)
- Relative comfort (temperature inside, tables/chairs, etc)
- Adequate ground transportation
- Adequate hotel rooms and capacity of rooms for expected influx
- Hospital
- Relationship of community to BOF topic of discussion
- Costs to Department of F&G
- Travel time required
- Economic and cultural importance to the location

No single bulleted item shall be the sole determining guideline. However, the preponderance of the items shall be considered significant in final selection of the meeting site.

(FROM OCTOBER 2008 WORKSESSION)
EXAMPLE OF MEETING SCHEDULE CONSIDERATIONS

RC 79

STATE OF ALASKA

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 115526
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4110
FAX: (907) 465-6094

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Boards Support Section

TO: Board of Fisheries Members

DATE: September 27, 2008

FROM: Jim Marcotte, Executive Director
Board of Fisheries
Department of Fish and Game

PHONE: 465-6095
FAX: 465-6094

RE: Discussion of Draft 2009/2010
Board of Fisheries Schedule

Attached is the proposed 2090/2010 meeting schedule for your approval.

The following assumptions are used in drafting the enclosed schedule options for the 2009/2010 cycle. These assumptions follow those used in years past and are listed below for board members' benefit:

1. The board will continue the three-year cycle (copy enclosed).
2. The board will keep the same "Call for Proposal" deadline. This cycle the deadline falls on Friday, April 10, 2009.
3. The board meetings will occur between the months of October through March.
4. The board wants a two- to three-day work session at the beginning of the meeting cycle.
5. The board does not want any one meeting session to exceed 15 days.
6. The board wants a minimum of seven to ten days between meeting sessions.
7. The order of regions has the board addressing the salmon fisheries closest to the salmon spawning grounds first.
8. The 2009/2010 draft schedule options are based on past schedules and past actual meeting days used to address that region's issues, and in consideration of current funding levels.
9. The 2009/2010 draft schedule concludes the meetings in March 2010. After the board meetings conclude, ADF&G and the Department of Law staff place the new regulations into code. This is a labor-intensive process starting in mid-December. This schedule will support the flow of the regulatory process for staff and the public. The public will know what the fishing regulations are earlier, thus making pre-planning less compressed.

FROM BONNIE WILLIAMS RC 80

Meeting Procedures : Some Suggestions for Change

This past meeting in Sitka showed some major flaws, that impeded our ability to get work done in a timely fashion, while using the best available information. I have pondered the problems, and have developed several procedural changes we might want to consider at our March meeting. These suggestions address both how we the board, operate, and separately, how the public is able to interact with us.

RC Problem

We received a horrendous, overwhelming volume of RC documents. I am a speed reader tested at over 1500 words per minutes; I couldn't keep up, and frankly, did not get every document read completely. This is unfair to the author, and further, it *cripples my ability to act on the best available information.*

The board enacted a rule limiting RC's to 10 pages. Possibly we could expand on this original idea and create a new rule:

- 10 pages, if submitted by date certain prior to the start of the scheduled meeting
- 3 pages, if submitted at the meeting, during the day(s) of public testimony
- 2 pages, if submitted during committee meetings
- 1 page, if submitted by the conclusion of committee meetings and/or during deliberations
- The second, third and fourth bullets could ONLY address a single proposal, NOT multiple, differing proposals (single proposal, or totally related group) (nothing would prohibit an author from submitting 5 RCs on 5 different proposals)

Furthermore, each RC submitted at the meeting during the meeting must contain the following information in the upper righthand (or lefthand or wherever spot certain) information:

Name of author, group being represented if any

Number of proposal being addressed

Number(s) of any prior RC(s) by this author on this proposal

Finally, "serial" efforts to avoid these rules will be 100% rejected. Thus, for example, the serial effort by Sitka Tribe to dance around the 10-page limitation rule by submitting Parts 1,2,3, and 4 would result in all 4 parts being refused.

(We might consider changing the 10-page rule, to allow "associations" or "organizations" to provide 15 or 20 pages, if by the date certain prior to start of scheduled meeting.)

We could consider requiring that 10-page documents must contain a 1-page summary; ditto if we were to allow organizations to produce 15 or 20-page documents.

We need in some fair, reasonable manner to control the volume of RC documentation, and to make that documentation more meaningful, useful and useable to board members. The approach I have listed here may be a way to do that. However, we must allow the public to be able to submit documentation with new information.

BOARD PROCEDURE

The formatted documentation provided by departmental staff is extremely helpful, but could be improved. Copying a technique used by the Legislature (numbering of lines in any given piece of legislation) I developed a "category" strip that could be part of every proposal's first page. I have attached a sample of an actual proposal from Sitka, with the strip superimposed, and selections made in each of the given categories based on that particular proposal.

The idea is to provide to board members a simple, clear quick-read of the content, import and subject matter of any given proposal. The strip is intended to help committee members during both the committee meeting, and subsequently, during deliberations. Let me describe each part of the "strip".

SCALE - we need to know, at a glance, the import of any given proposal. This one is "Extensive", that one is "housekeeping". This information tells each board member how carefully he needs to study a given issue.

AREA - the whole state, the entire region, a piece of the region, a single section of a stream? This improves the board member's understanding of the scope of the issue.

GROUP - Who is affected? It is a long list of possible permutations; it helps to know up front that all of comfish is involved, or this is subsistence, or only the sportfish charter guys.

Related proposals: The numbers of those proposals that are similar or identical to this one. This helps the committee and especially the chair, in organizing for deliberations.

Similar proposals: As with "related", this too can help the board members prepare for deliberations. Furthermore, these two elements might help F&G Staff to re-number and organize proposals in totally related groupings. Again, this makes a meeting more efficient, and therefore, more successfully productive.

LEGAL – These are a laundry list of potential legal needs. If the proposal is allocative, a committee member needs to be ready; ditto on SSFB, or groundfish. If there is an enforcement issue, it is helpful to warn board members prior to committee or deliberations. Will this impose

costs? Are there federal implications, or constitutional implications. This category is in the nature of an "alert" for board members.

SPECIES - Lets board members know in a quick, simple glance what species of finfish or shellfish are concerned/implicated/involved in this proposal.

RC # - provides a holding space for board member to notate RC #s involving this proposal. Makes it easier, therefore, to organize documents prior to deliberations. In turn, that allows us to spend less time trying to "find stuff".

I envision this "strip" as being preprinted on the first page of every proposal. Staff would then circle or highlight or underline, would indicate their determination of the right answers. Where appropriate, they would fill in the blanks, those places I've shown as "...." Or "cite". Part of the committee process might result in changes to those determinations. Certainly, over the course of time, further additions under "RC" would need to be added. This might be done by staff prior to the printing of the final report; thereafter, it would be the responsibility of the individual board member.

The overall objective is to provide clear, shorthand information, easily scanned, to enable a board member to handle a meeting of 150-250 proposals without drowning.

STAFF DOCUMENTATION DURING MEETING

When F&G staff provide additional documents during a meeting, I suggest that we consider providing a separate, unique numbering system. Instead of calling this document RC 145, for example, we could label it DC 1 – the first document from the department outside of and in addition to the written reports and the power point reports labeled RC 2,3,4. This would be helpful to board members in identifying documents.

Staff are providing to us facts, information, statistics, etc; the public may be providing facts, information and/or statistics, but are also attempting to provide us with logic compelling us to accept their viewpoint. It could be useful to board members to have the document sources segregated into DC and RC.

A variation of this "RC" labeling could be considered for amendments which stem from legal staff: possibly, LC 1, LC 2, and so forth, where Kerri/Steve etc have provided an RC that contains the desired amendment language for regulations. I suggest this, because at the Sitka meeting we had several conflicting "amendment" language proposals RC'd to us, none labeled as to authorship.

As a board member, I need to know the source of a given amendment. The use of DC for those stemming from the department, or separately, LC, for those stemming from Kerri or Dpt of Law, would be extremely helpful, and in turn, would make us able to more quickly reach decisions.

STRIP

PROPOSAL 199: 5 AAC 27.035. CLOSURE OF REGISTRATION AREAS.

PROPOSED BY: Ketchikan Herring Action Group.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? If adopted, this proposal would close all commercial herring fisheries within Southeastern Alaska. [An exception would be herring fisheries within the Annette Island Reserve where the state has no regulatory authority.]

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5AAC 27.035. Closure of Registration Areas, directs the department to monitor herring stocks throughout the state and establishes a policy for closure of registration areas, or portions of a registration area. Factors which may be considered by the department when considering a closure are listed in (c) and include: the effect of fishing effort, catch rate, returns compared with forecast returns, guideline harvest levels, handling of immature or spawned-out herring, condition of herring, maximum sustainable yield, reporting of harvests, and adequacy of subsistence harvests.

5AAC 27.190. Herring Management Plan for Southeast Alaska Area provides for sustainable commercial uses of herring populations through stock assessment programs, threshold levels, and harvest rate policy.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECTS IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Commercial fisheries for bait, spawn-on-kelp, and roe would be discontinued. Herring stocks that now are managed to support commercial fisheries would have from no fishing mortality each season during years that threshold levels of herring are forecast. The proportion of herring in the diets of herring predators might increase to an unknown degree and herring predator populations might increase to an unknown degree. These types of changes, however, are buffered by a wide variety of environmental factors, among which herring populations are one factor.

There would be significant economic effects to the local, regional, and state economy.

BACKGROUND: Figure 199-1 summarizes regional herring harvests and spawning biomass in tons, and ex-vessel values from 1977 to 2008. In 2008, the department conducted spawn deposition stock assessment surveys on 8 stocks, managed two areas for winter food and bait, three areas for spawn-on-kelp, and three areas for herring sac roe. The ex-vessel value of these combined herring fisheries is estimated at $18,000,000 in 2008 from harvest of 21,520 tons of herring.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal. The department currently carries out the provisions of 5AAC 27.035. (c) annually in the general course of managing herring fisheries and does not conclude that continued herring fishing in the

SCALE
(intensive)
major
minor
incremental
housekeeping
AREA
State
(region) SE
subregion
single (site)
.....
TYPE
technology/gear
biology
(catch (harvest))
season
geography
GROUP
all
resident
nonresident
subsistence
personal use
sportfish all
sportfish....
(comfish all)
comfish gear.....
RELATED PR #
#
#
#
SIMILAR PR #
203
204
#
LEGAL
(allocation)
SSFB
groundfish
enforcement
costs Yes (No)
federal
constitution
SPECIES
all
all finfish
all shellfish
herrin
:
:

Again, I suggest we require that any amendment submitted contain the following, regardless of the means of numbering:

- Name of author, organization/group if relevant
- DC/RC/LC number
- Proposal number it relates to

We need consistency in the labeling procedures of documents. Thus, if we determine that we need a fixed rule on author-proposal #, we should also establish a fixed rule on the location on the first page of that information. Top right, top left, bottom right or wherever.

RC 81

Whittier Advisory Committee Chair Comments to RC 52
Committee B Report

Support:

Harvest sections and rotation of three areas: This untested tool was highly criticized by experienced commercial operators, in our committee, as complicating a system with variables that could be easily be misinterpreted. This would handicap fishermen unnecessarily. An area fish and game biologist stated 'they could live without this system'.

Opposition: Fishing season.

Concerns about commercial fishermen taking most of shrimp before personal use fisherman can obtain theirs is unfounded as 80-90% of personal use catch has been and will be caught in areas close to port that will be closed to commercial fishing.

The closing of College Fjord and Perry Island to commercial boats is wishful thinking. This is a lot of big water for small boats. There would be nothing from keeping them from fishing there even with commercial boats in the area.

5AAC31.2XX Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E.

(a) This untried three area system is not suited for clear data collection. Consistent patterns of populations, health and density will be a long time coming.

5AAC 31.2XX Shrimp pot guide line harvest ranges for Registration Area E.

(a) A commercial fishery starts at 110,000 lbs. At this point in the fisheries evolution, this would be negative to a proper understanding of how prolific or sensitive to fishing pressure these sea creatures are. The most valuable data to this fishery is commercial catch logs. Their value cannot be underestimated. As unbiased and consistent as Fish and Game department surveys may be, they pale in comparison to actual catch logs. Do not set a minimum of estimated shrimp to catch, too low, as that could deplete the collection of this data. A flow chart plotting many variables through many seasons cannot have blank sections. Consistency of pattern relationships is everything in considering probability for right or wrong answers. A safer number to assure data collection would be 90,000 lbs of allowable catch. It must be understood that if these shrimp again have a down turn, it will not be from conducting a commercial fishery with the ultra conservative numbers the

Department is working with at this time. Numbers like these are the ones used in test fisheries. They can have only the slightest effect on overall numbers. If other events are effecting a down turn, there will be ample safety measures to turn the valve a little lower, yet decipher how the other factors are in relationship to shrimp numbers, as long as commercial logs can be kept.

(b) 40% of allowable surplus for commercial fish harvest. A lot of time was spent with two of our concerned charter boat skippers. They felt a 50/50 split was the only solution to this allocation problem. Every user group feels they deserve more. Most often in this type of situation the best solution is the one that hurts everyone a little bit rather than favoring one side over the other. This is the 50/50 solution. No one will like it but everyone will live with it.

5AAC31.2XX Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area E.

(e) 1. Maximum number of shrimp pots. It was suggested by a board member to reword the regulation as to not need a stated maximum number. This is a preferred solution. If it is necessary to set a number, most members of our committee

conceded that a 100 pot limit would be workable but not a 50 pot limit.

(e) 4. Shrimp pots retrieved only, 8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. This echoes a safely issue from the halibut derby days, 'forced to go when you know you shouldn't'.

12 to 16 hours per day as opposed to 8 hours per day, would give the fishermen the flexibility to pick gear during a lull or tidal shift that lowers wave height.

Cordova District Fishermen United
PO Box 939 | 509 First Street | Cordova, AK 99574
phone. (907) 424 3447 | fax. (907) 424 3430
web. www.cdfu.org | email. cdfu@ak.net

Lc 82

March 20, 2009

Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
Board of Fisheries

Committee B Comments: PWS Shrimp Management Proposals #44

Chairman Jensen and members of the Board,

On behalf of myself and the Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) Board of Directors I am writing in support of adoption of proposal #44, with a couple of recommended changes described below.

Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges

This process has given the opportunity for all users and the managing party to weigh in with their particular concerns based on the management plan that was drafted from the December meeting. We have heard from the recreational users that it would be an abomination if the unlimited access they have enjoyed since the commercial spot shrimp fishery closed was affected in any way. They want to be assured that they will fill their pots quickly and not have to prospect to find shrimp in abundance. It is the responsibility of the board to be good stewards of the resources of the state of Alaska. Sustainable resource development is the backbone of our rural economy. These are tough economic times and we need to investigate every reasonable opportunity to create new jobs and work to stabilize our local economy. Each individual fishery doesn't need to support a large fleet to be worth opening. Diversification is the key to keeping a vessel and a town profitable year in and year out. We do not accept 110,000 lbs. as the minimum threshold before prosecution of a commercial fishery. There is no evidence Prince William Sound has ever produced that many shrimp by looking at projection levels from ADF&G models. Don't forget ADF&G research has stated repeatedly throughout these proceedings that the harvestable surplus estimates are very conservative. If we can have a sustainable fishery on a smaller scale is that not a wise and prudent use of our resource?

We support not opening a commercial fishery if the surplus production is below 85,000 lbs. The department has assured us that, along with a very conservative estimate of surplus production and a very conservative management plan, they have built in the tools necessary to conduct an orderly and controlled harvest. Let's not waste this opportunity any longer.

Cordova District Fishermen United
PO Box 939 | 509 First Street | Cordova, AK 99574
phone. (907) 424 3447 | fax. (907) 424 3430
web. www.cdfu.org | email. cdfu@ak.net

We are disappointed the Board committee didn't give enough weight to the historical catch data for each user group when setting the proposed commercial GHL. The commercial fishery has born the complete burden of conservation with no catch since 1991 and is being punished because an opportunistic urban user group followed the ADF&G Sportfish Division radio advertisements to, "go shrimpin' in Prince William Sound, all you need is a pot and your sportfishing license". This tireless advocacy to increase their user numbers at all costs needs to be redirected. The road to Whittier has dramatically increased users and improved access for the sport and the "commercial sport" charter boats while the historical commercial fleet has waited for the stock to rebound. Anything less than a 50/50 split is a slap in the face to commercial fishermen.

Fishing Areas and Closed waters.

We support the boundaries defining the waters closed to commercial pot shrimp fishing defined as Option 1. These boundaries reflect the current and historical areas used most heavily by the subsistence, sport and personal use groups. They provide reasonable opportunity to small boat users and those trying to minimize travel time and fuel consumption to access some very productive shrimping areas. Further restrictions such as Option 2 and additions to it that are being lobbied for by commercial charter and recreational users, severely restrict and divide commercial activity in primarily harvest area 2 which is already the most limited area in the proposed three area rotation plans. In addition, we would like to point out that the personal use, subsistence and sport shrimpers would only have to share these contested areas every third year, since under the current plan commercial fishing will be confined to one of three commercial areas on an annual rotating basis.

Recreational harvest data.

We support the board committee recommendation to reinstate the harvest permit requirement and applaud all accountability measures facilitating accurate reporting that is timely and enforceable.

Thank you for taking our comments into consideration.

Andrew Craig
Board Member CDFU

PWS Shrimp Positions Gordon Scott March 20, 2009

RC 83

RE: Committee B report RC 52

I support passage of a Spot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.

Management Issues

Comment about middle Page 3 : Department comments about boundary areas and stat areas. How difficult would it be to manage by stat areas compared to by the boundary areas referenced by the proposed rotating area plan? The 3 areas were drawn by the department so that they would each contain several of their shrimp survey points. And to attempt to "equalize" the areas. So it appears they want to manage each area based upon their several survey points within the area. Of course this would be coupled with reported catch data. They state that they do not have enough data to manage by stat area. Inferred from their testimony is that they do not have survey points in each stat area, therefore not enough data to manage.

Shrimp have been classified as not very mobile – do not travel long distances. There are approximately a dozen "survey sites". It would probably be true that each site only represents information related to the shrimp population within a very few miles. There is data from old fish tickets that should be usable by fish and game. They say they are going to use CPUE data from fisheries to help manage. I think that CPUE data related to stat areas would be more relevant to localized non-migratory population status than data from distant survey points (where the effort is from 1 or 2 days a year). Perhaps there should be more survey points established. And even if there is no usable data from the past fisheries, there will be new data from this time forward to use – from every stat area that is fished.

For instance: is it right that Montague Straights be closed because of poor stocks in Knight Island Passage, or Port Wells closed because Port Nellie Juan stocks are depressed, etc?

I would like to hear further explanation of how the fishery could be managed by stat area, and why that would be worse than managing by remote survey points, and how CPUE data can or can not be used to help manage the fishery, by stat area or whatever means.

Rotating Areas: Please do not support them

With the rotating areas, commercial fishing pressure will be concentrated in limited areas, causing more frenzied competition, gear loss, safety factors with overcrowded anchorages. But more importantly, it will work to depress localized stocks. And then create a period of recovery (during which the noncommercial effort will keep further pressure on the stocks.) If the lion's share of the allocation goes to the noncommercial fisheries, as a person representing commercial fishing interests, I am very concerned that the proposed plan allows the noncommercial fisheries to continually deplete the stocks that the commercial fishery depends on. It seems like the noncommercial fisheries should only be allowed to fish rotating areas. I am concerned that if they are left without boundaries, they will deplete local stocks.

The stock would be better served by having steady pressure over the whole sound. The fishery would be much more orderly, and the stocks would not suffer cyclical severe local depletion, and would not be subject to large annual swings in the catches and the CPUE's. Data would be easier to compare: from year to year and from area to area.

The near port commercial exclusion zones were offered to give the noncommercial fishers areas that were untouched by commercial users. Perhaps it should be set up the opposite way.

Allocation Please increase the Commercial Allocation

Every fishery is different. This fishery was begun as a commercial fishery long ago. And it is well documented that it collapsed. The reason we have had such an allocative imbalance in recent years is the Department's inability to address management while it was rebounding. Noncommercial fishers are filling freezers with shrimp. And are now claiming the resource is theirs. Most of these noncommercial fishers are not local residents of the PWS communities. And the small boat commercial fleet which is largely comprised of local PWS community taxpaying citizens is being asked to take a back seat. With all the exceptional circumstances around this fishery, there is still no reason I can think of that noncommercial should get a larger piece of the pie than the commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen allow access to the resource by all Alaskans, not just those who own a boat and can get it to Prince William Sound. This also provides an outlet to support the commercial fishing economy. No one will get rich on this fishery. It gives another opportunity for commercial fishermen to diversify in hard times. And it does not reduce opportunity one bit to noncommercial fishermen.

Minimum Threshold Remove clause, or set between 89,000 and 90,000 lbs.

(See attached spreadsheet)

During Committee B session, at the very end there was a very quick mention of a minimum threshold to begin a commercial fishery. There was no opportunity for discussion about it. 150,000 lbs was mentioned. And the committee report reflects 110,000 lbs of total allowable harvest as the threshold. Discussion with ADFG staff about this revealed that using the model and projecting it backwards to the early 80's using all documented removals never shows a value of the surplus production higher than 104,500 pounds – even back in the 80's. And the department has showed graphs and given verbal input that in recent years that the CPUE and the catch are increasing by approximately 10% per year. However this model chart is showing that since 2003-2004 SP not increasing. I can not interpret the model's backwards application with impunity, but on the surface it appears to me that the model's surplus production output may not ever reach the 122,000 lb mark that would be required for a TAH of 110,000 lbs with the applied 90% confidence level.

The departments survey data does seem relevant to the abundance, with the reported catches exceeding 2 pounds per pot. This is consistent with reported catches from many fishermen recently. These catches are better than the catches during the 80's, by a factor of approximately 2. Historically CPUE was around 1 pound of whole shrimp per pot.

At this time ADFG surveys, observed catches, hearsay, and public testimony to this Board all seem to say the same thing: that PWS Spot shrimp fishing has never been as good as it is now. The shrimp stock may be increasing at this time, but it is VERY HEALTHY.

The TAH threshold clause should not be included in this Plan, or it should be set at a number around 90,000 lbs (equivalent to "Surplus Production" of 100,000 lbs). It must be recognized that the TAH is 90% of this "Surplus Production" output number output from the model.

I would prefer that the threshold clause should be removed from the plan, as the model will ensure a conservative total allowable catch. It would be good during slow times (when they may occur) to have continuing CPUE data to help measure the fishery, and to ensure that enough data is included in the model for accurate assessment. I have been told that all removal data are used to input to the model, and that the more data you put in, the more representative the output is.

I support the opening of the commercial fishery because the Department has expressed ultra conservative management measures being implemented in the Schaeffer model.

Using 90% confidence level, not 95%, to set harvest

Only documented landings put into the model

Missing 1980-1994 subsistence,

Missing ADFG survay catches pre 1992

Late 2000's reported catch adjusted upwards

Experimentally substituting the "Surplus Production" output into the model for the actual catches in the 80's, only produced an increase of "around 3000 lbs" to the current output of the model., per Department personnel (This is another reason for lowering the "Threshhold value" for the fishery. It seems like we may never see a "Surplus Production" high enough to trigger a commercial fishery if the TAH threshold is 110,000 lbs.

Commercial closed areas. Support Option on Page 8, RC-22

This ensures that non-commercial users have a place to fish near ports that will not be affected by commercial harvesters. Areas closest to ports are adequate. There is no need to expand these areas to give noncommercial fisheries exclusive access to grounds further away from ports. If vessels are capable of traveling further than the areas near ports, and commercial fishers (or noncommercial) are in their favorite spot, they will be able to travel to a nearby spot easily. They will be able to fish wherever they want almost all of the time, assuming the commercial openings will be short in time.

Commercial pot limit cap Set at 100 or more

Consideration for raising it to 100 from 50 is appreciated. This will assist in allowing the commercial fishery to be an economically viable endeavor, especially when traveling to the further areas of the Sound. With it possible that there can be few commercial registrations, this will make the commercial fishery easier to prosecute. In the future this can be adjusted to be more even with other similar fisheries.

8 hours per day. Please allow 6am to 10pm, or restrict to pulling once per day.

8am to 4pm restriction will sometimes create safety problems due to weather, and the need to travel all night to and from ports. And it will also damage the resource when pots are left in the water, and one cannot get to them in time to pull them any day due to the time restriction. Octopus predation of captured shrimp increases markedly if the pots are not pulled regularly.

Vessel Inspection points

Should Chenega and Tatitlek be included in the list, or be incorporated by some general reference?

Reporting RequirementsSection (c)

Could there be some language in there that allowed an owner or operator to make arrangements with ADFG personnel to have their referenced phone call on a different day, either seasonally, or on a week by week basis? Cell phone coverage may make this difficult to comply with as written. (Or does this language as written allow this phone call on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday?)

Noncommercial Fishery management notes:

Page 10 section 3 (iii)

Should this read "no more than five pots per household....." consistent with many other fisheries in the State.

Year	Catch	Surplus Production
1981	153,017	
1982	205,746	102,960
1983	198,719	102,090
1985	271,928	99,664
1986	286,105	96,560
1987	265,707	89,179
1988	191,630	78,019
1989	28,949	64,554
1990	36,619	53,871
1991	17,535	56,066
1992	180	57,745
1993	76	61,122
1994	4,859	66,000
1995	5,715	70,948
1996	4,225	75,567
1997	4,623	80,078
1998	3,140	84,542
1999	4,406	88,759
2000	4,653	92,721
2001	9,421	96,205
2002	9,841	99,173
2003	14,494	101,445
2004	26,818	103,112
2005	35,021	104,100
2006	41,034	104,459
2007	54,905	104,383
		103,984

Motion for Board Generated Proposal

RC 84

I move the board generate and advertise a proposal to change the Southeast Alaska sport limit for sablefish to 4 per day, for all users, and for an annual limit for nonresidents of eight.

RC 85

I move for a Board generated proposal to close the 5AAC 21.366 Northern District set gillnet king salmon fishery until the first Monday on or after June 10. This closure will be in effect for the 2009 and 2010 fishing seasons. At the Upper Cook Inlet BOF meeting in Feb/March 2011, the BOF asks ADF&G to present a report on the status of the Alexander Lake king stock, progress made in eradication of Northern pike from the system, and have recommendations and an action plan on how to continue addressing the conservation concerns of Alexander Lake stocks. Further regulatory action, if deemed necessary, can be discussed at that time

RC 86

Dear Board members,

The Kenai –Soldotna AC is concerned about area 2 described in proposal 44a. The proposal amendment we received did not show the boundaries for this area very clear. It was presented to us in a very poor fashion. It was not clear on the western boundaries of area 2. The college fiord wells passage area is a popular area for the small boat operator to shrimp. When area 2 is opened we feel that this area will get hammered by the commercial fishery. We would like to see the western boundary as a straight line south from the western edge of Perry Island. This commercial closure would include Culross Island, Passage Canal, Port Wells, College Fiord, Harriman fiord, Port Nellie Juan and Kings Bay. Any future overharvest in these areas could cause a severe loss of opportunity to the non commercial fisheries. This does not include all the areas which are being utilized by the sport and subsistence users. However these are the areas which a majority of the current users utilize. These areas are very important for the current user group.

Mike Crawford

Chairman Kenai Soldotna AC

Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association

Ensuring the Sustainability of Our Fishery Resources

43961 Kalifornsky Beach Road • Suite F • Soldotna, Alaska 99669-8276
(907) 262-2492 • Fax: (907) 262-2898 • E Mail: kpfa@alaska.net

RC 87

March 20, 2009

ATTN: BOF Comments
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Boards Support Section
Chair, John Jensen
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Subject: Emergency Petition, Alexander Creek King Salmon stocks

Chairman Jensen, Members of the Board;

KPFA is a commercial fishing advocate organization that supports commercial setnet fishing within the waters of Cook Inlet.

We **Oppose** the acceptance of this petition as an emergency. We believe that the regulations for assessing a stock of concern clearly remain within the responsibility of the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).

Current assessment by random *fly bys* does not constitute *best available science* practices. The board should be reminded by the Department of the aerial surveys performed on the Anchor River. Erroneously triggering a *stock of concern,* previous helicopter overviews indices of 200-1000 King Salmon spawners. Improving the system by implementing a weir more accurately reflected the count to 5,000 to 12,000. Dramatic indeed!

Confidence levels of aerial surveys in the 2008 BOF CI meeting were discussed in committee. ADF&G staff answered questions to the percentage of fish they could be sure they counted. There answer was that maybe a 50/50 chance.

The BOF and the Department with the public present discussed and debated this issue just last year in the regularly cycled 2008 CI regulatory meeting. Proposals 139, 149, 330,331,332,333,334 were all discussed and some acted upon. The Board also discussed

5AAC 61.112 (5)(E) Proposal B, BGP at the March 3-9 Statewide King and Tanner Crab meeting. They did not take action on the invasive species proposal at that time.

Reviewing the table in Fishery Management Report No. 04-18 we see that in 2000 a sub note "c" *Low count due to timing, poor visibility or weather conditions.* We understand that this years weather conditions were also poor. We would have the Board note the difference between a; Single Aerial Survey (SAS) and Peak Aerial Survey (PAS).

The Board should note that the increase in opportunity to harvest kings under the 12,500 cap in 2008 did not increase the harvest on the Westside which remained about 3,000. Board members should also note that closures that include the *eastside fishery* are not fair and equitable. The Kenai Peninsula side of the Northern District averages the entire season less than 20% of the Westside catch.
We believe any discussion of *conservation* should include the subsistence fishery in the Tyonek area in both length of season and periods allowed to fish.

If the board were to consider the concepts of burden sharing we would ask that a record of how many Alexander King Salmon would now escape to Alexander Creek and is that percentage leaving the lost opportunity to the commercial fishery in the high 90% range? The benefit to sportfishing would increase by some percentage and the commercial fishery would not receive any direct compensation. This would be extremely unreasonable.

Finally we have to question the savings to the system as the main problem identified by ADF&G would seem to be pike infestation. Every lake and creek in the Alexander Creek and trail Creek drainage have documented Pike populations. Until a plan of action to eradicate or control invasive species is implemented, no increases of adults are going to make the necessary changes to increase productivity.

Thank You,

Paul A. Shadura II

43961 Kalifornsky Beach Road • Suite F • Soldotna, Alaska 99669
(907) 262-2492 • Fax: (907) 262-2898 • E Mail: kpfa@alaska.net

Table 9.-Westside Susitna River Management Unit Chinook salmon escapement index counts, 1979-2004.

Year	Alexander Creek	Deshka River Aerial	Deshka River Weir [g]	Peters Creek	Lake Creek	Talachulitna River	Cache Creek	Other Streams[b]	Aerial Total
1979	6,215	27,385		108	4,196	1,648	[a]	[a]	39,552
1980 [a]									
1981	[a]	[a]		[a]	[a]	2,025	[a]	[a]	2,025
1982	2,546	16,000		[a]	3,577	3,101	[a]	[a]	25,224
1983	3,755	19,237		2,272	7,075	10,014	497	[a]	42,850
1984	4,620	16,892		324	[a]	6,138	[a]	[a]	27,974
1985	6,241	18,151		2,901	5,803	5,145	206	485	38,932
1986	5,225	21,080		1,915	[a]	3,686	424	[a]	32,330
1987	2,152	15,028		1,302	4,898	[a]	556	[a]	23,936
1988	6,273	19,200		3,927	6,633	4,112	818	[a]	40,963
1989	3,497	[a]		959	[a]	[a]	362	[a]	4,818
1990	2,596	18,166		2,027	2,075	2,694	484	[a]	28,042
1991	2,727	8,112 [c]		2,458	3,011	2,457	499	161	19,425
1992	3,710	7,736		996	2,322	3,648	487	[a]	18,899
1993	2,763	5,769		1,668	2,869	3,269	1,690	[a]	18,028
1994	1,514	2,665		573	1,898	1,575	628	570	9,423
1995	2,090	5,150	10,048	1,041	3,017	2,521	1,601	408	15,828
1996	2,319	6,343	14,349	749	3,514	2,748	581	548	16,802
1997	5,598	19,047	35,587	2,637	3,841	4,494	1,774	1,046	38,437
1998	2,807	15,556	15,409 [f]	4,367	5,056	2,759	1,771	642	32,958
1999	3,974	12,904	29,649	3,298	2,877	4,890	1,720	597	30,260
2000	2,331 [c]	[a]	35,242	1,648	4,035	2,414	709	[a]	11,137
2001	2,282	[a]	29,004	4,226	4,661	3,309	624	[a]	15,102
2002	1,936	8,749	29,428	2,959	4,852	7,824	671	1,075	28,066
2003	2,012	[a]	39,496	3,998	8,153	9,573	558	[a]	24,294
2004	2,215	28,778	57,934	3,757	7,598	8,352	212	3,509	54,421
Mean	3,392	14,597	29,615	2,179	4,379	4,278	803	904	25,589
SEG [d]	2,100-6,000	[e]	13,000-28,000	1,000-2,600	2,500-7,100	2,200-5,000			

[a] No count conducted.

[b] May include Donkey Creek, Red Creek and other miscellaneous creeks.

[c] Low count due to timing, poor visibility or weather conditions.

[d] Sustainable escapement goal.

[e] Aerial escapement goal 1994-1998 was 11,200; revised for 1999 to 8,750; in 2002 aerial escapement goal was abolished.

[f] During 1998 weir count represents only half the return. High water delayed construction until June 16.

[g] Weir count, not an actual escapement count.

Table 2.–Current escapement goals, escapements observed from 2004 through 2007, and escapement goal recommendations in 2007 for Chinook, chum, coho, and sockeye salmon stocks of Upper Cook Inlet, Alaska.

System	Escapement Data [a]	Escapement Goal Type (BEG, SEG)	Escapement Goal Range	Escapements [b] 2004	2005	2006	Recommendation [c]
Chinook Salmon							
Alexander Creek	SAS	SEG	2,100–6,000	2,215	2,140	885	NC
Campbell Creek	SFS	SEG	50–700	964	1,097	1,052	Re-instated previous SEG
Chuitna River	SAS	SEG	1,200–2,900	2,938	1,307	1,911	NC
Chulitna River	SAS	SEG	1,800–5,100	2,162	2,838	2,862	NC
Clear (Chunilna) Creek	SAS	SEG	950–3,400	3,417	1,924	1,520	NC
Crooked Creek [d]	Weir	SEG	650–1,700	2,196	1,903	1,516	NC
Deshka River	Weir	BEG	13,000–28,000	57,934 [e]	37,725	31,150	NC
Eagle River-S. Fork	SFS	SEG	50–350	47	32 [f]	13 [f]	Drop goal
Goose Creek	SAS	SEG	250–650	417	468	306	NC
Kenai River - Early Run	Sonar	BEG	4,000–9,000	11,855	16,387	18,560 [g]	NC
Kenai River - Late Run	Sonar	BEG	17,800–35,700	40,198	26,046	24,843 [g]	NC
Lake Creek	SAS	SEG	2,500–7,100	7,598	6,345	5,300	NC
Lewis River	SAS	SEG	250–800	1,000	441	341	NC
Little Susitna River	SAS	SEG	900–1,800	1,694	2,095	1,855	NC
Little Willow Creek	SAS	SEG	450–1,800	2,227	1,784	816	NC
Montana Creek	SAS	SEG	1,100–3,100	2,117	2,600	1,850	NC
Peters Creek	SAS	SEG	1,000–2,600	3,757	1,508	1,114	NC
Prairie Creek	SAS	SEG	3,100–9,200	5,570	3,862	3,570	NC
Sheep Creek	SAS	SEG	600–1,200	285	760	580	NC
Talachulitna River	SAS	SEG	2,200–5,000	8,352	4,406	6,152	NC
Theodore River	SAS	SEG	500–1,700	491	478	958	NC
Willow Creek [d]	SAS	SEG	1,600–2,800	2,840	2,411	2,193	NC
Chum Salmon							
Clearwater Creek	PAS	SEG	3,800–8,400	3,900	530	500	NC

-continued-

Table 2.–Page 2 of 2.

System	Escapement Data [a]	Escapement Goal Type (BEG, SEG)	Escapement Goal Range	Escapements [b] 2004	2005	2006	Recommendation [c]
Coho Salmon							
Campbell Creek	SFS	SEG	100–500	713	1,130	542	Drop goal
Jim Creek [h]	SFS	SEG	450–700	4,652	1,464	2,389	NC
Little Susitna River	Weir	SEG	10,100–17,700	40,199	16,839	8,786 [i]	NC
Pink Salmon							
No stocks with an escapement goal							
Sockeye Salmon							
Crescent River	Sonar	BEG	30,000–70,000	103,000	125,000	92,000	NC
Fish Creek (Knik) [j]	Weir	SEG	20,000–70,000	20,465	12,051	26,712	NC
Kasilof River	Sonar	BEG	150,000–250,000	575,000	346,000	366,000	NC
Kenai River	Sonar	SEG	500,000–800,000	1,120,000	1,113,000	1,270,000 [k]	NC
Packers Creek	Weir	SEG	15,000–30,000	NS	25,516	NS	Re-instated previous SEG
Russian River - Early Run	Weir	SEG	14,000–37,000	56,582	52,903	80,524	NC
Russian River - Late Run	Weir	SEG	30,000–110,000	110,244	54,808	84,432	NC
Yentna River	Sonar	SEG	90,000–160,000	71,281	36,921	92,045	NC

[a] SAS = Single Aerial Survey, PAS = Peak Aerial Survey, SFS = Single Foot Survey.

[b] NS = No Survey. Fish required to meet broodstock needs, in addition to meeting escapement goal, include 250 Chinook salmon at Crooked Creek and Deception Creek; 500 Chinook salmon at Ship Creek; 150 coho salmon at Jim Creek; 1,000 coho salmon at Ship Creek; 10,000 sockeye salmon at the Kasilof River; and 5,000 sockeye salmon at Fish Creek.

[c] NC = No Change.

[d] Escapement of naturally produced fish only.

[e] Weir count. Historic harvest upstream of weir = 1,005 Chinook salmon during 2000–2003.

[f] Poor survey count due to timing, weather, or poor visibility.

[g] Actual estimates of escapement not available until fall 2008 pending results from the Statewide Harvest Survey.

[h] Foot survey of McRoberts Creek only, upon which the SEG is based.

[i] Incomplete weir count due to flooding.

[j] The goal represents total spawner abundance minus sockeye salmon taken for broodstock.

[k] Used preliminary estimate of sport harvest upstream of sonar.

Appendix B1.-Chinook salmon regulatory history for NCIMA waters.

Chinook salmon fishing in NCIMA waters was open from statehood through 1963. During 1964 through 1966 Chinook salmon fishing in fresh water was closed. During 1967 through 1970 Alexander Creek, Clear Creek, Deshka River and Lake Creek were open in their entirety. This fishery operated over a 15-day season during the middle of June on a 250 fish, over 20 inches in length, harvest quota system. Achievement of the quota may have resulted in early season closure. A 1 fish per day 2 per season bag limit for fish over 20 inches in length was in place and a punch card was a requirement of participation in the fishery. In 1971 the harvest quota was eliminated. During 1971 and 1972, in addition to the 15-day season in Alexander Creek, Deshka River, and Lake Creek, a more restrictive fishery was allowed (few days) in Clear Creek and portions of the Little Susitna River, Ship Creek (Anchorage) and Willow Creek; however, a punch card was still required. In 1973, the area Chinook salmon fishery was closed to the harvest of Chinook salmon 20 inches or larger in length and remained so through 1978.

Selected Susitna River streams were reopened to Chinook salmon fishing in 1979 after being closed for several years because of low stock abundance. Cautious incremental expansion has characterized the area's Chinook salmon fisheries since they reopened. From 1979 through 1982 Chinook salmon fishing was permitted at Alexander Creek, Lake Creek and at the Deshka River from the fourth Saturday in May through July 6. These streams drain into the Susitna River from the west. Clear Creek, a tributary of the Talkeetna River, also had a similar Chinook salmon season. In addition, three eastside tributaries of the Susitna River, Willow, Caswell and Montana creeks, were open on Saturdays and Sundays only for 4 consecutive weekends commencing on the second Saturday in June. Harvest quotas, ranging from 200 to 7,000 Chinook salmon, governed these fisheries from 1979 through 1982. The Chuitna River, a coastal stream near Beluga, and the entire Yentna and Talkeetna river drainages were opened to Chinook salmon fishing in 1983. The opening date for Chinook salmon fisheries that provided continuous daily fishing was also changed to January 1.

In 1984 the remaining coastal streams near Beluga and all waters draining into the westside of the Susitna River downstream from the Deshka River were opened to Chinook salmon fishing. In 1986, portions of five road-accessible streams on the east side of the Susitna River opened to weekend-only fishing. These streams were Little Willow, Goose, Sunshine, Sheep and Birch creeks.

Expanded Chinook salmon fishing opportunity continued in 1987 when Monday fishing was added to all former weekend-only fisheries that drain into the Susitna River from the east. Saturday through Monday fishing was also allowed on the Susitna River and all flowing waters within one-quarter mile of the Susitna River (excluding the Kashwitna River) between the Deshka and Talkeetna rivers. These "corridor" fisheries were open for 4 continuous "weekends" similar to the previously mentioned Saturday through Monday fisheries. Chinook salmon fishing was permitted for the first time on the Susitna River drainage upstream from the Susitna River's confluence with the Talkeetna River to Devils Canyon but excluding the Chulitna River drainage. Unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures were mandatory in this area. The season extended from January 1 through July 13. The season for all Susitna River and coastal fisheries that formerly closed on July 6 was extended to July 13 in 1987.

3. Action resulted in allowing the use of bait and provides for the retention of rainbow trout in the Willow Creek drainage lakes. The bag and possession limits in Shirley, Long, and Rainbow lakes are 2 per day and 2 in possession with only 1 over 20 inches in length. The bag and possession limits in Willow and Crystal lakes is 5 per day and 5 in possession with only 1 over 20 inches in length.
4. Action resulted in prohibiting the retention of rainbow trout in Canyon Creek and established special provisions allowing only the use of single-hook, unbaited, artificial lures in Canyon Creek.
5. Action resulted in prohibiting the retention of rainbow trout in flowing waters of West Cook Inlet and the Susitna River drainage from April 15 to June 14. This regulation applies to all flowing waters in these areas including Willow Creek.
6. Established a slot limit for northern pike in Alexander and Trapper lakes. No bag and possession limits are in effect for pike less than 22 inches in length. Northern pike between 22 inches and 30 inches in length may not be retained. The bag and possession limits for pike 30 inches or greater in length are 1 per day and 1 in possession. Additionally, the action taken for Alexander and Trapper lakes reduced the number of lines allowed when fishing through the ice for northern pike from 5 lines to 2 lines, and prohibited the use of spears and bow and arrows for taking of northern pike.
7. Action resulted in allowing the use of bow and arrow for taking northern pike in NCI waters.
8. Action resulted in eliminating the ¾-inch single-hook size restriction when fishing through the ice on select northern Cook Inlet lakes where 5 lines are allowed.
9. Action resulted in establishing a Dolly Varden size restriction. The regulation now allows for the retention of only 1 Dolly Varden greater than 12 inches in length to be retained per day. The bag limit remains 5 fish per day, with 5 in possession for all NCI and Anchorage area flowing waters.

February 1999 BOF Meeting

1. Proposal 261. The Deshka River will be open to king salmon fishing from its mouth upstream to Chijuk Creek a distance of approximately 19 river miles from January 1 to July 13. Other area regulations apply such as 1 fish per day bag and possession limits, a 5 fish seasonal limit, and once an angler harvests his or her king salmon they must quit fishing for king salmon the remainder of the day. Additionally fishing is allowed only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., no bait is allowed and guides cannot fish while guiding clients.
2. Proposal 273. The area open for retention of king salmon on Alexander Creek was extended from its mouth upstream to Trail Creek. This provides anglers with an additional 11 miles of stream from the 1997 and 1998 seasons in which they may harvest king salmon on Alexander Creek.

Appendix A1.–Data available for analysis of escapement goals, Alexander Creek Chinook salmon.

Year	Escapement [a]	Sport Harvest [b]
1974	2,193	
1975	1,878	
1976	5,412	
1977	9,246	
1978	5,854	
1979	6,215	712
1980		1,438
1981		1,121
1982	2,546	2,506
1983	3,755	1,711
1984	4,620	2,107
1985	6,241	2,761
1986	5,225	2,937
1987	2,152	2,224
1988	6,273	4,687
1989	3,497	4,882
1990	2,596	5,119
1991	2,727	6,548
1992	3,710	4,124
1993	2,763	5,154
1994	1,514	3,070
1995	2,090	1,217
1996	2,319	1,005
1997	5,598	1,470
1998	2,807	1,275
1999	3,974	2,241
2000	2,331	2,721
2001	2,282	2,313
2002	1,936	1,992
2003	2,012	2,293
2004	2,215	1,294
2005	2,140	1,052
2006	885	1,396

[a] Escapement not surveyed or monitored during years with no escapement value.

[b] From Statewide Harvest Survey (Jennings et al. 2007). Years with no harvest estimate occur because the escapement time series precedes the survey (begun in 1977) or harvest could not be estimated from survey data.

this fishery, which seem not to be strongly correlated with Northern District Chinook salmon run strength, can partly be attributed to (1) poor runs during the mid 1990s, and (2) allowing only one fishing period to occur in that area from 1 mile south of the Theodore River to the mouth of the Susitna River, and (3) limitations on gear. The doubling of the fishing time from 6 hours to 12 hours per period beginning in 2005 likely resulted in additional Chinook salmon being harvested, however, the current harvest levels remain significantly below the 12,500 cap placed on this fishery. The estimated Chinook salmon harvest for all of 2007 in the Northern District was 3,822 fish (Table 14; Appendix A1), which was approximately 17% greater than the average annual harvest from 1966–2006 and 60% more than the average annual harvest of approximately 2,400 during the previous 10 years. Nevertheless, the 2007 Northern District Chinook salmon harvest was 70% under the cap.

Table 2.–Upper Cook Inlet Northern District early season Chinook salmon fishery, 1986–2007.

Year	Chinook	Permits
1986	13,771	135
1987	11,541	129
1988	11,122	142
1989	11,068	137
1990	8,072	130
1991	6,305	140
1992	3,918	137
1993	3,072	80
1994	3,014	73
1995	3,837	65
1996	1,690	45
1997	894	51
1998	2,240	56
1999	2,259	51
2000	2,046	47
2001	1,616	43
2002	1,747	36
2003	1,172	29
2004	1,819	44
2005	3,150	52
2006	3,887	59
2007	3,132	62

In 2007, approximately 70% of UCI's Chinook salmon commercial harvest occurred in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery (Appendix A1). The estimated catch of 12,000 fish was approximately 20% greater than the average annual harvest of 10,200 fish from 1966–2006, yet only 8% above the previous 10-year (1997–2006) average annual harvest of 11,360 fish. The 2007 sonar estimate of late-run Chinook salmon passage in the Kenai River was 42,979, the 10th highest since 1987 (T. Eskelin, Sport Fish Biologist, ADF&G, Soldotna; personal communication November 8, 2007). Estimates of passage do not include harvests and mortalities that occur inriver, which are subtracted from the sonar estimates to determine if the Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) for this system was achieved. The current BEG for Kenai River late-run Chinook salmon is 17,800 to 35,700. The BEG for this stock has changed over the years, but since 1987,

Appendix A. 15. Subsistence fishery salmon harvest, Upper Cook Inlet, 1980-2008.

Tyonek Subsistence Fishery

Year	No. Permits	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1980	67	1,757	235	0	0	0	1,992
1981	70	2,002	269	64	32	15	2,382
1982	69	1,590	310	113	14	4	2,031
1983	75	2,665	187	59	0	6	2,917
1984	75	2,200	266	79	3	23	2,571
1985	76	1,472	164	91	0	10	1,737
1986	65	1,676	203	223	50	46	2,198
1987	64	1,610	166	149	10	24	1,959
1988	47	1,587	91	253	8	12	1,951
1989	49	1,250	85	115	0	1	1,451
1990	42	781	66	352	20	12	1,231
1991	57	902	26	58	0	0	986
1992	57	907	75	234	7	19	1,242
1993	62	1,370	57	77	19	17	1,540
1994	49	770	85	101	0	22	978
1995	55	1,317	45	153	0	15	1,530
1996	49	1,039	68	137	21	7	1,272
1997	42	639	101	137	0	8	885
1998	74	978	163	64	1	2	1,208
1999	76	1,230	144	94	32	11	1,511
2000	60	1,157	63	87	6	0	1,313
2001	84	976	172	49	4	6	1,207
2002	102	1,080	209	115	9	4	1,417
2003	91	1,183	111	44	7	10	1,355
2004	97	1,345	93	130	0	0	1,568
2005	81	720	60	104	0	2	886
2006	81	904	21	36	0	0	961
2007		1,275	327	604	16	11	2,233
2008	89	708	54	119	7	3	891

May 15 - June 15

Tyonek Subsistence

SUBMITTED PAUL A SHANAHAN

KC 88

NORTHERN COOK INLET SPORT FISHERIES

Susitna Basin Northern Pike Studies

Northern pike are not indigenous to the NCIMA. They were illegally introduced into this area during the early 1950s. Since then, northern pike have been reported in nearly 70 lakes and more than a dozen tributaries of the Susitna River. Prior to 1992 several of these lakes consistently produced fish in the trophy class range. Northern pike weighing up to 20 lbs. were commonly caught with fish occasionally weighing over 30 lbs.

Listing of Confirmed and Reported Northern Pike Waters in Southcentral Alaska

The harvest of northern pike in the NCIMA numbered less than 200 fish, which barely accounted for 1% of the statewide harvest of northern pike when the SWHS was initiated in 1977. Northern pike harvests slowly increased through 1983 when the harvest totaled less than 1,000 fish. Since 1984 the harvest of northern pike has greatly increased. The average harvest during 1984-1987 was 1,916 while 1988-1991 averaged 3,946 fish. The harvest of northern pike increased at an annual rate of about 23% from 1977 through 1991. The highest reported harvest of 6,640 fish occurred in 1991. Though northern pike harvests have decreased since 1991, the catch nearly doubled from 1990 to 1993. This may indicate that the size of harvested pike may be decreasing. This became evident in 1994 when the overall catch dropped to a 5-year low of 8,252 fish, a decrease of 76% from the previous year's 34,218 catch. The decrease in both catch and harvest is probably the result of reduced availability of large pike. Anglers prefer to fish for large pike and once the large (old) fish have been removed anglers quickly loose interest in pursuing the remaining fish.

Northern pike are well known for their voracious appetites. In Alaska there is a growing concern by commercial fishermen, recreational anglers and fishery managers that northern pike predation on chinook, coho and sockeye salmon as well as rainbow trout may adversely impact these stocks during a period in which they are subject to increasing harvest. Many people favor eradicating northern pike to reduce their impact on other resident fish species. Studies have shown that in several Susitna Basin streams there is an overlap between salmonid and northern pike habitat. Juvenile salmon stocks (mostly coho salmon) can be quickly eliminated by northern pike predation. In addition, the decimation of rainbow trout and grayling stocks within some of these systems has also been attributed to northern pike predation. Northern pike prefer soft rayed fish as a food source. This was evident with northern pike sampled in Hewitt, Moose, Indian and Witso creeks where sockeye salmon, rainbow trout and coho salmon juveniles were preferred over stickleback. Once preferred food items have been depleted, northern pike quickly adapt to alternative sources such

as insects.

Although there are concerns regarding the impact on salmon and rainbow trout stocks as a result of northern pike predation, many recreational anglers welcome a healthy pike population as they provide increased recreational opportunities during the entire year. Throughout literature there is a history of over exploitation of northern pike due to increasing recreational harvests. Even though the northern pike sport fishery in Upper Cook Inlet is fairly new, the performance of this fishery already suggests over exploitation as evidenced by the lack of large (old) fish. However, a management scheme to produce large pike may be detrimental to indigenous resident species and salmonid populations. Management strategies for Northern pike widely vary. Salmon anglers worried that pike predation will decimate salmon populations would like to see northern pike completely removed from the system In contrast, some pike anglers would like to see us liberalize regulations to allow them to harvest as many pike as allow pike to grow large. Nearly all the pike fishing in Northern Cook Inlet is conducted on lake populations. Other than northern pike there are virtually no other species of fish left in these lakes. By liberalizing pike regulations in these lakes we are only removing large fish which are cannibalistic in nature, and therefore maybe enhancing the population of smaller pike. Lake population of native species will not rebound as long as pike populations exist, therefore in the future it may be necessary to focus our attention on reducing riverine stocks of northern pike, and possibly managing lake populations to produce larger pike.

For more information on this project, please contact:
Dave Rutz (907) 746-6300

PWS Shrimp Positions Gordon Scott March 20, 2009

RE: Committee B report RC 52

RC 83

I support passage of a Spot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.

Management Issues

Comment about middle Page 3 : Department comments about boundary areas and stat areas. How difficult would it be to manage by stat areas compared to by the boundary areas referenced by the proposed rotating area plan? The 3 areas were drawn by the department so that they would each contain several of their shrimp survey points. And to attempt to "equalize" the areas. So it appears they want to manage each area based upon their several survey points within the area. Of course this would be coupled with reported catch data. They state that they do not have enough data to manage by stat area. Inferred from their testimony is that they do not have survey points in each stat area, therefore not enough data to manage.

Shrimp have been classified as not very mobile – do not travel long distances. There are approximately a dozen "survey sites". It would probably be true that each site only represents information related to the shrimp population within a very few miles. There is data from old fish tickets that should be usable by fish and game. They say they are going to use CPUE data from fisheries to help manage. I think that CPUE data related to stat areas would be more relevant to localized non-migratory population status than data from distant survey points (where the effort is from 1 or 2 days a year). Perhaps there should be more survey points established. And even if there is no usable data from the past fisheries, there will be new data from this time forward to use – from every stat area that is fished.

For instance: is it right that Montague Straights be closed because of poor stocks in Knight Island Passage, or Port Wells closed because Port Nellie Juan stocks are depressed, etc?

I would like to hear further explanation of how the fishery could be managed by stat area, and why that would be worse than managing by remote survey points, and how CPUE data can or can not be used to help manage the fishery, by stat area or whatever means.

Rotating Areas: Please do not support them

With the rotating areas, commercial fishing pressure will be concentrated in limited areas, causing more frenzied competition, gear loss, safety factors with overcrowded anchorages. But more importantly, it will work to depress localized stocks. And then create a period of recovery (during which the noncommercial effort will keep further pressure on the stocks.) If the lion's share of the allocation goes to the noncommercial fisheries, as a person representing commercial fishing interests, I am very concerned that the proposed plan allows the noncommercial fisheries to continually deplete the stocks that the commercial fishery depends on. It seems like the noncommercial fisheries should only be allowed to fish rotating areas. I am concerned that if they are left without boundaries, they will deplete local stocks.

The stock would be better served by having steady pressure over the whole sound. The fishery would be much more orderly, and the stocks would not suffer cyclical severe local depletion, and would not be subject to large annual swings in the catches and the CPUE's. Data would be easier to compare: from year to year and from area to area.

The near port commercial exclusion zones were offered to give the noncommercial fishers areas that were untouched by commercial users. Perhaps it should be set up the opposite way..

Allocation Please increase the Commercial Allocation

Every fishery is different. This fishery was begun as a commercial fishery long ago. And it is well documented that it collapsed. The reason we have had such an allocative imbalance in recent years is the Department's inability to address management while it was rebounding. Noncommercial fishers are filling freezers with shrimp. And are now claiming the resource is theirs. Most of these noncommercial fishers are not local residents of the PWS communities. And the small boat commercial fleet which is largely comprised of local PWS community taxpaying citizens is being asked to take a back seat. With all the exceptional circumstances around this fishery, there is still no reason I can think of that noncommercial should get a larger piece of the pie than the commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen allow access to the resource by all Alaskans, not just those who own a boat and can get it to Prince William Sound. This also provides an outlet to support the commercial fishing economy. No one will get rich on this fishery. It gives another opportunity for commercial fishermen to diversify in hard times. And it does not reduce opportunity one bit to noncommercial fishermen.

Minimum Threshold Remove clause, or set between 89,000 and 90,000 lbs.

(See attached spreadsheet)

During Committee B session, at the very end there was a very quick mention of a minimum threshold to begin a commercial fishery. There was no opportunity for discussion about it. 150,000 lbs was mentioned. And the committee report reflects 110,000 lbs of total allowable harvest as the threshold. Discussion with ADFG staff about this revealed that using the model and projecting it backwards to the early 80's using all documented removals never shows a value of the surplus production higher than 104,500 pounds – even back in the 80's. And the department has showed graphs and given verbal input that in recent years that the CPUE and the catch are increasing by approximately 10% per year. However this model chart is showing that since 2003-2004 SP not increasing. I can not interpret the model's backwards application with impunity, but on the surface it appears to me that the model's surplus production output may not ever reach the 122,000 lb mark that would be required for a TAH of 110,000 lbs with the applied 90% confidence level.

The departments survey data does seem relevant to the abundance, with the reported catches exceeding 2 pounds per pot. This is consistent with reported catches from many fishermen recently. These catches are better than the catches during the 80's, by a factor of approximately 2. Historically CPUE was around 1 pound of whole shrimp per pot.

At this time ADFG surveys, observed catches, hearsay, and public testimony to this Board all seem to say the same thing: that PWS Spot shrimp fishing has never been as good as it is now. The shrimp stock may be increasing at this time, but it is VERY HEALTHY.

The TAH threshold clause should not be included in this Plan, or it should be set at a number around 90,000 lbs (equivalent to "Surplus Production" of 100,000 lbs). It must be recognized that the TAH is 90% of this "Surplus Production" output number output from the model.

I would prefer that the threshold clause should be removed from the plan, as the model will ensure a conservative total allowable catch. It would be good during slow times (when they may occur) to have continuing CPUE data to help measure the fishery, and to ensure that enough data is included in the model for accurate assessment. I have been told that all removal data are used to input to the model, and that the more data you put in, the more representative the output is.

I support the opening of the commercial fishery because the Department has expressed ultra conservative management measures being implemented in the Schaeffer model.

Using 90% confidence level, not 95%, to set harvest

Only documented landings put into the model

Missing 1980-1994 subsistence,

Missing ADFG survay catches pre 1992

Late 2000's reported catch adjusted upwards

Experimentally substituting the "Surplus Production" output into the model for the actual catches in the 80's, only produced an increase of "around 3000 lbs" to the current output of the model., per Department personnel (This is another reason for lowering the "Threshhold value" for the fishery. It seems like we may never see a "Surplus Production" high enough to trigger a commercial fishery if the TAH threshold is 110,000 lbs.

Commercial closed areas. Support Option on Page 8, RC-22

This ensures that non-commercial users have a place to fish near ports that will not be affected by commercial harvesters. Areas closest to ports are adequate. There is no need to expand these areas to give noncommercial fisheries exclusive access to grounds further away from ports. If vessels are capable of traveling further than the areas near ports, and commercial fishers (or noncommercial) are in their favorite spot, they will be able to travel to a nearby spot easily. They will be able to fish wherever they want almost all of the time, assuming the commercial openings will be short in time.

Commercial pot limit cap Set at 100 or more

Consideration for raising it to 100 from 50 is appreciated. This will assist in allowing the commercial fishery to be an economically viable endeavor, especially when traveling to the further areas of the Sound. With it possible that there can be few commercial registrations, this will make the commercial fishery easier to prosecute. In the future this can be adjusted to be more even with other similar fisheries.

8 hours per day. Please allow 6am to 10pm, or restrict to pulling once per day.

8am to 4pm restriction will sometimes create safety problems due to weather, and the need to travel all night to and from ports. And it will also damage the resource when pots are left in the water, and one cannot get to them in time to pull them any day due to the time restriction. Octopus predation of captured shrimp increases markedly if the pots are not pulled regularly.

Vessel Inspection points

Should Chenega and Tatitlek be included in the list, or be incorporated by some general reference?

Reporting RequirementsSection (c)

Could there be some language in there that allowed an owner or operator to make arrangements with ADFG personnel to have their referenced phone call on a different day, either seasonally, or on a week by week basis? Cell phone coverage may make this difficult to comply with as written. (Or does this language as written allow this phone call on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday?)

Noncommercial Fishery management notes:

Page 10 section 3 (iii)

Should this read "no more than five pots per household....." consistent with many other fisheries in the State.

Year	Catch	Surplus Production
1981	153,017	
1982	205,746	102,960
1983	198,719	102,090
1985	271,928	99,664
1986	286,105	96,560
1987	265,707	89,179
1988	191,630	78,019
1989	28,949	64,554
1990	36,619	53,871
1991	17,535	56,066
1992	180	57,745
1993	76	61,122
1994	4,859	66,000
1995	5,715	70,948
1996	4,225	75,567
1997	4,623	80,078
1998	3,140	84,542
1999	4,406	88,759
2000	4,653	92,721
2001	9,421	96,205
2002	9,841	99,173
2003	14,494	101,445
2004	26,818	103,112
2005	35,021	104,100
2006	41,034	104,459
2007	54,905	104,383
		103,984

Motion for Board Generated Proposal

RC 84

I move the board generate and advertise a proposal to change the Southeast Alaska sport limit for sablefish to 4 per day, for all users, and for an annual limit for nonresidents of eight.

RC 85

I move for a Board generated proposal to close the 5AAC 21.366 Northern District set gillnet king salmon fishery until the first Monday on or after June 10. This closure will be in effect for the 2009 and 2010 fishing seasons. At the Upper Cook Inlet BOF meeting in Feb/March 2011, the BOF asks ADF&G to present a report on the status of the Alexander Lake king stock, progress made in eradication of Northern pike from the system, and have recommendations and an action plan on how to continue addressing the conservation concerns of Alexander Lake stocks. Further regulatory action, if deemed necessary, can be discussed at that time

RC 86

Dear Board members,

The Kenai –Soldotna AC is concerned about area 2 described in proposal 44a. The proposal amendment we received did not show the boundaries for this area very clear. It was presented to us in a very poor fashion. It was not clear on the western boundaries of area 2. The college fiord wells passage area is a popular area for the small boat operator to shrimp. When area 2 is opened we feel that this area will get hammered by the commercial fishery. We would like to see the western boundary as a straight line south from the western edge of Perry Island. This commercial closure would include Culross Island, Passage Canal, Port Wells, College Fiord, Harriman fiord, Port Nellie Juan and Kings Bay. Any future overharvest in these areas could cause a severe loss of opportunity to the non commercial fisheries. This does not include all the areas which are being utilized by the sport and subsistence users. However these are the areas which a majority of the current users utilize. These areas are very important for the current user group.

Mike Crawford

Chairman Kenai Soldotna AC

Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association

Ensuring the Sustainability of Our Fishery Resources

43961 Kalifornsky Beach Road • Suite F • Soldotna, Alaska 99669-8276
(907) 262-2492 • Fax: (907) 262-2898 • E Mail: kpfa@alaska.net

RC 87

March 20, 2009

ATTN: BOF Comments
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Boards Support Section
Chair, John Jensen
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Subject: Emergency Petition, Alexander Creek King Salmon stocks

Chairman Jensen, Members of the Board;

KPFA is a commercial fishing advocate organization that supports commercial setnet fishing within the waters of Cook Inlet.

We **Oppose** the acceptance of this petition as an emergency. We believe that the regulations for assessing a stock of concern clearly remain within the responsibility of the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).

Current assessment by random *fly bys* does not constitute *best available science* practices. The board should be reminded by the Department of the aerial surveys performed on the Anchor River. Erroneously triggering a *stock of concern,* previous helicopter overviews indices of 200-1000 King Salmon spawners. Improving the system by implementing a weir more accurately reflected the count to 5,000 to 12,000. Dramatic indeed!

Confidence levels of aerial surveys in the 2008 BOF CI meeting were discussed in committee. ADF&G staff answered questions to the percentage of fish they could be sure they counted. There answer was that maybe a 50/50 chance.

The BOF and the Department with the public present discussed and debated this issue just last year in the regularly cycled 2008 CI regulatory meeting. Proposals 139, 149, 330,331,332,333,334 were all discussed and some acted upon. The Board also discussed

5AAC 61.112 (5)(E) Proposal B, BGP at the March 3-9 Statewide King and Tanner Crab meeting. They did not take action on the invasive species proposal at that time.

Reviewing the table in Fishery Management Report No. 04-18 we see that in 2000 a sub note "c" *Low count due to timing, poor visibility or weather conditions.* We understand that this years weather conditions were also poor. We would have the Board note the difference between a; Single Aerial Survey (SAS) and Peak Aerial Survey (PAS).

The Board should note that the increase in opportunity to harvest kings under the 12,500 cap in 2008 did not increase the harvest on the Westside which remained about 3,000. Board members should also note that closures that include the *eastside fishery* are not fair and equitable. The Kenai Peninsula side of the Northern District averages the entire season less than 20% of the Westside catch.
We believe any discussion of *conservation* should include the subsistence fishery in the Tyonek area in both length of season and periods allowed to fish.

If the board were to consider the concepts of burden sharing we would ask that a record of how many Alexander King Salmon would now escape to Alexander Creek and is that percentage leaving the lost opportunity to the commercial fishery in the high 90% range? The benefit to sportfishing would increase by some percentage and the commercial fishery would not receive any direct compensation. This would be extremely unreasonable.

Finally we have to question the savings to the system as the main problem identified by ADF&G would seem to be pike infestation. Every lake and creek in the Alexander Creek and trail Creek drainage have documented Pike populations. Until a plan of action to eradicate or control invasive species is implemented, no increases of adults are going to make the necessary changes to increase productivity.

Thank You,

Paul A. Shadura II

43961 Kalifornsky Beach Road • Suite F • Soldotna, Alaska 99669
(907) 262-2492 • Fax: (907) 262-2898 • E Mail: kpfa@alaska.net

Table 9.-Westside Susitna River Management Unit Chinook salmon escapement index counts, 1979-2004.

Year	Alexander Creek	Deshka River Aerial	Deshka River Weir [g]	Peters Creek	Lake Creek	Talachulitna River	Cache Creek	Other Streams[b]	Aerial Total
1979	6,215	27,385		108	4,196	1,648	[a]	[a]	39,552
1980 [a]									
1981	[a]	[a]		[a]	[a]	2,025	[a]	[a]	2,025
1982	2,546	16,000		[a]	3,577	3,101	[a]	[a]	25,224
1983	3,755	19,237		2,272	7,075	10,014	497	[a]	42,850
1984	4,620	16,892		324	[a]	6,138	[a]	[a]	27,974
1985	6,241	18,151		2,901	5,803	5,145	206	485	38,932
1986	5,225	21,080		1,915	[a]	3,686	424	[a]	32,330
1987	2,152	15,028		1,302	4,898	[a]	556	[a]	23,936
1988	6,273	19,200		3,927	6,633	4,112	818	[a]	40,963
1989	3,497	[a]		959	[a]	[a]	362	[a]	4,818
1990	2,596	18,166		2,027	2,075	2,694	484	[a]	28,042
1991	2,727	8,112 [c]		2,458	3,011	2,457	499	161	19,425
1992	3,710	7,736		996	2,322	3,648	487	[a]	18,899
1993	2,763	5,769		1,668	2,869	3,269	1,690	[a]	18,028
1994	1,514	2,665		573	1,898	1,575	628	570	9,423
1995	2,090	5,150	10,048	1,041	3,017	2,521	1,601	408	15,828
1996	2,319	6,343	14,349	749	3,514	2,748	581	548	16,802
1997	5,598	19,047	35,587	2,637	3,841	4,494	1,774	1,046	38,437
1998	2,807	15,556	15,409 [f]	4,367	5,056	2,759	1,771	642	32,958
1999	3,974	12,904	29,649	3,298	2,877	4,890	1,720	597	30,260
2000	2,331 [c]	[a]	35,242	1,648	4,035	2,414	709	[a]	11,137
2001	2,282	[a]	29,004	4,226	4,661	3,309	624	[a]	15,102
2002	1,936	8,749	29,428	2,959	4,852	7,824	671	1,075	28,066
2003	2,012	[a]	39,496	3,998	8,153	9,573	558	[a]	24,294
2004	2,215	28,778	57,934	3,757	7,598	8,352	212	3,509	54,421
Mean	3,392	14,597	29,615	2,179	4,379	4,278	803	904	25,589
SEG [d]	2,100-6,000	[e]	13,000-28,000	1,000-2,600	2,500-7,100	2,200-5,000			

[a] No count conducted.

[b] May include Donkey Creek, Red Creek and other miscellaneous creeks.

[c] Low count due to timing, poor visibility or weather conditions.

[d] Sustainable escapement goal.

[e] Aerial escapement goal 1994-1998 was 11,200; revised for 1999 to 8,750; in 2002 aerial escapement goal was abolished.

[f] During 1998 weir count represents only half the return. High water delayed construction until June 16.

[g] Weir count, not an actual escapement count.

Table 2.–Current escapement goals, escapements observed from 2004 through 2007, and escapement goal recommendations in 2007 for Chinook, chum, coho, and sockeye salmon stocks of Upper Cook Inlet, Alaska.

System	Escapement Data [a]	Escapement Goal Type (BEG, SEG)	Escapement Goal Range	Escapements [b] 2004	2005	2006	Recommendation [c]
Chinook Salmon							
Alexander Creek	SAS	SEG	2,100–6,000	2,215	2,140	885	NC
Campbell Creek	SFS	SEG	50–700	964	1,097	1,052	Re-instated previous SEG
Chuitna River	SAS	SEG	1,200–2,900	2,938	1,307	1,911	NC
Chulitna River	SAS	SEG	1,800–5,100	2,162	2,838	2,862	NC
Clear (Chunilna) Creek	SAS	SEG	950–3,400	3,417	1,924	1,520	NC
Crooked Creek [d]	Weir	SEG	650–1,700	2,196	1,903	1,516	NC
Deshka River	Weir	BEG	13,000–28,000	57,934 [e]	37,725	31,150	NC
Eagle River-S. Fork	SFS	SEG	50–350	47	32 [f]	13 [f]	Drop goal
Goose Creek	SAS	SEG	250–650	417	468	306	NC
Kenai River - Early Run	Sonar	BEG	4,000–9,000	11,855	16,387	18,560 [g]	NC
Kenai River - Late Run	Sonar	BEG	17,800–35,700	40,198	26,046	24,843 [g]	NC
Lake Creek	SAS	SEG	2,500–7,100	7,598	6,345	5,300	NC
Lewis River	SAS	SEG	250–800	1,000	441	341	NC
Little Susitna River	SAS	SEG	900–1,800	1,694	2,095	1,855	NC
Little Willow Creek	SAS	SEG	450–1,800	2,227	1,784	816	NC
Montana Creek	SAS	SEG	1,100–3,100	2,117	2,600	1,850	NC
Peters Creek	SAS	SEG	1,000–2,600	3,757	1,508	1,114	NC
Prairie Creek	SAS	SEG	3,100–9,200	5,570	3,862	3,570	NC
Sheep Creek	SAS	SEG	600–1,200	285	760	580	NC
Talachulitna River	SAS	SEG	2,200–5,000	8,352	4,406	6,152	NC
Theodore River	SAS	SEG	500–1,700	491	478	958	NC
Willow Creek [d]	SAS	SEG	1,600–2,800	2,840	2,411	2,193	NC
Chum Salmon							
Clearwater Creek	PAS	SEG	3,800–8,400	3,900	530	500	NC

-continued-

Table 2.–Page 2 of 2.

System	Escapement Data [a]	Escapement Goal Type (BEG, SEG)	Escapement Goal Range	Escapements [b] 2004	2005	2006	Recommendation [c]
Coho Salmon							
Campbell Creek	SFS	SEG	100–500	713	1,130	542	Drop goal
Jim Creek [h]	SFS	SEG	450–700	4,652	1,464	2,389	NC
Little Susitna River	Weir	SEG	10,100–17,700	40,199	16,839	8,786 [i]	NC
Pink Salmon							
No stocks with an escapement goal							
Sockeye Salmon							
Crescent River	Sonar	BEG	30,000–70,000	103,000	125,000	92,000	NC
Fish Creek (Knik) [j]	Weir	SEG	20,000–70,000	20,465	12,051	26,712	NC
Kasilof River	Sonar	BEG	150,000–250,000	575,000	346,000	366,000	NC
Kenai River	Sonar	SEG	500,000–800,000	1,120,000	1,113,000	1,270,000 [k]	NC
Packers Creek	Weir	SEG	15,000–30,000	NS	25,516	NS	Re-instated previous SEG
Russian River - Early Run	Weir	SEG	14,000–37,000	56,582	52,903	80,524	NC
Russian River - Late Run	Weir	SEG	30,000–110,000	110,244	54,808	84,432	NC
Yentna River	Sonar	SEG	90,000–160,000	71,281	36,921	92,045	NC

[a] SAS = Single Aerial Survey, PAS = Peak Aerial Survey, SFS = Single Foot Survey.

[b] NS = No Survey. Fish required to meet broodstock needs, in addition to meeting escapement goal, include 250 Chinook salmon at Crooked Creek and Deception Creek; 500 Chinook salmon at Ship Creek; 150 coho salmon at Jim Creek; 1,000 coho salmon at Ship Creek; 10,000 sockeye salmon at the Kasilof River; and 5,000 sockeye salmon at Fish Creek.

[c] NC = No Change.

[d] Escapement of naturally produced fish only.

[e] Weir count. Historic harvest upstream of weir = 1,005 Chinook salmon during 2000–2003.

[f] Poor survey count due to timing, weather, or poor visibility.

[g] Actual estimates of escapement not available until fall 2008 pending results from the Statewide Harvest Survey.

[h] Foot survey of McRoberts Creek only, upon which the SEG is based.

[i] Incomplete weir count due to flooding.

[j] The goal represents total spawner abundance minus sockeye salmon taken for broodstock.

[k] Used preliminary estimate of sport harvest upstream of sonar.

Appendix B1.-Chinook salmon regulatory history for NCIMA waters.

Chinook salmon fishing in NCIMA waters was open from statehood through 1963. During 1964 through 1966 Chinook salmon fishing in fresh water was closed. During 1967 through 1970 Alexander Creek, Clear Creek, Deshka River and Lake Creek were open in their entirety. This fishery operated over a 15-day season during the middle of June on a 250 fish, over 20 inches in length, harvest quota system. Achievement of the quota may have resulted in early season closure. A 1 fish per day 2 per season bag limit for fish over 20 inches in length was in place and a punch card was a requirement of participation in the fishery. In 1971 the harvest quota was eliminated. During 1971 and 1972, in addition to the 15-day season in Alexander Creek, Deshka River, and Lake Creek, a more restrictive fishery was allowed (few days) in Clear Creek and portions of the Little Susitna River, Ship Creek (Anchorage) and Willow Creek; however, a punch card was still required. In 1973, the area Chinook salmon fishery was closed to the harvest of Chinook salmon 20 inches or larger in length and remained so through 1978.

Selected Susitna River streams were reopened to Chinook salmon fishing in 1979 after being closed for several years because of low stock abundance. Cautious incremental expansion has characterized the area's Chinook salmon fisheries since they reopened. From 1979 through 1982 Chinook salmon fishing was permitted at Alexander Creek, Lake Creek and at the Deshka River from the fourth Saturday in May through July 6. These streams drain into the Susitna River from the west. Clear Creek, a tributary of the Talkeetna River, also had a similar Chinook salmon season. In addition, three eastside tributaries of the Susitna River, Willow, Caswell and Montana creeks, were open on Saturdays and Sundays only for 4 consecutive weekends commencing on the second Saturday in June. Harvest quotas, ranging from 200 to 7,000 Chinook salmon, governed these fisheries from 1979 through 1982. The Chuitna River, a coastal stream near Beluga, and the entire Yentna and Talkeetna river drainages were opened to Chinook salmon fishing in 1983. The opening date for Chinook salmon fisheries that provided continuous daily fishing was also changed to January 1.

In 1984 the remaining coastal streams near Beluga and all waters draining into the westside of the Susitna River downstream from the Deshka River were opened to Chinook salmon fishing. In 1986, portions of five road-accessible streams on the east side of the Susitna River opened to weekend-only fishing. These streams were Little Willow, Goose, Sunshine, Sheep and Birch creeks.

Expanded Chinook salmon fishing opportunity continued in 1987 when Monday fishing was added to all former weekend-only fisheries that drain into the Susitna River from the east. Saturday through Monday fishing was also allowed on the Susitna River and all flowing waters within one-quarter mile of the Susitna River (excluding the Kashwitna River) between the Deshka and Talkeetna rivers. These "corridor" fisheries were open for 4 continuous "weekends" similar to the previously mentioned Saturday through Monday fisheries. Chinook salmon fishing was permitted for the first time on the Susitna River drainage upstream from the Susitna River's confluence with the Talkeetna River to Devils Canyon but excluding the Chulitna River drainage. Unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures were mandatory in this area. The season extended from January 1 through July 13. The season for all Susitna River and coastal fisheries that formerly closed on July 6 was extended to July 13 in 1987.

3. Action resulted in allowing the use of bait and provides for the retention of rainbow trout in the Willow Creek drainage lakes. The bag and possession limits in Shirley, Long, and Rainbow lakes are 2 per day and 2 in possession with only 1 over 20 inches in length. The bag and possession limits in Willow and Crystal lakes is 5 per day and 5 in possession with only 1 over 20 inches in length.
4. Action resulted in prohibiting the retention of rainbow trout in Canyon Creek and established special provisions allowing only the use of single-hook, unbaited, artificial lures in Canyon Creek.
5. Action resulted in prohibiting the retention of rainbow trout in flowing waters of West Cook Inlet and the Susitna River drainage from April 15 to June 14. This regulation applies to all flowing waters in these areas including Willow Creek.
6. Established a slot limit for northern pike in Alexander and Trapper lakes. No bag and possession limits are in effect for pike less than 22 inches in length. Northern pike between 22 inches and 30 inches in length may not be retained. The bag and possession limits for pike 30 inches or greater in length are 1 per day and 1 in possession. Additionally, the action taken for Alexander and Trapper lakes reduced the number of lines allowed when fishing through the ice for northern pike from 5 lines to 2 lines, and prohibited the use of spears and bow and arrows for taking of northern pike.
7. Action resulted in allowing the use of bow and arrow for taking northern pike in NCI waters.
8. Action resulted in eliminating the ¾-inch single-hook size restriction when fishing through the ice on select northern Cook Inlet lakes where 5 lines are allowed.
9. Action resulted in establishing a Dolly Varden size restriction. The regulation now allows for the retention of only 1 Dolly Varden greater than 12 inches in length to be retained per day. The bag limit remains 5 fish per day, with 5 in possession for all NCI and Anchorage area flowing waters.

February 1999 BOF Meeting

1. Proposal 261. The Deshka River will be open to king salmon fishing from its mouth upstream to Chijuk Creek a distance of approximately 19 river miles from January 1 to July 13. Other area regulations apply such as 1 fish per day bag and possession limits, a 5 fish seasonal limit, and once an angler harvests his or her king salmon they must quit fishing for king salmon the remainder of the day. Additionally fishing is allowed only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., no bait is allowed and guides cannot fish while guiding clients.
2. Proposal 273. The area open for retention of king salmon on Alexander Creek was extended from its mouth upstream to Trail Creek. This provides anglers with an additional 11 miles of stream from the 1997 and 1998 seasons in which they may harvest king salmon on Alexander Creek.

Appendix A1.–Data available for analysis of escapement goals, Alexander Creek Chinook salmon.

Year	Escapement [a]	Sport Harvest [b]
1974	2,193	
1975	1,878	
1976	5,412	
1977	9,246	
1978	5,854	
1979	6,215	712
1980		1,438
1981		1,121
1982	2,546	2,506
1983	3,755	1,711
1984	4,620	2,107
1985	6,241	2,761
1986	5,225	2,937
1987	2,152	2,224
1988	6,273	4,687
1989	3,497	4,882
1990	2,596	5,119
1991	2,727	6,548
1992	3,710	4,124
1993	2,763	5,154
1994	1,514	3,070
1995	2,090	1,217
1996	2,319	1,005
1997	5,598	1,470
1998	2,807	1,275
1999	3,974	2,241
2000	2,331	2,721
2001	2,282	2,313
2002	1,936	1,992
2003	2,012	2,293
2004	2,215	1,294
2005	2,140	1,052
2006	885	1,396

[a] Escapement not surveyed or monitored during years with no escapement value.

[b] From Statewide Harvest Survey (Jennings et al. 2007). Years with no harvest estimate occur because the escapement time series precedes the survey (begun in 1977) or harvest could not be estimated from survey data.

this fishery, which seem not to be strongly correlated with Northern District Chinook salmon run strength, can partly be attributed to (1) poor runs during the mid 1990s, and (2) allowing only one fishing period to occur in that area from 1 mile south of the Theodore River to the mouth of the Susitna River, and (3) limitations on gear. The doubling of the fishing time from 6 hours to 12 hours per period beginning in 2005 likely resulted in additional Chinook salmon being harvested, however, the current harvest levels remain significantly below the 12,500 cap placed on this fishery. The estimated Chinook salmon harvest for all of 2007 in the Northern District was 3,822 fish (Table 14; Appendix A1), which was approximately 17% greater than the average annual harvest from 1966–2006 and 60% more than the average annual harvest of approximately 2,400 during the previous 10 years. Nevertheless, the 2007 Northern District Chinook salmon harvest was 70% under the cap.

Table 2.–Upper Cook Inlet Northern District early season Chinook salmon fishery, 1986–2007.

Year	Chinook	Permits
1986	13,771	135
1987	11,541	129
1988	11,122	142
1989	11,068	137
1990	8,072	130
1991	6,305	140
1992	3,918	137
1993	3,072	80
1994	3,014	73
1995	3,837	65
1996	1,690	45
1997	894	51
1998	2,240	56
1999	2,259	51
2000	2,046	47
2001	1,616	43
2002	1,747	36
2003	1,172	29
2004	1,819	44
2005	3,150	52
2006	3,887	59
2007	3,132	62

In 2007, approximately 70% of UCI's Chinook salmon commercial harvest occurred in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery (Appendix A1). The estimated catch of 12,000 fish was approximately 20% greater than the average annual harvest of 10,200 fish from 1966–2006, yet only 8% above the previous 10-year (1997–2006) average annual harvest of 11,360 fish. The 2007 sonar estimate of late-run Chinook salmon passage in the Kenai River was 42,979, the 10th highest since 1987 (T. Eskelin, Sport Fish Biologist, ADF&G, Soldotna; personal communication November 8, 2007). Estimates of passage do not include harvests and mortalities that occur inriver, which are subtracted from the sonar estimates to determine if the Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) for this system was achieved. The current BEG for Kenai River late-run Chinook salmon is 17,800 to 35,700. The BEG for this stock has changed over the years, but since 1987,

Appendix A. 15. Subsistence fishery salmon harvest, Upper Cook Inlet, 1980-2008.

Tyonek Subsistence Fishery

Year	No. Permits	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1980	67	1,757	235	0	0	0	1,992
1981	70	2,002	269	64	32	15	2,382
1982	69	1,590	310	113	14	4	2,031
1983	75	2,665	187	59	0	6	2,917
1984	75	2,200	266	79	3	23	2,571
1985	76	1,472	164	91	0	10	1,737
1986	65	1,676	203	223	50	46	2,198
1987	64	1,610	166	149	10	24	1,959
1988	47	1,587	91	253	8	12	1,951
1989	49	1,250	85	115	0	1	1,451
1990	42	781	66	352	20	12	1,231
1991	57	902	26	58	0	0	986
1992	57	907	75	234	7	19	1,242
1993	62	1,370	57	77	19	17	1,540
1994	49	770	85	101	0	22	978
1995	55	1,317	45	153	0	15	1,530
1996	49	1,039	68	137	21	7	1,272
1997	42	639	101	137	0	8	885
1998	74	978	163	64	1	2	1,208
1999	76	1,230	144	94	32	11	1,511
2000	60	1,157	63	87	6	0	1,313
2001	84	976	172	49	4	6	1,207
2002	102	1,080	209	115	9	4	1,417
2003	91	1,183	111	44	7	10	1,355
2004	97	1,345	93	130	0	0	1,568
2005	81	720	60	104	0	2	886
2006	81	904	21	36	0	0	961
2007		1,275	327	604	16	11	2,233
2008	89	708	54	119	7	3	891

May 15 - June 15
Tyonek Subsistence

Sport Fish Division - ADF&G

SUBMITTED PAUL A SHAUGHNESSY

KC 88

NORTHERN COOK INLET SPORT FISHERIES

Susitna Basin Northern Pike Studies

Northern pike are not indigenous to the NCIMA. They were illegally introduced into this area during the early 1950s. Since then, northern pike have been reported in nearly 70 lakes and more than a dozen tributaries of the Susitna River. Prior to 1992 several of these lakes consistently produced fish in the trophy class range. Northern pike weighing up to 20 lbs. were commonly caught with fish occasionally weighing over 30 lbs.

Listing of Confirmed and Reported Northern Pike Waters in Southcentral Alaska

The harvest of northern pike in the NCIMA numbered less than 200 fish, which barely accounted for 1% of the statewide harvest of northern pike when the SWHS was initiated in 1977. Northern pike harvests slowly increased through 1983 when the harvest totaled less than 1,000 fish. Since 1984 the harvest of northern pike has greatly increased. The average harvest during 1984-1987 was 1,916 while 1988-1991 averaged 3,946 fish. The harvest of northern pike increased at an annual rate of about 23% from 1977 through 1991. The highest reported harvest of 6,640 fish occurred in 1991. Though northern pike harvests have decreased since 1991, the catch nearly doubled from 1990 to 1993. This may indicate that the size of harvested pike may be decreasing. This became evident in 1994 when the overall catch dropped to a 5-year low of 8,252 fish, a decrease of 76% from the previous year's 34,218 catch. The decrease in both catch and harvest is probably the result of reduced availability of large pike. Anglers prefer to fish for large pike and once the large (old) fish have been removed anglers quickly loose interest in pursuing the remaining fish.

Northern pike are well known for their voracious appetites. In Alaska there is a growing concern by commercial fishermen, recreational anglers and fishery managers that northern pike predation on chinook, coho and sockeye salmon as well as rainbow trout may adversely impact these stocks during a period in which they are subject to increasing harvest. Many people favor eradicating northern pike to reduce their impact on other resident fish species. Studies have shown that in several Susitna Basin streams there is an overlap between salmonid and northern pike habitat. Juvenile salmon stocks (mostly coho salmon) can be quickly eliminated by northern pike predation. In addition, the decimation of rainbow trout and grayling stocks within some of these systems has also been attributed to northern pike predation. Northern pike prefer soft rayed fish as a food source. This was evident with northern pike sampled in Hewitt, Moose, Indian and Witso creeks where sockeye salmon, rainbow trout and coho salmon juveniles were preferred over stickleback. Once preferred food items have been depleted, northern pike quickly adapt to alternative sources such

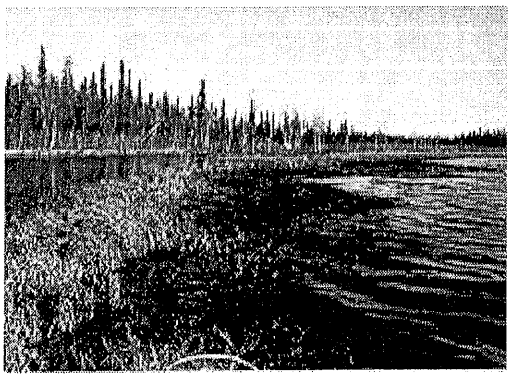
as insects.

Although there are concerns regarding the impact on salmon and rainbow trout stocks as a result of northern pike predation, many recreational anglers welcome a healthy pike population as they provide increased recreational opportunities during the entire year. Throughout literature there is a history of over exploitation of northern pike due to increasing recreational harvests. Even though the northern pike sport fishery in Upper Cook Inlet is fairly new, the performance of this fishery already suggests over exploitation as evidenced by the lack of large (old) fish. However, a management scheme to produce large pike may be detrimental to indigenous resident species and salmonid populations. Management strategies for Northern pike widely vary. Salmon anglers worried that pike predation will decimate salmon populations would like to see northern pike completely removed from the system In contrast, some pike anglers would like to see us liberalize regulations to allow them to harvest as many pike as allow pike to grow large. Nearly all the pike fishing in Northern Cook Inlet is conducted on lake populations. Other than northern pike there are virtually no other species of fish left in these lakes. By liberalizing pike regulations in these lakes we are only removing large fish which are cannibalistic in nature, and therefore maybe enhancing the population of smaller pike. Lake population of native species will not rebound as long as pike populations exist, therefore in the future it may be necessary to focus our attention on reducing riverine stocks of northern pike, and possibly managing lake populations to produce larger pike.

For more information on this project, please contact:
Dave Rutz (907) 746-6300

Pike Waters in Southcentral Alaska

Generally, when pike are introduced to a shallow lake in Southcentral Alaska, they eventually consume all of the juvenile salmon and trout. When the salmon and trout are gone, they start cannibalizing each other. In time, the large pike are harvested by anglers or die, and the remaining pike population often consists of "hammer-handles" - small pike that won't grow because there is no longer sufficient food to support substantial growth. Once the population is under "stress," their biological response is to mature at this smaller size and increase their reproduction. The end result is a lake full of stunted, little pike. This pattern has been repeated in Southcentral lakes. Typically it is these small pike that have the greatest impacts on rearing salmonids. This is because large pike tend to eat larger fish. Small pike tend to feed on salmon fry and smolt, and they feed more often than larger pike.



Pike prefer shallow, slow-moving waters with abundant aquatic vegetation.

Below is a list of Southcentral waters in which pike have been found to date. If you catch a pike where you have never seen one before, keep the fish and report it to 1-877-INVASIVE.

Alexander Creek

1. Alexander Lake
2. Sucker Lake
3. Trail Lake
4. Rabbit Lake

Lower Susitna

1. Figure 8 Lake
2. Flathorn Lake

Mid-Susitna

1. Ding Dong
2. Lady Slipper
3. Lockwood Lake
4. Unnamed
5. Unnamed
6. Unnamed
7. Vern Lake
8. Witsol Lake
9. Witsoe Lake

Susitna Tributaries

1. Alexander Creek
2. Anderson Creek*
3. Birch Creek*
4. Bottle Creek
5. Caswell Creek
6. Chulitna River*
7. Deshka River
8. Donkey Creek
9. Eightmile Creek
10. Fish Creek (Flathorn)
11. Fish Creek (Kroto)
12. Fish Lake Creek
13. Hewitt Creek
14. Indian (Chulitna)*
15. Indian Creek (Yentna)
16. Johnson Creek
17. Kutna Creek (Yentna)
18. Lake Creek
19. Montana Creek
20. Moose Creek
21. Otter Creek
22. Rabideux Creek
23. Rolly Creek
24. Shell Creek

that high tide arrives at Anchorage and then at the mouth of the Susitna River.

Small plane access to west side Susitna River king salmon fisheries is quite good. However, even for the experienced pilot, tricycle gear is not recommended. There is only one developed and maintained airport in the area, located in the community of Skwentna (year-round population 20), the 2,500-foot-long runway is not monitored.

Once you land at Skwentna, you will find a roadhouse offering guide services, rooms, meals and a post office. To find king salmon from Skwentna you must have access to a boat.

Other than the Skwentna airport, unless you have a properly-equipped wheel plane and are familiar with gravel bar landings, a float plane is your best option. Float planes can access the mouths of most tributary streams, many of the lakes adjacent to the rivers, or the rivers themselves.

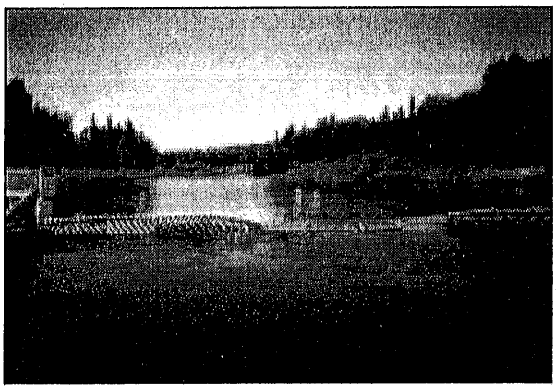
The best advice for pilots is to land only where you feel safe. Call an air charter operator in Anchorage's Lake Hood or Merrill Field and ask where they land. They may not give out any "secret spots," but in the interest of safety they will tell you where the traditional landing areas are.

Alexander Creek flows directly into the Susitna River 10 river miles upstream from Cook Inlet. Since Alexander Creek is so close to salt water, king salmon arrive early, with a few available by May 20. The action is usually fast at the mouth by the Memorial Day weekend, and peaks during the first week of June.

After June 10, the best king fishing is upstream from the confluence with the Susitna River. Alexander Creek is not a big stream, and it is usually boatable by a jet-equipped river boat as far upstream as Trail Creek, a distance of about 14 creek miles. King salmon will be present in this section by about June 5.

In the **Deshka River**, 20,000-40,000 king salmon run up this iron-colored stream, and many more leave the glacial waters of the Susitna River to rest at the mouth of the Deshka before heading further up the Susitna River to their spawning stream. In the past 10 years, anglers have harvested 4,000-10,000 king salmon per year from the Deshka River, and caught and released nearly twice that.

The **Yentna River** enters the Susitna River from the west, approximately 30 river miles upstream from Cook Inlet. This river system drains the high peaks of the Alaska Range from Mount McKinley to Rainy Pass.



The Deshka River weir. Weir counts are posted on the ADF&G Sport Fish Southcentral Region website.

Lake Creek is the number one producer of king salmon in the Yentna River drainage. The best fishing found between June 10-25.

The mouth of Lake Creek can be fished from shore or from a boat. Boat rental is available from the 15+ local lodges or air charter services, but it is advisable to make reservations ahead of time.

Hiking up Lake Creek is tough. Few people get very far, so boating is the preferred choice. Lake Creek is shallow, rocky, and fast, and there are braided channels and fallen trees. Only experienced boaters should attempt Lake Creek, with extreme caution, and only in a light, nimble jet boat, an 18-footer for example, with a 40- or 50-horsepower jet outboard. Even with this suggested rig, because of the current, sweepers, and rocks, boaters are limited to 3-5 miles of creek. Above 5 creek miles, Lake Creek becomes hazardous and very hard on your valuable equipment.

Lake Creek can also be an exciting float trip, but it is not recommended for beginners. There are stretches of Class III water, so don't overload your raft. Use at least a 12- or 13-foot self-bailing raft with a rowing frame, and tie down your gear. Start in Chelatna Lake and plan on at least four to five days to complete the trip. There are also private guides offering float trips.

Bulchitna Lake, about two miles upstream of Lake Creek's confluence with the Yentna River, offers an alternative to the fly-in angler who wants to hike to excellent

RC 89

March 18, 2009

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries:

I am a Chatham Straits Black Cod permit holder. I am writing this letter in support of the annual bag limit the Board of Fish set for sport caught Chatham black cod. The board acted correctly and conservatively on this issue.

This new sport fishery is only a couple of years old and is already being abused with Jigging Machines and Electric Reels. Is this sport fishing when you push a button to reel in your fish?

We need this annual limit as there are already conservation concerns with significant declines in the biomass. There is basically no enforcement in these out lying Southeast Alaska sport fishing lodges and this fishery will be abused and over fished like the 2C sport Halibut fishery. We need an annual limit on Halibut and Harvest Tickets for both Halibut and Chatham Black Cod for some accountability.

The sport sector has no historical claim to Chatham Black Cod. This is a very new sport fish made accessible by the use of Jigging Machines and Electric Reels. So I see it as they are asking for a reallocation of a fishery they have no historical claim to. We have historically fished Chatham Black Cod for decades. This is the last fishery of the year for me and my crew. This is the last fish of the year for our local processors and their workers.

I urge you to support the Board of Fish ruling of 2 fish per day 4 in possession and 8 annually.

Thank you,

Joe Short

2009-____-FB

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

RC 90

Under the authority of AS 16.05.270, the Alaska Board of Fisheries delegates to the Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game the authority under AS 16.05.241 to adopt and amend regulations, including amendment of 5 AAC 06.370 to allow forms for the reregistration of permit holders and fishing vessels to be submitted by web site registration, in addition to in-person submission, to authorized department representatives. This delegation includes authority to amend other regulations as necessary to acknowledge or otherwise conform to these regulation changes.

DATED: _____

Approved by vote: _____ in favor, _____ opposed.

_____

John Jensen, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries.

5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration.

b) Except when fishing as a crewmember, a CFEC salmon set gillnet or drift gillnet permit holder intending to fish in a district for which the permit holder is not registered shall register for the new district at least 48 hours before fishing in the new district. A drift gillnet permit holder also shall register the drift gillnet vessel for the new district. Reregistration is accomplished by the permit holder or the permit holder's authorized agent completing a form provided by the department and submitting the completed form, in person, **or by web site registration,** to an authorized representative of the department. The 48-hour notification period starts when the reregistration form is signed by the authorized representative of the department. The set gillnet or drift gillnet permit holder, and the drift gillnet vessel, may not fish in the original district during the 48-hour notification period. The notification period may be reduced by commissioner's announcement. District reregistration is not required after 9:00 a.m. July 17, except in the Ugashik District, as specified in 5 AAC 06.366(d) (4), the Naknek-Kvichak District, as specified in 5 AAC 06.360(g) , and the Egegik District, as specified in 5 AAC 06.359(f) .

The Honorable Governor Sarah Palin

Office of the Governor

PO Box 110001

Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

RC 91

RE: Allegations of SEAGO about Board of Fish/Chairman John Jensen

Dear Governor Palin:

After receiving the SEAGO letter to you prior to our Anchorage (March 16-20, 2009) meeting, along with other contacts, the Board of Fish held an Executive Session meeting of the BOF, with all seven members present, along with Jim Marcotte, Executive Director of BOF, attorney Lance Nelson from the Dept of Law, and Deputy Commissioner David Bedford.

We held a frank discussion of both the Sitka meeting. A board member prepared some procedural guidelines and these were subsequently approved unanimously during the final portion of our meeting. A copy of those procedural rules is enclosed, for your information.

It is critically important that the board act in an ethical manner, be seen to be acting in an ethical manner, and act with complete transparency. The new procedures will help increase public awareness of what has and is taking place.

At the Sitka meeting, chairman John Jensen arrived several days after the meeting had started. He "caught up" with public testimony (listening to tapes) and written document readings while committee meetings finished their work. Prior to the start of deliberations, John explained that he had heard all of the tapes and read all the materials. Not all members of the public were present when he announced this. Apparantly SEAGO was among the latter.

Some months prior, Jensen had gone through all of the proposals, as had attorney Lance Nelson of the Dept of Law, to identify any and all possible conflicts of interest. This has been the standard practice of the Dept of Law for years, but that practice has not been publicized, and so members of the public were not aware that it took place. Indeed, newer members of the board were also unaware.

On the final day, into the evening, board members were made aware that a motion for reconsideration on a black cod issue was pending. Members of the public asserted, in private conversation with board members during a break, that four votes had been secured to change the outcome. Hearing this, one board member elected to leave. Hearing this, a second board member determining that the prior decision was okay, and the proposed change was also okay, also chose to leave the meeting. It is entirely inaccurate to characterize this as "Two board members got up and

left the table rather than participate in this gambit." In fact, no board member had predetermined their vote.

At the Petersburg meeting Chairman Jensen had recused himself from a proposal supported by and affecting his brother, also a commercial fisherman. His brother gave public testimony, as is his right. SEAGO asserts that Jensen "..demanded to be able to give public testimony in the middle of deliberations...", which is not true. Nor is it true that Chairman Jensen was "visibly agitated" at having to step down whenever a conflicted item arose.

The Sitka meeting was long (10 days) and the agenda was full of serious, difficult and highly contentious issues. Stakeholders from every perspective were present, active, obviously concerned, and untiring in their effort to persuade each individual member of the Board to their perspective. The Board doesn't control who submits proposals, nor the content of those proposals. We are left with having to deal with what is brought before us.

However, other procedures of the board could be reconsidered and possibly improved, with a view to improving efficiencies and reducing overall required time for each meeting. The board and the board's support staff will continue to work diligently to continue to identify such changes and improvements.

Some of the incorrect assertions by SEAGO stemmed from a lack of public awareness, a failure of transparency. We have taken steps to correct and improve this.

We understand full well the critical importance of our decisions, and want only to make the best possible decisions with the best available information.

Thank you for patiently bearing with us on this and other matters that come before the board.

Sincerely yours,

Members of the Alaska Board of Fish

Name name name