

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES  
WORK SESSION  
October 8-10, 2008  
Fairbanks**

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

*This summary of actions is for information purposes only and is not intended to detail, reflect or fully interpret the reasons for the board's actions.*

Election of Officers

John Jensen was elected as Chair and Vince Webster was elected as Vice Chair.

Petitions

The board received a petition asking the board to change the status of Yukon River king salmon to a stock of management concern. The board considered a motion to request an out-of-cycle stock analysis by the department and to open Yukon River king salmon management plans for potential regulatory action during the March 2009 meeting. The board concluded it would wait until the regularly scheduled 2009/2010 Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim cycle to review Yukon River salmon stocks and consider regulatory action, consistent with the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy. The department indicated it would apprise the board of its 2009 pre-season outlook and pre-season management strategy at the March 2009 meeting.

Agenda Change Requests (ACRs) and board generated proposals

**ACR 1**

**Action:** Accepted, scheduled for March 2009

**Description:** Increase allowable length of set gillnets from 25 fathoms to 35 fathoms for the Naknek River Special Harvest Area in Bristol Bay. (5 AAC 06.360)

**Discussion:** The board noted that the Bristol Bay area fisheries are scheduled for the 2009/2010 cycle, but it also noted recent escapements into the Naknek River have met or exceeded current goals.

**ACR 2**

**Action:** Not accepted

**Description:** Open portion of Kenai River to fishing from a boat and remove the fly fishing only restriction. (5 AAC 57.121)

**Discussion:** The board heard from the department that a rationale for the fishing restrictions related to protection of fish in a milling area and sanctuary area. The board noted public comment received on the topic. It concluded that current regulations do provide for exemptions for anyone with disabilities, thus an out-of-cycle action was not seen as necessary.

**ACR 3**

**Action:** Accepted, scheduled for December 2008

**Description:** Clarify regulations on non-pelagic trawl closure in the Bristol Bay Area. (5 AAC 39.165(3), and 39.164 (b)(7))

**Discussion:** The department described an inconsistency in the regulations regarding non-pelagic trawl fishing in the Bristol Bay area. The board found that there was merit

in addressing the regulation this cycle based on a conservation concern and to correct an error in regulation.

**ACR 4**

**Action:** Not accepted

**Description:** Open portion of Kenai River to fishing from a boat and remove the fly fishing only restriction. (5 AAC 57.121)

**Discussion:** Like with ACR 2, the board did not find a problem with enforcement issues as described with this topic.

**ACR 5**

**Action:** Not accepted

**Description:** Change deadline for the final Upper Cook Inlet Sockeye projections to July 15. (5 AAC 21.360)

**Discussion:** The board concluded that there is a lot of variation in the forecasts and that the current approach is reasonable.

**ACR 6**

**Action:** Accepted, scheduled for February 2009

**Description:** Modify gillnet quota for Kodiak Area herring fishery. (5 AAC 27.535, and 5 AAC 27.510(1-2))

**Discussion:** A potential role of a task force to develop management options was considered but not supported at this time. The department noted that the guideline harvest level was small, and there are inseason challenges to managing the fishery.

**ACR 7**

**Action:** Accepted, scheduled for December 2008

**Description:** Modify regulations on non-pelagic trawl and essential fish habitat in the Bering Sea. (5 AAC 39.164(b), and 5 AAC 39.167)

**Discussion:** The department reported that the National Marine Fisheries Service closed specific waters to protect bottom habitat and the coordination of state regulatory action would ensure effective conservation measures. The board found that there was merit in addressing the regulation this cycle based on a conservation concern.

**ACR 8**

**Action:** Accepted, scheduled for December 2008

**Description:** Provide a uniform vessel size limit of 60 feet in the Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery. (5 AAC 28.647(d)(3))

**Discussion:** The department noted the 2006 development of this fishery and the rapid changes found in the participating fishing fleet. It compared vessel length limits with trip limits as factors in spreading out the harvest over a longer duration. The board chose to accept this request to keep a broader spectrum of options available to regulate the fishery.

**ACR 9**

**Action:** Not accepted

**Description:** Reduce catch in A Season and spread out harvest over monthly increments for the Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery. (5 AAC 28.647(d))

**Discussion:** The board considered the allocation between the A season and B season and how it related to Steller sea lion mitigation measures.

**ACR 10** **Action:** Accepted, scheduled for December 2008  
**Description:** Reduce daily catch limit to 75,000 pounds for the Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery. (5 AAC 28.647(d)(7))  
**Discussion:** The board expressed the need to have an orderly fishery and noted conservation risk associated with having a compressed season in the future. The board identified the potential for a substantial increase in fishing effort and concluded that reviewing daily catch limits was warranted.

**ACR 11** **Action:** Not accepted  
**Description:** Modify regulation specifying use of 200 fathoms of gillnet in the Upper Cook Inlet Area. (5 AAC 21.333)  
**Discussion:** The board discussed possible unforeseen effects of the regulation given that it was recently developed. It noted that in certain instances re-bagging of the extra net length cut into fishing time, but it concluded that a comprehensive review of the regulation could wait until the next regularly scheduled Cook Inlet meeting.

**ACR 12** **Action:** Accepted, scheduled for December 2008  
**Description:** Limit longline vessel to 55 feet in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands management area Pacific cod fishery. (5 AAC 28.087)  
**Discussion:** Staff presented background on the coordination between federal and state regulations and indicated that some fishermen turned in their LLP (License Limitation Program) permits to fish in state waters. The board found that there could be conservation concerns if others follow this practice and that the potential effects were unforeseen.

**ACR 13** **Action:** Accepted, scheduled for March 2009  
**Description:** Clarify prohibition on blocking a channel in areas with a braided stream or multiple channels statewide. (5 AAC 01.010, and 5 AAC 77.010)  
**Discussion:** The department noted that there are situations such as on the Pilgrim River where net placement could effectively block fish passage, which is not consistent with sound management practices. The board found that there was merit in addressing this regulation in the coming year based on a conservation concern.

**ACR 14** **Action:** Not accepted  
**Description:** Modify Kasilof River terminal fishery in Upper Cook Inlet. (5 AAC 21.365)  
**Discussion:** The board noted that the intent of the proposal was not entirely clear. While the board recognized that additional discussion on the use of terminal harvest areas would be useful, it found it best to address the topic in-cycle during the next regularly scheduled Upper Cook Inlet meeting.

**Proposal A** **Action:** Accepted, scheduled for December 2008  
**Description:** Adopt additional reporting requirements for the management of parallel groundfish fisheries statewide.  
**Discussion:** The department reported problems with accurately accounting for harvest amounts relative to the federal total allowable catch (TAC) arising from delays of up to

three weeks in receiving reports from catcher processor vessels. The board acted to consider a change in the reporting requirements this year.

**Proposal B**

**Action:** Accepted, scheduled for December 2008

**Description:** Modify reporting requirements for miscellaneous groundfish taken on board a vessel but not delivered in order to address at-sea discards statewide.

**Discussion:** The department described differences between management areas in how harvests are reported. There have been instances where catch has not been off loaded to a processor and thus not counted. The board acted to consider a modification in the reporting requirements.

**Proposal C**

**Action:** Accepted, scheduled for March 2009

**Description:** Modify the Upper Cook Inlet Area Central District drift gillnet fishery management plan by closing a specific area to fishing from July 16 through July 31 at all run strengths. (5 AAC 21.353(a)(2)(B)(i-iii))

**Discussion:** The board noted that action was taken on this section of the management plan during the January 2005 Upper Cook Inlet meeting and that it also took action on several proposals regarding the management plan during the February 2008 Upper Cook Inlet meeting. The board concluded a new examination of area closures between July 16 and July 31 was warranted.

Reports

The board received a number of presentations on topics of general interest. These included:

- BOF/NPFMC Joint Protocol Committee meeting September 12, 2008
- Board's committee on State/Federal subsistence coordination
- State Forestry Board
- Board's committee Salmon Industry Restructuring
- Overview of Habitat Division functions
- Update from Department of Law on recent cases
- Overview of Rotenone use relative to invasive species
- Status of Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification program in Alaska
- Overview of Pacific Salmon Treaty
- Update on proposed sport fishing guide service board
- Report on applying economic analysis of fisheries
- Report on Pebble Mine site visit

Escapement Goals and Stocks of Concern

The department presented reports on salmon escapement goals and stock of concern recommendations for Prince William Sound, Copper River, Yakutat, and Southeast Alaska areas, consistent with the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy. The department described revisions to escapement goals for Eshamy Lake sockeye, Alsek River Chinook, Taku River Chinook, Blossom River Chinook, and Keta River Chinook. It also designated McDonald Lake sockeye a stock of management concern.

Memorandum of Understanding for subsistence management on Federal lands

The board was briefed on recent discussions between representatives of the Board of Fisheries, Board of Game, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Federal Subsistence Board, and Federal resource agencies regarding revisions to the Interim Memorandum of Agreement that was initialed in 2000. The purpose of the agreement is to provide guidelines for coordinating the management of subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands in Alaska. The board acted to support in concept the revisions to the memorandum.

2009/2010 meeting schedule

During the 2009/2010 meeting cycle, the board will consider Bristol Bay, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, and Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Finfish topics as well as Statewide General Finfish Provisions. The board selected the following tentative meeting dates and locations, subject to meeting space availability:

Proposal Deadline: April 10, 2009

ACR Deadline: August 28, 2009 (45 days prior to worksession)

Worksession: October 13-14, 2009, Anchorage

Bristol Bay Finfish: December 1-8, 2009, Anchorage

Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Finfish: January 26-31, 2010, Fairbanks

AK Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Finfish: February 2-6, 2010, Anchorage

Statewide Finfish/Supplemental Issues: March 16-20, 2010, Anchorage