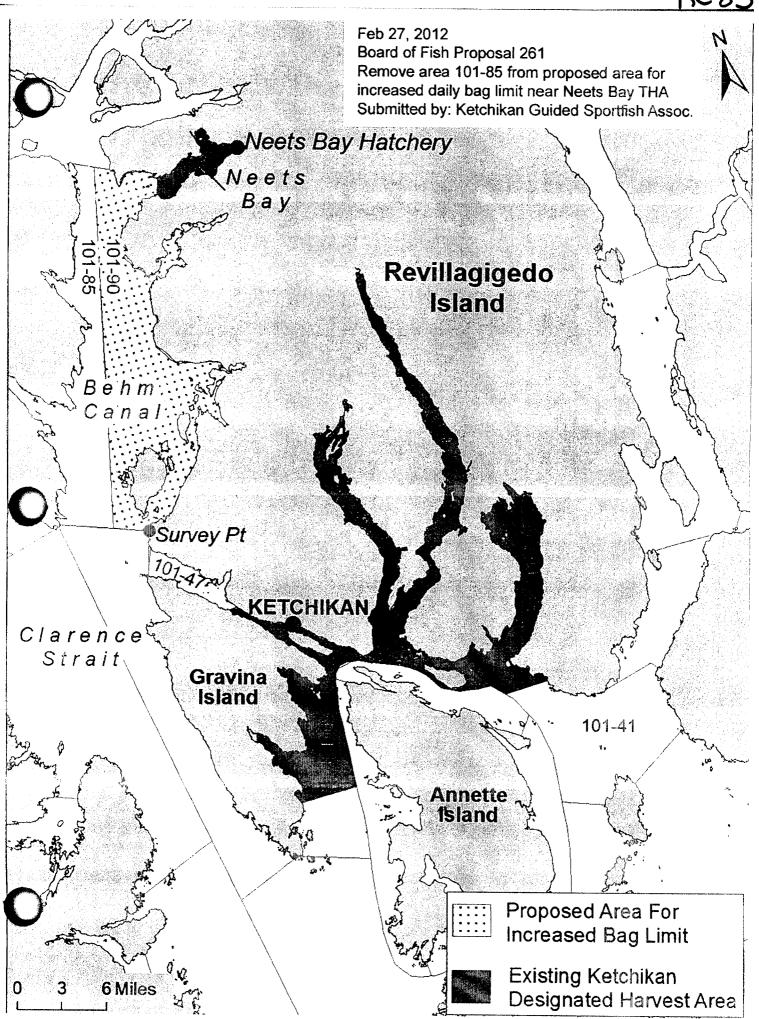
33.370 (b) (2) (a) openings for seiners and gillnets must be rotated between gear groups with a closure of at least 24 hours between openings; [the first opening must be for gillnets.] <u>During any late summer or fall rotations the first opening shall start with the net group farthest below their enhanced allocation range based on the most recent five year rolling average data.</u>

RC from SSRAA re: Proposal 331 John Bulle



Submitted by Wrangell Advisory Committee and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

February 27, 2012

Substitute language for proposal #254

5 AAC 47.023

(h) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity,

(X) In Pats Lake;

(X) a person younger than 16 years of age may sport fish in Pats Lake during the four designated youth only fishing days, which will occur on the third and fourth Saturday and Sunday in June. A person under 16 years of age may only fish during these days as follows:

- (x) bag and possession limit of two fish, no size limit;
- (x) bait may be used;

RC: \_\_\_\_\_

# PROPOSAL 206 SPINY DOG FISH POT FISHERY IN SE REGION

- RC85
  Submitted Ry
  John Scoblic
- 1) SOUTHEAST ALASKA FROM DIXON ENTRANCE TO CAPE SUCKLING.
- 2) SEASON SEPTEMBER 30 FEBRUARY 28
- 3) SUNSET IN THREE YEARS
- 4) LOG BOOK REQUIRED WITH WEEKLY REPORTING
- 5) POT LIMIT 150
- 6) FISH "SLOT SIZE" 24 INCH MINIMUM 48 INCH MAXIMUM

THE UNDERSIGNED SUPPORT THIS AMMENDMENT.

THIS AMMENDMENT.
1 Porald Westhard KIN
2 JOHN M SCOBLIC TRIDENT SEDS. (KTU AC)
5 April d Enge Petersburg AC
6 Chuck Hayder - Crain Ac
7 Matt Dorohove - Sitka AK
- WRANGELL AC
10 Sten Mund - Sitter A 7-0-3 vote
11 John G. Baild Sitta Sitta
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- Dennis Watson Crais at Many
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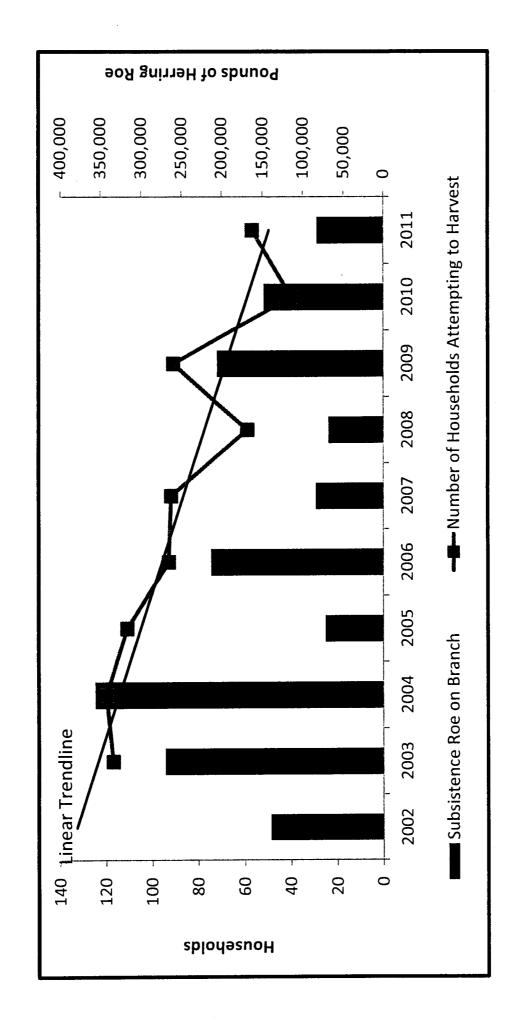
RC:	

## PROPOSAL 206 SPINY DOG FISH POT FISHERY IN SE REGION

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LACK SF HOUSEARILD GAFTICIPATION

BOYEN BURY

Page 1

#### Submitted by Alaska Department of Fish and Game

February 27, 2012

Proposal 216

Saltwater Charter Logbook reported harvest of sablefish in Southeast Alaska

- In 2009 the reported harvest was 3,844 sablefish.
- In 2010 the reported harvest was 3,927 sablefish.
- Based on 98% of the 2011 logbook data entry being complete, the 2011 preliminary estimate for SEAK indicates 5,136 sablefish were harvested by guided anglers in 2011.



RC

Re: Proposals 210 & 211 – pertaining to deep water release of demersal shelf rockfish

"5 AAC 47.020(C) A person sport fishing from a charter vessel when releasing a non-pelagic rockfish shall immediately utilize a deep water release mechanism to return the rockfish to the bottom near where the fish was hooked or to at least a 100 feet in depth, whichever is shallower.

The sport fishing guide of a charter vessel is responsible to have at least one functional deep water release mechanism on board and readily accessible for use when sport fishing activities are taking place on marine waters. A deep water release mechanism must be presented for inspection upon request of an employee of the department or a peace officer of the state."

Effective Date: January 1, 2013

Definition – 5 AAC 75.995(X) "deep water release mechanism" means a release device designed to return a rockfish, in marine waters, back to the bottom near where it was hooked or to a specified depth to assist in recompression and improve survival;

Linda Behnken – ALFA

Stan Malcom - SEAGO

**RC89** 



4 Nickerson, Suite 400, Seattle, WA 98109
P.O. Box 31179, Seattle, WA 98103-1179
PHONE (206) 726-9900 FAX (206) 726-1667
www.northpacificseafoods.com

February 27, 2012

#### RE: RC 22, bait herring net depth

Dear Board of Fisheries members,

As a seafood processor in Sitka, I SUPPORT RC 22 to increase the bait herring net depth to allow for efficient harvest of winter herring for the bait market. There is considerable interest in utilizing local bait to supply the many fisheries in Southeast with quality product. Bait costs continue to rise, and often bait shortages result in fishermen purchasing whatever bait is available as opposed to what bait is preferred for their fishery or fishing operation.

The current regulations for net depth in the herring bait fishery do not allow for effective or efficient harvest. By amending the net depth regulation we feel that our concerns addressed in proposal #240 could be addressed in the short term, although we are still fully committed to seeking other long term bait herring opportunities in the Sitka Sound area. If you have any questions regarding bait herring I would be happy to answer them.

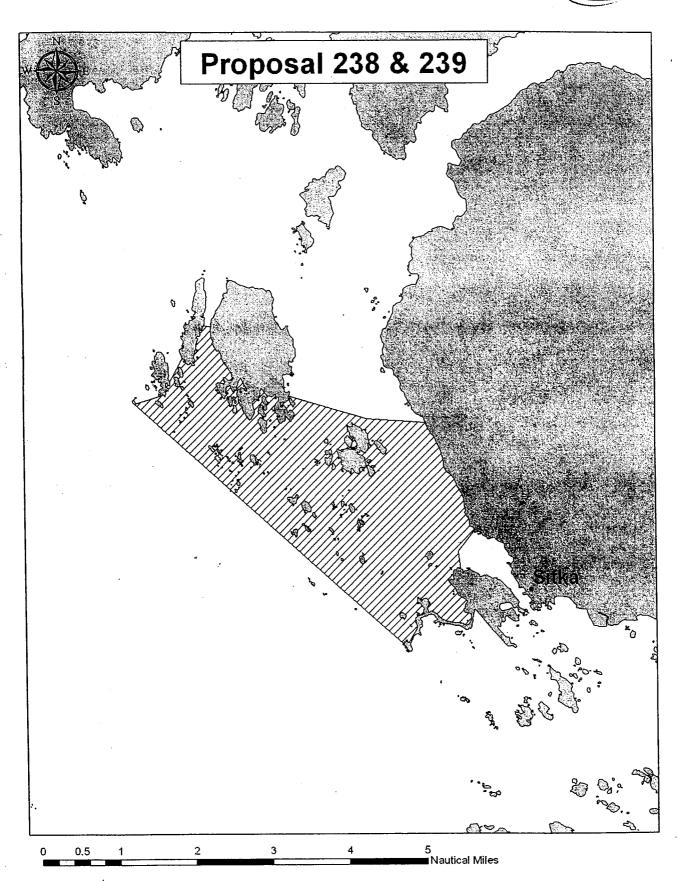
Sincerely,

John Baird Fleet Manager Sitka Sound Seafoods 329 Katlian St Sitka, AK 99835

(907) 486-5164

Marube ni Group

(907) 747-6268



Sitka Sound will be closed to the commercial herring sac roe fishery in the following area:

North and west of the Eliason Harbor Breakwater and Makhnati Island Causeway from the western most tip of Makhnati Island to the eastern most point on Belie Rock to the southernmost tip of Gagarin Island to a point on the eastern shore of Crow Island at 57°6.430′ N. lat., 135°28.268′ W. long. to a point on western shore of Middle Island at 57°6.407′ N. lat., 135°28.105′ W. long. to a point on the southeast shore of Middle Island at 57°5.557′ N. lat., 135°26.227′ W. long. to the green day marker northeast of Kasiana Island, to the Baranof Island shore at 57°5.258′ N. lat., 135°22.951′ W. long.

January 17, 2007

Dear Membership:

We are now into the new year and soon we will all be headed to Sitka for another herring season. The phone has been very busy around here for the last two months on herring related issues. Here is an update.

#### Equal Share Quotas (ESQ) for 2007:

As you all know, Joe Lindholm took it upon himself - with the blessing of Sitka Herring Association (SHA) - to poll the fleet as to their wishes for an ESQ fishery for the 2007 season. It has been the opinion of many of us that we don't need a BOF regulation for a ESQ fishery; all it takes is unanimous consent by the harvesters. As written, the Sitka Herring Association's, Alaska corporate bylaws provides the authority to write and administer the necessary business agreements for an ESQ fishery should the membership agree. Alternatively, the SHA may serve as the forum to organize a different entity for the same purpose. Regardless, I told Joe when he was getting started that if he could bring us a reasonable assurance that 51 permit holders would sign on, I would move the association in a direction to do the rest. As you now may or may not know, Joe was unable to get all 51 permit holders to agree. He has informed me the responses were as follows.

Yes	 17
Did not respond.	1

This affectively kills any further action for 2007. As president of SHA, I will not be entertaining a motion for cooperative fishing at our regularly scheduled spring meeting in Sitka unless there is good cause.

I want to thank Joe on behalf of SHA for his diligence and hard work. I know what kind of effort it takes and I can assure you all that Joe has gone way above and beyond the call of duty.

#### Thanks Joe!

#### Subsistence:

Last September it was called to our attention that the Southeast Alaska, Regional Advisory Committee submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board a proposal to withdraw the waters of the Mckhnati Island group from state management for herring fishing during the months of March and April. If adopted this proposal would effectively close all the waters immediately surrounding the Airport and the cause way west to Mckhnati Island to commercial herring

sac roe fishing. This proposal has broad reaching implications in the scheme of federal versus state management forall Alaskan waters. State managers and other commercial fishing interests are concerned that there are precedentsetting implications if this proposal or a similar one is **legally** adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board. I say legally because there is a regulatory tangle of boundary and jurisdictional issues that must be resolved before we even have a realistic debate over the merits of the proposal. They must also show proper cause - specifically, conservation concerns or that subsistence needs are not being met. Although some of the Federal Subsistence Board members will vote against any commercial interests, legal cause and justifications for the current proposal do not existent.

Last week the Federal Subsistence Board met in Anchorage, the Mckhnati Island proposal was on the agenda and Chip Treinen attended on behalf of SHA. Chip spent two days backing up ADF&G's position and testifying in opposition to the proposal. ADF&G and most federal staffers officially opposed the proposal on the grounds that it does not meet the legal cause criteria and there are no evidence or procedure standards for withdrawing waters form state management. In the end, the proposal was not brought to a vote, instead the Subsistence Board deferred action until January 2008. If the proposal had been brought to a vote this year, it would likely have failed in a 3 to 3 tie. However the board was obviously sympathetic to the proposal and they created a working group to hash it over for another year.

So here we go, another year on the hot seat. I am appointing Ron Porter to represent SHA and the interests of commercial herring fishermen on this working group. Even though the federal subsistence process is wrapped in absurdity, SHA is nonetheless caught in the middle and will have to spend time and money to fight to maintain access to all of our fishing area in Sitka Sound.

I want to thank Chip for the time he spent on SHA's behalf working on this and at the meeting. Chip reported a high level of frustration and contempt for the Federal Subsistence Board in attending two days of the meeting, but 'took one for the team' anyway.

#### Thanks Chip!

#### 2007 Quota (GHL):

The preliminary GHL for 2007 is 11,655 tons from a forecast biomass of 58,273 tons. This forecast indicates that the spawning stock will consist of 9% age-3, 1% age-4, 12% age-5, 10% age-6, 18% age-7 and 49% age-8+.

Last spring's spawn produced 57.4 nautical miles of spawn that converted to a 75,281 total biomass which was well above the 2006 forecast return of 52,059.

My comments on this would be: Do you remember the 1980s and early 1990s when age-6+ herring were almost nonexistent and for three years out of 12 - every forth year - there was a dominant year class that would grow to about 115G and then they all died between ages 5 and 7? During these years ESQ fisheries were the norm due to the fact that herring of 10% roe recovery were the exception not the rule and the market was primarily for larger fish than we were catching, 120-G+. During those years we sifted through a lot of fish for the one's we did sell. Since then, the pulp mill closed and for what ever reasons survival and growth rates have improved. Successful spawns are now more frequent, and the fish are living longer so let's hope for good recruitment in the future.

The following is an e-link to the 2007 GHL announcement. http://documents.cf1.adfg.state.ak.us/AdfgDocument.po?DOCUMENT=8517

## 2007 Herring Taskforce Meeting.

The annual herring task force meeting for 2007 will be held in Sitka on February 6th. This is a pre season planning session where ADF&G, industry (harvesters and processors) and other interested parties meet to discuss herring management issues and make plans for the coming season. You may make arrangements to attend by phone by contacting Dave Gordon, dave\_gordon@fishgame.state.ak.us.

Best wishes for the new year.

Scott McAllister, President.

February 27, 2012

Alaska Board of Fisheries Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Chairman Johnstone and Board of Fisheries Members:

The undersigned groups have developed the following compromise position on Proposal 217, which would amend the allocated percentages of lingcod between the three commercial gear types in Icy Bay subdistrict.

The 66.6% allocation for commercial shall be split amongst user groups as follows:

46.0% Directed Fishery (dinglebar)

12.7% Longline

8.0% Troll

Casey Mapes, Chair

Yakutat Advisory Committee

Linda Behnken, Executive Director

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association

Dale Kelley, Executive Director
Alaska Trollers Association

### Testimony of Dale Kelley on Behalf of Alaska Trollers Association Before the Alaska Board of Fisheries February 26, 2012 Ketchikan, Alaska

Good day! Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Dale Kelley. I am Executive Director of the Alaska Trollers Association. Our office is located in Juneau. ATA's written comments can be found at PC 159.

ATA opposes Proposal 312, which calls for mandatory closures. We question the need to digress to old school management practices. The troll fishery is actively managed in-season, based on historic and real-time data. This form of sustainable management has proven superior to arbitrary, fixed-length closures.

I have been involved in the evolution of coho management since ATA first asked for an allocation and a definitive management plan.

In 1989, ATA submitted proposals in response to lengthy coho closures that reduced our harvest share to about 48% in 1988. At the 1989 board meeting, ADFG announced that they intended to implement not only a 10 day closure in August - as they had since 1980 - but at least one more closure of 7-14 days each year. We argued that coho and the users would be better served with improved data and inseason management, than with predetermined closures. ADFG ultimately decided against the extra closures.

In 1991, ATA submitted a proposal that resulted in setting parameters for a July conservation closure. It has never been implemented, and as you heard the Department say just yesterday, there are no stocks of concern and coho across the region have achieved goal 94% of the time over the last decade.

Since the early 1990's, ATA has run a coho call-in program and shares the information with the Department. Trollers report their catches from the grounds every day or two – and we call out when ADFG lacks data in specific areas. We started the program because trollers didn't think the Department had a good handle on inseason abundance, and believed this was leading to unnecessary closures. Trust between the fleet and ADFG has grown tremendously since then, and the call-in program is now a joint effort.

The 1989 ADFG staff report was thin on detail and fraught with qualifiers. The department readily acknowledged that they needed better tools to evaluate the relationship between fisheries performance and coho abundance.

ADFG has made great strides expanding its stock status and FPD data, which has led to much more timely and sophisticated analyses. Long term data now reveals that the gillnetters have had some of their best coho fishing in the years with shorter troll closures.

Standard implementation of a 10-day closure prior to 1993 was arbitrary. Today troll closures are based on projections of wild stock return, current catch, projected catch, and the proportional share c harvests between fisheries. Closure decisions are not made in a vacuum by troll lanagers - all area managers are consulted.

Proposal 312 makes unsupported claims with respect to both conservation and location. The data ADFG has provided you clearly shows that stocks are healthy and the length of the troll closure has little to no bearing on conduct of the inside fisheries. Coho fisheries are well-main aged and all user groups are benefiting from an abundance-based system utilizing closures that reject the actual needs of the resource and user groups.

Please vote no on Proposal 312.

Tribal Government for Sitka, Alaska

February 27, 2012

Dear Board of Fish,

The Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) is will to concede to the following reduced size of subsistence zones requested in proposals 238 and 239.

The proposed boundary would follow a line starting at Harbor Pt. extending to the southern tip of Little Gavanski Island to the northern tip of Crow Island and then from the southern tip of Crow Island to the southern tip of Gagarin Island to Signal Island to Makhnati Island and then from the northern tip of Japonski Island to Watson Pt. then finally north along the Halibut Point road system to Harbor Pt.

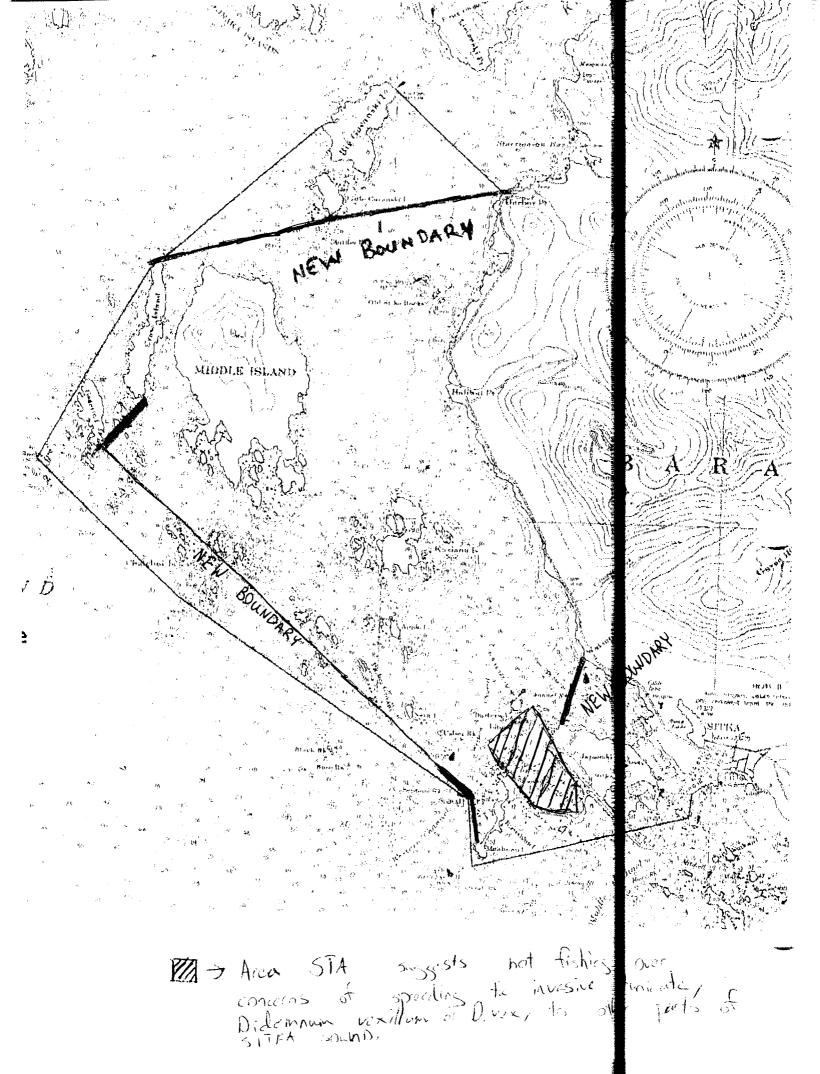
STA feels any further reduction of this area would fail to meet the intent of our original proposal. STA has spent many years defining this area and feels that any further reduction would not allow a reasonable opportunity for subsistence to be met.

Sincerely,

Jeff Feldpausch

Resource Protection Director

Sitka Tribe of Alaska



Proposal #325

Problem:

The timely and inexpensive data gathering of the wild versus hatchery composition of chums in the troll fishery by sub-area in Icy Straits and North Chatham.

ADF&G staff has advised the fishing industry that: "Concerns over impacts of the chum troll fishery on wild stocks in Icy Straits will be greatly alleviated if they have timely data at little cost." Noon discussion on 2/27/2011.

Discussion:

DIPAC has advised industry that DIPAC can read otiliths (almost all SE hatchery chum are otiliths marked) and provide information on wild versus hatchery chum stock composition to ADF&G within 36 hours of chum head receipt.

What DIPAC needs from ADF&G is someone to take the heads, label them as to area of origin, and contact DIPAC for shipping.

Most of the Icy Straits North Chatham Chums are anticipated to be processed in Hoonah and Juneau. Some are likely to be processed in Excursion Inlet, Petersburg, and Sitka.

Trollers are familiar with segregating salmon by sub-area as we commonly do this with Spring Chinook. Many trollers deliver daily or within 36 hours at most. Most Icy Strait chums are at the processors within two days of harvest.

Tenders servicing Icy Strait commonly have totes in which they could save and segregate a sample of troll chums by sub-area.

If ADF&G samplers, already in place for the Spring Troll Hatchery Chinook fishery, could gather, label, and prep heads for DIPAC then the chum troll data needed could be available to ADF&G.

Solution proposed:

Troll industry (trollers, tenders, and processors) agree to segregate chums by sub-area for ADF&G samplers.

ADF&G samplers gather the heads, label by sub-area, prep, and contact DIPAC for shipping.

DIPAC agrees to read chum troll otiliths furnished by ADF&G and provide data in a timely fashion.

Spring Troll Hatchery Fishery managers analyze data and may utilize to minimize wild chum stock impacts and optimize hatchery chum troll harvest percentages.

DIPAC Sold

Chum Trollers



Why allowing a longer vessel would be an appropriate additional fishing privilege for the Southeast Alaska Salmon Fishery.

SEAK is primarily a higher volume fishery for traditionally lower valued species like pink and chum salmon. The ability of the fisherman to carry more of these species due to holding an additional permit could be viewed as a privilege in the fishery. It would be an appropriate measure specifically for the Southeast seine fishery. This however does not guarantee that the privileged fisherman will be able to catch more fish and always be able to harness this benefit. The net catches the fish, not the boat. The fishery is still conducted with every participant using the same gear in the same area(s) for the same amount of time. Fisherman will not have anything taken away from them as the result of this additional privilege making it appropriate for the fishery.

Other additional privileges for a dual permit could include extra gear, time, or area. These options are likely not appropriate for the Southeast seine fishery for the following reasons:

To allow more gear as a privilege may not be appropriate because it could actually cause fishermen without the privilege to catch less. For example, seiners fish places commonly referred to as "hook offs". Seiners wait in line at these locations for their turn to make a set. There are also, at times, lines for sets outside these hook offs. If a longer net is set on the inside the second set would be forced further off the beach. Typically there are less fish further out from the beach so to push a set further out could adversely effect the operations of other fishermen making this privilege seem inappropriate.

To allow more area or time could create conservation and enforcement issues for the Department in management of the fishery. Additionally, the processors could have difficulties if a few privileged fishermen in their fleet would require different unloading schedules because of the extra time and/or different tender coverage because of the additional available area.

Hopefully this information is helpful in determining that using a longer boat in the fishery is an appropriate privilege for a fisherman who holds two permits in the Southeast salmon seine fishery.

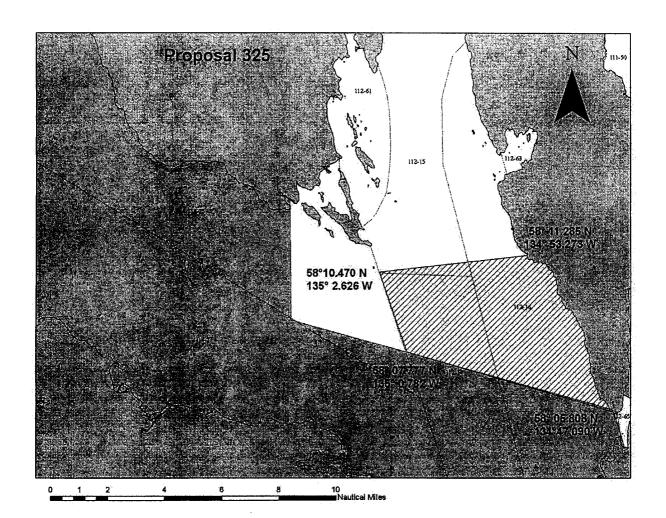
Respectfully submitted, Ryan Kapp



Substitute Language for Proposal 325 as requested by Chairman Johnstone:

#### 5 AAC 29.XXX. DISTRICT 12 AND DISTRICT 14 ENHANCED CHUM SALMON TROLL FISHERIES.

- (a) This plan provides for an orderly development of enhanced chum salmon troll fishery for the directed fisheries in Cross Sound, Icy Strait and Northern Chatham Strait, while providing for the conservation of wild stocks.
- (b) The Northern Chatham area in District 12 may be opened by emergency order in an area enclosed by a line from 58° 11.29′ N. latitude, 134° 53.27′ W. longitude to 58° 10.40′ N. latitude, 135° 02.63′ W. longitude to 58° 07.78′ N. latitude, 135° 00.78′ W. longitude to 58° 05.81′, 134° 47.09′ W. longitude for up to four weekdays per week beginning the second Monday in June through the last week of June for pink and chum retention only.
- (c) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 29.090. MANAGEMENT OF THE SPRING SALMON TROLL FISHERIES, spring troll fisheries in District 14, will be managed to minimize the harvest of wild chum salmon and may close by emergency order based on wild chum salmon abundance.
- (d) CFEC permit holders targeting chum salmon and buyers shall separate and report the fish harvested from each fishery area on separate fish tickets.
- (e) For the purposes of this section this plan will be in effect through June 30, 2014.



#### Proposal 301

If there is not enough support to pass proposal 301 as written the Tsiu River Coalition is willing to accept an amended version. Such as one of the two options below:

- 1. Expanding the 1.5 miles to 2 until such time as the river is less than 2.5 miles long then be split equally in half.
- 2. Dividing the river in half. Commercial gets the lower half and the Sport get the upper half.

The reasoning is that something is better than nothing. Please remember:

- a. The closed waters can be opened by EO if the department sees a need.
- b. Contrary to popular belief the situation on the Tsiu River has not changed as shown in the dvds. The reason for lack of complaints is that the proposal was already written and submitted. Why bother everyone with the same old complaints every week. I think you start to lose credibility by doing that. And I just assumed that we had just had to hang on and get through one more season. I will not be making that mistake again.

Thank you<sup>©</sup>

Dan Ernhart

Tsiu River Coalition

February 28, 2012

Re: BOF action on Proposal 216

The northern boundary of the proposed sablefish annual limit area is unclear.

To be effective and enforceable, the area that retains an annual limit should encompass at minimum:

All NSEI state waters north of Pt Gardiner (57.00 degrees).

#### Rationale:

- The Board may want to consider the difficulties associated with enforcing annual limits if only small areas are regulated with an annual limit.
- Sablefish inhabit all deep water areas of NSEI and SSEI, including the west end of Peril Strait, Icy Strait, Lynn Canal, Fredrick Sound and the northern end of Saginaw Channel.
- The sport fish lodge responsible for the majority of the NSEI sport sablefish harvest is located OUTSIDE the area that will retain an annual limit under the action taken by the Board on 2/27/12.
- ALL sablefish taken in the NSEI district are deducted from the commercial NSEI quota, even if
  the sablefish are harvested from Peril Strait, Icy Strait, Lynn Canal, Fredrick Sound, or the
  northern end of Saginaw Channel.
- NSEI is managed under an equal share limited access program. The quota in the NSEI sablefish fishery has been reduced from 3 million pounds to 882,000 pounds over the past decade. "The long-term trend for the NSEI mark-recapture estimate has been decreasing since 2003 and no evidence of strong recruitment has been observed in the NSEI longline survey since 2000." (ADFG comments RC 2, pg 43). Stocks in SSEI are also declining. Sport sablefish removals have been concentrated so far in the northern end of the NSEI district. At minimum, annual limits should be retained throughout the northern sub-district of NSEI.

Julianne Curry, PVOA

Kathy Hansen, SEAFA

Linda Behnken, ALFA

	BRYAN Howey-GOIA fermit holder (RC 100)
0	Refrence prop (234)
	A vote would take place
	Among GOIA permit holders on
	a Year by year basis where
	a 'Super Majority' or at least 66%
	of those permit holders would have
	to vote" yes" for "Faux" shares in
	the impending showeoe fishery.
U-	

# SIMPLIFIED PROPOSAL 325, as amended

## REGULATORY ITEMS:

0

- 1) Applies only to area on map in cross-hatching between Lizard Head and Hawk Point (need regulatory description) in district 12.
- 2) From the second Monday in June through June 30
  - 3) Fishing period Mon-Thurs
  - 4) retention of pink and chum salmon only
  - 5) 3 year sunset

NON-REGULATORY ITEMS

1. JRPT to develop management plan within 3 years

2. No change to current management of District 14

3. Troll fleet will collaborate with ADF+6 to obtain chum catch data by statistical sub-area as they do

for chinook in the spring hatchery troll areas.

4. Chum trollers agree to not propose expansions

to the district 12 chum fishery without first

obtaining the consensus of USAG, TSI and JCBOA

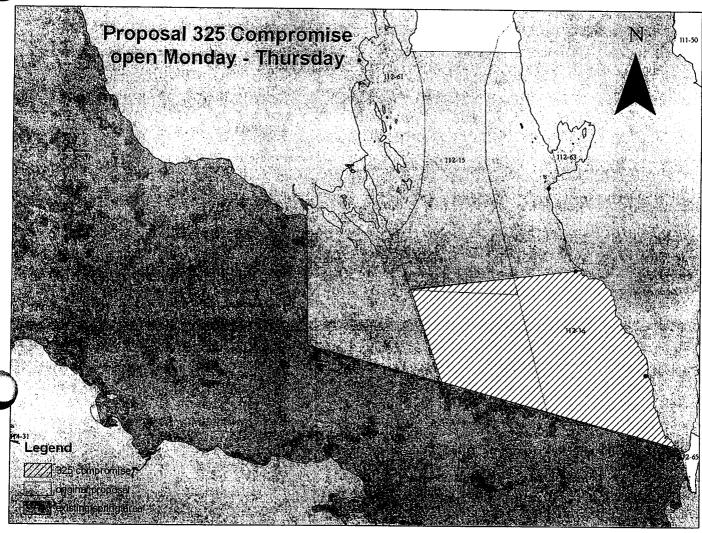
5. Chum trollers agree to withdraw support for proposal 326.

Servitorial Sportsmen Chum Mallows Assac.

MATE Chum Trallers Assoc

Milli The United 3 outliers 4 Gillnetter ASSn.

Ruhal Gancal Juneau Chate Boxt Operators assn.



00.35.7 1.4 2.1 2.8 3.5 Nautical Miles