

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
JANUARY 7–11, 2014
KODIAK FINFISH

PROPOSAL 88 - 5 AAC 18.361. Alitak District Salmon Management Plan. Change staggered fishing periods in Olga Bay, Moser Bay, Alitak Bay, and Cape Alitak, as follows:

5 AAC 18.361. Sec. (b) & (c). I propose to do away with the staggered openings and closures. Opening all sections (Olga Bay, Moser Bay, Alitak Bay & Cape Alitak) at 9:00 a.m. and closing all sections at 6:00 p.m. I propose that there shall be a minimum closure of 87 consecutive hours in every 8-day fishing period, unless the department determines that the sockeye salmon (propose- upper) escapement goals will be achieved for the Frazer and Upper Station sockeye runs.

ISSUE: The evolution of Frazer, regulation changes and the evolution of the fishery have slowly diminished the catch percentages in the Olga Bay Section to a point that the fishery is hardly viable. Attempts have been made over the last two decades to adjust this. The last attempt seems to have added to the problem and I would like to change the current staggered openings for four reasons. It does not work. We have challenges requiring us to pull some gear the night before a closure to meet the 9:00 a.m. deadline. By mid-August, we are setting gear in the dark creating the same safety problem the Alitak Bay Section had. Under the current plan there can be sometimes there is only 38 hours without gear, not allowing fish to move through the system, lessening quality of catches as well as escapement.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If this problem is not resolved two things are most likely to happen. Fishing families will quit and abandon the investment they made because it will not be saleable, ending multi-generational family businesses. The board will continue to hear proposals related to this.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This is questionable, but under the staggered fishery there can be a very short period of time that all gear is out of the water not allowing a mass of fresh unmolested fish to pass completely through the system. So a number of possibly net marked fish or in some way gear effected fish are counted in escapement and are being caught lessening the quality and size of fish caught in Olga Bay.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In the long run all fishermen in the Alitak Bay District will benefit from getting escapement from large healthy unstressed genetically diverse stock. I believe Olga Bay will see an increase in catch of larger quality fish. Short openings (Three days with at least three days closed) benefits Olga Bay while longer openings and shorter closures benefit the outer fishermen. I believe with a five day fishing period that catches will become more equitable. With three in a half days closed quality fish will move through the system.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? It is most likely that catch percentage in all the outside sections will decrease to some degree.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I considered changing the staggered opening and closing times but it always put one section or another with less than ideal times. A 24 hour stagger would keep every section out of the dark and in a safer situation. I rejected this because it would most likely get major opposition and also concerning to me was the possibility of having only a 15 hour window with all gear out of the water. I also considered having the sections managed independently but again I feel opposition would be great.

PROPOSED BY: Nina Burkholder (HQ-F13-018)

PROPOSAL 89 - 5 AAC 18.361. Alitak District Salmon Management Plan. Change management dates for Cape Alitak Section based on late Upper Station returns, as follows:

From July 16 through August 1 [9], in odd-numbered years, the Cape Alitak Section shall be managed based on either the sockeye salmon or pink salmon return to the Frazer system, and in even-numbered years it shall be managed based on the sockeye salmon return to either the Frazer system or to Upper Station. From August 2 [10] through August 25, in odd-numbered years, the Cape Alitak Section shall be managed based on the sockeye salmon return to Upper Station, and in even-numbered years it shall be managed based on either the pink salmon return to the Frazer system or on the sockeye salmon return to the Upper Station system.

ISSUE: The management dates for the late Upper Station run need to start earlier. The 10th of August is too late to start protecting escapement for this run. The date should be moved back to match the escapement goal graph that is in place.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Possible minimum escapement not met. Possible over fishing on the early portion of the run.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No, it only addresses the management/protection of the run.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Eric Dieters (HQ-F13-023)

PROPOSAL 90 - 5 AAC 18.361. Alitak District Salmon Management Plan. Establish management options for Humpy-Deadman Section after July 15 for the protection of other salmon run in Alitak District, as follows:

After July 15, the Humpy-Deadman Section shall be managed based on the strength of salmon returns to systems located within the Humpy-Deadman Section. The Humpy-Deadman Section

must also be managed on the strength of late Upper Station Sockeye run starting August 10. The burden of conservation for the late Upper Station run must not be only on the Cape Alitak, Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay Sections. If escapement goals are not met at Upper Station, management must pulse (open and close) fishing in the Humpy-Deadman Section, and or move fishing boundaries to reduce late run sockeye catch. Pulse fishing suggestions: 24 hour closure within a 72 hour fishing period for the Humpy-Deadman Section.

ISSUE: The Humpy-Deadman Section has no management/regulation options for the protection of other salmon runs within the Alitak district from July 16 on. The Humpy-Deadman section has the first fishing grounds on the S.E. part of the Alitak District, intercepting salmon bound for systems at the end of the Alitak District. Regulation needs to be available for Fish and Game to manage this complex district.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Possible over harvesting of the fish not bound for Humpy-Deadman Section. Possible lack of biodiversity in the systems behind the Humpy-Deadman Section.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No, it only addresses the management/protection of the run.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen who catch salmon in the Alitak District, conservation ensures future salmon returns.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Eric Dieters (HQ-F13-022)

PROPOSAL 91 - 5 AAC 18.361. Alitak District Salmon Management Plan. Amend management plan to direct the department to manage for early-run Upper Station sockeye and to achieve biological escapement goals (BEGs) for early-run Upper Station and Frazer sockeye salmon, as follows:

- (1) Modify the Alitak Plan to manage specifically for early-run Upper Station sockeye salmon and to manage both early-run Upper Station and Frazer sockeye salmon for their BEGs. 5 AAC 18.361(a)
- (2) The early Upper Station and Frazer sockeye salmon runs be managed for maximum sustained yield;
- (3) REPEALED [THE EARLY UPPER STATION SOCKEYE SALMON RUN BE MANAGED FOR SUSTAINED YIELD BY AN OPTIMAL ESCAPEMENT GOAL OF 25,000 FISH] (g) The Cape Alitak Section shall be managed, from June 1 through June 15 [JULY 15], based on the [FRAZER AND] early Upper Station sockeye salmon returns. NEW: **From June 16 through July 15, the Cape Alitak Section shall be managed on the Frazer sockeye salmon returns.** NO CHANGE TO REMAINDER

OF PART (g) OF THE ALITAK PLAN (h) The Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay Sections shall be managed, from June 1 through June 15 [JULY 15], based on [FRAZER AND] early Upper Station sockeye salmon returns. NEW: **From June 16 through July 15, the Alitak Bay, Moser Bay and Olga Bay sections shall be managed on the Frazer sockeye salmon returns.** NO CHANGE TO REMAINDER OF PART (h) Of the ALITAK PLAN.

ISSUE: The natural sockeye salmon runs to Upper Station (South Olga lakes) have decreased to well below historical levels. Natural sockeye salmon production from Upper Station has steadily declined since commercial fisheries management was directed by the Board of Fisheries in 1999 to achieve only an Optimum Escapement Goal (OEG) of 25,000 early-run sockeye rather than the Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) of 43,000 to 93,000 for the early Upper Station sockeye.

Management for sustained yield rather than Maximum Sustained Yield (MSY) has reduced sockeye escapements into Upper Station (South Olga lakes) and reduced or damaged the productivity of this wild stock salmon system. There are distinct early and late runs for sockeye salmon to Upper Station. Olga Bay also supports Frazer Lake where sockeye salmon were introduced in the 1950's and large fish pass was constructed to allow the stocked salmon to enter the lake and spawn. Early-run Upper Station sockeye salmon run timing is earlier than Frazer, but overlaps that of the enhancement project salmon returning to the Frazer Lake system.

Reasons for the declining productivity of both the early and late-run Upper Station sockeye stocks have not been addressed by ADF&G. The interaction between Upper and Lower South Olga Lakes and between the early and late runs of Upper Station sockeye is undetermined, but the reduced productivity of Upper Station and declining runs of both early and late-run Upper Station sockeye stocks, has mirrored the reduced escapements. The targeted escapement for early Upper Station sockeye was reduced to an Optimum Escapement Goal of 25,000 in 1999, in order to favor the introduced Frazer sockeye run. Frazer is now a larger sockeye salmon run than early Upper Station, but this has not always been true. The Alitak District Salmon Management Plan (Alitak Plan) does direct that commercial fisheries from June 1 through July 15 will be managed based on both Frazer and early-Upper Station sockeye salmon in the Cape Alitak, Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay sections, but with management that targets a lower escapement than the BEG for early Upper Station, the strong stock (Frazer) drives commercial fishing time in the Alitak District in June (strong stock management).

The Alitak Plan now requires management of both stocks prior to July 16. Since early Upper Station sockeye salmon run timing is earlier than Frazer sockeye run timing, a specific period of directed management for only that stock is possible and desirable to increase the likelihood of achieving the early-run Upper Station sockeye BEG. Managing for BEGs for both early Upper Station and Frazer sockeye salmon will still allow commercial fisheries but will maximize the potential contribution of both stock to the Alitak commercial harvest and will, in the long term, increase the productivity of the Upper Station lakes systems. There is scientific evidence that indicates the early run spawners are critical to the health of the entire sockeye system and the OEG has damaged the late sockeye run as well.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The sockeye salmon escapement to Upper Station will continue to be below the BEG. MSY will not be possible to achieve. The productivity of Upper Station lakes, which requires adequate salmon escapement to provide nutrients for the entire ecosystem, will continue to decline. Sockeye salmon stocks in Upper Station lakes will continue to decline. Fisheries closures will be required to conserve returning sockeye salmon. There will be fewer salmon surplus to escapement needs available for both commercial harvest and subsistence users.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Changing management and rebuilding the early-run Upper Station sockeye salmon stock will allow commercial fisheries targeting these high quality wild salmon. The return to a BEG will allow ADF&G to determine if Upper Station is a Stock of Concern and move toward system rehabilitation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Alitak harvesters of salmon will benefit from stronger early Upper Station sockeye runs. Salmon marketers and consumers will get a high quality natural run sockeye. Upper Station natural run sockeye are larger than the introduced Frazer Lake sockeye and offer a more desirable commercial fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Until the early Upper Station sockeye run rebuilds, there may be a need for some closures of the Alitak District commercial salmon fisheries prior to June 15.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Make early Upper Station sockeye salmon the priority of fishery management through July 16, instead of favoring the stronger, introduced sockeye salmon run to Frazer. But this could lead to closures of Alitak District fisheries while the stock rebuilds and might lead to over escapement of Frazer sockeye salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Jim Pryor (HQ-F13-143)

PROPOSAL 92 - 5 AAC 18.360. Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan. Change management standard that harvest of sockeye salmon in Cape Igvak Section not exceed 15% at any time or before August 26, as follows:

(a) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first (Black Lake) and (Chignik Lake) runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 600,000, there will be no commercial salmon fishery allowed in the Cape Igvak Section, as described in 5 AAC 18.200(g)(8), until a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area, as described in 5 AAC 15.100, is achieved. After July 8, after at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvest in the Chignik Area and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area will be at least 600,000 and the harvest in the Cape Igvak Section will [APPROACH AS NEAR AS POSSIBLE] **not exceed** 15% of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch **at any given time, and prior to August 26th.**

ISSUE: Excess interception fishing at Cape Igvak and the South end of Kodiak Island.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Chignik and Cook Inlet fishers will continue to suffer hardship. Area “K” will continue to intercept Chignik and Cook Inlet bound fish in excess of their 15% allowed harvest at Cape Igvak. At any given time in the past years Area “K” was allowed to catch as much as 50% of the Chignik bound stocks.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It is well known that salmon harvested at their terminal area is of better quality due to the fact the fish are no longer feeding.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Chignik fishers, local government of the five local village’s seasonal workers and the Lake and Peninsula Borough.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. The Kodiak fishers would possibly have a longer season at Cape Igvak.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Completely close the Igvak Section, Kodiak fishers are still able to intercept Chignik and Cook Inlet sockeye at Cape Barnabas and other hook of spots along the South end of Kodiak Island. Kodiak fishers would reject completely closing the Igvak Section.

PROPOSED BY: Endurance Fisheries (HQ-F13-020)

PROPOSAL 93 - 5 AAC 18.360. Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan. Amend plan to apply allocation of 15% of total Chignik sockeye salmon catch only before July 8, as follows:

Limit the allocation of the interception fishery at Igvak to the pre-July 8 sockeye catch in Chignik. The regulation would read as follows:

5 AAC 18.360. Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan.

(a) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first (Black Lake) and second (Chignik Lake) runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 600,000, there will be no commercial salmon fishery allowed in the Cape Igvak Section, as described in 5 AAC 18.299(g)(8), until a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area, as described in 5 AAC 15.100, is achieved. **After** [JULY 8] at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and if the escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that [THE NUMBER OF SOCKEYE SALMON HARVESTED IN THE CHIGNIK AREA WILL BE AT LEAST 600,000 AND] the harvest in the Cape Igvak Section will approach as near as possible 15 percent of the total **pre-July 8** Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

(b) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 600,000 but the first run fails to develop as predicted and it is determined that a total sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area of 600,000 or more may not be achieved, the Cape Igvak harvest in the Chignik

Area of 600,000 or more may not be achieved, the Cape Igvak Section commercial salmon fishery will be curtailed in order to allow at least a minimum harvest in Chignik Area of 300,000 sockeye salmon by July 8 if that number of fish are determined to be the surplus to the escapement goals of Chignik River system. [AFTER JULY 8, AFTER AT LEAST 300,000 SOCKEYE SALMON HAVE BEEN HARVESTED IN THE CHIGNIK AREA, AND IF ESCAPEMENT GOALS ARE BEING MET, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MANAGE THE FISHERY SO THAT THE NUMBER OF SOCKEYE SALMON HARVESTED IN THE CHIGNIK AREA WILL BE AT LEAST 600,000 AND THE NUMBER OF SOCKEYE SALMON HARVESTED IN THE CHIGNIK AREA WILL BE AT LEAST 600,000 AND THE HARVEST IN THE CAPE IGVAK SECTION WILL APPROACH AS NEAR AS POSSIBLE 15 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL CHIGNIK SOCKEYE SALMON CATCH.]

(c) On years when a harvestable surplus beyond the escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 600,000 and the department determines the runs are as strong as expected, the department will manage the fishery in such a manner whereby the number of sockeye salmon taken in the Cape Igvak Section will approach as near as possible 15 percent of the total **pre-July 8** Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

(d) The total **pre-July 8** Chignik sockeye salmon catch constitutes those sockeye salmon caught prior to July **8** within the Chignik Area plus 80 percent of the sockeye salmon caught in the East Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, as described in 5 AAC 09.200(f), plus 90 percent of the sockeye salmon caught in the Cape Igvak Section. The harvest in the Cape Igvak Section at any time before July **8** [25] may be permitted to fluctuate above or below 15 percent of the cumulative **pre-July 8** Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

(e) This allocation method will be in effect through July **8** [25]. The first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the Cape Igvak Section will not occur before the first **48 hour** fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the Chignik Area.

(f) During the period from approximately June 26 through July 8, the strength of the second run of Chignik River system sockeye salmon cannot be evaluated. In order to prevent overharvest of the second run, commercial salmon fishing in the Cape Igvak Section will, in the department's discretion, be disallowed or severely restricted during this period.

(g) The department shall announce commercial salmon fishing periods by emergency order. The department shall give at least one-day notice prior to the opening of a commercial salmon fishing period unless it is an extension of a fishing period in progress.

ISSUE: The Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan. Specifically, the fact that the plan is based on the interception of 15% of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch when the Cape Igvak fishery is focused almost exclusively on the interception of the pre July 8 return of sockeye to Chignik. While the plan is based on the total sockeye catch in Chignik over the course of the entire season, Igvak fishermen are only intercepting early run Chignik sockeye and therefore disproportionately impacting the early run. Igvak fishermen do not have the ability to intercept significant number of late run Chignik sockeye, so why are they given an allocation based on the entire Chignik harvest?

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Chignik's early sockeye run will continue to be disproportionately impacted by the Igvak interception fishery. One of these years the early

run is going to come up way short of prediction, and the late run will continue its poor production, and Chignik fishermen will be forced to bear the brunt of the shortfall.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Fish caught closer to the processor in Chignik will be better quality than those caught at Igvak and transported across Shelikof Strait.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Chignik fishermen and their families. The Chignik Communities. The local processors. The Lake and Peninsula Borough.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Kodiak fishermen who choose to target Chignik-bound sockeye in the Cape Igvak area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

1. Eliminate the fishery completely. Too extreme, as the fishery has a history as an interception fishery based upon the interception of early run Chignik bound sockeye.
2. Require Kodiak fishermen to register to fish in the Cape Igvak Area addressed in another proposal.
3. Adjust the allocation percentage downward to more accurately reflect the fact that the Igvak fishery is primarily impacting early run Chignik sockeye.

PROPOSED BY: Axel Kopun (HQ-F13-255)

PROPOSAL 94 - 5 AAC 18.355. Reporting requirements and 5 AAC 18.360. Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan. Require check-in and check-out in Cape Igvak Section and delivery of salmon before leaving section, as follows:

(c) All commercial salmon fishers shall report to the department upon commencing fishing operations in the Igvak Section and report to the department prior to departing the area, future more must declare and deliver all salmon prior to leaving the Igvak Section and fishing elsewhere in the Kodiak management area.

ISSUE: Failing to report Chignik Bound fish caught at Cape Igvak.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Some of the Chignik bound stocks are going unreported and would continue to be delivered elsewhere in Area (K).

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Fish delivered to a larger vessel (tender) prior to crossing Shelikof Strait could improve the chances of the product getting to the cannery in better shape if the weather conditions are not good.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Kodiak, Chignik fishers, and the Department of Fish and Game. Better quality product delivered to the cannery and more accurate counting for better management.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The Kodiak fishers who race for fish and those who work the system.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allow for deliveries on the island prior to fishing in other Area K areas could be more confusing for the department.

PROPOSED BY: Endurance Fisheries (HQ-F13-021)

PROPOSAL 95 - 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan and 5 AAC 18.366. Spiridon Bay Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Establish certain set gillnet-only fishing periods, beginning June 28, in the Central and North Cape sections, as follows:

- 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.
 - (b) The Central and North Cape Section must be managed
 - (2) From approximately June 16 through July 5, based on early-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system, **except that in the Central Section**
 - (A) **On June 28, the commissioner shall open by emergency order one 114 hour fishing period exclusive for set gillnet gear, except that the Central Section may open for all gear when the minimum early-run sockeye Karluk escapement goal is achieved.**

- 5 AAC 18.366. Spiridon Bay Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.
 - (b) The purpose of the Spiridon Bay Harvest Strategy is to allow the orderly harvest of sockeye salmon returning to Telrod Cove from the Spiridon Lake enhancement project while providing adequate protection for local natural stocks returning to other streams in the bay.

The intent of this enhancement project is for the harvest of returning enhanced salmon to occur in traditional commercial fishing areas of the Northwest Kodiak District during openings directed at harvesting Karluk sockeye and Westside pink and chum salmon stocks.

An exception is that during a specific fishing period, beginning June 28, exclusive set gillnet harvest opportunities will occur in the Central Section on enhanced sockeye salmon returning to Telrod Cove.

Justification: These proposals provide minor adjustments to the Westside Kodiak Management Plan and the Spiridon Bay Sockeye Salmon Management Plan regulations of the Kodiak salmon management area. These proposed adjustments address unintended, persistent negative harvest allocation trends between mobile seine and set gillnet gear on Spiridon Lake enhanced sockeye salmon production. This production is harvested in the Northwest District, primarily in the SW Afognak (exclusive seine) and Central Sections (all gear) and the Telrod Cove SHA (exclusive seine). These negative harvest trends have occurred annually from 2008 to 2011 and are projected to continue annually from 2014 to 2017.

Explicitly for these proposals, restrictions on Central Section fishing time for set gillnet gear due to weak early run Karluk sockeye returns has/will cause(d) continued significant reversal of

intended harvest proportions by gear type on Spiridon Lake enhanced production. The accepted harvest allocation between gear types experienced from project inception through 2007 was approximately 60% to 40%, Central and SW Afognak Sections combined versus the Telrod Cove SHA respectively.

During the aforementioned years, that harvest allocation has reversed, persisting at 40% to 60%, Central and SW Afognak Sections combined versus the Telrod Cove SHA respectively. This has created an unintended economic inequity between fixed and mobile gear. Kodiak's salmon enhancement tax from all Kodiak permit holders have funded this project since 1988. Expectations were that a reasonably stable harvest allocation between gear types would occur from the combined harvest of Spiridon Lake bound sockeye in the SW Afognak and Central Sections and the Telrod Cove SHA. These proposed corrections to current harvest allocation trends should occur without incurring negative biological impacts in Kodiak's Westside wild salmon stock or by yielding negative harvest re-allocation between fixed and mobile gear on these wild stocks.

ISSUE: Lost opportunity on Spiridon bound sockeye by setnet operators in the Central Section of the Kodiak Northwest District.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued lost opportunity on Spiridon bound sockeye that we pay for with SET (Salmon Enhancement Tax) since 1988.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Salmon setnet fishermen in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The seine fleet will lose some of the windfall harvest they have had in the Spiridon Special Harvest Area (SHA) from 2008–2011 seasons.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I considered setnet only openings in the Telrod SHA. The cove is small and would not facilitate an orderly fishery of fixed gear. Most setnet operators are not mobile. Some of the sites that harvest Spiridon sockeye are 60 miles from the Telrod SHA. Setnet sites have been in fixed spots for multi decades and owned by the same families for generations so it would be an undue hardship to move to the SHA to catch fish that are caught in the traditional areas. This proposal addresses parity/equity that arise during years of minimum fishing time when the Spiridon fish move through the Central Section.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Berns (HQ-F13-110)

PROPOSAL 96 - 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan. After August 15, allow gillnet gear in Inner Bay sections of Northwest Kodiak District during open fishing periods if Central and North Cape sections are closed for more than 48 hours, as follows:

After August 15, if the outer areas of the N.W. District of the Kodiak Management Area are closed for more than 48 hours, any inner bay or inner area opening within the N.W. District for commercial salmon fishing shall be open for all Kodiak salmon gear groups.

ISSUE: Transfer of fishing opportunity in the N.W. District of the Kodiak Management Area late in the season when weak sockeye runs to the Karluk River system. In 2010 there were abundant pink salmon in the N.W. District of the Kodiak Management area but the sockeye run to the Karluk was weak. The setnet area closed due to sockeye catch and substantial, historical, harvest opportunities were lost.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Loss of fishing opportunity and expanded transfer of market share between gear groups.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? N.W. District setnetters and West side processors.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? This keeps status quo for historical Karluk run strength.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Specific allocations were considered, but rejected because of difficulties to manage to a percentage of catch. Seine gear restrictions were also considered but rejected because the N.W. area is historically a mixed gear area.

PROPOSED BY: Duncan Fields (HQ-F13-115)

PROPOSAL 97 - 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan. Delay closure of Northwest Kodiak District if gale warning is forecast for Shelikof Straits, as follows:

On the day of a planned or announced period closure in the N.W. District of the Kodiak Management Area, if the 4:00 a.m. National Marine Weather forecast calls for Gale Warnings (35 knots or more) in the Shelikoff Straits area, the closure shall be postponed 15 hours until 12:00 p.m. (noon) or the next day when the 4:00 a.m. National Marine Weather forecast no longer calls for Gale Warnings in the Shelikof Straits area. After August 15th, the initial extension would be 18 hours.

ISSUE: Continued risk of life and/or serious injury for small boat set gillnet fishermen adjacent to Shelikoff Straits on the west side of Kodiak Island in the northwest management area of the Kodiak District who, on occasion, may be exposed to gale force winds when attempting to remove their set gillnet gear, by hand, at the end of the fishing period.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued high risk of serious injury, loss of life and/or loss of equipment and vessels.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Indirectly. Occasionally, set gillnet fishermen have been forced, due to weather, to leave their nets in the water past a period closure. Fish caught after the closure are generally delivered on a ticket that is held by the State of Alaska. However, many time tenders have left the area and the fish cannot be sold. This proposal would mitigate this type of waste.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Small boat set gillnet fishermen in the N.W. District of the Kodiak Management Area. However, since the proposal is not gear specific, seine fisherman could also benefit and, of course, everyone in the fishery benefits if this proposal saves someone life or prevents serious injury or gear and/or vessel loss.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Little, if any, negative impact on others.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Weather delays at 25 knots were considered. However the Gale Warning (35 knots) is the standard adopted for the Kodiak Tanner Crab fishery and seems accepted in the industry as a benchmark when folks in small boats shouldn't be out on the water working fishing gear.

PROPOSED BY: Duncan Fields (HQ-F13-116)

PROPOSAL 98 - 5 AAC 18.332. Seine specifications and operations. Allow CFEC seine salmon permit holders to operate additional gear under a dual permit or joint venture, as follows: Our solution would be to allow longer purse seine if two or more permits are on board the vessel. The Board of Fish could enact this in one of two ways: Option 1, allow individuals to possess up to two permits (dual permits), and allow a longer net on a vessel with a dual permit holder on board; Option 2, allow a joint operation with longer net if two separate permit holders are on board, similar to what is allowed in Bristol Bay drift gillnet fishery in 5 AAC 06.333.

- Option 1. Allow a longer net with dual permit holders.
- a) Allow individuals to possess up to two permits.
 - b) With a dual permit holder on board, the combined maximum length of gear would be 300 fathoms, with no more that 250 fathoms of seine and up to 50 fathoms of lead. The minimum seine length would not change.
 - c) Prior to the fishing season, an individual with two permits must register with ADF&G their intent to fish that season with a dual permit.
 - d) The vessel would be required to clearly display an indication of a dual permit operation on its ADF&G permanent license plate number.

- Option 2. Allow a joint operation if two separate permit holders are on board.
- a) With two permit holders on board a vessel, the combined maximum length of gear would be 300 fathoms, with no more than 250 fathoms of seine and up to 50 fathoms of lead. The minimum seine length would not change.
 - b) The two permit holders would be required to register with ADF&G their intent to combine permits and while so registered the permits would not be allowed to

operate separately from one another. Termination of the joint operation would have to be registered with ADF&G.

- c) The vessel would be required to clearly display an indication of a joint operation on its ADF&G permanent license plate number. Upon termination of the joint operation, the display must be removed.
- d) Both permit holders would be responsible for the lawful use of gear.

ISSUE: The excessive number of latent Kodiak area salmon purse seine permits. In 2012 fishery, there were 210 latent permits that were not activated, compared with 166 permits that were actually fished, which is a huge amount of latent potential. The number of permits activated each season has generally been on the rise in recent years, leading to overcrowding on the fishing grounds.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We are currently seeing renewed interest in Alaska salmon fisheries, which could result in more and more latent permits becoming active. The Kodiak area salmon fishing grounds are crowded right now, with long waits at many of the historic fishing sites. Excessive activation of latent permits will exacerbate the situation, resulting in too many fishing operations in the Kodiak area to sustain reasonable livelihoods for the historic and current participants.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The benefits will be twofold for the current and historical participants in the fishery. 1) Fishers will see an increase in fishing efficiency from the use of the longer nets, and 2) as permits are combined to form either dual permit or joint operations there will be less danger from excessive latent entry into the fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick Pikus (HQ-F13-027)

PROPOSAL 99 - 5 AAC 18.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Reinstate dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder to operate additional gear, as follows:

Allow an individual to hold two SO4K permits, and fish dual compliments of gear, which for Kodiak Setnet, would allow up to 300 fathoms of gear and no more than four nets, none of which can be longer than 150 fathoms. All laws and regulations defining the current system will pertain to the new system, with the exception that one individual is allowed to hold two Kodiak Setnet, SO4K Permits. Both of the permit holder's five-digit CFEC permit serial numbers followed by the letter "D" to identify the gillnet as a dual permit set gillnet must be located on the identification buoy and the site markers required by 5 AAC 39.280.

ISSUE: The 1972 Constitutional Amendment Allowing for Limited Entry: “...for the purpose of resource conservation, to prevent economic distress among fishermen and those dependent upon them for a livelihood...” Alaska’s Limited Entry Permit system was implemented in order to provide interim ownership of state fisheries resources, in part to protect the resource, and in part to provide for a viable economic business model that supports investment and sustainability. In 2006 the Alaska legislature passed legislation to allow for an individual to hold two Alaska Limited Entry Permits, because the economics of certain fisheries was compromising long-term participation, especially the ability of new entrants to acquire capital necessary to be competitive and earn a return capable of supporting commercial fishing as a career. Kodiak Setnet was quickly identified as a fishery facing challenging economic times due to the capital requirements of obtaining permits, cabins, skiffs and gear (\$200,00+), and a real annual return between 2000–2006 of **\$36,585 (2000–2011, \$37,876)**; further complicating the setnet business model is the length of season, often lasting four months, as well as paying crew. The low returns for crewmembers, and the cap on revenue make retaining and training crew difficult. These challenges are especially difficult for the family operation, with multi-generational obligations to young and old that are not as stable, nor productive as middle age participants.

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/d3c837h> (CFEC Salmon Set Gillnet Permits and DNR Shore Fishery Leases in Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, and Bristol Bay 1975–2011)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unlike other fisheries, setnetting is often a family operation, with permits held by family members and fished as a whole. Allowing a fisherman with two permits to fish both permits under current Kodiak Set Gillnet Regulations will allow the family operation to stay within the family as the young adult enters a different line of work, or when a parent reaches an elderly age and cannot fish anymore. Lost harvest, income, and crew are foregone when a permit is not fished. There is a high likelihood that if the economic outlook for Kodiak Setnet does not improve, many fishing operations will prove infeasible. Removing family fishing operations will destabilize the fishery and remove dynamism required for long-term sustainability.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Increased revenue derived from fishing multiple set gillnets allows for investment in capital improvements that increase product quality. Additionally, a more consistent annual production afforded by multiple nets will provide a solid foundation for long-term success of the fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All current Kodiak set gillnet permit holders will realize an increase in the fair market value of their permits, and greater more stable revenue from their investment. Existing multi-permit operations will be in a better position to utilize their permits throughout the entire season, while also supporting non-fishing members, shore side facilities (cabin), reinvestment in new capital and especially crew who will receive a better wage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? One concern is that with increased demand for setnet permits and more stable revenue, permit prices will rise, and those in the best position to purchase new permits will be existing participants, increasing barriers for new entrants.

However, with the increased “graying” of existing permit holders, “boom and bust” fishing cycles, and challenges of living in a remote cabin for four months, there is a high likelihood that permits will remain available for purchase.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Fishing cooperatives, proxy permit holders, relaxing transfer restrictions on families and allowing absentee ownership. Rejected as these options are far more complicated and/or controversial.

PROPOSED BY: Erik OBrien (HQ-F13-089)

PROPOSAL 100 - 5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area. Restore sport limit of rockfish to 10 per day outside of Chiniak Bay, as follows:

Kodiak Association of Charterboat Owners recommend restoring the sport fishing daily bag limit of 10 rockfish to Kodiak Island waters, other than in waters of Chiniak Bay, where the new five fish bag limit will continue to protect this area of concern. We also recommend retaining the new demersal rockfish limits (the current daily bag limit, put in place in 2011, allows for two of the catch to be demersal rockfish, one of which can be a yelloweye).

ISSUE: During the last Kodiak cycle, the Alaska BOF reduced the Kodiak sport rockfish daily bag limit from 10 to five fish. Members of the Kodiak Association of Charterboat Operators (KACO) found this blanket restriction damaging to our industry. Our clients pay the extra travel expense to fish Kodiak in part because we have large, healthy rockfish populations and have had a generous bag limit.

The new ruling resulted from a concern from area biologists that there was a trend of increasing rockfish harvest in Chiniak Bay. (Since the new rule was enacted in 2011, total Kodiak harvest has decreased by nearly 40 percent).

Surveys of Kodiak rockfish ages indicate a very healthy population of rockfish. A large percentage of guided rock fishing occurs beyond Chiniak Bay. The guided sport fish industry has lost opportunity to harvest rockfish in areas minimally impacted by sport fishing. This has injured our industry unnecessarily.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Kodiak guided sport fish industry has lost a strong incentive for people to journey to this remote island to sport fish. Rockfish is one of the favorites for our clients to catch and retain. A survey indicated 70 percent of Kodiak visitor traffic is drawn by sport fishing. It is expensive to come here. We need to take advantage of plentiful, renewable resources for sustained tourism here.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This is not a product quality issue.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? If adopted, this proposal will give a strong incentive for visitors to come to Kodiak to go sport fishing. It will benefit the guided sport fishing community and the economy of Kodiak.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? It will not adversely impact the resource or any group of people.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Kodiak Association of Charterboat Owners (HQ-F13-196)

PROPOSAL 101 - 5 AAC 28.450. Closed waters in Kodiak Area and 5 AAC 39.165. Trawl gear unlawful. Close Alitak Bay to trawl gear, as follows:

This is a companion proposal to Kodiak Tanner Crab Proposal 060.

It is time to try something new: We need to make one of our crab systems (Alitak Bay in the Southwest Section of the Kodiak District of Area J) a sanctuary that would be closed to crab fishing and other fishing/gear types that adversely affect the crab population. No fishing with king, tanner, or cod pots would be allowed, including subsistence fishing. Trawling would not be allowed as well. All other existing fisheries would be allowed. The purpose of the sanctuary/closure is to observe, study, and record the status of the crab population. The duration of the closure should be a period of not less than seven years, it should be long enough for all generations (year-classes) of tanners to develop and grow their numbers. It is my belief that the tanner crab will grow themselves back to historically high levels.

ISSUE: The current Bairdi Tanner Crab management policy in Area J-Kodiak effectively eliminates any and all opportunity for the resource to rebound to healthy, historically higher, biomass levels by allowing harvests on schools of crab that are struggling to recover. Every time an encouraging number of crabs come along, instead of letting them grow their numbers and fully recover, we wipe them out by harvesting. This leads to closed seasons/sections until the next promising numbers show up, at which time, we wipe them out again, thus perpetuating the self-defeating cycle.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Bairdi Tanner crab resource in the Kodiak area will most-likely never recover under current conditions and this management strategy.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The sole purpose of this proposal is to improve the quantity of the resource. In so doing, the quality (more large crab) will improve, as will the economic benefit to the Kodiak community.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Kodiak crab fishermen, crab processors, and the community in general. If this proposal works, the benefits could apply to all Bairdi tanner resources state wide.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A few trawlers, a few pot-cod fishermen, a few subsistence crab fishers.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Private ownership/management of tanner resources/stocks/schools would provide a much healthier and stable fishery, both biologically and economically. (It would be managed in a similar manner as oyster farming/fishing) This idea is rejected because the State of Alaska probably isn't ready for that type of management.

PROPOSED BY: Tim Abena (HQ-F13-061)

PROPOSAL 102 - 5 AAC 28.450. Closed waters in Kodiak Area and 5 AAC 39.164. Non-pelagic trawl gear restrictions. Prohibit nonpelagic trawling in state waters of Kodiak Area, as follows:

Just like the board closed the rest of Kodiak state waters too hard on bottom trawling, this area needs to be closed too.

ISSUE: I think nonpelagic trawling should be prohibited from all state waters in the Kodiak area. It's my understanding that the west side of Kodiak Island is still open to nonpelagic trawling from January 1 through April 30th. I don't know why the state still allows hard on bottom trawling in state waters on what use to be some of the best Tanner crab and king crab grounds. Let's stop the harm to crab from trawling in state waters NOW!

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued loss of Tanner crab and maybe a few king crab that may be left in this area. Groundfish can easily be caught outside of three miles and the trawlers don't need to use state waters. It's just a matter of convenience and we need to protect the crab.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No, but it does address the need for the state to work on rebuilding Kodiak Tanner crab and giving Kodiak king crab a chance for some recovery. I don't know why the state doesn't do anything to rebuild our king crab. The last season for what was the largest crab fishery in Alaska (over 50 million pounds in one season) was 1982. You can't tell me that hard on bottom trawling isn't impacting our crab!

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All the people in the State of Alaska that want Alaska to keep marine resources healthy will benefit. It's unlikely that crab fishermen will benefit for many years but this will at least give the crab a chance.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Trawlers may have more costs associated with fishing outside state waters. I know they will still catch their groundfish allocations.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Really it's about protecting the resource. You either protect the crab and the bottom in state waters or you don't.

PROPOSED BY: Ludger Dochtermann (HQ-F13-070)

PROPOSAL 43 - 5 AAC 28.36X. Cook Inlet Area State-Waters Groundfish Trawl Management Plan; 5 AAC 28.46X. Kodiak Area State-Waters Groundfish Trawl Management Plan; and 5 AAC 28.53X. Chignik Area State-Waters Groundfish Trawl Management Plan. Create state-waters groundfish management plans for trawl vessels less than 58 feet in the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas. *(This proposal will be considered at the Chignik, Lower Cook Inlet, and Kodiak Finfish meetings.)*

Central and Western Gulf of Alaska State Water trawl fisheries for all Groundfish Management. Set combined quota for state water areas of Prince William Sound (E) outside district, Cook Inlet (H), Kodiak (K) and Chignik (L) equal to 25% of all groundfish species in Central Gulf federal waters. Set quota for area (M) South Peninsula equal to 25% of all groundfish species in western Gulf of Alaska federal waters. Fishery to open January, 20th of each year, close on TAC or Bycatch limit or December 31st of same year. Participating vessels must be less than 58 feet in overall length. Landing limits of 150,000 pounds total of all species with a landing limit of 100,000 Pacific cod in a single landing. With a duration of no less than 72 hours between landings. All vessels using trawl gear in state water fisheries would be required to have 100% observer coverage, with one observer onboard for all trips. Observer cost would be paid by vessel. Set state water PSC caps for state waters including crab.

ISSUE: Develop New State Water Management Plan for groundfish in state waters for vessel less than 58 feet using trawl gear.

Management to include separate state water quota's for all groundfish, Pacific cod, flat fish, Arrowtooth and other misc. finfish. Along with PSC caps.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be no opportunity for small vessel Alaskan fisherman to utilize many species of groundfish in state waters. Result of no trawl opportunity in state waters will add pressure to other state water fisheries. National Marine Fisheries Service and the North Pacific Management Council are moving towards a federal waters catch share program in the Gulf of Alaska federal trawl fishery. With this action, it is time for the State of Alaska to manage all groundfisheries in state waters separate from federal management to maintain viable fisheries for Alaskans. Federal catch share programs are overly consolidating and not viable for small boat fisherman.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Trip limits and duration between trips would slow fishery pace to improve quality and better utilize fish, also give vessels time to avoid by-catch with a slower pace fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Small vessels who want to participate in state water fisheries, local communities that are supported by fisheries around them and other state water fisheries that could see a reduced effort.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Federal quotas would likely be reduced, but many species of groundfish are not fully utilized now in the federal fisheries.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Current management. The best way for the State of Alaska to ensure healthy viable state water fisheries for maximum benefit to Alaska is to manage all state fisheries themselves.

PROPOSED BY: Matt Hegge (HQ-F13-121)

PROPOSAL 44 - 5 AAC 28.36X. Cook Inlet Area Pollock Management Plan; 5 AAC 28.46X. Kodiak Area Pollock Management Plan; and 5 AAC 28.53X. Chignik Area Pollock Management Plan. Create state-waters walleye pollock management plans for Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas. *(This proposal will be considered at the Chignik, Lower Cook Inlet, and Kodiak Finfish meetings.)*

Create a state water Pollock fishery in areas E, H, K, L, and M in the State of Alaska waters of the Gulf of Alaska. Set quota for state water Pollock fishery to equal twenty-five percent (25%) of federal quota annually. Areas of Prince William Sound (E)(Outside District), Cook Inlet (H), Kodiak (K), and Chignik (L) would use a combined quota equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the total combined quota of areas 620, 630, and 640 federal waters. Area (M) south Peninsula quota would be equal to twenty-five (25%) of area 610 of federal waters. State water Pollock season would open January 20th of each year, close on TAC or December 31st each year. Vessels participating in the state water Pollock fisheries may be no more than fifty-eight feet in length (To include all trawling in state waters). Legal gear shall be pelagic trawl, non-pelagic trawl, seine and jig. All state water Pollock limited to a maximum of 150,000 pounds per landing, with duration of no less than 48 hours between landings. All vessels using trawl gear would be required to have 100% observer coverage with one observer onboard for all trips. Observer cost would be paid by vessel.

ISSUE: Develop a state water Pollock fishery in the Gulf of Alaska State waters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be very little to no opportunity for Alaskans to harvest Pollock in the Gulf of Alaska. Currently the state waters are open to anyone who chooses to fish Pollock when there is federal quota available. National Marine Fisheries Service and the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council are moving towards a Catch Share Program in the Gulf of Alaska Pollock fishery. With this action, it is time for the State of Alaska to create a separate state water fishery that maintains open access to harvesting Pollock in state waters for Alaska. This type of program is not constitutional within state waters of Alaska. Federal catch share programs have proven to be overly consolidating and cost to buy into catch share fisheries is not viable for small boat fishermen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The 150,000 pound trips verses 300,000 pound trips in the federal fishery would reduce harvest rate, along with minimum duration between trips. This could improve processors ability to fully utilize fish with less waste and improved quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anyone who wants to participate in state water Pollock fisheries with small vessels. Alaskan small coastal communities in these areas and the fisherman who live within these areas. Future fisherman who want to enter into fishing. The federal Pollock fishery in the central Gulf of Alaska has 30–50 large vessels participating annually. State water fisheries in the Central Gulf of Alaska have over 10 times the participants that could benefit from increased opportunity within state waters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? This action would likely reduce the federal quotas.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? With the looming possibility of a federal catch share program, I do not see any other solution to providing continued equal access to participants fishing Pollock in State of Alaska waters of the Gulf of Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Matt Hegge (HQ-F132-147)

PROPOSAL 45 - 5 AAC 28.3XX. New Section (Cook Inlet Area); 5 AAC 28.4XX. New Section (Kodiak Area); and 5 AAC 28.5XX. New Section (Chignik Area). Require 100 percent observer coverage on groundfish trawl vessels in state-waters of the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas. *(This proposal will be considered at the Chignik, Lower Cook Inlet, and Kodiak Finfish meetings.)*

All vessels fishing for groundfish with trawl gear in state-waters management area are required to carry 100% observer coverage in the Central Gulf of Alaska.

ISSUE: Trawl fisheries currently operate in the Central Gulf of Alaska under the restructured program with 13–15% observer coverage. With halibut and Chinook salmon stocks in decline and declines in available harvest for Tanner crab fisheries, accurate information on the number of these species caught as bycatch in the trawl fisheries is critical. The current levels of observer coverage do not ensure that bycatch is accurately estimated.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If observer coverage is not increased to 100% we will continue to lack accurate estimates of the amounts of bycatch. Management decisions will not be informed by reliable data and we will continue to have an incomplete understanding of the levels of mortality and impacts of bycatch on Chinook salmon, halibut and Tanner crab stocks.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? None.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Users of Chinook salmon, halibut and Tanner crab will benefit because we will have better information about the level of bycatch in groundfish fisheries. The state will benefit from better data on fisheries in state-waters. Groundfish fishermen will benefit from having accurate information about their catches and bycatch.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Those who find the 100% observer coverage requirement overly burdensome can choose to fish in federal waters and be subject to the federal observer program which does not require 100% coverage at this time.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Marine Conservation Council, Cape Barnabus Inc., Ouzinkie Community Holding Inc. (HQ-F13-264)

PROPOSAL 369 – 5 AAC 38.0XX. State-Waters Weathervane Scallop Management Plan. Implement a management plan for an open-access weathervane scallop fishery in waters of Alaska, as follows:

5 AAC 38.0XX. State-Waters Weathervane Scallop Management Plan.

(a) In addition to the other requirements of 5 AAC 38 that apply to weathervane scallops, including the applicable provisions of 5 AAC 38.076, the provisions of the management plan in this section apply to the commercial taking of weathervane scallops in the state waters of Alaska in Scallop Registration Area D (Yakutat), Scallop Registration Area E (Prince William Sound), Scallop Registration Area K (Kodiak), and Scallop Registration Area O (Dutch Harbor).

(b) The weathervane scallop vessel registration year is April 1 through March 31.

(c) To participate in a state-waters weathervane scallop commercial fishery specified in (a) of this section, a vessel must be registered under (d) of this section by the preseason registration deadline specified in this subsection. The preseason registration deadline for the scallop vessel registration year is 5:00 p.m. April 1. The preseason registration applies only under this section and does not satisfy other registration requirements of 5 AAC 38.076.

(d) To preseason register a vessel, the vessel owner, or the vessel owner's authorized agent, must possess a valid CFEC interim-use permit for statewide scallop that includes the vessel's ADF&G license number. The vessel owner, or the vessel owner's authorized agent, shall submit a preseason registration form in person, or by mail, electronic mail, or facsimile transmission, to the designated department office in the area responsible for management of the fishery indicating the registration area or areas that the vessel is being preseason registered for by the deadline specified in (c) of this section. The form must include the vessel operator's

(1) CFEC interim-use permit number; and

(2) intent to participate in the commercial weathervane scallop fishery in the registration area in either the state waters only or the state waters and the federal waters of the exclusive economic zone.

(e) Based on the department's assessment of vessel effort, manageability, and available harvest in state waters, the commissioner may manage weathervane scallops in state waters separately from weathervane scallops in the federal waters of the exclusive economic zone.

(f) If the commissioner determines that it is necessary for management and conservation purposes, the commissioner may require a vessel operator to register as provided by 5 AAC 38.076 for either the state waters of Alaska or the federal waters of the exclusive economic zone. The operator of a participating vessel may change registration only by notifying the designated department office in the area responsible for management of the fishery for which the vessel is currently registered. The vessel operator shall notify the department at least 12 hours before a change in registration under this subsection. Before changing registration and leaving the applicable waters, the vessel operator shall ensure that all harvested scallops are shucked and the harvest weight is reported to the department on a fish ticket.

(g) A registered vessel operator must report each day to the designated department office in the area responsible for management of the fishery any information that the commissioner determines is necessary for the management and conservation of the fishery.

(h) A vessel participating in the scallop fishery must have on board an activated vessel monitoring system (VMS) approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

(i) If the commissioner determines that a trip limit will contribute to conservation or promote an orderly fishery, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the commercial weathervane fishery in a registration area, or portion of a registration area, and reopen the fishery during which a trip limit is in effect based on the guideline harvest level or remaining guideline harvest level divided by the number of vessels that are registered preseason under (d) of this section.

(j) For the purposes of this section,

(1) the boundary between the state waters of Alaska and the adjacent federal waters of the exclusive economic zone in

(A) Scallop Registration Area D is the territorial sea boundary of Alaska as shown on NOAA Chart #16016 (22nd Edition, August 2012), adopted by reference;

(B) Scallop Registration Area E is the territorial sea boundary of Alaska shown on NOAA Chart #16723 (15th Edition, January 29, 2000), adopted by reference;

(C) Scallop Registration Area K is the territorial sea boundary of Alaska as shown on NOAA Chart #16580 (14th Edition, January 2008), as revised as of November 2011 by the chartlet for Uyak Bay on Kodiak Island, adopted by reference;

(D) Scallop Registration O is the territorial sea boundary of Alaska as shown on NOAA Chart #16011 (38th Edition, August 2012), adopted by reference;

(2) the designated department office in the area responsible for management of the fishery in

(A) Registration Area D is the department's office in Douglas or Yakutat;

(B) Registration Area E is the department's office in Cordova;

(C) Registration Area K is the department's office in Kodiak;

(D) Registration Area O is the department's office in Dutch Harbor.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY? The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) will not be able to manage specified weathervane scallop fisheries in Alaska. Weathervane scallop fisheries off Alaska are scheduled to open on July 1, 2014. Vessel participation in weathervane scallop fisheries in waters of Alaska is currently restricted by a vessel-based limited entry permit system that will sunset December 30, 2013. In federal waters, a license limitation program (LLP) constrains vessel participation in the weathervane scallop fishery.

The department will not have the necessary management tools to manage weathervane scallop fisheries in Alaska. This proposal provides a mechanism to adopt management measures during an open-access fishery in waters of Alaska. Scallop beds in state and federal waters are managed jointly, under a single statewide scallop fishery management plan, because fishing effort is stable due to vessel-based limited entry in state waters and the LLP program in federal waters. After the vessel-based limited entry program sunsets the state will need additional tools to sustainably manage the scallop resource in waters of Alaska separately from the federal-waters component if effort increases in the open-access state-waters fishery.

This proposal does not seek to modify the existing statewide scallop fishery management plan, 5 AAC 38.076.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. *(formerly ACR 8)*
