



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF ALASKA WILDLIFE TROOPERS
Office of the Director

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Chairman Johnstone
Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau Ak, 99811-5526

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The following comments give a brief description of the positions that the Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) have on the proposals that are up for consideration at the Statewide King and Tanner Crab meeting in Anchorage.

In general, when the board considers seasons, bag limit, and methods changes, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers request that every effort possible be made to align the regulations consistently region wide. This is mainly due to enforceability of multiple regulation schemes in one area and to minimize the confusion of the regulations for the public. When the board considers proposals having to do with allocation or biological concerns, AWT is generally neutral in position.

AWT recognizes that regulations are developed by the Alaska Boards of Fish and Game through the public process to support management plans. Further, all management plans rely upon public compliance with those regulations to achieve success. Enforcement is a crucial element needed to ensure long-term compliance with regulations by the public. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers request the board recognize that the division has limited resources and man power and any new regulation scheme or area restrictions may place an additional burden on AWT.

Comments on specific proposals are included in this letter.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Hall".

Captain Steven Hall
C Detachment Commander
Alaska Wildlife Troopers

Proposal 327, 328, 339, 340, 343, 347, 357 – The AWT supports these proposals as it provides clear boundaries defined by coordinates allowing the locations to be identified by GPS.

Proposal 333 – If adopted as written, and a vessel length limit is placed in regulation the regulatory language needs to clearly identify what is to be included or excluded in the vessel measurement.

Proposals 336 – If adopted, a clear definition of pot size is needed in order to be enforceable.

Proposals 337 – Regulations which prohibit fishers from all user groups from fishing before the commercial season improves the AWT's ability to effectively address concerns of pre-season fishing by commercial fishers. If this proposal is adopted, effective enforcement of preseason fishing will be reduced.

Proposal 345 – If adopted, the regulation needs to address who can operate the hand-line gear, and what the permit holder's role must be in the operation of gear.

Proposal 355 – If adopted, this proposal would allow fishers to fish gear before the season. These regulations were adopted in part to allow a fair start to the fishery participants. Exempting fishermen for this fishery would reduce the ability to enforce the season opening in order to ensure a fair start.

Proposal 359 – If adopted, the regulation needs to address how this additional gear would be identified and whether it would be operated in addition to the existing pot limit, or within the existing pot limit.

Proposal 360 – The AWT opposes this proposal. Pot limits are only effectively enforced when a companion requirement for marking pot gear with individually identified tags or stickers exists in regulation.

Proposal 361 – The AWT supports this proposal as it aligns regulations between adjacent areas.

Proposal 362 – The AWT supports this proposal as it provides clarity to placement of escape rings on shellfish gear.

Proposal 363 – The AWT supports this proposal as a method to identify which vessels are no longer participating in the fishery. It also provides clarity to the requirement that gear be removed from the water after completing fishing operations.

Proposal 372 – If adopted, and a maximum length of the lead or a maximum mesh size of the web is expected, it needs to be clearly stated.

Proposal 373 – The AWT supports this proposal.

Proposal 374 – This proposal seeks to restrict only those fishing for King Salmon to the single hook requirement. Gear and bait restrictions are very difficult to enforce when limited by species. AWT is able to consistently enforce regulations concerning gear and bait when it addresses bodies of water.

Proposal 375 – The AWT supports this proposal.