Concerned Area M Fishermen's Comments to the Alaska Board of Fisheries concerning PowerPoint presentations and electronic submission of PCs and RCs.

Background

CAMF has been involved in the board process for over 30 years. During this time our public involvement has evolved from simple public testimonies at board meetings, to the use of an overhead projector during public testimony and then to the use of PowerPoint presentations. It has been our intent to provide the Alaska Board of Fisheries science based evidence that supports our positions on topics that affect the Area M fishery; as well as, the social-economic value of the fishery to the participants and the State.

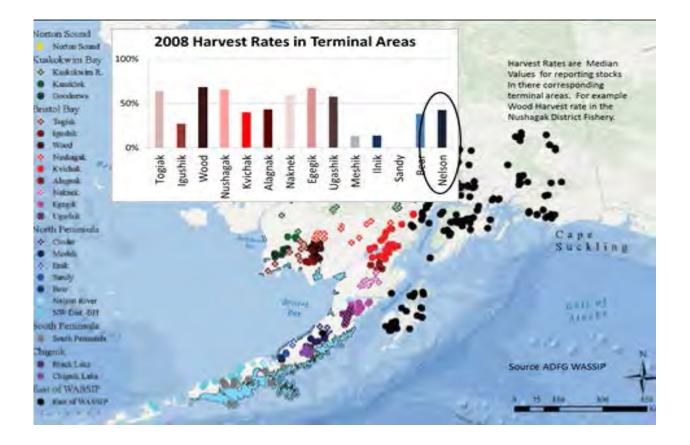
CAMF recommends the following:

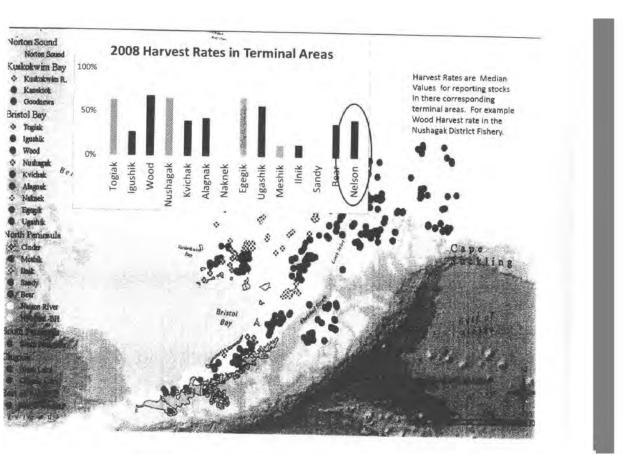
- Continue to allow PowerPoint and the use of other visual aids during public testimony and include the use of visual aids during the committee process. Until recently visual aids were allowed during the committee process. It is stated the Board is seeking out new information during committee meetings. It seems reasonable to allow visual aids to help the board gather information during these meetings.
- 2. Allow electronic submission of PCs and RCs. Until this year the board only accepted "hard" copies of PCs and RCs. We approve of the recent decision to allow public comments to be made via the internet on the BOF website. CAMF feels the same thing should be available for RCs during a meeting. Electronic submissions of RCs would streamline the entire process and give greater clarity to the Board and the Public. During last year's cycle RCs were uploaded before and during a meeting. RCs submitted from ADFG were in color (i.e. WASSIP) but documents submitted from the public were in black and white. By using electronic submission one could potentially bypass the "Xerox copy and paste" and simply submit the full color electronic version.

The following page is an example of a RC submitted at last winter's Area M meeting that was copied in black and white and then uploaded to the website. Specifically RC54 page 8 from the 2013 Area M meeting. The top part of the page illustrates a page of the RC that was submitted during the meeting. The lower part of the page illustrates the same page as shown on the BOF website. We hope this example will convince the board to accept electronic submissions of RCs.

Thank you,

Tom Wooding Vice President Concerned Area M Fisherman





Submitted by CAMF