

Response to Select propositions
Seth Rockwell

Prop 246

Putting *shall harvest* into regulation is a grave mistake. Management tools are for determining how much harvest can be allowed by each group of users. Placing language requiring that a group does harvest a percentage rather than have the opportunity to harvest that percentage can have far reaching implications that can adversely impact other user groups. This is the kind of deceitful wording that is often put forth by lawyers and legislators in an attempt to pass an unfair offering.

Prop 253

Making a super exclusive fishery out of area E has no positive impact on fishery. Further more this proposal is nothing more than a veiled attempt to shut down the commercial fishery to people who are full time commercial fishermen, and turn it into a hobby fishery for people of other professions. Changing the start date is another attempt to restrict access to fishermen currently in this fishery. This would only create a larger gear conflict as more sport boats are in the summer months than in April. The South East Spot fishery takes place in the fall with high amounts of egg Bering females being harvested and the fishery has been successfully managed for decades. This is a discriminatory proposal put in by an individual who is avidly trying to erase the commercial fishery. Sport and commercial boats use the same pots. Furthermore there is no evidence to support the claim that the decline of shrimp was due to commercial over harvest. Also it should be noted that. The current shrimp population has continued to grow since the reintroduction of the commercial fishery

Prop 258

This proposal is an emotional outburst that ignores scientific study and research. Compare The PWS distribution of shrimp to the South East population distribution and you will find a strikingly similar situation. There are areas of high abundance and areas of low abundance. The other issue with some of the area in PWS is not the overall abundance but the ability to catch the shrimp due to strong currents affecting the pots ability to fish effectively. Heavy current needs a heavy pot to catch shrimp. When a pot vibrates in current the shrimp will not enter.

Prop 259

Commercial fishermen are allowed less than 1/3 of Prince William Sound waters to fish in any given year. As a commercial fisherman I have only had my gear tangled with sport gear one time in five years. It was a simple problem that was quickly resolved. This resource has made me and my crew enough money to get ourselves through a very lean time of year. Reports do not tell you information such as how many boats only fished a short time or were using the commercial season to fulfill their personnel needs. Sport fishermen are not crowded into noncommercial zones to avoid conflict, I have had many positive encounters with sport boats over the years and openly share my knowledge to help individuals (both sport and commercial) improve on their endeavors. A little bit of education and communication goes a long way to making an enjoyable fishery for everyone.

Prop 260

This again is a response biased on emotion with no scientific foundation.

I am submitting my comments as both a commercial fisherman who relies on this fishery for income it provides at a crucial time of year and as a sport fisherman who loves to enjoy the sport fishery with my son. This fishery is a treasure for all Alaskans, it provides economical and social benefits that go beyond the waters Of Prince William Sound.

I would also like to endorse my support for prop propositions 250,251,257. These propositions help to clarify issues, and better ADF&G to manage and regulate the fishery.

Thank you,
Seth Rockwell