

MEMORANDUM

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME Boards Support Section

TO: Alaska Board of Fisheries

DATE: January 24, 2019

THRU:

PHONE: 907-465-6095

FROM: Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries

SUBJECT: Non-regulatory proposals
received for the 2018/2019
meeting cycle

Boards Support received regulatory proposals for the 2018/2019 meeting cycle in April 2018. As part of the review process, Boards Support provides an initial review of proposals to determine if they are regulatory and meet the call for proposal. There are often proposals that are non-regulatory, but nonetheless make a request to the board that is appropriate for board action.

In the last few years, Boards Support has withheld these non-regulatory proposals from the board's proposal book, but entered them as material for the Board's work session. This year I inadvertently missed this step. You have my apologies. Fortunately, the subjects covered by these four proposals were covered by previous board action, relate to the Alaska Peninsula Finfish meeting, or remain relevant for action.

The proposals are attached. In summary the author and subject include:

- Deborah Johns Head, Sitka sac roe fishery work group
- Tom Corr, Chignik river escapement goal
- Kenai River Sportfishing Association, salmon enhancement forum
- Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Alaska Peninsula test fishery

PROPOSAL XXX
5 AAC .

Thank you Board of Fish and other interested parties for hearing my thoughts and deep concerns pertinent to the issues at hand. I would like first to say that it is of my opinion that the board of Fish based on their science and math and ongoing efforts, have made sound conservative analysis regarding the longevity of the Sitka Sound Sac Roe Fisheries.

My name is Deborah Johns Head. I have been a resident of Southeast Alaska for 60 years. I am the daughter of the late Greg R. Johns Sr. My father was a fisherman in this fishery from the beginning days of Sitka Sac Roe, till his death in 1989. I currently have a brother that is carrying on his legacy. I come from a family that has always made our living from the sea. I myself have commercial fished for a greater part of my life. Many of them in the Sitka Sac Roe Fisheries.

I am also an Alaska Native. From the time Southeast Alaska was incorporated into the United States of America or the time we were made to become civilized or act according to western law, the issue of "Use of resources" for survival has NEVER really been resolved. Better known today as "subsistence". Once again our lawmakers & decision makers stand before us forcing us to make hasty irreparable decisions based on less than the facts.

It is my strongest belief that the cart has been put before the horse. The issues at hand are becoming convoluted, blurred and is causing unrest and resentment among just the groups that needs to be working together as one. The ROOT of the problem needs to be taken care of. At this point or in this meeting today, decisions should NOT be made. To hurry up and make decisions based on anything less than the facts would be reckless and a detriment to all groups here.

To set forth laws and regulations or to set precedence dictating the fair usage of the same resources would be a disgraceful decision, made in haste, or taking steps in a haphazard backwards direction. I encourage all that are here to stand up for our fishing way of life; so that this legacy continues for generations to come. I urge all parties to sit down at the table and come up with a plan that is beneficial to all. Great collaborative decisions take time.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

PROPOSED BY: Deborah Johns Head (EF-F18-008)

PROPOSAL XXX

5 AAC .

The solution I recommend is to increase the minimum escapement to 2500 in the Chignik River from current escapement goals.

The minimum escapement for the Chinook salmon in the Chignik River above the weir is 2500 a year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Chignik River Chinook Escapement Goals

The current minimum escapement goals for Chinook salmon in the Chignik River are too low. If the regulation is not changed, the numbers of Chinook salmon will continue to decline. There is more use of the Chinook salmon than in previous years.

PROPOSED BY: Tom R. Corr (EF-F18-083)

PROPOSAL XXX

5 AAC 39.xxx. New section.

Establish a public forum for hatchery issues, as follows:

5 AAC 39.xxx General Provisions (new section)

(1) The commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game and the chairman of the Board of Fisheries will assure that meetings be held on a regular basis wherein the department will update the board and the public on management production, and research relating to Alaska's commercial salmon enhancement program.

(2) The hatchery meetings will provide an opportunity for the board and the public to receive reports from the department on hatchery issues including: production trends, management issues, and updates on hatchery planning efforts, wild and hatchery stock interactions, biological considerations, and research.

(3) The agenda may include site-specific as well as regional or statewide hatchery issues.

(4) The joint department-board meetings will take place at a mutually agreeable time and place during regularly scheduled meeting of the board. The meetings will provide a forum for open discussion on a mutually agreed upon agenda of hatchery topics.

(5) On a regular basis these meetings will provide opportunity for submission and subsequent deliberation of regulatory proposals.

(6) Requests for reports from the department may be made during the board's work session during years when there is a hatchery forum scheduled.

(7) As appropriate, the board and the department may agree to invite other state and federal agencies, professional societies, scientists, or industry spokespersons to attend to contribute information on particular topics.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In actions taken in January 2001 and June 2002 the Alaska Board of Fisheries stated its intent to institutionalize a public forum to bring a statewide perspective to issues associated with hatchery production of salmon. Accordingly, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the BOF agreed to enter a joint protocol to coordinate department and board interaction on certain aspects of salmon hatchery policy and regulation. This agreement is found in the findings of the BOF, #2002-FB-215. It was the intention of the commissioner of the ADFG and the chairman of the BOF that meetings be held on a regular basis wherein the ADFG would update the board and the public on management, production and research relating to Alaska's commercial salmon enhancement program. Although the joint protocol was never rescinded, the commitment to meet and discuss these very important hatchery issues has been discontinued just at a time that coordination of the sort envisioned by the signatures of the joint protocol is most necessary.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association

(HQ-F18-047)

PROPOSAL XXX

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Create a test fishery in the Mitrofanina section, as follows:

The department shall conduct a seine test fishery in the Mitrofanina Section to assess the presence of immature salmon. If 100 or more immature salmon, per set, are present, the Commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the seine fishery in an area to be determined by the department.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The presence of immature salmon in the Chignik seine fishery. The only immature test fishery in the Western region right now is the south peninsula. What fish are being saved if there are no other immature test fisheries in the western gulf region?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F18-068)
