



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Public Safety
DIVISION OF ALASKA WILDLIFE TROOPERS
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Board of Fisheries Members,

After consulting with other agencies, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) submitted six Agenda Change Requests (ACRs) for Board of Fish (BOF) consideration. All the ACRs relate to regulatory issues that came to light during the June 2018 Bristol Bay commercial salmon fishery, long after the normal BOF proposal deadline.

Shortly after submitting the ACRs Executive Director Haight responded by letter and said in part, "The ACRs submitted are regarding Bristol Bay fisheries. This subject is within the current meeting cycle and therefore ineligible as an ACR." Honestly, I could find nothing in law or policy that explicitly prohibited in-cycle ACRs but understand that the board has complete discretion to consider them or not as the board sees fit.

During the 2018 Bristol Bay commercial salmon fishery, due to low returns in the Kvichak River, the Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area (NRSMA) was opened by emergency order for the first time since 2007. As fishermen, AWT and Fish and Game prepared for the first fishing period, several regulatory questions arose; the ACRs submitted by AWT are a result of those questions and further research into other special harvest areas in Bristol Bay. None of the regulatory issues in the ACRs is particularly earth shattering, the fishery will continue, albeit under continued questions, until the next Bristol Bay cycle. Nonetheless, it would have seemed negligent not to bring to the board's attention regulatory issues that only the board can address and to do so in the timeliest fashion, ACRs seemed to be the appropriate venue.

The Alaska Wildlife Troopers suggest that the board consider a board generated proposal to address regulatory issues in the special harvest areas in Bristol Bay. If the board elects not to do so, AWT will happily submit appropriate proposals during the next Bristol Bay cycle. We can all keep our fingers crossed and hope that salmon run dynamics are such that special harvest areas will not be needed.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Quist".

Captain Scott Quist
Alaska Wildlife Troopers
Anchorage, Alaska