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**PRIORITY**

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
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**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES 1996/97 PROPOSALS**  
**Southeast/Yakutat, Prince William Sound Finfish Areas, and**  
**Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, and Miscellaneous**  
**Shellfish Fisheries**  
**and**  
**Statewide Groundfish Fisheries**  
**(Book One)**

the last two years indicates that milling of returning adults within the traditional common property fishing area of Section 15-C has been more extensive than anticipated. The Department of Fish and Game took steps in 1994 and 1995 to attempt to provide DIPAC improved cost recovery at Amalga Harbor, including closing a portion of the eastern shoreline of Section 15-C that had been opened to commercial fishing to access enhanced DIPAC chum salmon. Despite these efforts, DIPAC's Amalga Harbor cost recovery catches were well below goal. After extensive discussions between DIPAC, the United Southeast Alaska Gilnetters (USAG), and the drift gillnet fleet, a Permit Alteration Request (PAR) to establish a new DIPAC SHA near DIPAC's Boat Harbor chum salmon remote release site was approved by the Northern Southeast Regional Planning Team in the spring of 1996. As a condition of their support of the establishment of this SHA, the Department of Fish and Game requested that formal consideration of the Boat Harbor SHA be brought before the Board of Fisheries this board cycle due to the possible allocative issues involved.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** DIPAC cost recovery goals will continue to not be met, and the corporation may fail. The substantial contributions of DIPAC salmon made to the common property fleets in northern Southeast Alaska would no longer be made, and the gillnet fishery would suffer.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Both DIPAC and the fishermen would benefit. The hatchery will obtain more revenue which will enable them to continue operation.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** DIPAC, Inc./United Southeast Alaska Gilnetters  
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**PROPOSAL 421** - 5 AAC 40.005. GENERAL. Amend this regulation to provide the following for the Prince William Sound and Southeast Alaska - Yakutat areas: (HQ-96-F-295)

Since cost recovery fish are effectively putting commercial salmon fishermen out of business by producing an excessive volume of poor quality fish, hatcheries shall be required to stay within their original mandate, which is only to maintain historic run strengths on stocks they are involved with, recover their originally projected, reasonable minimum operating costs, and not to exceed that.

**PROBLEM:** Excessive hatchery production of low cost pinks and chums are flooding processors with huge quantities of relatively poor quality fish (fish often harvested for the sake of high volume eggs alone). Hatcheries that emphasize pink and chum production have effectively become fish farms producing ever more quantities to cover their ever higher operating costs. Higher production rates also increase potential disease problems in hatchery and wild stocks.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Salmon fishermen are being shut out of markets by cheaper cost recovery fish. Poor quality fish reduce consumer satisfaction with Alaska salmon and result in lower overall prices for wild natural stocks as well, multiplying the economic impact. Many fishermen will not be able to compete with hatcheries.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All commercial salmon fishermen, as well as many processors unable to sell poor quality salmon.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Some commercial hatchery operations which have cost recovery profits to procure expensive equipment and management which has resulted in excessive operating costs.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Complete closure of "non-profit" hatcheries--rejected because there is a need to maintain historic stock strengths.

**PROPOSED BY:** Elnn Cove Advisory Committee (HQ-96-F-358)  
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**PROPOSAL 422** - 5 AAC 39.130. REPORTS REQUIRED OF PROCESSORS, BUYERS, AND FISHERMEN. Amend fish ticket reporting requirements for salmon catcher-processors as follows:

5 AAC 39.130. REPORTS REQUIRED OF PROCESSORS, BUYERS, AND FISHERMEN.

(d) In Statistical Area A, a catcher-processor that catches and processes salmon for roe recovery is considered the first purchaser of the product and is responsible for reporting his or her harvest of salmon and salmon roe on fish tickets prior to delivery to another buyer or discarding the carcasses.

**PROBLEM:** Confusion exists about the fish ticket reporting requirements for catcher-processors that are removing roe from salmon. Questions have arisen as to whether the catcher-processor or the person or company that purchases roe from a catcher-processor are responsible for reporting roe harvests on fish tickets. New regulations are necessary to clarify reporting requirements for catcher-processors.

The proposed language clarifies that the catcher-processor involved in this activity is responsible for fish ticket reporting. When a catcher-processor removes roe from landed fish and either delivers to another buyer or discards the fish, he or she has completed "catching" activities and the fish have effectively been sold by the catcher to the processor. A fish ticket must be made out prior to this time. This will aid enforcement by specifying a particular time when a catcher-processor must have a filled out fish ticket.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There will continue to be confusion about who is responsible for filling out fish tickets, and when they need to be filled out.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** More accurate catch reporting benefits management and ultimately the resource. Clarified regulations benefit enforcement.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Individuals that have not been filling out fish tickets in the proposed manner may feel inconvenienced by the need to fill out fish tickets before processing and disposing of the fish.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS  
BOARD OF FISHERIES**

February 16 -- 28, 1997

Ketchikan, Alaska

Southeastern/Yakutat Area

Sport Fisheries and Commercial Salmon Fisheries

**DESIGNATED REPORTER: Margaret Edens**

*This summary of actions is for information purposes only and is not intended to detail, reflect or fully interpret the reasons for the Board's actions.*

**PROPOSAL NO. 150****ACTION:** No action

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 47.035. and 5 AAC 77.6XX. Prohibit charter vessel operators and crewmembers and employees of a lodge from fishing for shellfish under either sport or personal use regulations. (HQ-96-F-037)

**DISCUSSION:** See proposal 150 that the board adopted at its January 1997 meeting in Sitka.

**PROPOSAL NO. 274****ACTION:** Failed

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 47.020 and 5 AAC 47.022. Reduce the minimum size limit for steelhead from 36 inches to 32 inches. (HQ-96-F-131)

**DISCUSSION:** The department reported that if a 32-inch size limit is adopted, harvest of steelhead will increase and the department will have to close systems by emergency order. In 1994, the Board of Fisheries adopted the 36-inch minimum size for steelhead to allow stocks to rebuild. The board agreed that steelhead should be managed primarily to provide maximum fishing opportunity and secondarily to provide some harvest if stock conditions permit. The current regulations meet those goals.

**PROPOSAL NO. 275****ACTION:** No action

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 47.020. Repeal the minimum size limit for steelhead. (HQ-96-F-323)

**DISCUSSION:** The board took no action based on action taken on proposal 274.

**PROPOSAL NO. 276****ACTION:** No action

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 47.022. Repeal the minimum size limit for steelhead in the Situk River. (HQ-96-F-343)

**DISCUSSION:** The board took no action due to action taken on proposal 274.

**PROPOSAL NO. 277****ACTION:** Failed

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 47.020. Require steelhead harvest tickets and require retention of any mortally wounded steelhead. (HQ-96-F-211)

**DISCUSSION:** The board agreed with the department that the harvest ticket and reporting system is unnecessary and would be difficult and expensive to implement and enforce.

**PROPOSAL NO. 278****ACTION:** Passed with amendment

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 47.022. Prohibit the use of bait in all fall-run steelhead streams. (HQ-96-F-249)

**AMENDMENTS:** See RC 89 that identifies steelhead streams in Southeast Alaska.

**DISCUSSION:** Because of continued concerns over the status of some steelhead populations in the southern part of the region, the board chose to prohibit the use of bait year around in waters known to contain fall-run steelhead.

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 33.7XX. Establish a special harvest area for cost recovery by the DIPAC Hatchery at Amalga Harbor (HQ-96-F-404)

**DISCUSSION:** Housekeeping proposal that would add DIPAC Amelga Harbor Special Harvest Area to the regulation book.

**AGGREGATE PROPOSAL A**

**ACTION:** Passed

The board generated Proposal A by combining Proposals 410, 414, 417, 395, 397, 398, 402, 403, 404, 408, 412, 414, 416 and 418 to establish regulations for special harvest areas.

**PROPOSAL NO. 419**

**ACTION:** Failed

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 33.37X. Establish a management plan to allocate the harvest of enhanced chum salmon in lower Lynn Canal. (HQ-96-F-296)

**DISCUSSION:** See discussion on proposal 420.

**PROPOSAL NO. 420**

**ACTION:** Passed with amendments

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 40.0XX. Establish a special harvest area for cost recovery by the DIPAC Hatchery at Boat Harbor. (HQ-96-F-295)

**AMENDMENT:** See RC 45 for amended language.

**DISCUSSION:** The board and the department discussed the harvest sharing concept and helping to solve DIPAC's cost recovery program.

**PROPOSAL NO. 421**

**ACTION:** Tabled

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 40.005. Place limits on the production capacity of hatcheries in the Southeast Alaska-  
kutat Area. (HQ-96-F-358)

**DISCUSSION:** The board assigned a group to look at placing limits on hatchery production in Southeast Alaska and Prince William Sound. The board will request a thorough review by the Department of Law and ADF&G to 1) Board's authority as embodied in legislative intent to regulate hatcheries and hatchery production and 2) review of the historical relationship between the board and hatchery management planning process. The review is aimed at clarifying what the Board of Fisheries role is in the hatchery planning and regulation process. The board will review these reports at the 1997 BOF work session.

**PROPOSAL NO. 422**

**ACTION:** No action

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 39.130. Define fish ticket reporting requirements for salmon catcher-processors that are removing salmon roe. (HQ-96-F-401)

**DISCUSSION:** Department requested this proposal be withdrawn.

**PROPOSAL NO. 423**

**ACTION:** Passed

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 33.200. Modify the description of Hour Points in Districts 7 and 8 by including latitude and longitude. (HQ-96-F-397)

**DISCUSSION:** The board discussed this is a housekeeping proposal that will help avoid confusion by identifying the exact location of Hour Point.

**PROPOSAL NO. 424**

**ACTION:** Passed

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 33.200. Modify closed waters in District 8. (HQ-96-F-394)

**DISCUSSION:** The department reported that this proposal is needed to avoid confusion by clarifying the description of District 8 to make it consist with Districts 6 and 7.