

(Revised #76-14-FB)

BOARD OF FISHERIES

POLICY STATEMENT ON MANAGEMENT OF MIXED STOCK SALMON FISHERIES

A basic principle of salmon fishery management is that fishing of any salmon stock should not occur until the spawning escapement for that stock is insured. Run strength and resultant optimum harvest and escapement levels can not be estimated until discrete stocks have separated themselves from mixed stocks and have arrived in areas near their natal streams. This type of single stock management allows optimum harvest rates on all stocks based on the productivity of individual stocks.

When developing fisheries management policies, factors other than biological data must be considered. Alaska has historically allowed fishing on certain mixed salmon stocks with the result that fishing fleets and related support activities have developed to harvest those stocks. Thus management policies should also address social and economic factors and weight them accordingly.

In view of the above stated principles, it is the policy of the Board of Fisheries that:

1. In the case of long standing fisheries which fish mixed stocks and for which it may not be feasible for participating fishermen to relocate to fisheries taking more discrete stocks, such fisheries may continue provided that fishing effort on the mixed stocks does not increase and that the harvest rate is not detrimental to the individual stocks.
2. In the case of long standing fisheries which fish mixed stocks and for which it may be feasible for participating fishermen to relocate to fisheries taking more discrete stocks, preference should be given to the fishery that best serves the state's interests.
3. The development or expansion of mixed stock fisheries should be discouraged when the fish that comprise those stocks can be harvested after they have separated into more discrete stocks.
4. This policy does not prevent the board or the department from allowing mixed stock fisheries, particularly when large returns are expected and the allowance of such fisheries would result in a fuller utilization of the harvestable surplus.

In all decisions relating to the regulation and management of mixed stock fisheries, it is the express intent of the board that the conservation of affected salmon stocks be given first priority over economic and social considerations.

DATE: January 12, 1980
Anchorage, Alaska


Nick Szabo, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

VOTE: 7/0