

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
FINDINGS
Proposal #632 - February 1985

The Board of Fisheries received testimony from the public and advisory committees on February 10 and 11, 1985 regarding the repeal of the six line limit on charter vessels in Southeast and Yakutat. The following findings were made:

1. The U.S.- Canada treaty places Alaska in an extremely conservative mode of fisheries management. The treaty particularly identifies the need to rebuild Chinook salmon runs and transboundary river stock catch restrictions.
2. For various reasons several charter operators who testified supported the continuance of the line limitations on charter vessels. Based upon testimony most operators who offer their clients an experience of hooking a salmon or bottomfish, keep detailed records and/or logbooks. Such records offer evidence that guided fishermen are more likely to catch fish and are used to attract clients.

Mr. "Doc" Bailey told us of a record size fish. Mr. Jay Meyers indicated tourists prefer to seek his charter services rather than rent a boat, motor, and gear that tourists would run themselves to increase their catch chances. He also indicated that his catch per unit effort (CPUE) is probably above the average sport statistics of ADF&G. Other charter boat operators suggested and said the same thing.

3. While ADF&G sport fishery staff have not done a study in southeastern Alaska, studies have been conducted in other areas of the state, e.g. Cook Inlet and Bristol Bay, which indicate that guided fishermen have a higher CPUE than unguided fishermen. These studies were done because these CPUE differences were thought to be occurring and concerns were brought forward by the other fishermen that this is occurring throughout the state.

One ADF&G study revealed that 60 active guides on the Kenai River were responsible for 88% of the sport harvest. This study also shows that in 1981 it took a guided fisherman 15.1 hours to catch a salmon of any kind compared to 45.4 hours for a non-guided angler. By 1983 it took a guided fisherman 11.6 hours to catch a salmon compared to 52.6 hours for a non-guided fisherman. In 1981 there were 4,778 kings taken by guided fishermen, representing 48.7% of the sport harvest. By 1983 this had

increased to 9,195 kings which represented 59.2% of the sport harvest. In 1981 guided fishermen were 23.9% of the total effort of sport harvest. By 1983 this effort had increased to only 24.1%. It is reasonable to assume that the same or similar circumstances exist in the Southeast/Yakutat area.

4. Testimony also indicates that there are probably more charter operators conducting business within Southeast/Yakutat areas than are registered with ADF&G. These were concerns expressed by the public and testifying operators that the charter business is expanding very rapidly and without control.
5. Because of the above information and because the board finds it necessary to manage Southeastern/Yakutat fisheries in a much more restrictive manner, the decision was made not to repeal the six line limitation for charter vessels. Repealing this regulation would not be in the best interest of conservation and the users of the resource.

Date: 3/11/85

Ron Jolin
Ron Jolin, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries