

**PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Open Anchor River king salmon fishery 6 days a week as follows:**

The Anchor River is open daily from May 25 to June 25 except on Mondays. Everything else including the closed areas and bag limits can stay in effect.

**ISSUE:** Open the Anchor River king fishery six days per week from May 25 to June 25. The fishery shall remain closed on Mondays. There are 5 to 10 times as many kings as were previously thought. This stock is larger than the Kenai early run and a huge surplus is going virtually untapped. In Cook Inlet we fight over a few kings in the Kenai and let these go to waste.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There will be thousands of kings wasted each year in an area where there is no fight for who gets the fish.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone

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

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Gary Simmons (HQ-07F-230)  
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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

Gary Sinnhuber PC9  
Central Peninsula AC1  
Anchorage AC4

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.** Open Anchor River king salmon fishery 5 days per week as follows:

Open Anchor River 5 days a week.

**ISSUE:** 10,000-15,000 kings returning to Anchor River.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Wasted fish, more bears.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, makes more opportunity.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All fishermen.

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

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** John McCombs

(HQ-07F-041)

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

Matanuska Valley AC5  
Central Peninsula (w/amm) AC1

John L. Martin PC1  
Allen Tigert PC4  
Philip J. Brna PC5  
Currie Harbour PC7  
Dick Marshall PC8  
Gary Sinnhuber PC9  
Taro Satake PC11  
Steve Haber PC12  
Anchorage AC4

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 56.122(a)(2). Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.** Modify king salmon season opening date on the Anchor River as follows:

The board should consider going back to the original timing of yesteryear: The Anchor River shall be open for five 3-day weekends, starting on Saturday of Memorial weekend, and continuing for another four consecutive 3-day weekends.

**ISSUE:** The timing of the open season for the five 3-day king salmon fishing weekends on the Anchor River is less than desirable, for optimizing the overall fishing experience. The first 3-day opener for kings on the Anchor River is the weekend before Memorial weekend. The river is usually unfishable at least 80% of the time, on that weekend opener can be a marginal experience, for these same reasons.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Small numbers of fish, if any, will continue to be harvested on that first 3-day opener. Fishermen may take unnecessary risks to fish in extremely high water conditions, which could create dangerous situations.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, the quality of the flesh of king salmon harvested in less turbid waters, can be considerably better than the flesh taken in muddy conditions.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All fishermen will benefit, where their chances for a quality fishing experience are optimized, in a limited 15 day season.

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

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No other solutions were considered.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gary Sinnhuber

(HQ-07F-248)

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

John L. Martin PC1  
Anchorage (w/amm) AC4  
Homer (w/amm) AC6

Philip J. Brna PC5  
Taro Satake PC11  
Steve Haber PC12  
Allen Tigert PC4

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 56.122(a)(2),(5). Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.** Increase the annual limit for king salmon on the Anchor River and Deep Creek as follows:

The new regulation would mention no limits to the number of fish taken yearly on the Anchor River and Deep Creek. By omission, the annual limit of 5 king salmon would apply. This would revert the regulation back to the way it was, before it was changed to its present state.

**ISSUE:** The Board should consider a more liberal regulation in regards to numbers of king salmon kept on the Anchor River and Deep Creek, to prevent the resource from being underutilized. The current king salmon regulations for the Anchor River and Deep Creek allow the taking of no more than 2 king salmon 20 inches or longer each year from these two rivers combined. Recent escapement data, collected over the past three years, (particularly on the Anchor River), has shown healthy populations of king salmon, which should support a more relaxed regulation.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?**

Unnecessary caution will prevail, which will limit the number of fish that can be taken on these already restricted rivers, and the underutilization of the resource.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All fishermen will benefit, and it will simplify the regulations.

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

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No other solutions were considered.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gary Sinnhuber

(HQ-07F-250)

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**FAVOR**

- Anchorage AC4
- Homer AC6
- Central Peninsula (w/amm) AC1

**OPPOSE**

- John L. Martin PC1
- Allen Tigert PC4
- Philip J. Brna PC5
- Currie Harbour PC7
- Dick Marshall PC8
- Taro Satake PC11
- Steve Haber PC12

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 56.122(a)(2),(5). Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.** Allow catch and release fishing after retaining a king salmon on the Anchor River and Deep Creek as follows:

The new regulation would mention nothing about having to stop fishing after keeping your daily limit of one fish. By omission, catching and releasing would be allowed whenever the river was open for king salmon fishing, as it was before the current regulation was adopted.

**ISSUE:** The Board should consider a more liberal regulation in regards to king salmon fishing on the Anchor River and Deep Creek, to prevent the resource from being underutilized. The current king salmon regulations for the Anchor River and Deep Creek do not allow any fishing on either river on that same day, if one king salmon 20” or longer has been taken. Recent escapement data, collected over the past three years, (particularly on the Anchor River), has shown healthy populations of king salmon, which should support a more relaxed regulation.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Unnecessary caution will prevail, which will continue to limit the amount of fishing time on these already restricted rivers, and the underutilization of the resource.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All fishermen who enjoy spending quality time on these amazing rivers will benefit.

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

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No other solutions were considered.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gary Sinnhuber (HQ-07F-249)

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**FAVOR**

Anchorage AC4

**OPPOSE**

- John L. Martin PC1
- Allen Tigert PC4
- Philip J. Brna PC5
- Currie Harbour PC7
- Dick Marshall PC8
- Taro Satake PC11
- Steve Haber PC12
- Central Peninsula AC1
- Homer AC6

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 58.005. Description of the Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.** Reduce the conservation corridor dates in the Early-Run King Salmon Special Harvest Area around the Anchor River as follows:

Lift the restrictions for the conservation corridor for the Anchor River on June 25. The vast majority of Chinooks bound for the Anchor are in the stream.

**ISSUE:** The July 1 date for lifting trolling restrictions off the mouth of the Anchor River.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Trolling for second run salmon will be restricted off the mouth of the Anchor River.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Fishing opportunities for saltwater anglers will be improved.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Saltwater fishermen/women.

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

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None considered.

**PROPOSED BY:** Clive Tallington (HQ-07F-329)

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**FAVOR**

Homer AC6

**OPPOSE**

John L. Martin PC1  
Allen Tigert PC4  
Philip J. Brna PC5  
Currie Harbour PC7  
Dick Marshall PC8  
Gary Sinnhuber PC9  
Taro Satake PC11  
Steve Haber PC12  
Central Peninsula AC1  
Anchorage AC4

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 7 - 5 AAC 58.005. Description of the Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.** Reduce closed area at mouth of Anchor River from 4 miles to 2 miles in the Early-Run King Salmon Special Harvest Area as follows:

Return the markers to their former positions - one mile north and south of the river mouth.

**ISSUE:** The closure at the mouth of the Anchor River during the early run of Chinook salmon It is presently, two miles north and south of the river mouth and extends one mile offshore.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Loss of trolling opportunity for salmon anglers. Restricts near shore halibut fishing.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The regulation change will enhance the quality of the fishing experience (less crowding).

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All salt water fishermen/women that fish out of Anchor Point.

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

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Eliminate markers - no protection for salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Clive Talkington, Doug Peterson (HQ-07F-330)

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

Central Peninsula AC1

Anchorage AC4  
Homer AC6

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 58.055. Upper Cook Inlet Salt Water Early-run King Salmon Management Plan.** Reduce closed area at mouth of Anchor River and Deep Creek in the Early-Run King Salmon Special Harvest Area as follows:

Early run king salmon special harvest area conservation zones would be one mile south of the mouth of Deep Creek, one mile north of the mouth of the Anchor River and one mile south of the mouth of the Anchor River.

**ISSUE:** Saltwater king salmon fishery is only harvesting 45 percent of the GHL of 8,000 king salmon. The conservation zones are too restrictive. Sport fisherman should be given increased opportunity to harvest king salmon in the marine fishery.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Sport fishing for king salmon in the marine waters of Cook Inlet will remain 55 percent under the GHL, in all fairness if the GHL is 8,000 king salmon we would like the opportunity.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, increased opportunity to saltwater fisherman for king salmon.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Saltwater sport fisherman who fish for king salmon.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one, all local streams are meeting escapement goals for king salmon.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Deep Creek Charterboat Association (HQ-07F-189)  
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**FAVOR**

- Central Peninsula AC1
- Matanuska Valley AC5

**OPPOSE**

- John L. Martin PC1
- Allen Tigert PC4
- Philip J. Brna PC5
- Currie Harbour PC7
- Dick Marshall PC8
- Gary Sinnhuber PC9
- Taro Satake PC11
- Steve Haber PC12
- Anchorage AC4
- Homer AC6

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. #\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 9 - 5 AAC 58.055. Upper Cook Inlet Salt Water Early-run King Salmon Management Plan.** Reduce closed area at mouth of Anchor River and Deep Creek in the Early-Run King Salmon Special Harvest Area as follows:

Allow fishing in the saltwater for early run king salmon within one mile of the Anchor River and Deep Creek.

**ISSUE:** Unnecessarily restriction in the saltwater troll fishery for early run kings. No conservation concern exists today and the restriction should be repealed.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued loss of harvest opportunity on surplus stocks.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All anglers.

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

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Mel Erickson

(HQ-07F-375)

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

- John L. Martin PC1
- Allen Tigert PC4
- Philip J. Brna PC5
- Currie Harbour PC7
- Dick Marshall PC8
- Gary Sinnhuber PC9
- Taro Satake PC11
- Steve Haber PC12
- Central Peninsula AC1
- Anchorage AC4
- Homer AC6

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 56.122(6). Waters; seasons; and bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kenai Peninsula Area (excluding the Kenai River drainage).** Amend these regulations to allow fishing for hatchery king salmon in the Ninilchik River seven days per week as follows:

(6) Ninilchik River drainage

(C) is open to sport fishing from the mouth **upstream** to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream **beginning Memorial Day weekend through December 31.**

[ (i) ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND AND THE FOLLOWING TWO WEEKENDS AND THE MONDAY FOLLOWING EACH OF THOSE WEEKENDS; AND ]

[ (ii) FROM JULY 1 – DECEMBER 31; ]

(D) open to sport fishing for king salmon from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream [ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND AND THE FOLLOWING TWO WEEKENDS AND THE MONDAY FOLLOWING EACH OF THOSE WEEKENDS] **beginning Memorial Day weekend through December 31; naturally produced king salmon may be retained only on Memorial Day weekend and the following two weekends and the Monday following each of those weekends; for the purposes of this paragraph, “naturally produced” king salmon is a king salmon with an intact adipose fin;** a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish; bag and possession limit two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, of which only one may be a naturally produced king salmon; annual limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length; a harvest record card is required as specified in 5 AAC 56.124; a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes a part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking it; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

**ISSUE:** The harvest opportunity for surplus hatchery king salmon in the Ninilchik River sport fishery is currently underutilized by the angling public within the present bag and possession limit and season regulations. King salmon are stocked in the Ninilchik River to provide additional harvest opportunity for sport anglers. In fall of 2004, the BOF passed a regulation, effective in 2005, to increase the bag and possession limits in the Ninilchik River to two king salmon, only one of which could be wild but both could be of hatchery origin. Despite this liberalization of the bag and possession limits for hatchery fish, the number of hatchery fish escaping the sport fishery to the ADF&G weir located upstream, remained near previous levels of approximately 500. A fishery extension by Emergency Order in 2006 following the second regulatory weekend opened the fishery for hatchery fish throughout the remainder of the king salmon run increased harvest and lowered escapement to the weir to 273 king salmon. Additional opportunity is available to harvest stocked fish in the Ninilchik River without negatively impacting the wild king salmon run or salmon spawning and rearing habitat.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Stocked king salmon that could be harvested will continue to escape the sport fishery in the Ninilchik.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Anglers that fish in the Ninilchik River.

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

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-07F-287)

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

Don Yagura PC6  
Gary Sinnhuber PC9  
Anchorage AC4  
Homer AC6

Currie Harbour PC7  
Taro Satake PC11  
Central Peninsula AC1

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 56.122(a)(6). Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.** Allow harvest of hatchery king salmon 7 days per week on Ninilchik River as follows:

Allow the harvesting of hatchery king salmon 7 days per week on the Ninilchik River, starting on the Saturday of Memorial weekend, and continuing through July 15. Wild king salmon would only be retained on the original three 3 day weekends, starting on the Saturday of Memorial weekend. The waters open to the harvesting of hatchery king salmon would be the same as the open season for wild king salmon.

**ISSUE:** The opportunity to harvest surplus hatchery king salmon in the Ninilchik River is currently underutilized by fishermen. The present regulation allows an open season for harvesting king salmon, that is limited to 3-day weekends, or nine days per year. It's only been by emergency order from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, that fishermen have been allowed an extended open season for harvesting hatchery king salmon. Fish and Game has sufficient data to support an increase in the open season for harvesting hatchery kings on a regular basis, without negatively impacting the biological escapement goal for wild king salmon on the Ninilchik River.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Large numbers of hatchery king salmon will continue to be underutilized by sports fishermen on the Ninilchik River, and surplus hatchery kings will escape to their spawning grounds. The failure to take advantage of this fishing opportunity could almost be considered illegal. Section 2 of the Alaska Constitution says on the subject of resource management: "The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of it's people."

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, because it allows prime quality fish to be taken throughout the migration of hatchery king salmon through the open season waters of Ninilchik River.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All fishermen who enjoy fishing for king salmon on the Ninilchik River will benefit. Also, service providers and tourist related businesses could see an increase in their sales, as more people visit the Ninilchik area. This increase in visitors would not be so concentrated in the current 9 day season, but would be spread out over a longer period of time.

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

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No other solutions were considered.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gary Sinnhuber

(HQ-07F-246)

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

Don Yagura PC6  
Central Peninsula (w/amm) AC1

Currie Harbour PC7  
Philip A. Hollwock PC10  
Taro Satake PC11  
Homer AC6

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. #\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 56.122(a)(6). Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Reduce king salmon bag limit on Ninilchik River as follows:**

The Board is urged to go back to the original regulation that allows for the taking of 1 king salmon 20 inches or longer per day, and 1 fish in possession, during the open season on the Ninilchik River. This change, along with the hopeful acceptance by the board of a separate proposal to increase the open season on the Ninilchik River, will provide a quality and effective fishing experience on the Ninilchik River.

**ISSUE:** The current bag limit regulation for king salmon on the Ninilchik River is too liberal, and is not necessary to provide a quality fishing experience on the river. In fact, this regulation has done the opposite, by helping to facilitate overcrowded conditions on Ninilchik River. The daily bag limit for king salmon 20 inches or longer during the open season on the Ninilchik River, was increased from 1 fish to 2 fish at the Board of Fisheries meetings in November of 2004. This liberal bag limit was enacted, instead of accepting the proposal from Alaska Department of Fish and Game, which would have extended the open season on the Ninilchik River, to harvest the underutilized hatchery king salmon.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** To continue with the current regulation only encourages overcrowding on the Ninilchik River, since it is the only river on the Kenai Peninsula that allows the taking of 2 king salmon 20 inches or longer per day. People who have already kept one king salmon on another river will be lured to the Ninilchik River on the same day, in hopes of keeping another king. With the present regulation, which allows an open season of only nine days, this puts a lot of additional fishing pressure on this river, during those nine days.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Fishermen who enjoy fishing the Ninilchik River will benefit by having less overcrowded conditions.

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

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No other solutions were considered

**PROPOSED BY:** Gary Sinnhuber

(HQ-07F-247)

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.** Prohibit use of weighted hooks in the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon as follows:

The use of weighted hooks and weights that follow hooks in The Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon as associated waters during periods closed to snagging will be prohibited. If a flotation device, such as a bobber is utilized, no other gear (hooks, weights, etc.) may be used on the line between the flotation device and the pole

**ISSUE:** In 1988, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted a regulation whereby snagging would be permitted on and adjacent to the Homer Spit only after June 23 and only by emergency order when stocked fish could not be adequately harvested by conventional fishing methods. “Snag” means to hook a fish elsewhere than in the mouth of the fish. The use of weighted hooks and hooks with weights below the hook, or the practice of installing a hook a few feet above a drooping line leading from the flotation device to the pole are the most common tackle of violators caught snagging and retaining the fish. The described setups result in a high incidence of fish hooked on the body area other than in the mouth. These practices are increasing in popularity in the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon when the fishery is not open to snagging. Gear setups purportedly intended to mouth-snare salmon swimming in the lagoon should not be utilized before legal snagging is allowed. The flotation and weighted setups are designed to let the fisherman rip their line when the fish swim into it. The line must be lightweight so that the salmon cannot easily perceive it. These setups break off easily leaving the hooks, lines, and flotation devices attached to the fish. The constant slashing of tackle through the water agitates and harasses the schools until they no longer respond to sanctioned sport fishing methods. A substantial number of fish are illegally snagged and kept utilizing these methods. It is therefore justified to eliminate this gearing during periods when the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon is closed to snagging.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There will no longer be an opportunity to successfully sport fish in the lagoon when the tide is not running through the sea channel. At low tide, the fish trapped inside will continue to be beleaguered and molested by bobber snagging and tight-line techniques to a point where they are no longer receptive to conventional baits or lures.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** A significantly reduced quantity of salmon will be illegally snagged, abused then released improperly, injured, or simply kept. It would provide more fisherman access to quality fresh fish and less of dying salmon damaged by the scofflaws who now utilize the aforementioned techniques.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Individuals and groups who enjoy and wish to practice true sports fishing where their proficiency and aptitudes are challenged. The lagoon will, once again, be an excellent place to teach fishing skills to children and visitors.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one will suffer by having to follow simple fair catch rules.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nick C. Varney

(HQ-07F-185)

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

John L. Martin PC1  
Nancy Hillstrand PC3  
Gary Sinnhuber PC9  
Central Peninsula AC1  
Homer (w/amm) AC6

Anchorage AC4

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. #\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.** Increase bag limit of king salmon under 20 inches in Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon as follows:

The regulation for king salmon under 20” long at the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon and associated waters should be the same as it is in the Kenai Peninsula fresh waters that are open for the taking of king salmon. In other words, 10 king salmon under 20” long would be allowed per day and 10 in possession. This would also reduce confusion in jack king regulations for bank accessible fisheries

**ISSUE:** King salmon under 20” long at the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon are underutilized. Currently at the fishing lagoon, any king salmon kept under 20” long, or commonly referred to as jack kings, are counted toward the daily bag limit of two king salmon. These jack kings are not included in the five king salmon yearly limit for Cook Inlet, but most people don’t keep jack kings, because they are hoping to keep two kings over 20” long. It is understood that in salt water, small king salmon may be at their early stage of development, and will continue to grow to adult size. But, this is not the case with the lagoon Kings, as they arrive in the lagoon with hopes of spawning, just like jack Kings that enter our river systems.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** King salmon under 20” long will continue to be underutilized, even though they could provide quality food, while they are still bright and active biters.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, by encouraging the keeping of kings under 20” long, these fish can be utilized in their prime state, rather than allowing the majority of them to be snagged during the emergency order in late June, when most of them are past their prime.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All people who enjoy fishing for kings at the fishing lagoon will benefit, especially the kids. Children can have a tough time landing a normal size king salmon, but would have a sense of pride in catching and keeping a few jack kings, and providing quality meat for their family.

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

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No other solutions were considered.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gary Sinnhuber

(HQ-07F-251)

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 15 - 5 AAC 77.549. Personal Use Coho Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Prohibit personal use gill nets within a thousand yards of the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon as follows:

No subsistence nets may be utilized within a thousand yards of the entrance to the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon.

**ISSUE:** On certain dates in August, personal use nets are allowed within two hundred yards of the northwest channel entrance to the Nike Dudiak Fishing Lagoon. These nets take a large number of the silvers designated for the lagoon’s sport fishery. The personal use set net fishery was originally developed to harvest Fox Creek and Fritz Creek silvers, but those runs have been diminished significantly. The silver run at the fishing lagoon now bears the brunt of these nets, depleting the number of fish available for sport fishing enthusiast. The problem has been exacerbated by some of the operators using boats to drive the fish into the nets from the area around the mouth of the lagoon.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The nets will continue to take large numbers of silvers designated to return to the fishing lagoon. The quality of fishing will continue to be dramatically reduced during the days designated for the set net openings. The overt “herding of fish” away from the lagoon’s entrance will continue to propagate a negative experience for visitors and locals, who suffer a degraded fishery while the nets are in the water.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Visitors and locals will have access to more silvers designated to return to the lagoon because they will not be competing with an August personal use set net fishery and “herding” boats.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The personal use net operators may not catch as many fish when they cannot concentrate closer to the lagoon. But, the lagoon fishery was not intended to fill these nets in the first place.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Eliminate subsistence net fishing on the Homer Spit. Recanted because there are other salon available that are not designated to return to the lagoon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nick C. Varney

(HQ-07F-184)

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 16 - 5 AAC 58.022(b)(2). Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.** Prohibit sport fishing in Tutka Bay Lagoon and near the Tutka Bay lagoon hatchery net pens as follows:

Add the following season to 5 AAC 58.022 (b):

- (E) **salmon, in the waters of Tutka Bay Lagoon and within 100 yards of the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery net pens, may only be taken from September 15 to June 30.**

**ISSUE:** The Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) is developing a sockeye return to Tutka Bay Lagoon to provide brood stock for salmon enhancement at Leisure, Hazel and Kirschner Lakes. Returning adult fish will be captured throughout the return and placed in saltwater net pens for maturation. To allow CIAA to capture fish throughout the return and minimize disturbance to the captured brook stock during the maturation process. CIAA requests the Board limit the sport fishing season within 100 yards of the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery net pens from September 16 to June 30.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Brood stock and gamete collections for Lower Cook Inlet salmon enhancement projects will be compromised. Disturbances during brood stock maturation will result in poor gamete quality and reduced brood stock survival. Brood stock and gamete shortages will reduce sockeye returns to Leisure, Hazel and Kirschner Lakes. Leisure, Hazel, and Kirschner Lakes support popular sport and commercial fisheries. Conflicts will also arise between CIAA brood stock collection activities and sport fishing activities.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The quality of the salmon harvested by sport or commercial fishing activities will not be changed; however, the quality of the brood stock and gametes collected for hatchery operations will be improved. Improved brood stocks and gamete quality will also reduce the incidence of disease during hatchery incubation and rearing.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association will benefit by having an easily accessible source of brood stock and gametes to continue sockeye salmon enhancement projects at Leisure, Hazel and Kirschner Lakes. Sport and commercial fishers and the businesses which depend on these groups will benefit from consistent returns to the enhancement projects supported by brood stock and gametes collected from the Tutka Bay Lagoon net pens

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** A small pink salmon sport fishery exists in Tutka Bay Lagoon. The fishing activity of this sport fishery will be restricted from the net pen area from June 30 through September 15.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association considered collecting brood stock and gametes from sockeye returns to Leisure Lake. To

accomplish brood stock and gamete collections at Leisure Lake, a portion of the established sport fishing activities would need to be restricted. This solution was rejected because an existing sport fishery would need to be restricted.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association

(HQ-07F-428)

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

Central Peninsula AC1  
Seward AC2  
Seldovia AC3  
Anchorage AC4  
Homer (w/amm) AC6

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 17 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.** Close sport and personal use sockeye fishing in Tutka Bay Lagoon as follows:

No sockeye salmon can be harvested by personal use or sport fishing gear inside the Tutka Bay Lagoon.

**ISSUE:** Sport - personal use harvest of sockeye salmon in Tutka Bay Lagoon needs to be prohibited.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The hatchery will likely fail to harvest cost recovery sockeye salmon needed to meet revenue goals.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, prohibiting the harvest of sockeye salmon inside the Lagoon will allow cost recovery operations to harvest bright sockeye.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All salmon harvesters in Lower Cook Inlet. Currently the hatchery is failing to meet revenue goals and will fail economically.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one. Without hatchery provided salmon, the sockeye in Resurrection Bay, China Pool, Kirshner, and other planted hatchery releases will end.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Leroy L. Cabana

(HQ-07F-103)

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

Central Peninsula AC1

Anchorage AC4

Homer AC6

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 18 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.** Remove spiny dogfish from the sport bag limit for sharks as follows:

The solution should include removing the spiny dogfish from the sport fish bag limit for sharks, reclassifying them in the miscellaneous finfish category in sport fishing regulations. This reclassification is not meant to allow mutilation or wanton waste of spiny dogfish but may encourage a moderately increased take by sport fishermen for use as food, bait or other species, or other legitimate purposes.

**ISSUE:** We respectfully request that the Board of Fisheries address the ballooning population of spiny dogfish (*Squallus acanthias*) in the Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, and Cook Inlet waters. Spiny Dogfish are a voracious, opportunistic predator. Dogfish compete for food with other indigenous populations of fish within these areas and consume quantities of juvenile fish such as salmon, rockfish, and cod.

“Their principal food appears to be herring, sandlance, smelt, and euphausiids. Their diet also includes some 27 other fish species and 13 varieties of invertebrates, many of which are commercially important (Hart 1980). Dogfish are also known to prey on juvenile salmon.” (Conservation Institute, 2003)

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If the escalating population of dogfish in these areas is not addressed it may have disastrous effects on the populations of many other fish such as salmon, halibut, cod, and rockfish as they compete with and/or are consumed by spiny dogfish. The huge, quickly growing population of dogfish has the potential to affect the health and balance of the ecosystem in the Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, and Cook Inlet. Dogfish are negatively affecting subsistence, sport, and commercial fisheries.

“Anecdotal accounts of increasing numbers of dogfish in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska are supported by time series of relative abundance (catch per unit effort) for dogfish compiled from International Pacific Halibut Commission longline survey data, and longline surveys conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Prince William Sound. Spiny dogfish catch rates have increased 5-fold in Prince William Sound and 20-fold in the central Gulf of Alaska between Nuka Point and Cape St. Elias since 1994.” (Conservation Institute 2003)

“The spiny dogfish often has a negative impact on commercial fisheries as it displaces or chases off other fishes, gets hooked or netted in gear intended for other species, damages fishing gear, and often destroys hooked and netted fishes.” (Conservation Institute, 2003)

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This proposal is brought about out of concert for the populations of Alaska’s most desired species of commercial and sport fish as the spiny dogfish competes with and/or consumes these other species.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The primary beneficiary of this change would be other species of finfish, ground fish, and invertebrates that compete with spiny dogfish for food or who are consumed by spiny dogfish. These include all species of salmon, halibut, rockfishes, other bottom fish and invertebrates.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The spiny dogfish currently is not a species harvested for any purpose, commercial or sport. Therefore, moderately increased removal by sport fishermen should have no ill effect on any sector.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Seward Charter Boat Association

(HQ-07F-214)

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

- Central Peninsula AC1
- Anchorage AC4
- Homer AC6
- Tyonek AC7
- Seward (w/amm) AC2

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.** Reduce daily possession limit of rockfish between Gore Point to Cape Point as follows:

From Gore Point to Cape Puget, reduce the daily possession limit to the first 4 rock fish caught, one of which can be a dismissal rock fish.

**ISSUE:** Charter vessels targeting pelagic rock fish, specifically the black and dusky rock fish.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The present pelagic rock fish limit is 5 per day and 10 in possession. The non-pelagic limit is one per day, 2 in possession. Some charter operations are offering half day rock fish trips departing from Seward. Many charters stop at Cape Resurrection to get limits of rock fish on their way back to the dock at the end of the day. There is concern in the community that when the new regulations come into effect for the halibut fleet, some of the existing fleet will be displaced and will be putting more pressure on the rock fish resource. There is not adequate population data to allow managers to make informed decision concerning harvests. There is good data supporting the theory that these fish do not release well and live long lives. Embolisms occur even if the fish looks fine upon release. These fish grow slowly. The oldest dusky rock fish caught in Resurrection Bay was 62 years old.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Reducing the limit from 5 fish to 4 would result in a 4 percent decline in harvest. Little is known about rock fish populations or the future charter harvest. We advise the application of sound, precautionary conservation management practice.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The rock fish resource and anglers in the future who would enjoy catching rock fish.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Charter operators who are running dedicated rock fish trips and those that will be froze out of the sport halibut fishery.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Limiting daily bag limits to one per day. This was seen as excessive due to the lack of biological data in support of this action.

**PROPOSED BY:** Seward Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-07F-349)

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

Seward AC2  
Matanuska Valley AC5  
Homer AC6

Central Peninsula AC1

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. #\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.** Establish a youth only fishery in the Seward lagoon area as follows:

Establish a children’s only fishery in the ditch leading to the Seward Lagoon and the Seward Lagoon to run two weekends for kings and two weekends for coho. The fishery would be limited to a single artificial hook. Bait and bobber fishing would be allowed. Snagging would not be allowed. The fishery would occur June 23, 24, and 25 and July 14, 15, and 16 for kings and August 4, 5, and 6 and September 1, 2, and 3 for coho. Limits for kings would be two per day, two in possession. Limits for coho would be three per day and three in possession.

**ISSUE:** There is a lack of salmon fishing opportunities for children in the Seward area. There are surplus coho and king salmon from the ADF&G’s stocking program which return to the Seward Lagoon. This is not spawning habitat and there is no fishing allowed in the lagoon. The area is relatively small and includes the ditch leading to the lagoon and the lagoon itself. These fish that are not caught are considered by the Department to be ‘wasted’.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Escapement of stocked fish will continue into the Seward Lagoon. Children will be subjected to the snag beach fishery if they want to catch salmon.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Children’s fishery would expand educational opportunities. Hopefully this would get young people interested in fishing at an early age and they would continue the sport through adulthood. Excess stocked fish could be put to a good use instead of dying with no chance of spawning in the Seward Lagoon.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Future sport fishers and our fishery resources.

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

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** We discussed placing a grate across the culvert that would not allow the fish to pass through to the Lagoon. This was rejected because of the problem of maintaining such a grate and who the responsibility would fall to.

**PROPOSED BY:** Seward Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-07F-351)

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

Anchorage AC4  
Homer AC6

Seward (w/amm) AC2

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. #\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.** Open a sockeye salmon fishery in the Resurrection River as follows:

After June 15, allow fishing for salmon with a single artificial lure in the Resurrection River drainage, downstream from the Seward Highway and downstream from Nash Road. Bag limits would be three per day and three in possession.

**ISSUE:** Lack of fresh water salmon fishing opportunity in the Resurrection Bay drainage.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The only salmon fishery available to anglers will be the snagging in saltwater. Lack of opportunity for ‘sport’ fishing versus ‘consumptive’ fishing.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Opening a limited fresh water salmon fishery on June 15 would allow anglers who are more interested in sport than production to have an opportunity to participate in a fishery that was not snagging. By keeping the limit lower than the saltwater limit, people who wanted to fill their freezer would snag in the salt and people who wanted a fresh water fishing experience would have the opportunity to do so.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Anglers who desire a less crowded and more sporting fishing experience.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** As fresh water fishing in June has been illegal since statehood, this is unknown.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Opening larger areas of the drainage to salmon sport fishing. This was rejected due to enforcement and property ownership issues.

**PROPOSED BY:** Seward Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-07F-352)

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

Seward AC2  
Anchorage AC4

Central Peninsula AC1

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 01.570. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Amend this regulation to allow the retention of rockfish and lingcod when harvested with gear that is legal in other subsistence fisheries.

**5 AAC 01.570. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**

(m) Lingcod may be taken only by a single hand troll, single hand-held line, or single longline, none of which may have more than five hooks attached to it, **except that lingcod taken incidentally in another subsistence finfish fishery may be retained for subsistence purposes as described in 5 AAC 01.560(l) and 5 AAC 01.595(c);**

(n) Rockfish may be taken only by a single hand troll, single hand-held line, or single longline, none of which may have more than five hooks attached to it, **except that rockfish taken incidentally in another subsistence finfish fishery may be retained for subsistence purposes as described in 5 AAC 01.595(d).**

**ISSUE:** In that portion of the Cook Inlet Area outside the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area as defined in 5 AAC 99.015, subsistence halibut fishers catch rockfish and lingcod on subsistence gear utilizing more hooks than currently allowed under subsistence regulations for rockfish and lingcod. This proposal would allow subsistence-caught rockfish and lingcod to be retained up to the daily bag limit in the Lower Cook Inlet Area when harvested with gear that is legal in other subsistence fisheries but not allowed for the directed harvest of rockfish and lingcod.

Subsistence regulations for the Cook Inlet area specify that rockfish and lingcod may only be taken by a single hand troll, single hand-held line, or single longline, none of which may have more than five hooks attached to it. Current federal halibut subsistence regulations allow for the use of up to 30 hooks per person, for eligible individuals who have obtained a Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate from the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Board of Fisheries has found that rockfish and lingcod in the Cook Inlet Area outside the boundary of the nonsubsistence area are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence, and has established amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of these fish stocks (5 AAC 01.566).

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Subsistence halibut fishers would continue to be unable to legally retain rockfish and lingcod caught while legally subsistence fishing for halibut with more than five hooks.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence fishers of halibut, rockfish, and lingcod.

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

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-07F-277)

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

Central Peninsula AC1  
Seward AC2

Anchorage AC4  
Homer AC6

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal 392 (was ACR 12) - 5 AAC 02.310 Subsistence Shellfish Fishery; 5 AAC 02.311. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of shellfish stocks.** Allow subsistence harvest of shellfish in Kachemak Bay.

The rural community members of Port Graham, Nanwalek, and Seldovia have historically harvested hard shell clams for subsistence use in the Kachemak Bay. The regulations currently in place do not accurately reflect the traditional use area to the Port Graham Sub-district; this regulation makes it impossible to participate in the hard shell clam harvest as there are no harvestable clam populations in the Port Graham Sub-district since the 1964 earthquake.

Sections of the regulations that apply include:

**5 AAC 02.310. Subsistence shellfish fishery**

(a) In the nonsubsistence area described in 5 AAC 99.015(a) (3), and except as otherwise provided in this section, no person may take shellfish for subsistence purposes.

(b) Clams may be taken in the Port Graham Subdistrict.

**5 AAC 02.311. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of shellfish stocks**

The Alaska Board of Fisheries finds that clams in the Port Graham Subdistrict are customarily and traditionally used for subsistence.

**Proposed by:** Herman N. Moonin Jr., Port Graham Village Council

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal 393 (was ACR 24) - 5 AAC 75.xxx. New regulation.** Have state halibut regulations mirror federal regulations for consistency with the North Pacific Halibut Act and international treaty.

Halibut are managed under an international treaty and the North Pacific Halibut Act. As a result the state has very limited regulatory authority over halibut. State halibut regulations that are not identical to federal regulations are considered preempted by federal law. The National Marine Fisheries Service, under direction of the North Pacific Management Council, recently changed regulations for people sport fishing from charter boats in southeast Alaska and are considering changes in south central Alaska. As a result, the state halibut sport fishing regulations are inconsistent with federal regulations in southeast Alaska. This causes significant enforcement issues and results in confusion amongst anglers due to conflicting and invalid state regulations. Given the possibility of future changes, the state could find that our regulations are out of sync with federal regulations in some areas at any time. To correct this, the Department proposes to have state sport fishing regulations for halibut mirror federal regulations. This approach closely mirrors that of commercial fisheries which are dually managed, *See 5 AAC 28.092.*

**Proposed by:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal 394 (was ACR 25) - 5 AAC 02.011. Subsistence fishing by proxy; 5 AAC 75.011. Sport fishing by proxy; and 5 AAC 77.016. Personal use fishing by proxy.**  
Modify reporting requirements for subsistence, sport, and personal use shellfish fisheries.

During the 2006-07 statewide meeting the board amended the finfish proxy fishing regulations in the subsistence, sport and personal use fisheries. However, due to legal notice issues only proxy fishing regulations for finfish could be changed. Given that there is proxy fishing for shellfish this agenda change request is necessary to eliminate the confusion of having two different proxy reporting requirements and regulations that apply only to finfish.

**Proposed by:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. #\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal 395 - 5 AAC 28.073. Trip limits for commercial pollock vessels.** Modify Pollock trip limits for vessels in a 24-hour period as follows:

**5 AAC 28.073. Trip limits for commercial pollock vessels.** (a) In the state waters between **144° W. long** [147° W. LONG.] and 170° W. long., a person may not retain on board a catcher vessel, **daily** [AT ANY TIME], more than **300,000 pounds** [136 METRIC TONS] of unprocessed pollock, or retain on board a tender vessel, **daily** [AT ANY TIME], more than **600,000 pounds** [272 METRIC TONS] of unprocessed pollock, harvested in the state waters adjacent to the federal waters of the Western, [AND] Central, **and a portion of the Eastern** Gulf of Alaska Areas described in 50 C.F.R. 679, Figure 3.

(b) The cumulative amount of pollock landed by a catcher vessel harvesting pollock taken from the state waters adjacent to the federal waters of the Western, Central, and a portion of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska area described in 5 CFR 679, Figure 3, during a directed fishing season may not exceed the daily trip limit specified in subsection (a) of this section, times the number of calendar days the directed pollock fishery is open.

**(b) For the purpose of this section daily means from 12:01 a.m. through 11:59 p.m.**

This proposal was presented to give the board the opportunity to re-evaluate the trip limits for commercial pollock fishing vessels.

**Proposed by:** Alaska Board of Fisheries

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal 396 - 5 AAC 28.645. Aleutian Islands District Walleye Pollock Management Plan.** Amend or repeal the Adak state-waters walleye Pollock fishery.

This proposal is presented to give the board the opportunity to re-evaluate the state managed Adak pollock fishery established by the board in October 2006. The National Marine Fisheries Service has raised concerns regarding the allowable harvest level because of pollock abundance levels in the area.

Sections of the regulations that apply include:

**5 AAC 28.645. Aleutian Islands District Walleye Pollock Management Plan**

(a) This management plan governs the directed harvest of walleye pollock in that portion of the Aleutian Islands District between 174° long. and 178° long.

(b) The commissioner will establish the guideline harvest level for the directed harvest of walleye pollock under this section at 3,000 metric tons, reduced by the amount of walleye pollock authorized to be taken by the federal exempted fishery permit fishery inside critical habitat areas in the Aleutian Islands District between 174° long. and 178° long., described in C.F.R. 226.202, revised as of October 1, 2005.

(c) Seven days after the beginning of the federal exempted fisheries permit fishery, or on or after March 1, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, the walleye pollock fishery under this section if the commissioner determines that the available guideline harvest level is sufficient to allow a manageable fishery. The commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the walleye pollock fishery under this section when the guideline harvest level is projected to be taken or on June 10 if the commissioner determines that the guideline harvest level will not be taken by June 10.

(d) Walleye pollock may be taken under this section only with pelagic trawl gear and on a vessel that is no more than 58 feet in overall length.

(e) Before a person uses a vessel to operate gear to take walleye pollock under this section, the vessel owner, the owner's authorized agent, or the vessel operator shall validly register the vessel with the department office in Dutch Harbor.

(f) A vessel operator must notify a local representative of the department daily between the business hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. to report the amount, by weight, of unprocessed walleye pollock on board the vessel. Cod end transfers are prohibited. The vessel operator must land the walleye pollock on board the vessel at a processing plant that has observer coverage where the unsorted catch may be observed by the observer.

(g) The following waters are closed to the direct harvest of walleye pollock under this section:

(1) all state waters within 20 miles around a Steller sea lion rookery, excluding the waters of the bay on the northwest side of Kanaga Island;

(2) all waters within three miles around a Steller sea lion haulout.

(h) In this section,

(1) "overall length" means the straight line length between the extremities of the vessel, excluding the anchor rollers;

(2) "Steller sea lion haulout" means a site listed as a Steller sea lion protection area in Table 4 of 50 C.F.R. 679, revised as of October 1, 2005, adopted by reference, but not listed in Table 12 of 50 C.F.R. 679, revised as of October 1, 2005, adopted by reference;

(3) "Steller sea lion rookery" means a site listed as a Steller sea lion protection area in Table 12 of 50 C.F.R. 679, revised as of October 1, 2005, adopted by reference.  
(i) The provisions of this section do not apply after December 31, 2008.

**Proposed by:** Alaska Board of Fisheries

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal 397 - 5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Reduce maximum vessel size to 60 feet for all permitted gear types in the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery as follows:

**5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan**

...

(d) During a state waters season,

...

(3) a vessel used to harvest Pacific cod with

(A) non-pelagic trawl gear may not be more than **60** [100] feet in overall length;

(B) mechanical jigging machines and longline gear may not be more than **60** [58] feet in overall length;

(C) pot gear may not be more than **60** [125] feet in overall length;

...

The board was requested to take up this matter and it generated this proposal for public review and consideration. This proposal seeks to reduce the maximum vessel size limit to 60 feet for all permitted gear types.

The Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery began in 2006. The fishery takes place in state-waters of the Aleutian Islands west of 170° W long. The state-waters fishery harvest level is based upon 3% of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands federal acceptable biological catch (ABC).

The state-waters guideline harvest level is apportioned 70% to the A season and 30% to the B season. The state-waters fishery A season opens after the initial catcher-vessel trawl sector parallel/federal Pacific cod season is closed, and remains open until the A season GHl is attained, or no later than June 9. Beginning June 10, the state-waters B season opens. There are no harvest allocations by gear type.

During the 2006 season there were no vessel size limits. The 2007 Aleutian Islands District state-waters A season Pacific cod fishery was the first in which vessel size limits of 125 feet or less for pot vessels, 100 feet or less for trawl vessels and 58 feet or less for longline and jig vessels were in effect.

During 2007, the state-waters A season opened to commercial fishing for Pacific cod on March 16, 2007, and closed on March 23, a 7-day fishery. The harvest was 8,229,931 pounds of Pacific cod taken by 27 vessels, although 29 vessels registered for the fishery. Three floating-processor vessels and two shore-based processors participated. No catcher processor vessels (CPs) participated in 2007 whereas six CPs participated in the 2006 A season. Average fishing vessel size was 89' overall length during 2007.

Only two gear types participated in the 2007 A season; non-pelagic trawl gear harvested 85% of the A season total catch and pot gear 15%. Of the 20 trawl vessels that

participated, 13 trawl vessels (>60 feet ) accounted for 72% of the trawl harvest. All pot vessels that participated were over 60 feet. Overall for both gear types, 76% of the 2007 A season harvest was taken by vessels over 60 feet and 24% was taken by vessels 60 feet or less.

During 2007, a daily and trip harvest-limit of 150,000 pounds applied to each vessel. During 2006, the daily harvest-limit was 150,000 pounds, with a vessel trip harvest-limit of 300,000 pounds. The vessel size limits and daily harvest-limit during 2007 were not effective in slowing the pace of the 2007 harvest compared to the 2006 fishery and overages of the daily and trip limits occurred in both seasons. The 2006 fishery lasted 9 days whereas the 2007 fishery lasted 7 days. Fishery catches indicate that most trawl vessels in the fleet, including those less than 60 feet, are capable of catching and holding onboard quantities of Pacific cod very near to or exceeding the current daily harvest limit.

**Proposed by:** Alaska Board of Fisheries

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal 398** - 5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan. Provide for a pot-gear reopening of the A season fishery and in the B season in the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery as follows:

**5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan**

...

(d) During a state waters season,

(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W. long. is three percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area; the guideline harvest level will be available for harvest as follows:

(A) a maximum of 70 percent of the guideline harvest level will be available for harvest in the state waters A season before June 10 as follows:

(i) if the state waters A season guideline harvest level has not been taken by April 1, when the federal catcher-vessel trawl fishery season opens, the commissioner will close, by emergency order, the state waters A season and immediately reopen a parallel season;

(ii) if the commissioner determines that an adequate state waters season A guideline harvest level is available after the federal catcher-vessel trawl fishery season closes, and before June 10, the commissioner may reopen, by emergency order, the state waters A season;

(B) a total of 30 percent of the guideline harvest level plus any unharvested amount from the state waters A season under (1)(A) of this subsection, up to a maximum of 70 percent, will be rolled over on June 10 and available for harvest in the state waters B season; **except that the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, a state waters season to pot vessels only in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W. long. four days after the initial Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands state waters A season is closed and any catch by pot vessels in the pot-only season prior to June 10 will be accounted against the B season GHL;** the guideline harvest level will be available as follows:

(i) if the state waters B season guideline harvest level has not been taken by September 1, when the federal catcher-vessel **fixed gear** [POT] fishery season for vessels **under** [OVER] 60 feet in overall length opens, the commissioner will close, by emergency order, the state waters B season and immediately reopen a parallel season;

(ii) if the commissioner determines that an adequate state waters season B guideline harvest level is available after the federal catcher-vessel **fixed gear** [POT] fishery season for vessels **under** [OVER] 60 feet in overall length closes, the commissioner may reopen, by emergency order the state waters B season;

...

(h) For the purposes of this section,

...

(2) "state waters A season" means the state waters season conducted from January 1 through June 9;

(3) "state waters B season" means the state waters season conducted from June 10 through December 31.

The board was requested to take up this matter and it generated this proposal for public review and consideration. The proposal seeks to amend the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod management plan (5 AAC 28.647) to potentially harvest more than 70% of the A season GHL prior to June 10 (current allocation: A season 70% GHL, B season 30% GHL). This additional A season harvest would be allocated to vessels fishing with pot gear and does not propose any vessel size limit. The proposal also changes the gear sector in the parallel/federal fishery that is linked to closing and reopening the state-waters B season fishery. The state-waters B season would close when the parallel/federal fishery for Pacific cod by vessels less than 60 feet using fixed gear (longline and pot gear) opened rather than by catcher vessels over 60 feet using pot gear. The state-waters B season could reopen after the fixed gear parallel/federal fishery by vessels less than 60 feet closed.

The 2006 state-waters B season was open for 82 days, however there was limited harvest due to a lack of fishing activity. To date, the 2007 B season has been open for 82 days and approximately 63% of the GHL was taken by August 31. The parallel/federal Pacific cod fishery for over 60 feet pot gear catcher vessels was open September 1 – 28. The state-waters B season will reopen October 1. The fishery may remain open until December 31, however if catch rates are similar to the first portion of the B season then the entire GHL could be taken before December 31.

The Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery began in 2006. The state-waters fishery is based upon 3% of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands federal acceptable biological catch (ABC).

The state-waters guideline harvest level is apportioned 70% to the A season and 30% to the B season. The state-waters fishery A season opens after the initial catcher-vessel trawl parallel/federal Pacific cod season is closed, and remains open until the A season GHL is attained, or no later than June 9. Beginning June 10, the state-waters B season opens.

The proposal asks for a change in the seasonal allocation in Pacific cod in the state-waters fishery. The current A & B season allocations were adopted for Steller sea lion conservation when the management plan was originally adopted. If the proposal is adopted the annual harvest percentage taken from the A season would increase, however staff cannot predict what that magnitude of increase would be. Potentially the entire year's GHL could be taken in the A season.

The second part of the proposal requests a change in gear sector of the parallel/federal fishery that is linked to closing and reopening the state-waters B season. Currently the gear-sector for closing and reopening the state-waters B season on September 1 is the over 60 feet catcher-vessel pot gear sector. The petition proposes to specify the less than 60 feet fixed-gear catcher vessel sector to determine closure and reopening of the state-waters B season when coordinating with the parallel/federal September 1 opening.

In 2008, as a result of federal groundfish FMP Amendment 85, the overall allocation to the less than 60 feet fixed-gear catcher vessel sector is expected to be less than the over 60 feet catcher-vessel pot sector allocation; 2% of federal total allowable catch (TAC) for less than 60 feet fixed gear and 8.4% of TAC for over 60 feet pot catcher vessels. This change in federal Pacific cod allocation would have the expected effect of providing additional fishing time in the state-waters B season if the parallel/federal less than 60 feet fixed-gear catcher vessels reach their sector allocation first.

There are no harvest allocations by gear type in the state-waters fishery. During the 2006 season there were no vessel size limits. The 2007 Aleutian Islands District A season Pacific cod fishery was the first in which vessel size limits of 125 feet or less for pot vessels, 100 feet or less for trawl vessels and 58 feet or less for longline and jig vessels were in effect.

During 2007, state-waters of the Aleutian Islands west of 170° W long. opened to commercial fishing for Pacific cod on March 16, 2007, and closed on March 23, a 7-day fishery. The harvest was 8,229,931 pounds of Pacific cod taken by 27 vessels, although 29 vessels registered for the fishery. Three floating-processor vessels and two shore-based processors participated. No catcher-processor vessels (CPs) participated in the 2007 A season whereas six CPs participated in the 2006 A season. Average fishing vessel size was 89 feet during 2007.

Only two gear types were used in the 2007 A season; non-pelagic trawl gear harvested 85% of the A season total catch and pot gear 15%. Of the 20 trawl vessels that participated, 13 trawl vessels (>60 feet ) harvested 72% of the trawl harvest. All pot vessels that participated were over 60 feet. Overall for both gear types, 76% of the 2007 A season harvest was taken by vessels over 60 ft and 24% was taken by vessels 60 ft or less.

B season harvest through August 31, 2007 was 2.14 million pounds from the B season GHL of 3.41 million pounds. Ten of the thirteen registered vessels made landings in the first portion of the 2007 B season. Individual landings have ranged in size from less than 1,000 pounds to over 300,000 pounds and have averaged approximately 179,000 pounds per week. The state-waters B season will reopen October 1. The fishery may remain open until December 31, however if catch rates are similar to the first portion of the B season then the entire remaining GHL of 1.27 million pounds could be taken before December 31. Harvest to date during the 2007 B season has been split between longline (46%), pot (54%) and jig (<1%) gear types.

**Proposed by:** Alaska Board of Fisheries

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal 399** - **5 AAC 28.050(e). Lawful gear for groundfish.; and 5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Increase the size of tunnel openings for groundfish pots used in the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery as follows:

**5 AAC 28.050(e). Lawful gear for groundfish.**

...

(e) A groundfish pot is a pot with individual tunnel eye openings with perimeters 36 inches or less, **except in the Aleutian Islands Management area where tunnel eye openings with perimeters up to 48 inches is allowed.**

**5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan**

...

(d) During a state waters season,

...

(2) Pacific cod may be taken only with groundfish pots, mechanical jigging machines, longline, non-pelagic trawl, and hand troll gear;

...

The board was requested to take up this matter and it generated this proposal for public review and consideration. The proposal asks to increase the tunnel-size opening for groundfish pots from a maximum of 36 inches in perimeter to 48 inches in perimeter, to permit the capture of larger Pacific cod that may not be able to enter a 36 inch perimeter tunnel. The current groundfish pot opening definition helps to distinguish groundfish pot gear from other pot gear and to reduce bycatch. Changing the tunnel size opening perimeter dimension would impact other pot fishery gear definitions. For example, the statewide king crab pot gear definition states that king crab pot tunnel-eye openings are individually more than 36 inches in perimeter. Increasing the pot tunnel-size-opening may also impact the amount and type of bycatch in the Pacific cod fishery, however the department does not collect bycatch data in this fishery.

The Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery began in 2006. The state-waters fishery is based upon 3% of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands federal acceptable biological catch (ABC).

The state-waters guideline harvest level is apportioned 70% to the A season and 30% to the B season. The state-waters fishery A season opens after the initial catcher-vessel trawl parallel/federal Pacific cod season is closed, and remains open until the A season GHL is attained, or no later than June 9. Beginning June 10, the state-waters B season opens. The A season fishery GHL has been taken in the initial two years of the fishery. The B season fishery has a slower harvest rate than the A season, however the B season GHL may be taken in 2007.

There are no harvest allocations by gear type in the state-waters fishery. Increasing tunnel size opening on pot gear may provide more harvest opportunity for vessels using pot gear. Larger fish may have a higher market value. If the Board changed the tunnel-size-opening for groundfish pot gear, then the state definition for tunnel-size-opening of groundfish pot gear would be larger than current federal definition for groundfish pot gear tunnel-size-opening.

During the 2006 season there were no vessel size limits. The 2007 Aleutian Islands District A season Pacific cod fishery was the first in which vessel size limits of 125 feet or less for pot vessels, 100 feet or less for trawl vessels and 58 feet or less for longline and jig vessels were in effect.

During 2007, the A season state-waters Pacific cod fishery opened to commercial fishing on March 16, 2007, and closed on March 23, a 7-day fishery. The harvest was 8,229,931 pounds of Pacific cod taken by 27 vessels, although 29 vessels registered for the fishery. Three floating-processor vessels and two shore-based processors participated. No catcher processor vessels (CPs) participated in the 2007 A season whereas six CPs participated in the 2006 A season. Average fishing vessel size was 89' overall length during 2007.

Only two gear types participated in the 2007 A season; non-pelagic trawl gear harvested 85% of the A season total catch and pot gear 15%. Of the 20 trawl vessels that participated, 13 trawl vessels (>60 ft) harvested 72% of the trawl harvest. All pot vessels that participated were over 60 feet. Overall for both gear types, 76% of the 2007 A season harvest was taken by vessels over 60 feet and 24% was taken by vessels 60 feet or less.

B season harvest through August 31, 2007 was 2.14 million pounds from the GHL of 3.41 million pounds. Ten of the thirteen registered vessels made landings in the first portion of the 2007 B season (Table 3). Individual landings have ranged in size from less than 1,000 pounds to over 300,000 pounds and have averaged approximately 179,000 pounds per week. The state-waters B season will reopen October 1. The fishery may remain open until December 31, however if catch rates are similar to the first portion of the B season then the entire remaining GHL of 1.27 million pounds could be taken before December 31. Harvest to date during the 2007 B season has been split between longline (46%), pot (54%) and jig (<1%) gear types.

**Proposed by:** Alaska Board of Fisheries

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal 400 - 5 AAC 39.xxx. New section.** Modify vessel length definition to exclude bulbous bow in vessel length calculation.

Current method for measuring vessel length includes the added length of a bulbous bow modification made to a vessel. A bulbous bow modification can enhance the fuel economy of a vessel and the seaworthiness of a vessel without adding any unfair fishing capacity advantage in a fishery subject to vessel length limitations. This proposal seeks to change the method of defining vessel length to exclude a bulbous bow.

**Proposed by:** Alaska Board of Fisheries

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**FAVOR**

**OPPOSE**

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE # \_\_\_\_\_