

MEMORANDUM

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME Boards Support Section

TO: Alaska Board of Fisheries

DATE: May 15, 2015

THRU:

PHONE: 907-465-6095

FROM: Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries

SUBJECT: Re-scheduling considerations
for Pacific cod proposal
review in 2015/2016 meeting
cycle

Recently the board was approached by a member of the public who expressed concern with the board's current schedule for consideration of Pacific cod proposals. The board is scheduled to consider Pacific cod proposals at its Alaska Peninsula/BS-AI/Chignik (AK Pen) meeting from February 23 – March 3, 2016, a time when the Pacific cod fishery will be ongoing.

As a general rule, the board works to not schedule meetings where the subject matter fisheries are occurring at that time. In reviewing the merits of this concern the following information was developed -

- **Fishery timing:** The state-waters Pacific cod fisheries are occurring in all regions during the time the board is deliberating on Pacific cod proposals. Previous Pacific cod meetings were held in October.
- **Board work load:** The 2015/2016 proposals are in and under review by divisions. In an initial count, there are 21 Pacific cod proposals as part of an estimated 83 proposals for the 10 day AK Pen meeting. If the Pacific cod proposals were moved to the November/December Bristol Bay finfish meeting in Anchorage, it would increase the number of proposals for that meeting to an estimated 100. If Pacific cod proposals were shifted to that time, Boards Support would recommend shifting two meeting days.
- **Staff participation:** Staff was surveyed to determine if shifting Pacific cod proposals would create concerns. On the contrary, the current board meeting configuration is going to pull managers off the grounds during the season. Shifting the Pacific cod proposals will ease management work load. Staff was confident it could complete its review of proposals prior to the November timeline.
- **Stakeholder input:** Stakeholders from Chignik (Chuck McCallum), Alaska Peninsula (Ernie Weiss), and Unalaska (Frank Kelty) were polled for their opinions. Each was supportive of moving the Pacific cod proposals to December.

- **Meeting logistics:** Boards Support is in contact with our meeting room vendors (Egan Center – Bristol Bay & Sheraton Hotel – Ak Pen) to determine if days may be moved. It is possible to make changes at this time.

The regulations under 5 AAC 96.610 require board action to change the board's meeting schedule. If the board decides to shift the Pacific cod proposals to December, Boards Support will have ample time to notice the public of this change, make accommodations in the proposal book to be published in July/August, and make necessary accommodations with location vendors.