



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF ALASKA WILDLIFE TROOPERS
Southern Detachment Headquarters

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Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau Ak, 99811-5526

Dear Board Members:

The following comments give a brief description of the positions that the Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) has on the proposals that are up for consideration at the Southeast Finfish meeting in Sitka.

In general, when the board considers seasons, bag limit and methods changes, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers request that every effort possible be made to align the regulations consistently region wide. This is mainly due to enforceability of multiple regulation schemes in one area and to minimize the confusion of the regulations for the public. When the board considers proposals having to do with allocation or biological concerns, AWT is generally neutral in position and does not comment.

AWT recognizes that regulations are developed by the Alaska Boards of Fish and Game through the public process to support management plans. Further, all management plans rely upon public compliance with those regulations to achieve success. Enforcement is a crucial element needed to ensure long-term compliance with regulations by the public. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers request the board recognize that the division has limited resources and man power and any new regulation scheme or area restrictions may place an additional burden on AWT.

Comments on specific proposals are included in this letter.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Hall".

Captain Steven Hall
Southern Detachment Commander
Alaska Wildlife Troopers

Proposal 135 – AWT supports this proposal as it clarifies existing regulations for all users.

Proposal 139 – AWT supports this proposal as it clarifies differences between gear types.

Proposal 142 and 145 – AWT supports this proposal. It improves clarity of regulations as one bag limit would not be published in regulation and then be consistently amended by emergency order.

Proposal 154 – AWT supports this proposal. It clarifies regulations by placing language in the proper chapter concerning this subsistence fishery.

Proposals 155 – AWT is opposed to this proposal. The definition of “bag limit” is consistent across the State. Personal bag limits are the standard throughout Alaska for sport fishing. This change would create confusion among anglers statewide, and cause confusion about how to comply with annual limits. AWT actively enforces bag limits during contacts with anglers.

Proposal 192 – AWT is opposed to this proposal. Commercial fishermen are already required to report commercially caught fish that they retain for personal use in 5AAC39.130(c)(10) and 5AAC39.010.

Proposal 198 and 201 – AWT supports this proposal. It places provisions consistently implemented by emergency order in codified regulations making it more accessible to all users. Proposal 198 is preferred as it identifies the boundary of the closed area based on latitude and longitude.

Proposal 202 – AWT supports a statewide definition which can be consistently applied to determine vessel length.

Proposal 206 – AWT supports this proposal. However, AWT prefers that the boundary be identified by a line of latitude to more clearly delineate the boundary. This allows both fishermen and enforcement personnel to utilize the same boundary line even when the markers are not visible.

Proposal 218 – AWT supports this proposal as it provides clarity in regulation to identify waters closed to commercial fishing.

Proposal 232 – AWT supports this proposal as it clarifies existing regulations for all users.