

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
LOWER COOK INLET FINFISH
NOVEMBER 30–DECEMBER 3, 2016**

PROPOSAL 1 – 5 AAC 77.549. Personal Use Coho Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Amend the fishing season and closed waters so that personal use fishery does not open on a fixed date, as follows:

5 AAC 77.549(a) and (b)(3) are amended to read:

(a) In the Southern District, only in a year in which a subsistence fishery is not conducted in the same area, salmon may be taken for personal use under the plan set out in this section **beginning at 6:00 a.m. on the first Monday or Thursday following August 15, until the last Wednesday or Saturday before September 16 and only** [FROM AUGUST 16 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 15,] from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 a.m. Wednesday and from 6:00 a.m. Thursday until 6:00 a.m. Saturday. The commissioner shall close this fishery by emergency order when a guideline harvest range of 1,000 – 2,000 coho salmon have been taken. Coho salmon taken under 5 AAC 01.560(b)(8)(B) will be counted toward the guideline harvest range established under this subsection.

(b) Salmon may not be taken in the following waters:

...

(3) those waters described in **5 AAC 21.350(d)(1) – (3)** [5 AAC 21.350(d)(1), (d)(3) – (d)(8)], (h), and (i);

What is the issue that you would like the board to address and why? Historically there has been confusion when the opening and closure dates fall within the proscribed fishing periods. The department would issue an emergency order clarifying this in the manner specified in the suggested language. In addition, within this regulation, references are made to 5 AAC 21.350. *Closed waters*. Since this regulation was first adopted, there have been changes made to 5 AAC 21.350 without appropriate adjustments being made to the references.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-125)

PROPOSAL 2 – 5 AAC 21.200. Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections. Establish and define the Port Graham Section and English Bay Section in the Port Graham Subdistrict, as follows:

5 AAC 21.200(d)(1) is amended to read:

(1) Port Graham Subdistrict: all waters east of the longitude of Point Bede at 151° 59.40' W. long., and south of the latitude of Point Pogibshi at 59° 25.47' N. lat.;

(A) Port Graham Section: all waters north of a line from 59° 22.25' N. lat., 151° 59.40' W. long. to 59° 21.39' N. lat., 151° 55.25' W. long.;

(B) English Bay Section: all waters south of a line from 59° 22.25' N. lat., 151° 59.40' W. long. to 59° 21.39' N. lat., 151° 55.25' W. long.;

What is the issue that you would like the board to address and why? English Bay and Port Graham sections in the Port Graham Subdistrict are not established and defined in regulation. This has resulted in some confusion among stakeholders regarding the boundaries of these sections.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-122)

PROPOSAL 3 – 5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters. Amend waters closed to commercial salmon fishing in the Kamishak District and Outer District of Lower Cook Inlet, as follows:

5 AAC 21.350(e) is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

(e) Kamishak Bay District

(6) waters of Akumwarvik Bay inshore of a line from a point at 59° 03.31' N. lat., 154° 11.24' W. long., to a point at 59° 02.82' N. lat., 154° 10.18' W. long., to a point on the west shore at 59° 02.32' N. lat., 154° 07.08' W. long.;

(7) waters of the Douglas River area inshore of a line from 59° 03.78' N. lat., 153° 46.09' W. long., to a point at 59° 03.95' N. lat., 153° 45.09' W. long.

5 AAC 21.350(f)(12) is amended and a new paragraph is added to read:

(f) Outer District

(12) waters of the East Nuka Subdistrict east of a line from a point north of the entrance to McCarty Lagoon at 59° 32.76' N. lat., 150° 20.20' W. long. to a point offshore of the entrance of McCarty Lagoon at 59° 32.45' N. lat., **150° 21.50' W. long.** [150° 21.00' W. LONG.] to a point south of the entrance of McCarty Lagoon at 59° 31.90' N. lat., 150° 21.00' W. long.;

...

(14) waters of the Nuka Island Subdistrict off of the Petrof River west of a line between a point at 59° 20.84' N. lat., 150° 50.30' W. long. and a point at 59° 21.37' N. lat., 150° 50.30' W. long.

What is the issue that you would like the board to address and why? In Lower Cook Inlet waters closed to commercial salmon harvest are defined using a variety of methods. In addition to being specified in regulation, closed waters have historically been identified using physical signs or markers, as well as on maps distributed by the Homer area Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) office. Given the widespread availability of Global Positioning System technology, the department has ended its regulatory marker program in this area.

The proposal identifies waters in the Kamishak and Outer districts that have historically been closed to commercial salmon fishing. These closed waters were previously only identified with markers. The public, enforcement, and department all benefit from clearly defined closed waters with Global Positioning System coordinates.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-124)

PROPOSAL 4 – 5 AAC 28.360. Cook Inlet Sablefish Management Plan. Clarify procedures for obtaining and submitting log sheets for the Cook Inlet commercial sablefish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.360(b) is amended to read:

(b) An operator of a vessel participating in the Cook Inlet sablefish fishery shall obtain **sablefish log sheets** [AND COMPLETE A SABLEFISH LOGBOOK] provided by the department **at the time of registration**. The vessel operator must have the **log sheets** [LOGBOOK] on board the vessel at all times and must submit to the **department’s office in Homer completed corresponding log sheets within 10 days after each landing of sablefish** [DEPARTMENT EACH LOGBOOK PAGE THAT CORRESPONDS WITH EACH ADF&G SABLEFISH FISH TICKET].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Although the current regulation requires submission of completed logbooks, it does not specify the timeline when logbooks are due. A similar regulation as proposed exists for the Prince William Sound sablefish fishery as defined in 5 AAC 28.272(f) which requires that log sheets must be received within 10 days after each landing at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) Cordova office. The Cook Inlet sablefish fishery is managed out of the department’s Homer office and timely receipt of log sheets is necessary for corroboration of harvest and effort data. Typically, fishermen delivering to a processor will submit log sheet(s) to industry staff when completing the fish ticket and the buyer will submit the log sheet with the fish ticket to the department. This practice works well since it is specified in regulation that fish tickets are due to the department within 7 days of landing (5 AAC 39.130(c)). However, it is still the fisherman’s responsibility to submit the log sheet and for those fishermen that do not submit their log sheets to a buyer, a clear deadline needs to be specified in regulation for when log sheets are due to the department. This proposal seeks to implement a 10-day deadline following a sablefish landing when log sheets are due to the department’s office in Homer for vessels participating in the Cook Inlet sablefish fishery.

Other proposed changes in the regulatory language are to clarify that log sheets are provided by the department, rather than “logbooks”, and that these blank log sheet pages may be faxed, e-mailed, or copied to replenish a fisherman’s supply. Additionally, there may be multiple fish tickets issued for a single landing if there is more than one permit being used and/or more than one species being targeted (e.g., a combination Pacific cod and sablefish trip). However, log sheets correspond to a single landing, and therefore the proposed amended language clarifies that distinction.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-126)

PROPOSAL 5 – 5 AAC 28.365. Cook Inlet Rockfish Management Plan. Clarify procedures for obtaining and submitting log sheets for the Cook Inlet commercial rockfish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.365(e) is amended to read:

(e) An operator of a vessel participating in the Cook Inlet directed rockfish fishery shall obtain **rockfish log sheets** [AND COMPLETE A ROCKFISH LOGBOOK] provided by the department

at the time of registration. The vessel operator must have the **log sheets** [LOGBOOK] on board the vessel at all times the vessel is participating in the Cook Inlet directed rockfish fishery. **The vessel operator must submit to the department's office in Homer completed corresponding log sheets within 10 days after each landing of directed rockfish.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Although the current regulation requires completion of logbooks, it does not specify where and when to submit completed logbooks. A similar regulation exists for the Prince William Sound sablefish fishery as defined under 5 AAC 28.272(f) which requires that log sheets must be received within 10 days after each landing to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) office in Cordova. There is a similar proposal to require log sheets for the Cook Inlet sablefish fishery to be submitted to the department's Homer office within 10 days after each landing. The Cook Inlet directed rockfish fishery is managed out of the Homer office and timely receipt of log sheets is necessary for corroboration of harvest and effort data. Typically, fishermen delivering to a processor will submit log sheet(s) to industry staff when completing the fish ticket and the buyer will submit the log sheet with the fish ticket to the department. This practice works well since it is specified in regulation that fish tickets are due to the department within 7 days of landing (5 AAC 39.130(c)); however, it is still the fisherman's responsibility to submit the log sheet. Many participants in the directed rockfish fishery are catcher-sellers and complete their own fish tickets and therefore do not submit their log sheets to a separate buyer, further necessitating that a clear deadline is specified in regulation for when log sheets are due to the department. This proposal seeks to implement a 10-day deadline following a directed rockfish landing, when log sheets are due to the department's office in Homer, for vessels participating in the Cook Inlet directed rockfish fishery.

Currently, at times, staff has needed to track down fishermen well after their landings have occurred in an attempt to collect missing logs, and this has caused concern that logs might be filled out inaccurately. Other proposed changes in the regulatory language are to clarify that log sheets are provided by the department, rather than "logbooks", and that these blank log sheet pages may be faxed, e-mailed, or copied to replenish a fisherman's supply. Additional proposed language clarifies that log sheets correspond to a single landing, and therefore the time frame for submission follows that landing.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-128)

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Extend the fishing season for Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River, and Stariski Creek from October 31 through November 30, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 56.122(a)(2), (5), (6), and (10) to change the season closing date for Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River and Stariski Creek from October 31 to November 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide more opportunity for steelhead fishing on Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River and Stariski Creek. Fishing pressure is very light by late October. Although these waters often freeze up by early November,

they sometimes remain unfrozen into December. Until a few years ago, the season had remained open until December 31. Then, as I recall, ADF&G became concerned about late season mortality in these catch-and-release fisheries and recommended the closing date be October 31, which the Board adopted. However, the biological justification for doing so seemed weak at the time. In recent years, the steelhead have been running late, and no harm would occur from a slightly longer season. I was on the steelhead planning team for ADF&G in the 1990's which recommended catch-and-release for the steelhead fisheries on these streams and wild stock management, which the Board adopted. At that time the closing date was never an issue. I would like to see the Board review the science to either justify the current closing date or revise it to November 30, in light of the fact that the pressure is very light by the latter part of October and in some years the fish have seemed to be running late.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Parker

(EF-F16-134)

PROPOSAL 7 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Extend the fishing season on Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River, Stariski Creek through November 15, as follows:

All season ending dates related to the Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River, Stariski Creek changed from October 31st to November 15th as the last day you can fish. Example under Deep Creek Drainage currently states "Closed to all fishing from November 1st-May 15th" change to November 16th-May 15th"

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend the fishing season on the Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River, and Stariski Creek for other species other than salmon from a closing date of November 1st to November 15th. Basically extend the season 2 weeks. The primary species targeted during this time frame are Steelhead and Dolly Varden. Historically the season had been open thru November 30th. The last Board cycle changed the season to the current regulation closing these rivers to all fishing on October 31st. The reasoning behind the change was to reduce pressure and stress on Steelhead during what is thought to be low water conditions and extremely cold temperatures during the month of November.

To my knowledge there hasn't been any biological studies on the Lower Kenai Peninsula streams related to Steelhead catch and release mortality and water temperatures to support this regulation. The fishery is already heavily restricted single hook, no bait and 100% catch and release in addition to non removal of fish out of the water. In addition anglers participating in the fishery are very self-policing and some of the most ethical anglers you will see on Alaska waterways. Whether its global warming or other unknown environmental factors it has become a noticeable later freeze up on these rivers. In the past few seasons the month of November has been mild and conditions have not warranted the October 31st closure this can be supported by weather records and water temperatures recorded by the USGS stream gauge located on the Anchor River. Fish and Game would still have the authority to close the fishery by Emergency Order at any time if conditions warrant it.

Additionally these stocks are not a concern of depletion/sustainability. If the department of Fish and Game was truly concerned about the status of Steelhead in these streams and or were concerned about their vulnerability current regulations would reflect that. Historically the legal use of bait and multiple hooks during King Salmon season during late May and early June coincides with the outmigration of Steelhead to the saltwater after spawning. Incidental Steelhead mortality due to bait, multiple hooks, and poor catch and release tactics can run quite high during the King Salmon seasons due to the poor condition the Steelhead kelts are in due to spawning and being in the river all winter. (Should be noted that bait and multiple hooks were not allowed last few years by emergency order due to low King Salmon numbers, however as King Salmon rebound bait and multiple hooks will be allowed.) Additionally bait and multiple hooks are allowed during the month of August to target Silver Salmon however Steelhead are present and caught at this time as well. In short one day of bait fishing for King Salmon will kill more Steelhead than the additional 2 weeks of catch and release in November.

Who will benefit: resident and non-resident anglers, all businesses from Girdwood to Homer especially those in the Anchor Pt. and Ninilchik area from an additional 2 weeks of anglers spending money in the communities. State of Alaska: more revenue from fishing licence sales and state park camping and parking fees. Kenai River anglers and fisheries will not see as much pressure and crowded conditions from November 1-15th due to increased opportunities elsewhere.

Negative impacts: additional dolly varden char will be harvested in this fishery, and an unknown amount of Steelhead mortality will occur due to catch and release during these 2 weeks.

If nothing is done than angler opportunity will continue to have been unnecessarily taken away from resident and non-resident anglers to enjoy that was not based on sound science. Local economies, businesses and the State of Alaska will continue to lose out on additional revenues.

PROPOSED BY: Jon Madison (EF-F16-005)

PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Extend the start date for king salmon fishery on the Ninilchik from July 1 to June 16, as follows:

Because of the large increase in the numbers of hatchery King Salmon being released in the Ninilchik River, move the opening day of the regular hatchery King Salmon opening from July 1st to June 16th, to allow increased opportunity to harvest these fish, while they are available, and in prime condition.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Recently, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has significantly increased the number of King Salmon fingerlings being released into the Ninilchik River, and would like to see an increased opportunity to harvest these fish when they return as adults. The current regulations on the Ninilchik River allow fishing for King Salmon for just three 3-day weekends, starting on Memorial weekend. After that last 3-day weekend, the Ninilchik River remains closed for up to 22 days until July 1st, depending on

where Memorial weekend falls on the calendar each year. On July 1st, the Ninilchik River reopens for hatchery King Salmon fishing only, on a daily basis.

This long closure in June is a lost opportunity to harvest hatchery King Salmon on the Ninilchik River, when they are in prime condition, and within reach of the two mile fishing limit marker on that river. In June of 2015, the Ninilchik River was only open for King Salmon fishing for 4 days, and in June of 2016, it is scheduled to open for 6 days.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Sinnhuber (EF-F16-157)

PROPOSAL 9 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Increase the bag limit for king salmon on the Ninilchik River to 2 per day, only 1 may be wild, as follows:

Go back to the daily bag limit for King Salmon over 20" on the Ninilchik River, as it was prior to 2014, allowing the harvest of 2 King Salmon per day, where just 1 fish could be a wild King Salmon. After taking this daily bag limit, a person may not fish for any species on that same day.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Recently, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has significantly increased the number of King Salmon fingerlings being released into the Ninilchik River, and would like to see an increased opportunity to harvest these fish. Currently, the bag limit for King Salmon over 20" is 1 King Salmon per day, either wild or hatchery. For at least 9 years prior to 2014, the bag limit for King Salmon over 20" was 2 King Salmon per day, but where just 1 fish could be a wild King Salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Sinnhuber (EF-F16-141)

(Proposal 10 was submitted by two proposers. The proposal and justification for each proposer is listed below.)

PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Require mandatory retention of king salmon caught with bait on Anchor River, Deep Creek, and the Ninilchik River, as follows:

The solution to this problem would be to eliminate the option of catch and release with bait. If you want to fish with bait because of its effectiveness and your goal is to catch fish for the freezer, that's ok. However, once you land a fish, that fish must be retained. The option to catch and release with bait killing as many as 6 out of 10 as fish are "sorted through" no longer exists.

New regulation would read to the effect of **During the dates of (normally stated King Salmon fishing dates) fishermen choosing to use bait who land a King Salmon over the length of 20 inches must retain that fish and immediately record their catch. The practice of catch and release of King Salmon using bait is prohibited.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are insufficient opportunities for youth only fisheries. In order to promote youth fishing there should be time and dates specifically for youth fishing only.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Priebe (EF-F16-156)

PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Create a youth-only fishery on Anchor, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik rivers, as follows:

The solution: Create a youth sports fishery on the Anchor River, Ninilchik River, and Deep Creek. Fishery would be held within the normally open geographic boundaries between the hours for 6-9pm on the Fridays preceding the open weekends on the prospective streams. The fishery would be available to those Alaskans between the ages of 6 and 15. This age does not require a fishing license or king salmon stamp, but would require a youth fishery form to record their catch. The annual limit would be 1 per year total between the streams within the special fishery (A successful catch in the youth fishery would not stop them from fishing in normal fisheries). This fishery could be managed very similarly to the extremely successful Big Game Youth Hunts found within the State already.

This proposal would also meet 1 of the 3 stated core values in the 2015-2020 Fish and Game Strategic Plan - Excellence in Fisheries management and research for the benefit of sport anglers, the State's economy, and **future generations of Alaskans.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The King Salmon fishery of the lower Cook Inlet steams Anchor River, Ninilchik River, and Deep Creek have seen a large increase in pressure over the years. This increased pressure and the way in which the fishing periods are managed (opening at 12:00am) have impacted the fishing quality for our future Alaskans. When the the fishery opens the amount of light is very low. Hooks fly around and most adults' attention falls upon catching their own fish. When day breaks the majority of the aggressive more easily caught fish have been taken and the opportunity for our youth to catch a Wild Alaskan King Salmon is extremely low.

If nothing is changed the amount of young alaskans entering and showing interest in sports fishing will continue to decline.

PROPOSED BY: Zach Stubbs (EF-F16-162)

PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Create a disabled angler-only fishing area on the Anchor River, as follows:

The Department of Fish and Game shall dedicate a Handicap only (and Disabled Veteran) fishing area from the Anchor Rive bridge downstream 200'. This area will be for the exclusive use of those

who qualify using the same standards as the already established and successful Russian River site. The Handicap only area would only be "live" during the King Salmon season. The required improvements to access the area would be provided for at no cost to the State of Alaska.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In South-central Alaska there are no areas dedicated to exclusive use King Salmon fishing for handicap persons and disabled veterans. While there has been much success with the handicap access/ fishery for Sockeye Salmon on the Russian River, there has yet to be a dedicated area for King Salmon. Access to one of Alaska's most valuable resources is extremely difficult for or physically challenged citizens.

If nothing changes our handicap Alaskans and disabled veterans will continue to only have a dedicated area for Sockeye Salmon and lacking for King Salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Zach Stubbs (EF-F16-166)

(Proposal 14 will be heard and public testimony will be taken at both the LCI and UCI meetings and deliberated at the UCI meeting).

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Allow snagging for sockeye salmon in all Cook Inlet freshwater lakes, as follows:

Allow sockeye salmon not hooked in the mouth to be retained in Fresh water Lakes in the Cook Inlet Drainage.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? It is almost impossible to catch sockeye salmon in the mouth unless there is some current, Sockeye salmon do not bite unless in late spawning stage,

PROPOSED BY: Andy Housh (EF-F16-135)

PROPOSAL 15 – 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.; and 5 AAC 58.060. Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan. Modify the king salmon bag and possession limit north of the latitude of Bluff Point, the Cook Inlet harvest record requirement, and the *Winter King Salmon Management Plan* to include all Cook Inlet salt waters from September 1 through March 31, and review the guideline harvest level, as follows:

5 AAC 58.022(b)(1) is amended to read:

- (b).....
 - (1) in waters of Cook Inlet north of the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.):
 - (A) king salmon:

(i) may be taken from January 1 – December 31; bag and possession limit of one fish; no size limit; an annual harvest limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, except as provided in **(iv) and** in (c) of this section;.....

...

(iv) from September 1 – March 31, king salmon are not required to be entered on a harvest record and do not count against the annual limit set out in (a)(1) of this section;

(2) in the waters of Cook Inlet south of the latitude of **Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.)** [THE ANCHOR POINT LIGHT AT 59° 46.14' N. LAT.], including all of Kachemak Bay, to the latitude of Cape Douglas at 58° 51.10' N. lat., and east to the longitude of Gore Point at 150° 57.85' W. long.:

(A) king salmon: from **September 1 – March 31** [OCTOBER 1 – MARCH 31], king salmon do not need to be entered on a harvest record and do not count against the annual limit set out in (a)(1) of this section;

...

5 AAC 58.060 is amended to read:

5 AAC 58.060. [LOWER] Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan. (a) The purpose of the management plan under this section is to meet the Board of Fisheries' goal of slowing the growth in the sport harvest of king salmon in the salt waters of [LOWER] Cook Inlet during the winter, which occurs from **September 1** [OCTOBER 1] through March 31.

(b) In the winter salt water king salmon sport fishery in [LOWER] Cook Inlet

(1) the guideline harvest levels is **x,xxx** [3,000] king salmon;

...

(c) For the purpose of this section, [LOWER] Cook Inlet consists of the salt waters **west of the longitude of Gore Point at 150° 57.85' W. long. and north of the latitude of Cape Douglas at 58° 51.10' N. lat., including all of Kachemak Bay.** [SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF THE ANCHOR POINT LIGHT AT 59° 46.14' N. LAT., INCLUDING ALL OF KACHEMAK BAY, TO THE LATITUDE OF CAPE DOUGLAS AT 58° 51.10' N. LAT., AND EAST TO THE LONGITUDE OF GORE POINT AT 150° 57.85' W. LONG.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In response to public concerns regarding regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) at the 2001 Lower Cook Inlet meeting, the board formed a Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) Committee charged with exploring options to slow the growth of the Cook Inlet winter king salmon fishery. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) provided Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS) and coded wire tag data on king salmon catch from the area that indicated sport effort and harvest were increasing, but the department was not able to provide specific information regarding stock of origin of that harvest by area or time of year. The department supported Proposal 437 submitted for the October 2002 board meeting stating the “Lack of winter fishery statistics precludes the development of definitive management objectives...the winter fishery plan is a broad approach that will stabilize the winter king salmon sport fishing opportunity and harvest...” Proposal 437 went on to become 5 AAC 58.060. *Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan.* Since the creation of the plan in 2002, the department has collected SWHS data reported by season

and genetics data to contribute to the discussion and understanding of potential impacts of the winter king salmon fishery on local Cook Inlet stocks.

The boundary defined in the *Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan* creates an unnecessary disparity between king salmon bag, possession and annual limits within Cook Inlet. The timing of the spawning migration of Cook Inlet king salmon stocks occurs from April through August. By including September in the winter fishery plan, anglers will no longer be required to record the king salmon harvest in the month of September as a part of their annual limit. In addition, the new regulation would align the king salmon annual limit during the period of time when spawning Cook Inlet stocks are present in Cook Inlet. This proposal would modify the timeframe of the winter king fishery by including September, and expand area to include all of Cook Inlet. This change would simplify the sport fishing regulations in the winter fishery.

The guideline harvest level (GHL) of 3,000 king salmon was established to slow the growth of the sport harvest of king salmon in the marine waters of Lower Cook Inlet. If the board's intent was to limit the harvest of Cook Inlet stocks, then the board may want to consider if an increase should be considered to account for the contribution of nonlocal feeder king salmon harvest in Cook Inlet from September through March.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-118)

PROPOSAL 16 – 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.; and 5 AAC 58.055. Upper Cook Inlet Salt Water Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Redefine fishing area, species that may be retained, the goal of the *Upper Cook Inlet Saltwater Early-run King Salmon Management Plan*, and eliminate special harvest areas, and clarify that guides and their crew may not fish for king salmon while guiding, as follows:

5 AAC 58.022(b)(1)(A)(iii) is amended to read:

(b)...

(1) in waters of Cook Inlet north of the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.)

(A) king salmon:

...

(iii) in the salt waters of the latitude of the mouth of the Niniilchik River (60° 03.99' N. lat.) to the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.), [AND WITHIN ONE MILE OF SHORE,] a person may not, after taking a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, fish for **king salmon** [ANY SPECIES OF FISH] on that same day as specified in 5 AAC 58.055(e);

5 AAC 58.055 is amended to read:

5 AAC 58.055. Upper Cook Inlet Salt Water [EARLY-RUN] King Salmon Management Plan. (a) The goal of this management plan is to stabilize the sport harvest of [EARLY-RUN] king salmon in the mixed stock salt water sport fishery in **Upper** [UPPER] Cook Inlet.

(b) **Upper Cook Inlet** [THE EARLY-RUN KING SALMON SPECIAL HARVEST AREA] consists of all salt water south of the latitude of the mouth of the Ninilchik River (60° 03.99' N. lat.) to the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.) [AND WITHIN ONE MILE OF SHORE].

(c) From April 1 through **August 31** [JUNE 30], within the waters described in (b) of this section, a person who is a sport fishing **guide or sport fishing guide crewmember** [GUIDING] may not sport fish **for king salmon** while a client is present or is within the guide's control or responsibility.

...
...

(e) Within the waters described in (b) of this section, from April 1 through **August 31** [JUNE 30], a person may not, after taking a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, fish for **king salmon** [ANY SPECIES OF FISH] on that same day.

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal seeks to simplify regulations associated with the early-run king salmon fishery. Special Harvest Areas (SHA) and associated regulations were created to reduce harvest of early-run king salmon returning to the Anchor River, Stariski Creek, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River. Regulations associated with SHAs are difficult to follow and enforce because the 1 mile distance from shore fluctuates with the changing tide cycle. Furthermore, king salmon returning to Cook Inlet streams to spawn also move in and out of the 1-mile corridor with the changing tide.

This plan will simplify the regulations by removing the SHAs while maintaining effective regulations defining the closed areas surrounding the river mouths of the Anchor River, Stariski Creek, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River. The proposal will also prohibit guides and crew from sport fishing for king salmon while guiding, and prohibit anglers from fishing for king salmon after harvesting a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length. In addition, by extending this plan through August 31 all returning Cook Inlet king salmon stocks migrating through the saltwater area in July and August will be offered some additional protection.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-119)

PROPOSAL 17 – 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Remove the special harvest areas and extend the distance from shore an angler can fish for king salmon after harvesting a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, as follows:

5 AAC 58.022(b)(1)(A) is amended to read:

(b)...

(1) in waters of Cook Inlet north of the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.):

(A) king salmon:

...

(ii) **repealed** / /2017 [THE SALT WATERS WITHIN A ONE MILE RADIUS OF THE TERMINUS OF THE NINILCHIK RIVER ARE CLOSED TO SPORT FISHING FOR KING SALMON FROM JANUARY 1 – JUNE 30, EXCEPT

THAT SPORT FISHING FROM SHORE IS ALLOWED ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND AND THE FOLLOWING TWO WEEKENDS AND THE MONDAY FOLLOWING EACH OF THOSE WEEKENDS];

(iii) in the salt waters south of the latitude **approximately one mile north** [OF THE MOUTH] of the Ninilchik River (60° 03.99' N. LAT.) to the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.), and within one mile of shore, a person may not, after taking a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, fish for any species of fish on that same day as specified in 5 AAC 58.055(e);

5 AAC 58.055(d)(1) is amended to read:

(d) The following waters, within one mile of shore, are closed to all sport fishing from April 1 through June 30:

(1) **from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one mile north** [SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE] of the Ninilchik River **at 60° 03.99' N. lat.** to [THE LATITUDE OF] an ADF&G regulatory marker located two mile south of Deep Creek at 60° 00.68' N. lat., except that sport fishing from shore is allowed on Memorial Day weekend and the following two weekends and the Monday following each of those weekends;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminating the closed area north of the Ninilchik River and extending the conservation zone south of the Ninilchik River to include the area one mile north of the Ninilchik River would simplify regulations in the closed areas surrounding the Ninilchik River from April 1 through June 30. The area one mile north of the Ninilchik River would be included into the *Upper Cook Inlet Salt Water Early-run King Salmon Management Plan*.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-120)

PROPOSAL 18 – 5 AAC 58.055. Upper Cook Inlet Salt Water Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Align the saltwater closed area season with inriver run timing and freshwater regulations, as follows:

The introductory language of 5 AAC 58.055(d) is amended to read:

(d) The following waters, within one mile of shore, are closed to all sport fishing from April 1 through **July 15** [JUNE 30]:

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? On July 1, the saltwater closed areas surrounding the Anchor River, Stariski Creek, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River open to sport fishing (including king salmon). Bait and multiple hooks are allowed in this fishery. Based on run timing data, a significant number of king salmon enter the adjacent streams during the first two weeks

of July. On July 1, the Anchor River, Stariski Creek, Deep Creek also open to sport fisheries (except for king salmon). In 2010, the Alaska Board of Fisheries limited gear to one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure from July 1 – 15 to reduce hooking mortality of maturing king salmon in these streams.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-121)

PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 58.060. Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan. Amend *Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan* by starting the season August 10, as follows:

- (a) The purpose of the management plan under this section is to meet the Board of Fisheries' goal of slowing the growth in the sport harvest of king salmon in the salt waters of Lower Cook Inlet during the winter, which occurs from **August 10** [OCTOBER 1] through March 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would amend the plan's designation of "winter" occurring, from the current stated date of October 1, to the proposed date of August 10, in efforts to increase recreational angler safety while maintaining the effectiveness of management actions.

According to ADF&G records for each of the past several years, the Anchor River weir was removed on August 3rd because most of the returning king salmon were already in the river.

In each of the past 5 years the Kenai River sonar (located over 8 miles up-river) was removed between Aug 10-15th because most of the returning king salmon were already in the river.

Despite the fact that the salmon returning to these Cook Inlet spawning aggregations were in-river and unavailable to recreational salt water anglers, the Lower Cook Inlet recreational troll fishery 5 king salmon limit remains in place until September 30th.

The October 1 date set forth in the management plan arbitrarily and unnecessarily restricts sport fishing opportunities for the Lower Cook Inlet recreational troll fishery. Further, if there are some stragglers, they benefit from the existing "Special Harvest Zones" and "Conservation Zones" established to protect returning spawning stocks.

Marine weather conditions in Lower Cook Inlet are a significant factor for these recreational anglers; many of whom fish from small vessels and a good number will fish alone on occasion. The marine weather after October 1 is significantly more variable and dangerous than the months of August and September.

Changing the plan's designated start of "winter" from October 1 to August 10 is unlikely to have any effect on management concerns, but could significantly improve angler safety in the fishery.

In the event that, in a future year, weir logs or river sonar logs indicate a significant shift in late-arriving king salmon, there would be sufficient time for responsive management measures to be undertaken.

PROPOSED BY: Pete Zimmerman, spokesman for Cook Inlet Recreational Fishermen
(HQ-F16-054)

PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 58.060(a). Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan. Amend *Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan* by extending season to April 30, as follows:

- (a) The purpose of the management plan under this section is to meet the Board of Fisheries' goal of slowing the growth in the sport harvest of king salmon in the salt waters of Lower Cook Inlet during the winter, which occurs from October 1 through **April 30** [MARCH 31].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would amend the plan's designation for the end date of "winter" fishery, from the presently stated March 31, to the proposed end date of April 30.

According to ADF&G records for the 8 year period of 2007-2014, a total of 38,248 king salmon entered the Anchor River. Yet, for the same 8-year period, a total of only 32 king salmon entered the Anchor River prior to May 13.

Years of data confirm that the numbers of king salmon passing the Anchor River weir prior to May 13 is very low and virtually insignificant. Yet despite these facts, this management plan imposes the 5 king salmon limit after March 31 on a salt water troll sport fishery that catches primarily non-local "feeder" king salmon and not king salmon returning to Cook Inlet spawning aggregations.

This management plan's March 31 date is not reflective of actual migration data for king salmon returning to Cook Inlet spawning aggregations.

The March 31 date set forth in the management plan arbitrarily and unnecessarily restricts sport fishing opportunities for the Lower Cook Inlet recreational troll fishery. Particularly in light of the fact that the fishery catches primarily non-Cook Inlet "feeder" king salmon. In addition, king salmon returning to Cook Inlet spawning aggregations benefit from designated "Special Harvest Zones" and "Conservation Zones" established to protect stocks of concern.

The sustainable salmon fisheries policy states that salmon management objectives should be appropriate to the scale and intensity of uses (5 AAC 39.222(c)(3)(A)). The policy also provides that the burden of conservation should be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to their respective use (5 AAC 39.222(b)(4)(D) and (f)(4)). This idea of proportional burden sharing is also found in the mixed stock policy, which likewise provides that the burden of conservation should be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to their respective harvest on the stock of concern (5 AAC 39.220(b)).

The management plan's March 31 date imposes more of the conservation burden on the Lower Cook Inlet recreational king salmon troll fishery than is warranted in light of its very low impact on Cook Inlet king salmon stocks of concern. The best available information shows that the proposed April 30 amendment to the management plan will not generate any sustained yield concerns on Cook Inlet Chinook salmon spawning aggregations.

The Lower Cook Inlet recreational salt water troll fishery does not pose a threat to conservation of either Cook Inlet king salmon stocks or visiting non-local feeder king salmon.

However, it is an extremely important fishery for both the local economy and for personal and family consumption. King salmon fishing in what is typically viewed as the "off" season is very important for providing residents with the opportunity to obtain fish for personal or family consumption. Particularly in light of strict harvest restrictions on many traditional fishing locations, the chance to harvest abundant non-local feeder king salmon for personal consumption is a very important recreational fishing opportunity. One that should not be restricted any more than absolutely necessary.

For many recreational anglers, the current March 31 imposition of the 5 king salmon limit is viewed as an unnecessary restriction, one that is not rationally related to conservations, and a limit on their ability to catch fish for consumption purposes. As a result, their number of fishing trips would be reduced, along with the associated economic inputs, while their resentment may increase. Beside the economic impacts from the accumulation of lost recreational fishing opportunities, anglers may find themselves purchasing imported farmed salmon as an inadequate substitute.

Changing the plan's designated end of "winter" from the currently designated March 31 date, to the proposed date of April 30, is highly unlikely to have any effect on management concerns, but would have considerable benefit to the Lower Cook Inlet recreational feeder king troll fishery participants, their families, and the local and regional economy.

PROPOSED BY: Cook Inlet Recreational Fishermen (CIRF) Pete Zimmerman, spokesman
(HQ-F16-051)

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Eliminate king salmon annual limit for Lower Cook Inlet marine fishery south of Anchor Point Light, as follows:

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area (a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of this section, the following are the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and special provisions for finfish and shellfish in the Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area: (1) king salmon: may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag and possession limit of two fish; no size limit; an annual harvest limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, **except the "annual harvest limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length" requirement shall not apply to the Lower Cook Inlet recreational troll king salmon fishery south of Anchor Point Light (59°46.14' N. lat.),**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate the current regulations' harvest limit of five king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, for the Lower Cook Inlet recreational salt water troll fishery south of Anchor Point Light.

The Lower Cook Inlet recreational salt water troll fishery harvests primarily “feeder” king salmon which do not originate from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations.

As mounting scientific data confirms, the Lower Cook Inlet recreational salt water troll fishery does not pose a threat to conservation of returning Cook Inlet stocks-of-concern. Application of the 5 king salmon seasonal harvest limit to this recreational salt water troll fishery is neither a very effective nor reliable means for advancing sustainable management of Cook Inlet king salmon stocks of concern.

In addition to not providing any measurable benefit, the 5 king salmon seasonal harvest limit is unduly restrictive and disproportionately burdensome on the Lower Cook Inlet salt water king salmon sport fishery and its participants' opportunity to catch non-local “feeder” king salmon for consumption.

The 5 king salmon harvest limit deprives the public of sport fishing opportunities during months when non-Cook Inlet “feeder” king salmon are abundant and weather patterns are most favorable and less hazardous.

PROPOSED BY: Pete Zimmerman, spokesman for Cook Inlet Recreational Fishermen
(HQ-F16-045)

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Eliminate harvest record requirement for Alaska residents for king salmon in Lower Cook Inlet marine fishery south of Anchor Point Light, as follows:

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area (a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of this section, the following are the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and special provisions for finfish and shellfish in the Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area: (1) king salmon: may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag and possession limit of two fish; no size limit; an annual harvest limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, except as provided in (c) of this section; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006, **except a harvest record shall not be required of Alaska residents for king salmon harvested in the Lower Cook Inlet recreational troll king salmon fishery south of Anchor Point Light (59°46.14' N. lat.),**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate the harvest record requirement for king salmon harvested from marine waters south of Anchor Point Light in the Lower Cook Inlet recreational salt water troll fishery.

The Lower Cook Inlet recreational salt water troll fishery harvests primarily “feeder” king salmon which do not originate from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations.

As mounting scientific data confirms, the Lower Cook Inlet recreational salt water troll fishery does not pose a threat to conservation of returning Cook Inlet stocks-of-concern. The harvest record requirement is neither a very effective nor reliable means for advancing sustainable management of Cook Inlet king salmon stocks of concern.

In addition to not providing any measurable benefit, the harvest record requirement is unnecessarily burdensome on the Lower Cook Inlet salt water king salmon sport fishery.

In light of the above, the harvest record requirement for king salmon harvested from marine waters south of Anchor Point Light in the Lower Cook Inlet recreational salt water troll fishery is viewed as unnecessary paperwork and should be eliminated.

PROPOSED BY: Pete Zimmerman, spokesman for Cook Inlet Recreational Fishermen
(HQ-F16-046)

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Eliminate harvest record requirement for king salmon in Lower Cook Inlet marine fishery south of Anchor Point Light, as follows:

(a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of this section, the following are the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and special provisions for finfish and shellfish in the Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area: (1) king salmon: may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag and possession limit of two fish; no size limit; an annual harvest limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, except as provided in (c) of this section; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006, **except a harvest record shall not be required for king salmon harvested in the Lower Cook Inlet recreational troll king salmon fishery south of Anchor Point Light (59°46.14' N. lat.),**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate the harvest record requirement for Alaska residents for king salmon harvested from marine waters south of Anchor Point Light in the Lower Cook Inlet recreational salt water troll fishery.

The Lower Cook Inlet recreational salt water troll fishery harvests primarily “feeder” king salmon which do not originate from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations.

As mounting scientific data confirms, the Lower Cook Inlet recreational salt water troll fishery does not pose a threat to conservation of returning Cook Inlet stocks-of-concern. The harvest record requirement is neither a very effective nor reliable means for advancing sustainable management of Cook Inlet king salmon stocks of concern.

In addition to not providing any measurable benefit, the harvest record requirement is unnecessarily burdensome for Alaska residents participating in the Lower Cook Inlet salt water king salmon sport fishery.

In light of the above, the harvest record requirement for king salmon harvested by Alaska residents from marine waters south of Anchor Point Light in the Lower Cook Inlet recreational salt water troll fishery is viewed as unnecessary paperwork and should be eliminated.

PROPOSED BY: Pete Zimmerman, spokesman for Cook Inlet Recreational Fishermen (CIRF)
(HQ-F16-047)

PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Eliminate harvest limit for king salmon harvested in Lower Cook Inlet marine fishery south of Anchor Point Light, as follows:

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area (a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of this section, the following are the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and special provisions for finfish and shellfish in the Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area: (1) king salmon: may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag and possession limit of two fish; no size limit; an annual harvest limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, **except the “annual harvest limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length” requirement shall not apply to Alaska residents for king salmon harvested in the Lower Cook Inlet recreational troll king salmon fishery south of Anchor Point Light (59°46.14’ N. lat.),**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate the current regulations’ harvest limit of five king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, for Alaska residents in the Lower Cook Inlet recreational salt water troll fishery south of Anchor Point Light.

The Lower Cook Inlet recreational salt water troll fishery harvests primarily “feeder” king salmon which do not originate from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations.

As mounting scientific data confirms, the Lower Cook Inlet recreational salt water troll fishery does not pose a threat to conservation of returning Cook Inlet stocks-of-concern. Application of the 5 king salmon seasonal harvest limit to Alaska residents in this recreational salt water troll fishery is neither a very effective nor reliable means for advancing sustainable management of Cook Inlet king salmon stocks of concern.

In addition to not providing any measurable benefit, the 5 king salmon seasonal harvest limit is unduly restrictive and disproportionately burdensome on Alaska residents’ opportunity to catch non-local “feeder” king salmon for consumption.

The 5 king salmon harvest limit deprives Alaska residents of sport fishing opportunities during months when non-Cook Inlet “feeder” king salmon are abundant and weather patterns are most favorable and less hazardous.

PROPOSED BY: Pete Zimmerman, spokesman for Cook Inlet Recreational Fishermen
(HQ-F16-048)

PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 58.060(a). Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan. Amend *Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan* to specify that the plan applies to king salmon of Cook Inlet spawning origin, as follows:

- (a) The purpose of the management plan under this section is to meet the Board of Fisheries' goal of slowing the growth in the sport harvest of king salmon **originating from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations**, in the salt waters of Lower Cook Inlet during the winter, which occurs from October 1 through March 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would amend the identified management plan’s guiding principles by clarifying that the plan’s goal addresses king salmon “*originating from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations*” and does not seek to manage non-local and non-Alaska king salmon stocks via the plan’s restrictions on the Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery.

The purpose and stated goal of the identified management plan are vague and indefinite. This proposal seeks to amend the plan’s goal to clarify the management plan’s guiding principles.

The stated purpose of the management plan under 5 AAC 58.060 is “*to meet the Board of Fisheries' goal of slowing the growth in the sport harvest of king salmon in the salt waters of Lower Cook Inlet during the winter...*”

Without the proposed change, the management plan unnecessarily regulates a sport fishery whose harvest consists primarily of non-spawning “feeder” kings that do not originate from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations. In fact, the fishery’s primary catch comprises visiting non-local, non-spawning, and non-Alaska salmon.

The present proposal is respectfully submitted in an effort to clarify the purpose and goal of the management plan in light of the best available scientific information. When the management plan was first implemented, the Board understandably adopted a precautionary approach, taking into account the then-existing uncertainties. In the ensuing years, those uncertainties have been greatly reduced through considerable scientific study and the contributions of the local and traditional knowledge (LTK) of this fishery’s participants.

The sum total of this body of evidence confirms what Lower Cook Inlet recreational salmon troll anglers have been stating all along, and fishery science had long suggested – that the sport harvest

of king salmon in the salt water of Lower Cook Inlet harvests primarily non-Cook Inlet “feeder” kings.

Alaska’s policy for regulation and management of sustainable salmon fisheries is recognized and appreciated, as is the need for specific guiding principles and criteria. (5 AAC 39.222)

The sustainable salmon fisheries policy states that salmon management objectives should be appropriate to the scale and intensity of uses (5 AAC 39.222(c)(3)(A)). The policy also provides that the burden of conservation should be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to their respective use (5 AAC 39.222(b)(4)(D) and (f)(4)). This idea of proportional burden sharing is also found in the mixed stock policy, which likewise provides that the burden of conservation should be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to their respective harvest on the stock of concern (5 AAC 39.220(b)).

Without the proposed amendment, the management plan will continue to state a purpose and goal that unnecessarily and improperly impose a punitive restriction on the recreational anglers seeking to fish for these feeder king salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Pete Zimmerman, spokesman for Cook Inlet Recreational Fishermen
(HQ-F16-050)

PROPOSAL 26 - 5 AAC 58.060(a). Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan. Amend *Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan* to specify that the plan applies to king salmon of Cook Inlet spawning origin, as follows:

- (1) the guideline harvest level is 3,000 king salmon **originating from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would amend the guideline harvest level (GHL) in effort to clarify the plan guiding principle to manage wild king salmon “*originating from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations*” rather than non-Cook Inlet “feeder” king salmon comprising the bulk of the recreational catch in the Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery.

Alaska’s policy for regulation and management of sustainable salmon fisheries is recognized and appreciated, as is the need for specific guiding principles and criteria. (5 AAC 39.222) In light of this policy, the GHL is viewed as inconsistent and not proportionally related to advancement of the conservation standards contained in the sustainable salmon and mixed stock salmon policies. The present proposal is respectfully submitted in an effort to clarify the purpose and goal of the management plan in light of these policies. When the management plan was first implemented, the Board understandably adopted a precautionary approach, taking into account the then-existing uncertainties. In the ensuing years, those uncertainties have been greatly reduced and the all-encompassing scope of a blanket GHL is no longer justified.

The GHL set forth in the current management plan is not very effective for conserving Cook Inlet wild king salmon stocks of concern. The Lower Cook Inlet recreational troll king salmon fishery harvests primarily “feeder” king salmon that do not originate from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations. Rather, as fishermen have long known and science has recognized, these “feeder” king salmon originate from hatcheries in Southeast Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and elsewhere. Great numbers of these “feeder” king salmon come to Lower Cook Inlet waters to feed on abundant bait resources in the area.

In addition to not providing any measurable benefit, the plan’s GHL is unduly restrictive and disproportionately burdensome on the Lower Cook Inlet salt water king salmon sport fishery and its participants’ opportunity to catch non-local “feeder” king salmon for consumption.

The sustainable salmon fisheries policy states that salmon management objectives should be appropriate to the scale and intensity of uses (5 AAC 39.222(c)(3)(A)). The policy also provides that the burden of conservation should be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to their respective use (5 AAC 39.222(b)(4)(D) and (f)(4)). This idea of proportional burden sharing is also found in the mixed stock policy, which likewise provides that the burden of conservation should be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to their respective harvest on the stock of concern (5 AAC 39.220(b)).

The management plan’s GHL is unwarranted and inappropriate, particularly in light of the major proportion of this sport fishery’s harvest of king salmon that do not originate from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations. Comparisons of Cook Inlet wild king salmon interceptions from various sources demonstrate the insignificant effect of this sport fishery on wild king salmon originating from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations.

The State of Alaska manages salmon populations to meet spawning (escapement) requirements first, allowing salmon that are surplus to escapement to be harvested in the commercial, sport, subsistence, and personal use fisheries. The Lower Cook Inlet recreational troll king salmon fishery has low to very low impact on wild king salmon originating from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations, especially during the management plan’s “winter” period.

Accordingly, it is inappropriate and unnecessarily punitive to maintain this overly broad GHL to slow the growth in the sport harvest of king salmon in an effort to conserve specific Cook Inlet king salmon stocks of concern. This GHL imposes more conservation burden on the Lower Cook Inlet recreational troll king salmon fishery than is appropriate in full consideration of the fishery’s very low impact on Cook Inlet king salmon stocks of concern.

Without the proposed change, the management plan will continue to unnecessarily and unfairly limit a sport fishery for catching primarily “feeder” king salmon originating from outside Cook Inlet and outside Alaska. This proposal seeks to help address the growing perception that this management plan punishes Alaska fishermen for catching non-Alaska fish.

PROPOSED BY: Pete Zimmerman, spokesman for Cook Inlet Recreational Fishermen
(HQ-F16-052)

PROPOSAL 27 - 5 AAC 58.060. Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan. Amend Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan by removing the guideline harvest level, as follows:

[(1) THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL IS 3,000 KING SALMON;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would remove the guideline harvest level (GHL) of 3,000 king salmon from the management plan. The GHL is viewed as unnecessary, overly broad, and not proportionally related to advancement of the conservation standards contained in the sustainable salmon and mixed stock salmon policies.

The present proposal is respectfully submitted in an effort to clarify the purpose and goal of the management plan in light of the best available scientific information. When the management plan was first implemented, the Board understandably adopted a precautionary approach, taking into account the then-existing uncertainties. In the ensuing years, those uncertainties have been greatly reduced and the GHL is no longer warranted.

Alaska’s policy for regulation and management of sustainable salmon fisheries is recognized and appreciated, as is the need for specific guiding principles and criteria. (5 AAC 39.222)

The GHL set forth in the current management plan is not very effective for conserving Cook Inlet king salmon stocks of concern. The Lower Cook Inlet recreational troll king salmon fishery harvests primarily “feeder” king salmon that do not originate from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations. Great numbers of these “feeder” king salmon come to Lower Cook Inlet waters to feed on abundant bait resources in the area.

In addition to not providing any measurable benefit, the plan’s GHL is unduly restrictive and disproportionately burdensome on the Lower Cook Inlet salt water king salmon sport fishery and its participants’ opportunity to catch non-local “feeder” king salmon for consumption.

The sustainable salmon fisheries policy states that salmon management objectives should be appropriate to the scale and intensity of uses (5 AAC 39.222(c)(3)(A)). The policy also provides that the burden of conservation should be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to their respective use (5 AAC 39.222(b)(4)(D) and (f)(4)). This idea of proportional burden sharing is also found in the mixed stock policy, which likewise provides that the burden of conservation should be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to their respective harvest on the stock of concern (5 AAC 39.220(b)).

The management plan’s GHL is unwarranted and inappropriate, particularly in light of the major proportion of this sport fishery’s harvest of king salmon that do not originate from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations. Comparisons of Cook Inlet king salmon interceptions from various sources demonstrate the insignificant effect of this sport fishery on king salmon originating from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations.

The State of Alaska manages salmon populations to meet spawning (escapement) requirements first, allowing salmon that are surplus to escapement to be harvested in the commercial, sport, subsistence, and personal use fisheries. The Lower Cook Inlet recreational troll king salmon fishery has low to very low impact on king salmon originating from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations, especially during the management plan’s “winter” period.

Accordingly, it is inappropriate and unnecessarily punitive to impose this GHL to slow the growth in the sport harvest of king salmon in an effort to conserve specific Cook Inlet king salmon stocks of concern. This GHL imposes more conservation burden on the Lower Cook Inlet recreational troll king salmon fishery than is appropriate in full consideration of the fishery’s very low impact on Cook Inlet king salmon stocks of concern.

Without the proposed change, the management plan unnecessarily and unfairly limits a sport fishery for catching “feeder” king salmon originating primarily from outside of Cook Inlet and outside of Alaska. This proposal seeks to help address the growing perception that this management plan punishes Alaska fishermen for catching non-Alaska fish.

PROPOSED BY: Pete Zimmerman, spokesman for Cook Inlet Recreational Fishermen
(HQ-F16-053)

PROPOSAL 28 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Reduce Lower Cook Inlet marine fishery bag limit to one king salmon, as follows:

January 1 - December 31, one king salmon per day, 5 king salmon per year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? While there have been restrictions and closures of Upper Cook Inlet sport, guided sport, personal use, and commercial fisheries over the past 5 years caused by king salmon shortages, in salt water South of the Anchor Point Light from October 1 - March 31 the sport limits are 2 king salmon per day with no annual limit. There are currently 7 king salmon stocks of concern in Northern District drainages with the possibility that more could be added at the 2017 Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting. Kenai River king salmon shortages have created hardships for thousands of users. I do not know how many October - March king salmon caught South of the Anchor Point line are destined to Upper Cook Inlet drainages, however, in light of the hardships to Upper Cook Inlet user groups caused by king salmon shortages I believe it may be time to adjust daily and annual king salmon bag limits South of the Anchor Point line. Such a change should be considered, because of uncertainty, and for precautionary reasons, in light of well-documented Upper Cook Inlet king salmon shortages.

This proposal is also a call to hear and consider the most recent and best available science on the harvest numbers and origin of king salmon stocks caught in this fishery. With public involvement perhaps better solution(s) may be reached. Another solution could be to somehow adjust the October - March bag limit in response to emergency orders issued for stocks North of the Anchor Point Light. If solid and recent science shows hardly any harvest of Upper Cook Inlet king salmon stocks, it could be best to leave this fishery unchanged.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Couch

(EF-F16-095)

PROPOSAL 29 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Allow anglers fishing from non-motorized vessels to keep fishing in the Cook Inlet special harvest areas after harvesting a king salmon, as follows:

(iii) in the salt waters south of the latitude of the mouth of the Ninilchik River (60_ 03.99' N. lat.) to the latitude of Bluff Point (59_ 40.00' N. lat.), and within one mile of shore, a person may not, after taking a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, fish for any species of fish on that same day as specified in (e) **Non-motorized vessels are exempt from this provision.;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Board of Fish, Please consider an exemption, for non-motorized vessels, from the rule that states: "*(iii) in the salt waters south of the latitude of the mouth of the Ninilchik River (60_ 03.99' N. lat.) to the latitude of Bluff Point (59_ 40.00' N. lat.), and within one mile of shore, a person may not, after taking a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, fish for any species of fish on that same day as specified in 5 AAC 58.055(e);*"

The reason is safety. There are a small but dedicated group of anglers who choose to fish Cook Inlet from more traditional non motorized methods such as drift boats and kayaks. The days are often limited by weather and the unique fishery off of Lower Cook Inlet where this regulation applies is one area where halibut can be targeted closer to shore. Allowing halibut harvest after a king has been retained allows for maximum opportunities to fish the tides and maximizes safety for those wishing to participate in a more economical and environmentally friendly methods.

The terrain and geography of the area often create calmer waters near shore while areas further offshore have unfishable waters. The fast currents of Cook Inlet on many days restricts the number of hours that are fishable. Both waves and current action are significantly reduced near the shorelines allowing for a safer fishery for non-motorized vessels.

My personal motivation is to expose my 11 year old son further to kayak angling. Having him for only half of the time, my opportunities when combined with weather often limit the opportunity to fish. This requested rule change would allow for greater and safer participation in the world of non-motorized sport angling.

The impact to the resources would be negligible. The limits would remain the same. If a king is caught first, switching over to halibut gear minimizes the likelihood of a king being hooked.

Though effort from non-motorized platforms could increase, by their nature, the catch per unit effort off of non-motorized platforms are likely far below those off of powered vessels.

The current number of non-motorized anglers I would estimate to be less than 30 that currently utilize this area via non-motorized means. Though growing, it will continue to be a very tiny fraction of the total effort in the area for the foreseeable future.

PROPOSED BY: Ryuichi Rudy Tsukada (EF-F16-089)

PROPOSAL 30 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Increase the king salmon daily bag limit to 10 king salmon under 20" at the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon, as follows:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon, there are large numbers of King Salmon under 20" that never get harvested, because they count towards your daily bag limit of 2 King Salmon. Even though these King Salmon under 20" are in salt water, they are part of the terminal King Salmon fishery at the lagoon, and will not grow any larger, nearing the end of their life cycle. Catching these King Salmon under 20" is especially fun for kids, which is a big reason why the fishing lagoon was created. If nothing in changed, large numbers of King salmon under 20" will continue to go to waste.

On our local rivers, the limit for King Salmon under 20" is 10 per day, and they do not count towards your daily bag limit of King Salmon over 20". Standardizing the daily bag limit for King Salmon under 20" between our local rivers the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon will also eliminate much confusion between fishermen on this issue.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F16-117)

PROPOSAL 31 - 5 AAC 58.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish. Create an archery fishery for salmon in waters of Kachemak Bay open to snagging, as follows:

archery fishing tackle shall be allowed for the taking of salmon where open to snagging by regulation (June 24-Dec 31) in Kachemak bay as follows:

Inside a line extending from the marker defining the northwest boundary of the Nick Dudiak fishing lagoon extending roughly southeast to Peterson point (approx N 59° 35' 51". W 151° 16' 22") including the waters of halibut cove lagoon and the area locally known as "Mud Bay" at the base of the Homer spit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lack of opportunity for use of archery fishing tackle where there is no reasonable justification for prohibition.

With the eradication of pike from the Kenai Peninsula there is no longer anyplace to pursue the sport of bow fishing within reasonable distance of the Homer or Kenai/Soldotna areas.

PROPOSED BY: Dave Lyon (EF-F16-119)

PROPOSAL 32 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Open Lower Cook Inlet ling cod season on June 15 instead of July 1, as follows:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Ling Cod are finished spawning by this time, & additional opportunity should be allowed to harvest ling cod when the weather is good in June, August is very rough in the Gulf of Alaska and very few days can you get out to fish.

PROPOSED BY: Mel Erickson (EF-F16-131)

PROPOSAL 33 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Establish possession and size limits for small salmon in Resurrection Bay, as follows:

Sockeye, Chum, Pink or Coho less than 16 inches in length and King salmon less than 20 inches in length.

10 per day, 10 in possession in combination.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are no regulations on small salmon in Resurrection Bay.

Make consistent with the rest of the Kenai Peninsula.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas Buchanan (EF-F16-073)

(Proposal 34 will be heard and public testimony will be taken at both the LCI and UCI meetings and deliberated at the UCI meeting).

PROPOSAL 34 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area; and 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Allow party fishing in Cook Inlet salt and freshwaters for all species except king salmon, as follows:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 100% of private anglers & 95% of guided anglers party fish for most species, current rules make criminals out of all them,

This rule is also non-enforceable for private anglers, & only enforceable on guided anglers if there is an undercover cop nearby or onboard the vessel. When fishing for abundant species with high bag limits such as black rockfish, sockeyes, pinks & others it is almost impossible to keep track of which individual anglers caught what & how many, example is 5 anglers fishing for pinks with limit of 6, it is easy to count to 30, but is very easy to lose track of how many each individual angler has retained.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Housh

(EF-F16-137)

PROPOSAL 35 – 5 AAC 21.330. Gear. Define the existing seaward boundaries of areas where commercial set gillnets may be operated in the Southern District using Global Positioning System coordinates, as follows:

5 AAC 21.330(b)(1) is amended to read:

(b) Set gillnets may be used only in the following locations:

(1) Southern District:

(A) on Ismailof Island east of 151° 13.10' W. long., and the mainland south of Ismailof Island from 151° 13.10' W. long. [.] to 151° 12.15' W. long., **and inshore of a line from a point off of the northeast shore of Ismailof Island at 59° 36.27' N. lat., 151° 13.10' W. long., to 59° 36.11' N. lat., 151° 12.58' W. long., to 59° 35.65' N. lat., 151° 12.60' W. long., to a point off the eastern entrance to Halibut Cove at 59° 35.70' N. lat. 151° 12.15' W. long.;**

(B) between Barabara Point and a point on the north side of McDonald Spit at 59° 28.49' N. lat., 151° 36.12' W. long., **and inshore of a line between a point off shore of Barabara Point at 59° 29.31' N. lat., 151° 38.20' W. long., and another point near the base of McDonald Spit at 59° 28.80' N. lat., 151° 36.12' W. long.;**

(C) from the north side of McDonald Spit at 59° 28.69' N. lat., 151° 35.25' W. long., east along the outer shoreline of McDonald Spit, and including the entire shoreline of Kasitsna Bay to the headland at the west side of the entrance of Jakolof Bay, **and inshore of a line beginning at a point near the base of McDonald Spit at 59° 28.79' N. lat., 151° 35.58' W. long., to 59° 29.25' N. lat., 151° 34.53' W. long., to 59° 29.33' N. lat., 151° 34.47' W. long., to 59° 29.37' N. lat., 151° 34.20' W. long., to 59° 29.29' N. lat., 151° 33.89' W. long., to 59° 29.00' N. lat., 151° 33.16' W. long., to 59° 28.84' N. lat., 151° 33.18' W. long., to 59° 28.66' N. lat., 151° 33.91' W. long., to 59° 28.30' N. lat., 151° 33.84' W. long., to 59° 28.47' N. lat., 151° 32.68' W. long., to 59° 28.39' N. lat., 151° 32.11' W. long., to a point on the east shore of the entrance to Jakolof Bay at 59° 28.16' N. lat., 151° 32.03' W. long.;**

(D) the west shore of Seldovia Bay from Point Naskowhak to a point at the latitude of an unnamed creek at 59° 25.19' N. lat., 151° 44.05' W. long., **and inshore of a line starting at Point Naskowhak at 59° 27.37' N. lat., 151° 44.63' W. long., to 59° 27.45' N. lat. 151° 44.41' W. long., to 59° 27.38' N. lat. 151° 44.22' W. long., to 59° 26.96' N. lat. 151° 44.19' W. long., to 59° 26.74' N. lat. 151° 43.78' W. long., to 59° 25.90' N. lat. 151° 44.12' W. long., to 59° 25.19' N. lat. 151° 43.53' W. long.;**

(E) from the old cannery site on the south shore of Port Graham at 59° 21.06' N. lat., 151° 49.61' W. long. and along the beach to the point south of English Bay at 59° 20.98' N. lat., 151° 56.77' W. long., and inshore of a line starting at a point in English Bay at 59° 21.41' N. lat., 151° 56.77' W. long., to 59° 21.49' N. lat., 151° 56.31' W. long., to 59° 21.78' N. lat., 151° 56.10' W. long., to 59° 22.07' N. lat., 151° 55.04' W. long., to 59° 22.04' N. lat., 151° 52.37' W. long., to 59° 21.71' N. lat., 151° 51.11' W. long., to 59° 21.66' N. lat., 151° 50.19' W. long., to 59° 21.37' N. lat., 151° 49.01' W. long., to the old cannery in Port Graham located at 59° 21.06' N. lat., 151° 49.61' W. long. [59° 20.94' N. LAT., 151° 56.77' W. LONG.]; set gillnets in these waters may be used within 2,500 feet of beach areas that at mean low water are connected by exposed land to the shore;

What is the issue that you would like the board to address and why? This proposal seeks to define, using GPS coordinates, the existing seaward boundary of the areas where commercial set gillnets may be used in the Southern District.

Current regulation specifies that set gillnets in the Southern District may be commercially fished within 1,000 feet of mean low water of land that is connected to shore at this tidal height. There has been difficulty enforcing the seaward boundary of the area open to commercial fishing and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) proposes to establish boundaries expressed by GPS coordinates to define the area where set gillnet gear may be commercially fished in the Southern District. The area defined by GPS coordinates includes the historical area where the commercial fishery has been prosecuted. Making these changes will more clearly define the area open to commercial fishing and benefit the public, enforcement, and department.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-123)

(Proposal 36 was submitted by two proposers. The proposal and two justifications by each proposer are provided below.)

PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC 21.330. Gear. Move eastern boundary near Halibut Cove where commercial set gillnet gear is permitted, as follows:

5 AAC 21.330. Gear.

(b) Set gillnets may be used only in the following locations:

(1) Southern District: within 1,000 feet of beach areas that at mean low water are connected by exposed land to the shore, except as specified in (1)(E) of this section, and only in the following locations:

(A) on Ismailof Island east of 151° 13.10' W. long., and the mainland south of Ismailof Island from 151° 13.10' W. long., to 151° [12.25' W. long.] 12.12' W. long.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In March 1993, DNR Shore Fisheries Leasing staff issued a shore fisheries lease that was approximately 400 feet beyond the regulatory boundary for set gillnet gear in the Halibut Cove area. This error was not identified by DNR staff in the Shore Fishery Lease section, by ADF&G staff responsible for regulating this fishery, or by Public Safety personnel responsible for regulatory compliance monitoring until June

Because of ADF&G budget cuts there have been little to no surveys, streams are being over escaped. and never opened on a timely basis. Causing lost revenue.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas Buchanan (EF-F16-070)

PROPOSAL 39 - 5 AAC 21.375. Bear Lake Management Plan. Reinstate *Bear Lake Management Plan* with an equal allocation between cost recovery and common property fisheries, as follows:

Bear Lake Management Plan which addresses the returning sockeyes to Resurrection Bay. Will be divided 50/50 between cost recovery and common property.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reinstate the Bear Lake Management Plan. Which divides the sockeyes returning to Resurrection Bay. 50/50 between cost recovery and common property.

The BOF gave CIAA 2 years to get finances in order they have had 100% for more than 5 years. There is no cap on the amount of cost recovery, and they have only met there goal one time.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas Buchanan (EF-F16-072)

PROPOSAL 40 - 5 AAC 21.373. Trail Lakes Hatchery Salmon Management Plan. Amend the Bear Lake Special Harvest Area to exclude fresh waters that are currently open to salmon sport fishing, as follows:

5AAC 21.373 [b] [1] is amended to read:

5AA 21.373 Trail Lakes Hatchery Salmon Management Plan [b] [1] Bear Lake Special Harvest Area: the marine waters of Resurrection Bay, in the Eastern District north of a latitude of Caines Head at approximately 59 58.93' N. lat. And the fresh waters of Bear Creek, Salmon Creek, and Resurrection River downstream from and including the Bear Lake weir, **excluding the freshwaters downstream from the Seward Highway and downstream from Nash Road to the ADF&G fresh/salt water boundary markers.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? **Trail Lakes Hatchery Salmon Management Plan.** Modify the Bear Lake Special Harvest Area to exclude the fresh waters that are currently open to salmon sport fishing below the Seward Highway Bridge.

The current Bear Creek Special Harvest Area [SHA] does not accurately reflect the commercial and noncommercial use that occurs in the common property fisheries that Cook Inlet Aquaculture [CIAA] supports in the North Gulf Coast.

Within the Bear Lake Special Area defined by 5 AAC 21.373[e][4], CIAA may harvest salmon on or after the third Monday in May [by emergency order] using purse seines, hand purse seines, beach seines and weirs.

Concurrently, there exists a special freshwater fishery defined in 5 AAC 56.122[a][9][D] where “the waters downstream from the Seward Highway and downstream from Nash Road are open to sport fishing for salmon, except king salmon from June 16-December 31; only single hook, artificial lures may be used; the bag and possession limit is three salmon per day of which only 2 may be coho salmon” This fishery is in an area that is defined as fresh water down to the where ADF&G places the fresh/salt water boundary markers. This small area is the only portion of the Resurrection Bay drainage that is open to sport fishing for salmon.

This proposal would remove waters from the Seward Highway down to the ADF&G fresh/salt water boundary markers from the current Bear Creek SHA so that the SHA would accurately reflect commercial and noncommercial use. This proposal would not affect the prosecution of either fishery in any way.

PROPOSED BY: Seward Fish And Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F16-059)

PROPOSAL 41 - 5 AAC 21.373. Trail Lakes Hatchery Salmon Management Plan. Amend the Bear Lake Special Harvest Area to exclude nearshore marine waters in Resurrection Bay, as follows:

5AAC 21.373 [b][1] would be amended to read:

5AA 21.373 Trial Lakes Hatchery Salmon Management Plan [b][1] Bear Lake Special Harvest Area: the marine waters of Resurrection Bay, in the Eastern District north of a latitude of Caines Head at approximately 59 58.93’ N. latitude. **The SHA boundary will be pulled off of the beach by 50 feet of water distance from 4th of July Creek, 60 04.85’ N by 149 20.80’ W, north to the head of Resurrection Bay SHA boundary, 60 07.41’ N by 149 24.55’W. From 4th of July south to the southeastern SHA boundary at 59 58.93’ N by 149 19.00’W as well as the area on the southwest side of the SHA boundary at Caines Head, 59 58.93 N by 149 23.20 W north to 60 00.48’ by 149 24.25’ the SHA boundary will be pulled off the beach 100 yards of water distance.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Trail Lakes Hatchery Salmon Management Plan. Modify the boundaries of the Bear Lake Special Harvest Area to reduce conflict between sport fisherman and the cost recovery fleet operating for CIAA.

PROPOSED BY: Seward Fish & Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F16-060)

PROPOSAL 42 - 5 AAC 28.330. Lawful gear for Cook Inlet Area. Amend lawful gear to allow groundfish pots to be connected when commercial fishing for sablefish in the Cook Inlet Area, as follows:

A groundfish pot may not be attached to a line connected to another groundfish pot **except that in the Cook Inlet sablefish fishery groundfish pots may be connected if each end of the buoy line is marked as specified by (d) of this section.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Fishing sablefish with pots in the Cook Inlet Area. This proposal follows existing state water sablefish regulations in other areas.

PROPOSED BY: Randy Arsenault (HQ-F16-057)

PROPOSAL 43 - 5 AAC 28.350. Closed waters in Cook Inlet Area. Reduce closed waters for commercial groundfish in Kachemak Bay, as follows:

My solution would replace subsection 2 with the following.(2) waters of Kachemak Bay enclosed by the lines from the point east of Gull Island at 59 34.68N 151 19.27W to the southern most point of Gull Island at 59 35 .05N 151 19.9W south to a point at 59 33.4N 151 28.5W then south to 59 30.45N 151 40.0W then north to 59 33.0N 151 40.0W then northeast to 59 34.7N 151 30.0W then north along that latitude to the point that intersects with the mainland.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Closed waters Kachemak Bay.This proposal would reduce closed water area to allow smaller boats to fish during winter months when the prevailing north wind make the outer bay hazardous.It will open up more area around the perimeters of known crab abundance without putting undo pressure on Tanner crab stocks

PROPOSED BY: AlRay Carroll (EF-F16-065)

PROPOSAL 44 – 5 AAC 28.360. Cook Inlet Sablefish Management Plan. Add a 6-hour prior notice of landing requirement for the Cook Inlet commercial sablefish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.360 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(d) At least six hours before landing sablefish, an operator of a vessel participating in the Cook Inlet sablefish fishery must notify the department by telephone, to a telephone number specified in writing by the department on the registration forms at the time of registration, the following information:

- (1) vessel name and ADF&G number;**
- (2) date and location of landing, and estimated time of arrival;**
- (3) name of fish buyer or processor;**
- (4) estimated number of pounds of sablefish on board the vessel;**
- (5) whether the catch is dressed fish or whole (in the round) fish.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is no prior notice of landing (PNOL) regulatory requirement for vessels participating in the Cook Inlet sablefish fishery. Biological sampling of the sablefish and rockfish bycatch harvested during the fishery is coordinated out of Homer and nearly all deliveries occur in Seward. Staff must travel by state vehicle from Homer to Seward in order to meet landings, which takes approximately 4 hours for the drive alone. Offloading happens quickly and the opportunity to sample landings can easily be missed if there is no notification beforehand. Therefore, having a PNOL in place for this fishery would assist in achieving sampling goals, particularly since there has been a decline in effort and harvest in the sablefish fishery in recent years, which has resulted in a protracted season with fewer deliveries during a given time period. Additionally, a PNOL requirement allows Alaska Wildlife Troopers to be notified about upcoming deliveries, providing a coordinated enforcement opportunity. A similar regulation exists for the Prince William Sound (PWS) sablefish fishery as defined under 5 AAC 28.272(e), and landings during the PWS fishery frequently occur in Seward or Whittier and are covered by the same Homer staff as Cook Inlet sablefish landings. Having a PNOL for both fisheries could potentially result in higher productivity and efficiency for the Central Region sampling program because it may allow for more deliveries to be covered during a single sampling trip.

In 2015, a PNOL requirement was implemented as a condition of registration as provided by 5 AAC 28.020. *Groundfish area registration (c)* and a check-out procedure to report landing information was specified on the registration form. Vessels complied reasonably well; however, several waivers of the PNOL requirement were requested. There is overlap of participants between the Cook Inlet and PWS sablefish fisheries and vessels are able to comply with the PNOL requirements for the PWS sablefish fishery. Therefore, it would be expected that vessels would also be able to comply with the same requirement for the Cook Inlet fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-127)

PROPOSAL 45 – 5 AAC 28.365. Cook Inlet Rockfish Management Plan. Add a 6-hour prior notice of landing requirement for the Cook Inlet commercial rockfish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.365 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(h) At least six hours before landing rockfish, an operator of a vessel participating in the Cook Inlet directed rockfish fishery must notify the department by telephone, to a telephone number specified in writing by the department on the registration forms at the time of registration, the following information:

- (1) vessel name and ADF&G number;**
- (2) date and location of landing, and estimated time of arrival;**
- (3) name of fish buyer or processor; and**
- (4) estimated number of pounds of rockfish on board the vessel.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is no prior notice of landing (PNOL) regulatory requirement for vessels participating in the Cook Inlet directed rockfish fishery. Biological sampling of rockfish harvested during the fishery is coordinated out of Homer and deliveries generally occur in both Homer and Seward. For Seward landings, staff must travel by state

vehicle from Homer to Seward in order to meet vessels, which takes approximately 4 hours for the drive alone. Offloading happens quickly and the opportunity to sample landings in both ports can easily be missed if there is no notification beforehand. Therefore, having a PNOL in place for this fishery would assist in achieving sampling goals. Additionally, a PNOL requirement allows Alaska Wildlife Troopers to be notified about upcoming deliveries, providing a coordinated enforcement opportunity. A similar regulation already exists for the Prince William Sound sablefish fishery as defined under 5 AAC 28.272(e), and there is a similar proposal to require PNOL for the Cook Inlet sablefish fishery. Landings for both sablefish fisheries frequently occur in Seward and are covered by the same Homer staff as Cook Inlet directed rockfish fishery landings. Having a PNOL for all three fisheries could result in higher productivity and efficiency for the Central Region sampling program because it may allow for more deliveries to be covered during a single sampling trip.

In 2015, a PNOL requirement was implemented as a condition of registration as provided by 5 AAC 28.020. *Groundfish area registration (c)* and a check-out procedure to report landing information was specified on the registration form. Vessels complied reasonably well; however, several waivers of the PNOL requirement were requested. If the PNOL requirement were defined in regulation, there would be less confusion by vessel operators regarding expectations of fishery participants.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-129)

PROPOSAL 46 - 5 AAC 28.365. Cook Inlet Rockfish Management Plan. Increase the trip limit for rockfish in the *Cook Inlet Rockfish Management Plan*, as follows:

5 AAC 28.365

(b) A vessel fishing in the North Gulf District may not land or have on board more than [4000] **6000** pounds (round weight) of all rockfish species within 5 consecutive days.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently the directed rockfish fishery has a 4000lb 5day trip limit for the North Gulf District. This is primarily a small boat jig fishery, and due to concerns of over harvest a trip limit is warranted. However the current trip limit is very restrictive and in practical terms makes the financial viability of the fishery borderline and as a consequence it is currently very under utilized. I would like the board to consider a slight increase in trip limit to encourage participation.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Person (EF-F16-077)
