



ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Prince William Sound Finfish

December 1-5, 2017 | Valdez Civic and Convention Center, Valdez

PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

This summary is informational only. The actions indicated below will have legal effects in regulations that provide the sole legal action of the board. All references to meeting materials, including this summary, may be located on the Board of Fisheries meeting website at:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo&date=12-01-2017&meeting=valdez>.

Board Members Present

John Jensen, Chair

Orville Huntington

Al Cain

Israel Payton

Reed Morisky, Vice-chair

Robert Ruffner

Fritz Johnson

C=Carried, C/A = Carried as amended, F=Failed, N/A=No Action

Action	#	Proposal	Audio tracking info*
GROUP 1: Groundfish (9 proposals)			
<i>Sport Groundfish (3 Proposals)</i>			
C/A (7-0)	1	Reduce the bag and possession limits for lingcod in the Prince William Sound Area. <i>(Substituted with language in RC 36.)</i>	BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 10:22:00 AM
N/A (7-0)	2	Reduce the bag and possession limits for lingcod in a portion of the Prince William Sound Area. <i>(No action taken based on action taken on Proposal 1.)</i>	BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 10:27:11 AM
C/A (7-0)	3	Modify and align bag and possession limit of rockfish in the Prince William Sound Area. <i>(Proposal 3 was substituted with language in RC 42 and further amended to remove the word "charter" in section (x). Later the board reconsidered this action and removed section (x) as final language. The board instructed the department to create a board generated proposal out of section (x), issue a supplemental public notice on the new proposal, and schedule it for the March 2018 Statewide meeting.)</i>	BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 10:36:29 AM BOF Meeting 12-04-17: 11:22:26 AM BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 3:07:15 PM
<i>Commercial Groundfish (6 Proposals)</i>			



Action	#	Proposal	Audio tracking info*
F (2-5)	4	Establish a pelagic rockfish jig fishery with a separate guideline harvest level (GHL) in the Outside District of the Prince William Sound Area.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 11:26:20 AM</i>
C (7-0)	5	Specify that bycatch allowance of lingcod in the Prince William Sound Area is measured as round weight.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 11:38:35 AM</i>
F (0-7)	6	Allow vessels fishing for halibut in the Prince William Sound Area to retain all Pacific cod bycatch when directed Pacific cod fisheries are closed due to reaching the federal halibut bycatch allowance.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 11:42:08 AM</i>
C/A (7-0)	7	Clarify lawful gear requirements for Prince William Sound Area groundfish fisheries. (<i>Substituted with language in RC 41.</i>)	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 11:48:24 AM</i>
C (7-0)	8	Add specific registration requirements for Prince William Sound Area groundfish fisheries.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 11:52:43 AM</i>
C (7-0)	9	Clarify procedures for obtaining, completing, and submitting log sheets for the Prince William Sound Area sablefish fishery.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 11:56:38 AM</i>
Group 2: Escapement goals, subsistence, personal use, sport, and Minto Flats northern pike (19 proposals)			
<i>Copper River Escapement Goal (1 Proposal)</i>			
F (2-5)	10	Set an optimal escapement goal for Copper River sockeye salmon.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 1:47:10 PM</i>
<i>Upper Copper River Subsistence and Personal Use Salmon (8 Proposals)</i>			
C (6-1)	11	Remove the requirement to open the Batzulnetas subsistence fishery by emergency order.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 2:05:17 PM</i>
F (0-7)	12	Require operators of fish wheels without live boxes to be present when fishing in the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 2:14:34 PM</i>
F (1-5)	13	Prohibit using a dip net from a boat to harvest salmon in the Glennallen Subdistrict. (<i>Member Cain recused.</i>)	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 2:27:03 PM</i>
F (0-7)	14	Modify the season dates for the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence salmon fishery based on the preseason king salmon harvest projection.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 3:04:09 PM</i>
F (0-7)	15	Prohibit the use of monofilament or gillnet mesh in dip nets.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 3:10:14 PM</i>
F (0-7)	16	Require log books for all charters operating in personal use and subsistence fisheries	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 3:17:27 PM</i>



Action	#	Proposal	Audio tracking info*
N/A (7-0)	17	Extend the lower boundary of the Chitina Subdistrict downstream to the Uranatina River. <i>(No action taken based on the proposer's request to withdraw the proposal under RC 29.)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 3:25:55 PM</i>
C (6-1)	18	Repeal the reduction in maximum harvest level in the Chitina Subdistrict Personal Use fishery when the Copper River commercial fishery is closed 13 or more consecutive days.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 3:26:36 PM</i>
Prince William Sound/Copper River Subsistence and Personal Use Salmon and Herring (4 Proposals)			
C/A (7-0)	19	Allow salmon to be taken for subsistence purposes at any time between May 1 and November 30 in the Copper River District. <i>(Substituted with language in RC 54.)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 3:36:45 PM</i>
N/A (7-0)	20	Open all waters of the Copper River District to subsistence fishing for salmon from April 20 through October 15. <i>(No action taken based on action taken on Proposal 19.)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 3:55:26 PM</i>
C/A (7-0)	21	Close the Prince William Sound subsistence herring fishery, limit gear to 60 feet in length, and monitor the number of permits and area fished. <i>(Proposal 21 was initially tabled and later substituted with language in RC 59.)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 3:56:00 PM</i> <i>BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 8:15:50 PM</i>
F (0-7)	22	Allow Pacific herring to be taken for personal use in the Prince William Sound Area.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 4:00:16 PM</i>
Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Sport (3 Proposals)			
F (1-5)	23	Prohibit catch-and-release sport fishing in the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River drainages. <i>(Member Cain recused).</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 4:04:59 PM</i>
C (7-0)	24	Amend sockeye salmon regulations in the Gulkana River drainage.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 4:15:17 PM</i>
C (7-0)	25	Remove the unbaited, single-hook artificial lure restriction in flowing waters of the Upper Susitna River drainage.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 4:19:27 PM</i>
Prince William Sound/Copper River Sport (2 Proposals)			
F (0-7)	26	Allow bow fishing for pink and coho salmon in the Valdez terminal harvest area.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 4:23:20 PM</i>
C (7-0)	27	Remove a closed water provision for Clear Creek.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 4:29:42 PM</i>
Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan (1 Proposal)			
C (5-2)	228	Decrease the size of the area closed to subsistence fishing through the ice for northern pike on the Chatanika River.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-03-17: 4:32:07 PM</i>



Action	#	Proposal	Audio tracking info*
Group 3: Commercial Finfish (25 proposals)			
<i>Copper River Commercial Salmon (10 Proposals)</i>			
F (2-5)	28	Repeal mandatory inside waters commercial salmon fishery closures in the Copper River King Salmon Management Plan.	BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 9:03:15 AM
N/A (7-0)	29	Extend inside closure area to 1/4 mile off the southern shores of all barrier islands in the Copper River commercial drift gillnet salmon fishery. <i>(Took no action based on a request by the proposer to withdraw the proposal in RC 60.)</i>	BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 9:20:38 AM
F (0-7)	30	Repeal certain closed waters provisions in the Copper River District commercial drift gillnet salmon fishery.	BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 9:21:11 AM
N/A (7-0)	31	Reduce the maximum depth of drift gill nets in the Copper River District commercial drift gillnet salmon fishery to 29 meshes through the start of Statistical Week 24. <i>(Took no action based on a request by the proposer to withdraw the proposal in RC 60.)</i>	BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 9:26:12 AM
F (1-6)	32	Prohibit commercial salmon fishing in the Copper River District, during the month of May, if the preseason forecast for Copper River king salmon is below the 20-year average, or 35,000 king salmon.	BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 9:26:46 AM
N/A (7-0)	33	Prohibit sale of commercially caught king salmon in the Copper River District if restrictions on Copper River drainage subsistence fisheries have been implemented. <i>(Took no action based on a request by the proposer to withdraw the proposal in RC 60.)</i>	BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 9:36:46 AM
N/A (7-0)	34	Prohibit commercial salmon fishing in the Copper River District until a salmon is recorded at the Copper River sonar. <i>(Took no action based on a request by the proposer to withdraw the proposal in RC 60.)</i>	BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 9:37:14 AM
F (0-7)	35	Open commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnet gear in the Copper River District on the Monday or Thursday closest to May 1.	BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 9:53:12 AM
F (0-7)	36	Open the Copper River District commercial salmon fishery for a minimum of two twelve-hour periods per week.	BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 9:56:59 AM
F (0-7)	37	Repeal commercial salmon fishery closed waters near Kayak Island and allow commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnet gear near Kayak Island with the same boundaries in effect in 1980.	BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 10:02:00 AM



Action	#	Proposal	Audio tracking info*
<i>Prince William Sound Commercial Salmon (12 Proposals)</i>			
C/A (4-3)	38	Modify purse seine gear length in the Prince William Sound Area. <i>(Substituted with language in RC 61.)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 10:14:24 AM</i>
N/A (7-0)	39	Allow permit stacking and increase the amount of purse seine gear that may be operated from a vessel with two limited entry purse seine permit holders onboard in the Prince William Sound Area commercial salmon fishery. <i>(The board took no action based on a request by the proposer to withdraw the proposal in RC 28.)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 10:43:48 AM</i>
F (0-7)	40	Establish minimum operation depth for drift gillnet gear fished within 90 fathoms of a set gillnet in the Crafton Island Subdistrict.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 10:44:23 AM</i>
F (0-7)	41	Prohibit operation of commercial salmon drift gillnet gear within 60 fathoms of the shoreward of a set gillnet in the Crafton Island Subdistrict.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 10:50:47 AM</i>
F (0-7)	42	Repeal maximum length for set gillnet gear in the Main Bay Salmon Hatchery Harvest Management Plan and prohibit operation of a drift gillnet within 20 fathoms of a set gillnet.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 10:57:20 AM</i>
F (0-7)	43	Clarify provisions for operation of drift gillnet and set gillnet gear in the Main Bay Subdistrict.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 11:02:55 AM</i>
F (0-7)	44	Specify that operation of each set gillnet or drift gillnet must be performed or assisted by a Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit holder in the Prince William Sound Area commercial salmon fishery.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 11:05:05 AM</i>
F (0-7)	45	Limit each Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit holder to no more than four set gillnet sites deployed with lines and buoys in the Prince William Sound Area commercial set gillnet fishery.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 11:24:17 AM</i>
C/A (7-0)	46	Change boundary description of the Main Bay Subdistrict. <i>(The board clarified its intent was to support using the line titled "Proposed line" as provided in the staff comments, page 108, F46-1.)</i>	<i>BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 11:37:23 AM</i>
F (0-7)	47	Include the value of all enhanced salmon produced in the Prince William Sound Area in the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan.	<i>BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 12:12:16 PM</i>



Action	#	Proposal	Audio tracking info*
C (7-0)	48	Allow commercial fishing for salmon in the Armin F. Koernig Hatchery Terminal and Special Harvest Areas prior to July 18.	BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 12:17:52 PM
C/A (7-0)	49	Reduce harvest of sockeye salmon in the directed chum salmon fishery prior to July 18 in the Armin F. Koernig Hatchery terminal and special harvest areas. <i>(Substituted with language in RC 74.)</i>	BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 12:29:21 PM
Prince William Sound/Copper River commercial salmon area definitions (3 Proposals)			
C (7-0)	50	Define Copper and Bering River district seaward boundaries with geographic coordinates.	BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 2:10:37 PM
C/A (7-0)	51	Amend district and subdistrict boundaries to match ADF&G statistical area boundaries within the Prince William Sound Management Area. <i>(Substituted with language in RC 70.)</i>	BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 2:12:37 PM
C (7-0)	52	Amend Prince William Sound Area description to specify lines of longitude for the eastern and western boundaries.	BOF Meeting 12-05-17: 2:14:54 PM

* The audio tracking information correlates with the meeting audio available at the bottom of each meeting page. The entry "BOF Meeting 12-03-17:" indicates the meeting day. The start time indicates when board discussion on the proposal began according to the meeting audio.

Other Board Action/Issues/Discussion:

Copper River Kings Sustainable Escapement Goal

Based on a discussion with the board, the department agreed to refrain from implementing its revised sustainable escapement goal of 18,500 – 33,000 fish, and instead manage with the existing goal of 24,000 fish until the next Prince William Sound finfish meeting.

Audio Tracking Info

BOF Meeting 12-05-17:
8:29:32 AM

Miscellaneous Business

1. Kreig Emergency Petition (RC 11). The board reviewed an emergency petition from John Kreig and found it met the criteria for an emergency. With no objection by the board it was agreed to convert the petition to a board generated proposal for action at the March 2017 Statewide meeting.

BOF Meeting 12-05-17:
2:41:13 PM

2. Alaska Wildlife Trooper's Request for Support (RC12). With no objection, the board approved the Alaska Department of Public Safety's request for funding support.

BOF Meeting 12-05-17:
2:49:17 PM

3. Travel reports. Member Ruffner gave the board a brief report on a recent trip to attend the Southeast gear group task force meetings in Ketchikan.

BOF Meeting 12-05-17:
2:51:51 PM

4. Joint Board committee meeting. Executive Director Haight informed the board that a meeting date of December 21 was slated for the Boards of

BOF Meeting 12-05-17:
2:53:02 PM



Other Board Action/Issues/Discussion:

Game and Fisheries committee meeting to review whether to schedule a Joint Board meeting for 2018.

Audio Tracking Info

5. Advisory Committee Excellence in Service Recognition. Haight announced the 2018 AC Excellence in Service award winners, including:

- Don Quarberg, Delta Advisory Committee
- Raymond Oney, Coastal Lower Yukon Advisory Committee
- Barbara Carlson, Stoney-Holitna Advisory Committee
- James Charles, Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee
- Tim McDonough, Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee

*BOF Meeting 12-05-17:
2:53:46 PM*

6. Motion to Reconsider Policy. The board discussed the criteria in the motion to reconsider policy that requires the subject be brought up within 24 hours of the original decision. While no change was made, it was discussed and may be brought forward again.

*BOF Meeting 12-05-17:
2:55:08 PM*

7. Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy. The board discussed the escapement goal setting process as described in the policy and used by the board and department. There was interest in reviewing the process. The board suggested re-establishing the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy committee to review the process and will further discuss the former committee at the Southeast Finfish meeting in January 2018.

*BOF Meeting 12-05-17:
3:01:00 PM*

8. Deep Water Release Mechanisms for Rockfish and Board Generated Proposal: Under miscellaneous business the board determined to take Proposal 3 substituted with language in RC 42 off the table and remove provision (x) which required all vessels fishing for rockfish to have a deep water release mechanism. Following this action the board voted to approve Proposal 3 as described earlier in this summary and convert (x) into a board generated proposal and schedule it for the March 2018 Statewide meeting.

*BOF Meeting 12-05-17:
3:07:15 PM*

9. Northern District Chinook Stock of Concern. Member Payton discussed the potential for establishing a stock of concern designation for the entire Northern District Chinook stocks in the Upper Cook Inlet.

*BOF Meeting 12-05-17:
3:21:39 PM*

10. Additional Discussion on Proposal 46. Member Cain provided remarks to address the concerns within RC75 which involved board action under Proposal 46.

*BOF Meeting 12-05-17:
3:34:24 PM*

The meeting was adjourned at December 5, at 3:37pm.