



ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Work Session

October 17-19, 2017 | Egan Center, Anchorage

PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

(Revised November 8, 2017)

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=10-17-2017&meeting=anchorage>

Board Members Present

John Jensen, Chair
Orville Huntington
Al Cain
Israel Payton

Reed Morisky, Vice-Chair
Robert Ruffner
Fritz Johnson

A = Accepted, R = Rejected, N/A = No Action

Agenda Change Requests (ACRs) - 18

SUBJECT (# of ACRs)			Audio Tracking Info*
Action	ACR	Description	
Yukon Area Northern Pike Fishery (1)			
A (5-2)	1	Decrease the size of the area closed to subsistence fishing through the ice for northern pike on the Chatanika River (5 AAC 01.244).	<i>Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 2:51:24 PM</i>
Aleutian Islands King Crab Fishery (1)			
A (7-0)	2	Repeal fixed total allowable catch (TAC) and adopt an Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest strategy that uses biomass estimates generated from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game stock assessment model to establish TAC (5 AAC 34.612).	<i>Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 3:04:33 PM</i>
Kuskokwim River Salmon Fisheries (5)			
R (0-7)	3	During times of Kuskokwim River king salmon conservation allow use of set gillnets with 5 1/2” mesh to harvest salmon other than king salmon and other non-salmon fish species for subsistence purposes (5 AAC 01.270).	<i>Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 3:11:20 PM</i>



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Action	ACR	Description	
R (0-7)	4	Allow set gillnets to be operated for subsistence purposes within 30 feet of each other in that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage from the north end of Eek Island upstream to the mouth of the Kolmakoff River (5 AAC 01.270).	<i>Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 3:15:13 PM</i>
R (0-7)	5	Close sport fishing for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage when other Kuskokwim River fisheries are closed to the taking of king salmon (5 AAC 71.010 and 5 AAC 07.365).	<i>Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 3:21:28 PM</i>
R (0-7)	6	Close sport and subsistence hook and line fishing for king salmon in the Aniak River when other Kuskokwim River fisheries are closed to the taking of king salmon (5 AAC 01.295, 5 AAC 71.010 and 5 AAC 07.365).	<i>Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 3:25:23 PM</i>
R (0-7)	7	Close all fishing in non-salmon spawning rivers of the Kuskokwim River within one mile of the confluence during times of king salmon conservation (5 AAC 01.275, 5 AAC 71.010 and 5 AAC 07.365).	<i>Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 3:29:34 PM</i>
Cook Inlet Area Salmon Fisheries (3)			
R (1-6)	8	Close a portion of the Big River to sport fishing and reduce the bag limit for salmon, other than king salmon in the South Fork and tributaries of Otter Lake (5 AAC 62.122).	<i>Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 3:34:23 PM</i>
R (0-7)	9	Reduce the bag limit for salmon, other than king salmon, from three to two fish in Otter Lake and its tributaries (5 AAC 62.122).	<i>Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 3:44:11 PM</i>
R (0-7)	10	Close and open all commercial, personal use and sport fisheries concurrently when salmon escapement goals are not going to be achieved in Upper Cook Inlet (5 AAC 21.363, 5 AAC 56.122, 5 AAC 57.121, 5 AAC 57.122, 5 AAC 57.123 and 5 AAC 77.540).	<i>Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 3:48:30 PM</i>
Kodiak Area Salmon Fisheries (1)			
R (0-7)	11	Adopt a new management plan capping weekly and seasonal commercial sockeye salmon harvest in certain portions of the Kodiak Management Area (5 AAC 18.XXX).	<i>Meeting 10-19-17 BOF – 10:10:41 AM</i>
Alaska Peninsula Area Salmon Fisheries (1)			
R (1-6)	12	Reduce harvest of sockeye salmon near the Dolgoi Islands area by reducing harvest triggers and expanding area closures when harvest triggers are met (5 AAC 09.365 and 5 AAC 09.366).	<i>Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 3:54:32 PM</i>
Yukon River Salmon Fisheries (6)			
A (6-1)	13	Allow use of drift gillnets to harvest salmon for subsistence purposes in Yukon River subdistricts 4-B and 4-C (5 AAC 01.220).	<i>Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 4:22:50 PM</i>



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Action	ACR	Description	
A (7-0)	14	Repeal the prohibition on subsistence fishing in Yukon River districts 1 and 2 during the first pulse of king salmon (5 AAC 05.360).	Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 4:30:42 PM
A (4-3)	15	Consider criteria to allow sale of Yukon River king salmon caught incidentally during open commercial fishing periods for other salmon species (5 AAC 05.360).	Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 4:35:03PM
N/A (7-0)	16	Allow sale of incidentally caught Yukon River king salmon during the summer season when status of the king salmon stock that triggered prohibition of sale has improved or that stock is no longer present in a given fishing area (5 AAC 05.360). <i>(The board took no action based on action taken on ACR 15.)</i>	Meeting 10-18-17 BOF – 9:28:45AM
N/A (7-0)	17	Allow sale of incidentally caught Yukon River king salmon during the fall season when status of the king salmon stock that triggered prohibition of sale has improved or that stock is no longer present in a given fishing area (5 AAC 05.360). <i>(The board took no action based on action taken on ACR 15.)</i>	Meeting 10-18-17 BOF – 9:31:49AM
A (7-0)	18	Clarify Yukon Area District 1 boundary, allow set gillnets to be operated up to three nautical miles seaward from any grassland bank in District 1, and reduce waters closed to commercial fishing for salmon in District 1 (5 AAC 05.200, 5 AAC 05.330, and 5 AAC 05.350).	Meeting 10-18-17 BOF – 9:33:13AM

* The audio tracking information correlates with the meeting audio available at the bottom of each meeting page. The entry “Meeting 10-17-17 BOF” indicates the meeting day. The start time indicates when board discussion on the ACR began according to the meeting audio.

Other Board Action/Issues/Discussion:

1. **Election of Officers:** John Jensen was voted Chair by unanimous consent. Reed Morisky was voted as Vice-Chair by unanimous consent. *Meeting 10-17-17 BOF
– 09:07:34 AM*

2. **2017/2018 Committees and Task Forces:** The Board Chair made 2017/2018 committee assignments as follows: *Meeting 10-17-17 BOF
– 09:49:37 AM*
 - a. Committees, Chair Johnson, Jensen, Morisky
 - b. Board of Fisheries/Board of Game, Chair Ruffner, Cain, Morisky, Jensen / Alt.
 - c. Federal/State Subsistence, Chair Huntington, Jensen, Payton
 - d. Habitat, Chair Payton, Ruffner, Johnson
 - e. Joint BOF/NPFMC Protocol, Chair Jensen, Johnson, Ruffner
 - f. Legislation, Chair Morisky, Cain, Payton

3. **Escapement Goals and Stocks of Concern:** The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) staff provided information on Escapement Goals and *Meeting 10-17-17 BOF
– 09:55:29 AM*



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Stocks of Concern. All reports can be found on the Board of Fisheries work session meeting web page under RCs 3-6.

4. **North Pacific Fishery Management Council Update:** Commissioner Sam Cotten provided the Board an update on Council activities at the most recent October 2017 meeting. A Council newsletter was added to the record as RC46. *Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 11:01:13 AM*
5. **Federal Subsistence Board Update:** Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) liaison George Pappas provided the board with an update on the FSB and Regional Advisory Council meetings and activities for the upcoming year. *Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 11:10:21 AM*
6. **Update on Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group:** ADF&G Special Assistant Jill Klein provided an update to the board on recent efforts to remodel the Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group. With changes in federal fisheries management on the Kuskokwim River and greater involvement with tribal fisheries manager, federal and state agencies are reviewing the working group with the goal of better coordination of salmon management and research efforts to benefit all users along the entire Kuskokwim River. *Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 11:19:39 AM*
7. **Division of Sport Fish Regulatory Simplicity:** The Division of Sport Fisheries provided the board an overview of efforts it takes to describe sport fish regulations to the general public. The presentation is found in RC17. *Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 11:27:17 AM*
8. **2018/2019 Call for Proposals:** The board approved the draft call for proposals for the 2018/2019 meeting cycle. The draft call is found in the board's workbook under the miscellaneous section. *Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 11:52:44 AM*
9. **Alaska Wildlife Troopers Overview and Importance of Enforcement:** Major Bernard Chastain, Deputy Director of Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) provided a report to the board on the AWT Division. *Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 1:45:30 PM*
10. **2017/2018 Meeting Cycle Workload Review:** The board reviewed its workload for the 2017/2018 meeting cycle and made no changes to meeting dates. A report on the meeting cycle work load is found in the board's workbook under the miscellaneous section. *Meeting 10-17-17 BOF – 2:06:21 PM*
11. **Ruby Tribal Council Subsistence Proposal:** Following its review of agenda change requests, the board took up the Ruby Tribal Council subsistence proposal seeking to allow the use of driftnet gear in the 4B and 4C districts on the Yukon River between August 15–31. The board took no action on this proposal based on their acceptance of ACR 13 which encompasses the change sought by this proposal. *Meeting 10-18-17 BOF – 9:39:14 AM*
12. **Scheduling for accepted ACRs:** The board scheduled the accepted ACRs for the upcoming meeting cycle as follows. *Meeting 10-18-17 BOF – 10:43:47 AM*
 - a. ACR 1 – Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan set for the Prince



William Sound Finfish meeting, December 1-5, 2017.

- b. ACR 2 – Area O Golden King Crab – set for the Statewide Dungeness Crab meeting, March 6-9, 2018.
- c. ACR 13 – Drift gear in Yukon River Districts 4-B and 4-C for subsistence salmon – set for the Statewide Dungeness Crab meeting.
- d. ACR 14 – Lower Yukon River king salmon early season – set for the Statewide Dungeness Crab meeting.
- e. ACR 15 – Yukon River incidental king salmon sale – set for the Statewide Dungeness Crab meeting.
- f. ACR 18 – Yukon Area District 1 boundary – set for the Statewide Dungeness Crab meeting.

- 13. **Request a Joint Board meeting:** ADF&G staff and the board discussed the merits of scheduling a Joint Board meeting for next year. The board requested Boards Support indicate interest for a meeting to the Board of Game. *Meeting 10-18-17 BOF
– 10:44:46 AM*

- 14. **Non-regulatory proposals:** The board took up two non-regulatory proposals provided in their work book.
 - a. Darrell Kapp, in proposal EF-F17-067, requests the Board write a letter of support to CFEC to allow open pounding by Sitka sac roe herring seine permit holders in Sitka Sound. The board agreed to take up the subject in Sitka during the Southeast finfish meeting. *Meeting 10-18-17 BOF
– 10:52:06 AM*
 - b. United Salmon Alaska Gillnetters, in proposal HQ-F17-75, requested the board establish a task force to discuss allocation of enhanced & wild salmon between Southeast drift gillnet, seine and troll fleets. The board approved the creation of the task force by a vote of 5-2. The creation was reconsidered at the end of the meeting and the board unanimously rescinded the task force. *Meeting 10-18-17 BOF
– 11:05:43 AM*
*Meeting 10-19-17 BOF
– 02:40:06 PM*

- 15. **ADF&G Budget Process Review:** The divisions of Sport Fisheries and Commercial Fisheries provided a board with an overview of how research and management projects are prioritized. *Meeting 10-18-17 BOF
– 11:30:00 AM*

- 16. **Kasilof River King Salmon Enumeration Status:** During the 2016/2017 meeting cycle, the board expressed concern over ADF&G’s enumeration of Kasilof king salmon through a letter encouraging more direct efforts. The divisions provided an update on the status of Kasilof River enumeration efforts. *Meeting 10-18-17 BOF
– 11:44:44 AM*

- 17. **Stock of Concern Approval and Action Plan:** The board considered and approved ADF&G’s stock of concern recommendations. *Meeting 10-18-17 BOF
– 11:50:29 AM*

- 18. **Kodiak Salmon Management Area Genetic Research on Cook Inlet Stocks:** ADF&G’s Genetics Section provided a presentation on the origin of Cook Inlet salmon recorded in the 2014-2016 genetics study on salmon harvested in the Kodiak Management Area fishery. The presentation is found under RC18. *Meeting 10-19-17 BOF
– 08:50:33 AM*

- 19. **Overview of Escapement Goal Policy and Processes:** ADF&G provided the *Meeting 10-19-17 BOF
– 10:40:41 AM*



board with an overview of the escapement goal policy and the science and decision making process behind establishing and amending escapement goals. The presentation is found under RC19.

20. **Status on the Bering Sea Bairdi Crab Fishery:** ADF&G provided a status update on work by ADF&G on the Bering Sea Tanner crab fishery following the board's special Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest management strategy meeting, May 17-18, 2017. Activities included management from the past season and additional work on the harvest management strategy. *Meeting 10-19-17 BOF – 11:50:20 AM*
21. **Approval of 2019/2020 Meeting Cycle Locations and Dates:** The board approved the following locations and dates for the 2019/2010 meetings. *Meeting 10-19-17 BOF – 01:19:16 PM*
- a. Work session, Anchorage October 23-24, 2019.
 - b. Lower Cook Inlet Finfish, Seward, December 10-13, 2019.
 - c. Kodiak Finfish, Kodiak, January 11 – 14, 2020.
 - d. Upper Cook Inlet Finfish, Anchorage, February 7 – 20, 2020.
 - e. Statewide (except SE & Yakutat) King & Tanner Crab & Supplemental Issues, Anchorage March 7 – 11, 2020.
22. **Development and Implementation of Salmon Stock of Concern in Alaska:** ADF&G provided an overview of how stocks of concern are developed and implemented with an emphasis on how to handle delisting stocks in the action plans. The presentation is provided under RC20. *Meeting 10-19-17 BOF – 01:45:56 PM*
23. **Board Generated Proposals:** The board deliberated on, and accepted three board generated proposals. *Meeting 10-19-17 BOF – 02:05:11 PM*
- a. Changes to the Southeast Dungeness crab management plan as provided in RC 40 was accepted by the board 5-2 and scheduled for the Southeast meeting.
 - b. Changes to the Southeast personal use red king crab fishery as provided in RC 41 was accepted by the board 6-1 and scheduled for the Southeast meeting. An amendment to change the bag limit from 3 to 6 failed on a vote of 5-2.
 - c. Changes to the season dates for the Dutch Harbor herring bait fishery as provided in RC 42 was accepted by the board 6-1 and is scheduled for the Statewide meeting.

The Board of Fisheries adjourned their work session meeting at 2:51pm on Thursday, October 19, 2017.