



Pelican Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Call in 1-800-504-8071 Access Code 4654046

Thursday, December 30, 2021, 4:00 pm

Members Present: Michael Allard, Patricia Phillips, Celeste Weller

Members on Teleconference: Norm Carson, Jim Slater Quorum Present.

Also Present: Jamison Mork, William Combs

Agenda: Comments for Board of Fish Proposals for Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish Meeting and Other Business

**Proposal 145** Slater/Carson Moved/Seconded to support. All in favor with the amendment.

**Amendment:** Carson/Slater move to amend – All in favor of the amendment.

“General provisions for season, and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for **the fresh waters** of the Southeast Alaska Area.”

(2) Coho Salmon: may be taken from January 1-December 31 as follows:

(A) resident: 16 inches or greater in length, bag limit of six fish: possession limit of 12 fish

(B) nonresident: 16 inches or greater in length, bag limit of two fish: possession limit of four fish; and an annual limit of eight fish; a harvest record is required for a nonresident as specified in 5 AAC 75.006

(3) Sockeye Salmon: may be taken from January 1-December 31 as follows:

(A) resident: 16 inches or greater in length, bag limit of six fish: possession limit of 12 fish

(B) nonresident: 16 inches or greater in length, bag limit of two fish: possession limit of four fish; and an annual limit of eight fish; a harvest record is required for a nonresident as specified in 5 AAC 75.006

- These are fair and equitable regulations – The ADFG’s “Personal Use Salmon Permit Conditions” require harvest record and limits per household, Possession and Annual.

**Proposal 125** Weller/Allard Moved/Seconded to support. All in favor.

Once a fish is caught, the fish should be kept especially if they’re dead, this way, someone’s going to eat the fish caught. Would rather see the fish eaten then being thrown back.

**Proposal 128** Slater/Carson Moved/Seconded to support. All Nays, Motion fails.

Nets should be tended. The Lisianski Inlet/Straits and Cross Sound area has a lot of marine mammals, there could be possible entanglements. If another boat comes into the area being fished and comes upon a net not being tended, then there cannot be a conversation with the other net holder about the setting the subsistence gillnet gear in the same area. The net should have to be tended.

It is acceptable in other areas of Southeast Alaska to leave a net untended, but it is not acceptable in the Lisianski Inlet/Straits and Cross Sound Areas. It can be a long run to fishing areas, then to find an untended net limits options to set the gear near the untended net. There becomes the possibility of abandoned gear, entanglements with animals, fish, or other gear.



**Proposal 115** Allard/Weller Moved/Seconded to support. All in favor.

Support the winter king troll plan, first day of week 41 through April 30.

Reinstate 'open by emergency order' the Lisianski Inlet/Lisianski Strait, Stag Bay, Port Althorp, Cross Sound Spring Commercial Troll area openings.

- ADFG did not meet with stakeholders in Pelican to discuss the spring troll closures for this area.
- The vessels that participate in the Spring openers are mostly year-round Pelican residents.
- The spring troll opening provides a significant economic boost and multiplier effect, after getting through the winter, when the winter weather disrupts fishing opportunities.
- Lisianski/Althorp/Cross Sound spring fishery CPUE can contribute to determining the chinook abundance for the summer season, especially with significant reductions to ADFG budget.
- Reinstating the spring chinook openings improves economic opportunities for rural residents of Pelican, these fishermen have a historical pattern of harvest. The spring openings will not cause the troll fishery to exceed its allocation, it distributes the economic benefits for the resource more equitably and reasonably given the regulatory constraints in place.
- Provides an equitable distribution of harvest to allow for the full utilization of the troll harvest ceiling prior to the summer harvest.
- The spring openings would be beneficial to other local small businesses, spur economic activity: ice sale, fuel, marine repairs, moorage, and air freight. All businesses associated with harvest.
- The Board of Fish has consistently approved limited openings for Yakutat. This request, as a matter on consistency, is to apply comparable spring chinook harvest opportunities for trollers based in Pelican, Alaska.
- Beginning June 1 non-resident harvest experiences high levels of sport fishing pressure with revenues earned leaving the community.
- Year-round rural residents of Pelican are currently excluded from spring chinook harvest.
- Other sectors still are already actively fishing.
- The local year-round residents are left out.
- For local resident trollers, 1/3 of their income traditionally came from the spring openings. The spring openings help the harvester vessel be geared up and ready for the summer season.
- The Lisianski/Althorp/Cross Sound spring fishery is not a hard hit on the resource because the openings are two or three days per week.
- Keeps the fleet local and brings in other local stakeholder fishermen; seasonal fishermen extend their season with the spring opener.
- The spring troll openings are designed to catch hatchery fish.
- One year the Lisianski area had 100% hatchery fish.
- Troll harvesters pay attention for tags.
- ADFG used the outlier data to close the spring chinook opening in Lisianski area.
- The troll fleet pays 3% salmon enhancement tax for hatchery reared king salmon. Pelican fishermen lost access to these hatchery chinooks when the spring season shut down.
- Lisianski is seeing increased sport effort during the time of our areas traditional spring chinook harvesting openings.
- It's been the biggest economic loss for Pelican since the spring troll season being discontinued.
- The Pelican AC discussed moving the line in Cross Sound to reduce the range of area fished.
- ADFG map of Lisianski spring harvest area included with comments.



**Proposal 144** Slater/Weller Moved/Seconded to support. All in favor.

Unguided sport fish harvest is a bigger issue every year. ADFG cannot reach management targets of multiple resources when there is missing data from the uncontrolled growth of the unguided non-resident sport fish sector. Troll harvest numbers are known to the fish because of fish tickets. The unguided sport harvest is running rough shod over the resource without consideration of its unaccounted harvest on the salmon resource. Knowing the harvest numbers of every single sector should be mandatory.

Time share boats is also a growing sector, two-week time shares, and friend shares. ADFG Board of Fish process needs to further define the term 'rental' to include rental, borrowed, time share, friend share, paid for, not paid for, barter operation, and any other type of groups. The lack of reported harvest is a big loophole.

(b) A logbook requires information necessary for the management and conservation of fishery resources and regulation of the rental vessel sport fishing industry, including: (ADD)....

(6) Add number of persons onboard;

(7) Add number of client/vessel returns to offload harvest per day.

**Proposal 277** Carson/Slater Moved/Seconded to support. All in favor.

The Pelican AC supports the #1 preferred option.

Pelican AC members are seeing a significantly greater presence of unguided nonresident sport fishing anglers in the Lisianski/Cross Sound area, these anglers are impacting local resources.

The IPHC, NPFMC, BOF share management of the resource. How can this resource management be effective when there is a glaring lack of data? The agencies seem to be 'passing the buck' and not dealing with the issue at hand. It comes down to enforcement, logbooks need to be checked and enforced; random enforcement is needed. Everybody knows they can get away with it out here.

Comment repeated from Proposal 144: Unguided harvest is a bigger issue every year. ADFG cannot reach management targets of multiple resources when there is missing data from the uncontrolled growth of the unguided non-resident sport sector. Troll harvest numbers are known to the fish because of fish tickets. The unguided sport harvest is running rough shod over the resource without consideration of its harvest on the salmon resource. Knowing the harvest numbers of every single sector should be mandatory. Time share boats is a growing sector, two-week time shares, friend shares. ADFG Board of Fish process must further define the term 'rental' to include rental, borrowed, time share, friend share, paid for, not paid for, barter operation, and any other type of groups. The lack of reported harvest is a big loophole for added harvest. Need to accurately describe current trends in harvest.

**Proposal 80** Allard/Weller Moved/Seconded to support. All in favor.

Amend: Overage of sport harvest should be assigned to next year's non-resident sport harvest and reduced from their allocation. As for quota accountability, the troll fishery has a total number of fish it catches because of fish tickets. Guided sport harvest is reported in logbooks, but the numbers not necessarily accurate. Not all sport harvest is reported in logbooks.

In-season closure on non-resident harvesters can be implemented to reduce harvest and pay back the overage. We support decreasing the to the specific fishery that exceeds its allocation.



**Proposal 83** Slater/Allard All Nays, Motion fails.

This proposal supports and prioritizes sport over troll. The proponent states, “The Board of Fisheries made stopgap modifications to the king management plan for 2019-2020, but revisions are necessary to allow uninterrupted sport fishing for king salmon in salt waters, minimize restrictions on resident anglers, and eliminate in-season sport regulatory changes moving forward.” --- The commercial troll fishery harvest should not be adjusted mid-season and allow uninterrupted summer troll harvest. The troll fleet is working and making a livelihood that depends on a well-managed resource.

If the non-resident sport sector exceeds its allocation, then take the overage out of the non-resident sport harvest the next following season.

The troll sector will never be allowed to exceed 80%. Chinook will always be low in abundance; this proposal is a grab for more than 20% sport sector from the combined troll/sport allocation.

**Proposal 143** Weller/Allard Moved/Seconded to support. All in Favor.

**Proposal 115** Allard/Weller Moved/Seconded to support. All in Favor.

**Proposal 114** Carson/Allard Moved/Seconded to support. All in Favor.

Amend: Define a downrigger. A downrigger is not a hydraulic or electric downrigger. It must be manually operated downrigger with a 15-pound weight.

**Proposal 84** Allard/Weller Moved/Seconded to support. All in Favor.

Support statement #2 - Require daily electronic catch reporting from guides and lodges.

#### **Herring Proposals:**

**Proposal 158** Carson/Allard Moved/Seconded to support. All in Favor.

This seems the practice in place now, just puts it into regulation.

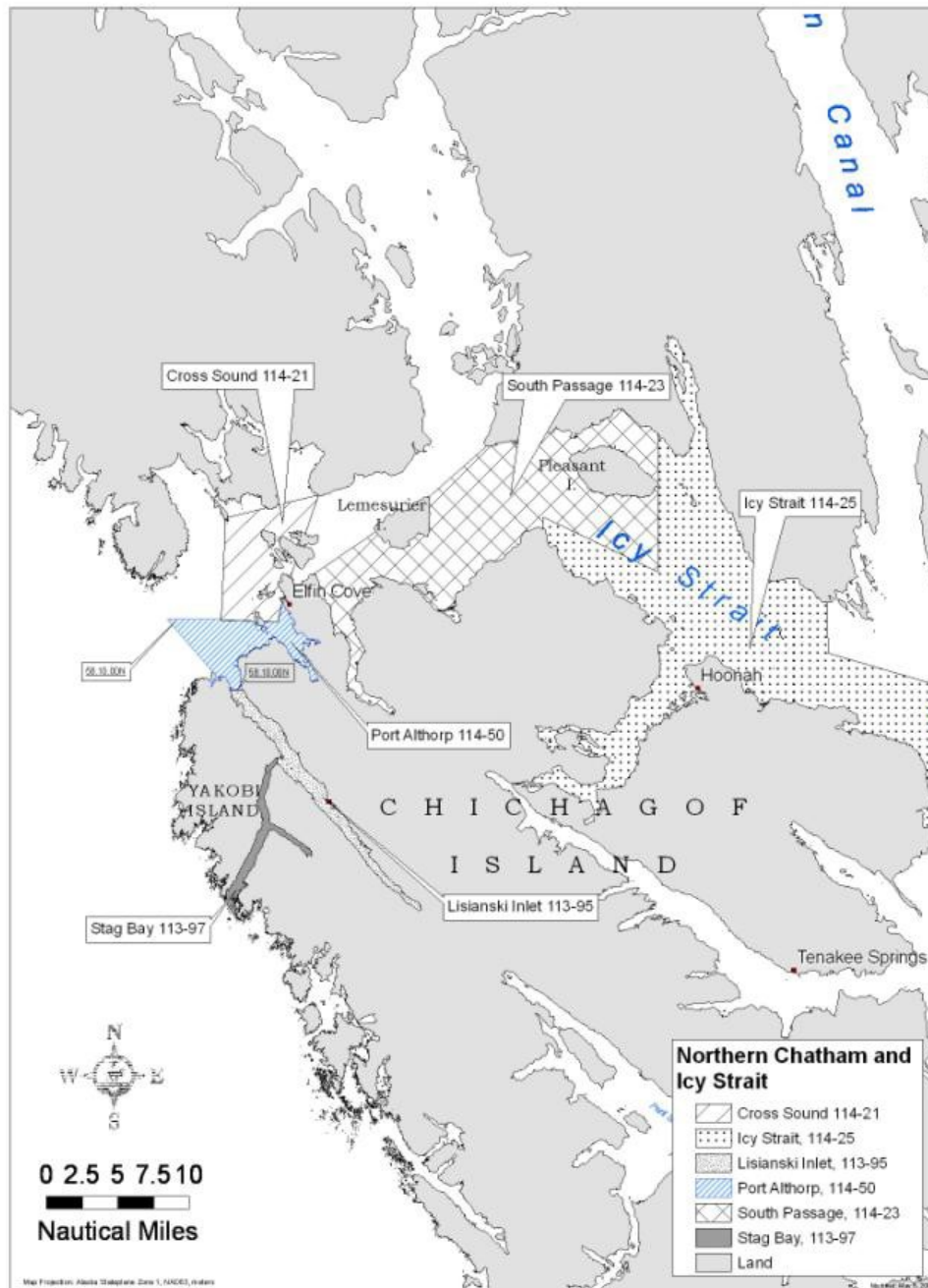
**Proposal 162** Carson/Weller Moved/Seconded to support. All in Favor.

Subsistence takes preference over commercial and sport. Herring continues to be an important food source for the Alaska Native community, the herring resource is shared tribally, state, region, community wide and with family. The sharing is an important cultural practice.

The Pelican AC recommends and requests an ADFG Creel Surveyor/Observer be funded for Pelican.

- We see more nonresident recreational boaters visiting Pelican and fishing in the local area; fish caught are not being counted on the non-resident sport catch data.
- At this time, unguided rental boat catches are not being counted.
- There is a trend towards “time share” boats bringing more non-residents to the Pelican area; the fish caught are not being counted.
- In addition to the King Salmon resource, Lisianski has a run of local coho, chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. In order to better track the catch out of local spawning streams a creel census would provide more exact data.

Weller/Allard Move/Second to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.



**Figure 5.**—North Chatham and Icy Strait spring trolling areas, 2010.

Minutes Submitted By: Patricia Hughes  
Date: 12/31/2021