

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE FOR PROPOSAL 161 to create and establish an Alaska Board of Fisheries policy regarding the management of groundfish fishery resources in State of Alaska waters, as follows:

POLICY ON GROUND FISH FISHERY RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

GOAL AND BENEFITS

It is the goal of the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to manage groundfish stocks in accordance with the Sustained Yield (Article 8, section 4) and the Common Use (Article 8, section 3) directives of the Constitution of the State of Alaska. Management of the groundfish resources in accordance with Alaska's constitution is expected to protect, maintain and improve the resource.

Management of these fisheries for the purpose of achieving this goal will result in a variety of benefits which include but are not limited to:

- (1)** Maintaining healthy stocks of groundfish to ensure their continued reproductive viability and the maintenance of their role in the ecosystem;
- (2)** Providing a sustained supply of high-quality product to consumers, and;
- (3)** Providing opportunities for commercial, sport, subsistence, and personal use fisheries.

OBJECTIVES

To achieve the management goal above and provide the benefits available from these resources, it is necessary to set objectives which will protect stocks and provide for sustained utilization of these resources. With regards to the management of groundfish fishery resources in State of Alaska waters, the Alaska Board of Fisheries has the following objectives:

- 1.** Minimize adverse interactions with other stocks and fisheries.
- 2.** Protect habitat from unsustainable fishing practices.
- 3.** Utilize management measures that ensure adherence to annual and seasonal catch limits.
- 4.** Harvest the resource to optimize quality and value of product.
- 5.** Harvest the resource with consideration of ecosystem interactions.
- 6.** Coordinate with federal management agencies responsible for groundfish fishery management.
- 7.** Manage fisheries based upon the best available information.
- 8.** Manage fisheries consistent with conservation and sustained yield of healthy groundfish resources.
- 9.** Maintain commercial, sport, subsistence, and personal use opportunities.