

SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT FINFISH AND SHELLFISH

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SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT FINFISH AND SHELLFISH

KING SALMON (31 proposals)

King Salmon Management Plan and Allocation

PROPOSAL 104

5 AAC 29.060. Allocation of King Salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area and 5 AAC 01.720. Lawful Gear and Gear Specifications.

Allocate 5,000 king salmon for the Alaska's all gear quota to a king salmon subsistence fishery and establish provisions for king salmon subsistence fishery.

1. Modify 5 AAC 29.060 (King Salmon Management Plan) to add an "off-the-top" allocation of 5,000 fish or 5% of the total PSC harvest ceiling (whichever is greater), similar to those allocated to the net fisheries.
2. Establish a household subsistence permit for king salmon in marine waters in 5 AAC 01.745. The annual household limit may be set by the department to meet allocation goals. The daily limit of two king salmon in 5 AAC 01.730(j) shall not apply to a directed subsistence king salmon fishery in marine waters. Harvest reporting requirements shall be implemented to allow the department to monitor the fishery.
3. Modify 5 AAC 01.720 to permit use of rod and reel in a subsistence king salmon fishery in marine waters under a household permit.
4. Establish permit conditions that prohibit subsistence taking of king salmon in waters closed to sport retention of king salmon by resident anglers. This provision applies the conservation time and area closures used to protect Alaska stocks to the subsistence fishery. Subsistence king salmon fishing will be prohibited in non-subsistence areas. King salmon may not be taken under sport regulations and a subsistence permit on the same day.
5. Any unused harvest allocation shall be allocated to the troll fishery as in 5 AAC 29.060(b)(6).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the 2021-22 cycle, the Board approved a proposal (Proposal 125) to modify 5 AAC 01.730 to allow ADF&G to issue subsistence permits for king salmon. This proposal seeks to take the next step and outline the implementation of a subsistence king salmon fishery in marine waters.

In the staff comments on Proposal 125, ADF&G focused on potential subsistence fisheries on Alaska king salmon stocks, presumably as net fisheries in terminal areas, as is typical for subsistence fisheries. The continued low abundance of southeast Alaska king salmon stocks would severely limit the opportunity for such fisheries, at least in the foreseeable future. Currently, the

vast majority of king salmon taken by residents for noncommercial household use are taken in marine waters under sport regulations. Much of that harvest would be characterized as subsistence taking using the “8 factors” listed in 5 AAC 99.010, used by the Board to establish customary and traditional subsistence use. For example, king salmon have long been relied upon as the only available source of fresh salmon when other species are not available, and are harvested as food rather than strictly for recreation. The harvested fish are shared in traditional networks like other subsistence resources. This proposal seeks to establish a regulatory framework that recognizes and provides for the continued subsistence use of king salmon in marine waters.

Under the proposed framework, a separate subsistence allocation would provide for the continuation of subsistence use if resident sport fisheries were closed due to inseason management actions to stay within the sport allocation. It would also allow for a more efficient annual household harvest, as sport bag limits may require several trips to harvest the same number of fish, with each trip involving significant amounts of fuel and time. Most importantly, it would establish a regulatory structure for the long-standing and ongoing subsistence use of king salmon that currently occurs within the sport fishery regulations, a system with different practices and needs than subsistence users. While it may appear to add a user group to an already tightly allocated resource, the subsistence user group has long been using the resource – this proposal simply provides the Board an opportunity to create an effective management structure for a user group that is currently unrepresented in the existing system.

The proposal applies the time and area restrictions used in the sport fishery to protect Alaska stocks, so that only areas open to sport fishing for king salmon will be open to subsistence harvest. Finally, it provides for unused allocation to be rolled over to the commercial troll fishery, so that treaty fish are not left on the table.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council during their Winter 2024 meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (HQ-F24-016)

PROPOSAL 105

5 AAC 47.020 General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area, and 5 AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan..

Modify sport fishing regulations in salt waters subject to the Magnuson-Stevens Act by removing differential regulations for resident and nonresident anglers, as follows:

Regulations for federal fisheries must not vary between Alaska residents and nonresidents.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? King salmon and groundfish fisheries in Alaska are federal fisheries. State regulation of these federal fisheries must comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Fishery Management Act. Federal law prohibits management measures that distinguish between state residents and non-residents. 16 U.S.C. § 1851 (a)(4) (“Conservation measures shall not discriminate between residents of different states.”)

Discrimination among residents of different states. An FMP may not differentiate among U.S. citizens, nationals, resident aliens, or corporations on the basis of their state of residence. An FMP may not incorporate or rely on a state statute or regulation that discriminates against residents of another state.

50 C.F.R. § 600.325(b).

Alaska's Administrative Code expressly discriminates against non-residents.

- King salmon. The Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan makes express an objective to favorably treat resident anglers. 5 AAC 47.055(b) ("The objectives of the management plan under this section are to . . . minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers.")
- King salmon. The Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan contains numerous provisions constraining opportunities for nonresident anglers through reduced daily bag limits as well as an annual limit not applied to resident anglers. 5 AAC 47.055(c) through 5 AAC 47.055(i).
- King salmon. Nonresidents are obligated to complete a harvest record. 5 AAC 47.020(1).
- Demersal rockfish. resident: bag limit of one fish; possession limit of two fish; no annual limit; no size limit; nonresident: no open season; may not be taken or possessed. 5 AAC 47.020(8)(C).
- Sablefish. Unlike residents, nonresidents have an annual limit and are obligated to complete a harvest record. 5 AAC 47.020(17)(B).

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Marc Gorelnik

(EF-F24-109)

PROPOSAL 106

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Prohibit nonresidents on charter vessels that have taken fish in the EEZ from offloading those fish in state waters, as follows:

If vessels charter fishing in federal waters off SE Alaska in contravention of State of Alaska regulations for non-residents, such as using resident bag limits, they should be prohibited from landing their catch in State waters. Otherwise, limits would be unenforceable. Non-residents already catch 75% of the sport fishing quota. Allowing more liberal fishing rules for non-residents would result in the quota being caught before residents in inside waters have even begun to fish. The proposed activity shows a lack of respect that non-resident guides and anglers have for conservation of king salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? California charter vessels have expressed interest in fishing in federal waters off SE Alaska with non-resident anglers but using resident bag limits. This could create chaos with regard to enforcement.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsman Inc. and Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F24-020)

PROPOSAL 107

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Prohibit nonresidents that have taken fish in the EEZ from possessing or offloading those fish in state waters, as follows:”)

Add language to 5 AAC 47.020:

"Non-residents fishing in federal waters off SE Alaska, not following State of Alaska regulations for non-residents, are prohibited from landing their catch in the State or possessing fish caught in federal waters, in state waters."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Charter operators have expressed interest in fishing in federal waters off SE Alaska with non-resident anglers but using resident bag limits. This could create chaos with regard to enforcement. In addition, it would infringe on the State’s historic right to manage the sport salmon fishery statewide in both state and federal waters. If non-residents are allowed resident bag limits in federal waters, the sport fishery bag limits would be unenforceable. Non-residents already catch 75% of the sport fishing quota. Allowing more liberal fishing rules for non-residents would result in the quota being caught before residents in inside waters have even begun to fish.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. Territorial Sportsmen and Alaska Trollers Association asked the Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee to submit this proposal. The AC voted in support of submitting the proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Juneau Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F24-163)

PROPOSAL 108

5 AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

Modify management and allocation provisions of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

Reinstate the provisions of 5 AAC 47.055 King Salmon Management Plan that sunset March 31, 2025, with the following changes to maintain stability in the troll fishery and allow the sport fishery to achieve an average harvest of 20 percent:

(b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to

(1) manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest of 20 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;

(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the harvest ceiling;

(3) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; [and]

(4) allow for inseason transfer from the troll fishery to the sport fishery, not to exceed 5 percent of the troll/sport allocation for the year;

(5) [(4)] allow for the transfer of any projected unused balance in sport allocation to the troll fishery at a date determined by the department.

(n) The department shall implement the following reductions for nonresident anglers in waters not subject to wild stock closures in that year if the nine-year rolling average of the sport fishery harvest exceeds 22 percent on consecutive years; reductions will lift when the nine-year rolling average reduces to 20 percent or below; [The provisions of this section do not apply after March 31, 2025.]

(1) A nonresident bag limit of one king salmon;

(2) for tiers (c)(d)(e)(f)(g) and (h), from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) for tiers (c)(d)(e) and (f), from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit; from July 16 through December 31, retention of king salmon for nonresidents is prohibited;

(4) for tier (g), from July 1 through July 7, a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit; from July 8 through December 31, retention of king salmon for nonresidents is prohibited;

(5) for tier (h), from July 1 through July 7, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit; from July 8 through December 31, retention of king salmon for nonresidents is prohibited;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Changes in the 2019-2028 Pacific Salmon Treaty annex altered the landscape for the Southeast sport fishery by adding a payback provision that effectively prohibits longstanding historical management of the sport fishery to an average harvest. Managing on average made up for a lack of allocation in low abundance, and for the inability of the sport fishery to harvest its full allocation in high abundance. A fixed 20% allocation geared to in season management does not fit the dynamic of the fishery.

In the 2022 Southeast finfish meeting, the Board adopted a sport fishery management structure that addressed the problem by modifying limits for anglers that rearranged harvest opportunity across abundance levels to stabilize the fishery and target the historical 20% average harvest. The arrangement incorporates give and take from the troll fishery, conceptually similar to earlier management.

The idea behind the 2022 agreement adopted by the Board was sound, but there were unforeseen consequences (i.e., a severely truncated August king troll opening in 2023). This proposal adds necessary protections for the troll fishery to address seasonal stability and ensure an average troll harvest equivalent to 80% of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon

Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling.

If this proposal is not adopted, the sport fishery will face frequent in season management if held to a yearly 20% allocation target. This severely compromises harvest opportunity for anglers in low abundance, destabilizing the fishery. It also sets up the sport fishery to never achieve its allocation given it lacks power to harvest 20% in high abundance. In low abundance, cautious management to avoid overages will also add to the fishery falling short of allocation.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Guides Organization (HQ-F24-127)

PROPOSAL 109

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Modify the structure of the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* by removing management tiers and other provisions, as follows:

5 AAC 47.055 is amended to read:

5 AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

- (a) The commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, the king salmon sport fish bag and possession limits and all other necessary management measures based on the allocation to the sport fishery as determined by 5 AAC 29.060 The bag and possession limits and other management measures established by the commissioner will remain in effect until March 31 of the following year.

- (b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to:

(1) manage the sport fishery to attain a [AN average] harvest of 20 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;

(2) allow [UNINTERRUPTED] sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the harvest ceiling;

(3) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; and

(4) [ALLOW FOR THE TRANSFER OF ANY PROJECTED UNUSED BALANCE IN SPORT ALLOCATION TO THE TROLL FISHERY AT A DATE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.]

(c) **The department shall manage the sport fishery to the annual sport harvest ceiling as follows:** [WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS ABOVE 67,505 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:]

(1) **the department shall manage the sport fishery;** [A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(2) **to take 70 percent of the sport fishery allocation between January 1 and July 1;** [A NONRESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(3) **to take the remaining 30 percent of the sport fishery allocation between July 1 and December 31;** [FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(4) **resident bag limit of 2 king Salmon, 28 inches or greater.** [FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(d) [WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 55,261 AND 67,505 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

(1) A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(2) A NONRESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(3) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(4) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY L THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER

IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(6) FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, A SPORT FISH ANGLER MAY USE TWO RODS WHEN FISHING FOR KING SALMON; A PERSON USING TWO RODS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY ONLY RETAIN SALMON.

(e) WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 43,644 AND 55,260 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

(1) A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(2) A NONRESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(3) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(4) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(6) FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, A RESIDENT SPORT FISH ANGLER MAY USE TWO RODS WHEN FISHING FOR KING SALMON; A PERSON USING TWO RODS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY ONLY RETAIN SALMON.

(f) WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 32,191 AND 43,643 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

(1) A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(2) A NONRESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(3) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(4) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(6) FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, A RESIDENT SPORT FISH ANGLER MAY USE TWO RODS WHEN FISHING FOR KING SALMON; A PERSON USING TWO RODS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY ONLY RETAIN SALMON.

(g) WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 22,388 AND 32,190 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

(1) A BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(2) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(3) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 7, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY THE NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARD THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(4) [FROM JULY 8 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) [A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH, WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN AREAS WHERE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT MEASURES HAVE PROHIBITED KING SALMON RETENTION OR CLOSED FISHING FOR KING SALMON FOR ALL ANGLERS ONCE THEY REOPEN.]

(h) [WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 19,752 AND 22,388 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:]

(1)[A BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(2)[FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(3)[FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(4)[A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH, WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN AREAS WHERE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT MEASURES HAVE PROHIBITED KING SALMON RETENTION OR CLOSED FISHING FOR KING SALMON FOR ALL ANGLERS ONCE THEY REOPEN.]

(i) [WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS LESS THAN 19,752 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS SPECIFIED IN (G) AND (H) OF THIS SECTION.]

(j) The commissioner may adopt regulations that establish reporting requirements necessary to obtain the information required to implement the management plan under this section.

(k) The commissioner may, by emergency order, establish that the nonresident harvest and annual limits for king salmon under this section do not apply in a hatchery terminal harvest area.

(l) A harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required for nonresidents.

(m)The department shall manage the resident sport fishery so that there are no closures for residents, unless the commissioner determines that additional harvest reduction to the resident bag limits is necessary to comply with the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

(n) [The provisions of this section do not apply after March 31, 2025.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Action on the Southeast King Salmon Management Plan is necessary since the existing regulation expire March 31 2025.

King salmon are a finite resource and it is crucial that the department have all tools available to manage each sector according to its allocation. One sector should be allowed to flourish to the

detriment of another. The King Salmon Management Plan agree to by stakeholders SEAGO, Territorial Sportsmen, and ATA at the 2022 Southeast Alaska Board of fish meeting (2022 meeting) in Anchorage, and then amended at the 2023 Lower Cook Inlet Board of fish sunsets in 2025. The agreement between stakeholders at the 2022 meeting did not work for two of the three parties. I was an original signatory at the 2022 meeting and attended the 2023 Lower Cook Inlet Board of Fish meeting as well. This proposal aims to give the Department all tools for managing king salmon to the rigid requirements of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, prioritize resident anglers, and keep all gear groups within their allocation.

Since the original agreement, the structure for determining the all-gear treaty harvest limit has changed to the detriment of Alaska's share of treaty king salmon. It is highly unlikely that Alaska will be in moderate-high to high tier in the near future, making it very important that all king salmon harvesters and users have a reliable percentage. This proposal decouples Alaska King salmon management from the tier structure, models, and other moving targets of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, which reduces workload for both the Board of Fish and The Department.

This proposal prioritizes resident bag limits since the sport fishery is a quasi subsistence fishery in southeast Alaska. This resident sport harvesters faces increasing pressure from a heavily-capitalized guide sector. Food security is a critical issues for rural communities in Alaska in general and rural southeast Alaska specifically. Increasing food and fuel costs make local resources, such as king salmon, necessary for the economic stability of southeast Alaska residents.

From multiple conversations with the guide sector I learned that access to kings salmon prior to July 1 is important to their operation. It seeks to balance this desire with the needs of communities on inside waters who have only been allowed to harvest king salmon later in the summer, and have been restricted based on higher catch rates on the outer coast. This proposal gives The Department all tools necessary to manage the sport fishery to its allocation in they way that best suits the needs of the sport fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. While I developed this proposal on my own is it heavily influenced by my conventions at Board of Fish meetings with members of SEAGO and Territorial Sportsmen; resident sport fishermen in Sitka, rural subsistence users, and commercial trollers. I plan on taking this proposal to the Sitka AC prior to the 2025 southeast Alaska Board of Fish meeting in Ketchikan.

PROPOSED BY: Jacqueline Foss (HQ-F24-038)

PROPOSAL 110

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Manage the sport fishery inseason to achieve the annual king salmon allocation to the sport fishery as follows:

The solution is to adopt the below language which covers both the signed agreement and takes into account that the CPUE is no longer used as quota predictor.

5 AAC 47.055 is amended to read:

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

a) The commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, the king salmon sport fish bag and possession limits and all other necessary management measures based on the allocation to the sport fishery as determined by 5 AAC 29.060. The bag and possession limits and other management measures established by the commissioner will remain in effect until March 31 of the following year.

b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to

(1) manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest of 20 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;

(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the sport fishery harvest ceiling;

(3) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; and

(4) allow for the transfer of any projected unused balance in sport allocation to the troll fishery at a date determined by the department.

(c) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is greater than 69,014 the sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation. The commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit;

(5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit;

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(d) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 55,421 and 69,014 fish the **sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation.** The commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit;
- (5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit;
- (6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(e) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 42,685 and 55,420 fish the **sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation.** The commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit;
- (5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit;
- (6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(f) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 34,303 and 42,684 fish the **sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation.** The commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit;
- (5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit;
- (6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(g) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5AAC 29.060, is between 22,328 and 34,302 fish the **sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation.** The commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (3) from July 1 through July 7, a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by the nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply toward the two fish annual harvest limit;
- (4) from July 8 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through December 31 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit;
- (5) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, will be established in areas where Member Carlson-Van Dort RC063 conservation management

measures have prohibited king salmon retention or closed fishing for king salmon for all anglers once they reopen.

(h) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 19,381 and 22,327 fish the **sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation.** The commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from July 1 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit;

(4) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, will be established in areas where conservation management measures have prohibited king salmon retention or closed fishing for king salmon for all anglers once they reopen.

(i) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is less than 19,381 fish the **sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation.** The commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the provisions specified in (g) and (h) of this section.

(j) The commissioner may adopt regulations that establish reporting requirements necessary to obtain the information required to implement the management plan under this section.

(k) The commissioner may, by emergency order, establish that the nonresident harvest and annual limits for king salmon under this section do not apply in a hatchery terminal harvest area.

(l) A harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required for nonresidents.

(m) The department shall manage the resident sport fishery so that there are no closures for residents, unless the commissioner determines that additional harvest reduction to the resident bag limits is necessary to comply with the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

[(n) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER JULY 31, 2025.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This Proposal Restores the Original 2022 Stakeholder Agreement between Territorial Sportsmen Inc (TSI), Alaska Trollers Association (ATA), and Southeast Alaska Guides Organization (SEAGO), eliminates the Sunset Clause, and aligns with new requirements of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST).

5 AAC 47.055 (the SEAK King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan) was significantly altered by RC 063 which was passed at the Lower Cook Inlet BOF Meeting in Homer (11/30/23). **It removed limits on the SEAK Chinook non-resident annual sport harvest. It eliminated in-season management of the fishery. RC 063 also rewrote the difficultly negotiated and unanimously passed stakeholder Agreement (RC 178) adopted at the March 2022 Anchorage BOF meeting.**

RC 063 was submitted by BOF Member Carlson-Van Dort. It updated the SEAK management plan to align with recent PST modifications which changed the method Chinook availability was predicted from a CPUE (Catch Per Unit Effort) model to the Treaty's AI (Abundance Index) model. **Although correctly taking into account this PST modification language in RC 063 also caused significant problems.**

a) RC 063 creates a conservation issue by allowing non-resident sport anglers to fish with no in-season management. This is the consequence of eliminating the words "sport fishery" from the phrase "sport fishery harvest ceiling" in 5 AAC 47.055(b)(2). This elimination allows non-resident sport fishing to occur uninterrupted throughout a season, even if the sport fishery exceeds the 20% sport allocation set forth in 5 AAC 29.060(b)(1)-(5). Without in-season management it is possible for overages in the unlimited and growing non-resident sport sector to cause total harvest to exceed the entire SEAK Chinook allocation.

For example by late July of 2023 monitoring, although inadequate, informed the Department that the non-resident sport harvest would exceed allocation by at least 15,000 Chinook. Ir-regardless the Department took no action to slow or close the non-resident harvest. Instead, in an August 4th Press Release, the Department deducted the non-resident sport overage from the commercial troll allocation. Monitoring without corresponding action is not management.

b) In-season management is the cornerstone of Alaska's well-respected historic management practice. Its elimination is not only contrary to Alaska's Policy for the management of sustainable Salmon fisheries (5AAC 39.222), but RC 063 also ignores directives **laid out in the PST, which encourages parties to use "in-season indicators" (PST Chapter 3, paragraph 7(b), page 61.**

In 2022 it was **SEAGO** that requested that 'The Agreement (RC 178)' **eliminate the language; "PROVIDE STABILITY TO THE SPORTS FISHERY BY ELIMINATING INSEASON REGULATORY CHANGES, EXCEPT THOSE NECESSARY FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES"** from 5AAC 47.055 (b) (5). The intent here was to return to in-season management which is a cornerstone of Alaska's sustainable fisheries policy.

c) Besides eliminating all practical ADF&G in-season management of non-resident sport Chinook harvest in SEAK **RC 063 is out of compliance with the PST.** In 2023 non-resident sport went 17,000 kings over their harvest ceiling. The harvest of these 17,000 Chinook was moved from late Summer to the Spring. The process of moving Chinook harvest from one time of year to another targets different runs and is called 'Shaping'. **Shaping is not allowed under the PST.**

d) At 3 kings/fisher the non-resident Annual Chinook sport bag limit is too liberal for May and June. May and June are when mature Alaskan Stocks of Concern (SOC) are running.

Except in very limited hatchery access areas only outside sport harvesters are fishing Chinook at this time. In 2023 non-resident sport anglers significantly exceeded their allocation. The new language encourages non-resident sport anglers to target Alaska stocks at the entrances of SOC corridors when and where the historic commercial fishery no longer has access. The majority of Alaska resident sport fishermen live on inside waters that are closed to Chinook retention in Spring. The spring sport harvest dominated by guided non-resident visitors negatively impacts SEAK residents.

e) With high availability of Treaty Chinook, no in-season management, and an artificially low SEAK king quota, non-resident sport anglers can go well over their allocation as they did in 2023.

After predictable non-resident overages, to keep Alaska within the Treaty allocation, the 2023 commercial troll harvest was reduced by over 10%. 85% of troll fishers are Alaskan residents (CFEC) while 75% of SEAK sport harvest is by non-residents (ADF&G Special Publication No. 21-10, pg 23). RC 063 effectively transferred an important Alaska resource away from Alaska residents to non-resident sport fishers. **This is a violation of the Alaska Constitution's resident preference (Article 8, Section 2).**

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes with TSI as they were one of the other signers of the March 20, 2022 agreement between TSI ATA and SEAGO, also known as RC178

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F24-023)

PROPOSAL 111

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Modify the management provisions and target allocation for the king salmon sport fishery, as follows:

- (a)The commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, the king salmon sport fish bag and possession limits and all other necessary management measures based on the allocation to the sport fishery as determined by 5 AAC 29.060. The bag and possession limits and other management measures established by the commissioner will remain in effect until March 31 of the following year.
- (b)The objectives of the management plan under this section are to

(1) manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest of 20 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission (**PSC**), after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;

(2) Allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon while not exceeding the [HARVEST CEILING] **the annual management target percentages as outlined in (c) through (i) below, or the PSC harvest ceiling; and**

(3) Allow for a maximum nonresident annual harvest limit of 4 king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; and

(4) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; and

(5) allow for the transfer of any projected unused balance in sport allocation to the troll fishery at a date determined by the department.

(c) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is greater than 69,014 fish, **a management target of 19% after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling will be calculated and applied to the sport allocation and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:**

(1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [THREE] **TBD, (to be determined by department and sport representatives attending the meeting)** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [TWO] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the [TWO] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit;

(5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [ONE] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the [ONE] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit.

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(d) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 55,421 and 69,014 fish, a **19% management target after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 will be applied, and will be between 52,650 and 65,561 fish and** the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [THREE] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [TWO] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the [TWO] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit;

(5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [ONE] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the [ONE] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(e) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 42,685 and 55,420 fish, an **adjusted 20% management target between 42,685 and 52,649 fish will be applied and** the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [THREE] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [TWO] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the [TWO] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit;

(5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [ONE] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the [ONE] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(f) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 34,303 and 42,684 fish, **a 21% management target after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 will be applied, and will be between 36,018 and 42,684 fish and** the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [THREE] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [TWO] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the [TWO] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit

(5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [ONE] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the [ONE] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(g) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 22,328 and 34,302 fish, a **22% management target after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 will be applied, and will be between 24,561 and 36,017 fish and** the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a **resident and nonresident** bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [THREE]**TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from July 1 through July 7, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [TWO] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by the nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply toward the [TWO] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit;

(4) from July 8 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [ONE] **TBD**

(5) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, will be established in areas where conservation management measures have prohibited king salmon retention or closed fishing for king salmon for all anglers once they reopen.

(h) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 19,381 and 22,327 fish, a **22% management target after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 will be applied, and will be between 21,319 and 24,560 fish and** the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a **resident and nonresident** bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [THREE]**TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from July 1 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [ONE] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the [ONE] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit;

(4) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, will be established in areas where conservation management measures have prohibited king salmon retention or closed fishing for king salmon for all anglers once they reopen.

(i) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is less than 19,381 fish, **a 22% management target will be calculated and applied to the sport allocation after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 and** the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the provisions specified in (g) and (h) of this section.

(j) The commissioner may adopt regulations that establish reporting requirements necessary to obtain the information required to implement the management plan under this section.

(k) The commissioner may, by emergency order, establish that the nonresident harvest and annual limits for king salmon under this section do not apply in a hatchery terminal harvest area.

(l) A harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required for nonresidents.

(m) The department shall manage the resident sport fishery so that there are no closures for residents, unless the commissioner determines that additional harvest reduction to the resident bag limits is necessary to comply with the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

[(n) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER JULY 31, 2025.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The King Salmon Management Plan, (KSMP), has no mechanism to prevent the annual nonresident sport harvest from reaching levels that negatively impact other user groups. This proposal suggests management targets that range from 19-22 percent, with the intention of curbing extreme sport Chinook harvests that create several serious issues. If managed properly, this proposal avoids long term Chinook fishery problems, and results in the sport treaty Chinook harvest maintaining the objective of a 20 percent average after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060. The present KSMP, with the open-ended sport harvest regime, has complex problems that don't involve just a simple 20%average.

First and foremost, due to the terms of the 2019 Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) agreement which include new incidental mortality provisions, the current KSMP has potential to cause serious trouble for Alaska's Chinook fisheries.

In 2022, the Department commented on proposal 91 that would have allowed trollers to catch 100% of their allocation during the July opening in low abundance years. The Department stated that:

Under terms of the 2019 PST, the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) implemented guidelines for acceptable levels of incidental mortality in AABM fisheries and developed triggers for incidental mortality levels that would precipitate a discussion to determine if fishery adjustments were needed, and to recommend any appropriate remedial action to ensure that the parties do not exceed incidental mortality limits.

Additionally, the 2019 PST agreement includes a commitment to discuss within the Commission significant management changes that a Party is considering, that may alter the stock or age composition and incidental mortality of a fishery regime's catch.

The sport fishery under the current KSMP, has the ability to negatively impact other fisheries incidental mortality levels and stock compositions. In 2023, when the sport fishery harvested 28.9% it caused the troll Chinook opening in August to be restricted to just one day. Not only did that alter that fisheries stock and age composition, it increased the incidental mortality of the fishery. It is not inconceivable, that if we continue with this plan, the unrestricted sport fishery will have the potential to eliminate the troll August king opening altogether on similar to lower quota years.

Since the sport fishery is only restricted under the KSMP if in danger of forcing Alaska over its PST allocation, any unharvested Chinook allocation available to the net fisheries is susceptible to forfeit to the sport fishery as well. Even though the net fisheries are considered outside of the troll/sport treaty Chinook sharing agreement, if there is only net Chinook allocation available, the sport fishery could take it under this KSMP, whether the nets can harvest it or not. Again, possibly generating incidental mortality concerns with those fisheries as well. This proposal has management threshold targets that will prevent this from happening.

The second issue is that as far as Chinook fishery management as a whole, having one user group operating without in-season management creates problems when trying to achieve both management and allocation objectives. The commercial fishery managers have hard target percentages of treaty Chinook they are managing for, and having the sport fishery harvest constantly invade and change those targets can create chaos. This proposal puts all managers on the same playing field with concrete Chinook harvest targets to manage for.

The current KSMP generates tension and anxiety among the commercial user groups who depend on their harvest share of the treaty Chinook allocated to Alaska. Seiners, gillnetters and trollers should all be entitled to harvest their allocation of treaty Chinook salmon and the current plan jeopardizes that.

This proposal takes into account one of the main concerns expressed by the charter representatives, which is that in low abundances years, there aren't enough fish for the nonresident sport harvest to support a successful charter fishery. Although, I disagree with that, because the charter fishery was quite successful with a 20% hard cap in the past, I have proposed raising the sport management target to 22% for the three lowest abundance tiers. Yes, that will hurt the troll fleet in low abundance years, but I contend the fleet will recover those losses in the two upper tiers of abundances with a sport management target at 19%.

The current KSMP includes minor and, in my opinion, inconsequential changes to nonresident Chinook harvest during periods of low Chinook abundance. This proposal will require some adjustments to nonresident annual limits and ensure that nonresidents have a fair share of the conservation burden during those times.

I have left the annual limits for nonresidents to be determined by the department and sport representatives at the upcoming meeting. In the past when the sport fishery was managed to a cap

of 20%, the sport representatives met with the Department to configure the management of their fishery. That worked well then and will also work for this proposal.

This proposal has a maximum nonresident annual limit of 4 kings, 28 inches or greater in length. In the past when the sport fishery was capped at 20%, in high abundance years, nonresidents were taking home 5 and 6 king salmon apiece and I think that is excessive. Basically, it can lead to waste when you consider the amount of additional species of fish a nonresident typically harvests on a fishing trip to Alaska.

This proposal does not affect the resident sport Chinook fishery and I agree with section (m) of this proposal where the department shall manage the resident sport fishery so that there are no closures for residents, unless the commissioner determines that additional harvest reduction to the resident bag limits is necessary to comply with the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Steve Merritt

(HQ-F24-028)

PROPOSAL 112

5 AAC 29.060 Allocation of king salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area and 5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

Modify the sport allocation of king salmon and provisions for management, as follows:

Each spring the Pacific Salmon Commission produces an annual abundance forecast for not just the upcoming summer season, but a separate forecast for the season that is still a year away (the one-year-out forecast). This proposal utilizes the current year abundance forecast *and* the one-year-out forecast to set a non-resident harvest target for the one-year-out season. The intent is that the average annual proportion of the hook-and-line Chinook allocation caught by sport fishermen (including residents) over the 6-year period that includes the previous 4 years, the current year and the season that is a year away, will be 20%. The first four numbers in the average are the known actual percentage of the hook-and-line allocation caught by sport fishermen in previous four years. The fifth number is the ADF&G-calculated estimate of the percentage of the hook-and-line allocation that will be caught by sport anglers in the season that is just getting underway with the non-resident annual limits that were set the year prior and using the updated abundance data.

The target harvest for the sport fishery in the season that is a year away would be whatever number would make the 6-year rolling average come out to 20%.

Staff would be directed to estimate the amount of non-resident effort and the likely harvest from that effort under different combinations of annual limits throughout the season. With input from the charter industry (similar to how the guided halibut regulations are crafted) ADF&G staff would establish non-resident annual limits for the one-year-away season. (In other words, set the limits for the 2026 summer season in the spring of 2025.) While the limits could not be such that the anticipated harvest would cause the 6-year average to exceed 20%, the charter industry could request that the limits be set conservatively, intending to “bank” some percentage for subsequent years while respecting the 20% average.

Example: If in the spring of 2025, the sport catches in 2021-2024 were known to have been 19.5%, 13.8%, 29.0%, and 17.0% of the hook-and-line allocation respectively, and given the updated abundance forecast the 2025 catch is anticipated to be 20.3%, then the 2026 target would need to be 20.4% of the hook-and-line allocation to make the 6-year average come out to 20.0%. (Since the average of 19.5, 13.8, 29.0, 17.0, 20.3 and 20.4 = 20.0) If in April of 2025, the one-year-away forecast for 2026 indicated that the hook-and-line allocation would be 180,000 fish in 2026, the non-resident annual limits for 2026 would be set such that the anticipated total sport harvest would be no higher than 20.3% of 180,000 or 36,540 kings.

This proposal does not seek to alter the existing resident bag limits which would continue to be set at the beginning of the current season, nor change the two-rod provisions of the current sport king salmon management plan. Neither the resident nor non-resident fisheries would be subject to in-season management for allocative reasons, but both could be closed if the SE all-gear harvest ceiling has been reached.

Accounting for past years' harvest when setting the annual limits provides the management tools necessary to achieve the 20% average goal, but by setting the annual limits more than a year in advance, charter clients will know how many kings they will be allowed to catch when they are considering booking a trip.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? One of the long-established goals of the SE Sport King Salmon management Plan has been to manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest of 20% of the hook-and-line allocation, but the word “average” has never been defined, leading to conflicting and ambiguous interpretations.

Furthermore, the current SE Sport King Salmon Management Plan contains a sunset clause which will cause the plan to expire in 2025 unless the BoF replaces it. Additionally, the current version of the plan as implemented by staff in 2022, eliminates all provisions to dynamically guide the sport harvest towards the long-standing goal of attaining the average harvest of 20% of the hook-and-line Chinook allocation. Without meaningful abundance-based adjustments to the non-resident annual limits, the proportion of the catch taken by sportfishermen has varied wildly from 14% in 2022 to 29% in 2023. This volatility combined with the absence of any corrective mechanism makes it very doubtful that the 20% goal will be attained.

Some sort of proactive management action is needed in order to achieve the 20% goal. The king salmon fishery is simply too dynamic to wait 3 years for the BoF to make adjustments. However, the charter industry has previously opposed efforts to use in-season management tools to achieve the 20% goal on the grounds that this can leave clients who have pre-booked their trip feeling short-changed.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The concept of utilizing the one-year-away forecast to set the non-resident annual limit for the season that is more than a year away was discussed at the March 2024 Sitka AC meeting, but the conversation did not progress to specific details.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka

(EF-F24-055)

PROPOSAL 113

**5 AAC 29.060 Allocation of King Salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area and
5 AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan**

Modify the provisions of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan and increase the sport allocation of king salmon, as follows:

Restore the 2022 Southeast king salmon management plan and adjust the allocation percentages between the troll and sport fisheries as follows to allow room for the sport fishery to achieve an average allocation of twenty percent without frequent in season management or long-term loss of allocation-

5 AAC 29.060

(b) The department shall manage the sport and commercial net and troll fisheries in accordance with the annual harvest ceiling established by the Pacific Salmon Commission. During a directed king salmon fishery in District 8 and District 11, an allowable catch above the baseline harvest level will not be counted towards the annual harvest ceiling. The annual harvest allocation of the annual harvest ceiling for each fishery is as follows:

- (1) purse seine fishery: 4.3 percent of the annual harvest ceiling;
- (2) drift gillnet fishery: 2.9 percent of the annual harvest ceiling;
- (3) set gillnet fishery: 1,000 king salmon;
- (4) troll fishery: 75 [80] percent, after the net fishery allocations in (1);
- (5) sport fishery: 25 [20] percent, after the net fishery allocations in (1);
- (6) if the projected annual Southeast Alaska all-gear harvest is below the annual harvest ceiling, any remaining allocation from those gear groups listed in (1) - (3) and (5) of this subsection may be allocated to the troll fishery beginning at a season date determined by the department and established by emergency order.

5 AAC 47.055

(b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to (1) manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest at or below 25 [OF 20] percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Southeast sport fishing for king salmon was managed for an average catch of 20% of the all-gear quota (less kings for the net fisheries) for almost two decades. Typically, sport allocation was left unharvested or harvested by other gear groups in high management tiers and the sport fleet took more than 20% in low management tiers which avoided the instability of in season management and afforded adequate fishing opportunity while staying within the sport allocation long-term.

That's no longer the exact case with recent changes in the Pacific Salmon Treaty without fresh approaches within the Southeast all-gear catch limit and between gear groups. If ADFG were to begin managing the sport fishery not to exceed its allocation on any year it would result in the sport harvest falling below 20% over time. This proposal revives the 2022 king salmon management plan and suggests a simple way to restore stability, flexibility, and fishing opportunity while targeting historical allocations.

Adjusting sport to 25% of the troll/sport allocation while using the bag and annual limits from the 2022 king management plan that target an average 20% harvest will give the sport fleet similar flexibility to harvest above its historic 20% in low abundance for sufficient opportunity while redirecting sport and net underage's to the troll fishery (under statute 5 AAC 29.060), allowing troll to meet or exceed its historical allocation of 80% over the time

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Insert the issue statement here.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Wedekind

(HQ-F24-128)

PROPOSAL 114

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Reduce the nonresident annual limit in low allocation management tiers and other modifications to the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

(a) The commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, the king salmon sport fish bag and possession limits and all other necessary management measures based on the allocation to the sport fishery as determined by 5 AAC 29.060. The bag and possession limits and other management measures established by the commissioner will remain in effect until March 31 of the following year.

(b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to

(1) manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest of 20 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;

(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the harvest ceiling;

(3) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; and

(4) allow for the transfer of any projected unused balance in sport allocation to the troll fishery at a date determined by the department.

(c) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is greater than 69,014 fish the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit;

(5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit;

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(d) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 55,421 and 69,014 fish the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length
- (2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater
- (3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit;
- (5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit;
- (6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(e) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 42,685 and 55,420 fish the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length.
- (2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater
- (3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit;
- (5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit;
- (6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(f) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 34,303 and 42,684 fish the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in
- (2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater
- (3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (4) from July 1 through July 7 [15], a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit;
- (5) from July 8 [16] through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 7 [15] will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit;

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(g) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 22,328 and 34,302 fish the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a **resident and nonresident** bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
(2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of **two** [THREE] king salmon,

(3) from July 1 through **December 31** [JULY 7], a nonresident annual harvest limit of **one** [TWO] king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by the nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply toward the **one** [TWO] fish annual harvest limit;

[(4) FROM JULY 8 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(5) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, will be established in areas where conservation management measures have prohibited king salmon retention or closed fishing for king salmon for all anglers once they reopen.

(h) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is **less than 22,328** [BETWEEN 19,381 AND] fish, the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a **resident and nonresident** bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
(2) from January 1 through **December 31** [JUNE 30], a nonresident annual harvest limit of **one** [THREE] king salmon,

[(3) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

[(4) A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH, WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN AREAS WHERE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT MEASURES HAVE PROHIBITED KING SALMON RETENTION OR CLOSED FISHING FOR KING SALMON FOR ALL ANGLERS ONCE THEY REOPEN.]

[(i) WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF TREATY KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS LESS THAN 19,381 FISH THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT [THE PROVISIONS SPECIFIED IN (G) AND (H) OF THIS SECTION.]

(j) The commissioner may adopt regulations that establish reporting requirements necessary to obtain the information required to implement the management plan under this section.

(k) The commissioner may, by emergency order, establish that the nonresident harvest and annual limits for king salmon under this section do not apply in a hatchery terminal harvest area.

(l) A harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required for nonresidents.

(m) The department shall manage the resident sport fishery so that there are no closures for residents, unless the commissioner determines that additional harvest reduction to the resident bag limits is necessary to comply with the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

[(n) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER JULY 31, 2025.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current King Salmon Management Plan (KSMP) does not adequately address nonresident harvest in years of low treaty Chinook salmon abundance.

Even though they are responsible for the bulk of the sport caught Chinook in Southeast Alaska, there is very little change in nonresident annual harvest limits throughout the plan. There is a minimal sacrifice of one king from their annual limit in the three lower management tiers, one to two weeks in July, but nonetheless, their burden of conservation needs to be more.

Commercial users have lower quotas during times of low treaty Chinook abundance and are managed accordingly. Resident sport anglers daily bag limits, in general, are also lowered throughout the KSMP.

There are reasons other than simple fairness to decrease nonresident annual harvest limits in the lower tiers of abundance. A Department announcement on March 28, 2024 states:

The preseason outlook is for continued poor production of SEAK Chinook salmon stocks, including seven stocks (Chilkat, Taku, King Salmon, Stikine, Unuk and Chickamin Rivers and Andrew Creek) as Stocks of Management Concern. Although the Chilkat, Taku, Unuk stocks are projected to meet their escapement goals given no or little harvest occurring, run forecasts are still well below long-term average production. **This will necessitate a management regime aimed at minimizing catches of these stocks** in accordance with Board adopted action plans. [Emphasis added]

Several Southeast Alaska (SEAK) runs are currently managed under Stock of Concern (SOC) action plans to help them recover. Lower 48 and Canadian Chinook abundance often does not coincide with the abundance of SEAK runs. In most cases, the lower treaty Chinook abundance goes, SEAK runs become more susceptible to being caught. That is because the surrounding population of other stocks insulating them from harvest is down. When SEAK runs are in their lower cycle of abundance the matter of their conservation becomes more serious. SEAK Chinook are most prevalent in the local waters May and June, and in this case, increased SEAK harvest risks ruination of the SOC action plans advances. This is why the KSMP nonresident annual limit of 3 kings before July 1st, should be altered during low treaty Chinook abundances.

Since these SOC plans reopen areas near the river terminal area the middle of June, it is prudent, in the very lowest tier of treaty fish abundance, to change the resident bag limit in section (h)(4) to one king instead of two. The tail end of the SEAK runs are still in those surrounding waters and

increasing the resident bag limit for those areas also poses a risk of reducing the gains attained by the SOC action plans. See Department run timing graph below. The graph lines from left to right show Taku, Stikine, Situk, Chilkat, Unuk and Chickamin Chinook runs.

The KSMP nonresident annual harvest limit of 3 kings through June 30th itself, is creating a client race to fish Alaska before July 1st. Tour ships begin visiting Southeast towns in May bringing more potential clients to fish in the areas that are not under SOC action plans. In Craig, the majority of charter lodges are running at a moderate to high level by mid-June. All of these factors result in pressure building on the harvest of king salmon by nonresidents before July 1st.

During low treaty Chinook abundances, not only do we have to consider SEAK runs, but also must address the fact that other treaty Chinook are in need of stricter conservation measures. Our KSMP needs to facilitate the recovery of those Chinook stocks simultaneously and it is lacking.

This proposal eliminates section (i) because it does not make rational sense. Why have a tier regarding sport harvest during the lowest abundance levels that instructs the commissioner to implement the harvest measures from two higher abundance tiers? In this proposal, any sport fishery allocation, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060 to be less than 22,328 fish, results in a nonresident annual limit of one king and resident anglers will have a daily bag limit of one king.

The charter operators will be impacted by this proposal on the lower tiers of abundance. This proposal keeps the basic foundation of the nonresident harvest plan intact with meaningful conservation measures in place. It also allows charter operators to entice clients with the prospect of harvesting at least one king in the very lowest abundance situation.

The current KSMP set nonresident annual harvest limits to aid the business plan of the charter industry, but business plans should never supersede conservation of the resource. If we start superseding conservation to the impacts on business plans, the best business plans of the future will fail because there won't be any salmon left to facilitate them.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Steve Merritt (HQ-F24-033)

PROPOSAL 115

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to one fish, as follows:

The retention of 1 (one) Chinook Salmon for Nonresidents per year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We should allow the retention of ONLY 1 (one) Chinook Salmon for Nonresidents instead of 3 (three). The detrimental effects of unregulated numbers of charter fishing vessels has greatly impacted the ability for residents to fulfill their need of retaining Chinook Salmon within Southeast Communities.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. This proposal was discussed and agreed upon resident sport fishers in Ketchikan, Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Cody Cowan

(EF-F24-058)

PROPOSAL 116

5 AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to two fish prior to July 1 and one fish after July 1, as follows:

Amend Language in 5 AAC 47.055

(c) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is equal to or greater than 20.5, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index greater than 2.2, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 69,000 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (3) a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon from January 1 through June 30th;**
- (4) a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon from July 1 through December**

[(3) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(4) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(d) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 20.5 and equal to or greater than 8.7, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 2.2 and greater than 1.8, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 61,900 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;**
- (2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;**
- (3) a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon from January 1 through June 30th;**
- (4) a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon from July 1 through December 31;**

[(3) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(4) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(e) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 8.7 and equal to or greater than 6.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index less than or equal to 1.8 and greater than 1.5, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 49,300 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon from January 1 through June 30th;

(4) a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon from July 1 through December 31;

[(3) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(4) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(f) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 6.0 and equal to or greater than 3.8, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 1.5 and greater than 1.2, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 37,900 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon from January 1 through June 30th;

(4) a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon from July 1 through December 31;

[(3) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(4) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(g) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 3.8 and equal to or greater than 2.6, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 1.2 and greater than 1.0, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 25,800 treaty king salmon and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon from January 1 through June 30th;

(3) a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon from July 1 through December 31;

[(2) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(3) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 7, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY THE NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARD THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(4) FROM JULY 8 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(5) if the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 3.8 and equal to or greater than 2.0, a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, will be established

in areas where conservation management measures have prohibited king salmon retention or closed fishing for king salmon for all anglers once they reopen.

(h) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 2.6 and equal to or greater than 2.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 1.0 and greater than or equal to 0.875, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 20,600 treaty king salmon and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1)** a bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2)** a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon from January 1 through June 30th;
- (3)** a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon from July 1 through December 31;

[(2) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(3) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(4) if the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 3.8 and equal to or greater than 2.0, a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, will be established in areas where conservation management measures have prohibited king salmon retention or closed fishing for king salmon for all anglers once they reopen.

(i) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 2.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than 0.875, the all-gear catch limit will be determined by the Pacific Salmon Commission, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the provisions specified in (g) and (h) of this section.

(j) The commissioner may adopt regulations that establish reporting requirements necessary to obtain the information required to implement the management plan under this section.

(k) The commissioner may, by emergency order, establish that the nonresident harvest and annual limits for king salmon under this section do not apply in a hatchery terminal harvest area.

(l) A harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required for nonresidents.

(m) The department shall manage the resident sport fishery so that there are no closures for residents, unless the commissioner determines that additional harvest reduction to the resident bag limits is necessary to comply with the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

(n) The provisions of this section do not apply after March 31, 2025.

5 AAC 47.057. Stikine River King Salmon Management Plan.

(a) The objective of this management plan is to allow for an additional sport harvest opportunity on Stikine River king salmon when the projected preseason or inseason abundance level indicates the presence of an allowable catch for the Stikine River king salmon as determined under the provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 47.055, if an allowable catch is available, the commissioner will open, by emergency order, on May 1 or as soon as the available catch has been announced, a directed king salmon sport fishery in District 8 with the following provisions:

- (1)** sport fishing for king salmon may be conducted with the use of two rods per angler;

(2) a resident bag limit of three king salmon 28 inches or greater in length, and a possession limit of six king salmon;

(3) a nonresident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, and a possession limit of two king salmon; an annual limit of six king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length.

(c) When no allowable catch exists for the Stikine River king salmon, the king salmon sport fishery in District 8 will be managed as specified in 5 AAC 47.055 .

(d) For the purposes of this section, District 8 is the salt waters of Frederick Sound south of a line from Wood Point to Beacon Point, excluding Wrangell Narrows, Sumner Strait east of a line from Point Alexander to Low Point, Stikine Strait north of the latitude of Round Point, Zimovia Strait north of the latitude of Nemo Point and Eastern Passage west of a line from Hour Point to Babbler Point.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? For most of the past 20+ years of king salmon fisheries management in Southeast Alaska, the annual sport limit for nonresidents prior to July 1 has been three king salmon. There have been some, but few, variations to that limit. During the same 20+ year period, the commercial troll and resident sport fisheries have been restricted by US-Canada Treaty reductions and by severe local stock of concern measures. Since residents and nonresidents share one sport quota, the biggest threat to the stable resident sport king salmon fishery is the unlimited unrestricted nonresident king salmon fishery.

More than 75 percent of the sport harvest was taken by nonresidents in 2023, and the fishery exceeded its quota by 17,000 fish. The non-resident fishing power in outside waters is now capable of catching the entire sport quota before the end of June. Residents in inside waters can't begin fishing until mid-June or even July because of stock of concern restrictions on local runs. A review of the allocation criteria argues for residents, as the troll and resident sport fisheries are long-standing and stable, while the non-resident sport fishery has no participation limit and, in 2023, no in-season management. The resident food fishery and the commercial troll fishery both have history, personal use for sustenance, and local economic importance on their side.

In 2023, the unmanaged nonresident sport fishery, primarily in outside waters, overharvested the sport quota by 17,000 fish. The constitutional resident priority for king salmon was violated. It is time that the nonresident sport fishery join in conservation and respect for an iconic Alaskan fish and a most valuable but declining coastwide resource.

King salmon today are far more valued than they were 20 or 30 years ago when abundance was varying within degrees of normalcy. The troll price of king salmon in 2003 was \$1.35 per pound, while in the past two or three years the winter troll caught chinook price sometimes exceeded \$10 per pound to the fisherman. For a resident to purchase fresh king salmon in January 2024 the market price in Juneau has exceeded \$23/lb. During the same past 20 years, the price per pound to fishermen of salmon species other than king salmon has not increased beyond normal inflation, if at all. It is clear that king salmon are highly treasured by residents of Alaska.

Charter boats today employ better technology (better communication, better fish finders, high resolution GPS mapping software) increasing the CPUE of all anglers aboard. Charter boats are generally larger and more seaworthy, decreasing the number of days that they are unable to fish. The charter season has gotten longer, in particular starting earlier in the season- when troll and inside waters sport opportunity has been severely limited due to concerns for local wild stocks. The resident sport fishery is stable. The commercial troll fishery is stable. The non-resident sport fishery can be made stable by an annual limit reduction to two king salmon.

This action is expected to result in a full normal season for all users. The value to the non-resident or guided sport sector is not expected to be diminished as the industry will likely realize the same income from two king salmon as they do now from three.

There are no guarantees in fishing, and since a three fish annual king salmon limit has been shown to be destructive to quota management, the reduction to two fish is fully warranted.

We propose a two fish annual sport king salmon limit for non-residents prior to July 1 and one fish limit thereafter.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. Territorial Sportsmen and Alaska Trollers Association asked the Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee to submit this proposal. The AC voted in support of submitting the proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Juneau Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F24-166)

PROPOSAL 117

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salom Management Plan.

Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to two fish prior to July 1 and one fish after July 1 as follows:

For most of the past 20+ years of king salmon fisheries management in Southeast Alaska, the annual sport limit for nonresidents prior to July 1 has been three king salmon. There have been some, but few, variations to that limit. During the same 20+ year period, the commercial troll and resident sport fisheries have been restricted by US-Canada Treaty reductions and by severe local stock of concern measures. Since residents and nonresidents share one sport quota, the biggest threat to the stable resident sport king salmon fishery is the unlimited unrestricted nonresident king salmon fishery.

More than 75 percent of the sport harvest was taken by nonresidents in 2023, and the fishery exceeded its quota by 17,000 fish. The non-resident fishing power in outside waters is now capable of catching the entire sport quota before the end of June. Residents in inside waters can't begin fishing until mid-June or even July because of stock of concern restrictions on local runs. A review of the allocation criteria argues for residents, as the troll and resident sport fisheries are long-standing and stable, while the non-resident sport fishery has no participation limit and, in 2023, no in-season management. The resident food fishery and the commercial troll fishery both have history, personal use for sustenance, and local economic importance on their side.

In 2023, the unmanaged nonresident sport fishery, primarily in outside waters, overharvested the sport quota by 17,000 fish. The constitutional resident priority for king salmon was violated. It is time that the nonresident sport fishery join in conservation and respect for an iconic Alaskan fish and a most valuable but declining coast wide resource.

King salmon today are far more valued than they were 20 or 30 years ago when abundance was varying within degrees of normalcy. The troll price of king salmon in 2003 was \$1.35 per pound, while in the past two or three years the winter troll caught chinook price sometimes exceeded \$10 per pound to the fisherman. For a resident to purchase fresh king salmon in April 2024 the market price in Juneau was \$24/lb. During the same past 20 years, the price per pound to fishermen of

salmon species other than king salmon has not increased beyond normal inflation, if at all. It is clear that king salmon are highly treasured by residents of Alaska.

Charter boats today employ better technology (better communication, better fish finders, high resolution GPS mapping software) increasing the CPUE of all anglers aboard. Charter boats are generally larger and more seaworthy, decreasing the number of days that they are unable to fish. The charter season has gotten longer, in particular starting earlier in the season-when troll and inside waters sport opportunity has been severely limited due to concerns for local wild stocks. The resident sport fishery is stable. The commercial troll fishery is stable. The non-resident sport fishery can be made stable by an annual limit reduction to two king salmon.

This action is expected to result in a full normal season for all users. The value to the non-resident or guided sport sector is not expected to be diminished as the industry will likely realize the same income from two king salmon as they do now from three.

There are no guarantees in fishing, and since a three fish annual king salmon limit has been shown to be destructive to quota management, the reduction to two fish is fully warranted,

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We propose a two fish annual sport king salmon limit for non-residents prior to July 1 and one fish thereafter.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No.

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsman Inc. and Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F24-022)

PROPOSAL 118

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

The nonresident annual limit for king salmon shall not exceed three and nonresident annual limits will not apply in terminal harvest areas, as follows:

The annual harvest of king salmon in the Southeast & Yakutat finfish management area by nonresident sport fisherman shall be no more than three (3) fish. King Salmon caught within THA's shall not count towards this annual limit.

Sunset Date: By end of the 2028 Southeast Finfish BOF meeting.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? King Salmon (also known as sgaawahl in Haida, t'a in Tlingit, and yeeh in Tsimshian) is an important resource to many people within southeast Alaska. As a tribal government, we take responsibility in pursuing equitable access to all cultural food resources that our tribal citizens need access to sustain their lives and their culture. Natural king salmon stocks all across the Pacific northwest are not what they used to be, and supplemental production of kings is something that we are hesitant to rely on. The State of Alaska has an obligation to take care of those who call Alaska home, first. Now that the State of Alaska has recognized federally recognized tribes, it also has an obligation to meet the needs of Indigenous Peoples around the state.

Without negatively impacting other local Alaskan people, the tribe finds it necessary to restrict access to nonresident sport harvesters first. We understand the importance of the charter fisheries around the state of Alaska and the impact it has on local economies and families. However, resources are becoming more and more scarce for our people, and we must continue to be creative in ensuring our people have enough. While this will have some impact on the nonresident charter fleet, we do not feel it will have detrimental ramifications on that sector. King salmon is not the only species of fish in the ocean. There are four other species of salmon, various types of rockfish, halibut, cod, ling cod, etc. that people have opportunities to go harvest. To the average charter fisherperson, people do not care about the difference between catching a 7-pound coho vs an 18-pound king salmon. Based on what we have heard with bookings, the installation of a restrictive limit on nonresident sport harvest of king salmon has not impacted charter business scheduling

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Ketchikan Indian Community Tribal Government, with much of the work done by the Our Way of Life Committee with deals with issues pertaining natural resources in Alaska that impact our tribal citizens and the ecosystem as a whole.

PROPOSED BY: Ketchikan Indian Community (HQ-F24-094)

PROPOSAL 119

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon for 2 days per week, as follows:

The nonresident king salmon sport fishery, both guided and non-guided, will close two days a week, which these days shall not coincide with Pacific Halibut closures for nonresidents, except within terminal harvest areas.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? King Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) (also known as sgaawahl in Haida, t'a in Tlingit, and yeesh in Tsimshian) is an important resource to many people within southeast Alaska. As a tribal government, we take responsibility in pursuing equitable access to all cultural food resources that our tribal citizens need access to sustain their lives and their culture. Natural king salmon stocks all across the Pacific northwest are not what they used to be, and supplemental production of kings is something that we are hesitant to rely on. The State of Alaska has an obligation to take care of those who call Alaska home, first. Now that the State of Alaska has recognized federally recognized tribes, it also has an obligation to meet the needs of Indigenous Peoples around the state.

Without negatively impacting other local Alaskan people, the tribe finds it necessary to restrict access to nonresident sport harvesters first. To take stress off of the wild run king salmon in southeast Alaska, we propose that king salmon harvested be restricted by time to allow for salmon to better escape back to their natal streams. This is done for the nonresident sport fishery for Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) and has shown to have positive impacts for the residents of southeast Alaska. The idea here is to have two days a week throughout the week be non-retention days for king salmon.

In order to alleviate concerns that the charter fleet may have, we would propose that the non-retention days do not overlap with that of Pacific halibut. This will allow ample opportunity for nonresidents to sport fish for different things if they plan on fishing on consecutive days. There are plenty of species to fish for throughout the year. While some may consider kings to be highly sought out after, we firmly believe that we need to be able to conserve for local Alaskans during times of reduced abundance.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Ketchikan Indian Community Tribal Government, with much of the work done by the Our Way of Life Committee with deals with issues pertaining natural resources in Alaska that impact our tribal citizens and the ecosystem as a whole.

PROPOSED BY: Ketchikan Indian Community (HQ-F24-095)

PROPOSAL 120

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon on weekends, as follows:

The nonresident king salmon fishing power is such that the 20 percent sport quota can be taken before the end of June. With no in season management, this means the sport quota is meaningless and the excess fish has to come out of the troll quota. A two day per week closure is a 28% reduction in fishing time, which is exactly what is needed to bring the sport catch back within its intended limit. A side benefit is that the resident sport fishers will have much less competition on weekends.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal seeks to reduce weekly king salmon sport fishing time for nonresidents from seven days per week to five days per week by prohibiting nonresident king salmon fishing on Saturdays and Sundays. This proposal is intended to be effective Jan 1, 2026.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F24-018)

PROPOSAL 121

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Extend the sunset provisions in the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 47.055(n) is amended to read:

...

(n) The provisions of this section do not apply after July 31, **2028** [2025].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* directs the management of the king salmon sport fishery in Southeast Alaska. The current language of the plan includes a sunset clause meaning the management plan will cease to exist after July 31, 2025. This sunset clause was initially established to allow the board to review the performance of the management plan with consideration towards the allocation of king salmon to the sport fishery as guided by 5 AAC 29.060 *Allocation of king salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area*. Action by the board is required to continue the sport fishery for king salmon and the management provisions prescribed by 5 AAC 47.055. This would extend the sunset clause for another three years, corresponding with the next regularly scheduled Southeast Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting. While the department brings this provision to the board's attention, it is in the discretion of the board to adopt a different sunset date or remove this clause entirely.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-177)

King Salmon-Sport SOC action plans

PROPOSAL 122

5 AAC 47.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.

Prohibit the removal of king salmon from the water when retention is not allowed, as follows:

Add language to the Southeast King Salmon Management Plan that states:

"King salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately when king salmon retention is not allowed."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce incidental mortality of king salmon, especially for stocks of concern, when king salmon retention is prohibited by requiring anglers to release king salmon in the water immediately. This will reduce the handling of the fish and prevent anglers from removing the fish from the water. When king salmon retention is not allowed it is because the stocks need to rebuild and every effort should be made to ensure the king salmon that are caught are released unharmed.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. Territorial Sportsmen and Alaska Trollers Association asked the Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee to submit this proposal. The AC voted in support of submitting the proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Juneau Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F24-162)

PROPOSAL 123

5 AAC 47.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish.

Prohibit netting or handling king salmon when catch-and-release fishing is implemented, as follows:

In areas and times where catch and release fishing is the only method for capturing king salmon, prohibit netting or handling the fish. This will reduce incidental mortality, especially for stocks of concern.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Prohibit handling of king salmon in catch and release fisheries.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsmen Inc and Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F24-019)

PROPOSAL 124

5 AAC XX.XXX.000. New Section.

Modify resident sport fishing opportunity prescribed by Southeast Alaska king salmon action plans, as follows:

In years when the ADF&G pre-season forecast for the Chilkat, Taku, Stikine or Unuk River Chinook run is anticipated to exceed the lower bound of the escapement goal, the sportfishery in the related saltwater district(s) or affected portions of those district(s) including SHA/THA opportunities, shall re-open for residents one week earlier than the re-opening dates established in the current SOC Action Plans. The non-resident sportfishery shall continue to adhere to the dates in the existing Action Plans until the SoC status is lifted or other change to the SoC plan is made.

Stock Related District(s) or portions of District(s)

Unuk 1-2

Stikine 5- 10

Taku 11

Chilkat 12-15

For example, if the Taku run is predicted to exceed 19,000 large Chinook, the Juneau area District 11 sport king fishery would reopen to residents on June 7 and reopen to non-residents on June 14 with the DH SHA reopening for residents on May 25 and to non-residents on June 1.

Alaska is required under the Treaty to manage our king fisheries in a manner that respects the escapement goals. Since this provision would only trigger in years when the escapement goal is expected to be met, and would only result in a very small harvest of wild Chinook, Alaska would remain in compliance with our Treaty obligations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Stock of Concern restrictions that closed sport king fishing in the inside waters while spring spawners are present have placed a particularly heavy burden on resident sport fishermen, as the spring time has historically been the most productive time of year. Residents who live and work in the communities affected by the closures are not as mobile as commercial fishermen or non-resident sportfishermen. These latter user groups that can fairly easily relocate their fishing efforts to outside waters that remain open, but resident sport fishermen generally have work or school obligations that make traveling to distance waters not only expensive, but also impractical.

The dates of the closure were established when the stocks were at their lowest points and hence were set to be highly conservative. By the time all of the wild stocks leave the saltwater and the sport fisheries reopen, the hatchery fish are past their prime. In years when runs are partially recovered, but not yet to the point where all restrictions can be rescinded, these dates could be slightly relaxed for resident sportfishermen and still provide sufficient adequate protection for wild stocks while giving better access to hatchery kings while they remain bright.

As SE residents have only token access to officially-designated Chinook subsistence fisheries, SE residents meet their subsistence king salmon needs primarily through the sportfishery. As a quasi-subsistence fishery, the resident sportfishermen should have priority above other user groups, but the original SOC Action Plans did not provide for any degree of resident sport priority. Instead, the inside resident sportfishery has been proportionally the most affected of any of the directed Chinook fisheries.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have spoken with other resident sportfishermen about this concept, but have not brought it to any ACs. It would be considered out of area for my local AC.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka (EF-F24-037)

PROPOSAL 125

5 AAC 47.XXX. New Section.

Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A when a stock of concern exists for king salmon stocks in Northern Southeast Alaska, as follows:

Add Language to 5 AAC 47.055

"When there are stocks of concern in Northern Southeast Alaska, excluding the Alsek & Situk River, Close District 14A to King Salmon sport fishing from April 1 through June 14."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? District 14A is the Cross Sound area at the western entrance to Icy Strait. All other migration corridors for northern Southeast stocks of concern are closed in the spring to protect Taku, Chilkat and Stikine chinook. This last zone also needs to be closed in alignment with the troll closure during the same time in the same area. In inside waters the important chinook stocks are managed on the basis that every fish counts. This migration corridor needs to be treated the same.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. Territorial Sportsmen and Alaska Trollers Association asked the Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee to submit this proposal. The AC voted in support of submitting the proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Juneau Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F24-167)

PROPOSAL 126

5 AAC 47.XXX. New Section.

Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A, as follows:

District 14A is the Cross Sound area at the western entrance to Icy Strait. All other migration corridors for northern Southeast stocks of concern are closed in the spring to protect Taku, Chilkat and Stikine chinook. This last zone also needs to be closed in alignment with the troll closure during the same time in the same area. In inside waters the important chinook stocks are managed on the basis that every fish counts. This migration corridor needs to be treated the same.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Close district 14 A to King Salmon sport fishing from April 1 through June 14.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsman Inc. and Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F24-021)

PROPOSAL 127

5 AAC 47.XXX.New Section.

Allow residents to retain king salmon in the month of April near Ketchikan, as follows:

Personal use (residents) may retain king salmon 28" or greater for the full month of April. One king salmon per day per personal use angler of legal size.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Return the retention of 28" plus king salmon in unit 1A for year round Alaska residents for the full month of April. This has been a time frame to feed ourselves, children and grandchildren for years with high quality feeder kings.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, this proposal was presented to the Ketchikan Advisory Committee and is being put forth as an AC generated proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Ketchikan Advisory Committee (EF-F24-013)

PROPOSAL 128

5 AAC 47.XXX. New Section.

Allow residents to retain king salmon in the month of April in the Ketchikan area.

Personal use [residents] may retain King Salmon in unit 1A for the full month of April. One King per day, 28" or more per personal use angler.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Return the retention of King Salmon in unit 1A for year round residents in the full month of April. This has been a time frame to feed our selves, children, and grandchildren for years of high quality 28" plus, feeder Kings.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No but I presented it to the AC in Ketchikan and they agreed to send this proposal in.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Jahnke (EF-F24-067)

King Salmon-Commercial

PROPOSAL 129

5 AAC 29.090. Management of the spring troll fishery.

Increase the number of days open in the Yakutat Bay spring troll fishery from 1 day to 2 days.

Execute the fishery on 2 separate days, rather than one 24 hour opener per week. This would increase the opportunity for trollers to harvest and would not change the overall 1000 fish allocation here so it won't affect other users.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently and since implementation the one day per week troll allocation has never been caught. Most years the catch is less than half. This allocation and economic potential for the community of Yakutat is not being fully utilized.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No, I am a resident of Yakutat and am submitting this on my own behalf.

PROPOSED BY: Casey Mapes

(HQ-F24-029)

PROPOSAL 130

5 AAC 29.100. Management of the summer troll fishery.

Allow for remaining troll king salmon allocation after winter and spring troll fisheries to be harvested during a single retention period beginning July 1.

Solution: A single uninterrupted summer king troll retention period beginning July 1.

We respectfully request a change in regulatory language enabling the troll fleet to harvest its entire summer king salmon quota share (its annual harvest allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060) starting with the July 1st king opener and continuing uninterrupted until concluded. Rather than two separate summer troll king openers as presently conducted, we propose one uninterrupted troll king opener during the summer king troll season, excepting any coho closure necessary to achieve escapement goals (during which all troll king salmon retention -- except as otherwise noted by the department -- would cease until the conclusion of the coho closure and king retention would resume immediately upon the resumption of coho retention).

This proposed solution greatly simplifies the regulations governing the summer king troll harvest, it assists the department in achieving its mission to apportion the troll fleet its mandated 80 percent share of the king allocation (after the nets' portion is assigned), and it obviates the necessity of regulatory language whose sole purpose is to address "what-ifs" and "what-thens" related to a second (separate) summer king troll harvest retention period in August.

Draft regulatory language:

5 AAC 29.100. remains unchanged except where formatting protocols indicate below and where repeated sequential deletions are noted (proposed deletions pertain to regulations governing a separate second troll king salmon opener in August).

5AAC 29.100. Management of the summer salmon troll fishery

-----start proposed changes/deletions-----

(A) to take **100 percent** [70 PERCENT] of the remaining troll king salmon harvest allocation, calculated as the annual troll harvest allocation minus the winter and spring troll harvests of treaty king salmon, in an [INITIAL] opening beginning July 1; **areas of king salmon high abundance shall remain open for the entirety of the summer king salmon troll harvest allocation except as ordered by emergency order.**

[SEQUENTIALLY DELETE THE FOLLOWING IN THEIR ENTIRETY: (B), (i), (ii), (2), (A), (B)]

(B) if summer harvest retention of king salmon is still on-going at the start of any closure of the coho salmon troll fishery (to achieve escapement goals), troll king fishing shall cease during the coho closure -- except where explicitly specified -- and shall resume immediately upon the reopening of coho retention. King salmon retention shall remain open until the king salmon troll quota share (80 percent of the king salmon allocation once the nets' share has been deducted as prescribed in 5 AAC 29.060) is harvested or Sept. 20, whichever comes first.

-----end-----

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The troll fleet wishes to secure the fairest opportunity to harvest its legally allocated share of king salmon without drama or rancor or uncertainty. But complications exist, which include:

* The relatively low Southeast Alaskan king salmon quota share awarded at Treaty (with little optimism for future improvement) presents challenges for the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game (ADFG) to fulfill its role as the executor of allocative apportionment among the affected gear groups.

* The vast majority of the king salmon harvested by non-resident sports (the charter fleet and bare boats -- whose numbers are unrestricted and growing) occur in the spring and early summer, compounding ADFG's apportionment challenges. (The majority of the troll fleets' king harvest occurs much later in July and August.)

* In August of 2023, ADFG revealed a regulatory change (as-then unknown to all stakeholders) which inscrutably abandoned in-season management for the non-resident sport fleet, resulting in an allocated overage by the sport sector of 17K kings. This led to a direct unrecoverable loss of 15.5K kings from the troll fleet's share to ensure that Alaska did not exceed its quota (gillnetters lost 1.5K kings from their allocative share as well).

* The troll fleet (as well as the resident-sport sector, whose participation and king harvest have remained remarkably consistent for the last 20 years) unwittingly finds itself in a "race to the fish" that no one knew existed until the regulatory change and an allocative transfer was made known to all by ADFG in August of 2023.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. This proposal enjoys the support of the ATA board.

PROPOSED BY: David Richey and Ken McGee, ATA board members (EF-F24-168)

PROPOSAL 131

5 AAC 29.100 Management of the summer troll fishery.

Establish criteria for establishing a limited harvest troll fishery in August and allow for more than one limited harvest fishery to occur.

5 AAC 29.100 (D) if the department determines that the number of king salmon remaining on the annual troll king salmon harvest allocation is not sufficient to allow a competitive fishery, **of at least 3 days**, the commissioner may, by emergency order, reopen the troll fishery to the taking of king salmon during a limited harvest fishery, subject to the following conditions:

(i) a limited harvest fishery may be opened for up to 10 days;

(ii) more than one limited harvest fishery may occur in the same season if unharvested allocation remains.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current summer troll king salmon management begins with a competitive July opener targeting 70% of the summer quota, followed by a competitive August opener targeting the remainder of the quota and if necessary, a September equal share fishery to "sweep up" any kings that are left on the quota. While the July and August openings are long-established, the regulations governing the sweep up fishery were added much more recently. At the time of adoption, the regulation included many restrictions limiting this management tool while management and industry were getting accustomed to it. Now that it has been used a couple of times, trollers that were initially uncertain how it would work have become more comfortable with this sort of opening and would like to see it used in more situations.

This desire was precipitated by the 2023 August opening which was only 1 day long. The coho troll fishery is required to close for two days ahead of a competitive king opening to ensure a fair start, but this closure is not required for an equal share fishery. When the August king opener is only one or two days long for all but the most highly-productive king producers, the benefits of a competitive opening are outweighed by the costs of the two-day coho closure and need for immediate offloading of kings following the short opener.

This proposal would give the department more latitude to utilize the equal share fishery as a tool in more scenarios, thus avoiding the need for unnecessary fair-start closures and artificially shortened trips in situations when competitive openings are too inefficient to justify

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I was motivated to submit this proposal after several other trollers expressed their dissatisfaction to me with the inconvenience and inefficiency associated with the 2023 August opener that lasted only one day.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka

(EF-F24-039)

PROPOSAL 132

5 AAC 29.140 Size limits, possession, and landing requirements.

Establish a minimum size limit for Chinook salmon of 26 1/2 inches from snout to fork of tail in the spring troll fisheries.

5 AAC 29.140 (f) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, in the spring troll fisheries, the minimum size limit for Chinook shall be 26-1/2" from snout to fork of tail.

(Note that if ADF&G data shows a different fork length to be the equivalent of 28" overall for immature kings, I would support using that length, but my observations indicate that an immature 28" king is about 26-1/2" in fork-length).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? It can be difficult to precisely determine if a close-to-long-enough king salmon meets the current minimum size limit of 28" as measured from snout to tip of the tail. Sometimes the fish flex or point their tails as they are being measured, thereby changing their length by up to half an inch. While trollers try to compensate for this distortion, we have to take the measurement quickly in order that the fish can be released

unharmful if it is too short. As king salmon have gotten smaller over the years, there are more fish that need to be measured every year, and a corresponding increase in the likelihood that a fish caught by well-intended fishermen is considered too short by enforcement personnel. Changing from an overall length measurement to a fork-length measurement would make it much easier to quickly obtain an accurate and consistent measurement since the fork-length doesn't change when the fish's tail changes posture. This will reduce stress on the released fish and cut down on disagreement with enforcement personnel when a fish goes into rigor mortis with their tail in a different position than when it was initially measured.

Utilizing a fork-length measurement during the spring season when the troll fishery is targeting Alaska hatchery kings would be particularly beneficial. Mature kings tend to be slightly larger than immature kings of the same age. This difference is the reason that the 28" minimum length was adopted decades ago. It protects immature king salmon that should be released to grow bigger, while allowing the harvest of precocious "jack" spawners- fish that while small, will nonetheless soon spawn and die. However, using a fork-length measurement is a better way to distinguish between maturing Chinook and immature kings than an overall length.

As salmon mature, their tails become less forked, so while an immature king that has a fork-length of 26-1/2" is about 28" overall, a mature king with the same fork-length is about an inch shorter in overall length. Under the current regulations, the immature fish is borderline-legal to keep, but the mature king is not. By changing the measurement method from 28" overall to 26-1/2" fork-length during the spring season when trollers are targeting mature Alaska hatchery fish the spring troll catch of Alaska hatchery Chinook will increase without measurably increasing the catch of Treaty Chinook since the Treaty kings in the region are predominately immature during the spring troll season. This is an unmitigated benefit since the Alaska hatchery kings do not count against the quota imposed by the Treaty.

While this change might mean that very occasionally a mature "jack" SE wild Chinook would be caught and retained rather than released, the BoF should keep in mind that such a fish would be a "medium", not "large" size fish. Thus, even if it reached the river, it would not have counted towards escapement goals. These "jack" kings are typically surplus to reproductive needs, hence ADFG has long encouraged their harvest dating back to the work of pioneering SE Chinook ADF&G researcher Paul Kissner in the 1970's at a time when local wild runs were at even lower levels than they are now.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The Sitka AC has previously endorsed the concept of changing the minimum size limit in some spring fisheries to a fork length measurement multiple times in the past 4 years, and has submitted a Sitka-area-only proposal to do so in this board cycle. This proposal is similar but would apply to all spring troll fisheries instead of just the Sitka area.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka

(EF-F24-038)

PROPOSAL 133

5 AAC 29.140. Size limits, possession, and landing requirements.

Allow for king salmon of 26 1/2 inches snout to fork length be retained in District 13 spring troll fisheries.

In the District 13 spring troll fisheries, the minimum size limit for Chinook shall be 26-1/2” from snout to fork. Permit holders must offload all Chinook salmon that are less than 28 inches prior to fishing in areas where retention of Chinook salmon less than 28 inches is prohibited.

(Or, if ADF&G data shows a different fork length to be the equivalent of 28” overall for immature kings, use that length).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

1. There are two issues that can be addressed with a single solution. In recent years more than half of NSRAA Chinook that are returning to the Sitka area have spent only 2 years in saltwater. About 30% of these young kings are less than the troll fishery minimum size limit of 28” as measured from snout to tip of tail. However, about half of these “shakers” are within an inch of meeting the minimum length. The 28” minimum is a conservation measure intended to allow immature kings to grow bigger before being harvested, but it is an imperfect tool since a small mature NSRAA king that is released in May or June will not live long enough to grow significantly larger.

Maturation changes Chinook in many ways. One of the physical changes is that the “vee” in the Chinook’s tail fills in and the previously forked tail becomes nearly “square”. In other words, an immature king that is 28” in overall length would measure about 26-1/2” from snout to the fork of the tail, but a mature 28” king will be nearly 27-1/2” in fork-length. So, changing the minimum size limit from 28” overall to 26-1/2” from snout to fork of tail would allow trollers to keep more mature NSRAA kings while continuing to protect the small immature Treaty fish.

This should increase the spring troll catch of NSRAA Chinook by about 15% without increasing the catch of Treaty Chinook since the Treaty kings in the Sitka spring troll districts are immature at that time of year.

The spring troll fisheries targeting NSRAA Chinook are isolated from other spring Chinook troll fisheries by nearly 100 miles. In the last three years, 18,783 kings caught in the Sitka spring fisheries were sampled by ADFG personnel. Only 5 of these fish were landed at a port other than Sitka. Similarly, of the 18,778 spring kings sampled by ADFG in Sitka in the past three years, none of them were caught outside of Districts 12 or 13. Hence there should be no enforcement issues with having a different minimum length measurement in the Sitka area.

The Sitka area is also over 100 miles away from the nearest wild Chinook system, so there should be minimum concern for SE wild stocks; furthermore, even if a mature SE wild Chinook was caught due to this Proposal, it would be a “medium”, not “large” size fish and hence would not have counted towards escapement goals even it had not been caught.

The second issue that this proposal addresses is that the flexibility of a king salmon’s tail creates inconsistent measurements. Some fish naturally point their tails so that they are longer than 28” when they come aboard, but measure short after they have died and their muscles relax. Fishermen, plant workers, and Wildlife troopers can measure the same fish and each get slightly different lengths depending upon how the tips of the tail lay on the table. These inconsistencies are not an issue when measuring to the fork of the tail since the fork length doesn’t change when the fish’s tail changes posture. Thus, crew and skippers landing king salmon have a much quicker and consistent measurement resulting in less handling and higher survival of those released.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The Sitka AC is sponsoring this proposal. We have previously

endorsed the concept of changing the spring fishery to fork length multiple times in the past 4 years, most recently on January 17, 2024.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka AC

(EF-F24-021)

PROPOSAL 134

5 AAC 33.392. Size limits and landing of king salmon.

Expand landing and retention requirements for king salmon by purse seine permit holders and establish penalties for violating landing requirements.

5AAC33.XX Unlawful Possession of King Salmon

(A) A Southeast Alaska Purse Seine permit holder shall not have king salmon retained, in their possession, or on board their purse seine vessel any king salmon unless permitted by emergency order. All king salmon not being retained, must be immediately returned unharmed to the water.

(B) If permitted under an emergency order, king salmon can be retained during an open fishing period. The king salmon must be offloaded and documented on an ADFG fish ticket under 5AAC39.130. All king salmon must be offloaded prior to participating in a future salmon purse seine open fishing period.

(C) The seine vessel or SE Alaska purse seine permit holder can not participate in a future SE Alaska purse seine salmon fishery for the statistical year unless subsection (B) is complied with. Violation of subsection (A) is punishable as a violation with a set fine on the Alaska Court Bail schedule of \$150 plus restitution of \$150 for each king salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial Southeast Alaska(SE AK) salmon purse seine operators continue to catch and retain large numbers of illegal and undocumented king salmon.

Currently, it's illegal for purse seine operators to retain king salmon greater than 28 inches in length except for an opener or two during the summer. King salmon under 28 inches can be retained as personal use fish by emergency order.

Purse seiners do not specifically target a certain species of fish. They catch everything and its up to the crew of the seine vessels to sort the unwanted species (bycatch) such as steelhead and king salmon. Many crews sort the bycatch from going into the fish hold, some do not. The crews who do sort the fish effectively, take great pride in the fact that they can routinely conduct an offload of their catch and not have one illegal fish.

In areas of higher king salmon abundance such as the west side of Prince of Wales Island (PoW) and the lower east side of PoW, seiners can catch hundreds of king salmon during an opener. As one seine tender(buyer) reported, a single seine vessel during a 2023 offload had over 300 king salmon during a non-retention period. The tender captain was upset because the seine crew tossed all 300+ king salmon into the ocean during the offload. This type of event is routine. Fish processors instruct the tenders who purchase fish for them on the fishing grounds to toss all king salmon and steelehead onto the seine vessel or into the ocean.

One local processor in Craig during 2023 was educated by ADFG during mid-summer about donating king salmon. ADFG began to allow processors to take king salmon into the fish plants to be processed for donation only. The local Craig plant donated approximately 1000 king salmon to the communities on PoW. This was after Alaska Wildlife Troopers monitored seine offloads and the fleet was aware of the enforcement activities.

Residents of PoW are very aware and concerned about king salmon and the seine caught bycatch. Residents fish for king salmon during seine openings. They see one seine vessel haul its net and several king salmon will be instantly sorted and tossed back into the ocean while the vessel right next to the first vessel tosses nothing back. Residents watch these seine vessels return to the harbors and offload carts of king salmon. The local custom fish processors pick up the fish from the crew in direct view of the public eye. Almost all of these king salmon have not been reported on an ADFG fish ticket and are undocumented.

The East PoW AC discussed solutions to this issue. Several salmon studies were reviewed regarding the survival rates of net caught salmon. We also reviewed Washington State's regulation requiring Puget Sound seine boats to use a recovery box prior to releasing king salmon. We learned that recovery boxes do increase survival rates even if the fish are injured but even without the use of recovery boxes, king salmon greater than 28" that were immediately released from a seine net still have decent survival rates.

During a East PoW AC meeting, a local SE AK salmon seine permit holder expressed his concerns about recovery box requirements. They would be burdensome to install and take alot of room on the deck if they had to be big enough to hold all the fish they catch. They can catch a large number of kings at once so this would be impractical. The group agreed recovery boxes in SE AK were not a good solution. The local SE AK permit holder did agree that the best solution would be to set a penalty for every illegal king salmon of \$150/fish to deter this conduct.

The PoW Court has consistently issued the lowest fines to seine permit holders even though the PoW area has a real issue with seine vessels retaining illegal king salmon. Other courts issue fines up to 10 times higher than the PoW Court. It was agreed there should be a set fine per king salmon retained. The penalty should be a violation and not hold demeritus points. The recommended fine should be \$150 plus \$150 restitution for each king salmon.

The SE AK seine fleet is sloppy when they sort king salmon until Alaska Wildlife Troopers begin to monitor offloads. The local SE AK seine permit holder stated that it is very practical to sort kings and toss them overboard alive UNLESS they slow down a few extra minutes as they roll thousands of pounds of salmon on the deck and allow their crew the necessary time needed to release the kings alive. In years past, the whole seine fleet does this once enforcement begins monitoring the offloads.

If this regulation is passed, the AK Court Bail Schedule, Alaska Wildlife Troopers and the Alaska Court System can easily issue violations with set fine amounts to those who retain illegal king salmon. The option of a court issuing extremely small fines will no longer be a factor and the extra few minutes of releasing king salmon alive will be worth it to the seine boat captains. The fine is set equal to the sport fishing fine for illegal retention of a king salmon.

If passed, this will also show that Alaskans are doing our part to conserve king salmon, eliminate bycatch and preserve our fisheries.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The East PoW AC.

PROPOSED BY: East PoW AC

(EF-F24-135)

***SOUTHEAST AREA AND YAKUTAT AREA SUBSISTENCE,
PERSONAL USE, AND SPORT SALMON AND OTHER NON-
GROUND FISH FINFISH (21 proposals)***

Southeast Subsistence Salmon

PROPOSAL 135

5 AAC 01.720. Lawful Gear and Gear Specifications, 5 AAC 01.760. Redoubt Bay and Lake Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Only allow for the use of seine gear in the Redoubt Bay subsistence fishery when the escapement is projected to be greater than 40,000 sockeye salmon.

5 AAC 01.720. Lawful gear and gear specifications

Fish may be taken by gear listed in 5 AAC 01.010(a) except as may be restricted under the terms of a subsistence fishing permit and except as follows:

(1) in District 13, Redoubt Bay, gillnet [OR SEINE] gear may not be used to take salmon in any waters of the bay closed to commercial salmon fishing;

Section 5 AAC 01.760 - Redoubt Bay and Lake Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management Plan

(5) in addition to the provisions of (4) of this subsection, when the projected total escapement level of sockeye salmon is greater than 40,000 fish, the commissioner may

(A) open portions of Redoubt Bay to a commercial fishery on sockeye salmon returning to Redoubt Lake;

(B) issue community subsistence permits under the provisions of (e) of this section.

(C) allow the subsistence use of seine gear in the waters of Redoubt Bay north (seaward) of a line approximately 100 yards from the base of the falls as marked by ADF&G regulatory markers;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal is to allow the use of seine gear for subsistence fishing in Redoubt Bay when the projected escapement of sockeye salmon is over 40,000 fish. Currently, seine gear can only be used in the outer bay, where fish are too spread out for it to be effective. Recent escapements have consistently exceeded the escapement goal range of 7,000 – 25,000 fish; and have been over 40,000 fish for the last seven years. The most recent record escapement of 153,000 fish has led to concerns about reduced productivity from overescapement. Currently, the majority of sockeye are taken using dipnets at the base of the falls, where the limited space does not provide enough fishing power for an effective and efficient harvest. While there may be concerns with gear conflicts, the use of seine gear in years with large returns would actually reduce conflicts by providing for a more effective means to quickly harvest sockeye, reducing the time spent fishing. The proposed regulation would bar seines from the area near the falls to prevent direct conflict with dipnetters.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The proposal was developed in a Regional Advisory Council meeting at the request of a member from the Sitka area.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory Council

(HQ-F24-015)

PROPOSAL 136

5 AAC 01.745. Subsistence bag and possession Limits; Annual Limits.

Increase sockeye salmon possession and annual limits at Basket Bay.

5 AAC 01.745. Subsistence bag and possession limits; annual limits

(h) In the Juneau Management Area, in waters open to subsistence salmon fishing under a household subsistence salmon fishing permit, the possession and annual limits for salmon per household are as follows:

(A) District 12: in the following waters, the following possession and annual limits apply:

(i) Basket Bay: the possession limit is **20** [15] sockeye salmon, with an annual limit of **40** [30] sockeye salmon;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Basket Bay (Kook Lake) is an important source of sockeye for subsistence users from Angoon, Hoonah, and other nearby communities. The current possession and annual limits for sockeye at Basket Bay are 15 fish possession / 30 fish annual, which is lower than most other systems of similar size in the area. A stock assessment program operated between 2005-2007 and 2010-2017 showed that escapement to Kook Lake was stable at higher subsistence harvest levels than have been seen in recent years. The current harvest limits, especially the 15 fish possession limit, make it necessary for subsistence users to make several trips across Chatham Strait to meet their sockeye needs. The proposed harvest limit increase would allow users to meet their sockeye needs more efficiently with less risk and use of gas, time, and effort.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The proposal was developed by the Council following public testimony requesting an increase in the harvest limits at Basket Bay

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (HQ-F24-014)

PROPOSAL 137

5 AAC 01.745. Subsistence bag and possession limits; annual limits.

Increase the possession limit of sockeye salmon for Basket Bay from 15 to 30 sockeye salmon.

Modify sockeye possession limits for Basket Bay as follows;

(h)(1)(A)(i) Basket Bay: the possession limit is 30 sockeye salmon, with an annual limit of 30 sockeye salmon;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The remoteness of the area combined with high fuel prices and rough weather in Northern Chatham Strait make it difficult for subsistence harvesters to access Basket Bay. Low possession limits force users to make multiple trips to meet their subsistence sockeye harvesting needs. Increasing the possession limit from 15 to 30 sockeye allows subsistence users of the Hoonah, Tenakee, and Angoon communities opportunity to harvest their limit in fewer trips, without increasing overall harvest of the Basket Bay stock.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Hoonah Indian Association - Environmental Department in coordination with staff from the USDA Forest Service, Juneau Ranger District

PROPOSED BY: Hoonah Indian Association

(EF-F24-010)

Southeast Sport Salmon and Trout

PROPOSAL 138

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area

Prohibit snagging in the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge, as follows:

Solution: Within the boundaries of the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge, snagging is prohibited. Fish caught elsewhere than the mouth (snagged) must be released immediately. The use non tradition gear including lead weighted and/or lead wrapped treble hooks is prohibited. Regional freshwater regulations apply, except bait is legal year-round.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Problem: A portion of the chinook and silver salmon returning to the McCauley fish hatchery enter the Gastineau Channel/Mendenhall Refuge from the northeast end and use the high tide cycle to cross the Refuge to return to the hatchery. During the low tide cycle, the waters within the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge drain and flow like a stream or river. During the low portion of the tide, the salmon tend to concentrate in pools just the same as if they are in a stream or river. This creates a superb shore-based sport angling opportunity for people using traditional sport fishing and flyfishing gear. Anglers using non-traditional methods (snagging) often disrespect and interfere with anglers using traditional means creating an unpleasant and unsporting fishing atmosphere.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I brought it up to the Juneau Advisory Committee for discussion and endorsement which passed for endorsement. I've submitted a refined version which I will bring up at the fall committee meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Cole

(HQ-F24-111)

PROPOSAL 139

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Prohibit snagging within Don D. Statter harbor, as follows:

For the safety of our patrons, I ask that the board consider prohibiting snagging on and around CBJ Docks and Harbors property within Statter Harbor. Please see proposal below:

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(d) In the Juneau vicinity: in the waters that are adjacent to the Juneau City and Borough road system to a distance one-quarter mile offshore:

(1) rainbow and cutthroat trout, in combination, must be no less than 14 inches and no greater than 22 inches in length;

(2) the bag and possession limit for Dolly Varden is two fish;

(3) in the waters of Auke Bay, east of a line from Waydelich (Wadleigh) Creek to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one-quarter mile south of the mouth of Auke Creek,

(A) sport fishing for sockeye salmon is closed;

(B) Dolly Varden may be taken only from June 1 - March 31;

(C) snagging or attempting to snag is prohibited within a 200-yard radius seaward of ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 200 feet downstream of the Auke Creek weir; a fish hooked anywhere other than the mouth must be released immediately back into the water;

(D) snagging or attempting to snag is prohibited on the docks, launch ramps, shoreline property, and on the water within Don D. Statter Harbor;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations allow snagging in Auke Bay except for a small area around Auke Creek. In 2021 Juneau Docks and Harbors extended the Statter Harbor floats to accommodate whale watching vessels and tourism in Auke Bay into an area commonly used by locals for snagging King salmon in a terminal fishery. Fisherman casting heavy snagging hooks from the shore towards the docks has created a safety concern for CBJ Harbors, patrons, vessels, and the 220,000 tourists who used the area in 2023. There have been several incidents where a vessel or person has been hit by a snagging hook since the construction of these docks. We have posted "no snagging" signs in the area, but the practice continues because we have no way to enforce the rule. We in no way want to prohibit fishing in general in the area, just the method of snagging.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I did not

PROPOSED BY: CBJ Docks and Harbors

(EF-F24-007)

PROPOSAL 140

5 AAC 47.XXX. New section

Sport fishing may only be conducted with a single barbless circle hook between April 1 and June 14, as follows:

Sport Fishing : For ALL areas outside hatchery THA zones - 1 (one) Circle-Barbless-Hook per line, between April 1st through June 14th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To immediately STOP the use of traditional "open-tip", "straight-shank", or "J" style hooks for ALL Sport Fishing between the dates of April 1st through June 14th. Instead, the use of 1 (one) "Circle-Barbless-hook" per line should be required between April 1st through June 14th for insuring the CRUCIAL survival of our Chinook Stocks of Concern. The damaging, unsafe, detrimental, and injurious, effects to Chinook Salmon in ALL "Catch and Release" practices of Sport Fishing continues to devastate Chinook within our Stocks of Concern. This new law will greatly reduce the HIGH accidental death

numbers amongst Southeast Transboundary Chinook Stocks of Concern. This new law will NOT stop Catch and Release "Photo Op" Sport Fishing, it will only EHANCE the SAFTEY of Catch and Release Sport Fishing practices in ALL Southeast Transboundary areas between April 1st through June 14th.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. This proposal was discussed amongst resident sport fishers in Ketchikan, AK. It has been agreed that this proposal will greatly help solve the accidental death brought upon our Transboundary Chinook Stocks, particularly during the "Clover Pass" catch and release fishery in Ketchikan, Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Cody Cowan (EF-F24-056)

PROPOSAL 141

5 AAC 47.XXX. New section.

Prohibit the use of bait in sport fisheries between April 1 through June 14, as follows:

Sport Fishing: Baited hooks are NOT permitted outside hatchery THA Zones between April 1st through June 14th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The use of "baited" hooks should Not be permitted for Salmon targeted Sport Fishing between the dates of April 1st through June 14th. The use of baited hooks during ALL catch and release Sport Fisheries cause catastrophic harm to Chinook. Salmon "swallow" baited hooks deeper, causing severe damage to their organs, greatly lessening their chance for survival. In order to help achieve the best survival rate for ALL Stocks of Concern, we must STOP the use of baited hooks during ALL catch and release Sport Fisheries "outside of hatchery THA zones" between April 1st through June 14th.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. This proposal was discussed and agreed on by resident sport fishers in Ketchikan, Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Cody Cowan (EF-F24-057)

PROPOSAL 142

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Open Ketchikan Creek to sport fishing year-round and establish bag and possession limits for king salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023(i)(6) is amended to read:

...

(6) in Ketchikan Creek, excluding City Park Ponds,

(A) only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

(B) sport fishing is allowed **year round** [ONLY FROM SEPTEMBER 15 - MAY 31];

- (C) the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon,
 - (i) 16 inches or greater in length, is two fish in combination;
 - (ii) less than 16 inches in length, is 10 fish in combination;
- (D) repealed 7/1/2015;
- (E) **the bag and possession limit for king salmon is,**
 - (i) two fish any size;**
 - (ii) a king salmon taken by a nonresident will not count toward the nonresident annual limit as established by 5 AAC 47.055;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A seasonal sport fishing closure from June – September has been in regulation since 1986 to allow for broodstock collection that previously occurred at Deer Mountain Hatchery (DMH). In 2013, the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) assumed ownership of the hatchery. King salmon are produced at DMH, though broodstock collection for SSRAA’s king salmon program occurs at Whitman Lake Hatchery. This regulation change would eliminate the need for the department to issue an annual emergency order to open the creek to sport fishing and set limits for king salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-176)

PROPOSAL 143

5 AAC 47.022. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Increase the bag and possession limit for trout in Southeast Alaska, as follows:

Change the general provisions for seasons and bag possession, annual and size limits for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska area.

Rainbow and cutthroat trout, in combination, bag and possession limit of 4 fish; no annual limit. Must be no less than 11 inches and no greater than 22 inches in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The cutthroat trout/rainbow trout (trout) of Prince of Wales Island (PoW) are not targeted species. There are many lightly fished/unfished watersheds on PoW that hold large numbers of these species and in some drainages, they are causing significant predation to the Sockeye salmon, specifically the Klawock lake drainage. The farmed salmon net pens located in the Klawock Lake attract hungry trout daily when the uneaten fish pellets fall through the net and are eaten by the trout. These large aggressive trout impact the Sockeye and other salmon that spawn in the tributaries and cause significant predation to the salmon eggs, fry and smolt. Many locals have discussed the need to liberalize the bag/size limits not just in the Klawock River/Lake drainage but island wide.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. This proposal was developed in the Klawock AC.

PROPOSED BY: Klawock AC (EF-F24-059)

PROPOSAL 144

5 AAC 47.022 General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Increase harvest opportunity for trout in Southeast Alaska, as follows:

Change the general provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual and size limits for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska area.

Rainbow and cutthroat trout, in combination, bag and possession limit of 4 fish; no annual limit. Must be no less than 11 inches and no greater than 22 inches in length. Min of 11" & Max of 22".

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The cutthroat trout/rainbow trout (trout) of Prince of Wales Is.(PoW) are not targeted species. There are many lightly fished/unfished watersheds on PoW that hold large numbers of these species and in some drainages, they are causing significant predation to different salmon species. Many locals have discussed the need to liberalize the bag/size limits on PoW and Southeast Alaska wide.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The Klawock AC.

PROPOSED BY: Klawock AC

(EF-F24-089)

PROPOSAL 145

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Increase harvest opportunity for trout in Klawock Lake drainage, as follows:

Create a special use freshwater regulation for the Klawock Lake drainage on Prince of Wales Island.

Klawock Lake:

Only unbaited, artificial lures or flies may be used year round. The use of bait is prohibited. Rainbow and cutthroat trout, in combination, bag and possession limit of 4 fish; no annual limit. Must be more than 11 inches and no greater than 22 inches in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The cutthroat trout/rainbow trout (trout) of Prince of Wales Island (PoW) are not targeted species. There are many lightly fished/unfished watersheds on PoW that hold large numbers of these species and in some drainages, they are causing significant predation to the Sockeye salmon, specifically the Klawock Lake drainage. The farmed salmon net pens located in the Klawock Lake attract hungry trout daily when the uneaten fish pellets fall through the net and are eaten by the trout. The trout also ram the net and knock the coho fry out of the net and eat them. These large aggressive trout impact the Sockeye and other salmon that spawn in the tributaries and cause significant predation to the salmon eggs and juvenile salmon. Many locals have discussed the need to liberalize the bag/size limits in the Klawock Lake drainage for food security reasons as well as reducing the predation on the coveted Sockeye salmon.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The Klawock AC.

PROPOSED BY: Klawock AC

(EF-F24-088)

PROPOSAL 146

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Increase the bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout in 108 Creek drainage, as follows:

Change the current special use freshwater regulation for 108 Creek drainage on Prince of Wales Island.

108 Creek Drainage-Including Twin Island Lake and Cavern Lake.

Only unbaited, artificial lures or flies may be used year round. The use of bait is prohibited. Steelhead: catch and release fishing only, all steelhead caught must be released immediately. Rainbow and cutthroat trout, in combination, bag and possession limit of 4 fish; no annual limit. Must be less than 11 inches and no greater than 22 inches in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would include the entire 108 Creek system including Twin Island Lake and Cavern Lake at the headwaters. Cutthroat trout/rainbow trout (trout) are present year round and abundant in this drainage. They are smaller fish, mostly under 15 inches in length. Increasing the harvest level in this lightly used fishery would be beneficial to locals and other anglers. Trout fishing is a great way to introduce young/new anglers to fishing and is a good opportunity for families to get out and spend time outdoors. Increasing the bag limit helps food security, offsets the rising cost of fuel/groceries and is easier to justify spending the day fishing.

Currently, there is a freshwater special regulation for the 108 Creek steelhead run. This would add a line for trout and its new bag limit. It would also clarify/include the Twin Island and Cavern Lakes into the system since 107 Creek runs through those lakes.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The residents of Whale Pass in conjunction with the East PoW AC developed this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: East POW AC

(EF-F24-032)

PROPOSAL 147

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Increase the bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout and prohibit the use of bait in Neck Lake, as follows:

Create a special use freshwater regulation for the Neck Lake drainage on Prince of Wales Island.

Only unbaited, artificial lures or flies may be used year round. The use of bait is prohibited. Rainbow and cutthroat trout, in combination, bag and possession limit of 4 fish; no annual limit. Must be less than 11 inches and no greater than 22 inches in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would include the entire Neck Lake system and its tributaries on Prince of Wales Island. Cutthroat trout/rainbow trout (trout) are present year round and abundant in this drainage. They are smaller fish, mostly under 15 inches in length. Increasing the harvest level in this lightly used fishery would be beneficial to locals and other anglers. Trout fishing is a great way to introduce young/new anglers to fishing and is a good opportunity for families to get out and spend time outdoors. Increasing the bag limit helps food security, offsets the rising cost of fuel/groceries and is easier to justify spending the day fishing.

This would create a new special use freshwater regulation since it currently falls under the general freshwater regs.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The residents of Whale Pass in conjunction with the East PoW AC developed this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: East POW AC (EF-F24-033)

PROPOSAL 148

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Modify Eagle Lake cutthroat trout bag and possession and size limit, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023(h)(6) is amended to read:

...

(h) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity:

(6) **repealed** / / [IN EAGLE LAKE,

(A) ONLY UNBAITED, ARTIFICIAL LURES MAY BE USED;

(B) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR CUTTHROAT TROUT IS ONE FISH, WHICH MUST BE 25 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eagle Lake is currently identified as a trophy lake for cutthroat trout and has a bag and possession limit of one fish, which must be 25 inches or greater in length. In 2023, the department assessed the cutthroat trout population in Eagle Lake and found an abundant population although after sampling more than 1,100 individual fish, no cutthroat over 25 inches was found. The current regulations are unnecessarily conservative and additional harvest opportunity could be provided. By rescinding this special provision, the regional bag and possession limit of two fish (rainbow and cutthroat trout in combination) and 11 inch minimum and 22 inch maximum size limit will now apply in Eagle Lake. These management provisions are consistent with 5 AAC 75.220 *Statewide management standards for wild trout*.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-178)

PROPOSAL 149

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area

Prohibit the use of bait and establish a catch-and-release fishery with single barbless hooks in Petersen Creek, as follows:

Year-round catch and release, single-barbless hook, artificial lure regulations for trout on Petersen Creek will help protect genetic diversity necessary to rebuild steelhead stocks in this popular road system fishery.

We considered catch and release regulations for rainbow trout alone, but this adds a layer of regulatory complexity, and requires anglers to be able to quickly differentiate between cutthroat and rainbow trout.

We also considered total catch and release regulations for Petersen Creek, as coho fishing has also been closed by emergency order in recent years, but the dolly varden and pink salmon numbers do not warrant a move to such a move.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The popular Juneau road-system steelhead fishery on Petersen Creek has been closed by Emergency Order each season since 2019. As an ADFG index stream, we have reliable data on run size; recent snorkel surveys have shown that run sizes are depressed below long-term averages. As the April 1, 2024 Emergency Order (No. 1-SH-E-06-24) notes:

"overall production of steelhead in Peterson Creek has declined in recent years. For the last 9 years (2015–2023), snorkel survey index counts conducted each spring have been below the 1997–2014 average of 28 fish (equivalent to 116 fish), when steelhead abundance in the creek appeared to be relatively stable. In 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 the snorkel survey counts were 6, 3, 11, 24, 18, and 27 fish, respectively. Continued low escapements require this closure to conserve the Peterson Creek steelhead stock."

There are only a handful of opportunities for steelhead anglers on the Juneau Road system, so revitalizing this run is of high importance. Studies across the range of steelhead and rainbow trout have shown contribution of resident rainbows to steelhead population genetics (McPhee et al). State agencies across the Pacific Northwest have begun to reconcile the management strategy of rainbow trout to reflect the importance of resident rainbow trout in steelhead recovery (Marshall, NMFS). Limiting the Peterson Creek fishery to year-round catch and release, single barbless hook and an artificial lure regulations will provide recreational opportunity with minimal impact on the resident rainbow population which could be critical for the continued recovery of its steelhead component. In other words, conservative regulations will ensure that rainbow trout populations remain robust to bolster steelhead production, while also protecting smolt and rearing juvenile steelhead.

References:

NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service). 2019. ESA Recovery Plan for the Puget Sound Steelhead Distinct Population Segment (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). National Marine Fisheries Service. Seattle, WA.

Marshall, A.R., Small, M., Foley, S., 2006. Genetic relationships among anadromous and resident *Oncorhynchus mykiss* in Cedar River, Washington: Implications for steelhead recovery planning, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, WA. Final report to Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee and Seattle Public Utilities.

McPhee, M.V., Utter, F., Stanford, J.A., Kuzishchin, K.V., Savvaitova, K.A., Pavlov, D.S., Allendorf, F.W. 2007. Population structure and partial anadromy in *Oncorhynchus mykiss* from

Kamchatka: relevance for conservation strategies around the Pacific Rim. Ecology of Freshwater Fish 16, 539-547.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was approved and vetted by the Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee at our April 8, 2024 meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee (EF-F24-110)

Yakutat Area

PROPOSAL 150

5 AAC 01.660. Fishing season and periods.

Change the weekly subsistence fishing periods in the Yakutat Area from 6:00 a.m. to 12:01 a.m. start time and 6:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. end time.

5 AAC 01.660

Subsistence and Personal Use Salmon Fishing Permit Conditions in Yakutat, AK

Unless extended by emergency order, from the beginning of the commercial salmon set net season through the end of the commercial salmon net season, the weekly subsistence fishing period is from 12:01 am Friday to 11:59 pm Saturday.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the Subsistence and Personal Use Salmon Fishing Permit Conditions for the Yakutat area allow fishing from 6am Friday to 6pm Saturday, beginning with commercial salmon net openers through the end of the commercial salmon net season. During public comment sessions held in Yakutat, tribal members and residents expressed they do not have enough fishing opportunity to harvest adequate fish for the year with the current subsistence openings. We propose extending these times to allow fishing from 12:01am Friday to 11:59pm Saturday. The Situk River has over escaped sockeye ten of the last fifteen years, and providing more opportunity for subsistence fishing should be priority over other fisheries to manage for this over escapement.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was written by the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (YTT) Fisheries Committee and approved by the YTT Tribal Council. The Yakutat Advisory Committee has not reached quorum to hold meetings.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (EF-F24-084)

PROPOSAL 151

5 AAC 47.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

and 5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Modify the nonresident annual limit for king salmon in the freshwaters of the Yakutat management area and the Situk River, as follows:

5 AAC 47.022(c)(1)(C) is amended to read:

...

[THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH, BY EMERGENCY ORDER,] the nonresident annual limit **is two** [FOR] **king salmon, 20** [28] inches or greater in length, [AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 47.055] **and does not count toward the nonresident annual harvest limit established under 5 AAC 47.055**; a harvest record is required for a nonresident as specified in 5 AAC 75.006;

5 AAC 47.023(b)(6)(A) is amended to read:

...

repealed / / ; [A KING SALMON 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH TAKEN BY A NONRESIDENT WILL NOT COUNT TOWARD THAT NONRESIDENT'S ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT ESTABLISHED UNDER 5 AAC 47.055;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The nonresident annual limit for king salmon in the fresh waters of the Yakutat Area currently mirrors those established by the provisions of 5 AAC 47.055 *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* which directs the management of Southeast Alaska king salmon sport fishery in marine waters. Under this management plan, nonresident annual limits are established according to the allocation of king salmon to the sport fishery under the terms of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and may not be appropriate management measures for king salmon runs in the Yakutat Area freshwaters. The freshwater harvest of king salmon in the Yakutat Area occurring on non-transboundary rivers is not subject to the terms of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Establishing a nonresident annual limit of two king salmon, 20 inches or greater, provides a consistent management regime while continuing to limit the harvest potential for nonresident anglers on these relatively small king salmon systems. This would not impact the department's ability to use emergency order authority to restrict the sport fishery for conservation purposes.

This would remove the special provision for the Situk River which currently directs the department not to apply the nonresident annual limit established under 5 AAC 47.055 to the Situk River. Due to the small run size and large proportion of nonresident anglers on the Situk River, applying a nonresident annual limit allows for a controlled harvest opportunity. This would apply the nonresident annual limit of 2 king salmon over 20 inches to the Situk River unless otherwise called for under 5 AAC 30.365 *Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Management Plan*.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-173)

PROPOSAL 152

5 AAC 30.365. Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Amend the *Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* to reflect recent management strategies, as follows:

5 AAC 30.365 is amended to read:

(a) The purpose of the management plan in this section is to provide for the biological escapement goal requirements of spawning king salmon to the Situk-Ahrnklin River systems. This

management plan provides guidelines to the department in an effort to preclude allocation conflicts between the various user groups of the king salmon resource. Action points and associated ranges within the plan are intended to be based on the current king salmon escapement goal ranges for the Situk River system.

(b) The biological escapement goal for the Situk River king salmon is 730 three ocean age and older fish, with a range of 450 - 1,050 fish.

(c) The department shall manage the commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries as follows:

(1) **until at least 450 three ocean age or older king salmon have passed the Situk River weir located approximately 2 miles upstream of the mouth** [IF THE PROJECTED ESCAPEMENT IS LESS THAN 350 THREE OCEAN AGE AND OLDER FISH, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL CLOSE, BY EMERGENCY ORDER,] the king salmon **fisheries are to be managed as follows:**

(A) **the sport fishery for king salmon in the Situk River shall be closed;**

(B) **retention of king salmon in the** subsistence, personal use, and commercial set gillnet fisheries in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River **shall be prohibited;** and

(C) **the** commercial troll fishery **shall be closed** in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the [SEAWARD LIMIT OF THE] three-nautical-mile **limit of the** territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59° 30.49' N. lat., 139° 46.58' W. long. [(OCEAN CAPE)] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 28.44' N. lat., 139° 51.68' W. long.** [59° 28.65' N. lat., 139° 51.17' W. long.] and on the south by a line extending seaward from **59° 21.07' N. lat., 139° 19.73' W. long.,** [59° 20.30' N. LAT., 139° 16.50' W. LONG.] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 19.08' N. lat., 139° 24.98' W. long.** [59° 18.25' N. lat., 139° 21.94' W. LONG.];

(D) **weekly fishing periods in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River set gillnet fisheries may be restricted;**

(2) **when at least 450 three ocean age or older king salmon have passed the Situk River weir located approximately 2 miles upstream of the mouth** [IF THE PROJECTED ESCAPEMENT IS 350 - 450 THREE OCEAN AGE OR OLDER FISH THE COMMISSIONER] **the king salmon fisheries are to be managed as follows:**

(A) **the subsistence fishery will have priority over sport and commercial fisheries and may open for retention of king salmon prior to the sport and commercial fisheries;**[SHALL, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, CLOSE THE SPORT FISHERY FOR KING SALMON IN THE SITUK RIVER; AND]

(B) **retention of king salmon in the commercial set gillnet fisheries in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River may be allowed;** [MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES:]

(i) **repealed / /** [ESTABLISH A NONRETENTION KING SALMON SEASON IN THE SITUK-AHRNKLIN INLET AND LOST RIVER SET GILLNET FISHERIES;]

(C)[(II) CLOSE] the commercial salmon troll fishery **may open** in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the [SEAWARD LIMIT OF THE] three-nautical-mile **limit of the** territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59° 30.49' N. lat., 139° 46.58' W. long. [(OCEAN CAPE)] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 28.44' N. lat., 139° 51.68' W. long.** [59° 28.65' N. lat., 139° 51.17' W. long.] and on the south by a line extending seaward from **59° 21.07' N. lat., 139° 19.73' W. long.** [59° 20.30'

N. LAT., 139° 16.50' W. LONG.] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at 59° 19.08' N. lat., 139° 24.98' W. long. [59° 18.25' N. LAT., 139° 21.94' W. LONG.; **and**

(iii) **repealed** / / RESTRICT THE WEEKLY FISHING PERIODS IN THE SITUK-AHRNKLIN INLET AND LOST RIVER SET GILLNET FISHERIES]; **and**

(D) the sport fishery for king salmon in the Situk River may open downstream of the weir located at approximately river mile 2;

(3) when at least 730 three ocean or older king salmon have passed the Situk River weir located approximately 2 miles upstream of the mouth the king salmon fisheries are to be managed as follows: [IF THE PROJECTED ESCAPEMENT IS 451 - 730 THREE OCEAN AGE OR OLDER FISH], the commissioner shall, [BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES]:

(A) **allow retention of king salmon in the subsistence fishery;** [ESTABLISH A NONRETENTION KING SALMON SEASON IN THE SITUK-AHRNKLIN INLET AND LOST RIVER SET GILLNET FISHERIES:]

(B) the commercial salmon troll fishery **will open** in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the [SEAWARD LIMIT OF THE] three-nautical-mile **limit of the** territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59° 30.49' N. lat., 139° 46.58' W. long. [(OCEAN CAPE)] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at 59° 28.44' N. lat., 139° 51.68' W. long. [59° 28.65' N. lat., 139° 51.17' W. long.] and on the south by a line extending seaward from 59° 21.07' N. lat., 139° 19.73' W. long. [59° 20.30' N. LAT., 139° 16.50' W. LONG.] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at 59° 19.08' N. lat., 139° 24.98' W. long. [59° 18.25' N. LAT., 139° 21.94' W. LONG.;

(C) **manage the commercial set gillnet fisheries in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River based solely on the sockeye salmon run strength, while allowing for the retention of king salmon; and** [RESTRICT THE WEEKLY FISHING PERIODS IN THE SITUK-AHRNKLIN INLET AND LOST RIVER SET GILLNET FISHERIES; AND]

(D) **open the sport fishery for king salmon in the Situk River in the section of river located downstream of the weir located at approximately river mile 2;** RESTRICT THE SPORT HARVEST OF KING SALMON IN THE SITUK RIVER BY IMPLEMENTING ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

(I) CLOSE PORTIONS OF THE SITUK RIVER TO SPORT FISHING FOR KING SALMON;

(II) ESTABLISH A CATCH AND RELEASE SPORT FISHERY ONLY FOR KING SALMON 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH];

(4) **repealed** / / [IF THE PROJECTED ESCAPEMENT IS GREATER THAN 730 THREE OCEAN AGE AND OLDER FISH BUT LESS THAN 1,050 FISH, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL,

(A) MANAGE THE COMMERCIAL SET GILLNET FISHERIES IN THE SITUK-AHRNKLIN INLET AND LOST RIVER BASED ON THE SOCKEYE SALMON RUN STRENGTH;

(B) MANAGE THE COMMERCIAL SALMON TROLL FISHERY AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 29.100 IN THE WATERS OF ALASKA BOUNDED ON THE WEST BY THE SEAWARD LIMIT OF THE THREE-NAUTICAL-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND ON THE NORTH BY A LINE EXTENDING SEAWARD FROM 59° 30.49' N. LAT., 139° 46.58' W. LONG. (OCEAN CAPE) AND INTERSECTING THE THREE-NAUTICAL-

MILE LIMIT AT 59° 28.65' N. LAT., 139° 51.17' W. LONG. AND ON THE SOUTH BY A LINE EXTENDING SEAWARD FROM 59° 20.30' N. LAT., 139° 16.50' W. LONG. AND INTERSECTING THE THREE-NAUTICAL-MILE LIMIT AT 59° 18.25' N. LAT., 139° 21.94' W. LONG.];

(5) [IF THE PROJECTED ESCAPEMENT IS GREATER THAN 1,050 THREE OCEAN AGE AND OLDER FISH] when 1,050 three ocean or older king salmon have passed the Situk River weir located approximately 2 miles upstream of the mouth, the department shall manage the commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries as necessary to harvest large king salmon in excess of the biological escapement goal range; to achieve this goal the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement one or more of the following management measures:

(A) liberalize seasons, areas, and method and means in the Situk River under 5 AAC 75.003(2)(A);

(B) increase the sport fish bag, [AND] possession, and/or annual limits for king salmon 20 [28] inches or greater in length [TO THREE FISH PER DAY AND SIX IN POSSESSION WITH NO ANNUAL LIMIT];

(C) repealed 7/13/2012;

(D) manage the commercial set gillnet fisheries in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River based on the sockeye salmon run strength;

(E) in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River set gillnet fisheries, allow the use of one additional gillnet that is no more than 20 fathoms in length and no more than 45 meshes in depth, with a mesh size of no less than seven and one-half inches, for the directed taking of king salmon during periods when sockeye salmon may or may not be retained.

5 AAC 47.023 (b)(6)(A) is amended to read:

(A) sport fishing for king salmon is closed unless specified by 5 AAC 30.365 [A KING SALMON 28 inches or GREATER IN LENGTH TAKEN BY A NONRESIDENT WILL NOT COUNT TOWARD THAT NONRESIDENT'S ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT ESTABLISHED UNDER 5 AAC 47.055];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This would revise the *Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* by establishing management actions based on the number of king salmon that pass the Situk River weir rather than the projected escapement. In recent years, the department has been more conservative in the early season than the management plan calls for, given the period of low productivity observed for king salmon across Southeast Alaska. This has included being more conservative in the management of the subsistence and commercial gillnet fisheries and using emergency order authority to proactively close the sport fishery for king salmon to ensure the biological escapement goal is met. This would more closely align the management plan with the management actions the department has implemented in recent years. The Situk River king salmon run is relatively small in numbers and fish often pass the weir in pulses. This can create a highly variable projected escapement as the basis of management actions. Basing management actions on the number of king salmon that pass the weir is a more reliable management approach that will better align harvest opportunity with abundance of king salmon returning to the Situk.

This would also update the southern boundary of the Situk River troll fishery closure area to provide consistency with 2018 BOF action taken on 5 AAC 29.100, which addressed a change in

the location of the terminus of the river mouth. Due to an oversight, similar changes to 5 AAC 30.365 were not addressed at that time. The proposed change to 5 AAC 30.365 is consistent with annual changes made by the department under emergency order authority and also includes updates for the location of coordinates along the three-nautical-mile limit line.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-174)

PROPOSAL 153

5 AAC 30.365. Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Close a portion of the Situk River to sport fishing until the escapement goal for king salmon is met, as follows:

Section 5 AAC 47.023 –Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

In the Situk River – within 50 yards of the 9-Mile Bridge on Forest Highway 10, sport fishing is closed June 1 – August 15 unless the upper end of the escapement goal of 1050 is met for chinook.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Chinook salmon in the Situk River have struggled to reach minimum escapement since 2008, with eight of the past sixteen years being below minimum. To address conservation concerns, we propose closing a popular chinook holding hole, which consequently receives high sport fishing pressure. 9-mile Bridge is an easy vehicle access fishing site that receives high fishing pressure and chinook interactions. We considered closing this location year-round, but we prefer the least restrictive action to focus this effort on chinook conservation.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was written by the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (YTT) Fisheries Committee and approved by the YTT Tribal Council. The Yakutat Advisory Committee has not reached quorum to hold meetings.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (EF-F24-083)

PROPOSAL 154

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Close sport fishing in a portion of the Situk River between April 15 and May 15, as follows:

Section 5 AAC 47.023 –Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(B) from ADF&G regulatory markers located at the West Fork of the Situk confluence to ADF&G regulatory markers located at the outlet of Situk Lake, sport fishing is allowed only from May 16 - April 14

Alternative option:

From ADF&G regulatory markers located at the top end of the island 1.5 miles above 9-Mile Bridge to ADF&G regulatory markers located at the outlet of Situk Lake, sport fishing is allowed only from May 16 - April 14

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Steelhead in the Situk River have experienced poor returns in the last three years. To address this conservation concern, we propose expanding closures to alleviate fishing pressure on spawning grounds. Education and signage bringing awareness to redds has not been a successful tool on the Situk River. Although steelhead spawn throughout the Situk River, above 9-Mile Bridge receives heavy foot traffic that often hike in river, which impacts redds. We propose expanding the current steelhead closure downstream to the West Fork of the Situk, specifically at 59.590685, -139.492510 and to the outlet of Situk Lake, at 59.631606, -139.410053.

Alternative option: Close at 59.597200, -139.479092 to the outlet of Situk Lake at 59.631606, -139.410053.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was written by the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (YTT) Fisheries Committee and approved by the YTT Tribal Council. The Yakutat Advisory Committee has not reached quorum to meet.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Tlingit Tribe

(EF-F24-085)

PROPOSAL 155

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Increase the sport fish bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in the fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023(b)(8) is amended to read:

...

[IN THE LOST RIVER AND AHRNKLIN RIVER AND ALL DRAINAGES FLOWING INTO OR BETWEEN THE LOST RIVER AND AHRNKLIN RIVER, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS FOR SOCKEYE SALMON IS A BAG LIMIT OF THREE FISH AND A POSSESSION LIMIT OF SIX FISH.] **repealed** / / ;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2009, the Board of Fisheries reduced the bag and possession limit of sockeye salmon in fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary from six per day, twelve in possession, to three per day, six in possession. In the 15 years since 2009, the Situk River has exceeded the upper end of its escapement goal (30,000 – 70,000) in 10 of those years. In 9 of the 10 years the escapement goal was exceeded, emergency order authority was used to increase the bag and possession limit to six fish per day, twelve in possession on an average date of July 11 when approximately 54% of the run has passed the Situk River weir. Increasing the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary would aid the department in managing the sockeye salmon to within levels of the escapement goal range of 30,000 – 70,000 by starting the season at a higher harvest rate.

ENHANCEMENT AND TERMINAL HARVEST AREAS (9

proposals)

PROPOSAL 156

5 AAC 33.364 Southeastern Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan.

Reduce Southeast Alaska hatchery permitted pink and chum salmon egg take level by 25%, as follows:

The solution is very simple. Reduce the permitted egg take of pink and chum salmon of each applicable Southeast hatchery for pink and chum salmon by 25%.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 25% reduction of current permitting levels of pink and chum hatchery egg takes in the applicable Southeast hatcheries.

There is significant evidence that there is an ocean carrying capacity that is exacerbated by the proliferation of Alaskan and Asian hatchery releases into the North Pacific. This is particularly important to Chinook salmon as stocks have declined dramatically all over Alaska. Chinook decline is so critical that the Yukon River may lose discrete stocks. An emergency Agreement between Canada and Alaska was signed April 1, 2024, to impose a drastic Chinook harvest moratorium of at least seven years. Sadly, the situation with Chinook on the Yukon River is now becoming a statewide problem; the Nushagak, the Kenai and many other Alaskan rivers have conservation plans in action because of declines. Emergency Orders to close Chinook sports fishing entirely in many of Alaska's most iconic river systems have already been implemented. While hatcheries are not the only factor in salmon decline, they are among the top five, including climate change, bycatch, intercept, disease, hatcheries.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries has limited authority to provide injunctive relief on this issue but to the extent that they can reduce hatchery egg take permitting levels, this is the only venue open to public proposals.

For several years, different groups have been submitting proposals for hatchery egg take reduction. All those proposals have been refused on the basis of lack of conclusive evidence that there is a correlative relationship to detrimental impacts of hatchery production in wild stocks through competition for forage food and straying.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, which directs information to the Board of Fish, has been consistently reluctant to consider peer-reviewed research outside of the Department and to even evaluate their own internal research that indicates hatchery production can have an effect on the health of wild salmon stocks. The "iterative" process that the Department assures the public is watchdogging hatcheries is an inter-dependent process with hatcheries and therefore is not seen as sufficiently separated from hatchery production to apply significant oversight. This is an extraordinarily frustrating situation to many who depend on wild salmon stocks and are outside of the hatchery management systems.

CONCLUSIONS: The goal of Alaska's PNP hatchery system is economic, not conservation. In a 2011 international report *Shifting the Balance: Towards Sustainable Salmon Populations and Fisheries of the Future*, renowned Canadian scientists Dr. Richard Beamish and Dr. Donald Noakes noted: "While Alaska's large ocean-ranching program may have contributed to the observed increase in catch, there remain many unanswered questions about potential negative impacts on wild fish and deleterious effects on other Alaskan salmon fisheries (Hilborn and Eggers 2000; Clark et al. 2006; Knapp et al. 2007). As with most if not all large-scale hatchery programs, there is a lack of information to critically evaluate the program either with respect to its stated production objectives or other criteria (i.e., ecosystem interactions, etc.), and more research is clearly needed in that respect."

In addition to on-going research on hatchery impacts, we also need an independent venue to review all the latest peer-reviewed science and to have an on-going dialogue on application of what we can have consensus on. The Board of Fish Hatchery Committee would be a good start as long as it is not an orchestrated situation. Prior to the next Southeast Board of Fish meeting, I will be working with many others to gather many supporting documents.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Reduction of hatchery egg take (and thus releases) has long been the goal of the Fairbanks Advisory Committee as it has researched the negative impacts of hatcheries for years. This includes conversations with some of the top salmon scientists in Alaska, Canada and the Pacific Northwest, as well as conversations with stakeholders in AYK river systems.

PROPOSED BY: Virgil Umphenour (HQ-F24-131)

PROPOSAL 157

5 AAC 33.3XX. New Section.

Establish a terminal harvest area and associated management plan for harvesting hatchery produced salmon at Burnett Inlet.

5AAC 33.3XX. New Section

Create a management plan for hatchery returns to Burnett Inlet, as follows:

5AAC 33.3XX. Burnett Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

- (a) **This management plan distributes the harvest of hatchery produced chum salmon in the Burnett Inlet Terminal Harvest Area (THA) between the purse seine, troll and drift gillnet fleets.**
- (b) **The department, in consultation with the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA), shall manage the Burnett Inlet Terminal Harvest Area from June 01 through November 10 for troll, purse seine and drift gillnet gear to provide for the harvest of hatchery- produced chum salmon, unless closed earlier by emergency order.**
- (c) **The Burnett Inlet THA, consists of water of Burnett Inlet north of 56.04.65' N. lat.**

- (d) A drift gillnet operated in the THA may not exceed 200 fathoms in length**
(1) The maximum mesh size is six inches.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) is a non-profit regional salmon enhancement association headquartered in Ketchikan, Alaska. SSRAA owns and operates the Burnett Inlet Hatchery (BIH), situated on Etolin Island. BIH is a broodstock collection site for summer and fall chum, which are also released at BIH. The adult chums return to BIH through numerous common property fishery corridors, notably in Districts 6 and 8, and enter Burnett Inlet in mid to late June. These chum are well segregated from natural stocks when they are in the terminal area with the exception of pink salmon in Navy Creek. Although SSRAA typically takes all chum salmon returning to Burnett Inlet for broodstock and cost recovery, there are years when there are chum salmon in excess to broodstock and cost recovery needs. Establishing a THA in regulation for this situation allows for common property fisheries to harvest excess fish.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The proposal was reviewed and edited by the ADF&G SE Salmon/Herring Fisheries Management Coordinator and Regional Area Management Biologist.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA)(HQ-F24-044)

PROPOSAL 158

5 AAC 33.374 District 12: Hidden Falls Hatchery Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan. and 5 AAC 40.042. Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association Special Harves Areas.

Modify boundaries of the Hidden Falls terminal harvest area (THA) for chum, king and coho salmon and the Hidden Falls special harvest area (SHA) for chum and king salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 33.374(a) is amended to read:

(a) The Hidden Falls Terminal Harvest Area for chum, king, and coho salmon consists of the waters of District 12 [WITHIN TWO NAUTICAL MILES OF THE BARANOF ISLAND SHORELINE] south of the latitude of South Point at 57° 16.28' N. lat., north of 57° 06.76[83]' N. lat., and west of a line from a point offshore at 57° 16.28' N. lat., 134° 48.00' W. long., to a point offshore at 57° 06.76' N. lat., 134° 43.00' W. long., excluding the waters of Kelp Bay.

5 AAC 40.042(a)(5)(A) is amended to read:

(A) for chum and king salmon: the waters of District 12 [WITHIN TWO NAUTICAL MILES OF THE BARANOF ISLAND SHORELINE] south of the latitude of South Point at 57° 16.28' N. lat., north of 57° 06.76[83]' N. lat., and west of a line from a point offshore at 57° 16.28' N. lat., 134° 48.00' W. long., to a point offshore at 57° 06.76' N. lat., 134° 43.00' W. long., excluding the waters of Kelp Bay, will be open for harvest by the hatchery permit holder from 12:01 a.m. June 1 until 11:59 p.m. August 15;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This seeks to modify the boundaries of the Hidden Falls THA and SHA currently in regulation to be the same as what is currently implemented annually through emergency order. The overall area of the THA/SHA would not significantly change.

PROPOSAL 159

5 AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan

Modify the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

- (a) This management plan distributes the harvest of Crystal Lake Hatchery king and coho salmon returns to the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows in Section 6-A south of 56°46' N. lat. and north and east of the northern tip of Woewodski Island at 56° 36' N. lat., 132° 59' W. long. and the fresh waters of Blind Slough upstream [OF A LINE BETWEEN BLIND POINT AND ANCHOR POINT] among fisheries while protecting hatchery broodstock.
- (b) **Creates a Blind Slough sport area between a line between Blind Point and Anchor Point upstream to a line at 132°53'28"W 56°37'58"N to 132°53'38"W 56°37'58"N**
- (c) **Creates a closed area in the freshwater upstream from a line 132°53'28"W 56°37'58"N to 132°53'38"W 56°37'58"N upstream to a line 132°49'24"W 56°36'52"N to 132°49'24"W 56°36'49"N from June 1 – July 15.**
- (d) The harvest of Crystal Lake Hatchery king salmon in the terminal harvest area will be distributed between the sport and commercial fisheries as follows when the projected adult return of king salmon to the terminal harvest is
 - (1) below 1,000 fish, sport and commercial salmon fisheries in the terminal harvest area will be closed **to king salmon fishing** from June 1st through July 31st;
 - (2) At least 1,000, but less than 2,000 fish, the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows to sport fishing for king salmon with a **resident** daily bag and possession limit of **one** king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] **any** length, **and a nonresidents daily bag and possession limit one king salmon any length** from June 1 through July 15 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be closed. **Blind Slough sport fishery will be open to residents only, with a daily bag and possession limit of one king salmon any length from June 1 to July 15;**
 - (3) at least 2,000 but less than **3,000** fish the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows to sport fishing for king salmon, with a **resident** daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] **any** length and a nonresidents daily bag and possession limit **one** king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] **any**

length from June 1 through July 15 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be closed. **Blind Slough sport fishery will be open with a resident daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon any length and a nonresident daily bag and possession limit of one king salmon any length from June 1 to July 15;**

(4) **at least 3,000 but less than 4,000 fish the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows to sport fishing for king salmon, with a resident daily bag and possession limit of three king salmon any length. Nonresidents daily bag and possession limit two king salmon any length from June 1 through July 31 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be closed. Blind Slough sport fishery will be open with a resident daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon any length and a nonresident daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon any length from June 1 to July 15;**

(5) more than 4,000 fish the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal harvest area to sport fishing for king salmon, **with a resident daily bag and possession limit of four king salmon and a nonresidents daily bag and possession limit three king salmon any length** from [DURING WHICH TIME A DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT MAY BE MORE THAN TWO KING SALMON 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND MORE THAN TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] June 1 through July 31 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be open to harvest 50% of the projected return over 4,000 fish. **Blind Slough sport fishery will be open with a resident daily bag and possession limit of four king salmon any length and a nonresident daily bag and possession limit of three king salmon any length from June 1 to July 15.**

(e) **Regional Alaska Fish & Game managers shall have authority to close fishing during periods of drought and warm water conditions to reduce stress on king salmon holding in the slough prior to reaching the hatchery. Daily closure authority will also be allowed for the hatchery to collect broodstock in the lower Blind Slough**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) is proposing amendments to the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough king salmon management plan. The goal of these amendments is to:

- ensure the full collection of broodstock for the hatchery, which has not been met in 10 of the last 20 years under this plan.
- distribute harvest opportunities across multiple user groups, while recognizing that this fishery is a critical resource to local Alaskan residents and provides economic benefits to the community.

The previous plan written in 1997 is in desperate need of updating to the current times. Several new factors have emerged in recent years that are jeopardizing the full collection of broodstock and disproportionately affecting certain user groups over others. These factors include:

- an increase in nonresident users. Fishing lodges and boat rentals have increased significantly and nonresident anglers greatly outnumber residents fishing this resource.
- the current plan allows the same nonresident take in lower fish return years while eliminating the freshwater Blind Slough fishing area. This puts the burden on local Alaskan residents that do not have access to a boat, especially the youth, elderly, and less advantaged.
- warmer weather patterns and warming waters of the Blind Slough. Summertime water temperatures are at the top extent for king salmon survival causing die off events before the adults can return to the hatchery.

Amendments to the plan include:

- Closing a portion of the Blind Slough area (the portion of Blind slough above the Forest Service boardwalk “lagoon” to the hatchery). This area should be considered a refuge for king salmon to spawn. The vast majority of legally caught kings are below the “lagoon” where king salmon rest in deeper pools and can escape with the changing tides. Above the lagoon they are exposed and more susceptible to the stresses of warm water. Fishing in these areas where fish hold and wait for desirable water conditions causes stress on king salmon staging their way up to the hatchery.
- removing size restrictions and shortening the length of the season. Implementing this is intended to reduce the number of kings caught and released, which will reduce stress, mortality, and increase egg quality.
- Shortening the season in fresh water to reduce pressure on king salmon when they are most vulnerable.
- Reducing the overall bag and possession limits while allowing for residents an opportunity to harvest king salmon where the current management plan does not allow.

Note: This amendment is not intended to prohibit opportunities for disabled individuals to fish for king salmon where the Blind Slough Rapids trail accesses fresh water at the point 132°53'29"W 56°37'57"N.

Note: These amendments work in conjunction with amendments to 5AAC 47.023 to ensure the protection of broodstock to the Crystal Lake Hatchery

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, SSRAA worked with members of the Petersburg Advisory Committee to develop this plan. The provisions in 5AAC 47.023 were not known prior to the AC meeting, and a proposal had not been developed to address this new information, so the Petersburg proposal extended the open time period in order to not revert to the provisions in 5AAC 47.023. SSRAA only supports the July 15 dates in this proposal if amendments to 5AAC 47.023 are also adopted by the BOF.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA)(HQ-F24-122)

PROPOSAL 160

5 AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Modify the *Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

5 AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

- (e) This management plan distributes the harvest of Crystal Lake Hatchery king and coho salmon returns to the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows in Section 6-A south of 56°46' N. lat. and north and east of the northern tip of Woewodski Island at 56° 36' N. lat., 132° 59' W. long. and the fresh waters of Blind Slough upstream [OF A LINE BETWEEN BLIND POINT AND ANCHOR POINT] among fisheries while protecting hatchery broodstock.
- (f) **Creates a Blind Slough sport area between a line between Blind Point and Anchor Point upstream to a line at 132°53'28"W 56°37'58"N to 132°53'38"W 56°37'58"N**
- (g) **Creates a closed area in the freshwater upstream from a line 132°53'28"W 56°37'58"N to 132°53'38"W 56°37'58"N upstream to a line 132°49'24"W 56°36'52"N to 132°49'24"W 56°36'49"N from June 1 – August 15.**
- (h) The harvest of Crystal Lake Hatchery king salmon in the terminal harvest area will be distributed between the sport and commercial fisheries as follows when the projected adult return of king salmon to the terminal harvest is
 - (2) below 1,000 fish, sport and commercial salmon fisheries in the terminal harvest area will be closed **to king salmon fishing** from June 1st through [July 31st] **August 15th**;
 - (2) At least 1,000, but less than 2,000 fish, the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows to sport fishing for king salmon with a **resident** daily bag and possession limit of **one** king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] **any** length, **and a nonresidents daily bag and possession limit one king salmon any length** from June 1 through July 31 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be closed. **Blind Slough sport fishery will be open to residents only, with a daily bag and possession limit of one king salmon any length from June 1 to August 15;**
 - (3) at least 2,000 but less than **3,000** fish the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows to sport fishing for king salmon, with a **resident** daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] **any** length and a nonresidents daily bag and possession limit **one** king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] **any** length from June 1 through July 31 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be closed **Blind Slough sport fishery will be open with a resident daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon any length and a nonresident daily bag and possession limit of one king salmon any length from June 1 to August 15;**

(4) at least 3,000 but less than 4,000 fish the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows to sport fishing for king salmon, with a resident daily bag and possession limit of three king salmon any length. Nonresidents daily bag and possession limit two king salmon any length from June 1 through July 31 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be closed. Blind Slough sport fishery will be open with a resident daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon any length and a nonresident daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon any length;

(5) more than 4,000 fish the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal harvest area to sport fishing for king salmon, with a resident daily bag and possession limit of four king salmon and a nonresidents daily bag and possession limit three king salmon any length from [DURING WHICH TIME A DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT MAY BE MORE THAN TWO KING SALMON 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND MORE THAN TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] June 1 through July 31 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be open to harvest 50% of the projected return over 4,000 fish. Blind Slough sport fishery will be open with a resident daily bag and possession limit of four king salmon any length and a nonresident daily bag and possession limit of three king salmon any length;

(e) Regional Alaska Fish & Game managers shall have authority to close fishing during periods of drought and warm water conditions to reduce stress on king salmon holding in the slough prior to reaching the hatchery. Daily closure authority will also be allowed for the hatchery to collect broodstock in the lower Blind Slough.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Petersburg Advisory Committee is proposing amendments to the Wrangell Narrows- Blind Slough king salmon management plan. The goal of these amendments is to:

- ensure the full collection of broodstock for the hatchery,
- distribute harvest opportunities across multiple user groups, while recognizing that this fishery is a critical resource to local Alaskan residents and provides economic benefits to the community.

The previous plan written in 1997 is in desperate need of updating to the current times. Several new factors have emerged in recent years that are jeopardizing the full collection of broodstock and disproportionally effecting certain user groups over others. These factors include:

- an increase in nonresident users. Fishing lodges and boat rentals have increased significantly and nonresident anglers greatly outnumber residents fishing this resource.
- the current plan allows the same nonresident take in lower fish return years while eliminating the freshwater Blind Slough fishing area. This puts the burden on local Alaskan residents that do not have access to a boat, especially the youth, elderly, and less advantaged.
- warmer weather patterns and warming waters of the Blind Slough. Summertime water temperatures are at the top extent for king salmon survival causing die off events before the adults can return to the hatchery.

Amendments to the plan include:

- Closing a portion of the Blind Slough area (the portion of Blind slough above the Forest Service boardwalk “lagoon” to the hatchery). This area should be considered a refuge for king salmon prior to spawning. The vast majority of legally caught kings are below the “lagoon” where king salmon rest in deeper pools and can escape with the changing tides. Above the lagoon they are exposed and more susceptible to the stresses of warm water. Fishing in these areas where fish hold and wait for desirable water conditions causes stress on king salmon staging their way up to the hatchery.
- removing size restrictions and shortening the length of the season. Implementing this is intended to reduce the number of kings caught and released, which will reduce unnecessary stress.
- Reducing the overall bag and possession limits while allowing for residents an opportunity to harvest king salmon where the current management plan does not allow.

Note: This amendment is not intended to prohibit opportunities for disabled individuals to fish for king salmon where the Blind Slough Rapids trail accesses fresh water at the point 132°53'29"W 56°37'57"N

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Petersburg AC in coordination with members of the public, SSRAA and ADFG department staff.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-080)

PROPOSAL 161

5 AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Reduce the sport fish bag limit for king salmon in the Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area, as follows:

I would like to recommend lowering the possession & daily limit of King Salmon in Blind Slough Terminal harvest area.

- 1) Resident daily limit is 2 fish over 28” and 2 fish under 28” for a total season of 6 fish in possession.
- 2) Non-resident daily limit is 1 fish over 28” and 1 fish under 28” for a total of 3 fish for the season in possession.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Blind Slough terminal harvest area, Petersburg, AK area. Retention of King Salmon.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Only from my personal household.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Dreisbach, Charlene Dreisbach

(HQ-F24-133)

PROPOSAL 162

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means, for fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Reduce king salmon sport fish bag limits outside of the time when the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Management Plan is in effect, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 47.023

(h) (1) (C) king salmon may be taken from January 1- **May 31** [December 31]; bag and possession limits, as follows:

- (i) [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH,] bag and possession limit of two fish
- (ii) [LESS THAN 28 INCHES IN LENGTH, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF TWO FISH;]

(D) a king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH] harvested by a nonresident counts toward the annual harvest limit established under 5AAC 47.055

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The ability to take 4 king salmon in the Blind Slough area after July 31st each year has contributed to Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture (SSRAA) not obtaining the necessary broodstock for all its programs in 10 of the last 20 years. Additionally, having a bag limit of (2) fish over 28 inches and (2) under 28 inches creates a catch and release scenario which is detrimental to egg viability and survival of especially female salmon. Recent returns to the hatchery have been disproportionately males.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. SSRAA worked with the Petersburg Advisory Committee to amend 5AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan. It was during their meeting to adopt a proposal for submission that we were advised of this special provisions regulation that would revert into effect as soon as the THA management plan ended. The Petersburg AC had not advertised for this to be on the agenda, and as a result, they had to amend the desired closure dates we had agreed upon as the only course of action they could take by the proposal deadline

PROPOSED BY: Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA)(HQ-F24-121)

PROPOSAL 163

5 AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Nonresident annual limits for king salmon will apply in the Blind Slough terminal harvest area, as follows:

King salmon caught in the Blind Slough THA should be counted towards a non-residents annual bag limit. The new regulation shall read:

5ACC 33.381

(b)

(5) King salmon harvested in the Bind Slough THA shall count towards a non-residents annual King salmon bag limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Crystal Lake Hatchery is repeatedly failing to meet its King Salmon Broodstock goals in recent years. This has coincided with the massive growth in the non-resident unguided sport fish industry. There are now four fishing lodges at the mouth of Blind Slough with over 50 unguided skiffs for non-residents. Current regulations allow non-residents to keep an unlimited amount of King salmon during their stay as the Blind slough THA is excluded from annual bag limit regulations. This is a finite resource that has become over exploited. This has resulted in fishery closures and less fish available for resident sport fishermen and broodstock collection.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I discussed this proposal with several of my local AC members and they encouraged me to submit it.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Kittams

(EF-F24-082)

PROPOSAL 164

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Modify king salmon bag and possession limits in the terminal harvest area near Juneau, as follows:

Make the non-resident king salmon limit in the Terminal Harvest Area effectively half of the resident limit.

"When the resident king salmon daily limit in the Juneau THA greater than 2, the non-resident daily limit shall be 2. When the resident king salmon daily limit in the Juneau THA is 2, the non-resident daily limit shall be 1. When the resident king salmon daily limit in the Juneau THA less than 2, the non-resident daily limit shall be 0."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Non-resident king salmon limits in the Juneau Terminal Harvest Areas. King Salmon resources across Alaska continue to face severe shortages with restricted harvest opportunities for Alaska residents. The visitor industry continues to experience significant growth, which increases non-resident impact on king salmon resources. Hatchery kings are the only viable harvest opportunity for many Juneau residents and applying bag limits equally to non-residents while also exempting non-resident annual harvest limits puts residents at a distinct disadvantage.

Non-residents hire professional guides who have the best equipment and fish every day to develop heightened knowledge of fish movement and feeding, so the chances of limiting out are higher. There are a limited number of hatchery kings returning each year and Alaska residents should have the primary opportunity to harvest them. If the charter fleet in the Juneau area were to invest in creating a significantly increased hatchery king salmon harvest opportunity, that could justify a more favorable allocation for them and their non-resident clients.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Submitted via Territorial Sportsmen Inc

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsmen Inc

(EF-F24-103)

COMMERCIAL SALMON (6 proposals)

PROPOSAL 165

5 AAC 33.310. Fishing seasons and periods.

Change the start time of weekly drift gillnet fishing periods from Sunday to Monday.

SE gillnet weeks would start on Monday.

my understanding is....our fishery managers can set start & end times already? Encouraging them to start mornings would be beneficial.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change start day & time of SE weekly gillnet openings to Mondays between 6-8 am. (Time to be determined by fishery managers)

Why....it would reduce dramatically the conflicts with recreational boaters & sport fishermen. (Running nets over) Would also benefit permit holders to have more time with they're families & be on abit more regular schedule with work/ school schedules. (this was done successfully with king salmon gillnet opening in the past)

Opening in the mornings, would not waste days like noon openings do. The seine fishery does this. The halibut fishery just switched to 6am from noon, for the same reason. Not wasting a day.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This has been talk amongst permit holders for years. I think the majority of permit holders want this. I've talked extensively with the fisheries managers in my area. They have had nothing negative to say about this proposal. In fact agree that Mondays would have less conflict with recreational users.

PROPOSED BY: Robert T. Mosher

(EF-F24-044)

PROPOSAL 166

5 ACC 33.331. Gillnet specifications and operation.

Allow for drift gillnets to be up to 90 meshes deep in District 11 beginning statistical week 34.

b) In the Southeastern Alaska Area, a drift gillnet may not be more than 60 meshes in depth, except that there is no maximum depth restriction for a gillnet operated for king salmon cost recover by a private nonprofit haatchery operator or under contract to a regional aquaculture association in a special harvest area described in 5 ACC 40.081

(1) in district 11, beginning statistical week 34, at the departments discretion, by emergnecy order, a drift gill net may not be more than 90 meshes in depth.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The United States has shown an inability to harvest their allowable catch afforded them by the Pacific Salmon Commission Treaty Annex for coho on the Taku River. The current tools only allow increased time and area, which is useful, but use of these tools has not increased catches significantly, as coho tend to travel

deeper in the water column. Having deeper nets may increase stakeholders ability to harvest these valuable fish. Adoption of this proposal will give the department a valuable tool for harvesting the United States gillnet allowable catch of PSC treaty coho in times of high abundance.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (EF-F24-060)

PROPOSAL 167

5 AAC 33.332. Seine specifications and operations.

Increase the legal length of purse seine by 50 fathoms.

No purse seine may be less than 150 meshes or more than 450 meshes in depth, or less than 150 fathoms or more than 300 [250] fathoms in length, hung measure.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the legal length of a seine net from a legal length of no less than 150 fathoms and no more than 250 fathoms in length, hung measure, to no less than 150 fathoms and no more than 300 fathoms in length, hung measure. This would allow fishermen, if they choose, to add an additional 50 fathoms of length to their nets, increasing fishing efficiency for those vessels. We have seen a slow decline in participation of the Southeast Alaska purse seine fishery and with less nets in the water, we believe that it is justifiable to allow for the remaining fishermen to use larger nets, if they choose, to increase their personal efficiency.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-064)

PROPOSAL 168

5 AAC 33.398. Use of aircraft unlawful. .

Modify regulations to make it unlawful to use aircraft for locating salmon during any open commercial purse seine fishing period.

5 AAC 33.398 (b) during an open commercial purse seine fishing period, [FOR AN AREA OTHER THAN A TERMINAL HARVEST AREA,] a person may not use an aircraft to locate salmon for the commercial taking of salmon or to direct commercial salmon fishing operations one hour before, during, and one hour after an open commercial purse seine fishing period.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Make the use of aircraft spotting/directing illegal, during all active fishing periods, in the Southeast Alaska salmon purse seine fishery. Currently, unmanned aircraft are illegal in all areas of SEAK for the use of fish spotting and manned aircraft are illegal in all areas except for hatchery THAs. This creates a loophole where a plane that was flying and legally spotting at a THA, could fly back to town to refuel or grab parts, but on the way, spot for vessels that are fishing in non-THA areas. This is

currently unenforceable and allows for gray area within the regulations. The use of aircraft for spotting fish during all commercial purse seine fishing periods should not be allowed.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-060)

PROPOSAL 169

5 AAC 29.120. Gear specifications and operations.

Allow use of two fishing rods used in conjunction with a down rigger or hand troll gurdy to be used during the spring and summer troll fisheries.

The regulations should state: “An aggregated of two rods with fishing lines extending from the rods and connected to two downriggers or hand troll gurdies using a quick release devise designated to release line from the downrigger line, that maybe used spring, summer, and winter during scheduled commercial troll openings.”

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow two rods with downriggers or two hand gurdies with quick release for hand trolling.

I own a home in Yakutat and it makes no sense that this method can only be used during the winter months.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No, I am a 70 year resident of Southeast Alaska and have commercial fished most of my life.

PROPOSED BY: Max Mielke (HQ-F24-053)

PROPOSAL 170

5 AAC 30.350. Closed Waters.

Add waters closed to commercial fishing in Sudden Stream and Malaspina Lake, as follows:

5 AAC 30.350 is amended to read:

(13) waters of Sudden Stream including all waters of Malaspina Lake upstream of a line from 59° 48.26' N. lat., 139° 59.35' W. long. to 59° 48.33' N. lat., 139° 59.24' W. long.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, there are no closed waters in Sudden Stream to prevent commercial fishing at sockeye and coho salmon spawning grounds. Closing this area to commercial fishing will help ensure successful spawning and the sustainability of the stock.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-154)

HERRING (20 proposals)

Sitka Herring

PROPOSAL 171

5 AAC 27.160. Quotas and guideline harvest levels for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Modify spawning biomass threshold minimum and maximum harvest rates for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B, as follows:

5 AAC 27.160(g) is amended to read:

(g) The guideline harvest level for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B shall be established by the department and will be a harvest rate [PERCENTAGE] that is not less than 10[12] percent, not more than 15[20] percent, and within that range shall be determined by the following formula:

$$[\text{Harvest Rate Percentage} = 2 + 8 \left(\frac{\text{Spawning Biomass (in tons)}}{20,000} \right)]$$

$$\text{Harvest Rate} = (0.000002 * \text{Forecast}) + 0.048$$

The fishery will not be conducted if the spawning biomass is less than 26,000[25,000] tons.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The department completed an analysis to update the estimated unfished spawning biomass for Sitka Sound herring, upon which the threshold is based, using data through 2022. Based on recent research, and as a precaution recognizing that a harvest rate strategy evaluation has not been completed for Sitka Sound herring, the department proposes a threshold based on 30% of unfished spawning biomass (26,000 tons) and a sliding scale harvest rate of 10-15% (15% maximum at 51,000 tons).

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-152)

PROPOSAL 172

5 AAC 27.190. Herring Management Plan for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Reduce upper end of sliding scale harvest rate for Southeast Alaska commercial herring fisheries from 20 to 15 percent, as follows:

5 AAC 27.190(4) is amended to read:

(4) except as provided elsewhere, may allow a harvest of herring at an exploitation rate between 10 percent and 15[20] percent of the estimated spawning biomass when that biomass is above the minimum threshold level;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Based on recent research, and as a precaution recognizing that harvest rate strategy evaluations have not been completed for Southeast Alaska herring stocks, the department recommends a sliding scale harvest rate of 10 to 15 percent (15 percent maximum).

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-153)

PROPOSAL 173

5 AAC 27.160. Quotas and guideline harvest levels for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Eliminate provisions to establish a guideline harvest level for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe herring fishery under 27.160.

To accomplish this, we recommend revision of 5 AAC 27.160 as follows:

Under the authority of 16.05.251(a)(2.6) and 16.05.258(b)(3) and consistent with 5 AAC 01.716 (a)(11)(D)(ii) herring aggregating nearshore in preparation for spawning and spawning herring should be considered fully-utilized for subsistence purposes.

[.(G) THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL FOR THE HERRING SAC ROE FISHERY IN SECTIONS 13-A AND 13-B SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND WILL BE A HARVEST RATE PERCENTAGE THAT IS NOT LESS THAN 12 PERCENT, NOT MORE THAN 20 PERCENT, AND WITHIN THAT RANGE SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE FOLLOWING FORMULA:

HARVEST RATE PERCENTAGE = $2 + 8 \text{ [SPAWNING BIOMASS (IN TONS)]} / 20,000$)

THE FISHERY WILL NOT BE CONDUCTED IF THE SPAWNING BIOMASS IS LESS THAN 25,000 TONS.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sitka Sound is home to the largest spawning population of Pacific herring in Southeast Alaska and is a critical site for the subsistence harvest of herring roe on hemlock branches and kelp. Herring are also valuable to the Southeast Alaska marine ecosystem as a food source for salmon, halibut, whales, sea lions, birds, and other species; these dependent species are also economically important through direct exploitation or ecosystem benefits including eco-tourism. Successful herring spawning in Sitka is necessary to maintain the health of all fisheries in Sitka Sound and Southeast Alaska more broadly; successful and undisturbed herring spawning in Sitka is necessary to ensure a consistent (i.e. met every year) reasonable opportunity for subsistence of herring roe.

The commercial sac roe fishery in Sitka disrupts spawning patterns and interferes with traditional corridors affecting subsistence harvest. Lingít people have managed a herring/roe fishery in Sitka Sound since time immemorial. It is part of the Lingít way of life and is vital to our culture and traditions. The seine fishery interferes with this many-thousand-year-old subsistence fishery and way of life. A living subsistence fishery of ancient provenance and based on reciprocity and deep knowledge and respect for life must take priority over the perpetuation of sac roe fishing. This is also in alignment with the Department's mandate to prioritize subsistence needs.

Under the authority of 16.05.251(a)(2.6), pre-spawn and spawning herring should be designated as subsistence fish and utilized only for subsistence purposes. The traditional subsistence harvest of roe on hemlock branches and kelp, historically practiced in communities across Southeast Alaska, relies on minimal disturbance to pre-spawn and spawning herring. That condition cannot be met by a seine fishery targeting the oldest, most fecund roe-bearing herring in the days immediately preceding the subsistence harvest.

Alaska waters will be more alive with wild abundance for the benefit of all by leaving spawning aggregations undisturbed by commercial pressure.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. We developed the proposal in consultation with a small group of harvesters and elders and informed by prior conversation with many others.

This proposal was informed by the establishment of the Herring Revitalization Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Herring Protectors

(EF-F24-170)

PROPOSAL 174

5 AAC 27.160. Quotas and guideline harvest levels for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Establish a maximum guideline harvest level and minimum spawning biomass to conduct fisheries for the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery.

If the Sitka Sound sac roe fishery is to exist, it must be at a much lower intensity to reduce disturbance to spawning herring. 5AAC 27.160(G) should be revised as follows:

(G) The maximum Guideline Harvest Level for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B (combined) is 5,000 tons. In years where the spawning biomass is less than 100,000 tons, the guideline harvest level is 2,500 tons. The fishery will not be conducted if the spawning biomass is less than 50,000 tons.

[(G) THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL FOR THE HERRING SAC ROE FISHERY IN SECTIONS 13-A AND 13-B SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND WILL BE A HARVEST RATE PERCENTAGE THAT IS NOT LESS THAN 12 PERCENT, NOT MORE THAN 20 PERCENT, AND WITHIN THAT RANGE SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE FOLLOWING FORMULA:

HARVEST RATE PERCENTAGE = $2 + 8 \text{ [SPAWNING BIOMASS (IN TONS)]} / 20,000$

THE FISHERY WILL NOT BE CONDUCTED IF THE SPAWNING BIOMASS IS LESS THAN 25,000 TONS.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Between 1979 and 1995, the average commercial harvest of herring during the sac roe seine fishery in Sitka Sound was 5,490 tons. In the years since, the average commercial harvest has been 11,560 tons. Economic value has declined over this same period as catch has increased.

The doubled average annual catch since that earlier stage of the fishery has involved a commensurate increase in fishing pressure and disruption to spawning herring with known consequences for subsistence harvest success and unquantified consequences for other species and the marine ecosystem.

The Board of Fisheries has received complaints from subsistence users in Sitka in each board cycle since 1997.

Biomass estimates for earlier years in the time series are deflated due to inadequate sampling capabilities. Recognizing that historical biomass exceeded estimates means that the GHF in previous decades was likely much lower than 12-20% of the actual biomass; thus, fishing at 12-20% of today's more accurate biomass estimates results in unprecedented and dangerous pressure on spawning populations.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. We developed the proposal in consultation with a small group of harvesters and elders and informed by prior conversation with many others.

PROPOSED BY: Herring Protectors

(EF-F24-173)

PROPOSAL 175

5 AAC 27.195. Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery.

Establish a 15,000 ton harvest limit for the Sitka Sound sac roe fishery.

5 AAC 27.195. Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery. (a) In managing the commercial sac roe herring fishery in Section 13-B north of the latitude of Aspid Cape (Sitka Sound), the department shall (1) manage the fishery consistent with the applicable provisions of 5 AAC 27.160(g) and 5 AAC 27.190;

ADD THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE:

a) Sitka Herring Fishery will have a 15,000 ton harvest cap

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Sitka commercial seine herring fishery is a "sacroe fishery" because of the historical focused on sac-roe markets. There is a great deal of controversy regarding the herring fishery because it targets a fish that is low on the food chain that feeds a large number of other commercially valuable fish species that are sought after in the Sitka Sound area-- especially king and coho salmon. The fishery is also controversial because it targets the fish when they are breeding and aborts the unlaidd eggmass inside female fish. All herring that are not females at full-term, or have "mature roe," (generally 10% to 15% of the fish are at full-term with mature roe with the rest being not adequate for the sac-roe product), are by-catch which could be up to 90% of the fish caught. These fish are either discarded, ground-up into fish meal, sold to pig farms, or sold to feed fish farm salmon.

This fishery has been tolerated in the community because of the lucrative Japanese market for Sac-Roe Kazunoko. The community could at least feel somewhat good about harvesting spawning herring because we were supplying a higher-end market of a product that had cultural significance in Japan. That market however has been in decline as population ages in Japan and traditions are changing. (It must be noted that herring eggs also have a tremendous cultural significance in Sitka for Alaska Natives and especially the Kiksadi Clan who have traditionally stewarded the Sitka Sound Herring. Only relatively recently has the Alaska ADFG begun to recognize the cultural significance of herring for Alaska Natives).

As markets for herring change, the community is re-evaluating the herring fishery. The Sitka Sound "biomass" is a remnant herring spawning population/area that once happened throughout all of Southeast Alaska. Now there are only a few places with robust herring spawn after impacts of widespread commercial harvesting and herring rendering operations pre-statehood. With an increased understanding of the uniqueness of the spawning population in Sitka Sound, and the need to conserve this species for the health of the rest of the Sitka Sound Marine ecosystem and fisheries-- and the need to bring herring populations back to their historic levels across Southeast Alaska-- the Sitka spawning herring harvest is being questioned by the community of Sitka and a reevaluation is needed.

The core questions that need to be considered are:

- a) Is this fish more valuable left in the ocean than harvested?
- b) If we are not harvesting the fish for a specialized market, should we harvest it at all?
- c) Is it okay to harvest herring in Sitka Sound to be ground up and used for pig feed, fish food for salmon farming operations, fish meal, rendered product, or protein slurry manufacture?
- d) As the Sitka Sound Herring population increases while the sac-roe market decreases, should the GHF still look to harvest 20% of the total population? Or would the reality be that the majority of those fish harvested (even beyond the 90% bycatch of non-full-term-females with mature eggs,

juvenile fish, and all males) will be destined for other markets that may include fish food for fish farms?

This proposal is written because the proposer believes that herring are indeed more valuable left in the ocean to feed populations of marine life and the fisheries higher up the food chain, and that the Sitka Sound population should be left to increase and hopefully spread to other parts of SE Alaska (Hoonah Sound, Peril Strait, South Baranof, West Chichagof, etc.), and that there should be no scenario where these fish that are low on the food chain should not be used as a base commodity to feed pigs or farmed fish.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have consulted many fishermen, AC members, experts in herring, fisheries specialists, culture bearers, Kiksadi leaders, and community members.

I know that there are many people who think that this cap is too high and should be lower and question if we should even have a herring fishery. This cap has only been exceeded three times in the history of the sacroe fishery since 1980. The Sitka AC and BOF can decide if it is too high and should be lowered to 10,000 tons or 5000 tons or make further recommendations on the fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Thoms (EF-F24-108)

PROPOSAL 176

5 AAC 27.160. Quotas and guidelines harvest levels for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Reduce the maximum harvest rate from 20 percent to 10 percent for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery.

We recommend a harvest rate cap of 10%.

(g) The guideline harvest level for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B shall be established by the department and will be a harvest rate percentage that is [NOT LESS THAN 12 PERCENT,] not more than 10 [20] percent.[, AND WITHIN THAT RANGE SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE FOLLOWING FORMULA:

$$\text{HARVEST RATE PERCENTAGE} = 2 + 8 [\text{SPAWNING BIOMASS (IN TONS)}] / 20,000]$$

The fishery will not be conducted if the spawning biomass is less than 25,000 tons

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Herring are a forage fish and keystone species. Alaskan fisheries and tourism businesses rely directly on animals that feed heavily on herring. Pacific herring are critical for the north Pacific ecosystem. For example, gray whales recently experienced an Unusual Mortality Event linked to malnutrition and have been coming to Sitka Sound in increasing numbers in recent years, likely preying heavily on Sitka herring. Marine heat waves have seen disruptions in energy transfer from forage fishes in the Gulf of Alaska to upper trophic levels (von Biela et al. 2019; Arimitsu et al. 2021). Robust forage fish populations are critical to withstand climate change impacts and other ecosystem perturbations. Reducing the maximum allowable harvest rate on herring will help ensure forage fish populations are able to support ecosystem needs.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka Tribe of Alaska

(HQ-F24-040)

PROPOSAL 177

5 AAC 27.160. Quotas and guidelines harvest levels for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Reduce the minimum harvest rate to 10 percent and increase the threshold that allows for a fishery from 25,000 tons to 50,000 tons for the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery.

In 2021, Sitka Tribe of Alaska updated the methodology ADF&G used to develop the harvest control rule (Supplemental Comments to PC329 from 2022 Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting). The proposed harvest control rule below is based on the findings of that report. Please note that the 2021 analysis does not include data from 2021-2023; those data would likely make the average unfished biomass larger and the resultant harvest control rule would be even more conservative.

(g) The guideline harvest level for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B shall be established by the department and will be a harvest rate percentage that is not less than **10** [12] percent, not more than 20 percent, and within that range shall be determined by the following formula:

$$\text{HARVEST RATE PERCENTAGE} = 2 + 8 [\text{SPAWNING BIOMASS (IN TONS)}] / 20,000]$$

Harvest Rate Percentage = 8 + 2 [Spawning Biomass (in tons)] / 50,000

The fishery will not be conducted if the spawning biomass is less than **50,000** [25,000] tons.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The harvest control rule for the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery is based on an outdated analysis of the average unfished biomass (AUB; Carlisle 1998) and should be updated to better reflect nearly thirty years of additional data. Sitka Tribe of Alaska followed the methods of Carlisle (1998) with data through 2020 and found an updated AUB between 109,000 and 136,000 tons. STA suggests using the mid-point of this range (rounded to nearest 5,000 tons) for an updated AUB of 125,000 tons. STA also suggests a threshold of 40%, close to the 37% threshold ADF&G has stated they are using (ADF&G 2021) and equal to the threshold recommended to ensure ecosystem needs for forage fishes are met (Pikitch et al. 2012). Lastly, STA suggests reverting from the aggressive “2+8” harvest control rule used only in Sitka Sound to the more conservative “8+2” rule used by all other Southeast Alaska herring populations, including populations that have not been able to sustain commercial fisheries or subsistence harvests. Please see Sitka Tribe of Alaska’s Supplemental Comments to PC329 from the 2022 Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting for detailed methods and results on the update to the average unfished biomass.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSAL 178**5 AAC 27.150. Waters closed to herring fishing in Southeastern Alaska Area.**

Expand waters closed to commercial sac roe herring fishery to include the majority of waters herring having historically spawned in and the fishery has historically occurred.

To accomplish this, we recommend that section 27.150 be revised as follows:

27.150: Herring may not be taken in (7) District 13 (A), in the waters enclosed by a line extending from a point on the Baranof Island shore at the O'Connell Bridge at 57° 02.87' N. lat., 135° 20.33' W. long., to the northernmost point of Aleutski Island at 57° 02.74' N. lat., 135° 20.46' W. long., to the westernmost point of Makhnati Island at 57° 02.40' N. lat., 135° 23.48' W. long., to Bieli Rocks at 57° 05.42' N. lat., 135° 29.98' W. long., to the northwestern point of Crow Island at 57° 06.96' N. lat., 135° 28.57' W. long., to the westernmost point of Big Gavanski Island at 57° 08.11' N. lat., 135° 26.13' W. long., to the northernmost point of Big Gavanski Island at 57° 08.49' N. lat., 135° 25.21' W. long., to the Baranof Island shore at Harbor Point at 57° 07.59' N. lat., 135° 23.37' W. long. **(B) In the months of February, March, and April, North of the latitude of Goddard Hot Springs, Sitka Sound is designated a herring reserve area for spawning herring.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under the authority of 16.05.251(a)(1), Sitka Sound should be considered a herring reserve area during the months of herring pre-spawning aggregation and spawning.

Sitka Sound is home to the largest spawning population of Pacific herring in Southeast Alaska and is a critical site for the subsistence harvest of herringroe on hemlock branches and kelp. Herring are also valuable to the Southeast Alaska marine ecosystem as a food source for salmon, halibut, whales, sea lions, birds, and other species; these dependent species are also economically important through direct exploitation or ecosystem benefits including eco-tourism. Successful herring spawning in Sitka is necessary to maintain the health of all fisheries in Sitka Sound and Southeast Alaska more broadly; successful and undisturbed herring spawning in Sitka is necessary to ensure a consistent (i.e. met every year) reasonable opportunity for subsistence of herring roe. Commercial herring fisheries that target aggregating pre-spawn and spawning herring exploit the population at their time of greatest population-scale vulnerability and may have broad-reaching and as of yet unquantified negative impacts on the Southeast Alaska marine ecosystem. Locally, commercial herring fisheries that coincide with herring spawning disrupt spawning patterns and interfere with traditional corridors affecting subsistence harvest. . Declaring Sitka Sound a herring reserve area during the months of herring aggregation and spawn will ensure successful undisturbed spawning to maintain healthy fisheries across the region and ensure reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvest.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. We developed the proposal in consultation with a small group of subsistence herring egg harvesters and community elders and were informed by prior conversations with many others.

This proposal was informed by the establishment of the Herring Revitalization Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Herring Protectors

(EF-F24-171)

PROPOSAL 179

5 AAC 27.150. Waters closed to herring fishing in Southeastern Alaska Area.

Expand waters closed the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery to include Promisla Bay.

Add to the conservation area. Point to point 57.09.511 135.29580 to 57.08.470 135.30.478

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Add Promisla Bay in Sitka Sound to the subsistence conservation zone. The bay has been a leading producer of herring spawn on branches and important to harvesters.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Individual AC Members and fellow harvesters.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Johnson

(HQ-F24-051)

PROPOSAL 180

5 AAC 27.110. Fishing seasons for Southeastern Alaska Area districts.

Correct latitude of Aspid Cape for the southern boundary of the Section 13-B purse seine sac roe herring fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 27.110(b)(1)(E) is amended to read:

(E) Section 13-B, north of the latitude of Aspid Cape (56° 41.14[75]' N. lat.), except for Whale and Necker Bays;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current description of Aspid Cape in this regulation is incorrect. This seeks to correct the description of Aspid Cape to the actual location.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-151)

PROPOSAL 181

5 AAC 27.195. Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery.

Establish provisions for conducting test setting in the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery.

The recommended solution is to limit the number of test sets and released sets and require the Department to keep a log of the number and size of released sets during commercial openings. In 2022, the Department used a “three strikes and you’re out” strategy to close the fishery on one occasion but appears to have subsequently moved away from that strategy.

Suggested limits for test fishing below are derived from long-term medians of available test set data (1995-2023) for the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery.

5 AAC 27.195 – Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery

(a) In managing the commercial sac roe herring fishery in section 13-B north of the latitude of Aspid Cape (Sitka Sound), the department shall

(1) manage the fishery consistent with the applicable provisions of 5 AAC 27.160(g) and 5 AAC 27.190;

(2) distribute the commercial harvest by fishing time and area if the department determines that it is necessary to ensure that subsistence users have a reasonable opportunity to harvest the amount of herring spawn necessary for subsistence uses specified in 5 AAC 01.716(b).

(3) allow no more than three test sets per day.

(4) limit the number of test sets over the season to 29 sets or an estimated biomass of no more than 2,600 tons.

(5) test fishing must be conducted via jig sampling until the average mature roe content is at least 10%. If the average mature roe content falls below 10% during subsequent test samples collected via seine or during commercial openings, test fishing must revert to jig sampling until the average mature roe content reaches 10%.

(6) maintain a log of number, size, and location of released sets and allow no more than three released sets in one day during a commercial opening

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The number and magnitude of test sets and released sets prior to Sitka Sound sac roe herring openings has increased in recent years. In 2022, there were 26 test sets totaling an estimated 1,275 tons (roughly 8% of the record-high harvest). In 2023, there were 51 test sets totaling an estimated 6,425 tons (roughly 59% of the harvest). In other words, in 2023, the fleet had to catch and release at least three herring for every five they kept. In 2000, the estimated volume captured and released during test sets exceeded the total harvest! **Currently, the Department does not keep data on sets released during commercial openers, so the values above are minimum estimates of the volume of herring handled and released.** The test sets and released sets can needlessly stress sensitive fish preparing to spawn and cause direct or indirect mortality. Released sets or “slips” can cause high (though variable) direct mortality rates and induce behaviors that are detrimental to the long-term health and well-being of small pelagic fishes (Anders et al. 2019). Unnecessary handling of herring should be minimized.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka Tribe of Alaska

(HQ-F24-043)

PROPOSAL 182

5 AAC 27.XXX. New section.

Establish provisions for a herring sac roe purse seine permit holder participating in the Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery to use open pound instead of purse seine fishing gear.

5 AAC 27.XXX. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in open pound fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B.

(a) In section 13-A south of the latitude of Point Kakul (Saulisbury Sound) and in Section 13-B north of the latitude of Aspid Cape (Sitka Sound), a CFEC permit holder in the G01A fishery may

choose to operate an open pound instead of purse seine gear during the current regulatory year under provisions of this section;

(b) Prior to the open season, permit holders who choose to participate in the spawn on kelp fishery must register with the department by March 1. Permit holders may only fish with one gear type in a given season.

(c) A permit holder may operate up to four open pound structures as specified in 5 AAC 27.130.

(1) only two pound structures per registered permit holder may be fished in the waters described in 5 AAC 27.150(7);

(2) open pound structures located in the waters described in 5 AAC 27.150(7) may only be allowed one line to shore.

(d) The annual GHL for the Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery shall be reduced by dividing the current years GHL by the number of CFEC permits eligible to participate in the G01A fishery, multiplying that total by the number of permit holders registered to fish open pound gear and then subtracting that total from the GHL. The maximum GHL reduction for each registered open pound is 200 tons per registered permit holder.

(e) The maximum allowed harvest of spawn on kelp product is 100,000 pounds in aggregate. Any spawn on kelp product in excess of this limit may be utilized toward another permit holders harvest until the raft of product is empty. Any additional excess spawn on kelp product shall remain in the water.

(f) Spawn on kelp pound structures and other equipment used in a spawn on kelp pound fishery must be marked as follows:

(1) before kelp is added to a pound, a permit holder must plainly and legibly mark the permit holder's first and last name and five digit CFEC permit number in a conspicuous place on the pound; the sign must be vertical, and the markings must be clearly visible and above the surface of the water at all times; the letters and numbers used to identify a pound must be at least six inches high with lines at least one-half inch wide and must contrast with the background; the sign must be left on the pound structure the entire time any part of the pound or pound system is in the water;

(g) A permit holder may place the permit holder's kelp in no more than four pounds. Before kelp is introduced into the spawn on kelp pound, a permit holder must store the kelp in a manner that prevents herring from spawning on the kelp.

(h) A permit holder must be physically present at the permit holder's pound fishing site during operation of the pound. For the purpose of this subsection, "operation of the pound" means:

(1) when an open pound is being moved; and

(2) when kelp product is being collected from the pound.

(i) A permit holder must be physically present when the permit holder's herring spawn on kelp product produced in the pound is being landed.

(j) A permit holder shall completely remove all pounds and associated equipment from the waters by 12 noon June 10 through March 1 of the following year;

(k) An open pound is considered to be fishing once kelp has been attached to the open pound structure and is considered to have stopped fishing once all of the spawn on kelp product has been removed from the open pound structure.

(l) Each permit holder is responsible for all operations of the pound and pound system.

5 AAC 27.130(c)-(d) are amended to read:

5 AAC 27.130. Lawful gear for Southeastern Alaska Area. (a) Herring may be taken during the open season by purse seines and gillnets.

.....

(c) Herring pounds for the taking of spawn on kelp in pounds may be operated only under terms of a permit issued by the commissioner and as provided in 5 AAC 27.185 **and 5 AAC 27.XXX.**

(d) A herring pound for the herring spawn on kelp pound fishery may be a closed pound or open pound and may be operated only as provided in 5 AAC 27.185 **and 5 AAC 27.XXX.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Herring roe product markets are still declining and have been for years. The Sitka sac roe seine fishery once had participation from all permit holders, many more tenders, spotter pilots, and other support skiffs because there was enough value in the fishery to justify the expense. There used to be some money in sac roe. Today, due to continued declining market conditions, there are fewer permit holders participating, far fewer tenders, and no spotter pilots or many additional support skiffs because the economies of the fishery are in such decline. The prices paid today are a far cry from what they were in the heyday...in fact, the price paid this year for the fish was less than 10% of the peak values seen in the mid 1990's. The product form coming from the fishery is only sac roe and the fishery would benefit by encouraging different uses, product forms, and harvest methods to be developed by existing permit holders who have invested in the fishery. I propose allowing existing G01A (Sitka sac roe seine) permit holders to choose between seining sac roe or using the alternative gear of open pounds to harvest roe on kelp. In past years this would have been a good thing for the permit holders who were unable to participate in the fishery due to continued constrained and devalued markets for sac roe. It also would be good for those who participated and wish to gain more value for their efforts beyond the traditional seine fishery. Additionally, there is no mortality associated with open pound roe on kelp fisheries so the value of the resource would be increased while removing less fish from the biomass.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal has been brought before the Board of Fisheries for quite some time now and the current state of herring markets should make it clear that it should be approved. Something needs to be done as status quo has not made any forward progress.

PROPOSED BY: Ryan Kapp

(EF-F24-049)

Herring Spawn on Kelp

PROPOSAL 183

5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-B, 12-A, 13-C, and District 7.

Add the Sitka Sound area in Sections 13-A and B as open area to northern spawn on kelp permit holders and limit pound type to open pounds.

5 AAC 27.195 Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery, add a section (c) to include open pounding in the Sitka area for all Northern Southeast Herring Pond Permit holders.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 27.195 Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery. Northern Southeast Herring pounding has been closed since 2014, this has had a huge economic impact on all permit holders for the Northern Southeast Herring Pounding. Many bought into this fishery for over \$50,000, now the permit is worthless, you can't sell them or use them. This year the quota for Sitka Sac Roe was 80,000 ton, with only 12,000

ton taken. As Sitka is in the Northern Southeast Region, it would make sense to allow open ponding to the Northern Southeast Herring Ponding permit holders.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Northern Southeast permit holders

PROPOSED BY: John Johanson (EF-F24-134)

PROPOSAL 184

5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-B, 12-A, 13-C, and District 7.

Expand open area in Section 3-B for placement spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds.

5 AAC 27.185 (c) Section 3B open pound area. Extended to Miraballes and including Doyle Bay, expanding open area - Point Amargura to Point Providence.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Herring Ponding has been open in Southern Southeast Alaska for over twenty years, this past two years (2022 and 2023) a majority of the groups were NOT able to fill their pens, this has caused a major financial problem for many. The State did observe 20-30 miles of span, the herring just did not go to the areas that they historically have and that are open to commercial fishing.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Several groups have expressed support over expanding fishable areas.

PROPOSED BY: Roseann Demmert and John Johanson (EF-F24-124)

PROPOSAL 185

5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-B, 12-A, 13-C, and District 7..

Expand open area in Section 3-B for spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds, as follows:

Expand the area in the Craig/Klawock herring spawn on kelp fishery open to operation of pounds and taking of herring.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The inability to access the large amount of fish in district 3B during the Craig, Klawock herring spawn on kelp fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, local residents, permit holders, and Ketchikan Commercial Fisheries personnel.

PROPOSED BY: James Quigley (HQ-F24-052)

PROPOSAL 186

5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-8, 12-A, and 13-C, and District 7.

Expand open area in Section 3-B for spawn on kelp pounds and to seining for taking of herring for pounds.

A proposal to open an area south of town:

5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-8, 12-A, and 13-C, and District 7.

(f)

(1) in Section 3-B, in the waters of the Gulf of Esquibel, San Alberto Bay, Shinaku Inlet, and San Christoval Channel south of the latitude of the northernmost tip of St. Phillips Island at 55° 39.31' N. lat., 133° 25.12' W. long., east of a line from the northernmost tip of St. Phillips Island to the northernmost tip of Point Garcia at 55° 33.65' N. lat., 133° 26.47' W. long., and north of a line from Entrance Point to the southernmost tip of Clam Island **and from the southern most tip of Clam Island to southernmost tip of Parida Island at 55° 31.047' N. lat., 133° 14.4190' W. long., to Balandra Island at 55° 27.219' N. lat., 133° 13.149' to Port Bagial Island 55° 27.480' N. lat., 133° 08.5251' W. long., to Point Miraballes at 55° 25.856' N.lat., 133° 05.257' W. long., to Culebrina Island 55° 25.004' N. lat., 133° 04.824' W. long., to southern tip Doyle Bay 55° 24.4151.' N. lat., 133° 03.311' W. long., all waters of Trocadero Bay will be open Bucareli Bay and Ursua Channel will be open East of a line at Providence Point at 55°21.604' N. lat., 133° 16.18,2' W.long., to Amargura Point 55° 27.0U' N. rat., 133° 21.643' W. long.;** in Section 3-B, the following waters are closed to herring spawn-on-kelp pounds and to seining for taking herring for pounds:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue is herring are spawning south of town, and our fishing area is north of town.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Not in coordination. People were talking that this year is when the Board of Fish will be in southeast. Perfect timing for a proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Nik Nebl

(HQ-F24-134)

PROPOSAL 187

5 AAC 27.130. Lawful gear for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Allow the use of large mesh webbing to surround spawn on kelp pound structure to protect structure and spawn on kelp product, as follows:

5 AAC 27.130 (e)(1)(E) **webbing of no less than 7 inches that allows the free movement of herring through the web may be used to surround pound structure for protecting the pound structure and spawn on kelp product.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? After herring are introduced to a closed pound, sea lions can tear holes in the pound webbing releasing herring. In addition they may enter the pound chasing herring and destroying spawn on kelp product. We would like to be

able to surround the pound structure with a larger mesh net to provide additional protection to the pound structure, spawn on kelp product, and retain the herring in the pound until released. An additional net would also prevent sea lions having access inside the pound once the pound net is lowered to release herring

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Derek Thynes

(EF-F24-161)

All Commercial Herring

PROPOSAL 188

5 AAC 27.190. Herring Management Plan for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Limit the number days and limit the number of hours in a day commercial herring activity may occur, require observers for commercial herring fishing, require reporting of bycatch in fishery announcements, and limit the overall commercial harvest of herring in Southeast Alaska to 15,000 tons.

27.190 would be revised with the following additions designed to avoid extreme pressure on herring stocks during commercial fishing activity:

For the management of herring fisheries in the Southeastern Alaska Area, the department:

1. **Shall manage commercial herring fisheries to reduce fishing pressure as follows:**

1. **Commercial herring fishing activity may not occur on a third consecutive day at any time or on more than 7 days in any 30-day period in any management area.**
2. **Herring fishing activity may not take place for more than 8 hours on any given day in any management area.**
3. **All herring fishing activity must be in line of sight of observers monitoring for excessive high-grading, responsible test-setting, or excessive disturbance, corralling, and manipulation of herring schools.**
4. **Total commercial catch of herring in Southeast Alaska shall not exceed 15,000 tons per year.**
5. **Bycatch from herring fisheries must be recorded and reported in fishery announcements.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sustained sac roe seine fishing activity in localized areas causes depletion of aggregating pre-spawn herring in those areas and leads to reduced spawn in adjacent bays and shorelines. This impacts reasonable opportunity for subsistence and has possible long-lasting impacts on herring recruitment in specific areas of Sitka Sound, as herring are known to return to their natal grounds to spawn with high fidelity. Additionally, ADF&G vessel sounding activities on pre-spawning herring in pursuit of higher-value herring schools contribute to large scale-disturbance on spawning grounds from this fishery, including increased reporting of "false spawn" events in fishing-adjacent areas, wherein stressed males release milt in the absence of eggs and therefore fail to reproduce.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. We developed the proposal in consultation with a small group of harvesters and elders and informed by prior conversation with many others.

This proposal was informed by the establishment of the Herring Revitalization Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Herring Protectors

(EF-F24-175)

PROPOSAL 189

5 AAC 27.132. Seine specifications and perations for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Reduce by half the length limit of purse seine net for commercial herring harvest.

To accomplish this, we recommend revising 5 AAC 27.132 as follows:

- (a) A herring purse seine may not be more than 100 [200] fathoms in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Too many herring are being set on during a season. Part of the problem is that the nets deployed by the commercial fishery are massive. A smaller net would allow for more precise fishing and less catch-and-release, and thus lower scale loss, disease, mortality, stress, etc.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. We developed the proposal in consultation with a small group of subsistence herring egg harvesters and community elders and were informed by prior conversations with many others

PROPOSED BY: Herring Protectors

(EF-F24-176)

PROPOSAL 190

5 AAC 27.190. Herring Management Plan for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Provide for co-management of herring fisheries with tribal governments.

27.190 would be revised as follows:

For the management of herring fisheries in the Southeastern Alaska Area, the department:

1. Shall develop a consent-based co-management framework to allow for collaborative management efforts with appropriate local sovereign Tribal Government(s). This co-management framework would be applied to a) determine minimum spawning biomass thresholds below which fishing will not be allowed, b) determine circumstances in which fishing would be allowed, c) determine methodology for other population assessments, including of mortality and of considerations for opening and closing the fishery, and of apt determinants of local herring population health, d) other considerations as appropriate.
2. The appropriate Tribal Government may call for an emergency closure at any time if in-season indications make such closure necessary. Such calls will result in immediate closure lasting no less than 48 hours unless the call is rescinded.

[(1) SHALL IDENTIFY STOCKS OF HERRING ON A SPAWNING AREA BASIS;(2) SHALL ESTABLISH MINIMUM SPAWNING BIOMASS THRESHOLDS BELOW WHICH FISHING WILL NOT BE ALLOWED;(3) SHALL ASSESS THE ABUNDANCE OF MATURE HERRING FOR EACH STOCK BEFORE ALLOWING FISHING TO OCCUR;(4) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED ELSEWHERE, MAY ALLOW A HARVEST OF HERRING AT AN EXPLOITATION RATE BETWEEN 10 PERCENT AND 20 PERCENT OF THE ESTIMATED SPAWNING BIOMASS WHEN THAT BIOMASS IS ABOVE THE MINIMUM THRESHOLD LEVEL;(5) MAY IDENTIFY AND CONSIDER SOURCES OF MORTALITY IN SETTING HARVEST GUIDELINE;(6) BY EMERGENCY ORDER, MAY MODIFY FISHING PERIODS TO MINIMIZE INCIDENTAL MORTALITIES DURING COMMERCIAL FISHERIES.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Management practices by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in the sac roe era have resulted in herring population collapses in multiple areas, only some of which have begun to recover. These collapses were foretold by various individuals and entities who warned the Board of Fisheries of impending collapse in multiple instances. The warnings were not heeded.

Current GHs are unreasonably high, recklessly exceeding the years of highest harvest of the harmful herring reduction fishery era. As one example, in recent years, unprecedentedly high-GH fisheries have resulted in greater spatial and temporal pressure on herring in Sitka Sound than ever before.

ADF&G must evolve the management strategy to a consent-based co-management framework with appropriate local Tribal Government wherever commercial herring fishing is being considered.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. We developed the proposal in consultation with a small group of subsistence herring egg harvesters and community elders and were informed by prior conversations with many others.

This proposal was informed by the establishment of the Herring Revitalization Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Herring Protectors

(EF-F24-169)

COMMERCIAL, SUBSISTENCE, SPORT, PERSONAL USE GROUNDFISH (21 proposals)

General Groundfish

PROPOSAL 191

5 AAC 28.175. Logbooks for the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Amend logbook requirements for vessels fishing for groundfish with pot and longline gear, as follows:

5 AAC 28.175 (b) is amended to read:

(b) A logbook described in (a) of this section

(1) for longline **and pot** gear must include **permit holder name, vessel information, trip target species, port of landing, date left port, date of landing, crew size, bait used, and**

gear specifications. Additionally for each [BY] set, the set target species, the date and time the set was deployed and hauled, the specific location of harvest by latitude and longitude, in degrees and decimal minutes, for start and ending positions, the amount of gear (number of hooks, **skates, or pots**) used, **the amount of gear lost (number of skates or pots lost)**, the depth of each set, the **number or** estimated weight, **in round pounds**, of all target species **retained and released at sea**, [TAKEN,] **the number or** [AN] estimated weight, **in round pounds**, of the bycatch retained or discarded at sea, [AND] the tag number of any tagged fish **captured, if gear is impacted by depredation, the amount of gear (number of skates or pots impacted) must be recorded, and any other information that the commissioner determines necessary** [LANDED]; [FOR THE NORTHERN SOUTHEAST INSIDE SUBDISTRICT AND THE SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST INSIDE SUBDISTRICT SABLEFISH FISHERIES, A LOGBOOK MUST INCLUDE A RECORD OF THE ROUND WEIGHT DELIVERED, THE PURCHASING PROCESSOR, AND DATE OF EACH DELIVERY DURING THAT SEASON IF MULTIPLE LANDINGS HAVE BEEN MADE;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current logbook regulations do not include all the information that is necessary for management and stock assessment. Logbooks provided to fishery participants contain some fields that are not specified in regulation. Also, with the increased use of pots in groundfish fisheries, logbooks need to be specific to fishing gear; to do this the department needs to distribute gear specific logbooks. During inseason management, staff are forced to delay important decisions while waiting for fishers' clarification regarding missing logbook information. This proposal will shorten the amount of time staff spend processing logbook data, increase the accuracy of logbook information, and create consistency of reporting between gear types.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-143)

PROPOSAL 192

5 AAC 77.674 Personal use bottomfish fishery.

Allow pots used in the personal use bottomfish fishery to be longlined.

5 AAC 77.674. Personal use bottomfish fishery

Section (6 - E - ii)

ii) may be longlined

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Single pots are a lot of work for what can be a minimal return. We propose being able to longline pots. The remainder of the current regulations would still apply -- namely the 200 fish limit per boat and the portion reading "may not exceed more than 2 pots per permit holder or eight pots per vessel when four or more permit holders are present." Each pot that is added to a longline potentially removes 1,800' or more of ground line and a buoy from the water, reducing the impacts of lost gear, bycatch, and the chance of marine mammal entanglement.

It is our understanding that the author of the original proposal to allow black cod pots intended for the regulation to allow for longlining -- hence the "2 pots per permit holder or eight pots per vessel when four or more permit holders are present". It doesn't make sense that a personal use vessel

would have eight shots of +1800' of line, but it does make sense that they might have 8 collapsible pots.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This is a joint proposal submitted by Territorial Sportsmen Inc of Juneau and the Juneau-Douglas Advisory Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsmen Inc / Juneau-Douglas Advisory Committee (EF-F24-100)

PROPOSAL 193

5 AAC 28.171. Rockfish possession and landing requirements of Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

In state waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, allow CFEC permit holders fishing for groundfish or halibut with mechanical jig and hand troll gear to use a deepwater release mechanism to return rockfish to the ocean, as follows:

5 AAC 28.171. Rockfish possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area

(a) In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, a CFEC permit holder fishing for groundfish or halibut must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish and thornyhead rockfish caught. Except as provided in (b) of this section, all demersal shelf rockfish in excess of 10 percent, round weight, of all target species on board the vessel must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All rockfish and thornyhead rockfish in excess of allowable bycatch limits shall be reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish and thornyhead rockfish bycatch shall be surrendered to the state. Based on harvest data, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close a fishing season or a bycatch season and immediately reopen a fishing season or a bycatch season during which a different rockfish or thornyhead rockfish bycatch level is allowed.

(1) Except that, in directed Mechanical Jig and Hand Troll fisheries, rockfish may be released using an approved deepwater release mechanism.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently the retention of all rockfish is mandated in all commercial groundfish fisheries. This is due to the high prevalence of barotrauma and subsequent low survival rates in released rockfish. In recent years, the department has done a lot of work with deepwater release mechanisms to improve survivability of released rockfish in the sport fisheries, and those devices are now required for all participants in the saltwater sport fishery. In most commercial fisheries, these deepwater release mechanisms are not feasible, however I believe that in directed jig fisheries they could be incorporated fairly easily. Jig fisheries are not that different then the sport fishery in prosecution and each fish is handled individually and it would be fairly straightforward to have release mechanisms in place on your jigging machines, which you could easily use to release rockfish on your next drop of your gear. Having the option to release rockfish in this manner would have all the same benefits that it does in the sport fishery. The ability to release long-lived but low-value non-pelagic rockfish, rockfish species that the department wanted to protect, or in the case of Prince William Sound all rockfish while jigging for other species; would have clear conservation and management benefits.

I would like to see this put into regulation statewide, but I am aware that might not be possible during this Board cycle. I personally have only fished jig fisheries in Prince William Sound and Lower Cook Inlet waters and will submit equivalent proposals in those areas and Statewide Finfish,

but am submitting this proposal to the Southeast meeting with the hope that it may foster some discussion and be considered. I am aware that jigging in SE Alaska is more likely to be done on a somewhat larger scale and that it is possible that fishermen consider deepwater release to be less feasible than it is in the regions and fisheries that I am more familiar with. It is worth noting that I am not suggesting mandatory release, only that it be a legal option available to fishermen.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Person

(EF-F24-069)

Sablefish

PROPOSAL 194

5 AAC 01.720. Lawful gear and gear specifications; 5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area; and 5 AAC 77.674. Personal use bottomfish fishery.

Reduce the minimum inside diameter of circular escape rings from three and three-fourths inches to three and one-half inches on pots used to take sablefish in the subsistence, commercial, and personal use sablefish fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 01.720 (5) is amended to read:

(5) in the Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict and Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict, a sablefish permit holder's pot gear must have at least two circular escape rings with a minimum inside diameter of three and **one-half** [THREE-FOURTHS] inches installed on opposing vertical or sloping walls and must have individual tunnel eye openings with perimeters of 36 inches or less.

5 AAC 28.130 (f) is amended to read:

(f) In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, pots may not be longlined, except that pots may be longlined in the Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict and Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict sablefish fishery. In a directed fishery for sablefish, pots used to take sablefish must have at least two circular escape rings with a minimum inside diameter of three and **one-half** [THREE-FOURTHS] inches installed on opposing vertical or sloping walls.

5 AAC 77.674 (6)(E)(iii) is amended to read:

(E) a permit holder's pot gear

(iii) must have, for each pot, at least two circular escape rings with a minimum inside diameter of three and **one-half** [THREE-FOURTHS] inches installed on opposing vertical or sloping walls and must have individual tunnel eye openings with perimeters of 36 inches or less.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reducing the escape ring size to three and one-half inches would base the ring size on sablefish maturity information. Estimated length at 50% maturity (L_{50}) of sablefish is 63 cm in the Northern and Southern Southeast Inside Subdistricts. Escape rings of three and one-half inches would continue to minimize catch of immature fish, reduce discard mortality, and maximize catch of larger, more desirable fish. The use of properly sized escape rings results in low catches of immature sablefish while maintaining high catch per unit of effort (CPUE) of mature sablefish. Incorporating an escape ring size of three and one-half inches into subsistence and personal use pot gear would also be consistent with the legal description of

commercial sablefish pot gear, if all three changes are adopted. The proposed gear modification is a slight reduction from changes made during the previous board cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-141)

PROPOSAL 195

5 AAC 28.110 Sablefish fishing seasons for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Change the Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistrict sablefish fishery season opening and closing dates to be concurrent with the federal Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) sablefish fishery season dates.

5 AAC 28.110 (2) in the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict would amended to say, Clarence Strait Black Cod will be opened and closed the same time as the Federal IFQ Black Cod in the ocean.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Would like to see Clarence Strait Black cod season open up as the same time as the Federally operated Black cod in the ocean. This would allow a bigger market for fresh local Black cod to the tourism industry.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: John Johanson (EF-F24-164)

PROPOSAL 196

5 AAC 28.130 Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Reduce the minimum inside diameter of escape rings in commercial sablefish pots to three and three-eighths inches, as follows:

5 AAC 28.130 (f) is amended to read:

(f) In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, pots may not be longlined, except that pots may be longlined in the Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict and Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict sablefish fishery. In a directed fishery for sablefish, pots used to take sablefish must have at least two circular escape rings with a minimum inside diameter of [THREE AND THREE-FOURTHS] **three and three-eighths inches** installed on opposing vertical or sloping walls.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Escape ring size for sablefish pots: The ADFG has conducted escape ring studies aimed at minimizing bycatch of small immature sablefish to reduce discard mortality and maximize catches of larger, more economically desirable fish. From this research, ADFG has identified 3 and ½ inches as biologically optimal. While we prefer a 3 and ½ inch escape ring specification over the existing regulation, from an economic perspective 3 and ½ inches is not small enough. Both the existing regulation and the size proposed by the Department still allow too many sablefish to escape, given the current size composition of the resource and state of the sablefish markets, to maintain the economic viability of the fishery. By way of background: strong year classes from the late 90s are aging out of the population and three (possibly four) historically large year classes now comprise 75% of the sablefish spawning stock biomass (fishery wide). Rapid increases in coastwide sablefish quotas (quadrupled since 2016) based on these large year classes of small fish have collapsed the sablefish market, reducing prices paid to fishermen across all size categories. To maintain the economic

viability of the fishery, fishermen want to retain some sablefish smaller than will remain in a pot with a 3 ½ or 3 and 3/4 inch escape rings. Since current regulations allow hook and line fishermen to release or retain sablefish at the surface without specifying a release or retention length, it seems rational and equitable to allow pot fishermen to also self-identify the appropriate release size via escape ring specifications. ALFA and SEAFA request consideration by the Board of the smaller escape ring size while the population is composed of small fish and market conditions are weak.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes-- The proposal was requested by a group of fishermen who participate in the State waters sablefish fishery and discussed with representatives from other Southeast AK fishermen organizations. After considerable vetting and discussion with ADFG, ALFA and SEAFA decided to submit the proposal and we will discuss the proposal with local ACs at upcoming meetings.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association and Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (EF-F24-062)

PROPOSAL 197

5 AAC 01.714. Limitations on participation in subsistence finfish fisheries; 5 AAC 28.180. Prohibitions for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area; and 5 AAC 77.674. Personal use bottomfish fishery.

Clarify and amend existing regulations regarding subsistence, personal use, and commercial groundfish fisheries in the Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict and the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict, as follows:

5 AAC 01.714 (b) is amended to read:

(b) A vessel or a person on board a vessel from which subsistence fishing gear [A LONGLINE] is used to take groundfish for subsistence uses in the Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict or the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict, described in 5 AAC 28.105, may not operate commercial fishing [LONGLINE] gear to take groundfish for commercial uses [FOR GROUND FISH] from that vessel until all subsistence-taken groundfish are offloaded from the vessel and is subject to the restrictions in 5 AAC 28.180.

5 AAC 28.180 (a) and (b) are amended to read:

(a) A vessel or a person on board a vessel from which commercial, subsistence, or personal use [LONGLINE] fishing gear was used to take groundfish [FISH] in the Northern or Southern Southeast Inside Subdistricts during the 72-hour period immediately before the start of the commercial sablefish fishery in that subdistrict, or from which that gear will be used during the 24-hour period immediately after the closure of the commercial sablefish fishery in that subdistrict, may not participate in the taking of sablefish in that subdistrict during that open sablefish fishing period. A vessel or a person on board a vessel who has harvested and sold that vessel or person's entire equal quota share before the final day of the sablefish season in that subdistrict is exempt from the prohibition on fishing [LONGLINE GEAR] during the 24-hour period immediately following the closure of the sablefish fishery in that subdistrict.

(b) A vessel or person on board a vessel commercial fishing for sablefish in the Northern or Southern Southeast Inside Subdistricts may not operate subsistence or personal use fishing

[LONGLINE] gear for groundfish from that vessel until all commercial sablefish are offloaded from the vessel.

5 AAC 77.674 (4) is amended to read:

(4) A vessel or a person on board a vessel from which personal use fishing gear is [A LONGLINE] WAS] used to take bottomfish for personal use in the Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict or the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict, described in 5 AAC 28.105, may not operate commercial fishing gear to take groundfish for commercial uses from that vessel until all personal use-taken bottomfish are offloaded from the vessel and is subject to the restrictions in 5 AAC 28.180;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This would prohibit operation of all subsistence groundfish and personal use bottomfish gear from vessels that are commercial fishing for groundfish until all commercially harvested groundfish are offloaded from the vessel and would prohibit operation of commercial gear from vessels that are subsistence groundfish or personal use bottomfish fishing until all subsistence or personal use fish are offloaded from the vessel. The language is updated to include all allowable gear types under subsistence, personal use, and commercial groundfish fisheries given recent regulatory gear changes. Current regulations are designed to prevent subsistence and personal use-caught fish from being commercially sold by requiring that groundfish taken with longline gear for subsistence and personal use purposes be offloaded from a vessel before that vessel is used to take groundfish in a commercial fishery with longline gear. In recent years there has been an increase in the use of groundfish pot gear including slinky pots, in subsistence, personal use, and commercial groundfish fisheries. Current regulations allow subsistence and personal use groundfish, caught with gear other than longline gear, to be onboard a vessel engaged in commercial groundfish fisheries. By removing the word “longline” from these regulations, the regulations would accurately include all forms of legal gear. Legal gear for the subsistence sablefish fishery includes pot, longline, and mechanical jigging machines; legal gear for the personal use sablefish fishery includes pot, longline, and handheld line; and legal gear for the commercial fisheries includes pot and longline. The department would like to provide clarification to prevent overlap in retention of groundfish species among fisheries and to improve management of groundfish by extending regulatory restrictions to all legal gear types in these fisheries. This proposal also streamlines regulatory wording for consistency among all three fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-24-142)

PROPOSAL 198

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Increase the daily bag limit for sablefish in the sport fishery, as follows:

Increase daily bag limit by two from four to six fish per day.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Black Cod/Sablefish harvest: Increase black cod/Sablefish harvest for residents from 4 fish to 6 fish per day for resident sport fishing. The populations of this species has been increasing while halibut has been decreasing.

This would allow local resident rod and reel sport fishers to target a more sustainable resource while the halibut is at a 30 year low.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, multiple local rod and reel sport fishers have been agreeable to this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Mattle

(EF-F24-177)

Lingcod

PROPOSAL 199

5 AAC 28.111. Demersal shelf rockfish fishing seasons for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. and 5 AAC 28.113. Lingcod fishing seasons for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Add a weather delay provision that would postpone the opening date of the directed demersal shelf rockfish and directed lingcod fisheries if weather forecast meets gale warning or higher criteria in management areas in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, as follows:

5 AAC 28.111 (c) is added to read:

(c) For all Eastern Gulf of Alaska demersal shelf rockfish fishing periods, the season opening shall be delayed if the National Weather Service forecast for the management area(s) eligible to be opened contains gale force winds of 35 knots or higher in the forecast 24 hours preceding the season opening or 24 hours after the season opening, in which case, the season opening shall be delayed 24 hours and announcement of this delay will be issued at least 24 hours before the start of the fishery. If after the initial delay gale force winds of 35 knots or higher continue, the season opening shall be delayed an additional 24 hours and may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis as necessary. For the purposes of this paragraph, the corresponding National Weather Service forecast areas for the sections of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska are as follows:

(1) East Yakutat (EYKT) Section: Cape Fairweather to Icy Cape;

(2) Northern Southeast Outside (NEO) Section: Cape Edgecumbe to Cape Spencer and Cape Spencer to Cape Fairweather;

(3) Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section: Cape Decision to Cape Edgecumbe and Cape Edgecumbe to Cape Spencer;

(4) Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO) Section: Dixon Entrance to Cape Decision;

(5) Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict: Cross Sound, Glacier Bay, Icy Strait, Northern Lynn Canal, Southern Lynn Canal, Northern Chatham Strait, Southern Chatham Strait, Stephens Passage, and Frederick Sound;

(6) Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistrict: Dixon Entrance to Cape Decision, Clarence Strait, and Sumner Strait.

5 AAC 28.113 (b) (1) is added to read:

(1) For all Eastern Gulf of Alaska directed lingcod fishing periods, the season opening shall be delayed if the National Weather Service forecast for the management area(s) eligible to be opened contains gale force winds of 35 knots or higher in the forecast for May 15 or May 16, in which case the season opening shall be delayed 24 hours and announcement of this delay will be issued at least 24 hours before the start of the fishery. If after the initial delay

gale force winds of 35 knots or higher continue, the season opening shall be delayed an additional 24 hours and may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis as necessary. For the purposes of this paragraph, the corresponding National Weather Service forecast areas for the sections of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska are as follows:

(A) Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS): Icy Cape to Cape Suckling;

(B) East Yakutat (EYKT) Section: Cape Fairweather to Icy Cape;

(C) Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section: Cape Edgecumbe to Cape Spencer and Cape Spencer to Cape Fairweather;

(D) Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section: Cape Decision to Cape Edgecumbe and Cape Edgecumbe to Cape Spencer;

(E) Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector: Dixon Entrance to Cape Decision.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? If the season opening for the directed demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) or directed lingcod fishery occurs during a period of poor weather (i.e., a gale warning), larger, more sea-worthy vessels are at an advantage to travel to the fishing grounds and begin fishing first. Opening the fishery during poor weather conditions puts vessels and permit holders at risk because of the pressure to fish as soon as the fishery opens. Adding a weather delay provision provides for a safe and fair start to the directed DSR and lingcod fisheries that have had diverse participation in terms of vessel size and port of departure. Additionally, a weather delay may aid management by reducing the likelihood of effort being concentrated in a single area due to weather conditions. Similar weather delay provisions are in place for many other fisheries across the state.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-140)

PROPOSAL 200

5 AAC 28.173. Lingcod possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Adopt a catch reporting requirement for directed lingcod fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 28.173 (h) is added to read:

(h) In a directed lingcod fishery, CFEC permit holders shall contact the department at a telephone number or other means specified by the department at the time of registration and provide the following information to the department as required :

(1) the CFEC permit holder's name;

(2) the name of the vessel;

(3) the groundfish management area(s) in which they are fishing;

(4) the number of lingcod retained in each management area;

(5) the number of hours fished in each management area; and

(6) other information requested by the department for the purpose of managing and conserving lingcod resources.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The directed fishery for lingcod is fast paced. The East Yakutat Section directed lingcod fishery has the largest allocation (111,000 round lb) and this has been harvested in three days or less on average. The department must make quick decisions on closures based on the approximate catch from each fishing vessel, typically within the first 24 hours of fishing. The department currently asks permit holders to report their catch every

12 to 24 hours for most management areas but compliance is inconsistent and sometimes low. This has resulted in underharvest and overharvest in the directed fisheries. This proposal seeks to implement a catch reporting requirement to assist with lingcod management and promote lingcod conservation by preventing overharvesting.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-144)

PROPOSAL 201

5 AAC 28.173. Lingcod possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Clarify lingcod bycatch overage requirements in the Southeast District fisheries for longline halibut and salmon troll fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 28.173 (a) (1) is amended to read:

(a) In the Southeast District, a vessel fishing for

(1) halibut with longline gear may not land or have on board lingcod in excess of the **allowable bycatch limit** [BYCATCH PERCENTAGE] , specified in the first emergency order of the season, based on the round weight of all halibut on board the vessel[:]. **Lingcod caught in excess of this allowable bycatch limit, based on the weight of halibut on board, must be immediately released at sea. At the time of landing, all lingcod in excess of the allowable bycatch limit must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. Lingcod bycatch taken in excess of the allowable bycatch limit must be forfeited to the State of Alaska and is subject to law enforcement action.** B[b]ased on harvest, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the bycatch season and immediately reopen a bycatch season during which a different lingcod bycatch level is allowed;

5 AAC 28.173 (a) (3) is amended to read:

(a) In the Southeast District, a vessel fishing for

(3) halibut and sablefish at the same time **must immediately release at sea lingcod bycatch caught** [MAY NOT LAND OR HAVE ON BOARD LINGCOD] in excess of the **allowable bycatch limit** [BYCATCH PERCENTAGE] [,] specified in the first emergency order of the season, by round weight of all halibut on board the vessel. [:] **Vessels must weigh and report all lingcod in excess of the allowable bycatch limit as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. Lingcod bycatch taken in excess of the allowable bycatch limit must be forfeited to the State of Alaska and is subject to law enforcement action.** B[b]ased on harvest, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the bycatch season and immediately reopen a bycatch season during which a different lingcod bycatch level is allowed;

5 AAC 28.173 (a) (5) is added to read:

(a) In the Southeast District, a vessel fishing for

(5) salmon with troll gear must immediately release at sea lingcod bycatch caught in excess of the allowable bycatch limit specified in the first emergency order of the season, by round weight of all salmon on board the vessel. Vessels must weigh and report all lingcod in excess of the allowable bycatch limit as bycatch overage on an

ADF&G fish ticket. Lingcod bycatch taken in excess of the allowable bycatch limit must be forfeited to the State of Alaska and is subject to law enforcement action. Based on harvest data, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the bycatch fishing season and immediately reopen a bycatch season during which a different lingcod bycatch level is allowed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This would provide clarity regarding lingcod bycatch in excess of the allowable bycatch limit. Also, these regulations would clarify that all lingcod caught above the bycatch limit must be immediately released at sea. There is no mandatory retention requirement for lingcod because unlike rockfish, lingcod do not have a closed swim bladder which allows a higher chance of survival when released immediately at sea. If the allowable bycatch limit for lingcod is exceeded and landed, proceeds from the overage must be forfeited to the State of Alaska and permit holders may be subject to law enforcement action.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-145)

PROPOSAL 202

5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Clarify that only one line can be used for dinglebar gear in the lingcod fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.130 (h)(1) is amended to read:

(h) In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area,

(1) **an operational unit of** dinglebar troll gear [IS GEAR THAT] consists of a single line, **referred to hereafter as a “train,” to which one or more leaders, lures, or baited hooks are attached,** that is **fastened to a single troll wire, and is deployed and** retrieved [AND SET] with a **single power** troll gurdy or **single** hand troll gurdy with a terminally attached weight [FROM WHICH ONE OR MORE LEADERS WITH ONE OR MORE LURES OR BAITED HOOKS] pulled through the water while a vessel is making way; only one **operational unit of dinglebar troll gear** [TROLL GURDY LINE OR HAND TROLL GURDY LINE] may be **onboard a vessel or** deployed **from the vessel at or below the surface of the sea** [IN THE WATER] at any time; **all weights, including dinglebars, cannon balls, and other fishing weights must be disconnected from the troll wires of all other gurdies that are mounted on the vessel, and additional trains may not be trailed behind the vessel at any time.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Vessels participating in the directed lingcod fishery with dinglebar gear are operating multiple lines at the same time leading to increased harvest rates; because of this, permit holders are exceeding guideline harvest levels. There is confusion within the fleet over what constitutes operation of a single line as well as what dinglebar gear is, and reports have suggested that some vessels may be deploying a second line once retrieval of the first line has begun. Vessels fishing in this manner have an advantage over vessels exclusively operating a single line because it takes time to haul gear to the surface, pull the train in, bring lingcod aboard, and then redeploy the gear back to depth. The intent of the original regulation was for fishers to have only one troll wire with one train on board and available to fish, establishing a pace for the fishery as fishers must remove fish from hooks and get the train ready to be deployed again. The amended language serves to clarify the intention of this regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-148)

PROPOSAL 203

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area and 5 AAC 47.060. Lingcod delegation of authority and provisions for management.

Establish unguided nonresident lingcod regulations, as follows:

SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST AREA: Alaska Residents: 1 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit. Nonresidents: **Unguided anglers: 1 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit. There is an annual limit of 4 fish. Harvest record is required. Guided anglers:** 1 per day, 1 in possession; 30-35 inches or 55 inches and longer. There is an annual limit of 2 fish, 1 of which is 30-35 inches in length, and 1 that is 55 inches or greater in length, harvest record is required

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the Board to look at the nonresident ling cod regulations. I would like to see the size restrictions removed for unguided anglers on ling cod and to be more in line with resident regulations. I would like to see unguided anglers have more fishing opportunities.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I came up with my idea talking with others about limits and opportunity to retain certain types of fish as an unguided angler that goes to Southeast Alaska every year.

PROPOSED BY: Justin Orr

(EF-F24-023)

Pacific cod

PROPOSAL 204

5 AAC 28.130 Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Allow pots to be longlined in the state waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska commercial Pacific cod fishery.

In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, pots may not be longlined, except that pots may be longlined in the Pacific Cod fishery and in the Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict and Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict Sablefish fishery. In a directed fishery for Sablefish pots used to take Sablefish must have at least two circular escape rigs with a minimum inside diameter of three and three-fourths inches installed on opposing vertical or sloping walls.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area longlining pots for Pacific cod is currently not allowed. Longlining pots have proved to be a very efficient, low bycatch way of harvesting Sablefish in both the Federal and State fisheries. I would like the opportunity to use the same gear in the Pacific Cod fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Through conversations with fishery managers and fellow fisherman.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright

(EF-F24-097)

PROPOSAL 205

5 AAC 77.674. Personal use bottomfish fishery.

Allow personal use retention of Pacific cod and rockfishes, including thornyhead rockfish, in pot gear, as follows:

5 AAC 77.674 (2) is amended to read:

In the personal use taking of bottomfish,

(2) [EXCEPT SABLEFISH] bottomfish may be taken for personal use only by longline or hand held line, **except sablefish, Pacific cod, rockfish, and thornyhead rockfish may be taken for personal use only by longline, hand held line, or pot gear**; for all bottomfish, unattended gear must be marked as described in 5 AAC 77.010(d);

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? With the recent increase in pot gear use in the personal use sablefish fisheries, Pacific cod and rockfishes caught as bycatch in pot gear must be released. Pacific cod and most rockfish species have a closed swim bladder and suffer embolism mortality when brought to the surface. Current regulations do not allow retention of Pacific cod or rockfishes in personal use pot gear; therefore, these bycatch species are discarded at sea. Allowing retention of Pacific cod and rockfishes will reduce waste and mirror subsistence and commercial pot gear retention regulations for these species.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-147)

Rockfish

PROPOSAL 206

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Reopen yelloweye sport fishery for residents, as follows:

5 AAC 47.020-General provisions for season, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and method and means for the salt waters of SE Alaska Area.

(8) rockfish may be taken from January 1-December 31 as follows:...

C) demersal shelf rockfish, as defined in [5 AAC 39.975](#):

i.[EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN (D) OF THIS PARAGRAPH,] resident: bag limit of one fish; possession limit of two fish; no annual limit; no size limit;

ii.nonresident; no open season; may not be taken or possessed;

D) yelloweye rockfish: [NO OPEN SEASON; MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED]

i.resident: bag limit of one fish; possession limit of two fish; no annual limit; no size limit;

ii. nonresident; no open season; may not be taken or possessed

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Starting in 2020, the department closed all directed harvest of yelloweye rockfish in Southeast, citing a sharp decline that had occurred twenty years prior. This closure occurred despite the population having been stable for several years prior to the closure. Since 2015 yelloweye abundance has been increasing, yet all directed harvest remains closed. The increasing biomass combined with the recent closures

have combined to leave the majority of the already highly-conservative TAC unharvested in several of the past years

It is time to reopen the resident sport yelloweye fishery which (prior to the closure) was a long-established fishery with a small and consistent harvest for locals to enjoy an occasional fresh yelloweye. The resident sport fishery has historically accounted for only about 2% of the TAC. With over 25-50% of the TAC consistently going unharvested, it is fully appropriate for resident sport fishermen to again be given access to this under-utilized resource.

Contrary to sensationalized accounts, the December 2022 NOAA *Assessment of the DSR Stock Complex in SE Outside Subdistrict of the GOA* shows that SE yelloweye population was healthy prior to the 2020 closure and continue to be healthy. Specifically:

- All three NOAA models show a consistent upward trend in yelloweye biomass since at least 2013 (See Table 14.8)
- Average length of both male and female yelloweye has been increasing in all SE subdistricts (East Yakutat, Northern SE Outside, Central SE Outside and Southern SE Outside) since at least 2010 (See figures 14.13 -14.16)
- The yelloweye catch has been consistently managed to a level well below the Over Fishing Limit for about 2 decades, with a typical year's catch being only about 50% of this threshold. (See Fig 14.5)
- The Yelloweye CPUE in the 2021 IPHC longline survey was up in all SE subdistricts (East Yakutat, Northern SE Outside, Central SE Outside and Southern SE Outside) compared to 2016. (See Table 14.3)

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The Sitka AC supported proposal 230 in 2022 which was very similar.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka

(EF-F24-020)

PROPOSAL 207

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents, as follows:

Establish a bag and possession limit for Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) for Non-Residents.

Non-Resident bag limit of one fish; possession limit of two fish; annual limit of two fish; no size limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish in regulation a bag, possession and annual limit for DSR species (Quillback, Copper, Canary, China and Tiger).

There is no survey and/or data that shows a conservation concern for the DSR species. Anglers commonly catch all species of rockfish in SE AK and the inability to harvest these species is a lost opportunity to the sport fishery. Most anglers agree that all the DSR rockfish are excellent table fare and readily abundant. The mandatory use of deep water release mechanisms has significantly reduced release mortality.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, but this prop is being submitted on behalf of myself. A daily bag limit of 1 fish and an annual bag limit of 2 fish is very reasonable.

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Whitehead (EF-F24-029)

PROPOSAL 208

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Allow retention of demersal shelf rockfish by nonresidents, as follows:

Establish a bag and possession limit for Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) for Non-Residents.

Non-Resident bag limit of one fish; possession limit of one fish; annual limit of one fish; no size limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, non-residents cannot harvest any DSR species (Quillback, Copper, Canary, China and Tiger).

There is no survey and/or data that shows a conservation concern for the DSR species. Anglers commonly catch all species of rockfish in Southeast Alaska and the inability to harvest these species is a lost opportunity to the sport fishery. Most anglers agree that all the DSR rockfish are excellent table fare and readily abundant. The mandatory use of deep water release mechanisms has significantly reduced release mortality.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. This prop was developed in the Craig AC.

PROPOSED BY: Craig AC (EF-F24-031)

PROPOSAL 209

5 AAC XX.XXX New Section. Pelagic rockfish delegation of authority and provisions for management.

Establish provisions for a resident priority within emergency order authority for pelagic rockfish, as follows:

Direct the department to confine EO restrictions to non-resident anglers and hold resident anglers harmless unless residents are harvesting at least half of the sport catch:

5 AAC 47.020-General provisions for season, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and method and means for the salt waters of SE Alaska Area.

(8) rockfish may be taken from January 1-December 31 as follows:

1. pelagic rockfish: bag limit of five fish, possession limit of 10 fish, no annual limit; **Unless the resident harvest of pelagic rockfish has exceeded 50% of the sport harvest for 2 consecutive years, the department shall not use EO authority to reduce resident limits or season length.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In response to a decade-long trend of increasing harvest of pelagic rockfish by non-residents, beginning in 2016 ADFG repeatedly used EO authority to reduce bag limits for non-residents and residents in Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) alike. In 2018, the BoF specifically refuted that practice by amending ADFG-sponsored proposal 127 which would have permanently reduced the bag limit for all anglers from 5 fish to 3 fish, with RC406 which affirmed the historic 5 fish limit for residents while dropping the non-resident limit to 3.

However, lacking the authority to hold resident anglers harmless as the increase in non-resident harvest resumed, in 2023 ADFG again used EO authority to reduce the CSEO resident and nonresident bag limits. The Sitka AC would like the BoF to authorize the department to prioritize resident access of pelagic rockfish and to direct the department to refrain from reducing resident limits of pelagic rockfish as a means of addressing increased harvest by non-residents.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The Sitka AC supported proposal 127 in 2018 which was very similar.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka AC

(EF-F24-019)

PROPOSAL 210

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Reduce the bag and possession limit for pelagic rockfish in Southeast Alaska, as follows:

5 AAC 47.020(8)(A) is amended to read:

...

(A) pelagic rockfish: bag limit of **three** [FIVE] fish; possession limit of **six** [10] fish; no annual limit; no size limit;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The sport harvest of pelagic rockfish has been on an increasing trend in the Southeast Alaska region and is assumed to be associated with shifting patterns of effort by charter (guided) anglers as restrictions on Pacific halibut and king salmon have been in effect. The department is currently working to develop a stock assessment for black rockfish in Southeast Alaska through the Statewide Rockfish Initiative. The anticipated continued increase in harvest and the potential for overexploitation of pelagic rockfish warrants a precautionary management approach.

The harvest of pelagic rockfish has increased in Southeast Alaska despite recent action to reduce harvest opportunity in the Sitka area where the majority of pelagic rockfish have historically been harvested. Rockfish harvest in the vicinity of Prince of Wales Island and the Ketchikan Areas have continued to increase and are now nearing the levels of pelagic rockfish harvest observed in the Sitka Area before management action was taken.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-179)

PROPOSAL 211

5 AAC 28.171. Rockfish possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Clarify regulations regarding fish ticket documentation of rockfish overages in the groundfish and halibut fisheries. Also, add a demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) overage reporting requirement for the Eastern Gulf of Alaska salmon troll fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.171 (a) is amended to read:

(a) In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, a CFEC permit holder fishing for groundfish or halibut must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish and thornyhead rockfish caught. Except as provided in (b) of this section, all demersal shelf rockfish in excess of 10 percent, round weight, of all target species on board the vessel must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All rockfish and thornyhead rockfish in excess of allowable bycatch limits shall be reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. **Rockfish and thornyhead rockfish exceeding bycatch limits may be retained for personal use or donation and must be documented as overage on the fish ticket.** All proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish and thornyhead rockfish bycatch shall be surrendered to the state. Based on harvest data, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close a fishing season or a bycatch season and immediately reopen a fishing season or a bycatch season during which a different rockfish or thornyhead rockfish bycatch level is allowed.

5 AAC 28.171 (i) is added to read:

(i) In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, a CFEC salmon troll permit holder operating hand or power troll gear during an open commercial salmon fishing period is not required to retain incidental rockfish caught while fishing for salmon but must weigh and report, on an ADF&G fish ticket, all demersal shelf rockfish retained in excess of bycatch limits established by emergency order, based on the round weight of all salmon on board the vessel, and must report it as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. Rockfish bycatch taken in excess of allowable limits may be retained by the permit holder for personal use or donation and must be documented as overage on the fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish bycatch shall be surrendered to the state. Based on harvest data, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close a fishing season or a bycatch season and immediately reopen a fishing season or a bycatch season during which a different rockfish bycatch level is allowed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This clarifies that rockfish, including thornyhead rockfish, bycatch overages may be retained for personal use or donation by CFEC permit holders fishing for groundfish or halibut. Current regulations only specify that rockfish overages may be sold but they do not explicitly state that overages may be retained for personal use or donation which has been standard practice. This would clarify regulations for processors, permit holders, managers, and enforcement. Also, this proposal would establish that rockfish must be reported on a fish ticket and clarify the regulations regarding overages in the salmon troll fishery. At present, the salmon troll fishery does not have full retention requirements for any groundfish species and DSR are the only rockfish restricted to a bycatch allowance. However, because there are bycatch allowances for DSR species but no full retention requirements, regulations do not support that DSR bycatch overage may be retained for personal use or donation and therefore must be discarded at sea or subject to law enforcement action if landed. This would improve consistency on how DSR bycatch

overages are managed across the region and among fisheries and would assist groundfish staff in accounting for DSR bycatch in the salmon troll fishery by reducing DSR discards at sea.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-146)

***SUBSISTENCE SHELLFISH, COMMERCIAL AND SPORT
SHRIMP, COMMERCIAL AND SPORT OTHER
MISCELLANEOUS SHELLFISH (21 proposals)***

Geoduck clam

PROPOSAL 212

5 AAC 38.142 Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.

Allow the number of geoduck permit holders able to fish from one vessel to be increased from two to four by emergency order.

Add the following language to 5 AAC 38.142 (p)

The commissioner may by emergency order modify the number of CFEC geoduck permit holders able to be onboard or fish from a registered vessel to four divers when the total area trip limit is four hundred pounds or less.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the geoduck clam fishery only 2 divers can fish from one vessel (5 AAC 38.142 (p)). However, it is often difficult to harvest the GHL in remote areas when the remaining GHL is small. It is not cost-effective to travel long distances for a limited harvest. We would like to have up to four CFEC geoduck permit holders conduct fishing operations from a vessel that is registered to commercially fish for geoducks to make it more economical to harvest the remaining GHL. This would be done when an area has a trip limited harvest of 400 or less pounds per dive harvester.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Insert the issue statement here.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F24-086)

PROPOSAL 213

5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.

Modify how geoduck guideline harvest levels are calculated.

5 AAC 38.142 Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan. (g) The guideline harvest level for each area will be calculated as two percent of the most recent estimated biomass, **using the mid-point of the one-sided 90 percent confidence interval**, per year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) would like to have ADF&G establish the Guideline Harvest Level for the geoduck clam fishery using the mid-point of the one-sided 90 percent confidence interval based on their assessment surveys. This would allow for a higher GHL while maintaining a conservatively managed fishery.

- What would happen if nothing is changed?

There would remain annual confusion as to whether ADF&G is managing for the lower end of the confidence level or the mid-point. Also, in commercial areas where there is not significant sea otter predation, whenever these areas are re-surveyed, the GHl has increased. We believe using the lower bound of the one-sided 90% confidence interval is overly conservative and using the mid-point would enable fuller utilization of the resource while still adequately conserving the geoduck stock.

- What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them?

It is possible to discuss on an annual basis the department's management goal, however SARDFA believes this would eliminate any confusion on how the fishery is being managed.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The SARDFA geoduck committee which is comprised of 20 CFEC permit holders worked on developing this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Fisheries Association (HQ-F24-087)

PROPOSAL 214

5 AAC 38.142 Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Management Plan.

Allow for areas that have been closed for 5 years as a result of the estimated geoduck biomass dropping below 30% of the original biomass estimate to be resurveyed and potentially reopened.

At the end of paragraph (h) of 5AAC 38.142 add:

Once an area is closed for a period of 5 years due to exceeding the 30% threshold of the original biomass estimate, the Commissioner may direct the department to conduct a stock assessment and determine a new biomass estimate on which to base a new GHl for a resumption of fishing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under the current geoduck management plan once a commercial harvest area's population estimate goes below the 30% threshold of the original biomass estimate, the area is closed to commercial harvesting. Given significant ecosystem changes, it is very difficult to reopen areas once they meet this threshold. In many areas being closed, it does not mean overfishing has occurred; rather it is a reflection of environmental changes since the original biomass estimate was conducted. In these areas, use of an original biomass estimate is not reflective of current conditions. As a reference, in areas without drastic environmental changes, geoduck biomass and GHl have increased on re-survey.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed in conjunction with the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association geoduck committee, which is comprised of 20 CFEC geoduck permit holders.

PROPOSAL 215

5 AAC 38.142 (h). Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.

Give the department the authority to experiment with reduced guideline harvest levels in sea otter impacted areas where the current biomass estimate is less than 30 percent of the original biomass estimate.

At the end of 5AAC 38.142(h) added:

As part of a pilot project, the commissioner may allow the department to use a current biomass estimate to create a new GHL to allow for reduced harvest in sea otter impacted areas. The pilot project will be closely monitored to determine if harvest and sea otter predation are sustainable for the geoduck biomass.

The commissioner may not open the commercial geoduck fishery in an area if the estimated biomass of the geoduck stock in that area is less than 30 percent of the original biomass determined by the first stock assessment conducted by the department on that stock. The commissioner may modify this percentage if the department receives information about geoduck productivity that supports a modification.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The management plan for geoduck clams has remained unchanged since the inception of the fishery. The fishery itself has changed dramatically and not in positive ways. In the past several years, the fishery has had a steady decline in its GHL and has had several areas closed to commercial fishing all together. In the 2024-2025 fishing season, for example, we will have the smallest annual GHL in over a decade. Geoducks have become increasingly valuable with an ex-vessel value of over \$10/pound in the 2023-2024 season. Approximately 55 CFEC limited entry permit holders participate in the fishery. The losses in this fishery are occurring only in areas where there are sea otters present. In areas without sea otters, GHLS are actually increasing when they are re-surveyed. Otters are moving into these areas and if similar trends happen in inside waters, we will lose the geoduck fishery all together.

In 5 AAC 38.142 (h) it states: The commissioner may not open the commercial geoduck fishery in an area if the estimated biomass of the geoduck stock in that area is less than 30 percent of the original biomass determined by the first stock assessment conducted by the department on that stock. The commissioner may modify this percentage if the department receives information about geoduck productivity that supports a modification.

We believe this original biomass threshold is erroneous in ecosystems drastically changed over the past few decades. ADFG itself uses various biomass estimates based on changes in the fishing areas or new data derived from logbooks. The original biomass estimate therefore changes in ADFG application as conditions change; we would like to see this change to address significant loss of access to fishing grounds due to sea otters.

There is precedence for using a current biomass estimate in areas impacted by otters. In British Columbia, in areas impacted by otters, the commercial dive industry and the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans are collaborating on an altered management plan that replaces the original biomass estimate with a current biomass estimate. In a few areas they have been doing this for several years and have data that indicates a balance between harvest and sea otter pressure. We would like to work with ADFG in 2-3 areas recently closed to commercial harvest to determine if this approach would allow a reduced level of harvest in the presence of otter predation pressure. SARDFA will work cooperatively with ADFG and support more frequent biological assessments to ensure stocks are healthy.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association after several meetings with our commercial counterpart in British Columbia, the Underwater Harvester's Association.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F24-092)

PROPOSAL 216

5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.

Clarify that only aquatic farm sites approved for the culture of geoduck clams are closed to commercial harvest of geoduck clams.

If (l) 4 were changed to read:

waters identified as a permitted mariculture site **for culture of geoduck;**
that would correct the issue.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? (l) 4: waters identified as a mariculture site.

In the geoduck management plan section l defines areas closed to the commercial taking of geoducks. Number 4 indicates all mariculture sites are closed to geoduck fishing but this is incorrect; it is only mariculture sites approved for geoduck cultivation that this applies to

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. In coordination with ADFG Ketchikan and ADFG permit coordinator and SARDFA geoduck committee.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F24-091)

Sea cucumber

PROPOSAL 217

5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.

Allow weekly fishing periods to begin on Sundays, as follows:

Allowing weekly openers to include Sundays from 8 to 3 would allow flexibility in the event of seasonal storms, limitations of smaller vessels in relation to weather events, and the aging of the dive personnel, many over 60 years of age. The quota per opener would remain at 2000 pounds.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A change to the days each weekly opener would include. This would consolidate the season to the benefit of the fleet, canneries, and enforcement personnel. An informal survey of divers, particularly in the high sea otter populated areas, indicate an inability to reach the weekly quota in the time allotted. This would drive a completion of the fishery prior to the short winter days and closure of the canneries/buyers.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was discussed with multiple dive fishery permit holders.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Cloose

(EF-F24-041)

PROPOSAL 218

.5 AAC 38.140 Southeast Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.

Extend sea cucumber fishing season beyond March 31.

5 AAC 38.140

(b) Sea cucumbers may be taken from the first Monday in October through March 31 during the weekly fishing period established by emergency order. The weekly fishing period will occur on Mondays from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and on Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, except that (1) during the week of Thanksgiving, the weekly fishing period will occur on Sunday from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and on Monday from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon; (2) beginning in November, the commissioner may, by emergency order, extend or shorten a weekly fishing period in an area in order to obtain the guideline harvest level in that area; (3) during the week of Christmas and New Year's Day, the department may modify the days of the weekly fishing period by emergency order so that the fishing period does not fall on the holiday and does not add additional days to the weekly fishing period.

(4)regional ADFG managers may allow weekly fishing extentions past March 31st to finish GHL.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Address:

(b) of the Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan

(b) Sea cucumbers may be taken from the first Monday in October through March 31

Why?

Allow regional ADFG mangers the ability to allow weekly extentions in areas with remaining guideline harvest levels(GHLs) past March 31st in order to reach the seasons GHL.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. There has been some discussion about extensions. This proposal is submitted as an individual.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Carruth

(EF-F24-009)

PROPOSAL 219

5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.

Clarify when a sea cucumber permit holder is in possession of the product they harvested.

Draft language: **Divers engaged in commercial dive harvest fisheries do not have to be in immediate possession of the harvested product during or after an opener until the vessel has departed the specific open fishing area.**

Adding this clarification of possession will better fit the operation of the commercial dive fisheries and reduce ticketing due to application of general possession regulations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? General regulations of possession of harvested product are not aligned with practices related to commercial dive harvesting of sea cucumbers. In sea cucumber harvesting several different methods are employed. In some cases, divers are attached via their breathing line to a surface skiff that follows the diver along the surface. As the dive harvester fills their cucumber bags, they attach flotation to the line and send the line to the surface for later retrieval by the larger dive boat. In other instances, divers do not have breathing lines but use free tanks. In these instances, the dive vessel may drop a diver off in one bay and then drop the other diver in another bay. The vessel would then travel back and forth between divers to collect cucumber harvest bags and provide fresh scuba tanks.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. SARDFA sea cucumber committee, SARDFA Board of Directors and Ketchikan ADFG biologists.

PROPOSED BY: Seth Rockwell

(HQ-F24-078)

PROPOSAL 220

5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.

Allow crew members to be in possession of sea cucumbers harvested by the sea cucumber permit holder.

Draft language: **Crew member of a registered dive vessel may be in possession of legally harvested product even when the permit holder (diver) is neither on nor attached to nor in the immediate vicinity of the vessel. This would apply during or after an opener until the vessel has departed the specific open fishing area.**

Adding this clarification of possession will better fit the operation of the commercial dive fisheries and reduce ticketing due to application of general possession regulations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? General regulations regarding possession of harvested product are not aligned with practices related to commercial dive harvesting of sea cucumbers. In sea cucumber harvesting several different methods are employed. In some cases, divers are attached via their breathing line to a surface skiff that follows the diver

along the surface. As the dive harvester fills their cucumber bags, they attach flotation to the line and send the line to the surface for later retrieval by the larger dive boat. In other instances, divers do not have breathing lines but use free tanks. In these instances, the dive vessel may drop a diver off in one bay and then drop the other diver in another bay. The vessel would then travel back and forth between divers to collect cucumber harvest bags and provide fresh scuba tanks.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. SARDFA sea cucumber committee, SARDFA Board of Directors and Ketchikan ADFG biologists.

PROPOSED BY: Seth Rockwell

(HQ-F24-079)

PROPOSAL 221

5 AAC 41.285 Aquatic stock acquisition on an aquatic farm site and 5 AAC 41.235 Determination of insignificant population.

Prohibit harvest of naturally occurring sea cucumbers on aquatic farm sites by farm operator in areas where there are commercial sea cucumber fisheries.

In areas where there are limited entry CFEC Q11A fisheries that are subject to fisheries management plan, sea cucumbers cannot be added as a species of culture and must be allowed to escape into benthos.

[5AAC 41.285. AQUATIC STOCK AQUISITION ON AN AQUATIC FARM SITE. WILD STOCK OF THE SPECIES IDENTIFIED FOR CULTURE IN THE OPERATION PERMIT THAT SETTLE ON AN AQUATIC FARM, HATCHERY SITE OR CULTURE GEAR BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE AQUATIC FARM OR HATCHERY OPERATION PERMIT HOLDER AS A CONDITION OF THE OPERATION PERMIT.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Aquatic farms that are permitted to operate in areas where the limited entry CFEC commercial sea cucumber fishery (Q11A) occurs have added sea cucumber to their permitted species culture using 5AAC 41.285. A very specific instance occurred with a farm permitted in a commercial sea cucumber fishing area that began as an oyster farm and then added sea cucumbers to its cultered species list. This farm is only using naturally settling sea cucumbers directly removing those sea cucumbers from settling to the bottom and becoming part of the common property resource.

Very little is known about sea cucumber settlement patterns in SE Alaska so it is unclear how this practice could affect the commercial fishery over time. We believe allowing a farm to add sea cucumbers as a cultivation species in an area known to already support a commercial fishery is allocating sea cucumbers to a private farm and away from a CFEC limited entry fishery.

Furthe under 5AAC 41.235 the commissioner must determine that the wild stock is not of a nature significant enough to attract or support a commercial fishery. In this case the wild stock is already supporting a commercial fishery. Further the sale of the shellfish will not result in the alteration in traditional fisheries or other uses of fish and wildlife resources if the population is included within the aquatic farm. How can privatizing sea cucumbers out of the common property not alter the commercial fishery in that area.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. SARDFA has geoduck, sea cucumber and sea urchin committees. This idea was discussed with ADFG Ketchikan biologists.

PROPOSED BY: Dale Stanley

(EF-F24-017)

Shrimp

PROPOSAL 222

5 AAC 02.110. Subsistence Shrimp Fishery; 5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area; and 5 AAC 77.660 Personal Use shrimp fishery.

Adopt seasonal closures for subsistence, sport, and personal use shrimp fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 02.110 is amended to read:

(6) Shrimp may only be taken May 1 through Feb 28.

5 AAC 47.020 (16) is amended to read:

(16) shrimp: may **only** be taken from **May 1** [JANUARY 1] – **February 28** [DECEMBER 31] only under a permit issued by the department; a harvest recording form under 5 AAC 75.016 is required; bag and possession limit of three pounds or three quarts; no annual limit.

5 AAC 77.660 (1) is amended to read:

(1) **Season and possession limit**

(A) Shrimp may only be taken from May 1 through Feb 28.

(B) Except as provided in (7) and (8) of this section, there **are** [IS NO CLOSED SEASON AND] no bag and possession limits;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? March and April compose a biologically sensitive period for pandalid shrimp when eggs mature and hatch. Best fishing practices dictate that fishing during such periods should be avoided to enhance long term stock resilience. For this reason, the regional commercial shrimp pot fishery has had season closures during this time for many years. The magnitude of the regional subsistence, sport, and personal use harvest of spot shrimp was largely unknown until 2018 when permit and harvest reporting was required for these fisheries . Recent harvest data show that collectively these fisheries make up between 19% and 26% of the total annual spot shrimp harvest. Implementing a seasonal closure during this biologically sensitive period is likely to benefit the sustainability of Southeast shrimp pot fisheries and is especially pertinent given recent regional declines in spot shrimp abundance.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-150)

PROPOSAL 223

5 AAC 02.110. Subsistence Shrimp Fishery; 5 AAC 47.035; Methods, means, and general provisions - Shellfish; and 5 AAC 77.660. Personal Use Shrimp Fishery.

Increase the tunnel size for sport, personal use, and subsistence shrimp pots.

Proposal:

Change the wording in the following sections of 5 AAC to change the permitted size of openings in shrimp pot tunnels in the Southeast Alaska Area.

Subsistence Shellfish:

5 AAC 02.110. Subsistence shrimp fishery

In the subsistence taking of shrimp,

(1) a pot used to take shrimp must have

(A) no more than four tunnel eye openings; a tunnel eye opening may not exceed (15) **16** inches in perimeter;

(B) a bottom perimeter of no more than 153 inches; and

(C) a volume of no more than 25 cubic feet;

Sport Fish:

5 AAC 47.035 (k)1 Subsistence shrimp fishery

In the subsistence taking of shrimp,

(1) a pot used to take shrimp must have

(A) no more than four tunnel eye openings; a tunnel eye opening may not exceed (15) **16** inches in perimeter;

(B) a bottom perimeter of no more than 153 inches; and

(C) a volume of no more than 25 cubic feet;

Personal Use Shellfish:

5 AAC 77.660 (5)(5) a pot used to take shrimp under this chapter must have

(A) no more than four tunnel eye openings; no tunnel eye opening may exceed (15) **16** inches in perimeter;

(B) a bottom perimeter of no more than 153 inches; and

(C) a volume of no more than 25 cubic feet;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations discriminate against fishers that harvest shrimp with rigid mesh pots by limiting the area tunnel openings may have compared to non-rigid pots. This is because a circular opening found on non-rigid pots allows for a greater area than a rectangular opening of the same perimeter or circumference commonly found in a rigid pot.

We would like to have the openings allowed in rigid mesh pots closer in size to non-rigid pots. Current regulations allow openings of up to 17.9 square inches for non-rigid pots. Rigid pots are currently limited to 10 square inches if the pot tunnel has standard 1" mesh. Many rigid pots are already manufactured with openings that measure 2" by 6" which equals 16" of perimeter. We are proposing making the perimeter of the opening one inch larger than the current regulation, 16".

This change would allow the opening in a rigid pot to be exactly the same as the biological escape mechanism required for the pots. The funnel openings on non-rigid pots already exceed the escape mechanism size. Therefore, there should not be a concern with increased bycatch with rigid pots.

The Math:

Present regulations:

Circumference of circle (C) = $2\pi r$

15" = $2(3.14)r$

radius = 2.38 inches.

(The new radius could be up to 2.54".)

Maximum area of a (current) non-rigid pot tunnel opening.

Area of a circle with a 15" perimeter (circumference) (A) = πr^2

A = $3.14(2.38)(2.38) = 17.9$ square inches

(The new area could be up to 20.25 square inches.)

Maximum area of the proposed rigid pot tunnel opening.

Area of a rectangle = base x height

Proposed size:

A = 6" x 2" = 12 square inches

Perimeter = 16"

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The EPOW discussed and submitted this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: East Prince of Wales Advisory Committee

(HQ-F24-027)

PROPOSAL 224

5 AAC 31.110. Shrimp pot fishing seasons and periods for Registration Area A.

Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 opening date back to October 1.

My solution is... to return the spot shrimp pot season back to the traditional October first opening date.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the spot shrimp season in southeast back to its historical October first opening date.

Why...flawed bof Covid decision, after multiple venue changes. There was no general knowledge that this proposal was out there among spot shrimp permit holders. This proposal would have been fought tooth & nail if meeting was held on schedule. In southeast.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I developed this proposal with consultation with all the other longtime spot shrimp pot permit holders in southeast that I know. No one that I'm aware of that's participated in the October fishery was in favor of changing to a may opening & completely losing the fishery for 2022.

The local advisory committee is not knowledgeable on this issue.

PROPOSED BY: Robert T. Mosher

(EF-F24-042)

PROPOSAL 225

5 AAC 31.110. Shrimp pot fishing season and periods for Registration Area A.

Revert shrimp pot season from May 15 opening date to October 1 or to another start date in late summer/early fall.

Change the start date back to October 1. Alternatively, September 15, September 1 and August 15 would also be acceptable dates.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The change in season start date from Oct 1 to May 15 in the 2022 Board of Fisheries meeting effectively transferred the entire shrimp fishery over to commercial users. Many Sport and Personal Use fisherman are not able to go prior to the May 15th opening, after which shrimp numbers are dramatically lower as the commercial fishery is executed very quickly. Furthermore, the rationale that taking of females when they don't have eggs is beneficial to the population is not sound logic, as it is the taking of females **at any time** that is detrimental to the population. Taking females without eggs in May lowers the reproductive capacity of the population the same as the taking of females with unreleased eggs in October.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Submitted via Territorial Sportsmen Inc of Juneau

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsmen Inc

(EF-F24-101)

PROPOSAL 226

5 AAC 31.115. Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A and 5 AAC 31.124 Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A..

Provide for further conservation in the shrimp pot fishery by reducing all GHLS by 20%, reducing the number of pots allowed by 40–50%, and eliminating the large pot size.

Reduce ALL area GHLS 20 %

gear reduction of 40-50 % per permit , (eliminate the large pot size over a 3 yr period)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? It's clear that the SE pot shrimp stocks are in stress as evidenced by small shrimp carrying eggs and the survey results. Having fished this fishery since the 90s. I have seen the steady decline in size and health of stocks. I feel a more aggressive conservation effort needs implemented.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. For many years I have had discussions with other fishermen about the health of the stocks, in general the longer participation fishers have seen dramatic negative changes in the stocks and feel the fleet is too large and fishing the same grounds too hard for the available resource.

I have spoken to many managers over the years about my one other's concerns.

I do not feel shutting the fishery down is the right option, gear reduction along with permits stacking seems a better option.

PROPOSED BY: Mark Hofmann

(EF-F24-061)

PROPOSAL 227

5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A.

Allow for more than one CFEC shrimp pot permit holder to fish from the same vessel and jointly operate pot gear in aggregate of no more than 50% allowed gear for the additional permit.

Allow stacking of permits to eventually reduce the overall number of pots fishing while leaving reasonable access/ entry for single permit /new entrants.

the stacked permit would have a pot value of no greater than 50% of the base permit

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Over capacity of pot shrimp permits. The stocks are at a low level and need less pressure.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Discussed with other fisherman

PROPOSED BY: Mark Hofmann

(EF-F24-063)

PROPOSAL 228

5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for registration Area A.

Redefine legal shrimp pot requirements to allow for the use slinky pots.

5AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A

(a) Shrimp may be taken with pots in Registration Area A only as specified in this section. A shrimp pot may be a traditional cone style pot or a coil spring style pot, commonly known as slinky pot.

(b) A cone style shrimp pot

(1) may not have

(A) more than one bottom;

(B) a vertical height of more than 24 inches;

(C) more than four tunnel eye openings which individually do not exceed 15 inches in perimeter;

or

(D) a bottom perimeter exceeding a perimeter specified in (e) of this section

(2) the sides of a cone style shrimp pot may only be

(A) at a right angle to the plane of the bottom of the pot; or

(B) slanted inward toward the center of the pot in a straight line from the bottom of the pot to the top of the pot.

(c) a slinky pot style shrimp pot

(1) may not have

(A) a vertical diameter of more than 24 inches;

(B) a horizontal length of more than 48 inches;

(C) more than two tunnel eye openings which individually do not exceed 15 inches in perimeter
(d) a shrimp pot must be entirely covered with net webbing or rigid mesh. At least two adjacent sides or 50 percent of the vertical or near-vertical sides must be covered with net webbing or rigid mesh that allows the passage of a seven-eighths inch diameter by 12 inch long wooden dowel,

which upon insertion into the web, must drop completely through by its own weight, without force. In the waters of Lituya Bay, enclosed by a line from the easternmost tip of Harbor Point to the Southernmost tip of LaChaussee Spit there is no minimum mesh size.

(e) Shrimp pots may be operated only as follows:

(1) repealed 7/18/2003

(2) the number of shrimp pots that may be operated from a registered shrimp fishing vessel is 140 slinky pots, 140 small pots, or 100 large pots; for the purposes of this section,

(A) a "slinky pot" style shrimp pot conforms with (c) of this section;

(B) a small pot has a bottom perimeter of no more than 124 inches;

(C) a "large pot" has a bottom perimeter of more than 124 inches, but not more than 153 inches;

(3) if all pots on board a vessel or operated from a vessel are of the same type and of the same size as defined in (2)(A) or (2)(B) of this subsection 140 pots may be operated from the vessel, if any of the pots on board or operated from a vessel are of the same type and size as defined in (2)(C) of this subsection only 100 pots may be operated from the vessel;

(4) a vessel operator may have only shrimp pot gear owned by that person on board the vessel at any time;

(5) shrimp pot gear may be deployed or retrieved only from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. each day; the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the fishing season in a district or a portion of a district and immediately reopen the season during which the time period allowed to deploy and retrieve shrimp pot gear may be increased or decreased to achieve the guideline harvest range;

(6) all shrimp pots left in saltwater unattended longer than a two-week period must have all bait containers removed and all doors secured fully open.

(f) A registered shrimp vessel may not have, at anytime in the aggregate, more than the legal limit of shrimp pot gear on board the vessel, in the water in fishing condition, and in the water in nonfishing condition, including commercial and non commercial shrimp pots as described in 5 AAC 31.128(b).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The regulation defining legal pot gear for shrimp in Registration Area A is very detailed and specific. It details a traditional cone style shrimp pot and makes other types of pots unlawful if they do not conform. My company has been selling a coil spring shrimp pot, commonly known as a slinky pot, for use in the Personal use shrimp fishery and have recieved interest in the slinky shrimp pot from commercial users, but as written 38.124 makes them unlawful for commercial use.

The slinky shrimp pot collapses flat and is very light weight making it an ideal pot for small vessels. In writing this regulation I also adjusted (e)(3) to allow a vessel to use a portion of their gear as slinky pots and a portion as cone pots so they did not have to invest in an entire new string of gear to enjoy the space and weight benifits of a slinky type pot.

The slinky type shrimp pot we currently sell for personal use is 18 inches in diameter and 36 inches in length and has a volume of 9,160 cubic inches. I have set the size limit of the commercial slinky shrimp pot at 24 inches in diameter and 48 inches in length which gives it a volume of 21,715 cubic inches. This is still well below the volume of the small shrimp pot at 26,507 cubic inches, so I have put the pot limit of slinky type shrimp pots at 140 pots.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Conversations with ADF&G staff and SE shrimp permit holders.

PROPOSAL 229

5 AAC 31.105. Description of Registration Area A districts and sections 5 AAC 31.115. Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A, 5 AAC 33.200. Fishing districts and sections, 5 AAC 32.105. Description of Registration Area A districts, 5 AAC 38.076. Alaska Scallop Fishery Management Plan, and 5 AAC 38.105. Description of Registration Area A districts and sections.

Repeal redundant descriptions of Southeast Alaska districts and sections in 5 AAC 31.105, update 33.200 with District 10 section descriptions, add Section 6-E to District 6 shrimp pot fishing areas, and update regulations that refer to 5 AAC 31.105, as follows:

5AAC 31.105 is amended to read:

5 AAC 31.105. Description of Registration Area A districts and sections. **Registration Area A districts and sections are described in 5 AAC 33.200.**

[(A) DISTRICT 1: WATERS EAST AND NORTH OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF CAAMANO POINT AT 55° 29.85' N. LAT., 131° 58.21' W. LONG., THEN SOUTH TO A POINT IN DIXON ENTRANCE AT 54° 40.00' N. LAT., 131° 45.00' W. LONG., AND WATERS NORTH OF A LINE RUNNING FROM 54° 40.00' N. LAT., 131° 45.00' W. LONG., TO 54° 42.48' N. LAT., 130° 36.92' W. LONG.

(B) DISTRICT 2: WATERS SOUTH OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE EASTERNMOST TIP OF NARROW POINT AT 55° 47.00' N. LAT., 132° 28.23' W. LONG., TO LEMESURIER POINT, AT 55° 46.02' N. LAT., 132° 16.94' W. LONG., WATERS WEST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF CAAMANO POINT AT 55° 29.85' N. LAT., 131° 58.21' W. LONG., THEN DUE SOUTH TO A POINT IN DIXON ENTRANCE AT 54° 40.00' N. LAT., 131° 45.00' W. LONG., AND WATERS EAST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM POINT MARSH LIGHT AT 54° 42.70' N. LAT., 132° 17.72' W. LONG., THEN DUE SOUTH TO A POINT IN DIXON ENTRANCE AT 54° 40.00' N. LAT., 132° 17.50' W. LONG.

(C) DISTRICT 3: WATERS NORTH AND WEST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM POINT MARSH LIGHT AT 54° 42.70' N. LAT., 132° 17.72' W. LONG., THEN DUE SOUTH TO A POINT IN DIXON ENTRANCE AT 54° 40.00' N. LAT., 132° 41.29' W. LONG., AND ENDING AT THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF CAPE MUZON, AND WATERS EAST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF EAGLE POINT ON DALL ISLAND AT 55° 14.53' N. LAT., 133° 13.28' W. LONG., TO THE WESTERNMOST TIP OF POINT ARBOLEDA AT 55° 19.10' N. LAT., 133° 27.81' W. LONG., TO THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF POINT SAN ROQUE AT 55° 20.13' N. LAT., 133° 32.70' W. LONG., TO THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF CAPE ULITKA AT 55° 33.76' N. LAT., 133° 43.73' W. LONG., TO CAPE LYNCH LIGHT AT 55° 46.87' N. LAT., 133° 42.10' W. LONG., AND ENDING AT THE SOUTHWEST ENTRANCE POINT OF HALIBUT HARBOR ON KOSCIUSKO ISLAND AT 55° 54.99' N. LAT., 133° 47.64' W. LONG., AND WATERS SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF ANESKETT POINT AT 56° 08.85' N. LAT.;

(1) SECTION 3-A: WATERS OF DISTRICT 3 SOUTH AND EAST OF A LINE THROUGH TLEVAK NARROWS BEGINNING AT THE EASTERNMOST TIP OF TURN POINT AT 55° 15.74' N. LAT., 133° 07.33' W. LONG., TO A POINT ON PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND AT 55° 15.75' N. LAT., 133° 06.43' W. LONG., INCLUDING SODA BAY AND ITS

CONTIGUOUS WATERS, BUT EXCLUDING ALL WATERS OF MEARES PASS AND ITS CONTIGUOUS WATERS;

(2) SECTION 3-B: WATERS OF DISTRICT 3 SOUTH OF POINT SWIFT AT 55° 45.78' N. LAT., 133° 19.57' W. LONG., INCLUDING ALL WATERS OF WARM CHUCK INLET, IPHIGENIA BAY SOUTH OF CAPE LYNCH LIGHT AT 55° 46.87' N. LAT., 133° 42.10' W. LONG., EXCLUDING ALL WATERS OF TUXEKAN PASSAGE AND ITS CONTIGUOUS WATERS, AND WATERS OF DISTRICT 3 NORTH OF A LINE THROUGH TLEVAK NARROWS BEGINNING AT THE EASTERNMOST TIP OF TURN POINT LOCATED AT 55° 15.74' N. LAT., 133° 07.33' W. LONG., TO A POINT ON PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND AT 55° 15.70' N. LAT., 133° 06.53' W. LONG., INCLUDING ALL WATERS OF MEARES PASS AND ITS CONTIGUOUS WATERS, BUT EXCLUDING ALL WATERS OF SODA BAY AND ITS CONTIGUOUS WATERS;

(3) SECTION 3-C: WATERS OF DISTRICT 3 NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF POINT SWIFT AT 55° 45.78' N. LAT., 133° 19.57' W. LONG., INCLUDING ALL WATERS OF TUXEKAN PASSAGE AND ITS CONTIGUOUS WATERS, BUT EXCLUDING ALL WATERS OF WARM CHUCK INLET, IPHIGENIA BAY SOUTH OF CAPE LYNCH LIGHT AT 55° 46.86' N. LAT., 133° 42.10' W. LONG.

(D) DISTRICT 4: WATERS NORTH OF THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF CAPE MUZON AT 54° 39.82' N. LAT., 132° 41.29' W. LONG., WEST OF DISTRICT 3, AND SOUTH OF A LINE FROM HELM POINT ON CORONATION ISLAND AT 55° 49.59' N. LAT., 134° 16.19' W. LONG., TO CAPE LYNCH LIGHT AT 55° 46.87' N. LAT., 133° 42.10' W. LONG.

(E) DISTRICT 5: WATERS OF SUMNER STRAIT THAT ARE NORTH AND EAST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM CAPE DECISION TO HELM POINT, TO CAPE LYNCH, AND ENDING AT THE SOUTHWEST ENTRANCE POINT OF HALIBUT HARBOR, AND WATERS NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF ANESKETT POINT, WEST OF A LINE FROM POINT BAKER TO POINT BARRIE, AND SOUTH OF A LINE RUNNING FROM POINT CAMDEN TO SALT POINT LIGHT IN KEKU STRAIT.

(F) DISTRICT 6: WATERS OF CLARENCE STRAIT NORTH AND EAST OF A LINE FROM NARROW POINT AT 55° 47.45' N. LAT., 132° 28.57' W. LONG., TO LEMESURIER POINT AT 55° 46.02' N. LAT., 132° 16.93' W. LONG., TO ERNEST POINT AT 55° 51.00' N. LAT., 132° 22.21' W. LONG., TO THE MOST SOUTHERLY POINT ON ETOLIN ISLAND AT 55° 54.79' N. LAT., 132° 21.24' W. LONG., WATERS OF STIKINE STRAIT SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF ROUND POINT AT 56° 16.65' N. LAT., 132° 39.44' W. LONG., WATERS OF SUMNER STRAIT WEST OF A LINE FROM POINT ALEXANDER AT 56° 30.54' N. LAT., 132° 56.94' W. LONG., TO LOW POINT AT 56° 27.18' N. LAT., 132° 57.17' W. LONG., AND EAST OF A LINE FROM POINT BAKER AT 56° 21.52' N. LAT., 133° 37.58' W. LONG., TO POINT BARRIE AT 56° 26.18' N. LAT., 133° 39.27' W. LONG., WATERS OF WRANGELL NARROWS SOUTH AND WEST OF A LINE FROM PROLEWY POINT AT 56° 50.12' N. LAT., 132° 56.45' W. LONG., TO THE NORTHERN TIP OF MITKOF ISLAND AT 56° 49.38' N. LAT., 132° 56.31' W. LONG., AND ALL WATERS OF DUNCAN CANAL;

(1) SECTION 6-A: WATERS NORTH OF A LINE FROM POINT COLPOYS AT 56° 20.17' N. LAT., 133° 11.90' W. LONG., TO MACNAMARA POINT AT 56° 19.85' N. LAT., 133° 04.00' W. LONG., WEST OF A LINE FROM LOW POINT AT 56° 27.18' N. LAT., 132° 57.17' W. LONG., TO POINT ALEXANDER AT 56° 30.54' N. LAT., 132° 56.94' W. LONG., AND EAST OF A LINE FROM POINT BARRIE AT 56° 26.18' N. LAT., 133° 39.27' W. LONG., TO POINT BAKER AT 56° 21.52' N. LAT., 133° 37.58' W. LONG.;

(2) SECTION 6-B: WATERS SOUTH OF A LINE FROM POINT COLPOYS AT 56° 20.17' N. LAT., 133° 11.90' W. LONG., TO MACNAMARA POINT AT 56° 19.85' N. LAT., 133° 04.00' W. LONG., AND NORTH AND WEST OF A LINE FROM LUCK POINT AT 55° 59.04' N. LAT., 132° 44.07' W. LONG., TO POINT STANHOPE AT 56° 00.69' N. LAT., 132° 36.46' W. LONG., TO LINCOLN ROCK LIGHT AT 56° 03.40' N. LAT., 132° 41.85' W. LONG., TO KEY REEF LIGHT AT 56° 09.61' N. LAT., 132° 49.78' W. LONG., TO NESBITT REEF LIGHT AT 56° 13.22' N. LAT., 132° 51.83' W. LONG., TO POINT NESBITT AT 56° 13.88' N. LAT., 132° 52.33' W. LONG.;

(3) SECTION 6-C : WATERS ENCLOSED BY A LINE FROM LINCOLN ROCK LIGHT AT 56° 03.40' N. LAT., 132° 41.85' W. LONG., TO THE WESTERNMOST POINT OF SCREEN ISLANDS AT 56° 05.54' W. LAT., 132° 42.60' W. LONG., TO THE WESTERNMOST POINT OF MARSH ISLAND AT 56° 06.94' N. LAT., 132° 43.15' W. LONG., TO THE WESTERNMOST POINT OF STEAMER ROCKS AT 56° 08.41' N. LAT., 132° 43.64' W. LONG., TO MARIPOSA ROCK BUOY AT 56° 10.67' N. LAT., 132° 44.35' W. LONG., TO THE TIP OF POINT NESBITT AT 56° 13.88' N. LAT., 132° 52.33' W. LONG., TO NESBITT REEF LIGHT AT 56° 13.22' N. LAT., 132° 51.83' W. LONG., TO KEY REEF LIGHT AT 56° 09.61' N. LAT., 132° 49.78' W. LONG., TO LINCOLN ROCK LIGHT AT 56° 03.40' N. LAT., 132° 41.85' W. LONG.;

(4) SECTION 6-D: ALL WATERS OF DISTRICT 6 NOT INCLUDED IN (1) - (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(G) DISTRICT 7: WATERS OF ERNEST SOUND AND BRADFIELD CANAL THAT ARE EAST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM LEMESURIER POINT TO ERNEST POINT, AND ENDING AT THE MOST SOUTHERLY POINT OF ETOLIN ISLAND, WATERS OF ZIMOVIA STRAIT THAT ARE SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF NEMO POINT, AND WATERS OF EASTERN PASSAGE AND BLAKE CHANNEL THAT ARE EAST OF A LINE FROM BABBLER POINT TO HOUR POINT (56° 27.80' N. LAT., 132° 16.63' W. LONG.).

(H) DISTRICT 8: WATERS OF FREDERICK SOUND SOUTH OF A LINE FROM WOOD POINT AT 56° 59.47' N. LAT., 132° 56.97' W. LONG. TO BEACON POINT AT 56° 56.36' N. LAT., 132° 59.74' W. LONG., WATERS OF SUMNER STRAIT EAST OF A LINE FROM POINT ALEXANDER AT 56° 30.54' N. LAT., 132° 56.94' W. LONG., TO LOW POINT AT 56° 27.18' N. LAT., 132° 57.17' W. LONG., WATERS OF STIKINE STRAIT NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF ROUND POINT AT 56° 16.65' N. LAT., 132° 39.44' W. LONG., WATERS OF ZIMOVIA STRAIT NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF NEMO POINT AT 56° 17.00' N. LAT., 132° 21.94' W. LONG., AND WATERS OF EASTERN PASSAGE WEST OF A LINE FROM HOUR POINT AT 56° 27.72' N. LAT., 132° 16.79' W. LONG., TO BABBLER POINT AT 56° 29.08' W. LAT., 132° 17.36' W. LONG.;

(1) SECTION 8-A: WATERS NORTH OF A LINE FROM BLAQUIERE POINT AT 56° 35.06' N. LAT., 132° 32.54' W. LONG., TO KAKWAN POINT AT 56° 41.62' N. LAT., 132° 13.12' W. LONG.;

(2) SECTION 8-B: WATERS SOUTH OF A LINE FROM BLAQUIERE POINT AT 56° 35.06' N. LAT., 132° 32.54' W. LONG., TO KAKWAN POINT AT 56° 41.62' N. LAT., 132° 13.12' W. LONG.

(I) DISTRICT 9: WATERS OF FREDERICK SOUND AND CHATHAM STRAIT THAT ARE SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF POINT GARDNER, WATERS THAT ARE SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF ELLIOTT ISLAND AND THAT ARE WEST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE

SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF ELLIOTT ISLAND TO THE WESTERNMOST TIP OF POINT MACARTNEY, WATERS THAT ARE NORTH AND WEST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF POINT CAMDEN TO SALT POINT LIGHT, AND WATERS THAT ARE NORTH AND EAST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF CAPE DECISION TO THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF HELM POINT, TO THE WESTERNMOST TIP OF HAZY ISLANDS, AND ENDING AT CAPE OMMANEY LIGHT.

(J) DISTRICT 10: WATERS OF FREDERICK SOUND, STEPHENS PASSAGE, AND CONTIGUOUS WATERS NORTH OF A LINE FROM BEACON POINT AT 56° 56.36' N. LAT., 132° 59.74' W. LONG., TO WOOD POINT AT 56° 59.47' N. LAT., 132° 56.97' W. LONG., EAST OF A LINE FROM POINT MACARTNEY AT 57° 01.49' N. LAT., 134° 03.51' W. LONG., TO THE SOUTHERN TIP OF ELLIOTT ISLAND AT 57° 15.20' N. LAT., 134° 03.72' W. LONG., AND NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF THE SOUTHERN TIP OF ELLIOTT ISLAND AT 57° 15.20' N. LAT., 134° 03.72' W. LONG., WATERS OF SEYMOUR CANAL SOUTH OF 57° 37.00' N. LAT., AND WATERS OF STEPHENS PASSAGE SOUTH OF A LINE FROM POINT LEAGUE AT 57° 37.76' N. LAT., 133° 40.47' W. LONG., TO POINT HUGH AT 57° 34.21' N. LAT., 133° 48.58' W. LONG.;

(1) SECTION 10-A: WATERS WEST OF LINE FROM PINTA POINT AT 57° 05.90' N. LAT., 133° 53.40' W. LONG., TO A POINT AT 57° 12.60' N. LAT., 133° 53.25' W. LONG., TO THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF AKUSHA ISLAND AT 57° 18.40' N. LAT., 133° 39.28' W. LONG., TO MCDONALD ROCK LIGHT AT 57° 25.10' N. LAT., 133° 37.82' W. LONG., TO A POINT AT 57° 36.00' N. LAT., 133° 44.76' W. LONG.;

(2) SECTION 10-B: WATERS NORTH OF A LINE FROM PINTA POINT AT 57° 05.90' N. LAT., 133° 53.40' W. LONG., TO CAPE FANSHAW AT 57° 11.12' N. LAT., 133° 34.40' W. LONG., AND EAST OF A LINE FROM PINTA POINT AT 57° 05.90' N. LAT., 133° 53.40' W. LONG., TO A POINT AT 57° 12.60' N. LAT., 133° 53.25' W. LONG., TO THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF AKUSHA ISLAND AT 57° 18.40' N. LAT., 133° 39.28' W. LONG., TO MCDONALD ROCK LIGHT AT 57° 25.10' N. LAT., 133° 37.82' W. LONG., TO A POINT AT 57° 36.00' N. LAT., 133° 44.76' W. LONG.,

(3) SECTION 10-C: WATERS EAST OF A LINE FROM PINTA POINT AT 57° 05.90' N. LAT., 133° 53.40' W. LONG., TO CAPE FANSHAW AT 57° 11.12' N. LAT., 133° 34.40' W. LONG.

(K) DISTRICT 11: WATERS OF STEPHENS PASSAGE THAT ARE NORTH OF A LINE FROM POINT LEAGUE TO POINT HUGH, WATERS OF SEYMOUR CANAL THAT ARE NORTH OF 57° 37' N. LAT., AND WATERS THAT ARE SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF LITTLE ISLAND LIGHT AND EAST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM LITTLE ISLAND LIGHT TO POINT RETREAT LIGHT;

(1) SECTION 11-A: WATERS OF THE DISTRICT THAT ARE NORTH AND WEST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM A POINT AT 58° 12.33' N. LAT., 134° 10' W. LONG., TO THE COAST GUARD MARKER AND LIGHT ON POINT ARDEN;

(2) SECTION 11-B: WATERS OF THE DISTRICT THAT ARE NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF MIDWAY ISLAND LIGHT AND SOUTH AND EAST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM A POINT AT 58° 12.33' N. LAT., 134° 10' W. LONG., TO THE COAST GUARD MARKER AND LIGHT ON POINT ARDEN;

(3) SECTION 11-C: WATERS OF THE DISTRICT THAT ARE SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF MIDWAY ISLAND LIGHT AND NORTH OF A LINE RUNNING FROM POINT LEAGUE TO POINT HUGH;

(4) SECTION 11-D: ALL WATERS OF SEYMOUR CANAL THAT ARE NORTH OF 57° 37' N. LAT.

(L) DISTRICT 12: WATERS OF LYNN CANAL AND CHATHAM STRAIT THAT ARE SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF LITTLE ISLAND LIGHT, NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF POINT GARDNER, WEST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM LITTLE ISLAND LIGHT TO POINT RETREAT LIGHT, EAST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM POINT COUVERDEN TO POINT AUGUSTA, AND EAST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM POINT HAYES TO POINT THATCHER.

(M) DISTRICT 13: WATERS THAT ARE NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF HELM POINT AND WEST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF HELM POINT TO THE WESTERNMOST TIP OF HAZY ISLAND, AND ENDING AT CAPE OMMANEY LIGHT, WATERS THAT ARE SOUTH OF A LINE RUNNING WEST FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF CAPE SPENCER, WATERS THAT ARE WEST OF A LINE FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF CAPE SPENCER THROUGH YAKOBI ROCK, AND ENDING AT YAKOBI ISLAND, WATERS THAT ARE SOUTH OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF SOAPSTONE POINT TO THE WESTERNMOST TIP OF COLUMN POINT, AND WATERS THAT ARE WEST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF POINT HAYES TO THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF POINT THATCHER;

(1) SECTION 13-A: WATERS THAT ARE NORTH OF 57° 16' N. LAT. AND THE WATERS OF PERIL STRAIT THAT ARE SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF POGIBSHI POINT (57° 30.50' N. LAT.);

(2) SECTION 13-B: WATERS THAT ARE SOUTH OF 57° 16' N. LAT.;

(3) SECTION 13-C: WATERS OF THE DISTRICT THAT ARE NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF POGIBSHI POINT AND WEST OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF POINT HAYES TO THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF POINT THATCHER IN PERIL STRAIT.

(N) DISTRICT 14: WATERS OF ICY STRAIT THAT ARE WEST OF A LINE FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF POINT COUVERDEN TO POINT AUGUSTA LIGHT, EAST OF A STRAIGHT LINE RUNNING FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF CAPE SPENCER THROUGH YAKOBI ROCK, AND ENDING AT YAKOBI ISLAND, AND WATERS THAT ARE NORTH OF A LINE RUNNING FROM THE NORTHERNMOST POINT OF SOAPSTONE POINT TO THE WESTERNMOST POINT OF COLUMN POINT.

(O) DISTRICT 15: WATERS OF LYNN CANAL THAT ARE NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF LITTLE ISLAND LIGHT.

(P) DISTRICT 16: WATERS THAT ARE NORTH OF A LINE RUNNING WEST FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF CAPE SPENCER AND SOUTH OF A LINE RUNNING SOUTHWEST FROM THE WESTERNMOST TIP OF CAPE FAIRWEATHER.

(Q) DIXON ENTRANCE DISTRICT: WATERS THAT ARE EAST OF 138° 45.33' W. LONG., SOUTH OF THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARIES OF DISTRICTS 1, 2, 3, AND 4, AND WATERS THAT ARE NORTH OF A LINE RUNNING FROM 54° 43.50' N. LAT., 130° 37.62' W. LONG., TO 54° 43.40' N. LAT., 130° 37.65' W. LONG., TO 54° 43.25' N. LAT., 130° 37.73' W. LONG., TO 54° 43' N. LAT., 130° 37.92' W. LONG., TO 54° 42.97' N. LAT., 130° 37.95' W. LONG., TO 54° 42.78' N. LAT., 130° 38.10' W. LONG., TO 54° 42.37' N. LAT., 130° 38.43' W. LONG., TO 54° 41.15' N. LAT., 130° 38.97' W. LONG., TO 54° 39.90' N. LAT., 130° 38.97' W. LONG., TO 54° 39.23' N. LAT., 130° 39.30' W. LONG., TO 54° 39.80' N. LAT., 130° 41.58' W.

LONG., TO 54° 40.05' N. LAT., 130° 42.37' W. LONG., TO 54° 40.70' N. LAT., 130° 44.72' W. LONG., TO 54° 40.68' N. LAT., 130° 44.98' W. LONG., TO 54° 40.77' N. LAT., 130° 45.85' W. LONG., TO 54° 41.10' N. LAT., 130° 48.52' W. LONG., TO 54° 41.08' N. LAT., 130° 49.28' W. LONG., TO 54° 41.35' N. LAT., 130° 53.30' W. LONG., TO 54° 41.43' N. LAT., 130° 53.65' W. LONG., TO 54° 42.45' N. LAT., 130° 56.30' W. LONG., TO 54° 42.57' N. LAT., 130° 57.15' W. LONG., TO 54° 43' N. LAT., 130° 57.68' W. LONG., TO 54° 43.77' N. LAT., 130° 58.92' W. LONG., TO 54° 44.20' N. LAT., 130° 59.73' W. LONG., TO 54° 45.65' N. LAT., 131° 03.10' W. LONG., TO 54° 46.27' N. LAT., 131° 04.72' W. LONG., TO 54° 42.18' N. LAT., 131° 13' W. LONG., TO 54° 40.87' N. LAT., 131° 13.90' W. LONG., TO 54° 39.15' N. LAT., 131° 16.28' W. LONG., TO 54° 36.87' N. LAT., 131° 19.37' W. LONG., TO 54° 29.88' N. LAT., 131° 33.80' W. LONG., TO 54° 30.53' N. LAT., 131° 38.02' W. LONG., TO 54° 28.30' N. LAT., 131° 45.33' W. LONG., TO 54° 26.68' N. LAT., 131° 49.47' W. LONG., TO 54° 21.85' N. LAT., 132° 02.90' W. LONG., TO 54° 24.87' N. LAT., 132° 23.65' W. LONG., TO 54° 24.68' N. LAT., 132° 24.48' W. LONG., TO 54° 24.68' N. LAT., 132° 24.58' W. LONG., TO 54° 24.65' N. LAT., 132° 26.85' W. LONG., TO 54° 24.57' N. LAT., 132° 38.27' W. LONG., TO 54° 24.90' N. LAT., 132° 39.77' W. LONG., TO 54° 26' N. LAT., 132° 44.20' W. LONG., TO 54° 27.12' N. LAT., 132° 49.58' W. LONG., TO 54° 27.12' N. LAT., 132° 50.70' W. LONG., TO 54° 28.42' N. LAT., 132° 55.90' W. LONG., TO 54° 28.53' N. LAT., 132° 56.47' W. LONG., TO 54° 30.05' N. LAT., 133° 07' W. LONG., TO 54° 30.17' N. LAT., 133° 07.72' W. LONG., TO 54° 30.70' N. LAT., 133° 11.47' W. LONG., TO 54° 31.03' N. LAT., 133° 14' W. LONG., TO 54° 30.10' N. LAT., 133° 16.97' W. LONG., TO 54° 22.02' N. LAT., 133° 44.40' W. LONG., TO 54° 20.55' N. LAT., 133° 49.35' W. LONG., TO 54° 15.67' N. LAT., 134° 19.82' W. LONG., TO 54° 12.95' N. LAT., 134° 23.78' W. LONG., TO 54° 12.75' N. LAT., 134° 25.05' W. LONG., TO 54° 07.50' N. LAT., 134° 56.40' W. LONG., TO 54° 00.02' N. LAT., 135° 45.95' W. LONG., AND ENDING AT 53° 28.45' N. LAT., 138° 45.33' W. LONG.]

5 AAC 31.100 is amended to read:

Registration Area A (Southeastern Alaska) has as its southern boundary the International Boundary at Dixon Entrance and as its northern boundary a line extending seaward [RUNNING SOUTHWEST] from the western[MOST] tip of Cape Fairweather at 58° 47.89' N. lat., 137° 56.68' W. long., to the intersection with the seaward limit of the three-nautical-mile territorial sea at 58° 45.96' N. lat., 138° 01.40' W. long.

5AAC 31.115(a)(6) is amended to read:

(6) District 6: Sections 6-B, 6-C, [AND] 6-D, and 6-E combined: 0 - 60,000 pounds of spot shrimp;

5AAC 32.105 is amended to read:

The districts for Registration Area A for Dungeness crab are the same as the districts that are described in 5 AAC 33.200 [5 AAC 31.105].

5 AAC 33.200 (j) is amended to read:

1) Section 10-A: waters west of line from Pinta Point at 57° 05.96' N. lat., 133° 52.82' W. long., to a point at 57° 13.08' N. lat., 133° 52.82' W. long., to the northernmost tip of Akusha Island at 57° 18.37' N. lat., 133° 39.48' W. long., to McDonald Rock Light at 57° 25.10' N. lat., 133° 37.83' W. long., to a point at 57° 35.92' N. lat., 133° 44.71' W. long.;

(2) Section 10-B: waters north of a line from Pinta Point at 57° 05.96' N. lat., 133° 52.82' W. long., to Cape Fanshaw Light at 57° 11.12' N. lat., 133° 34.43' W. long., and east of

a line from Pinta Point at 57° 05.96' N. lat., 133° 52.82' W. long., to a point at 57° 13.08' N. lat., 133° 52.82' W. long., to the northernmost tip of Akusha Island at 57° 18.37' N. lat., 133° 39.48' W. long., to McDonald Rock Light at 57° 25.10' N. lat., 133° 37.83' W. long., to a point at 57° 35.92' N. lat., 133° 44.71' W. long.,

(3) Section 10-C: waters east of a line from Pinta Point at 57° 05.96' N. lat., 133° 52.82' W. long., to Cape Fanshaw Light at 57° 11.12' N. lat., 133° 34.43' W. long.

5 AAC 38.076 (b)(1) and (2) are amended to read:

(1) Scallop Registration Area A (Southeastern Alaska) is Registration Area A, described in 5 AAC 38.100, except for all waters of District 16 as described in **5 AAC 33.200(p)** [5 AAC 31.105(P)];

(2) Scallop Registration Area D (Yakutat) is Registration Area D, described in 5 AAC 38.160, and all waters of District 16 as described in **5 AAC 33.200(p)** [5 AAC 31.105(P)];

5 AAC 38.105 is amended to read:

Registration Area A districts and sections are as described in **5 AAC 33.200** [5 AAC 31.105].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are currently two descriptions for Southeast Alaska region districts and sections: 5 AAC 31.105 and 33.200. The majority of regulations (29 regulations in total) refer to 5 AAC 33.200, including all salmon (5 AAC 29 and 33), subsistence (5 AAC 01 and 02), personal use (5 AAC 77), sport fish (5 AAC 47), herring (5 AAC 27), tanner crab (5 AAC 35), and king crab regulations (5 AAC 35) as well as regulations in 3 AAC and 20 AAC. The only regulations (4 total) that refer to 5 AAC 31.105 are found in shrimp (5 AAC 31) and miscellaneous shellfish (5 AAC 38). Removing district and section descriptions found in 5 AAC 31.105, adding District 10 section descriptions to 5 AAC 33.200 to accommodate the pot shrimp fishery, and making associated changes to other regulations would have no impact on fisheries management and would eliminate any confusion with any unintended differences between the descriptions. Both 5 AAC 31.105 and 33.200 were established prior to 1985. The department is unaware of why there was a need for two descriptions of the region's districts and sections.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-155)

Miscellaneous shellfish

PROPOSAL 230

5 AAC 38.XX Southeast Alaska Magister Squid Jig Fishery.

Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid.

A commercial automated squid jig fishery that would have little or no bycatch would open in Southeast Alaska (season to be determined by department. Fishing may be restricted to one of two spawning events, either winter or summer, if it was felt there might be a biological concern regarding the volume of squid harvest). An annual stock report would be provided by the Department from which an annual TAC (Total Annual Catch) would be announced based on catch data provided by commercial logbooks as is done in most squid fisheries. Squid are very short lived (B.Magister in SEAK only live a year) and the biological risk from overharvesting is minimal

as this species reproduces quickly and would be resilient to any discovered overharvest. The Department would have the authority to level fees to this fishery if it were deemed necessary to cover any expenses to oversee the fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Open a directed commercial jig fishery for Squid (*Berryteuthis Magister* Armhook Squid) in Southeast Alaska coastal waters. Magister squid is an underutilized species that not only could provide a source of revenue for dwindling commercial fishermen, but also provide a mechanism to control their predation on other economically important commercial species such as all species of salmon, cod fish, and herring.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee voted unanimously to submit this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Yamada & Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee (EF-F24-076)

PROPOSAL 231

5 AAC 38.XXX. New Section.

Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid.

A commercial automated squid jig fishery that would have little or no bycatch would open in Southeast Alaska (season to be determined by department. Fishing may be restricted to one of two spawning events, either winter or summer, if it was felt there might be a biological concern regarding the volume of squid harvest). An annual stock report would be provided by the Department from which an annual TAC (Total Annual Catch) would be announced based on catch data provided by commercial logbooks as is done in most squid fisheries. Squid are very short lived (B.Magister in SEAK only live a year) and the biological risk from overharvesting is minimal as this species reproduces quickly and would be resilient to any discovered overharvest. The Department would have the authority to level fees to this fishery if it were deemed necessary to cover any expenses to oversee the fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Open a directed commercial jig fishery for Squid (*Berryteuthis Magister* Armhook Squid) in Southeast Alaska coastal waters. Magister squid is an underutilized species that not only could provide a source of revenue for dwindling commercial fishermen, but also provide a mechanism to control their predation on other economically important commercial species such as all species of salmon, cod fish, and herring.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. In coordination with Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Yamada (HQ-F24-032)

PROPOSAL 232

5 AAC 38.090 (d). Unlawful Possession of Miscellaneous Shellfish Aboard a Vessel.

Allow for the concurrent possession of red and green urchin aboard.

The commissioner may allow the retention of red and green sea urchins concurrently on the same vessel to explore the possibility of a viable combined sea urchin fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 38.090 (d) prohibits a person on a vessel registered to fish for miscellaneous shellfish to possess more than one species of miscellaneous shellfish at any one time. There is interest in red sea urchin harvesters to be able to retain green sea urchins while they are fishing for red sea urchins. The rationale for this is red sea urchin prices are low, red sea urchin populations are declining due to increased sea otter populations and declines in kelp abundance. Due to sky rocketing fuel and supply costs in the past few years, it is becoming cost-prohibitive to fish solely for red sea urchins. If divers were allowed to harvest red and green sea urchins concurrently, it may make the fishery viable again. Green sea urchins are highly valuable species in other areas (Maine and Japan for example) and allowing retention of green urchins along with reds would allow dive harvesters to see if a green urchin fishery is viable in SE Alaska.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, the SE Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association Sea Urchin committee and Ketchikan ADFG management biologists.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F24-093)

COMMERCIAL AND SPORT CRAB (30 proposals)

Golden king crab

PROPOSAL 233

5 AAC 34.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.

Change the criteria for setting the season start date for the Registration A golden king crab commercial fishery to fall within the smallest set of falling tides between February 10 and 17.

Set the season start date for golden king crab in Southeast Alaska to the smallest set of falling tides between the 10th and 17th of February.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Set the season start date for the golden king crab fishing season on the smallest set of falling tides between the 10th and 17th of February. This will allow fishermen to start fishing before the tides have started rising and finish the season\ before the peak of the tide cycle. Tides are a significant challenge at times in the golden king crab fishery in Southeast Alaska, with fishermen often having to wait for their buoy bags to “pop up” to the surface when the tide lets off and no longer holds them under water. By starting the season before the tides start rising again, the relatively short golden king crab season in some areas could be finished before the tides get strong again, making gear retrieval more difficult. This will allow for easier pot retrieval, less risk of gear interaction, and less potential gear loss.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-119)

PROPOSAL 234

5 AAC 34.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.

Change the start time for the Registration Area A commercial golden king crab fishery from 12:00 noon to 8:00 a.m. on the day the fishery opens.

The commercial golden king crab fishery in Southeast Alaska will begin at 8 am.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the start time for the Southeast Alaska commercial golden king crab fishery start time from 12 noon to 8 am. By changing the start time, it will allow for more daylight hours for fishermen to set their pots on the first day. Weather is generally marginal at best during the golden king crab fishery in Southeast Alaska, reducing the number of pots vessels can carry as well as the speed the vessel can travel at. Vessels often have to return to a bay that they have pots stored in to bring back out to the fishing grounds. By opening the fishery start time 4 hours earlier, it will allow vessels to operate in more daylight hours, increasing the safety for the vessel and crew.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-063)

PROPOSAL 235

5 AAC 34.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.

Add freezing spray to the criteria that would delay the start date of commercial golden king crab fishery in Registration Area A.

The commercial golden king crab fishery in Southeast Alaska season start date can be delayed for freezing spray conditions.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow for a delayed season start to the Southeast Alaska golden king crab for freezing spray warnings concerns. Currently there is a regulation that allows for a delayed start to the golden king crab season for high winds, by also allowing for freezing spray conditions, it creates a safer environment for fishermen to start the fishery in.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-062)

PROPOSAL 236

5 AAC 34.127. King crab pot storage requirements for Registration Area A.

Increase the depth that Registration Area A commercial king crab fishery pots can be stored to 20 fathoms.

Allow for commercial fishing pot storage out to 20 fathoms in depth for the Southeast Alaska commercial golden king crab fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the storage depth for golden king crab pots from 10 fathoms to 20 fathoms in Southeast Alaska. With rising interest in the Southeast Alaska golden king crab fishery, there is a growing issue of limited pot storage in specific stat areas. Fishermen currently can store their pots near the fishing grounds in depths up to 10 fathoms. This has lead to fishermen having to store their gear vert close to one another, as well as limiting vessels ability to anchor up out of the bad weather because the anchorages are filled with stored gear.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-061)

PROPOSAL 237

5 AAC 34.107. Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A.

Expand the defined Lower Chatham Strait Area in the golden king crab commercial fishery in Registration Area A to include a portion of District 5.

5AAC 34.107 – Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A

(a) Northern Area: all waters of Section 11-A, Section 13-C, and Section 13-A in Peril Strait east of Point Kakul at 57° 21.83' N. lat., 135° 41.42' W. long., and all waters of Districts 12 and 15.

(b) Icy Straits Area: all waters of District 14.

(c) North Stephens Passage Area: all waters of Sections 11-B and 11-C.

(d) East Central Area: all waters of Section 11-D, District 10, and District 9 east of a line from Kingsmill Point at 56° 50.00' N. lat., 134° 25.17' W. long. to Point Gardner at 57° 01.00' N. lat., 134° 37.00' W. long., all waters of District 8 north of the latitude of Blaquiere Point at 56°35.00' N. lat., all waters of Section 6-A, and all waters of District 5 north of the latitude of Point Baker at 56° 21.53' N. lat.

(e) Mid-Chatham Strait Area: all waters of District 9 north of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56°33.67' N. lat. and west of a line from Kingsmill Point to Point Gardner.

(f) Lower Chatham Strait Area: all waters of District 9 south of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56° 33.67' N. lat., and that portion of District 13-B south of the latitude of Redfish Cape at 56°18.67' N. lat. **And all waters of District 5 south of the latitude of Point Baker at 56° 21.53' lat.**

(g) Southern Area: all waters of District 1 and District 2, all waters of District 6 south of a line from Point Colpoys at 56° 20.18' N. lat., 133° 11.90' W. long., to Macnamara Point at 56°20.18' N. lat., 133° 03.54' W. long., and all waters of District 7 south of the latitude of Point Warde at 56° 10.43' N. lat.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? When the current golden king crab fishing areas were developed, core fishing areas were captured but some grounds that were open and previously fished got left out as they were less utilized areas. The status of the areas

being incorporated in a fishing area are not listed as closed waters but they are also not listed in a fishing area open to fishing for Golden King Crab. Capturing these historical fishing grounds will provide more opportunities and area to fish, possibly leading to less congestion in some areas. At the last Board of Fish meeting some of these undesigned fishing grounds were added to the Southern Area.

This proposal adds in the waters of District 5 south of the latitude of Point Baker into the Lower Chatham Strait Area.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Developed proposal with help of SEAFA but without enough time for them to agree to be a sponsor.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Thomassen (HQ-F24-024)

PROPOSAL 238

5 AAC 34.107 Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A.

Expand the defined Southern Area in the golden king crab commercial fishery in Registration Area A to include all waters of Section 3-A.

5AAC 34.107 Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A.

(a) Northern Area: all waters of Section 11-A, Section 13-C, and Section 13-A in Peril Strait east of Point Kakul at 57° 21.83' N. lat., 135° 41.42' W. long., and all waters of Districts 12 and 15.

(b) Icy Straits Area: all waters of District 14.

(c) North Stephens Passage Area: all waters of Sections 11-B and 11-C.

(d) East Central Area: all waters of Section 11-D, District 10, and District 9 east of a line from Kingsmill Point at 56° 50.00' N. lat., 134° 25.17' W. long. to Point Gardner at 57° 01.00' N. lat., 134° 37.00' W. long., all waters of District 8 north of the latitude of Blaquiere Point at 56° 35.00' N. lat., all waters of Section 6-A, and all waters of District 5 north of the latitude of Point Baker at 56° 21.53' N. lat.

(e) Mid-Chatham Strait Area: all waters of District 9 north of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56° 33.67' N. lat. and west of a line from Kingsmill Point to Point Gardner.

(f) Lower Chatham Strait Area: all waters of District 9 south of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56° 33.67' N. lat., and that portion of District 13-B south of the latitude of Redfish Cape at 56° 18.67' N. lat.

(g) Southern Area: all waters of District 1 and District 2, **all waters of Section 3-A**, all waters of District 6 south of a line from Point Colpoys at 56° 20.18' N. lat., 133° 11.90' W. long., to Macnamara Point at 56° 20.18' N. lat., 133° 03.54' W. long., and all waters of District 7 south of the latitude of Point Warde at 56° 10.43' N. lat.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? When the current golden king crab fishing areas were developed, core fishing areas were captured but some grounds that were open and previously fished got left out as they were less utilized areas. The status of the areas being incorporated in a fishing area are not listed as closed waters but they are also not listed in a fishing area open to fishing for Golden King Crab. Capturing these historical fishing grounds will provide more opportunities and area to fish, possibly leading to less congestion in some areas. At

the last Board of Fish meeting some of these undesignated fishing grounds were added to the Southern Area. This proposal includes the waters of Section 3A Baker into the Southern Area.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Developed proposal with help of SEAFA but without enough time for them to agree to be a sponsor.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Thomassen

(HQ-F24-025)

PROPOSAL 239

5 AAC 34.107 Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A and 5 AAC 34.115 Guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A.

Divide the defined Northern Area of the golden king crab fishery in Registration Area A into two areas and split the current guideline harvest level between the two new areas, as follows:

5AAC 34.107 Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A

(a) Upper Northern Area: All waters of Section 11-A, the waters of District 12 North of East Point at 57° 48.34' N., 134° 57.01' W. long to 57° 48.34' N lat., 134° 48.65' W long, and west of a line from 57° 48.34' N lat., 134° 48.65' W long and north of a line at 57° 55.70' N lat, 134° 49.54' W long and all waters of District 15.

(b) Lower Northern Area: Waters of Section 13-C and Section 13A in Peril Strait east of Point Kakul at 57° 21.83' N. lat., 135° 41.42' W. long., and waters of District 12 South of East Point at 57° 48.34' N., 134° 57.01' W. long to 57° 48.34' N lat., 134° 48.65' W long, and east of a line from 57° 48.34' N lat., 134° 48.65' W long and north of a line at 57° 55.70' N lat, 134° 49.54' W long

[(a) NORTHERN AREA: ALL WATERS OF SECTION 11-A, SECTION 13-C, AND SECTION 13-A IN PERIL STRAIT EAST OF POINT KAKUL AT 57° 21.83' N. LAT., 135° 41.42' W. LONG., AND ALL WATERS OF DISTRICTS 12 AND 15.]

(c) [(b)] Icy Straits Area: all waters of District 14.

(d) [C] North Stephens Passage Area: all waters of Sections 11-B and 11-C.

(e) [D] East Central Area: all waters of Section 11-D, District 10, and District 9 east of a line from Kingsmill Point at 56° 50.00' N. lat., 134° 25.17' W. long. to Point Gardner at 57° 01.00' N. lat., 134° 37.00' W. long., all waters of District 8 north of the latitude of Blaquiére Point at 56° 35.00' N. lat., all waters of Section 6-A, and all waters of District 5 north of the latitude of Point Baker at 56° 21.53' N. lat.

(f) [E] Mid-Chatham Strait Area: all waters of District 9 north of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56° 33.67' N. lat. and west of a line from Kingsmill Point to Point Gardner.

(g) [(F)] Lower Chatham Strait Area: all waters of District 9 south of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56° 33.67' N. lat., and that portion of District 13-B south of the latitude of Redfish Cape at 56° 18.67' N. lat.

(h) [(G)] Southern Area: all waters of District 1 and District 2, all waters of District 6 south of a line from Point Colpoys at 56° 20.18' N. lat., 133° 11.90' W. long., to Macnamara Point at 56° 20.18' N. lat., 133° 03.54' W. long., and all waters of District 7 south of the latitude of Point Warde at 56° 10.43' N. lat.

And

5 AAC 34.115 Guideline Harvest ranges for Registration Area A

b) In Registration Area A, the guideline harvest ranges for the taking of golden king crab in the following areas are:

(1) Upper Northern Area: 0- 72,500 pounds;

(2) Lower Northern Area: 0-72,500 pounds;

[(1) NORTHERN AREA: 0-145,000 POUNDS;]

(3) [(2)] Icy Strait Area: 0- 55,000 pounds;

(4) [(3)] North Stephens Passage Area: 0-25,000 pounds;

(5) [(4)] East Central Area: 0-225,000 pounds;

(6) [(5)] Mid-Chatham Strait Area: 0-150,000 pounds;

(7) [(6)] Lower Chatham Strait Area: 0-50,000 pounds;

(8) [(7)] Southern Area: 0-25,000 pounds.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Split the golden king crab Northern Area into two fishing areas. An Upper Northern Area and a Lower Northern Area and divide the GHR between the two fishing areas. We have included the two regulation changes together in one proposal as they are linked such that you need both regulation changes to address this intertwined issue. The reason behind the request to split the area into two areas is it is an extremely large area. It appears to the fishermen fishing this area that the timing of the crab is different due to the extreme distance. When the Lower Northern Area is having very good catch per unit of effort at the beginning of the season, by the time the Upper Northern Area catches increase, and the GHL/length of the season is changed the timing for the Lower Northern Area peak catchability has decreased. The division of areas was based on maintaining intact sub-district area boundaries. The Upper Northern Area would encompass the District 12 subdistricts of 112-13; 112-14; 112-15; 112-16; 112-50; 112-61; 112-63; and 112-65. The Lower Northern Area would encompass the District 12 subdistricts of 112-11; 112-12; 112-17; 112-18; 112-19; 112-21; 112-22; 112-41; 112-42; 112-43; 112-44; 112-45; 112-46; 112-47; 112-48; 112-67; 112-71; 112-72; 112-73; 112-80 and 112-90.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Consulted with other fishermen and Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Thomassen and Bae Olney Miller

(HQ-F24-026)

PROPOSAL 240

5 AAC 35.106 Area A registration.

Allow participants in the Registration Area A Tanner and golden king crab fisheries to have Tanner crab aboard their vessel while fishing for golden king crab in a closed commercial Tanner crab area.

A vessel registered to fish both Golden King crab and Tanner crab in Registration area A may have baited Golden King crab gear in a portion of Registration Area A that is closed to commercial Tanner crab fishing but may not haul Golden King crab gear in a portion of Registration Area A

that is closed to commercial Tanner crab fishing until all Tanner crab are removed from the vessel and the vessels Tanner crab registration is invalidated. Once the vessels Tanner crab registration is invalidated, Tanner crab may not be retained on or sold from that vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The way the regulation is currently written a vessel that is dual registered for Golden King crab and Tanner crab may not have baited gear in the water in an area closed to commercial Tanner crab fishing. There are several portions of registration Area A that have both Golden King crab and Tanner crab. Under the current regulation a Vessel fishing both Golden King crab and Tanner crab has 2 choices:

1) Quit Tanner crabbing early to ensure all Tanner crab are removed from the vessel and the vessel registration is invalidated before the close time.

2) Remove all the bait containers and tie open the pot doors while the vessel is in town unloading Tanner crab and invalidating their registration.

Either of these options costs a vessel dual registered for Golden King crab and Tanner crab time and money. I believe the rewrite of this regulation maintains the intent not allow the hauling of pots by a dual registered vessel in an area that is closed to Tanner crab, but allows the vessel to leave those pots baited and fishing while unloading and invalidating the Tanner crab registration.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Through conversations with fishery management and fellow permit holders.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright

(EF-F24-094)

Red king crab

PROPOSAL 241

5 AAC 34.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A king crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait.

5 AAC 34.128(c)

(c) a person or vessel may operate coil spring groundfish pots, commonly known as slinky pots, for bait during an open King crab season in Registration Area A.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like a vessel fishing for Golden King or Red King crab in Southeast Alaska to be able to use coil spring groundfish pots, commonly known as slinky pots, for bait in accordance with 5 AAC 28.190 without having to reduce the number of pots used to fish for Golden King or Red King crab.

Currently a vessel fishing Golden King or Red King crab may use slinky pots for bait but must give up an equal number of King crab pots from his limit(80 for golden King crab and 20 for Red King crab)for every slinky pot the vessel uses.

If the vessel was so inclined, they could use longline skates of gear for bait without giving up any pots. Slinky pots are much less cumbersome to use and also have the benefit of less bycatch.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Conversations with Department staff and fellow permit holders.

PROPOSAL 242

5 AAC 34.111 Section 11-A Red and Blue King Crab Management and Allocation Plan.

Allocate 100% of the Section 11-A red king crab guideline harvest level to the personal use fishery, 70% for summer harvest and 30% for fall/winter harvest.

We propose that the Board of Fish repeal and readopt 8 AAC 34.111 as follows:

5 AAC 34.111

(a) The Board of Fisheries (Board) finds that red and blue king crab in Section 11A of the Southeastern Alaska Area shall be allocated at 100% to personal use. The Board finds that commercial red/blue king crab harvest in Southeastern Alaska has led to severe reductions in red/blue king crab stocks since the 2005/06 season, such that personal use and commercial seasons for red/blue king crab have been closed or significantly restricted for multiple seasons following a commercial season. The Board finds that commercial red/blue king crab seasons in 2005/06 resulted in a 4-year commercial closure, in 2011/12 resulted in a 4-year commercial closure, and in 2017/2018 resulted in a 4-year commercial closure as of 2023/24. The Board finds that commercial red/blue king crab season in 2005/06 led to personal use red/blue king crab season closures in Section 11A for 2007/08 Winter, 2008/09 Summer/Winter, and 2009/10 Summer/Winter and that the commercial red/blue king crab season in 2011/12 led to personal use red/blue king crab season closures in Section 11A for the 2012/12 through 2016/17 seasons. The Board finds that 13 of the red/blue king crab commercial permit holders fished for 24 hours in Section 11A in 2017/18 and that the commercial harvest reduced crab stocks such that there has been zero economic benefit from red/blue king crab harvest in Section 11A or anywhere else in Southeastern Alaska through the 2023/24 season. The Board finds that, particularly when measured over the years of closure following the last two openings, that the commercial red/blue king crab fishery in Section 11A is not economically significant and that due to the demand for personal use harvest in Section 11A, the section can no longer support both a personal use and commercial red/blue king crab fishery. The Board finds that significant portions of Section 11A have been completely closed to commercial red/blue king crab harvest (i.e. Auke Bay, Gastineau Channel, etc.) with little to no economic impact. The Board finds that many personal users residing in the vicinity of Section 11A do not have capabilities to safely fish for king crab outside of Section 11A (particularly in winter) and that commercial vessels and gear allow safer king crab fishing outside Section 11A in any season. The Board finds that nearly 100% of brown king crab in Southeastern Alaska are primarily harvest by commercial permit holders and that other species of king crab should be prioritized for personal users over commercial permit holders. The Board finds that protecting red/blue king crab stocks from commercial harvest in Section 11A will help to simplify management and ensure a more sustainable resource for personal users.

(b) When managing red/blue king crab in Section 11A, the Board authorizes the department to conduct the personal use fishery as follows:

1. July 1 through September 30 (Summer Season) - 70% of the red/blue king crab guideline harvest level
2. October 1 through March 31 - 30% of the red/blue king crab guideline harvest level

(c) The personal use red/blue king crab fishery should be conducted so that the established seasons last as long as possible within the allocation plan described in (b) of this section. To accomplish

this, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, a personal use red/blue king crab season, an immediately reopen a personal use red/blue king crab season, during which any of the following restrictions, selected at the discretion of the commissioner, are in effect:

1. The daily bag and possession limit is between one and three male king crab per person
2. No more than one pot per personal use permit holder may be used to take king crab
3. No more than two pots per personal use permit holder may be used to take king crab
4. No more than three pots per vessel may be used to take king crab
5. A seasonal per household limit for king crab is established by the commissioner

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like the Board of Fish to provide enhanced protection of red and blue king crab stocks in Section 11A of Southeastern Alaska by prohibiting commercial fishing in Section 11A. Section 11A is the area immediately surrounding the community of Juneau and is subject to limited personal use seasons of just a few days with extremely limited daily and seasonal bag limits. Based on data presented in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Fishery Management Report No. 21-08, "Management Report for Southeast Alaska and Yakutat Red and Blue King Crab Fisheries, 2017/18 - 2019/20" (copy attached), commercial red/blue king crab openings in Southeastern Alaska have historically (starting with the 1984/85 season) led to closures in the year(s) immediately following the commercial opening (see Table 1.1, p. 13). The impact of commercial red/blue king crab fisheries has become even more clear over the past two decades, as each commercial opening has been followed by multi-year closures after the 2005/06, 2011/12 and 2017/18 seasons. In fact, the commercial red/blue king crab fishery has not opened since the 2017/18 season and personal use red/blue king crabbing has also been closed or severely restricted in areas throughout Southeastern Alaska since that season.

Personal use limit reductions following commercial openings have been the most severe in Section 11A. Shortly after the 2005/06 commercial red/blue king crab season, personal use limits were reduced from 40 per household per year for the summer and winter seasons to 26 in 2006/07, 10 in 2007/08, 10 in 2008/09, and then to zero for two years until 2010/11 when the season was reopened with a 4 crab per year household limit (see Table 1.4, p. 16). Then the personal use annual limit for red/blue king crab was reduced to zero for four seasons following the 2011/12 commercial red/blue king crab opening. The annual household personal use limit for red/blue king crab has remained dismally low to the present date in Section 11A. This data illustrates the devastating impact of commercial red/blue king crabbing in Southeastern Alaska.

It is also noteworthy that the economic impact of the commercial red/blue king crab fishery has been significantly reduced since the 2011/12 commercial season. Only 7 commercial permits were fished in 2011/12 with a catch representing about 6% of the total harvest and just 13 permits were fished in 2017/18 with a catch representing about 19% of the total harvest. Nearly all of the harvestable brown king crab stocks in Southeastern Alaska are taken by commercial interests and it is unlikely that this will change due to limitations in sport gear/vessels to effectively participate in brown king crab fisheries.

With the increased personal use demand in Section 11A, the waning economic value of the red/blue king crab commercial fishery in Section 11A, and the need to provide improved protection for red/blue king crab stocks, it makes sense to restrict commercial king crabbing in section 11A and manage it solely for personal use.

This proposal does not aim to shut down commercial red/blue king crabbing in Southeastern Alaska. All of the remaining sections will be eligible for commercial blue/red king crab harvest in the event the crab populations meet the guideline harvest levels.

Another aspect of this proposal is to change the way the commissioner limits the number of pots that can be fished. Current regulation directs the commissioner to restrict the number of pots per vessel. It should be based on the permit holder. Restricting the number of pots based on the vessel forces unnecessary inefficiencies and reduced catch rates. It would be more cost efficient if a few friends who each have a household permit were allowed to coordinate their resources on a single vessel. Not only would this allow for savings associated with fuel, vessel wear and tear, etc., it would increase safety by reducing the inherent risks of having each household permit holder run their own boat out to check a single pot. If the pot gets flipped on its side, as many lightweight sport pots do, the trip is wasted. The personal use annual limit has been set at one or two crab per household; why not allow for the most cost-efficient harvest? This proposal aims to allow each personal use household permit holder to fish a pot while maintaining a reasonable 3-pot limit per vessel. ADF&G staff may say that having more pots would be difficult to police and that there are stories of personal users calling friends to come out with their permit when they get a good haul of king crab, but ADF&G staff have also said that Section 11A has some of the best numbers for new recruits of anywhere in Southeastern Alaska, so the management is working. If personal use was having a major impact on crab populations, Section 11A, which has the highest number of personal users anywhere in Southeastern would not be such a success story.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal is submitted via Territorial Sportsman Inc.

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsmen Inc

(EF-F24-102)

PROPOSAL 243

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan; 5 AAC 34.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A; 5 AAC 34.126. King crab pot marking requirements for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 77.664 Personal use king crab fishery.

Adopt a biologically based harvest strategy for the commercial red and blue king crab fishery along with a bag and possession limit maximum for the personal use fishery and adopt new management measures for the red and blue king crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan is repealed and readopted to read:

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red and Blue King Crab Harvest Strategy.

(a) The commissioner may, by emergency order, open the red and blue king crab fishery only if the department's preseason biomass estimate of legal male red and blue king crab equals at least 50 percent of the median biomass estimate of legal males.

(b) If the commercial red and blue king crab fishery is open under (a) of this section, and the preseason biomass estimate of legal males is:

(1) at least 50 percent but less than 100 percent of the median biomass

estimate of legal males, then the biomass of legal males available for harvest will not exceed $0.1 \times \text{LMB} \times (\text{LMB}/\text{LMB}_{\text{MED}})$, where “LMB” is equal to the current year preseason biomass estimate of legal males, and “LMB_{MED}” is equal to the median biomass estimate of legal males;

(2) equal to or greater than the LMB_{MED}, the biomass of legal males available for harvest will not exceed 10 percent of the preseason estimate of LMB.

(c) In implementing this harvest strategy, the department shall consider the reliability of biomass estimates of red and blue king crab, the manageability of the fishery, and other factors the department determines important to manage the fishery consistent with sustained yield principles; and shall use the best scientific information available and consider all sources of uncertainty as necessary to avoid overfishing.

(d) In Registration Area A, the holder of a CFEC permit for red and blue king crab may not retain more king crab in the directed fishery than the annual amount of king crab individual catch limit (ICL) that is specified by the department. The department shall determine the annual amount of king crab ICL by dividing the annual total allowable catch by the number of CFEC permits eligible to be fished in the fishery. The department shall use the best available information, including harvest rate and biological data, to set the total allowable catch.

(e) Any commercial and personal use harvest that exceeds the permit holder’s ICL established under (d) of this section will be reported as an overage on an ADF&G fish ticket at the time of delivery and immediately surrendered to the state. All proceeds from the sale of excess king crab shall be surrendered to the state.

(f) Except as provided in (a) – (e) of this section, when the biomass of legal males available for harvest is equal to or greater than 200,000 lb, a competitive fishery may open.

(g) If multiple CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel the maximum number of king crab pots that may be operated may not exceed pot limits as described in 5 AAC 34.125(b)(1).

(h) Based on inseason information, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close a fishing season.

(i) For the purposes of this section,

(1) “preseason biomass estimate” means the sum of surveyed and non surveyed biomass estimates of legal male red and blue king crab present at the time of the preseason survey as estimated directly by the catch survey analysis method from annual pot survey data;

(2) “legal males” means all male red and blue king crab at least 7 inches or greater in width of shell.

(2) “ICL” means individual catch limits.

(i) The provisions of this section do not apply after January 24, 2028.

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan. Repealed __/__/__. [(a) THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA RED KING CRAB FISHERY SHALL BE MANAGED CONSISTENTLY WITH THE BOARD’S “POLICY ON KING AND TANNER CRAB RESOURCE MANAGEMENT” (90-04-FB, MARCH 23, 1990), ADOPTED BY THIS REFERENCE, AND ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN THIS SECTION.

(b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CLOSE AN AREA IF THE ABUNDANCE OF VARIOUS SIZES OF MALE AND FEMALE CRABS IS INADEQUATE TO PROVIDE FOR A SUSTAINED HARVEST, OR WHEN POTENTIALLY HIGH EFFORT PRECLUDES AN ORDERLY FISHERY.

(c) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CLOSE THE FISHERY IF THE DEPARTMENT'S ESTIMATE OF THE AVAILABLE HARVEST IS BELOW THE MINIMUM THRESHOLD OF 200,000 POUNDS OF LEGAL MALE RED KING CRAB.

(d) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DETERMINE AN APPROPRIATE HARVEST RATE BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE FISHERY. THE HARVEST RATE IS THE PERCENTAGE OF THE LEGAL MALES THAT CAN BE HARVESTED WHILE PROVIDING FOR THE LONG-TERM REPRODUCTIVE VIABILITY OF RED KING CRAB STOCKS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BASE THE HARVEST RATE ON ESTIMATES OF ABUNDANCE OF THE VARIOUS SIZE CLASSES OF MALE AND FEMALE CRABS, AND ON FACTORS AFFECTING THE REPRODUCTIVE VIABILITY OF THE STOCK.

(e) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DETERMINE THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL BEFORE EACH FISHING SEASON. THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL IS THE SUM OF THE ESTIMATES OF SUSTAINABLE HARVEST FOR EACH FISHING DISTRICT. IF STOCK ASSESSMENT DATA ARE NOT AVAILABLE, THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL WILL BE BASED ON HISTORICAL FISHERY PERFORMANCE, CATCH, AND POPULATION INFORMATION. A LACK OF ADEQUATE INFORMATION WILL RESULT IN CONSERVATIVE MANAGEMENT.]

5 AAC 34.125(b)(1)(A) is amended to read:

5 AAC 34.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.

...

(b) The following king crab pot limits are in effect in Registration Area A:

(1) during the commercial red king crab season, the maximum number of king crab pots that may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for king crab is as follows:

(A) **through January 24, 2028,** no more than 20 king crab pots when the guideline harvest level is less than 399,999 [AT LEAST 200,000 BUT NOT MORE THAN 399,999] lb;

5 AAC 34.126(b) is amended to read:

5 AAC 34.126. King crab pot marking requirements for Registration Area A.

...

(b) If multiple CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel simultaneously for **the red and blue king crab fishery,** [OR FOR] the golden king crab **fishery, or the** [AND] Tanner crab [FISHERIES] **fishery,** the tags are issued to the vessel for the duration of the fishing season.

5 AAC 77.664 Personal use king crab fishery.

...

(b) Except as specified in (e) of this section, and through January 24, 2028, the daily bag and possession limit is three male crab per person; if the **preseason biomass estimate of legal**

male [REGIONWIDE HARVESTABLE BIOMASS OF MATURE] red and blue king crab is less than 50 percent of the **median** surveyed and non-surveyed biomass estimate of legal males [BELOW 200,000 POUNDS], the commissioner may, by emergency order, reduce the bag and possession limit of red and blue king crab.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, a commercial red and blue king crab fishery will not open in Southeast Alaska if the estimated biomass of legal male red king crab is below 200,000 lb. This threshold was developed so that the department could manage the fishery without exceeding the guideline harvest level (GHL). At lower abundance levels, prosecuting a fishery where registered permit holders could not exceed an individual catch limit (ICL) would allow the department to conduct a modest fishery with little risk while targeting a GHL less than 200,000 lb; the GHL would continue to be developed from the annual crab surveys conducted around Southeast Alaska, which have been done for more than 40 years. In tandem with the commercial elements, the personal use fishery would not have a 200,000 lb trigger. This proposal seeks to provide the department with a mechanism to adjust the bag limit based on preseason estimates of biomass that are the same as used in the commercial fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-149)

Tanner crab

PROPOSAL 244

5 AAC 35.110. Fishing season for Registration Area A.

Change the criteria for setting the season start date for the Registration Area A Tanner crab commercial fishery to fall within the smallest set of falling tides between February 10 and 17.

Set the season start date for Tanner crab in Southeast Alaska to the smallest set of falling tides between the 10th and 17th of February.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Set the season start date for the Tanner crab fishing season on the smallest set of falling tides between the 10th and 17th of February. This will allow fishermen to start fishing before the tides have started rising, and finish the season, when participating in core areas, before the peak of the tide cycle. This will allow for easier pot retrieval, less risk of gear interaction, and less potential gear loss.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-118)

PROPOSAL 245

5 AAC 35.110. Fishing season for Registration Area A.

Change the start time for the Registration Area A commercial Tanner crab fishery from 12:00 noon to 8:00 a.m. on the day the fishery opens.

The commercial Tanner crab fishery in Southeast Alaska will begin at 8 am.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the start time for the Southeast Alaska commercial Tanner crab fishery start time from 12 noon to 8 am. By changing the start time, it will allow for more daylight hours for fishermen to set and haul their pots on the first day.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-067)

PROPOSAL 246

5 AAC 35.110 Fishing season for Registration Area A.

Add freezing spray to the criteria that would delay the start date of commercial Tanner crab fishery in Registration Area A.

The commercial Tanner crab fishery in Southeast Alaska season start date can be delayed for freezing spray conditions.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow for a delayed season start to the Southeast Alaska Tanner crab for freezing spray warnings concerns. Currently there is a regulation that allows for a delayed start to the golden king crab season for high winds, by also allowing for freezing spray conditions, it creates a safer environment for fishermen to start the fishery in.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-066)

PROPOSAL 247

5 AAC 35.127. Tanner crab gear storage requirements for Registration Area A.

Increase the depth that Registration Area A commercial Tanner crab fishery pots can be stored to 20 fathoms.

Allow for commercial fishing pot storage out to 20 fathoms in depth for the Southeast Alaska commercial Tanner crab fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the storage depth for Tanner crab pots from 10 fathoms to 20 fathoms in Southeast Alaska. This will allow more space for fishermen to store their gear so that they do not have to have stored gear near other vessels gear.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-065)

PROPOSAL 248

5 AAC 35.053 Operation of other pot gear.

Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A Tanner crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait.

5 AAC 35.053(c)

(c) a person or vessel may operate coil spring groundfish pots, commonly known as slinky pots, for bait during an open Tanner crab season in Registration Area A.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like a vessel fishing for Tanner crab in Southeast Alaska to be able to use coil spring groundfish pots, commonly known as slinky pots, for bait in accordance with 5 AAC 28.190 without having to reduce the number of pots used to fish for Tanner crab.

Currently a vessel fishing for Tanner crab may use slinky pots for bait but must give up an equal number of Tanner crab pots from his limit(80 pots)for every slinky pot the vessel uses.

If the vessel was so inclined, they could use longline skates of gear for bait without giving up any pots. Slinky pots are much less cumbersome to use and also have the benefit of less bycatch.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Conversations with Department staff and fellow permit holders.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright (EF-F24-150)

PROPOSAL 249

5 AAC 35.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow Tanner crab commercial fishery participants to operate pot gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport fisheries after unregistering from the commercial fishery, as follows:

(1) May not use Tanner crab gear for commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use fishing in the registration area during the 14 days immediately following the closure of the tanner crab fishery unless

(A) the person removes all commercial Tanner crab pots from the water or puts the pots in storage, and contacts, in person, the local representative of the department in the registration area and makes a request that the vessel's Tanner registration be canceled and the department cancels the vessel's Tanner registration; or

(B) commercial Tanner pots are lawful gear for another fishery, the person who operates the pots holds a valid ADF&G or CFEC permit for the other fishery, and the person contacts, in person, the local representative of the department and makes a request that the vessel's Tanner crab registration be canceled and the department cancels the vessel's Tanner registration; or

(2) may not operate, for commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use fishing in that registration area during the 14 days immediately following the close of the Tanner crab fishery, a vessel that was used or operated by the person or by another person in the commercial Tanner crab fishery in the Tanner crab registration area unless

(A) the person who used or operated the vessel in the commercial Tanner crab fishery removes all commercial Tanner crab pots from the water or puts the pots in storage, and contacts, in person, the local representative of the department in the registration area and makes a request that the vessel's Tanner crab registration be canceled, and the department cancels the vessel's tanner crab registration; or

(B) commercial Tanner crab pots are lawful gear for another fishery, the person who operates the pots holds a valid ADF&G or CFEC permit for the other fishery, and the person who used or operated the vessel contacts, in person, the local representative of the department and makes a request that the vessel's Tanner crab registration be canceled and the department cancels the vessel's tanner crab registration.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow for fishermen to use pot gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport without having to wait 14 days after the closure of the Southeast Alaska commercial Tanner crab fishery. Currently, by regulation, the commercial Tanner crab fishery in Southeast Alaska ends on March 31st and fishermen are not allowed to use any form of pot gear for the 14 days following the March 31st closure. Most fishermen that participate in the fishery are done after the “core” season, which is normally open for 5-7 days depending on the stock assessment. Even if the season starts on February 17th, those fishermen are done before the end of February, but must wait until mid-April before they are allowed to use pot gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport purposes.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA)

(HQ-F24-068)

Dungeness crab

PROPOSAL 250

5 AAC 02.115. Subsistence Dungeness crab fishery and 5 AAC 77.662. Personal use Dungeness crab fishery.

Reduce the minimum size limit for male Dungeness crab from six and one-half inches to six and one-quarter inches in the Registration A subsistence and personal use fisheries.

Reduce the minimum size limit for male Dungeness crab from 6 ½ inches to 6 ¼ inches in subsistence and personal use fisheries.

5 AAC 02.115. Subsistence Dungeness crab fishery.

In the subsistence taking of Dungeness crab,

(2) only male Dungeness crab is **six and one-quarter** [SIX AND ONE-HALF] inches or greater in shoulder width may be taken or possessed; male Dungeness crab less than the minimum legal size and female Dungeness crab that have been taken must be immediately returned to the water unharmed; for the purposes of this paragraph, the shoulder width measurement of Dungeness crab

is the straight-line distance across the carapace immediately anterior to the tenth anterolateral spine, not including the spines;

5 AAC 77.662. Personal use Dungeness crab fishery.

In the personal use taking of Dungeness crab,

(3) the minimum legal size for male Dungeness crab is **six and one-quarter** [SIX AND ONE-HALF] inches in shoulder width; male Dungeness crab less than the minimum legal size and female Dungeness crab that have been taken must be immediately returned to the water unharmed; for the purposes of this paragraph, the shoulder width measurement of Dungeness crab is the straight-line distance across the carapace immediately anterior to the tenth anterolateral spine, not including the spines;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In some areas, mature male crab 6 ½ inches or greater are in limited abundance from season to season or during certain times of the year. There are mature Dungeness crab less than legal size limit that available for harvest. Reducing the size limit for residents Alaska would help meet their needs and may alleviate the need for commercial closures. Along the Pacific coast, size limits for non-commercial harvest are less than for commercial harvest. A 6 ¼ inch Dungeness is still a mature male.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Derek Thynes

(EF-F24-151)

PROPOSAL 251

5 AAC 32.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.

Change the start date of the Registration Area A Dungeness crab commercial fishery's summer season from June 15 to July 1.

5 AAC 32.110 Fishing seasons for Registration Area A

In Registration Area A, male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed only as follows: (1) From 8:00 a.m. **July 1** [June 15] through 11:59 p.m. August 15 and from 8:00 a.m. October 1 through 11 :59 p.m. November 30, in all waters of Registration Area A other than those waters specified in (2) and (3) of this section;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the start of the Dungeness crab season from 8:00 a.m. June 15 to 8:00 a.m. July 1.

The problem is that crabs are often still in a soft-shell condition at the beginning of the season. Moving the season opening to July 1 will give them more time to fill out into a much more marketable condition and will greatly reduce handling mortality in this vulnerable state.

ADF&G is not allowed to delay the start of the season, only to close it early if certain catch thresholds are not met. It takes 10 to 14 days for ADF&G to gather information on the fishery to determine if the season will be shortened. The minimum threshold policy is for a gauge of abundance, not shell condition. There is no mechanism to close the season based on shell condition. **If the shell condition is soft, we continue to fish regardless to the detriment of the resource.**

An example of this was the 2021 season, the crabs were very soft on opening day and for a large portion of the summer season. The summer season saw record high prices and increased effort from the fleet. Gear was being hauled and turned over as quickly as possible with the high market conditions. The crabs were abundant and soft. The catch rates were good and thresholds were met. We fished a full season and pounded the resource due to the high dollar value. Fishermen and processors understood we were fishing and selling a poor-quality product. Many processors were willing to risk buying "lite" crab from fishermen as the market demand was high. This practice is not healthy for the resource nor to the fishermen in the long run. Unfortunately, this came back to bite us in the butt.

It is well documented that soft crab experience much greater handling mortality than "hard" crab. (ADF&G; Handling Increases Mortality of Soft-Shell Dungeness Crabs, 1993 Gordon H. Kruse) Soft, unmarketable crabs that crawl into the pots are tossed back into the water and are repeatedly caught. The consequences of this was a high mortality of soft crab due to handling. Not just legal, but sub-legal as well.

The summer 21 season resulted in a great number of recruits and sub-legal recruits being killed due to high handling mortality. This showed up in the fall '21 season and in the 2022-23 season. The '22-23 season harvest was 2 million lbs., 45% lower than the 3.7 million lbs. in the '21-22 season. Also, the market value dropped almost 2/3rds, from \$15. 7 to \$5.4 M. This was the result of fishing on soft crab the previous year and a sub-standard product making it to the market. Processors were stuck with a bunch of "lite" crab, ie soft, in storage and the market responded with rejecting the high prices that processors sought, after paying top dollar for soft, "lite" crab. This resulted in the dock price being cut from \$4.25/lb in '21, to \$2.60/lb. in the summer and \$2.00 in the fall of the '22/23 season. Further, the summer '22/23 season was also closed two and a half weeks early due to lack of abundance (the recruits that did not survive handling from the fishery from the 2021 season). These poor market conditions held through the year and the 2023-24 season dock price for fishermen was \$2.00/lb. By fishing on soft crab in summer 2021 we basically sacrificed the next two seasons at least.

As I recall, back in the late '70s or early '80s, the BOF changed and reduced the Dungeness season from a year-round fishery to June 1 through February 28. In the mid '80s, BOF again changed the season to July 1 through February 28. On the next cycle, the BOF once again changed the season and split it to the current June 15- August 15, October 1- November 30. All these changes and reduced seasons were met with opposition from the crab fleet and processors.

In summary, moving the start of the season to July 1 will greatly help the condition of the crab and reduce the high mortality rate due to handling. Thus, resulting in a higher quality product and much less chance of devastating the stock for future seasons. The boom-and-bust cycle will be greatly reduced and healthier for the resource.

Many will oppose this, but I think it is more important to manage the resource and not the fishermen. With every change to a given fishery, fishermen always seem to adjust. Statistics are from ADF&G website.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. My proposal developed with talking to other Dungeness crabbers.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Traibush

(HQ-F24-100)

PROPOSAL 252

5 AAC 32.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A Dungeness crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait.

5 AAC 32.128(d)

(c) a person or vessel may operate coil spring groundfish pots, commonly known as slinky pots, for bait during an open Dungeness crab season in Registration Area A.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like a vessel fishing for Dungeness crab in Southeast Alaska to be able to use coil spring groundfish pots, commonly known as slinky pots, for bait in accordance with 5 AAC 28.190 without having to reduce the number of pots used to fish for Dungeness crab.

Currently a vessel fishing for Dungeness crab may use slinky pots for bait but must give up an equal number of Dungeness crab pots from his limit (300, 225, 150, or 75 pots depending on the permit size) for every slinky pot the vessel uses.

If the vessel was so inclined, they could use longline skates of gear for bait without giving up any pots. Slinky pots are much less cumbersome to use and also have the benefit of less bycatch.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Conversations with Department staff and fellow permit holders.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright

(EF-F24-152)

PROPOSAL 253

5 AAC 32.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a person or vessel to participate in the Registration Area A commercial Dungeness crab fishery if they operated commercial shrimp pots during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery, as follows:

A permit holder intending on fishing Dungeness crab on June 15 is allowed to keep spot shrimp pot fishing until then. By informing F&G that is what they're doing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change rule about not being able to run pots (ie commercial spot shrimp fishery) 2 weeks before commercial dungeness crab fishery opens (June 15).

Why...Many commercial spot shrimp fishermen, are also commercial dungeness card holders. The recent regime change in the spot shrimp fishery (opening May 15 instead of October 1) has had the unintended consequence of mandating that a person stop shrimp pot fishing by June 1, if they intend to dungeness fish on June 15.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. After talking extensively with F&G managers about this (yet again) unintended consequence of changing the spot shrimp pot fishery from October 1 to May

15.....they explained to me that this is a change that's out of they're hands & requires BOF house cleaning.

PROPOSED BY: Robert T. Mosher

(EF-F24-045)

PROPOSAL 254

5 AAC 32.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a person or vessel to participate in the Registration Area A commercial Dungeness crab fishery if they operated commercial shrimp pots during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 32.128. Operations of other gear in Registration Area A.

(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 32.053, person or vessel that operates commercial king crab pots in waters deeper than 100 fathoms, or commercial shrimp pots during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A, may participate in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Intent to remove regulation that complicates fishing between crab and shrimp, due to season changes.

The current regulation is now outdated and there is no biological reason to prevent the operation of commercial shrimp pots before the Dungeness crab season.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes with other commercial Dungeness crab and shrimp fisherman. Due to season changes we have experienced financial distress because we are unable to properly conduct both fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Chris McMurren

(EF-F24-079)

PROPOSAL 255

5 AAC 32.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a person or vessel to participate in the Registration Area A commercial Dungeness crab fishery if they operated commercial, personal use, or subsistence shrimp pots during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

Allowing the shrimp pot fishery **Only** for subsistence and commercial use in the 2 week time period prior to the Commercial Dungeness season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? My proposal is in regards to the shrimp season getting cut short for individual that both crab and shrimp. The 14 day no pots of any kind prior to Dungeness has hampered the ability to shrimp a full season. I fully understand no other crab gear of any kind 14 days prior to the commercial season, but in 5 years of commercial pot shrimping I have never caught a crab. It's a costly process to stack out when there is open area to shrimp.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This has been the most talked about topic between fishermen

with both crab and shrimp permits and we have all agreed on wanting to see a change. It would benefit these small communities and small business families immensely.

I had a personal phone call from ADFG telling me there was quota left on the grounds in an area I fish and he recommended keeping the gear in the water, but I couldn't do to the overlap with the gear cut off for Dungeness season. It was costly, but it's a new gamble we take with the season change as fishermen in hopes of a good crab season.

PROPOSED BY: Dawson Miller

(EF-F24-081)

PROPOSAL 256

5 AAC 32.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a person or vessel to participate in the Registration Area A commercial Dungeness crab fishery if they operated commercial shrimp pots during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery. In addition, permit holders may not register and participate in the Dungeness and shrimp pot commercial fisheries concurrently.

5 AAC 32.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 32.053, a person or vessel that operates commercial king crab pots in waters deeper than 100 fathoms during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A, may participate in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

(b) A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may not register a vessel for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery and the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery at the same time. A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may cancel a vessel's registration for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery and register a vessel for the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery if

(1) the person removes from the water the pots that are used and marked for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery, or stores the pots as specified in 5 AAC 32.052; and

(2) the vessel owner, or the owner's agent, contacts a local representative of the department, in person, and requests that the department cancel the vessel's commercial Dungeness crab registration.

(c) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 32.053(d), 5 AAC 34.053(2), and 5 AAC 35.053(2), a person or vessel may operate commercial king crab or Tanner crab pots during an open Dungeness crab season in Registration Area A if a commercial king crab or Tanner crab season is open in Registration Area A at the same time as the commercial Dungeness crab season.

(d) Notwithstanding 5AAC 32.053 a person or vessel that participates in the commercial pot shrimp fishery in Registration Area A during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A may cancel their pot shrimp registration and register for and participate in the Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A if

(1) the person removes from the water the pots that are used and marked for the commercial pot shrimp fishery; and

(2) the vessel owner, or the owner's agent, contacts a local representative of the department, in person, and requests that the department cancel the vessel's and permit holder's commercial pot shrimp registration.

5AAC 31.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A

(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 31.053(d), 5 AAC 34.053(2), and 5 AAC 35.053(2), a person or vessel may operate commercial king crab or Tanner crab pots during an open pot shrimp season in Registration Area A if a commercial king crab or Tanner crab season is open in Registration Area A at the same time as the commercial pot shrimp season.

(b) In an area open to fishing for shrimp, a vessel operator may not operate more than the number of pots specified in 5 AAC 31.124(e), including commercial, sport, personal use, and subsistence shrimp pots.

(c) A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may not register a vessel for the commercial shrimp pot fishery and the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery at the same time. A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may cancel a vessel's registration for a shrimp fishery and register for a different shrimp fishery by contacting a local representative of the department, in person, and providing all requested information.

(d) A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may not register a vessel for the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery and the commercial Dungeness crab fishery at the same time. A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may cancel a vessel's registration for the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery and register a vessel for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery by contacting a local representative of the department, in person, and providing all requested information.

(e) A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may not register a vessel for the commercial pot shrimp fishery and the commercial Dungeness crab fishery at the same time. A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may cancel a vessel's registration for the commercial pot shrimp fishery and register a vessel for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery by contacting a local representative of the department, in person, and providing all requested information.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to allow a person holding a pot shrimp permit and Dungeness pot permit to be able to fish longer than the first 15 days of the shrimp fishery and still be able to participate in the Dungeness crab fishery if they remove all their shrimp pots from the water, cancel their registration from the shrimp fishery, and then register for the Dungeness crab fishery.

A legal Dungeness crab is unlikely to be caught in a shrimp pot with the definitions provided in regulation in SE Alaska for legal shrimp pots and legal Dungeness crab pot gear (5AAC 32.050 & 5AAC 32.125 (f))

With the change in the shrimp pot fishery to a springtime start, a Dungeness crab pot and shrimp pot permit holder wishing to participate in both fisheries may only participate in the shrimp pot fishery until May 31st as they may not have any pot gear of any type in the water 14 days prior to the start of the Dungeness crab fishery on June 15 (5AAC 32.053). This means a permit holder or vessel participating in both the shrimp pot and Dungeness pot fishery is only allowed to participate

in the shrimp fishery the first 14 or 15 days. It was also unclear when the 14 day standdown period starts and is dependent upon individual Alaska Wildlife Trooper's interpretation to whether it is 8:00 am June 1st or 12:59 pm on May 31. Both fisheries require registration and have regulations in place for de-registering when a fisherman is done participating.

5AAC 31.053 (d) Operation of Other pot gear (SE Shrimp regulations) allows a person and or vessel to stop participating in a commercial shrimp fishery and instead operate other commercial pots if they remove all the gear and contacts a representative of the Dept in person and de-registers.

We considered an alternative solution to achieve this goal by changing

5AAC 32.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A

(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 32.053, a person or vessel that operates commercial king crab pots in waters deeper than 100 fathoms, or operates commercial shrimp pots, during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A, may participate in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

We went with the proposed option because fishermen tend to read the section of the regulation book for the area they fish and don't always catch statewide regulations, so thought our proposed language similar to language proposed more recently in the shrimp fishery made it clearer to the fishermen all the responsibilities of having the pots out of the water and canceling the registration in one fishery before activating the registration for the next fishery

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fisherman Alliance

(HQ-F24-081)

PROPOSAL 257

5 AAC 32.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a person or vessel to participate in the Registration Area A commercial Dungeness crab fishery if they operated commercial shrimp pots during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

The solution is to include in **5 AAC 32.128**, language that will allow pot shrimpers to fish in the 14 days immediately before the opening of the Dungeness crab fishery.

Please amend 5 AAC 32.128 to read;

5 AAC 32.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 32.053, a person or vessel that operates commercial king crab pots in waters deeper than 100 fathoms, or operates commercial shrimp pots, during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A, may participate in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The problem is, those who have both SE Dungeness crab and SE pot Shrimp permits are not allowed the opportunity to fully utilize their permits. Currently, anyone who participates in both the pot shrimp and Dungeness

crab fisheries is required to have all shrimp gear out of the water 14 days before the start of the Dungeness fishery.

The pot shrimp season opens May 15th and closes by regulation on July 31st. The more productive districts are closed before July 31 by emergency order from ADF&G as GHLL's for each district are caught. Districts that have remaining GHLL at the end of the summer season may or may not re-open Oct. 1 by emergency order from ADF&G. The Dungeness season is open June 15 thru August 15, and opens again in the fall on Oct. 1st. The current Regulations force those fishermen who have both permits to either give up an entire Dungeness season, (June 15-Aug.15) or give up 2 weeks of shrimp fishing in June.

There is no gear conflict between the two fisheries, as the definitions and regulations on gear are clear and unique to each of the fisheries.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal is my own. With the change of the commercial shrimp season by the BOF last cycle, from Oct 1 to May 15, I was forced to be done shrimp fishing by the 1st of June in order to participate in the Dungeness fishery. Some productive areas remained open into June but I chose to fish Dungeness and therefore was required to stop fishing shrimp.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Traibush

(EF-F24-064)

PROPOSAL 258

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Open some or all areas closed to commercial Dungeness fishing in Registration Area A, as follows:

Rescind some if not all closed areas to commercial Dungeness fishing and adopt proposal reducing minimum size limit for Alaska residents. [*Note from Boards Support: this author's proposed changes to size limits can be found in Proposal 250 (EF-F24-151)*]

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

In Registration Area A, the following waters are closed to the taking of Dungeness crab:

(1) waters of Section 11-A that are

(A) north of a line from Marmion Island Light to the easternmost tip of Point Salisbury and east of a line extending from the northernmost tip of Outer Point to the southernmost tip of Portland Island to the northernmost tip of Portland Island to the southernmost tip of Point Louisa; and

(B) off the mainland shore enclosed by a line from the northernmost tip of the peninsula at the Shrine of St. Terese to Gull Island, extending to the Sentinel Island Light, and east to the mainland at the latitude of the Sentinel Island Light;

(2) waters of Tenakee Inlet west of Corner Bay Point at 135° 06.50' W. long. and east of the Crab Bay log transfer facility at 135° 18.18' W. long.;

(3) waters of Port Althorp enclosed by a line from Point Lucan to 58° 09.71' N. lat., 136° 19.67' W. long.;

(4) waters of Merrifield Bay and Port Protection enclosed by a line extending west from Protection Head (56° 18.83' N. lat., 133° 39.77' W. long.) to 133° 40' W. long., then north to 56° 22' N. lat., then east to 133° 34' W. long., then south to a point on Prince of Wales Island at 56° 21.05' N. lat., 133° 34' W. long.;

- (5) waters of Thorne Bay west of the longitude of the easternmost tip of Thorne Head;
- (6) waters of Icy Passage enclosed by a line starting from the northernmost end of the Gustavus Dock to the southernmost end of the Gustavus Dock to the navigational buoy off the mouth of the Salmon River to an (ADF&G) marker on the shoreline directly north of the buoy and then along the shoreline to the starting point;
- (7) waters of Blank Inlet north and west of a line from Blank Point to Blank Island Light to the easternmost point tip of Gravina Point;
- (8) waters of Bostwick Inlet north and west of a line from Bostwick Point to an unnamed point at 55° 12.83' N. lat., 131° 43.92' W. long.;
- (9) waters of Mud (Flat) Bay west of the longitude of a point at 59° 09.03' N. lat., 135° 19.97' W. long.;
- (10) from December 1 through September 30, the waters of District 13-B that are in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area, which is that area of Sitka Sound enclosed on the north by lines from Kruzof Island at 57° 20.50' N. lat., 135° 45.17' W. long. to Chichagof Island at 57° 22.05' N. lat., 135° 43' W. long., and from Chichagof Island at 57° 22.58' N. lat., 135° 41.30' W. long. to Baranof Island at 57° 22.28' N. lat., 135° 40.95' W. long., and on the south and west by a line running from the southernmost tip of Sitka Point at 56° 59.38' N. lat., 135° 49.57' W. long. to Hanus Point at 56° 51.92' N. lat., 135° 30.50' W. long. to the green day marker in Dorothy Narrows to Baranof Island at 56° 49.28' N. lat., 135° 22.60' W. long.;
- (11) [WATERS OF TWELVE-MILE ARM WEST OF A LINE FROM 55° 30.01' N. LAT., 132° 35.22' W. LONG., TO 55° 28.61' N. LAT., 132° 34.62' W. LONG., AND NORTH AND EAST OF A LINE FROM 55° 26.41' N. LAT., 132° 40.05' W. LONG., TO 55° 26.33' N. LAT., 132° 39.53' W. LONG.]
- (12) waters east of a line from Indian Point at 55° 36.85' N. lat., 131° 42.02' W. long., to the northeasternmost tip of Betton Island at 55° 31.95' N. lat., 131° 46.37' W. long. to the southeasternmost tip of Betton Island at 55° 29.90' N. lat., 131° 48.18' W. long., to Survey Point at 55° 28.07' N. lat., 131° 49.87' W. long.;
- (13) waters east of a line from Point Lena at 58° 23.73' N. lat., 134° 46.67' W. long., north to 58° 25.05' N. lat., 134° 46.25' W. long., north to 58° 25.65' N. lat., 134° 46' W. long. (a point in upper Tee Harbor);
- (14) waters east of a line in Bridget Cove from 58° 37.05' N. lat., 134° 56.60' W. long., north to 58° 38.20' N. lat., 134° 57.10' W. long.;
- (15) repealed 7/29/2009;
- (16) repealed 7/29/2009;
- (17) waters of Port Frederick enclosed by a line from a point on Chichagof Island at 58° 05.18' N. lat., 135° 28.15' W. long. to the westernmost tip of Long Island at 58° 05.81' N. lat., 135° 28.56' W. long. to a point south of Hoonah Point at 58° 07.13' N. lat., 135° 27.52' W. long.;
- (18) waters of Favorite Bay enclosed by a line from a point at 57° 28.91' N. lat., 134° 32.21' W. long. to a point at 57° 29.05' N. lat., 134° 31.17' W. long.;
- (19) the waters near and surrounding Klawock enclosed by a line from a point east of Entrance Point at 55° 31.20' N. lat., 133° 07.63' W. long., extending to a point in Shinaku Inlet at 55° 34.72' N. lat., 133° 13.38' W. long.;
- (20) in the waters of Whale Pass north and west of a line extending from a point at 56° 05.81' N. lat., 133° 06.52' W. long., to a point located at 56° 05.62' N. lat., 133° 07.33' W. long.;
- (21) Sukwaan Strait from Saltery Point at 55° 10.95' N. lat., 132° 48.02' W. long., to a point on Sukkwan Island at 55° 10.40' N. lat., 132° 48.62' W. long., north to the head of Natzuhini Bay,

extending west to the openings of North Pass from a point on Prince of Wales Island at 55° 12.61' N. lat., 132° 57.68' W. long., to a point on Goat Island at 55° 12.43' N. lat., 132° 56.30' W. long., and South Pass from a point on Goat Island at 55° 10.11' N. lat., 132° 53.60' W. long., to a point on Sukkwan Island at 55° 09.78' N. lat., 132° 53.43' W. long.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The area available for commercial Dungeness crab fishing is has drastically been reduced over the past decade by sea otters and closures. The productive area available for harvest is too small making it increasingly difficult to have an economically viable fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Derek Thynes (EF-F24-147)

PROPOSAL 259

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Open all waters closed to commercial Dungeness fishing in Registration Area A between October 1 and November 30, annually.

5 AAC 32.150. Would read;

Closed waters in Registration Area A, the following waters are closed to the taking of Dungeness crab from Jan 1st-September 30th and from December 1st -31th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To better comply with the State Constitution to make resources available for maximum use consistent with the public interest, all closed areas in Registration area A should remain closed for 10 months of the year, but commercial opportunity available during the fall season.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No.

PROPOSED BY: Todd Bailey (EF-F24-148)

PROPOSAL 260

5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A.; 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A; 5 AAC 34.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A; 5 AAC 35.XXX. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Close George Inlet, Carroll Inlet, and Thorne Arm in District 1 to the commercial harvest of shrimp and crab.

All waters East of a line from Mountain Point Light to the northernmost tip of Bold Island, then from the southernmost tip of Bold Island to Cone Point, permanently closed to the commercial taking of any species of crab or shrimp.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the board to consider closing the waters of Carroll Inlet, George Inlet, and Thorne Arm to the commercial taking of crab and shrimp. These areas are being overfished by the commercial fleet to the point that, as local residents of the area, we are hard pressed to catch these species for personal, sport, or subsistence use. Every season commercial vessels from other Southeast communities, along with vessels based in Ketchikan, move in to these bays and deploy hundreds and hundreds of pots and leave nothing but undersize and female crab, and make it very hard to catch any shrimp for the rest of us. I see no reason these areas should be open to commercial crab and shrimp fishing. There are plenty of areas they could fish other than in our backyard. Most of us local non commercial users can't afford to, or aren't equipped to go much further than these particular inlets. The commercial fleet can fish elsewhere so that we may have better access to these species in these areas.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have not coordinated with others, but I have talked to several local people who adamantly agree with this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Mark R Hoyt (EF-F24-011)

PROPOSAL 261

5 AAC 31.136 Closed waters in Registration Area A.; 32.150 Closed waters in Registration Area A.; 35.XXX Closed waters in Registration Area A.; 34.150 Closed waters in Registration Area A.; and 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area
Close Traitors Cove to commercial and sport shellfish harvest.

Close Traitors Cove from the mouth of the Cove, East of longitude 131 degrees 41.96 minutes to all shellfish harvest other than personal use and subsistence.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Access to shrimp and crab in Traitors Cove: The shrimp and crab populations in Traitors Cove have diminished. This area is highly important to the local residence of Ketchikan do to the safe moorage at the dock and relatively close proximity to Ketchikan. Do to the safe harbor of the dock it allows local residence to be able to transit to the cove, set pots, spend the night and work the gear without the worry of inclement weather creating a danger to personal use harvesters. A limited number of commercial harvesters and non resident yachters may be affected by the change. It is requested that Traitors Cove be limited to personal use and subsistence shell fish harvesting only.

On a side note the dock allows access to multiple miles of USFS maintained roads that accesses a fresh water lake, berry picking, mushroom harvesting, deer and waterfowl hunting.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, other personal use harvesters have expressed support.

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Mattle (EF-F24-174)

PROPOSAL 262

5 AAC 47.021 - Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Close sport fishing for Dungeness crab in Thorne Bay, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021 - Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area

(h) Repealed 5/12/2011.

(i) In the Prince of Wales Island vicinity,

(1) all waters of Klawock Harbor south of a line from the Klawock blinker light to the Klawock Cannery Dock are closed to

(A) snagging; a fish hooked anywhere other than the mouth must be released immediately;

(B) sport fishing for sockeye salmon;

(2) shrimp may not be taken in the waters of Twelve-Mile Arm west of a line from Prince of Wales Island at 55° 29.07' N. lat., 132° 37.60' W. long., to the northeastern most tip of Loy Island at 55° 29.07' N. lat., 132° 36.70' W. long., to the easternmost tip of Cat Island at 55° 27.80' N. lat., 132° 39.08' W. long., to Prince of Wales Island at 55° 27.80' N. lat., 132° 40.93' W. long., including the waters of Hollis Anchorage;

(3) Dungeness crab may not be taken in the waters of Klawock Inlet, Shinaku Inlet or Big Salt Lake, northeast of a line from Prince of Wales Island at 55° 31.20' N. lat., 133° 07.63' W. long., to Prince of Wales Island at 55° 34.72' N. lat., 133° 13.38' W. long.;

(4) Dungeness crab may not be taken in the waters of Coffman Cove south and west of a line extending from a point at 56° 01.35' N. lat., 132° 49.67' W. long., to a point located at 56° 01.71' N. lat., 132° 51.01' W. long.;

(5) Dungeness crab may not be taken in the waters near Whale Pass north and west of a line extending from a point at 56° 05.81' N. lat., 133° 06.52' W. long., to a point located at 56° 05.62' N. lat., 133° 07.33' W. long.;

(6) Dungeness crab may not be taken in the waters of Thorne Bay west of a line from a point at 55° 39.92' N lat.,

132° 29.73' W. long., to a point located at 55° 39.80' N lat., 132° 29.59' W. long.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Thorne Bay, located on the east side of Prince of Wales Island was created as a logging camp back in the times of intense logging on the island. Today it is a small community that is popular during the fishing and hunting seasons for visitors to the lodges around the bay. Many of them are unguided anglers who rent skiffs to fish, shrimp and crab in the local waters.

Even though there is a reduced daily possession limit of five crabs for residents and three for non-residents in Thorne Bay, populations continue to decrease. Crabbing used to be good all year long, now even in the spring before the lodges open, the crabbing is difficult. Residents often are unable to catch enough crabs for a dinner without running pots for days.

Both Coffman Cove and Whale Pass, also on the east side of the island, got changes to the regulations through the Board of Fish during the last cycle which limited crabbing to personal use. Thorne Bay is asking for the same thing. There will still be many areas for non-residents to go outside Thorne Bay for crab.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The East Prince of Wales AC.

PROPOSED BY: East Prince of Wales Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-114)
