

99-181-FB
(Previously 99-03-FB)

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES RESOLUTION
Gulf of Alaska (State Waters)
Non-Pelagic Trawl Restrictions
Task Force

WHEREAS, the Board of Fisheries tabled action on Proposals 132 and 137 at its meeting in Kodiak, Alaska January, 1999; and

WHEREAS, Proposals 132 and 137 were intended to close all state waters to non-pelagic trawl gear in the Kodiak and Chignik Areas; and

WHEREAS, the inclination of the Board of Fisheries is to close all state waters to non-pelagic trawl gear. The Board will allow industry time to review this issue and report back to the Board at its March, 1999 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the fishers themselves have indicated an interest in developing regulatory language which would define areas essential to the trawl industry, reduce by-catch and reduce the impact of non-pelagic gear on the benthos within State waters.

Now therefore, the Board of Fisheries resolves as follows:

1) A task force of the fishers in the Kodiak area waters shall be formed by the fishers themselves, subject to the approval of the Chairman of the Board of Fisheries. The task force shall consist of representatives of small vessel trawl gear operators as defined as those vessels less than 60 feet, large vessel trawl gear operators as defined as those vessel greater than 60 feet, processors, shellfish industry, and general public.

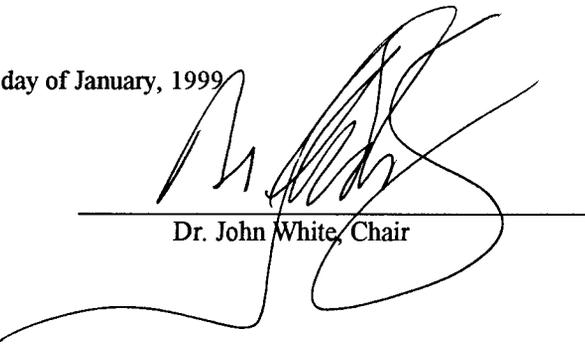
2) The task force shall review the use of non-pelagic trawl gear within State Waters of the Gulf of Alaska as follows:

- a) Time and area, open and closed.
- b) Methods and means.
- c) Research needs.
- d) By-catch rates.
- e) On-board observer coverage

3) The task force shall use such data, shall obtain such expert and technical advise and shall conduct its work in such fashion as the Task Force shall, in its own discretion, determine appropriate. The Department will provide such assistance to the Task Force as it is able to provide within the constraints of budget and demands of staff's time. The Board will provide such assistance to the Task Force as its members are able to provide within the constraints of budget and demands on the Board members' time.

4) Discuss and, if possible, reach consensus on allocations between gear types by district/section. If consensus cannot be reached, obtain a majority vote on these allocation issues. Minority reports around this vote are encouraged by the Board. The Task Force will report on the results of its work to the Board of Fisheries at its March 1999 meeting.

Passed at Kodiak, Alaska on the 22nd day of January, 1999



Dr. John White, Chair