

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS  
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

<b>STATE WATERS TRAWL</b> <b>October 14-15, 2006</b> <b>Anchorage, Alaska</b>
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**DESIGNATED REPORTER: Sherry Wright**

*This summary of actions is for information purposes only and is not intended to detail, reflect or fully interpret the reasons for the Board's actions.*

**PROPOSAL NO. 1**

**ACTION: Failed**

**DESCRIPTION:** Develop a state-waters walleye Pollock fishery in the Western Gulf of Alaska (extends from 159° W long. to 170° W long.).

**DISCUSSION:** The board discussed the potential that should a state fishery occur, a parallel federal fishery may not occur due to a smaller allocation, as well as concern of tripping the "jeopardy bar" with regard to the Steller sea lion protection measures. The board discussed the potential shifts of fishing effort in federal and state waters and potential economic impacts to Alaska communities. The board concluded that there is ample opportunity in the parallel fishery to harvest fish at this time.

**PROPOSAL NO. 2**

**ACTION: No action**

**DESCRIPTION:** Develop a state-waters walleye pollock fishery.

**DISCUSSION:** The board took no action on the proposal due to the action taken on Proposal 1.

**PROPOSAL NO. 3**

**ACTION: Carried as amended**

**DESCRIPTION:** Amend the existing Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan.

**AMENDMENTS:** Set the initial opening by emergency order four days after the initial Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands parallel catcher-vessel trawl fishery closes; set closure when all parallel Pacific cod fishery sectors are closed during the state-waters fishery; maintain the current seasonal split; allow unharvested GHLL from the "A" season to roll over into the "B" season; specify "A" and "B" season closures pertaining to the GHLL and overage requirements; and delete the sunset provision.

**DISCUSSION:** The department noted management concerns based on last year's fishery. Substitute regulatory wording was considered and the sunset provision was deleted. The board expressed that this fishery will provide an important opportunity for smaller vessels to supply product to the Adak processing plant which will contribute economic sustainability to that community.

**PROPOSAL NO. 4**

**ACTION: No action**

**DESCRIPTION:** Amend the existing Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan.

**DISCUSSION:** The board took no action on the proposal due to the action taken on Proposal 3.

**PROPOSAL NO. 5**

**ACTION: Carried as amended**

**DESCRIPTION:** Develop a state-waters pollock fishery around Adak, Alaska between 174° W long. and 178° W long.

**AMENDMENTS:** Open in state waters between 174° W long. to 178 W. long. (closed waters 20 miles around rookeries and 3 miles around haul outs excluding the bay on the northwest side of Kanaga Island); open to pelagic trawl vessels 58 feet in length or less; allow an "A" season only beginning January 20 through June 10 or until GHL is taken; prohibit cod-end transfers; require that each vessel must deliver its catch directly to a plant where the unsorted catch can be observed; provide for a combined harvest limit of 3,000 metric tons for the state-waters fishery and any federally-authorized pollock fishing activity inside critical habitat in the Aleutian Islands; add registration requirements and daily reporting; and provide that this subsection will sunset on December 31, 2008.

**DISCUSSION:** The department notes its opposition to Vessel Monitoring Systems requirements. The board expressed its intent to proceed cautiously with regard to potential impacts on Steller sea lions and associated mitigation measures and it noted it could adjust the regulations to address concerns as needed. The board noted 3,000 metric tons was only a small portion of the 19,000 metric ton Total Allowable Catch and concluded that opening this fishery was a reasonable approach which considered precautionary measures for protecting Steller sea lions and for providing an important economic activity.

**PROPOSAL NO. 6**

**ACTION: Failed**

**DESCRIPTION:** Create a new regulation to provide for a state-waters walleye pollock fishery in the Cook Inlet area between 149° W long. And 150° W long.

**DISCUSSION:** The board discussion centered on how this fishery would allow some pollock harvest opportunity with the least amount of Steller sea lion related impacts. The board noted that this is not a new fishery but rather a reopening of one that was removed in 2001. The board noted the tradeoff between a state-waters fishery and the parallel fishery and expressed concern over lost quota share in the parallel fishery. The board expressed interest in having the fishery continued to be discussed through the Steller sea lion mitigation committee and have the topic come back for consideration at a future board meeting.