



**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board of Fisheries**

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
(907) 465-4110
Fax: (907) 465-6094
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Public comment website: <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>

REVIEWER LETTER
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Dear Reviewer:

August 2014

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) will consider this book of regulatory proposals at its **October 2014 through March 2015** meetings. The proposals concern changes to the state's fishing regulations submitted timely by members of the public, organizations, advisory committees, and ADF&G staff. With the exception of minor edits, the proposals are published essentially as they were received. If you submitted a proposal and believe the published version does not reflect your intent, please contact Boards Support as soon as possible.

Proposal Information. Proposals are often presented as brief statements summarizing the intended regulatory changes. In cases where confusion might arise or where the regulation is complex, proposed changes are also indicated in legal format. In this format, bolded and underlined words are **additions** to the regulation text, and capitalized words or letters in square brackets are [DELETIONS] from the regulation text.

Reading all proposals presented in this book is encouraged. Some proposals have statewide application, while others affect regions or fisheries of the state. Other proposals recommend changes to multiple fisheries within an area or region.

The proposals are first grouped by relevant meeting (see *Index of Proposals, page xiii*) for each meeting). Within each meeting the proposals are organized by region, fishery, or species. Prior to each meeting, the board revises the order proposals are reviewed and deliberated in a "roadmap". Agendas are developed for each meeting to coordinate with the roadmap.

Public Comment Requested. The board relies heavily on written comments and/or oral testimony on the effect proposed changes have on individuals. Public comment, in combination with advisory committee comments and ADF&G staff presentations, provide the board with useful biological and socioeconomic information. Written comments become public documents.

On-time public comment. The board accepts on-time public comment which must be received no later than the listed deadline (typically two weeks prior to a meeting — see *Tentative Meeting Schedule* on page vi). On-time comments are added to board member workbooks prior to the meeting, included in the Proposal Index of Comments, and posted on the Boards Support website well in advance of the meeting. Comment requirements include:

- Limited to the equivalent of 100 single-sided pages from any one individual or group per proposal.

- Received by mail, fax, in office, or through the Boards Support website. Submission information is at the top of this letter.
- Submitted to fit on 8½” x 11” paper with adequate margins for three-hole punching.
- If submitted through the email address, must be in Adobe PDF or a readable word processing format. Web links to YouTube or other video formats, spreadsheets, and PowerPoint presentations are not accepted.

Record copies. After the on-time public comment period closes, the board continues to welcome written comments as “record copies”. Record copies are accepted prior to and during the board meetings. Board staff attempts to cross reference record copies with relevant proposals. Requirements include –

- Limited to an equivalent of 10 single-sided pages in length from any one individual or group per proposal until the board begins deliberations on the proposal. Subsequent to deliberations, record copies are limited to an equivalent of five single-sided pages in length.
- Submitted by mail, fax, in office, or hand delivered at the meeting. Submission information is at the top of this letter.
- If submitted at a meeting, must provide 27 copies.
- Submitted to fit on 8½” x 11” paper with adequate margins for three-hole punching.

Public testimony. The board welcomes public testimony at each regularly scheduled regulatory meeting. Public testimony generally begins the first day of the meeting, extending as long as necessary to accommodate those in attendance. There is a sign-up cut-off time set for each meeting. The public is generally allotted 3 minutes for testimony. Advisory committee representatives are allotted 10 minutes.

Tips for Providing Comments. Please consider the following advice when providing input to the board.

1. Clearly state proposal number(s) and your position(s). Written comments should indicate the proposal number to which the comments apply and should clearly indicate “support” for or “opposition” to the proposal. If the comments support a modification in the proposal, indicate “support as amended” with the preferred amendment in writing. Listing the appropriate Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) number is not essential.
2. Explain why. Help the board understand the rationale for your recommendation by identifying factors to take into account when acting on a proposal. A brief description consisting of a couple of sentences on why you support or oppose the proposal is sufficient.
3. Keep comments brief. Board members are extremely busy. Clearly stating proposals and one’s position with supporting rationale will assist the board member’s understanding.
4. Follow the requirements. pages in excess of the page limit and comments not in the proper format will be discarded. Testimony greater than the allotted time will be cut short.
5. The sooner the better. As a practical matter comments submitted after the board begins deliberations are likely to receive less consideration than comments submitted earlier.

6. Write clearly. Whether typed or handwritten, use dark ink and write legibly. If making comments on more than one proposal, please do not use separate pages for each proposal - simply begin the next set of written comments by listing the next proposal number.

Advisory Committees. Advisory committee members should refer to the Advisory Committee Manual for additional information on providing public comment to the board. Most importantly, the recommendations submitted must be in the format prescribed by the board. Check with board staff for the latest format. When providing public testimony be sure to hit the highlights. Expressing minority opinions is helpful to the board. Reading off proposal numbers and the committee's recommendation is not helpful to the board. Finally, minutes should note the number of committee members in attendance as well as other stakeholders or others in attendance during meetings.

SPECIAL NOTES: The board applies various statutes and policies when considering proposals. When addressing proposals affecting subsistence uses, the board provides for a reasonable opportunity for subsistence consistent with regulations found at Chapter 99 in the Alaska Administrative Code. When addressing allocations among commercial, sport, guided sport, and/or personal use fisheries, the board applies its *Allocation Criteria* (AS 16.05.251(e)). When addressing salmon fisheries it applies its *Mixed Stock Salmon Policy* (5 AAC 39.220) and its *Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy* (5 AAC 39.222). You may wish to review these statutes, regulations, and policies when preparing comments for the board. See the board's website for more information or call boards support staff listed on page ix to learn more about the board process.

Persons with a disability needing special accommodations in order to comment on the proposed regulations should contact the Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4110 no later than two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

Thank you for taking an active role in Alaska's fisheries management regulatory process.

Sincerely,

Glenn Haight
Executive Director

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
2014/2015 PROPOSAL BOOK**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>INTRODUCTION SECTION</u>	<u>Page Number</u>
Reviewer Letter.....	i
Table of Contents.....	iv
Tentative Meeting Schedule.....	vi
Long-Term Meeting Cycle.....	vii
Board of Fisheries Membership Roster.....	viii
Boards Support Section Staff List.....	ix
Draft Public/Legal Notice.....	x
Index of Proposals.....	xiii
<u>PROPOSAL SECTION</u>	<u>Page Number</u>
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AND UPPER COPPER/UPPER SUSITNA FINFISH	
Prince William Sound.....	1
Subsistence Salmon.....	1
Sport.....	2
Commercial Salmon.....	6
Commercial Groundfish.....	14
Copper River.....	20
Escapement Goal.....	20
Subsistence/Personal Use Salmon.....	20
Commercial Salmon.....	28
Sport.....	30
SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT CRAB, SHRIMP, AND MISC. SHELLFISH	
Dungeness Crab.....	37
Management Plan.....	37
Closed Waters.....	46
Sport Fishery.....	52
King and Tanner Crab.....	55
Personal Use/Subsistence.....	55
Commercial Fishery.....	55
Blue King Crab.....	59
Shrimp, Miscellaneous Shellfish, Marine Reserves.....	61
Sport/Personal Use Shrimp.....	61
Commercial Pot Shrimp.....	62
Commercial Beam Trawl Shrimp.....	69
Closed Waters.....	76
Sea Cucumbers.....	77
Geoducks.....	79
Marine Reserve.....	80

SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT FINFISH

Herring.....82
 Regionwide Management Plans.....82
 Sitka Sound.....84
 Spawn on Kelp.....90
Groundfish.....91
 Dogfish.....91
 Sablefish.....92
 Commercial Gear/Logbook.....95
 Lingcod.....97
 Sport Rockfish.....99
 Closed Area.....101
Sport and Subsistence Salmon and Resident Species.....102
 Subsistence ANS.....102
 Community Harvest.....103
 Subsistence Closed Waters.....103
 Subsistence Gear.....105
 Sport Regional.....106
 Sport Special Provisions.....110
Commercial Salmon.....117
 New Management Plans.....117
 SHA/THA Allocations.....120
 Purse Seine.....130
 Drift Gillnet.....139
 Set Gillnet.....142
 Troll.....146

STATEWIDE DUNGENESS CRAB, SHRIMP, AND MISC. SHELLFISH

Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Shellfish.....158
Statewide Dungeness Crab.....160
Cook Inlet Razor Clams.....161
Prince William Sound Shrimp.....164
 Noncommercial.....164
 Commercial.....167
Amphibians.....174
Supplemental Issues.....178



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board of Fisheries
 P.O. Box 115526
 Juneau, AK 99811-5526
 (907) 465-4110
 www.adfg.alaska.gov

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
2014/2015 Cycle
Tentative Meeting Dates and Locations

Prince William Sound and Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Finfish, Southeast and Yakutat Crab, Shrimp, and Misc. Shellfish; Southeast and Yakutat Finfish; Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, Misc. Shellfish (except Southeast and Yakutat) and Supplemental Issues

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: 5:00 p.m. Thursday, April 10, 2014

Meeting Dates	Topics	Location	Comment Deadline
October 15–16, 2014 [2 days]	Work Session ACRs, cycle organization, Stocks of Concern	Juneau Centennial Hall	Oct. 1, 2014
December 3–8, 2014 [6 days]	Prince William Sound and Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Finfish	Cordova Eccles School	Nov. 21, 2014
January 21–27, 2015 [7 days]	Southeast and Yakutat Crab, Shrimp, and Misc. Shellfish	Wrangell Nolan Center	Jan. 7, 2015
February 23–March 3, 2015 [9 days]	Southeast and Yakutat Finfish	Sitka Harrigan Centennial Hall	Feb. 9, 2015
March 17–20, 2015 [4 days]	Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, Misc. Shellfish (except Southeast and Yakutat) and Supplemental Issues	Anchorage Sheraton Hotel	March 3, 2015

Total Meeting Days: 28

Agenda Change Request Deadline: **August 18, 2014** [60 days prior to fall Work Session]

Updated: July 2014



**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board of Fisheries**

P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
(907) 465-4110
www.adfg.alaska.gov

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
LONG-TERM MEETING CYCLE**
(Three-year cycle)

The board meeting cycle generally occurs from October through March. The board considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule. The fisheries include subsistence, sport, guided sport, personal use, and commercial. Special petition and agenda change request procedures are available for the board to consider out-of-cycle requests.

NOTES:

- 1) In the year preceding a board cycle, the board will announce a call for proposal that prescribes which regions, species, and fisheries are set for regulatory review.
- 2) The proposal deadline is April 10 every year. *If April 10 falls on a weekend, the proposal deadline is the Friday preceding that weekend.*

Meeting Areas and Species
Prince William Sound Area all Finfish Southeast/Yakutat Areas all Finfish Southeast/Yakutat Areas King Crab, Tanner Crab, Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, and Miscellaneous Shellfish Statewide Miscellaneous Shellfish and Provisions Meeting Cycle Years: 2014/2015 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023/2024
Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island/Chignik Areas all Finfish Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Areas all Finfish Bristol Bay Area all Finfish Statewide Provisions for Finfish Meeting Cycle Years: 2015/2016 2018/2019 2021/2022 2024/2025
Cook Inlet Area all Finfish Kodiak Area all Finfish Statewide (except Southeast/Yakutat) King and Tanner Crab Meeting Cycle Years: 2016/2017 2019/2020 2022/2023 2025/2026

THE MEETING CYCLE REPEATS ITSELF EVERY THREE YEARS. This schedule was adopted November 9, 1990 and revised based on workload and public participation.



**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board of Fisheries**

P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
(907) 465-4110
www.adfg.alaska.gov

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
MEMBER LIST
(as of June 1, 2014)**

NAME AND ADDRESS	TERM EXPIRES
Karl Johnstone (Chair)	6/30/2015
Reed Morisky	6/30/2017
John Jensen	6/30/2017
Tom Kluberton (Vice Chair)	6/30/2016
Sue Jeffrey	6/30/2017
Orville Huntington	6/30/2015
Fritz Johnson	6/30/2016

Alaska Board of Fisheries members may be reached at:

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
(907) 465-4110 PHONE
(907) 465-6094 FAX
Boards Support Section website: www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/
Glenn Haight, Executive Director, Alaska Board of Fisheries
e-mail: glenn.haight@alaska.gov



ADF&G • Boards Support Section

www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us

BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION STAFF LIST

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Mailing address: P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Physical location: 1255 West 8th Street
Phone: (907) 465-4110; Fax: (907) 465-6094

HEADQUARTERS

Board of Fisheries

Glenn Haight, Exec. Director II, 465-6095
Frances Leach, Pub. Specialist II, 465-4046

Board of Game

Kristy Tibbles, Exec. Director I, 465-6098
Robert Pearson, Pub. Specialist II, 465-6097

Shannon Moeser, Administrative Officer I, 465-6096

Ashley Flippin, Administrative Assistant II, 465-4110

REGIONAL OFFICES

Southeast Region (north of Frederick Sound)

Frances Leach

P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Phone: 465-4046
Fax: 465-6094

Western Region

Vacant

P.O. Box 1467
Bethel, AK 99559
Phone: 543-2433
Fax: 543-2021

Southeast Region (south of Frederick Sound)

Robert Pearson

P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Phone: 465-6097
Fax: 465-6094

Arctic Region

Carmen Daggett

P.O. Box 689
Kotzebue, AK 99752
Phone: 442-1717
Fax: 442-2420

Southcentral Region

Sherry Wright

333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599
Phone: 267-2354
Fax: 267-2489

Interior Region

Nissa Pilcher

1300 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599
Phone: 459-7263
Fax: 459-7258

Southwest Region

Vacant

P.O. Box 1030
Dillingham, AK 99576
Phone: 842-5142
Fax: 842-5514

DRAFT
NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE
REGULATIONS OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

The Alaska Board of Fisheries proposes to adopt regulation changes in Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with fishery and aquatic plant resources in the areas designated below, including the following:

1. IN THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND (INCLUDING UPPER COPPER RIVER, UPPER SUSITNA RIVER, PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND SALTWATER, AND COPPER RIVER DISTRICT) FINFISH FISHERY REGULATIONS, SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT FINFISH FISHERIES REGULATIONS; SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT SHELLFISH FISHERIES REGULATIONS, AND STATEWIDE (except Southeast and Yakutat) DUNGENESS CRAB, SHRIMP AND MISCELLANEOUS SHELLFISH FISHERIES REGULATIONS:
 - A. In the **commercial, sport, guided sport, personal use, and aquatic plant fisheries:** fishing seasons, periods, opening and closing times; bag, possession, size, sex, and harvest limits, harvest levels, thresholds or quotas; bycatch provisions; districts, subdistricts, sections, subsections, areas, and other management boundaries; locations open and closed to fishing; methods and means; gear and vessel restrictions, marking, definitions, operational requirements and limitations, registration and permit requirements; registration areas (including exclusive and super exclusive registration areas), permits, harvest record, harvest marking requirements; management plans for conservation, development and allocation among beneficial uses; guiding principles; require, restrict or prohibit the retention, tendering, sale, release, or purchase of fish; methods of release; registration and reporting requirements for fish guides, guided anglers, catchers, processors, buyers and transporters; onboard observer requirements; fish storage and inspection requirements.
 - B. In the **subsistence fisheries (finfish):** identify subsistence uses and users; fishing seasons, periods, opening and closing times, harvest levels; methods and means; size, age, and sex limitations; districts, subdistricts, sections, subsections, areas, and other management boundaries; locations open and closed to fishing; gear and vessel restrictions and operational requirements; harvest limits, registration and permit requirements, requirements for marking and possession of fish; management plans for conservation, development and allocation among beneficial uses, and users; identify customary and traditional uses of fish stocks, determine amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses, and establish, change or adjust subsistence and personal use fisheries.

For a copy of the proposed regulation changes contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526, (907) 465-4110 or <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.main>.

You may comment on the regulation changes, including the potential costs to the private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written public comments limited to no more than an equivalent of 100 single sided pages to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,

Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526, or by fax to (907) 465-6094, so that the comments are received no later than two weeks prior to the meeting during which the topic will be considered. Unless otherwise specifically specified for a particular meeting in a published notice, written public comments over an equivalent of 100 single sided pages in length from any one individual or group relating to proposals at any one meeting will not be accepted. Written public comments limited to an equivalent of 10 single sided pages in length from any one individual or group will also be accepted after the two-week deadline, but will not be inserted in board member workbooks until the beginning of the meeting, and will only be accepted until the board begins deliberation of proposals.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT STANDARD: Once deliberation of proposals begin at a board meeting, the board will **ONLY** accept written public comments that are not more than an equivalent of five single-sided pages, unless specific information is requested by the board that requires more pages than allowed under this standard.

During the meeting written public comments from any one individual or group may be submitted by hand delivery at any time if 27 copies are provided; but, as a practical matter comments submitted after the board begins deliberations on relevant proposals are likely to receive less consideration than comments submitted earlier. Oral comments may also be presented as explained below.

Each meeting will generally start at 8:30 a.m. on the first day of the meeting dates noted below. The public hearing portions for each regulatory meeting will begin immediately after staff reports and continue until everyone who has signed up and is present has been given the opportunity to be heard. Additional public hearings with Board Committees may be held throughout the meeting before consideration and adoption of proposed changes in the regulations for the various areas. An agenda will be posted daily during the meeting. The board will take oral testimony only from those who register before the cut-off time announced by the board chair at each regulatory meeting. The length of oral statements may be limited to three minutes or less. Anyone interested in, or affected by, the subject matter contained in this legal notice should make written or oral comments if they wish to have their views considered by the board.

TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE

Work Session (non-regulatory: agenda change requests, cycle organization, and stocks of concern)

October 15–16, 2014

Centennial Hall, 101 Egan Drive, Juneau Alaska

Prince William Sound Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Finfish

December 3–8, 2014

Mt. Eccles Elementary School, 201 Adams Street, Cordova, Alaska

Southeast and Yakutat Shellfish

January 21–27, 2015

Nolan Center, 1096 Outer Drive, Wrangell, Alaska

Southeast and Yakutat Finfish
February 23–March 3, 2015
Harrigan Centennial Hall, 330 Harbor Drive, Sitka, Alaska

**Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, Miscellaneous Shellfish (except Southeast and Yakutat)
and Supplemental Issues**
March 17–20, 2015
Sheraton Hotel, 401 East 6th Ave., Anchorage, AK

Any changes to meeting locations, dates or times, or rescheduling of topics or subject matter will be announced by news release. Please watch for these announcements in the news media or call (907) 465-4110. Please carefully review the **PROPOSAL INDEX** available for the meeting for specific proposal issues to be addressed by the board. Copies of the proposal indices are in the proposal book, available online at: <http://ww.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>, and at the relevant meeting.

Anyone interested in or affected by subsistence, personal use, commercial fishing, sport, guided sport, or regulations is hereby informed that, by publishing this legal notice, the Board of Fisheries may consider any or all of the subject areas covered by this notice. Under AS 44.62.200(b), the board may review the full range of activities appropriate to any of the subjects listed in this notice. The board may make changes to the personal use, sport, guided sport or commercial fishing regulations as may be required to ensure the subsistence priority in AS 16.05.258. On its own motion, after public hearing, the board may adopt, amend, reject, supplement, or take no action on these subjects without further notice. In addition, the board may adopt other regulations necessary to implement, administer, or enforce the regulations adopted. **THE BOARD IS NOT LIMITED BY THE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE OR CONFINES OF THE ACTUAL PROPOSALS THAT HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC OR STAFF.** The language of the final regulations may be different from that of the proposed regulations. **YOU SHOULD COMMENT DURING THE TIME ALLOWED IF YOUR INTERESTS COULD BE AFFECTED.**

If you are a person with a disability who may need a special accommodation in order to participate in the process on the proposed regulations, please contact Glenn Haight at (907) 465-4110 no later than two weeks prior to the beginning of each meeting to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Statutory Authority: AS 16.05 - AS 16.20, AS 16.40

Statutes Being Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: AS 16.05 - AS 16.20, AS 16.40

Fiscal Information: The proposed regulatory actions are not expected to require an increased appropriation.

Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Date

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND FINFISH
DECEMBER 3–8, 2014**

PROPOSAL INDEX

Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.

PROPOSAL NUMBER (57 Proposals) SUBJECT

Prince William Sound (32 Proposals)

Subsistence Salmon (3 Proposals)

- 1 Establish a weekly 36-hour subsistence fishing period until the two days after the closure of the commercial salmon season.
- 2 Establish subsistence fishing season that opens when commercial fishing opens in May and closes when the commercial fishery closes in September.
- 3 Establish certain marking requirements for that portion of a commercial drift gillnet that is being used for subsistence fishing.

Sport (6 Proposals)

- 4 Prohibit the release of king salmon in Prince William Sound.
- 5 Close a portion of Main Bay to sport fishing.
- 6 Prohibit the use of bait for salmon once the bag limit has been achieved on drainages crossed by the Copper River Highway.
- 7 Modify the Copper River Delta Special Trout Management Area to allow retention of trout from June 15–April 14.
- 8 Reduce bag and possession limit for lingcod in Prince William Sound Area from 2 per day, 4 in possession to 1 per day, 2 in possession.
- 9 Allow an additional line to jig for bait when saltwater sport fishing in Prince William Sound.

Commercial Salmon (13 Proposals)

- 10 Change set gillnet component of Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan.
- 11 Change Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan to include Valdez Fisheries Development Association in calculation.
- 12 Change Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan to exclude Gulkana Hatchery production in calculation.
- 13 Open certain waters of College Fjord to purse seine fishery before July 21.
- 14 Reestablish historic purse seine gear access to Coghill Lake sockeye salmon in Coghill River terminal area.
- 15 Establish standards to alleviate gear conflicts in Esther Subdistrict during the commercial pink salmon fishery.

- 16 Establish alternating purse seine and drift gillnet fishing periods in certain areas to alleviate gear conflicts in Esther Subdistrict during the commercial pink salmon fishery.
- 17 Allow use of monofilament mesh in Prince William Sound drift gillnet fishery.
- 18 Change drift gillnet gear specifications in the Copper River District.
- 19 Allow use of spotter planes in Prince William Sound salmon purse seine fisheries.
- 20 Allow use of spotter planes in Prince William Sound salmon purse seine fisheries.
- 21 Allow use of spotter planes in Prince William Sound salmon purse seine fisheries.
- 22 Identify certain landmarks in description of the Wally Noerenberg Hatchery Terminal Harvest Area using latitude and longitude coordinates.

Commercial Groundfish (10 Proposals)

- 23 Close Prince William Sound management area to commercial lingcod harvest when inside and outside district guideline harvest levels are achieved, including lingcod caught as bycatch and directed harvest.
- 24 Clarify that lingcod may only be retained from July 1 through December 31.
- 25 Change Prince William Sound Inside District sablefish season opening and closing date for pot gear.
- 26 Establish a lower trip limit in Prince William Sound walleye pollock pelagic trawl fishery and disallow tendering during the fishery.
- 27 Establish directed commercial purse seine and jig pollock fisheries in Prince William Sound.
- 28 Change the amount of rockfish that may be retained as bycatch during Pacific cod and walleye pollock fisheries.
- 29 Require retention of all rockfish in the sablefish fishery on gear sets below 150 fathoms, remove rockfish bycatch limits and requirements, such that proceeds from rockfish bycatch are not surrendered to the state.
- 30 Eliminate closure of Pacific cod pot season at 90 percent of guideline harvest level and combine pot and jig allocations, provide a step up/step down allocation depending on achievement of guideline harvest level.
- 31 Change Pacific cod allocation to provide 10 percent for jig gear until June 10, after which it will then be available to pot gear, and designate the state-waters jig fishery as nonexclusive.
- 32 Correct coordinates within the described closed waters section for groundfish at Zaikof Point.

Copper River (25 Proposals)

Escapement Goal (1 Proposal)

- 33 Establish a biological escapement goal of 28,000 king salmon for the Copper River drainage.

Subsistence/Personal Use Salmon (10 Proposals)

- 34 Amend the Copper River King Salmon Management Plan to provide additional management measures for king salmon in the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery.
- 35 Prohibit the use of monofilament mesh in dip net bag webbing in subsistence and personal use fisheries.
- 36 In subsistence and personal use fisheries, prohibit removing a king salmon from the water if it is to be released.
- 37 Require a department operated check station to monitor subsistence and personal use harvest and permit compliance in the Chitina and Glennallen subdistricts.
- 38 Change the opening date for the Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishery to open as early as June 1, but not later than June 11.
- 39 Change the Chitina Subdistrict personal use annual limit to be based on household size.
- 40 Require charter operators that transport personal use fishermen keep a daily logbook.
- 41 Repeal reduction of the Chitina Subdistrict personal use allocation if the commercial salmon fishery is closed for 13 or more consecutive days.
- 42 Change the maximum harvest level for the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery to 100,000 salmon.
- 43 Establish an allocation of 3,000 king salmon to the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery.

Commercial Salmon (5 Proposals)

- 44 Prohibit commercial salmon fishing until a salmon is recorded at the Copper River sonar.
- 45 Repeal mandatory inside-waters closure in Copper River King Salmon Management Plan.
- 46 Restrict retention of commercially caught king salmon for a person's own use to not exceed the king salmon sport bag limit in area caught.
- 47 Allows use of dip nets for commercial salmon fishing during emergency order closures of the commercial drift gillnet fishery.
- 48 Mark district boundaries.

Sport (9 Proposals)

- 49 Change the sport fishing season opening date for king salmon on the Klutina River from July 1 to June 1.
- 50 Prohibit use of barbed hooks, multiple hooks, and bait when fishing for king salmon in the Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Area.
- 51 Prohibit use of barbed and multiple hooks for king salmon once an angler has taken a bag limit or annual limit of king salmon.
- 52 Prohibit use of barbed and multiple hooks with or without bait if the sport fishery is restricted to catch-and-release.
- 53 Clarify that a single-hook artificial lure is an artificial lure with one single-hook or one fly.

- 54 Increase the Arctic grayling bag and possession limit in the Gulkana River drainage.
- 55 Amend special provisions for rainbow trout in the Tebay River drainage.
- 56 Update the Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Area stocked waters regulation.
- 57 Amend methods and means for burbot in a portion of the Copper River drainage to reference statewide regulations.

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT CRAB, SHRIMP, AND MISC. SHELLFISH
JANUARY 21–27, 2015**

PROPOSAL INDEX

Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.

PROPOSAL NUMBER (56 Proposals) SUBJECT
(1 of which is shared with Southeast and Yakutat Finfish Proposal 113)

Dungeness Crab (24 Proposals)

Management Plan (11 Proposals)

- 58 Repeal the Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan.
- 59 Repeal the Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan.
- 60 Repeal the Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan.
- 61 Manage commercial Dungeness crab fishery with open season dates and areas to avoid handling of soft shell crab.
- 62 Modify Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan with open seasons, areas, and harvest levels based on historic data.
- 63 Modify threshold levels for opening and closing of summer and fall fishing seasons under the Southeastern Alaska Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan.
- 64 Repeal section of Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan regarding summer season soft-shell crab catch that may allow fall season to open.
- 65 Extend regionwide commercial Dungeness crab season closure date from November 30 to February 28.
- 66 Manage Upper Lynn Canal commercial Dungeness crab fishery based on CPUE.
- 67 This proposal is a comment and does not seek regulatory change.
- 68 This proposal is a comment and does not seek regulatory change.

Closed Waters (11 Proposals)

- 69 Repeal specific commercial Dungeness crab fishery closed waters in areas around Tenakee Inlet, Sitka Sound, and Port Althrop.
- 70 Close commercial Dungeness crab fishery in a portion of Hetta Inlet.
- 71 Close commercial Dungeness crab fishery in a portion of Whale Pass.
- 72 Close commercial Dungeness crab fishery in a portion of Frederick Sound.
- 73 Close commercial Dungeness crab fishery in a portion of Frederick Sound.
- 74 Close commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Big Bear/Baby Bear Marine Park near Sitka.

- 75 Close nearshore waters around Angoon to commercial Dungeness crab fishery.
- 76 Close commercial Dungeness fishing in areas around Colt and Horse Islands near Juneau.
- 77 Close commercial Dungeness fishing around Portland Island and Point Lena near Juneau.
- 78 Close waters to Game Creek and Gartina Creek near Hoonah to commercial Dungeness crab fishing to improve subsistence fishery.
- 79 Close portions of Chilkat Inlet to commercial Dungeness crab fishing until harvest levels rebound.

Sport Fishery (2 Proposals)

- 80 Modify pot limits, buoy marking requirements, responsible parties, and management provisions for the George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery.
- 81 Modify sport fishing guide requirements in the George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery.

King and Tanner Crab (11 Proposals)

Personal Use/Subsistence (2 Proposals)

- 82 Increase the pot limit from 4 pots per boat to 10 pots per vessel for personal use Tanner crab fishery in the Southeastern Alaska Area.
- 83 Repeal closure of Tanner crab sport and personal use fishery two weeks prior to July 1 in the Southeastern Alaska Area.

Commercial Fishery (7 Proposals)

- 84 Establish golden king crab commercial fishery in Registration Area D under commissioner's permit.
- 85 Establish logbook requirement and standards for commercial king crab fisheries in Registration Area D.
- 86 Modify lawful gear to allow use of square king crab pots in Registration Area D.
- 87 Reduce the commercial king crab pot limit in the waters of Yakutat Bay and Russell Fjord from 100 pots per vessel to 40 pots per vessel.
- 88 Allow the operation of commercial pot gear for groundfish before and during a commercial king or Tanner crab season.
- 89 Create new commercial golden king crab fishery area in Cross Sound.
- 90 Reduce commercial Tanner crab pot limit in Registration Area D.

Blue King Crab (2 Proposals)

- 91 Correct a district reference for Holkham Bay and a misspelling of Point Astley.
- 92 Increase legal size limit for blue king crab in subsistence, personal use, and commercial fisheries in Registration Areas A and D.

Shrimp, Miscellaneous Shellfish, Marine Reserves (21 Proposals)

Sport/Personal Use Shrimp (1 Proposal)

- 93 Establish a harvest reporting permit for sport and personal use shrimp fisheries in waters of Section 11-A.

Commercial Pot Shrimp (8 Proposals)

- 94 Establish a spawner index management system for the Southeastern Alaska commercial spot shrimp fishery.
- 95 Establish management direction to modify commercial pot shrimp fishery GHGs based on indicators of shrimp population size determined by CPUE, size data, and geographic distribution.
- 96 Provide additional commercial pot shrimp fishery management flexibility in specific fishing locales in Registration Area A.
- 97 Divide District 1 into three distinct commercial pot shrimp fishing areas.
- 98 Modify commercial pot shrimp fishery reporting requirements for Registration Area A.
- 99 Standardize, limit, and reduce commercial shrimp pot gear in Registration Area A.
- 100 Clarify use of other pot gear during a commercial shrimp season in Registration Area A.
- 101 Revise the Southeastern Alaska Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan to include an April to October commercial fishery, regionwide, for non-spot shrimp.

Commercial Beam Trawl Shrimp (5 Proposals)

- 102 Remove otter trawl as legal trawl gear in commercial shrimp trawl fishery in Registration Area D.
- 103 Establish maximum vessel length for beam trawl shrimp fishery in Registration Area A.
- 104 Modify beam trawl gear specifications for Registration Area A.
- 105 Clarify commercial beam trawl registration location as ADF&G office specified by the department.
- 106 Establish a shrimp beam trawl fishery task force.

Closed Waters (1 Proposal)

- 107 Close a portion of District 8 near Petersburg to commercial pot shrimp fishery.

Sea Cucumbers (3 Proposals)

- 108 Clarify weekly commercial fishing periods for sea cucumbers.
- 109 Reduce commercial sea cucumber fishing periods in October and establish specific fishing times in November.
- 110 Allow increased trip limit and permit stacking in commercial sea cucumber fishery.

Geoducks (2 Proposals)

- 111 Allow department to set trip limits on geoduck harvest based on market conditions.
- 112 Establish a weekly trip limit of 1,000 pounds of geoduck clams for each CFEC permit holder with no more than two permit holders on a vessel.

Marine Reserve (1 Proposal)

- 113 Prohibit fishing, around Cache Island, for bottomfish, crab, and shrimp by all users. *This proposal is also scheduled for consideration during the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish meeting.*

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT FINFISH
FEBRUARY 23–MARCH 3, 2015**

PROPOSAL INDEX

Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.

PROPOSAL NUMBER (121 Proposals) SUBJECT

(1 of which is shared with Southeast and Yakutat Crab, Shrimp, and Misc. Shellfish Proposal 113)

Herring (16)

Regionwide Management Plans (3 Proposals)

- 114 Establish a management plan for herring spawning aggregates that have been below threshold.
- 115 Establish a management plan for herring spawning aggregates that have been below threshold.
- 116 Require a commercial herring fishery to occur when herring biomass is above minimum threshold.

Sitka Sound (10 Proposals)

- 117 Lower the amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence for Sitka Sound herring.
- 118 Modify distribution of commercial harvest under the Sitka Sound herring management plan to provide additional subsistence harvest opportunity.
- 119 Remove the area locally known as the "core area" from the closed waters of District 13 in Sitka Sound.
- 120 Remove the area locally known as the "core area" from the closed waters of District 13 in Sitka Sound.
- 121 Expand commercial herring fishery closed waters of District 13 in Sitka Sound.
- 122 Lower the spawning biomass threshold for Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery
- 123 Assign equal quota shares in the Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery.
- 124 Allow purse seine permit holders to vote on equal quota shares in the Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery.
- 125 Reduce the harvest rate and establish a maximum guideline harvest level for the Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery.
- 126 Establish a commercial open pound herring spawn on kelp fishery in Sitka Sound.

Spawn on Kelp (3 Proposals)

- 127 Reduce kelp allocations in the commercial herring spawn on kelp fishery to no more than 1,000 blades per permit holder.
- 128 Modify herring spawn on kelp pound configurations.
- 129 Allow permit holders to retain herring in a closed pound for seven days.

Groundfish (17 Proposals)

Dogfish (1 Proposal)

130 Create a commercial fishery for spiny dogfish in Southeast Alaska using pot gear.

Sablefish (7 Proposals)

131 Allow pots in commercial sablefish fishery.

132 Add pot gear as a legal gear type for permits currently limited to longline gear for commercial sablefish harvest in Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict fishery.

133 Add pot gear as a legal gear type for permits currently limited to longline gear for commercial sablefish harvest in Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict fishery.

134 Add pot gear as a legal gear type for commercial sablefish permits currently limited to longline gear in the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict fishery.

135 Update and clarify the areas where sablefish may be taken with longline gear in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

136 Establish 50 fish harvest limit for personal use sablefish fishery.

137 Establish an annual limit and gear restriction in the personal use sablefish fishery.

Commercial Gear/Logbook (2 Proposals)

138 Require groundfish fishermen using dinglebar, mechanical jig, or hand troll gear to report the specific location of fishing operation by latitude and longitude in logbooks and clarify the reporting of amount of hooks fished to be consistent with that information requested in the logbook.

139 Define mechanical jigging gear separate from dinglebar troll gear and establish limits on hooks to be used.

Lingcod (3 Proposals)

140 Increase minimum commercial lingcod size limit to 30 inches from tip of snout, or 22.75 inches from front of dorsal fin, to tip of tail.

141 Allow commercial salmon fishermen using troll gear in Sitka Sound to retain up to two lingcod per trip for personal use.

142 Repeal Sitka Sound Special Use area lingcod regulations.

Sport Rockfish (3 Proposals)

143 Require all anglers releasing nonpelagic rockfish to release them at depth, and require at least one deep water release mechanism on board vessels used by sport anglers.

144 Repeal mandatory retention requirements for nonpelagic rockfish.

145 Repeal Sitka Sound Special Use Area and Ketchikan Area nonpelagic rockfish regulations.

Closed Area (1 Proposal)

113 Prohibit fishing, around Cache Island, for bottomfish, crab, and shrimp by all users. *This proposal is also scheduled for consideration during the Southeast and Yakutat Crab, Shrimp, and Miscellaneous Shellfish meeting.*

Sport and Subsistence Salmon and Resident Species (27 Proposals)

Subsistence ANS (2 Proposals)

- 146 Revise the amounts reasonable necessary for subsistence for salmon in Districts 12 and 14.
- 147 Reconsider amounts necessary for subsistence in the Angoon area.

Community Harvest (1 Proposal)

- 148 Allow for designation of community subsistence harvesters for Hoonah residents.

Subsistence Closed Waters (4 Proposals)

- 149 Modify weekly subsistence salmon fishing schedule for Klawock Inlet, Klawock River, and Klawock Lake.
- 150 Close certain portions of the Klawock River drainage to subsistence salmon fishing with seines and gillnets in July and August.
- 151 Close Klawock River to subsistence salmon fishing upstream of the Klawock River Bridge.
- 152 Repeal the outboard motor horsepower restriction for Klawock River.

Subsistence Gear (2 Proposals)

- 153 Allow subsistence harvest of salmon with purse seine and gillnet gear in portions of Districts 12 and 13 near Angoon.
- 154 Move gear specifications for harvesting subsistence salmon in Shipley Bay from personal use regulations to subsistence regulations of the Alaska Administrative Code.

Sport Regional (6 Proposals)

- 155 Allow party fishing in Southeast Alaska saltwater fisheries.
- 156 Allow the use of bow and arrow to take salmon in the Southeast Alaska Area by certified bow anglers.
- 157 Reduce the king salmon size limit from 28 inches or greater in length to 26 inches or greater in length in the Southeast Alaska Area.
- 158 Modify the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan by eliminating inseason reductions to the annual limit.
- 159 Establish nonresident annual limits for coho, sockeye, chum, and pink salmon in salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.
- 160 Establish nonresident annual limits for coho, sockeye, chum, and pink salmon in fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Sport Special Provisions (12 Proposals)

- 161 Prohibit multiple hooks in all fresh waters in the Yakutat Management Area.
- 162 Prohibit multiple hooks and barbed hooks in all fresh waters of the Yakutat Management Area.
- 163 Reduce the Yakutat Village Lagoon coho salmon bag and possession limits to two fish greater than 16 inches in length.

- 164 Designate the Village Lagoon and the Village Lagoon drainage as a youth-only fishery.
- 165 Allow the use of bait when sport fishing for salmon in the Kaliakh River.
- 166 Establish an effective date of April 1 for the District 11 sport fishery for king salmon and rescind the closure in upper Taku Inlet.
- 167 Open freshwaters along the Juneau road system to sport fishing for hatchery-produced king salmon.
- 168 Open freshwaters along the Juneau road system to sport fishing for hatchery-produced king salmon.
- 169 Repeal the Eagle River Beach area Dolly Varden sport fishery closure.
- 170 Allow the use of bait from September 15 through October 15 when sport fishing in the Klawock River.
- 171 Allow the use of bait after September 15 when sport fishing for coho salmon in the Klawock River.
- 172 Repeal Ketchikan Creek harvest regulations applying to adipose fin-clipped steelhead.

Commercial Salmon (61 Proposals)

New Management Plans (4 Proposals)

- 173 Require the board to address habitat, conservation, and subsistence priority when considering regulations and policies.
- 174 Establish a Taku River king salmon management plan.
- 175 Evaluate potential changes to enhanced salmon allocations.
- 176 Establish new enhanced salmon allocations by gear type.

SHA/THA Allocation (12 Proposals)

- 177 Close common property commercial salmon fishery in a portion of Mist Cove Special Harvest Area to allow hatchery operations.
- 178 Close common property commercial salmon fishery in a portion of Mist Cove Special Harvest Area to allow hatchery operations.
- 179 Close common property commercial salmon fishery in a portion of Kasnyku Bay Special Harvest Area to allow hatchery operations.
- 180 Close common property commercial salmon fishery in a portion of Kasnyku Bay Special Harvest Area to allow hatchery operations.
- 181 Establish a Neck Lake Special Harvest Area.
- 182 Modify fishing ratios and sunset date in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.
- 183 Modify commercial salmon fishery purse seine and drift gillnet fishing time ratios in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area.
- 184 Open Kendrick Bay Terminal Harvest Area to commercial salmon fishing with troll gear.
- 185 Change fishing ratios and sunset date in the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.
- 186 Modify commercial salmon fishery purse seine and drift gillnet fishing time ratios in the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area.

- 187 Allow commercial salmon drift gillnet gear in Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area.
- 188 Modify commercial seine and troll fishing schedules in Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area.

Purse Seine (17 Proposals)

- 189 Remove reference to 5 AAC 33.366 *Northern Southeast Seine Salmon Fishery Management Plans* and clarify language regarding fishing openings.
- 190 Modify accounting of commercial sockeye salmon purse seine harvest limit in Amalga Harbor Special Harvest Area.
- 191 Modify accounting of commercial sockeye salmon purse seine harvest limit in Amalga Harbor Special Harvest Area.
- 192 In Districts 12 and 14 require reporting of commercially caught sockeye salmon that are not sold.
- 193 Restrict and prohibit commercial purse seining in portions of Districts 12 and 14.
- 194 Close a portion of Lisianski Inlet to commercial salmon fishing with purse seine gear.
- 195 Close a portion of Lisianski Inlet to commercial salmon fishing with purse seine gear.
- 196 Establish new salmon statistical areas in District 13.
- 197 Establish new salmon statistical areas in Lisianski Inlet.
- 198 Establish closed waters around sockeye salmon streams in the Angoon area.
- 199 Prohibit commercial fishing for salmon with purse seine gear within the possessory boundary of Angoon for five years.
- 200 Close waters within the Admiralty Monument proclamation boundary to commercial fishing for salmon with purse seine gear.
- 201 Close certain waters of Chichagof Island and Admiralty Island to commercial salmon fishing with purse seine gear.
- 202 Clarify measurement standards for the commercial salmon purse seine vessel length limit in the Southeastern Alaska Area.
- 203 Establish and define a maximum speed at which a commercial salmon fishery purse seine may be towed.
- 204 Prohibit the use of spotter planes during open commercial salmon fishing periods where purse seine gear is allowed.
- 205 Prohibit the use of unmanned aircraft during open commercial salmon fishing periods where purse seine is allowed.

Drift Gillnet (5 Proposals)

- 206 Clarify boundary between sections 15-A and 15-C at Sherman Rock.
- 207 Increase commercial drift gillnet salmon fishing opportunity in Section 6-D.
- 208 Establish a drift gillnet mesh size restriction in District 8 when the directed king salmon fishery is closed.
- 209 Allow drift gillnets with mesh size of four and seven-eighths inches or less to have a depth of up to 120 meshes.
- 210 Allow the use of single filament mesh in a commercial salmon drift gillnet in the Southeastern Alaska Area.

Set Gillnet (9 Proposals)

- 211 Remove the sunset clause from Yakutat Area commercial salmon set gillnet permit stacking regulation.
- 212 Allow the owner of two commercial salmon set gillnet permits to fish both permits throughout the Yakutat Area.
- 213 Allow multiple commercial salmon set gillnet permit holders to jointly harvest and deliver fish.
- 214 Remove depth restrictions from commercial salmon set gillnet gear.
- 215 Allow commercial salmon set gillnets up to 60 meshes deep after July 1.
- 216 Clarify gillnet specifications in the East River in September.
- 217 Establish an opening date for the Tsiu River commercial salmon fishery.
- 218 Redefine closed waters in the Lost River.
- 219 Establish new salmon statistical areas in Yakutat Bay.

Troll (14 Proposals)

- 220 Modify the winter boundary line for the commercial salmon troll fishery.
- 221 Expand the winter commercial salmon troll fishery in the Yakutat Area to the territorial sea line.
- 222 Correct regulatory language to clarify a contribution rate of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon for the spring salmon troll fisheries.
- 223 Change the king salmon harvest percentage for the initial opening in the summer salmon troll fishery from 70 percent to 60 percent.
- 224 Allow the commissioner to open a season during which a trip limit is in effect for king salmon in the commercial summer salmon troll fishery.
- 225 Change the sunset date in the District 12 and 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fishery Management Plan.
- 226 Remove sunset clause from District 12 and 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fishery Management Plan.
- 227 Remove sunset clause from District 12 and 14 enhanced commercial chum salmon troll fishery and allow fishing 7 days per week.
- 228 Close the commercial troll fishery for coho salmon from August 1–10.
- 229 Allow commercial salmon fishing with troll gear in an area between North Chatham Strait and Homeshore.
- 230 Restrict commercial salmon fishing with troll gear in Section 15-C beginning July 1.
- 231 Reduce the area open to commercial salmon fishing with troll gear in Naha Bay during the summer.
- 232 Clarify power troll gear specifications regarding hand troll gurdies and fishing rods.
- 233 Allow downriggers as legal commercial salmon hand troll gear for the entire year.

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
STATEWIDE DUNGENESS CRAB, SHRIMP, AND MISC. SHELLFISH
MARCH 17–20, 2015**

PROPOSAL INDEX

Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.

PROPOSAL NUMBER (34 Proposals) SUBJECT

Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Shellfish (5 Proposals)

- 234 Establish weather criteria to delay opening of commercial fishing periods for sea cucumbers in the Kodiak District of Registration Area J.
- 235 Modify the Chignik District fishing season for sea cucumbers to open two weeks earlier than the remainder of Registration Area J.
- 236 Establish an earlier season closure for the Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, and Aleutian districts' commercial Dungeness crab fisheries.
- 237 Amend the customary and traditional (C&T) use finding for shellfish in the Kodiak Area by adding Tanner crab to the list of shellfish stocks customarily or traditionally taken for subsistence.
- 238 Amend scallop closed waters description.

Statewide Dungeness Crab (1 Proposal)

- 239 Remove Registration Area A from the 72-hour Dungeness crab pot storage limitation requirement.

Cook Inlet Razor Clams (5 Proposals)

- 240 Reduce the personal use bag and possession limits for razor clams in eastern Cook Inlet.
- 241 Reduce the personal use bag and possession limits for razor clams in eastern Cook Inlet.
- 242 Reduce the sport bag and possession limits for razor clams in eastern Cook Inlet.
- 243 Close east Cook Inlet beaches to all razor clam harvest.
- 244 Establish personal use bag and possession limits for razor clams in West Cook Inlet.

Prince William Sound Shrimp (16 Proposals)

Noncommercial (5 Proposals)

- 245 Change harvest allocation guidelines under the Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan.
- 246 Change harvest strategies under the Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan.
- 247 Modify pot limits per person and household, and increase the pot limit from five to 10 shrimp pots per vessel.

- 248 Modify reporting requirements for sport and personal use shrimp fishing in the Prince William Sound Area, including monthly reporting.
- 249 Create a subsistence permit for shrimp in the Prince William Sound management area.

Commercial (11 Proposals)

- 250 Clarify that a person may only register one vessel each season for the Registration Area E shrimp pot fishery.
- 251 Amend the boundary between shrimp pot fishing areas in Registration Area E.
- 252 Add additional waters closed to the taking of shrimp with trawl gear and correct coordinates within the closed waters section.
- 253 Change Registration Area E shrimp pot commercial fishery designation from exclusive to superexclusive area and season closing date from September 15 to August 1.
- 254 Increase the current 25 percent statistical area harvest cap or restriction to 50 percent of the total commercial guideline harvest level (GHL).
- 255 Increase the minimum number of commercial shrimp pots, or require a distance greater than 300 feet between first and last pot, before a buoy must be placed on each end of the longline in Registration Area E.
- 256 Increase the minimum number of commercial shrimp pots before a buoy must be placed on each end of the longline in Registration Area E.
- 257 Amend the reporting requirements for the commercial shrimp pot fishery in Registration Area E.
- 258 Close the commercial shrimp pot fishery in Prince William Sound.
- 259 Close the commercial shrimp pot fishery in Prince William Sound.
- 260 Close the commercial shrimp pot fishery in Prince William Sound.

Amphibians (2 Proposals)

- 261 Modify prohibitions on importation and release of live fish to specifically address amphibians in Alaska.
- 262 Modify permitting requirements to specifically address the collection, transport, and possession of amphibians in Alaska.

Supplemental Issues (5 Proposals)

- 263 Reduce the length of drift gillnet gear.
- 264 Modify length of drift and set gillnets based on preseason sockeye salmon forecast.
- 265 Ban the use of live earthworms as bait in freshwater sport fishing.
- 266 Modify procedure for assigning observer coverage in king and Tanner crab fisheries.
- 267 Repeal exception for use of footgear with felt soles while sport fishing in fresh water.

**BOARD OF FISHERIES
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND FINFISH
DECEMBER 3–8, 2014**

PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 01.610. Fishing seasons. Establish a weekly 36-hour subsistence fishing period until the two days after the closure of the commercial salmon season, as follows:

(1) during one weekly 36-hour fishing period beginning 7:00 a.m. Friday and ending 7:00 p.m. Saturday; [from May 15 until two days before the commercial opening of that salmon district, seven days per week; (2) during the commercial salmon season, only during open commercial salmon fishing periods in that district;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 1. Subsistence users in the Copper River District do not have reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon outside the commercial salmon fishery and with the frequency available in other subsistence fisheries throughout the state.

2. Under the current regulations, local Alaska Department of Fish and Game managers are often put in the position of determining "reasonable opportunity" during periodic or extended closures of the commercial salmon fishery.

PROPOSED BY: George Covel (EF-C14-115)

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 01.610. Fishing seasons. Establish subsistence fishing season that opens when commercial fishing opens in May and closes when the commercial fishery closes in September, as follows:

Subsistence fishing should open starting on the date of the first commercial opener in May, and remain open until the final commercial opener in September.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Copper River Flats are an area where conditions can range from serene to catastrophic very quickly. The commercial gillnet fleet generally uses large bow pickers (most 28–35 feet) well suited to handle these conditions, although these boats are occasionally lost in this area. Boats used for subsistence fishing are generally much smaller (16–22 feet), and are presently only allowed to fish during commercial openers, except for one day a year. Subsistence fishers should not be put into a position where they have to run with large commercial boats to get their fish, nor should they be limited in the days they can fish. Rather, they should be allowed to fish when weather conditions are best for their smaller boats.

Because there is a catch limit imposed on subsistence fishers in this fishery the overall number of fish taken by subsistence fishers would not change. Only the times these fish are taken.

In return for this expanded opportunity, the subsistence fishery should be set up as a test fishery to add an extra data component to the management of this commercial fishery, which is informed by sonar data miles upriver. In seasons when the river holds ice late into the spring, and fish are not detected in the river, they still could be present in the fishery and available for harvest. A test fishery on the fishing grounds would provide an extra data component when inriver estimates are delayed. Subsistence fishers should be required to note the location, size of net, soak time and number of each species caught within 24 hours. This real-time catch per unit effort would provide managers with more tools to manage the fishery, and increase the safety margin for subsistence fishers on the Copper River Flats by allowing subsistence fishers to avoid fishing among large commercial boats, and on the best weather days.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Eyak (EF-C14-128)

PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Establish certain marking requirements for that portion of a commercial drift gillnet that is being used for subsistence fishing, as follows:

(4) if a subsistence permit holder is using a 50 fathom portion of a longer gillnet, that the deployed net shall be clearly marked at 50 fathoms with a cork, permanently fixed to the corkline, of contrasting color and size, that is plainly visible when the gear is in the water.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial fishermen participating in the Copper River District Subsistence Fishery commonly have a 150 fathom gillnet aboard. Clarify the regulations so that deployment of only 50 fathoms of this gear meets the lawful subsistence gear specification would eliminate the need and expense of returning to town to change nets. A method of marking this dedicated shackle of the larger gear unit shall be required to facilitate operation and enforcement. Current bag limits provide the necessary control and shall remain in effect.

PROPOSED BY: George Covel (EF-C14-116)

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 55.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area. Prohibit the release of king salmon in Prince William Sound, as follows:

General Seasons and Limits/Prince William Sound Salt Waters.

King Salmon bag limits add: **No catch and release of king salmon, first two caught must be kept.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal seeks to reduce hooking mortalities of king salmon in Western Prince William Sound by addressing the current catch and release practices of a growing number of participants.

With the decline of king salmon in other areas of the Kenai Peninsula, there is increased pressure in a specific area of Western Prince William Sound salt waters. With mortality associated with hook and release fishing, an unknown growing percentage of king salmon are not able to reach spawning grounds jeopardizing future stocks.

The quality of the resource harvested or products produced should improve as future stocks increase.

The resource, future king salmon returns and the users depending on the salmon resources for recreation and a living should benefit from this change. Those anglers that catch and release only to sift for trophy king salmon with no consideration to the detrimental effects their fishing practice is causing may suffer.

A catch and release mortality rate in these salt waters with the vast amount of predatory fish is immoral, if not criminal.

PROPOSED BY: Seward Charterboat Association (EF-C14-095)

PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 55.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area. Close a portion of Main Bay to sport fishing, as follows:

Similar to 5 AAC 55.023(3) ... the waters of Main Bay inside Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) regulatory markers located approximately 100 feet seaward of the Main Bay Hatchery broodstock holding barrier net are closed to sport fishing;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Main Bay Hatchery (MBH) is a state-owned ADF&G salmon hatchery managed and operated by the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) through a professional services agreement at no cost to the state. PWSAC installs and operates a barrier net approximately 400 feet seaward of the hatchery fish ladder between June 15 and July 31 each year. The barrier net functions as a weir allowing the hatchery operator to volitionally collect and hold returning MBH sockeye salmon broodstock prior to the brood's final migration into the fresh water brood holding pond via the hatchery fish ladder. A growing sport fishery has developed targeting the MBH sockeye salmon as the fish concentrate on the seaward side of the barrier net (similar to the downstream side of a fresh water weir when upstream passage is prevented). The integrity of the barrier net has often been compromised (snagged and abandoned snagging hooks, boat anchors, etc.) and sport fishing inside of the brood holding area has occurred. Additionally, the number of injured fish resulting from attempted snagging has increased. These injured fish must be culled from broodstock to comply with ADF&G Sockeye Salmon Culture Protocol which results in a waste of the salmon resource.

PROPOSED BY: Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (EF-C14-055)

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 55.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area. Prohibit the use of bait for salmon once the bag limit has been achieved on drainages crossed by the Copper River Highway, as follows:

Artificial tackle only when fishing for salmon for all fresh water drainages crossed by the Copper River Highway from and including the Eyak River to the Million Dollar Bridge, including Clear Creek (mile 42) when daily bag limit has been reached.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Although there may not be an apparent conservation concern, there has been a growing sociological concern from residents of Cordova regarding catch and release of salmon with bait. The major tributaries that are fished are primarily intertidal, and according to an Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) study, catch and release mortality is dramatically increased up to 60% when using bait. This study was conducted on the Little Susitna River by the department. The study's conclusion was for coho release in the intertidal areas the mortality is very high, especially with a fishery with a high catch and release component. They also concluded that in such areas, catch and release may not be a viable management option. This proposal does not change bag limits or reduce opportunity, but addresses the social concerns that have been brewing for years by reducing mortality on a resource that is of great importance to the community of Cordova. Statistics are available from a July 2010 United States Forest Service study to show the catch and release numbers over a three-year period for the Copper River Delta. This information will give ideas of the numbers of fish that are released in these intertidal areas.

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-F14-006)

PROPOSAL 7 - 5 AAC 55.033. Copper River Delta Special Management Area for Trout. Modify the Copper River Delta Special Trout Management Area to allow retention of trout from June 15–April 14, as follows:

Copper River Delta Special Trout Management Area, in all fresh waters draining into the Gulf of Alaska south of Miles Glacier, east of the Copper River, and west of Cape Suckling, rainbow/steelhead and cutthroat, June 15–April 14, two per day, only one over 20". Only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures are allowed year round.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the mid-90s, the Board of Fish at the request of this advisory committee established a special trout management area east of the Copper River. This was done to protect the most previous trout habitation the delta due to a private development of a road to a large coal deposit in the Bering River drainage. To this day the road has not been built. This area is very hard to access and even harder now that the Copper

River Highway is washed out. Harvest levels are extremely low. This proposal establishes similar bag limits found on the West Delta.

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-F14-005)

PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area. Reduce bag and possession limit for lingcod in Prince William Sound Area from two per day, four in possession to one per day, two in possession, as follows:

For these reasons we respectfully request that the Board of Fisheries lower the existing bag limit for lingcod in Prince William Sound water as follows.

One Lingcod per day with two in possession. Size limit of not less than 35" for a whole fish and not less than 28" with the head removed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Seward Charterboat Association is deeply concerned about the abundance levels of lingcod in the waters of Prince William Sound.

Based on our observations on the grounds, it has become clear that populations of lingcod have declined sharply in the last several years. In addition to the difficulty in finding these fish, we are concerned that with the implementation of the Halibut Catch Share Plan, there will be motivation to make up for the lowered halibut bag limit by fully utilizing the two fish lingcod bag limit in Prince William Sound, causing even more pressure on the resource.

Our proposed changes would make enforcement easier, as the bag limit would effectively be one lingcod per person in any area along the entire North Gulf Coast, east from Gore Point to Kayak Island.

Being that lingcod are relatively fast grown and reach maturity in five years, we would like to revisit this issue in future board cycles to insure that the resource is healthy and may be adjusted upward to reflect improvement of condition of the stocks.

PROPOSED BY: Seward Charterboat Association (EF-C14-093)

PROPOSAL 9 - 5 AAC 55.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area. Allow an additional line to jig for bait when saltwater sport fishing in Prince William Sound, as follows:

Please add this section to the statewide general regulations or just for Prince William Sound chapter for sport fishing: (1) an additional line may be used to jig for herring and smelt as bait as specified in 5 AAC 75.030.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We were cited by an overzealous Fish and Game trooper for having an extra line with eight herring hooks on it. We had no fish on the boat. We are allowed up to 15 hooks on a herring rig or two hooks on a halibut rig at one time but we are not allowed one hook on one line and eight herring hooks on the other at the same time. You have a bag limit for halibut anyway. You are not going to catch a halibut on a herring rig. With limited time to fish and limited fish to catch, you should be able to bait fish while you are halibut fishing.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Gott (EF-C14-101)

PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan. Change set gillnet component of Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan, as follows:

Change the language in 5 AAC 24.370. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND MANAGEMENT AND SALMON ENHANCEMENT ALLOCATION PLAN. Under section:

(f) If the set gillnet gear group catches **four** [five] percent or more of the previous five-year average ex-vessel value of the total common property fishery for enhanced salmon as calculated by the department under (c) of this section, the year following this calculation beginning on July 10, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, open set gillnet fishing periods totaling no more than 36 hours per week.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 24.370. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND MANAGEMENT AND SALMON ENHANCEMENT ALLOCATION PLAN. Correct an error in the regulation.

The regulation under part (b) clearly states that “The ex-vessel value allocation of enhanced salmon stocks for the set gillnet gear group is four percent of the total allocation” but in part (f) it states that “If the set gillnet gear group catches five percent or more of the previous five-year average ex-vessel value of the total common property fishery for enhanced salmon as calculated by the department under (c) of this section, the year following this calculation beginning on July 10, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, open set gillnet fishing periods totaling no more than 36 hours per week.”

If the set gillnet allocation is four percent then why is the set gillnet fishery allowed to catch five percent of the total common property of enhanced salmon before the allocation plan is triggered? If the error in regulation is not corrected the set gill gear group will continue to catch 25% above their allocation.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Olsen (EF-C14-039)

PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan. Change Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan to include Valdez Fisheries Development Association in calculation, as follows:

Remove the language in 5 AAC 24.370. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND MANAGEMENT AND SALMON ENHANCEMENT ALLOCATION PLAN. Under

[(J) IN THIS SECTION, “ENHANCED SALMON STOCKS” MEANS SALMON PRODUCED BY THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AQUACULTURE CORPORATION”]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 24.370. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND MANAGEMENT AND SALMON ENHANCEMENT ALLOCATION PLAN. The plan should include the value of all enhanced salmon produced in the Prince William Sound (PWS) region. The value of enhanced salmon production from Valdez Fisheries Development Association’s (VFDA) Solomon Gulch Hatchery is not included in the management plan. The construction of the Solomon Gulch Hatchery is financed by funds from the State of Alaska and continues to use state financing. The original hatchery operation permit included chum production intended for the drift gillnet fleet which never was accomplished.

5 AAC 33.364. Southeastern Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan includes the value of all enhanced salmon produced in the Southeastern Alaska region. Both 5 AAC 24.370. and 5 AAC 33.364. stated goals are to provide a fair and reasonable allocation of the harvest of enhanced salmon among the commercial fisheries.

How can there be fair and reasonable enhanced salmon allocation when a large percentage of the enhanced salmon resource is not included the plan? What is the difference between a hatchery built by the State of Alaska, Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC), or VFDA? They all used public funds for their construction and startup operations. Why is the PWS seine fleet allowed exclusive access and benefit to VFDA’s publicly financed enhanced salmon production? The best solution short of allowing the drift and set net fleet access to the Port of Valdez is to include the value of Solomon Gulch Hatchery production into 5 AAC 24.370.

If all of the enhanced salmon produced in Prince William Sound is not included in the Prince William Sound Enhanced Salmon Allocation plan then seine fishery will continue to receive a disproportionate share of the enhanced salmon.

This proposal does not propose to reallocate VFDA hatchery production to the other commercial users, but to include the value of the enhanced salmon in the plan so all PWS common property fisheries can benefit from VFDA enhanced salmon production.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Bowen (EF-C14-041)

PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan. Change Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan to exclude Gulkana Hatchery production in calculation, as follows:

Add language in 5 AAC 24.370. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND MANAGEMENT AND SALMON ENHANCEMENT ALLOCATION PLAN under

(j) In this section, “enhanced salmon stocks” means salmon produced by the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation **and excluding enhanced salmon stocks produced by the Gulkana Hatchery.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 24.370. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND MANAGEMENT AND SALMON ENHANCEMENT ALLOCATION PLAN (j) Remove the Gulkana Hatchery from the allocation plan.

When the current was plan was developed, the main argument by members of the seine fleet for keeping Valdez Fisheries Development Association (VFDA) out of the plan was that “The gillnet fleet was making a living from the wild stocks on Copper River while the seine fleet did not have healthy wild stocks to fish on.” The Board of Fisheries did not take in account that Gulkana Hatchery produces enhanced salmon returning to the Copper River. Gulkana hatchery production should not be allowed to be used against the drift fleet in allowing VFDA to be left out the allocation plan.

The drift fleet has disagreements with Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) on how they determine the value of the returning enhanced salmon. Gulkana is different than the other hatcheries in the region because the wild and enhanced salmon enter the fishery and river together. ADF&G has to collect otoliths from the salmon catch throughout the Copper River sockeye run to try and determine the percentage of wild to enhanced salmon. ADF&G has a rough estimate of the Gulkana enhanced salmon that is in the catch and the data shows that enhanced component is very small in May when the drift fleet is receiving the highest prices of the year. The main disagreement is with how the department uses the average values from whole season (May through July), while the bulk of the returning enhanced salmon are caught in July when salmon prices are down. This results in the fishery being overvalued and is not a fair and reasonable allocation. Relieving the department of having to determine the value of the enhanced salmon on the Copper River will eliminate these disagreements.

In the spirit of compromise this proposal would leave VFDA’s enhanced salmon out of the plan as well.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Bowen (EF-C14-042)

PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan. Open certain waters of College Fjord to purse seine fishery before July 21, as follows:

Waters of College north of Point Pakenham and Golden Lagoon at 60.58.772 147.59.787 would be open to both seine and drift gillnet gear when the department warrants this area open based on sockeye and pink escapement goals within the Coghill River.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow seine gear north of Point Pakenham prior to July 21 to harvest pink and sockeye salmon. This has historically been a shared area between seine and drift gillnet. On large or early pink returns, the majority of the return enters the Coghill River before July 21. The drift gillnet fleet does not target these pinks and harvestable surplus fish go uncaught. The seine fleet should also be returned to their historical access to wild stock Coghill sockeye that was re-allocated to the drift fleet based on a now abandoned allocation plan. A geographically perpendicular line from Pakenham to Golden Lagoon would be preferred to eliminate lines intersecting the shore at odd angles which can cause difficulties. This line is still well above the College Fjord Glacier Dam and should eliminate chum interception concerns.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas Nelson (EF-C14-106)

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan. Reestablish historic purse seine gear access to Coghill Lake sockeye salmon in Coghill River terminal area, as follows:

Pending input from gillnet representatives, it is anticipated that the Coghill sockeye fishery will be a terminal style fishery targeting returning sockeye and the line will be drawn close enough to the Coghill River to minimize interception of chum salmon. It is not intended that the seiners will have exclusive access to Coghill sockeye.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Restore historic seine access to Coghill Lake sockeye returns. Seine gear lost access to Coghill Lake sockeye stocks when the salmon allocation plan was originally implemented. At that time, both wild stocks and enhanced stocks were considered in the allocation matrix. Wild stocks are no longer part of the allocation matrix and historic seine access should be restored.

PROPOSED BY: Northwest & Alaska Seiners' Association (EF-C14-135)

PROPOSAL 15 - 5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan. Establish standards to alleviate gear conflicts in Esther Subdistrict during the commercial pink salmon fishery, as follows:

The intention of this proposal is to resolve inseason conflict with input and compromise by both gear types and not to gain an advantage by one gear type over the other.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Gear conflict and congestion in the Esther subdistrict. This is a placeholder proposal to provide time for gillnet and seine representatives to come to a compromise agreement regarding gear conflict in the Esther subdistrict during pink salmon season and submit proposed regulatory language as an RC.

PROPOSED BY: Northwest & Alaska Seiners' Association (EF-C14-134)

PROPOSAL 16 - 5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan. Establish alternating purse seine and drift gillnet fishing periods in certain areas to alleviate gear conflicts in Esther Subdistrict during the commercial pink salmon fishery, as follows:

For Esther Island in Prince William Sound, I propose that the fishery be split up by way of odd / even day harvesting. The gillnetters get the area East of Hodgkins Point on the odd days (August 1, 3, 5 etc.) The gillnetters get the area west of Hodgkins Point on the even days (Aug 2, 4, 6 etc.) The seiners get the area East of Hodgkins Point on the even days and the area west of Hodgkins point on the odd days.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue is gear conflict between seiners and drift gillnetters during the pink salmon harvest around Esther Island in Prince William Sound. The fishery is becoming more and more out of control and tempers are flaring between both gear types. This proposal will create a safer, more controlled fishery with no apparent loss to either group.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Harder (EF-C14-037)

PROPOSAL 17 - 5 AAC 24.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow use of monofilament mesh in Prince William Sound drift gillnet fishery, as follows:

A new section in 24.331 Gillnet Specifications and Operations would be added as follows:

(9) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 39.250(c), in the Prince William Sound Region, a person may use single mesh web in a drift gillnet.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow the use of monofilament web in the drift gillnet fishery. The cost of web has been gone up approximately

30% over the last 10 years and is expected to increase the next couple of years. The cost of high end fishing gear is now \$24.50/lb. while mono cost about 1/2 the price at \$12.46/lb.

Mono was approved for use in the Cook Inlet fishery and that fishery has shown that over time some fishermen will choose to use mono web while others continue to use the more conventional web. We are just asking for the opportunity for those who wish to use mono that choice.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Bowen (EF-C14-040)

PROPOSAL 18 - 5 AAC 24.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Change drift gillnet gear specifications in the Copper River District, as follows:

5 AAC 24.331 (1) would read “each drift gillnet vessel may operate not more than one gillnet; no drift gillnet may exceed 150 fathoms in length, hung measure **and, in the Copper River District, mesh hung at not more than a 2:1 ratio**; no more than two vessels may operate together, and while operating together may not have on board each vessel gillnets of more than 150 fathoms in length, hung measure;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Stop the practice of “rolling up” king salmon in waters inside the Barrier Islands off the mouth of the Copper River.

The term “rolling up” is used by drift gillnetters in the Copper River District (CRD) and refers to hanging excess gillnet mesh from their maximum 150 fathoms of float line to create more of a drapery effect that entangles king salmon rather than actually gillnetting them. This method is very effective in the shallower waters inside the Barrier Islands as king salmon mill near the mouth of the Copper River. In regulation 5 AAC 24.331 (7) in order to restrict the gillnetting of king salmon, gillnets with mesh size greater than six inches are not allowed in the CRD before July 15. “Rolling up” is an end around this regulation. Under current language in 5 AAC 24.331 (1) in the Copper River and Bering River Districts, each drift gillnet vessel may operate no more than one gillnet and no drift gillnet may exceed 150 fathoms in length, hung measure. “Hung measure” in 5 AAC 39.975 (definitions) means “the maximum length of the cork line when measured wet or dry with traction applied to one end only.” By law then, drift gillnetters are allowed to hang as much lineal mesh as they desire lending to the practice of “rolling up”. A standard sockeye net, to our knowledge, uses a hang ratio of 2:1. A change in the regulation is needed limiting gillnets used in the CRD, to a 2:1 hang ratio (mesh horizontal length up to 2x the length of the float line). Enforcement would be able to count horizontal mesh openings within a set distance of float line to verify the 2:1 ratio.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C14-145)

PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 24.378. Use of aircraft unlawful. Allow use of spotter planes in Prince William Sound salmon purse seine fisheries, as follows:

During open commercial salmon fishing periods [NO PERSONS MAY USE AN] **aircrafts may be used** to locate salmon for the commercial taking of those fish or to direct commercial fishing operations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Fish spotting planes should be able to fly during commercial salmon fishing seine openers in Prince William Sound.

Currently pilots are not allowed to fly during the openers:

- 1) When the fishery is open 7 days a week, for example Port Chalmers and AFK, there is no legal time to fly and some planes have been flying anyway for other reasons- parts, supplies, etc.
- 2) Safety reasons- pilots are being pushed into such a small time slot for flying that they are often being forced to fly in the dark and in poor weather conditions.
- 3) In talking with some troopers, it is a very difficult law to enforce.
- 4) To my knowledge PWS is the only area that planes are restricted to not fly during the fishery openers, for example Southeast and Kodiak salmon seine fisheries do not have this restriction on fish spotting planes.

PROPOSED BY: Scott McKenzie (EF-C14-175)

PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 24.378. Use of aircraft unlawful. Allow use of spotter planes in Prince William Sound salmon purse seine fisheries, as follows:

It is legal to use aircraft in Prince William Sound (PWS) during commercial fishing openers.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Aircraft should be allowed to fly in PWS during commercial fishing openers because the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has no reason for it to be illegal. Therefore, it becomes a law censoring who we can talk to and the content of that conversation.

PROPOSED BY: Kris Phillips (EF-C14-132)

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 24.378. Use of aircraft unlawful. Allow use of spotter planes in Prince William Sound salmon purse seine fisheries, as follows:

"Aircraft can be flown during openers but not allowed to set boats on fish or communicate in aiding boats to catch fish during the opener."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue is flying airplanes during the openers. In the past, the openers were fished one day off, one day on. This allowed

the boats who had pilots to be able to fly on the days that where not being fished; however we have seen more and more openers every day and the trend of that happening is more likely. Only being allowed to fly before and after the opener leaves a small window of light and leaves a huge safety issue for the pilots and aircraft. Due to the time at night that it closes, it is very hard to leave Cordova after it closes and do a survey of the fishing area that is open (due to the large area that the Prince William Sounds (PWS) seine fleet has).

Often I am only able to do a small section and then return and make it back before dark. Pilots have even had to stay the night out on the sound with our planes because we ran out of light. Mixed with weather, this is a huge safety risk and a very uncomfortable feeling.

Pilots need to bring parts or crew to boats during the openers and it has become a pain for me to have to call the troopers to let them know I will be out there. First off it's my airplane, and second, I have a valid license from the FAA that allows me to fly anywhere I want at any given time; even during an opener. I feel that I do not have to tell the troopers what I am doing as long as I am not aiding boats in the recovery or catching of fish. But yet I feel someday someone will get a ticket for doing just that and will spend a ton of money to prove that they are innocent. This law is unenforceable, they cannot say when we can and can't fly. They can tell us we can't set boats on fish, but not when we can fly.

As long as I am not setting boats on fish, I am not breaking the law. I feel guilty just taking parts out to boats and the risk factor with the light that is left after an opener is high and someday, if this doesn't get changed, someone will get hurt. What happens when there is a 48 or 60 hour opener for the seine fleet? We need to be able to fly to bring parts and crew or if someone gets hurt take him off the boat. We shouldn't have to feel that we have to notify the troopers to do this.

The solution is to allow aircraft to be flown during the openers but not allowed to set boats on fish or communicate with boats in the aid of catching boats during the opener.

This would also be a lot easier for the troopers so they could ease their work load on trying to catch someone flying during the opener.

So first, this is a safety issue the way it is right now and second, it would allow the pilots to do their job without the fear of getting a ticket just because he dropped off a crew member or took out a part to a boat. And third, if a pilot got a ticket, it would more than likely not hold up in court and only cost the pilot a lot of money to defend. The trooper would have to prove that the pilot put the boat on fish and not only that, but caught the exact fish that he saw, not another school of fish but that exact fish.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Stamper

(EF-C14-133)

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 34.368. Wally Noerenberg (Esther Island) Hatchery Management Plan. Identify certain landmarks in description of the Wally Noerenberg Hatchery Terminal Harvest Area using latitude and longitude coordinates, as follows:

5 AAC 24.368

(c) The Wally Noerenberg Hatchery Terminal Harvest Area consists of the waters of Lake and Quillian Bay inside of a line from Hodgkin Point **latitude and longitude** to Esther Light **latitude and longitude**, [AS MARKED] excluding the waters of the Wally Noerenberg Special Harvest Area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hodgkin Point and Esther Light are both identified as “as marked.” Both of these points need to be identified by latitude and longitude coordinates. This would eliminate any assuming on where you might be fishing close to the line. Adverse weather conditions often make it difficult to see Hodgkin Point and Ester Light at the same time. I see this as a benefit to both fishers and enforcement.

PROPOSED BY: Fred Marinkovich (EF-C14-075)

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 28.210. Fishing seasons for Prince William Sound Area. Close Prince William Sound management area to commercial lingcod harvest when inside and outside district guideline harvest levels are achieved, including lingcod caught as bycatch and directed harvest, as follows:

In both inside and outside districts, when the guideline harvest level (GHL) is reached - all commercial retention of lingcod should stop— both directed and as bycatch. The outside district GHL should remain at current levels.

Furthermore, the GHL for lingcod in the inside district should be reduced to 4,000 pounds until such time as this is constraining the commercial harvest or until an adequate stock assessment is completed that allows for higher sustainable harvest levels.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Seward Charterboat Association is deeply concerned about the abundance levels of lingcod in the waters of Prince William Sound (PWS). It is our belief that it is time to take measures for conserving the lingcod resource. The low ex-vessel price of lingcod and the fact that they have no swim bladder and therefore a high survival rate, insures that this proposal will have a minimal financial impact on the commercial sector and a high likelihood of increasing conservation.

Our understanding is the Prince William Sound Lingcod GHL is currently set at 90 percent of the commercial harvest over a time series. In addition since 2009, the bycatch of lingcod has been allowed to continue, even when the GHL is exceeded.

From our perspective, the normal way to manage a directed fishery is to take a stock assessment and determine the total allowable catch based on sustainable fishing levels determined by the

biology of a specific type of fish. The way it is being done now, we have no basis for determining if overfishing has or is occurring. While a GHM is not a hard cap, if fishing is allowed over the GHM it is essentially a rule with no mechanism to prevent overfishing.

Clearly the ADF&G data shows a sharp decline in harvest of lingcod by the commercial sector both in directed fishery and bycatch. The harvest steeply declined in both inside and outside districts since 2009. This corresponds to our observation that abundance levels in both inside and outside waters for sport fishing have declined during the same period.

While we are reluctant to get involved with proposals regarding commercial fishing practices, feel compelled to ask the Board of Fisheries to take action not only to reduce the sport harvest, but also take actions to protect the resource from commercial over harvest until such time that either a stock assessment is done or there is some confidence that abundance levels are back to the pre-2009 levels.

Our suggested changes in regulation are being suggested solely for the purpose of sustainability and this proposal should be taken with the prior proposal {currently EF-C14-93} in which we are suggesting that the sport harvest should be lowered by 50%, also for the conservation of lingcod stocks. There is no intent to make this an allocative measure or to inflict significant financial harm on the commercial sector.

PROPOSED BY: Seward Charterboat Association (EF-C14-094)

PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 28.210. Fishing seasons for Prince William Sound Area. Clarify that lingcod may only be retained from July 1 through December 31, as follows:

5 AAC 28.210(c) is amended to read:

(c) Lingcod may be taken only **from July 1 through December 31, unless closed earlier by emergency order,**

(1) in a directed fishery [ONLY FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, UNLESS CLOSED EARLIER BY EMERGENCY ORDER]; and

(2) as bycatch up to 20 percent by weight of the directed finfish species on board a vessel, unless the commissioner closes the season and opens another season in which the bycatch is prohibited or further limited; bycatch taken under this paragraph is counted as part of any bycatch limit established under 5 AAC 28.070(b).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lingcod may only be taken between July 1 and December 31. While this is stated in 5 AAC 28.210(c)(1) regarding the directed fishery, 5 AAC 28.210(c)(2) has language concerning the retention of lingcod as

bycatch which does not clearly state that lingcod caught as bycatch may only be retained after July 1. Clarification of this language will make the regulation easier to understand and will aid in enforcement.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-067)

PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 28.210. Fishing seasons for Prince William Sound Area; and 5 AAC 28.230. Lawful gear for Prince William Sound Area. Change Prince William Sound Inside District sablefish season opening and closing date for pot gear, as follows:

(b) Sablefish may be taken in the Inside District from **March 15** through **September 30** **using pot gear, and April 15 through August 31 for other fixed gear types.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Start date for state-waters sablefish season is currently April 15, although start date in federal waters is mid-March. An earlier start date for the pot gear only would promote the use of this gear type and therefore minimize the conflicts with orcas that have plagued the fishery since its inception.

PROPOSED BY: Rod Jensen (HQ-F14-018)

PROPOSAL 26 - 5 AAC 28.263. Prince William Sound Pollock Pelagic Trawl Management Plan. Establish a lower trip limit in Prince William Sound walleye pollock pelagic trawl fishery and disallow tendering during the fishery, as follows:

Make Prince William Sound pollock trawl trip limits of 200,000 pounds with no tendering allowed. Boats would have to deliver their own fish to the processor.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Prince William Sound pollock trawl catch limits. Smaller catch limits would slow the fishery down allowing the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to more effectively manage the fishery and its bycatch.

PROPOSED BY: Bill Fejes for Polar Seafoods (EF-C14-113)

PROPOSAL 27 - 5 AAC 28.230. Lawful gear for Prince William Sound Area; and 5 AAC 28.XXX. Prince William Sound Pollock Purse Seine and Jig Gear Management Plan. Establish directed commercial purse seine and jig pollock fisheries in Prince William Sound, as follows:

The Alaska Board of Fisheries should include the Prince William Sound (PWS) pollock management into the other state water pollock fisheries currently being considered by the pollock working group and include purse seine and jig as alternative gear types and to provide

opportunity to 58 foot and smaller trawl vessels to harvest quota before the larger Kodiak trawlers harvest the entire quota.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The PWS pollock fishery in its current form occurs too quickly for smaller vessels and local processors to effectively participate. Additionally, the PWS Pollock Management Plan should be consistent with the other state water pollock management plans currently being considered by the pollock working group.

PROPOSED BY: Northwest & Alaska Seiners' Association (EF-C14-131)

PROPOSAL 28 - 5 AAC 28.265. Prince William Sound Rockfish Management Plan.
Change the amount of rockfish that may be retained as bycatch during Pacific cod and walleye pollock fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 28.265(b) is amended to read:

(b) In the Prince William Sound Area, when fishing in a directed fishery, other than for rockfish, a CFEC permit holder must retain all rockfish, except that

...

(3) during a [STATE-WATERS] season for Pacific cod, [WITH GROUND FISH POTS, MECHANICAL JIGGING MACHINES AND HAND TROLL GEAR, OR LONGLINE GEAR] all rockfish in excess of five percent, round weight, of all Pacific cod on board the vessel must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket; any proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish shall be surrendered to the state;

(4) during the directed pollock pelagic trawl fishery, all rockfish in excess of 0.5 percent, round weight, of all pollock on board the vessel must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket; any proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish shall be surrendered to the state.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This regulation defines the percent of rockfish legally retainable as bycatch for all Prince William Sound (PWS) groundfish fisheries; for fisheries not named in this regulation, 10 percent is the legally retainable amount (5 AAC 28.265(b)(1)). The PWS parallel Pacific cod fishery is not named in this regulation and therefore the maximum retainable amount of rockfish is 10 percent. The parallel Pacific cod fishery has retained an average of 2.5 percent rockfish as bycatch between 2006 and 2013, with a maximum of 5.8 percent retained in 2010, the only year to exceed 5 percent. The state-waters Pacific cod fishery, which targets the same species, is already restricted to 5 percent rockfish bycatch, and has retained an average of 4.3 percent rockfish as bycatch over the same time period. Restricting both Pacific cod fisheries to 5 percent rockfish bycatch will provide consistency in the regulations, and removing the gear types from regulatory language will simplify interpretation.

The PWS directed pollock pelagic trawl fishery is also not named in this regulation, but is limited by regulation 5 AAC 28.263(d) to no more than 5 percent total bycatch. The department

has managed within that 5 percent for a rockfish bycatch cap of 0.5 percent in this fishery since 2003. Having this clearly defined in regulation will benefit fishery managers, participants, and enforcement.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-069)

PROPOSAL 29 - 5 AAC 28.265. Prince William Sound Rockfish Management Plan. Require retention of all rockfish in the sablefish fishery on gear sets below 150 fathoms, remove rockfish bycatch limits and requirements, such that proceeds from rockfish bycatch are not surrendered to the state, as follows:

During the sablefish fishery, gear sets below 150 fathoms will retain all rockfish (no bycatch limit or surrendering of the proceeds will apply).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? High populations of the rockfish below 150 fathoms. The primary species of rockfish noted are: shortraker, roughey, and thornyhead. Spot shrimp and side stripe shrimp populations are depressed in rockfish concentration areas. Consequently shrimp populations are unable to repopulate to their historic levels.

PROPOSED BY: Jon Van Hyning (HQ-F14-008)

PROPOSAL 30 - 5 AAC 28.267. Prince William Sound Pacific Cod Management Plan. Eliminate closure of Pacific cod pot season at 90 percent of guideline harvest level and combine pot and jig allocations, provide a step up/step down allocation depending on achievement of guideline harvest level, as follows:

Remove the 90% allocation (which triggers season closure for pot gear). Combine the pot and jig gear allocation sectors and if they achieve their allocation in any given year, that allocation would increase by 5%, up to a maximum of 30%. Inversely, if they do not achieve their allocation, it would decrease by 5%, to a minimum of 15%.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under current regulations there is no effective quota for pot gear because the existing “trigger point” which closes hook-and-line fishing at 85% is consistently overshot. With a 90% “closure trigger” for pot gear, nothing remains for this gear type, thereby discouraging its usage.

PROPOSED BY: Rod Jensen (HQ-F14-017)

PROPOSAL 31 - 5 AAC 28.206. Prince William Sound Area registration; and 5 AAC 28.267. Prince William Sound Pacific Cod Management Plan. Change Pacific cod allocation to provide 10 percent for jig gear until June 10, after which it will then be available to pot gear, and designate the state-waters jig fishery as nonexclusive, as follows:

Allocate 10% of the guideline harvest level (GHL) to the jig fleet prior to June 10 and make the fishery nonexclusive. After June 10, the remaining quota would be available for a rollover to the pot and longline fleet and the jig fishery would revert to federal B season parallel status.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Opportunity for a state water cod jig fishery is limited in Prince William Sound (PWS) due to the rapid harvest of Pacific cod by the pot and longline fleets. The exclusive registration requirement for the state water jig fishery in PWS provides a disincentive for jig fishermen to register for the state fishery because the remaining quota for the jig fleet is minimal after the pot and longline gear seasons have closed. This is only an issue when the federal parallel season closes.

PROPOSED BY: Gregory R. Gabriel, Jr. (EF-C14-136)

PROPOSAL 32 - 5 AAC 28.250. Closed waters in Prince William Sound Area. Correct coordinates within the described closed waters section for groundfish at Zaikof Point, as follows: 5 AAC 28.250(a) is amended to read:

(a) Groundfish may not be taken with pots in the waters enclosed by lines from Point Whitshed to Point Bentinck, from Cape Hinchinbrook Light to Seal Rocks Light to Zaikof Point **at 60° 18.48' N. lat., 146° 55.10' W. long.** [(60° 19' N. LAT., 146° 55' W. LONG.)], and from a point at 60° 11' N. lat., 147° 20' W. long. on the northwest side of Montague Island, north to a point at 60° 30' N. lat., 147° 20' W. long., then east to a point at 60° 30' N. lat., 147° 00' W. long., then northeast to Knowles Head (60° 41' N. lat., 146° 37.50' W. long.), except that groundfish may be taken with pots

(1) within Orca Bay, east of 146° 37.50' W. long., excluding the waters of Port Gravina north of a line from Gravina Point to Red Head at 60° 40.25' N. lat., 146° 30.22' W. long.;

(2) in waters not more than 75 fathoms deep within waters enclosed by a line from Johnstone Point Light to Montague Point at 60° 23' N. lat., 147° 06' W. long., to Middle Point at 60° 20.50' N. lat., 147° W. long. to Schooner Rock Light (Zaikof Point) to Cape Hinchinbrook Light.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Precisely defining the coordinates of geographical points is important and has become more common in the regulations. Coordinates that define Zaikof Point in this regulation do not match those in 5 AAC 28.263 which were updated at the December 2011 Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting. Accuracy and consistency within regulations will benefit fishery managers, participants, and enforcement.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-068)

PROPOSAL 33 - 5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan. Establish a biological escapement goal of 28,000 king salmon for the Copper River drainage, as follows:

Amend the *King Salmon Management Plan* to achieve a BEG of 28,000 kings, rather than a sustainable escapement goal of 24,000.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) has often responded to declining king stocks by lowering the escapement goal. Recently this practice led to a management disaster on the Kuskokwim River. The department is still trying to explain how a lowered goal for king salmon in the Kenai is now justified by its newer sonar technology, when the old technology was touted as being very accurate at counting kings. The Miles Lake Sonar does not distinguish between kings and sockeye, so the department uses several much less reliable methods to predict escapement. Several years ago, after not meeting escapement, the goal was lowered from a minimum 28,000 to 24,000 kings. The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) has the authority to set biological escapement goal (BEG) and has done so for many other king salmon stocks, while directing the division to manage for that goal. The board should look at the recent restrictions placed on all fisheries, as well as not meeting even the reduced goal and determine whether the Copper River kings deserve a biological escapement goal more in line with historical escapement numbers rather than based on the currently depleted runs and imprecise counting methods.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (EF-C14-159)

PROPOSAL 34 - 5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan. Amend the Copper River King Salmon Management Plan to provide additional management measures for king salmon in the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery as follows:

(e) In the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence salmon fishery, if the commissioner determines that additional conservation measures are necessary to achieve the escapement goals, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery season and immediately reopen a season during which **any one or a combination of the following restrictions may be taken to reduce king salmon harvest in the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence salmon fishery in the following priority order:**

(1) a bag limit is established for king salmon taken by fish wheel;

(2) the bag limit for king salmon taken by fish wheel or dip net is reduced;

(3) the retention of king salmon taken by either fish wheel or dip net is prohibited;

[OR]

(4) modify methods and means [ARE MODIFIED TO REDUCE KING SALMON HARVEST IN THE GLENNALLEN SUBDISTRICT SUBSISTENCE SALMON FISHERY].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2011, the Alaska Board of Fisheries modified the *Copper River King Salmon Management Plan* to provide the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) emergency order authority to restrict the harvest of king

salmon in the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery to ensure the escapement goal is met. However, current language within the *Copper River King Salmon Management Plan* is limited to either prohibiting retention of king salmon or modifying methods and means. Explicit authority is needed to set or alter bag limits within the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery. The language proposed herein provides the department with emergency order authority to establish a bag limit for king salmon taken with a fish wheel and/or reduce the bag limit for king salmon taken with either a fish wheel or dip net while still providing reasonable subsistence opportunity and ensuring the Copper River king salmon sustainable escapement goal is met.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-070)

PROPOSAL 35 - 5 AAC 01.647. Copper River Subsistence Salmon Fisheries Management Plans; and 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Prohibit the use of monofilament mesh in dip net bag webbing in subsistence and personal use fisheries, as follows:

For the purpose of this section a dip net may not be constructed of monofilament material or any other single strand "gillnet" material commonly used in commercial fishing. Dip net mesh must be constructed of braided line or other material commonly used in sport fishing landing nets designed to minimize the harm done to the fish.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? King salmon are large fish that are prone to damage from handling. King salmon caught in dipnet fisheries in dip nets made of monofilament gillnet mesh are almost always badly tangled. Most king salmon tangled in gillnet mesh are drug up on the banks and allowed to flop around on the rocks or in the bottom of the boat until they can be untangled. By the time they are untangled they are often dead or mortally injured. The old braided mesh dip nets did not tangle fish nearly as bad as the now common gillnet mesh. King salmon in the Copper River Valley have declined and retention of king salmon in the personal use fishery has been restricted or eliminated over the last few years. The requirement to release most or all king salmon has caused the release of a high number of king salmon and the death of many valuable king salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EF-C14-064)

PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC 01.647. Copper River Subsistence Salmon Fisheries Management Plans; and 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. In subsistence and personal use fisheries, prohibit removing a king salmon from the water if it is to be released, as follows:

A king salmon that is to be released may not be removed from the water prior to release.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? King salmon are large fish that are prone to damage from handling. King salmon caught in dipnet fisheries in dip nets are

almost always badly tangled. Most king salmon caught in dip nets that are intended for release are drug up on the banks and allowed to flop around on the rocks or in the bottom of the boat until they can be untangled. By the time they are untangled they are often dead or mortally injured. King salmon in the Copper River Valley have declined and retention of king salmon in the personal use fishery has been restricted or eliminated over the last few years. The requirement to release most or all king salmon has caused the release of a high number of king salmon and the death of many valuable king salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EF-C14-065)

PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC 01.647. Copper River Subsistence Salmon Fisheries Management Plans; and 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Require a department operated check station to monitor subsistence and personal use harvest and permit compliance in the Chitina and Glennallen subdistricts, as follows:

5 AAC 01.XXX A 24-hour checkpoint manned by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) to check fish wheel permits and personal use permits and harvest levels for sockeye and Chinooks.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reinstate a 24-hour checkpoint at Chitna and five miles from Chitina at the five mile airport. The checkpoint would be manned by the department to check fishing permits and number of sockeyes and Chinooks harvested by fish wheel and dip net.

Enforcement does not have the man power or time to check to ensure that the 10-hour regulation of checking fish wheel in this area is being enforced or to determine if over harvest is occurring. Illegal harvest will continue if a check point is not installed and manned by the department. Fish wheels at the Chitina airport and downstream to Chitina-McCarthy Bridge are run 24-hours, day and night, throughout the fishing season. Harvest of personal use fisheries are not checked to determine if fish caught matches harvest regulations.

The participation and harvest levels in this fishery have significantly increased in recent years. A checkpoint and better in-season harvest monitoring is needed in order to responsibly manage this fishery.

The amount of harvest of sockeye and Chinook from fish wheels north of Chitina-McCarthy Bridge and personal use fisheries is questionable; check point is necessary to determined harvest levels for Chinook and sockeyes.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Tene Nene' Customary & Traditional Use Committee (HQ-F14-030)

PROPOSAL 38 - 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Change the opening date for the Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishery to open as early as June 1, but not later than June 11, as follows:

5AAC 77.591(b)

(b) Salmon may be taken from **June 1** [JUNE 7] through September 30. The commissioner shall establish a preseason schedule, including fishing times, for the period **June 1** [JUNE 7] through August 31 based on daily projected sonar counts at the sonar counter located near Miles Lake. This abundance-based preseason schedule will distribute the harvest throughout the season. The commissioner may close, by an emergency order effective **June 1** [JUNE 7], the Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishing season and shall reopen the season, by emergency order, on or before **June 11** [JUNE 7], the Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishing season and shall reopen the season, by emergency order, on or before **June 11** [JUNE 15] depending on the run strength and timing of the sockeye salmon run. Adjustments shall be made to the preseason schedule based on actual sonar counts compared to projected counts. If the actual sonar count at Miles Lake is more than the projected sonar count, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the season and immediately reopen it during which additional fishing times will be allowed. If the actual sonar count at Miles Lake is less than the projected sonar count, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the season and immediately reopen it during which fishing times will be reduced by a corresponding amount of time.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Re-establish the Chitina Personal Use Dip Net Fishery (CPUDF) opening date to earliest June 1 and the latest June 11. CPUDF fishing periods are determined based on a pre-season schedule established from projected sonar counts and from the actual run strength and timing of the sockeye run. At any time the commissioner may, by emergency order, shorten or lengthen fishing times in the CPUDF based on the actual sonar counts at the Miles Lake counter. During the December 2011 Prince William Sound/ Copper River Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting in Valdez, the board delayed the then CPUDF opening which opened June 1 and no later than June 11, to language saying the earliest opening would be June 7 and the latest June 15. This later opening was supposedly in response to getting more early fish to upriver subsistence users. Keep in mind that between 2003 and 2012 out of the average yearly total during that period of 1,549,548 sockeye and king salmon harvested by all users (commercial, personal use, subsistence and sport) the CPUDF average annual harvest during that period was 115,210 sockeye and king salmon or 7% of the total harvest of all users. During that same period the average annual commercial harvest of sockeye and king salmon was 1,304,272 or 84% of the 1,549,548 total. If more fish are needed in the upriver subsistence fishery, the board should be looking to the 84% for their relief. Reducing, by regulation, the ability of the CPUDF dipnetters to fish by 7 days only shortens the time available to them to harvest salmon to feed their families. If the sonar counts are poor the

commissioner would still have the authority to delay the CPUDF opening until June 11, but if the sonar counts are good then dipnetters should be allowed to fish on June 1 as they have in the past.

PROPOSED BY: Chitina Dipnetters Association & Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C14-149)

PROPOSAL 39 - 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Change the Chitina Subdistrict personal use annual limit to be based on household size, as follows:

Change the Chitina Personal Use Dip Net Fishery (CPUDF) annual bag limit to match the Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Dip Net Fishery annual bag limit (25 salmon for a permit holder and 10 salmon for each additional household member).

5 AAC 77.591 (e) would read “The annual limit for a personal use salmon fishing permit is **25 salmon for a permit holder and 10 salmon for each additional household member** [15 SALMON FOR A HOUSEHOLD OF ONE PERSON AND 30 SALMON FOR A HOUSEHOLD OF TWO OR MORE PERSONS] of which no more than one may be a king salmon.[the language addressing supplemental periods would be deleted].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue we would like the Board to address is the inadequate bag limit for the CPUDF.

The current bag limit for the CPUDF is set at 15 salmon for a household of one and 30 salmon for a household of two or more. For a family of two this equates to 15 salmon per household member. For a family of six or more, however, it means five or less salmon for each member. And that’s for the entire year. That is far too little salmon for our larger families and the current bag limit does not consider how many members are in a household.

5AAC 77.591 (e) also calls for supplemental periods in the CPUDF and the taking of 10 extra salmon. These supplemental periods are problematic. They are only one week long and the timing of the periods often do not match the actual arrival of the surge of salmon into the dip net fishery and they create extra work for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, (ie. data assessment, emergency orders, media notification). For a Fairbanks permit holder who has previously filled his bag limit, it is not worth the approx. 675 mile round trip to participate in a supplemental period for only 10 extra salmon.

The Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery has an annual bag limit of 25 salmon for a permit holder and 10 salmon for each additional household member. This is a far more equitable bag limit. We would like the Chitina Personal Use Dip Net Fishery to have the same annual bag limit as this fishery. This would standardize the bag limits for both Personal Use Dip Net fisheries and if passed by the board, supplemental periods could be eliminated.

Chitina personal use dipnetters harvest salmon to feed their families, not to make money and not for sport.

PROPOSED BY: Chitina Dipnetters Association & Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C14-147)

PROPOSAL 40 - 5 AAC 77.XXX. New Section. Require charter operators that transport personal use fishermen keep a daily logbook, as follows:

A vessel for hire will keep a daily logbook indicating number of customers, where and by what method fish were caught, and the number by specie.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Require any vessel that commercially transports personal use fisherman to keep a daily logbook. The board and department have always stressed the need to quantify trends in our fisheries. The use of "water taxis" has increased over the last decade and there is a lack of information on how it has affected the fishery. Does it displace participants whom do not hire? Does the newer act of trawling with a dipnet from a hired vessel increase efficiency from shore based methods? A logbook system would answer these questions and more from these commercial operations.

PROPOSED BY: Shawn Gilman (EF-C14-049)

PROPOSAL 41 - 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Repeal reduction of the Chitina Subdistrict personal use allocation if the commercial salmon fishery is closed for 13 or more consecutive days, as follows:

5 AAC 77.591 (f)

.....

(f) The maximum harvest level for the Chitina Subdistrict Personal Use Salmon Fishery is 100,000 - 150,000 salmon, not including any salmon in excess of the in-river goal or salmon taken after August 31. [IF THE COPPER RIVER DISTRICT COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHERY IS CLOSED FOR 13 OR MORE CONSECUTIVE DAYS, THE MAXIMUM HARVEST LEVEL IN THE CHITINA SUBDISTRICT IS REDUCED TO 50,000 SALMON.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Repeal the language in 5AAC 77.591 (f) "If the Copper River District commercial salmon fishery is closed for 13 or more consecutive days, the maximum harvest level in the Chitina Subdistrict is reduced to 50,000 salmon for the remainder of the season."

The Chitina Dipnetters Association. has in the past proposed that the above language be deleted. The Chitina Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery (CPUDF) has fishing periods determined by a pre-season schedule established by the commissioner using projected daily counts of salmon passing the Miles Lake sonar counter. This schedule is meant to distribute the harvest

throughout the season. Adjustments shall be made to the preseason schedule based on actual sonar counts compared to projected counts. If the actual sonar count at Miles Lake is more than the projected sonar count, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the season and immediately reopen it during which additional fishing times will be allowed. If the actual sonar count at Miles Lake is less than the projected sonar count, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the season and immediately reopen it during which fishing times will be reduced by a corresponding amount of time.

As stated above, if the salmon run numbers are low triggering closures in the commercial fishery, this will also be reflected in the salmon sonar counts at Miles Lake and the commissioner will also by emergency order, close or reduce dipnet openings.

The CPUDF has an allocation of 100,000–150,000 salmon. There is no justification to reduce the dipnet fishery allocation to 50,000 because of commercial fishery closures especially when the reduction would be for the rest of the dipnet season even though salmon numbers may within a week or so rebound.

PROPOSED BY: Chitina Dipnetters Association and Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C14-148)

PROPOSAL 42 - 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Change the maximum harvest level for the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery to 100,000 salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 77.591 (f), “the maximum harvest level for the Chitina Subdistrict Personal Use Fisheries should be changed from 100,000–150,000 to a maximum of 100,000, not including any salmon in excess of the in-river goal or salmon taken after August 31. Keep the rest of 5 AAC 77.791 (f) as written in regulation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The maximum harvest level for the Chitina Subdistrict Personal Use Fisheries should be changed from 100,000–150,000 to a maximum level to 100,000, not including any salmon in excess of in-river goal or salmon taken after August 31. Keep the rest of the regulation in 5 AAC 77.591 (f) as is.

The number of participation in the Copper River Personal Use Fisheries has increased over the years to approximately 10,000+, who fish for salmon in the Chitna Subdistrict. Copper River salmon cannot sustain impacts from the continuation of over harvesting by personal use fisheries. As more participation increases in the Copper River Personal Use Fisheries, more sockeyes will be harvested by personal use fisheries; population of sockeyes will decrease over a period of time and will create a conservation concern.

A week after the opening date of personal use fisheries, the run strength of Copper River sockeyes slows down considerably for some of the upriver subsistence use fisheries. This may or may not be due to the Copper River sockeyes run strength or timing. It could be that personal

use fisheries is intercepting and harvesting most of the sockeyes. Some of the upriver subsistence fisheries have observed that harvest levels for sockeyes slackens noticeably after personal use fisheries opens for the fishing season.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Tene Nene' Customary & Traditional Use Committee (HQ-F14-029)

PROPOSAL 43 - 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Establish an allocation of 3,000 king salmon to the Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery, as follows:

5AAC 77.591(f) would read:

The maximum harvest level for the Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishery is 100,000–150,000 salmon, **which includes an allocation of 3,000 king salmon**, not including any salmon in excess of the inriver goal or salmon taken after August 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allocate 3,000 king salmon to the Chitina Personal Use Dip Net Fishery (CPUDF).

The CPUDF has a per permit season bag limit of 1 king salmon. Since 2009, retention of king salmon in the CPUDF has been severely restricted. From 2009–2013, because of these restrictions, the average annual harvest of king salmon in the CPUDF has been 663 fish. During that same period the average annual commercial king harvest was 12,415, for the Copper River District and Glennallen District subsistence fisheries combined it was 3,014, and for sport fisheries of the Copper River (no data yet for 2013) from 2009–2012 the annual average harvest is 1,494. Of these different fisheries, closing the CPUDF to the retention of the 1 king salmon bag limit has the least effect on increasing the escapement of king salmon to their spawning grounds.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game relies on in-river king salmon data provided by the Eyak run mark/recapture fish wheels. Using this data in 2013, the commissioner closed king salmon retention in the CPUDF after the first 2 weeks of the dipnetting season even though final escapement numbers show final 2013 king salmon spawning escapement was 5,000 kings above the minimum.

The CPUDF is an Alaska resident only fishery. Residents use this fishery to bring home an annual supply of salmon for their families much the same as in a subsistence fishery. In 1999, the Board of Fisheries reduced the CPUDF king bag limit from 3 to 1. The 1 king bag limit was based on an entire season harvest of 3,000 king salmon. From 2000–2008 when Chitina dipnetters were allowed to harvest their 1 king unrestricted, the annual harvest ranged between 2,000–3,000. We are asking the Board to allocate 3,000 king salmon to the CPUDF so dipnetters

can harvest their 1 king unrestricted during that period when kings are passing through the dip net fishery, which usually lasts till July 15, approx. halfway through the dipnet season.

PROPOSED BY: Chitina Dipnetters Association & Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C14-150)

PROPOSAL 44 - 5 AAC 24.310. Fishing seasons. Prohibit commercial salmon fishing until a salmon is recorded at the Copper River sonar, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 24.310(a) to add "...the first commercial salmon opening of any year may only be announced after the department has verified by sonar that a salmon has escaped into the river."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Kings in the Copper River have been the subject of numerous harvest restrictions and prohibitions in recent years. Escapement goals (even lowered goals) have not been consistently met. Genetic studies have identified three runs of kings. The upper river stocks enter the mouth in May, and these stocks have been subject to the most restrictions including complete restrictions on harvest in the Gulkana River, and significantly restricted harvests in the Chitina fishery. While the commercial fleet has recently been fishing outside the barrier islands more than regulations require, they are still harvesting thousands of kings from this imperiled upriver stock. When runs were healthy, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game always announced the first mid-May opener several days or weeks in advance, historically declaring a 12-hour opening inside the barrier islands. While advance notice is helpful for the fishers and processors to plan, it can be devastating to the early kings, especially when there is a late spring and the Copper River is full of ice and low water, preventing the kings from entering the river and causing them to mill longer in the mouth, where they are easily harvested by getting rolled up in loose hanging mesh dragging along the bottom of the river channels, or outside the islands in the same loosely hung mesh. If the sonar is not deployed by May 17 it is because the river is full of ice and the fish are not there anyway.

With the decimated king runs in the upper Copper River, especially the Gulkana, it is biologically indefensible to allow such a high rate of exploitation on these early returning fish by having commercial opener(s) before even a single fish has been counted inriver.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (EF-C14-155)

PROPOSAL 45 - 5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan. Repeal mandatory inside-waters closure in Copper River King Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

Repeal mandatory inside commercial closures for any statistical week from regulation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Mandatory inside closures.

The use of mandatory closures has always been unnecessary as Alaska Department of Fish and Game has the authority and shown the ability to manage the fisheries. Alaska Department of Fish and Game also opposes mandatory closures on sport fisheries because they have to be instituted even if the circumstances of the year and run strength do not require them. I am not suggesting getting rid of inside closures as a tool if conditions warrant, just ridding the mandatory language from statute.

PROPOSED BY: Shawn Gilman (EF-C14-050)

PROPOSAL 46 - 5 AAC 24.3XX. New Section. Restrict retention of commercially caught king salmon for a person’s own use to not exceed the king salmon sport bag limit in area caught, as follows:

The regulation requiring "home pack" to be recorded, should specify that home packed king salmon may only be retained by a single commercial license holder present on the vessel and that the number of kings harvested, but not sold, may not exceed the applicable sport harvest limits for the area fished.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current regulation allows a commercial fisher, and presumably any crew member, to harvest an unrestricted number of king salmon for personal consumption without a subsistence permit, personal use permit, or even a sport fishing license. This unlimited consumptive use of a fully allocated fishery needs to be addressed seriously by the board. Someone should publicly justify why an individual person (Alaskan or not) should be allowed by law to kill and keep threatened kings for personal consumption or to give away to friends, neighbors, relatives or others. Yes, though these fish would likely be harvested anyway, they should all be sold as envisioned by the concept of commercial fishing. No other Alaskan, and especially no other person by virtue of their occupation, gets to keep as many kings as they want for their personal consumptive use. There are significant opportunities for these persons to harvest kings in sport and even subsistence fisheries with their commercial gill nets. If the home pack of kings is still justified despite the fact that many thousands of Alaskans have been, in recent years, completely denied the opportunity to harvest even a single king to eat from the Copper River, or have been limited to a single king, this harvest should be limited based on the applicable local sport fishing bag and possession limits.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (EF-C14-158)

PROPOSAL 47 - 5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan. Allows use of dip nets for commercial salmon fishing during emergency order closures of the commercial drift gillnet fishery, as follows:

During times when the commissioner determines that it is necessary for the conservation of king salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the commercial gillnet fishing season

and immediately reopen a fishing season during which dip net gear may be used and all king salmon caught in a dip net must be returned immediately to the water.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Conservation of king salmon and harvest of abundant sockeye salmon within the inside closure of the Copper River district described in 5 AAC 24.350(1)(B).

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C14-146)

PROPOSAL 48 - 5 AAC 24.XXX New Section. Mark district boundaries, as follows:

Re-establish the installation and maintenance of markers for the commercial fishing boundaries on the Copper River Flats during the commercial fishing season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are no regulatory markers for the commercial fishing boundaries on the Copper River Flats. These boundaries are established by landmarks which are often obscured during periods of low visibility, forcing commercial fishers to rely on other, indirect, means of determining their position relative to these boundaries. These markers had been in place previously.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Eyak (EF-C14-129)

PROPOSAL 49 - 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. Change the sport fishing season opening date for king salmon on the Klutina River from July 1 to June 1, as follows:

Extend the sport fishing season on the Klutina River waters to June 1 through August 10.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Klutina River in the Upper Copper River system has two runs of king salmon. The first run hits the Klutina River around June 1. The current season allows sport fishing of king salmon only from July 1 through August 10. This season deprives Alaskan sport fishermen any opportunity to catch a first run fish in June.

If nothing changes only the commercial fishing fleet will continue to be the only ones able to catch a first run king salmon bound for the Klutina River waters.

PROPOSED BY: Jim West (EF-C14-068)

PROPOSAL 50 - 5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

Prohibit use of barbed hooks, multiple hooks, and bait when fishing for king salmon in the Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Area, as follows:

5 AAC 52.022 (a) (3) (D) only, unbaited, single, barbless hooks, artificial lures may be used

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Recreational anglers hook and release king salmon in the waters. King salmon are caught and released, which may cause harm to the king salmon. King salmon that are hooked and released will have permanent scars, and are damaged by barbed hooks.

Data for 2012 shows the number of fish caught and released for Gulkana River Drainages, which includes Upper Reach, Lower Reach, and unspecified was 565. Data for 2012 shows the number of fish caught and released for the Klutina River, Tonsina, Tazlina Upstream of Gulkana, Downstream of Klutina, and other waters was 1,410. Data does not specify what species were caught and released.

These numbers show how many days sport fisheries efforts were in some of the water bodies in Upper Copper / Upper Susitna Management Area (UCUSMA). In 2012, the average sport fishing effort (angler-days) in the UCUSMA by lakes and streams in the Gulkana River Drainage was 8,117, for the Upper Susitna Drainages for lakes and streams, the total angler days was 7,788 and for the Copper River Drainages, that includes Klutina the total angler days was 18,030, Tazlina angler days was 380, above Gulkana sport fishing effort was 894, below Klutina, total angler days was 628. Total number of angler days for these water bodies is 36,904 days of fishing effort.

With this many number of days of recreational anglers' effort to catch king salmon, sockeye or other species, the harm to king salmon being caught and released increases. As king salmon travel to spawning grounds, the mortality rate increases as more catch and release king salmon in water bodies occur.

A hook and release mortality in the Kenai River [for] Chinook Salmon Recreational Fishery Report, showed that "short term (1–5 day) hooking mortality for early run (125) and late run (120) Chinook, that were tagged using radio telemetry, was 8.8% and 5.9%; most mortality took place within 72-hours of release". The report also showed that "hooking location was a factor that significantly affected mortality, Chinook salmon hooked in the gills has a significantly reduced chance of surviving"..... Eight percent of the early run and five percent of the late run is a significant loss and shows that salmon that are hooked and released are harmed and perish as a result. The report also states that only a small amount of Chinooks were hooked in the gills, this still shows that harm is being done to Chinooks that are caught and released by fishermen.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) data indicates that 5,272 Chinooks were caught and released in the Upper Copper River in 2011. An eight percent mortality would indicate 422 king salmon were killed by catch and release in 2011. The entire sport fish harvest of Chinook

in 2012 was only 459. ADF&G data indicate that 1,410 Chinook were caught and released in 2012. An eight percent mortality rate would indicate 113 Chinooks were killed by catch and release mortality in 2012. The harvest in 2012 the fishery was restricted because of conservation concerns. The 422 catch and release mortality in 2011 was almost the entire harvest in 2012. Catch and release mortality at any level is unacceptable when there is a conservation concern.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Tene Nene' Customary & Traditional Use Committee (HQ-F14-027)

PROPOSAL 51 - 5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. Prohibit use of barbed and multiple hooks for king salmon once an angler has taken a bag limit or annual limit of king salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 52.022(a)(x)General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area

(a)

...

(15) If an angler has reached the daily or annual limit for King Salmon; only single barbless hooks may be used. All other methods remain the same as anglers that have not reached their limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently king salmon fishermen are allowed to continue fishing with the same gear after they have reached their daily limit and annual limit. Once these limits have been reached, their fishing becomes catch and release fishing by definition. All catch and release fisheries should require single barbless hooks to minimize the harm to king salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EF-C14-067)

PROPOSAL 52 - 5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan. Prohibit use of barbed and multiple hooks with or without bait if the sport fishery is restricted to catch-and-release, as follows:

5 AAC 24.361(c)(2)(C)(X) Copper River King Salmon Management Plan

(C) designate the fishery as a catch and release fishery only;

(x) if a catch and release fishery is designated; only single, barbless hooks may be used

(xx) if a catch and release fishery is designated; the use of bait may be retained or restricted

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The restrictions on sport fishing for king salmon in the Copper River Valley have been devastating to the very small communities that depend on this fishery for much of their annual income. The current

management plan does not allow for the use of bait when fisheries are restricted to catch and release only. This effectively completely closes the fisheries on the glacial tributaries of the Copper. The water in these tributaries is very cloudy (much more so than the Kenai) and eliminating bait in the fishery decreases hook ups by over 95%. These rivers are also very fast and not conducive to "back trolling". We would like the commissioner to have the option to allow the use of bait in catch and release fisheries. In addition, all catch and release fisheries should require barbless hooks to minimize the harm to king salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EF-C14-066)

PROPOSAL 53 - 5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area, and 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. Clarify that a single-hook artificial lure is an artificial lure with one single-hook or one fly as follows:

5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. (a)

...

(1) in all flowing waters, only **one** unbaited, single-hook, artificial **lure** [LURES] may be used;

(2) in all lakes, except Crosswind Lake, Lake Louise, Paxson Lake, Summit Lake, Susitna Lake, and Tyone Lake, bait and artificial lures may be used; in Crosswind Lake, Lake Louise, Paxson Lake, Summit Lake, Susitna Lake, and Tyone Lake, a hook and bait may be used only as follows:

(A) from April 16–October 31, only **one** unbaited, single-hook, artificial **lure** [LURES] may be used;

(B) from November 1–April 15, only single-hooks may be used; bait may be used;

5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

...

(9) in the Gulkana River drainage,

(A) from June 1–July 31, only **one** single-hook, artificial **fly** [FLIES], with a gap that does not exceed three-quarters inch between the point and shank, may be used in that portion of the Gulkana River downstream from the Richardson Highway Bridge to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 500 yards downstream of the confluence with the Copper River; additional weight may only be used 18 inches or more ahead of the fly;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations are unclear whether artificial lures with two single hooks or two artificial flies may be used when regulations state that only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used. Unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure regulations are in place to provide for sustained yield of rainbow trout, Arctic

grayling, Dolly Varden, lake trout, or king salmon. Prefacing the language by the word “one” clarifies that only one artificial lure with one hook or only one artificial fly may be used. This would provide consistency in area regulations within the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-071)

PROPOSAL 54 - 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. Increase the Arctic grayling bag and possession limit in the Gulkana River drainage, as follows:

5 AAC 52.023 (h) Fishing seasons and periods. In the Gulkana River Drainage, under

5 AAC 52.023 (h), **10** [5] per day, **10** [5] in possession. Only **5** [1] 14 inches or longer may be possessed as a part of the daily bag limit and possession limit. Only baited single hook may be used.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase possession, bag limit and size of Arctic grayling harvest in the Gulkana River Drainage (5 AAC 52.023(h)) and allow baited, single hook.

Fuel costs to drive to fishing areas are expensive in the Copper River Basin communities. Fuel cost is more than \$4.00 per gallon. In some Copper River Basin communities, it is more costly and expensive for those who have low and seasonal incomes. Harvesting only five grayling per day with regulatory restrictions causes hardship and it is discouraging to be allowed to harvest only 5 per day.

Using baited, single hook, to harvest Arctic grayling is better than using un-baited, single hook. Arctic grayling are attracted to baited, single hook. Using bait is a lot better to fish with than unbaited, single hook and artificial lures. The success rate is higher when using bait to fish Arctic grayling.

If there is a decline in Arctic grayling populations, the department can take appropriate actions to limit size, possession and bag limit in the Gulkana River Drainages.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Tene Nene’ Customary & Traditional Use Committee (HQ-F14-028)

PROPOSAL 55 - 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. Amend special provisions for rainbow trout in Tebay River drainage, as follows:

(23) In the Tebay River drainage,

(A) in Summit Lake **and Bridge Creek**, the bag and possession limit for rainbow/steelhead trout is 10 fish, of which only one may be greater than 18 inches in length;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Bridge Creek is the outlet stream of Summit Lake (a remote, high alpine lake in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park) and the main spawning location for Summit Lake rainbow trout. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game conducted a large-scaled removal operation in 1999, 2004–2011, and 2013 to change this rainbow trout population from a stunted population with no fish larger than 16 inches to a stable population composed of multiple size classes ranging up to 24 inches or greater. To maintain the improved size structure of the rainbow trout population in Summit Lake, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted a 10-fish bag limit, of which only one may be greater than 18 inches in length, and removed the spawning closure for rainbow trout at the December 2011 meeting. Most of the sport fishing effort in this area occurs from the shore of Summit Lake near the outlet or within the first mile of Bridge Creek. Bridge Creek was not included in the 2011 regulations. This proposal would align the regulations in Bridge Creek and Summit Lake and provide the best management strategy to maintain the desired population structure.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-073)

PROPOSAL 56 - 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. Update the Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Area stocked waters regulation, as follows:

(28) in stocked waters, the bag and possession limit for rainbow/steelhead trout, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, landlocked salmon, and Arctic grayling is 10 fish in combination, of which only one may be greater than 18 inches in length; for the purposes of this paragraph, "stocked waters" include Arizona Lake, Buffalo Lake, Connor Lake, Crater Lake, Dick Lake, DJ Lake, Gergie Lake, John Lake, Junction Lake, [KATHLEEN LAKE, LITTLE CRATER LAKE, LITTLE JUNCTION LAKE,] North Jans Lake, Old Road Lake, Peanut Lake, Pippin Lake, Round Lake, Ryan Lake, Sculpin Lake, Silver Lake, Strelna Lake, South Jans Lake, Squirrel Creek Pit Lake, Tex Smith Lake, Three Mile Lake, Tolsona Lake, Tolsona Mountain Lake, **and** Two Mile Lake [AND VAN LAKE];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In conjunction with each Alaska Board of Fisheries cycle, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game reviews stocked waters to ensure consistency between the *Statewide Stocking Plan for Recreational Fisheries*, the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area stocked waters regulations, and the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan (5 AAC 52.065). Stocked waters may be removed from the stocking plan, no longer stocked, and removed from corresponding regulations due to a loss of public access, poor fish growth or survival, or insufficient

fishing effort. As new waters are identified and included in the stocking plan they are added to the regulations.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-074)

PROPOSAL 57 - 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. Amend methods and means for burbot in a portion of the Copper River drainage to reference statewide regulations, as follows:

(3) in the Copper River drainage, in that portion of the mainstem of the Copper River downstream from the confluence of the Copper River and the Slana River,

...

(B) [THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR BURBOT IS FIVE FISH]; burbot may be taken with more than one line and hook, **including a set line, as described in 5 AAC 75.033** [ONLY UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

(i) WITH SPORT FISHING GEAR, AS DEFINED IN 5 AAC 75.020, ICE FISHING GEAR, AS DEFINED IN 5 AAC 75.021, OR A SET LINE, AS DEFINED IN 5 AAC 75.995;

(ii) THE AGGREGATE NUMBER OF HOOKS MAY NOT EXCEED FIVE HOOKS;

(iii) ONLY SINGLE HOOKS WITH A GAP BETWEEN THE POINT AND SHANK THAT IS LARGER THAN THREE-FOURTHS INCH MAY BE USED;

(iv) IF USING A SET LINE, EACH HOOK MUST BE SET TO REST ON THE BOTTOM, AND EACH LINE MUST BE IDENTIFIED WITH THE ANGLER'S NAME AND ADDRESS ON A TAG OR LABEL ATTACHED TO THE SHOREWARD END OF THE LINE OR ABOVE THE ICE, UNATTENDED SET LINES ARE PROHIBITED AND MUST BE PHYSICALLY INSPECTED AT LEAST ONCE EVERY 24 HRS];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations for burbot set lines in a portion of the Copper River drainage mainstem are redundant with statewide regulations in 5 AAC 75.033. The proposed change would eliminate the duplication and simplify regulations.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-072)

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT CRAB, SHRIMP, AND MISC. SHELLFISH
JANUARY 21-27, 2015

PROPOSAL 58 - 5 AAC 32.146. Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan. Repeal the Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan, as follows:

My solution is to scrap 5 AAC 32.146 as a regulation, as it is not a necessity in a Dungeness management regime. I believe the language would be "repealed."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 32.146, the Southeastern Alaska Dungeness Crab Management Plan, has not been accurate in predicting yearly harvests, and as a management tool, has only been implemented once, resulting in one week's reduction in the summer season in 2013.

Prior to this regulation, the season was as it is now, with no management considerations outside the "three S's", size, sex, and season.

California, Oregon, and Washington currently manage their Dungeness fishery with the three S's. They have a much longer seasons (up to nine months), a smaller minimum size limit (6.25" compared to our 6.5"), and a much higher limit on the legal amount of gear. These fisheries have been in existence for decades under this management and are healthy and vibrant.

In Southeast here, the areas that have the most effort, the most pot lifts, and the most pots, are year in and year out our biggest producers, showing that the three S's works, since it has been in effect in essence, since the season reduction has only been implemented once in the many years it has been on the books.

PROPOSED BY: Max Worhatch IV (EF-C14-170)

PROPOSAL 59 - 5 AAC 32.146. Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan. Repeal the Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan, as follows:

Delete 5 ACC 32.146

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Dungeness Management Plan causes unnecessary uncertainty for participants in the fishery and does not contribute to the health and sustainability of the resource. The plan can cause irreparable harm to those who depend on this fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Peter Roddy (EF-C14-117)

PROPOSAL 60 - 5 AAC 32.146. Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan. Repeal the Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan, as follows:

Remove all reference to threshold harvest limits from the Southeast Alaska Dungeness Crab Management Plan.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue is the use of threshold harvest guidelines to modify season length. The current plan assumes a level of participation to be consistent and makes no allowances for a poor turnout. The current plan deals with pressure during the first two weeks of the season to determine how long to allow the much slower pace of the last six weeks to continue. Fishing pressure always decreases as the season progresses, but especially after the first two weeks. In other words, the current plan closes the season after the "damage" would have been done. The current plan is to be conservative. Our currently short seasons are conservative enough, along with a large size limit, and sex restriction, (male only). Threshold harvest levels are redundant and unnecessary. For fishermen, not knowing the length of season effects planning for moving gear and prospecting more outlying areas, doubt about season length contributes to concentration of the fleet. A shortened season is worth less in dollars across the dock and is not the least of the problem.

PROPOSED BY: Stephen N. Farler (EF-C14-310)

PROPOSAL 61 - 5 AAC 32.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 32.146. Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan. Manage commercial Dungeness crab fishery with open season dates and areas to avoid handling of soft shell crab, as follows:

Suggested language for 32.110 (4) "Closure due to soft-shell condition"

"The department shall establish an inseason management plan for Dungeness crab stocks in Registration Area A on a division basis which will set season opening dates and areas to be fished based on percentage of male crab found by survey to be in soft-shell state during the spring/summer molt cycle and the percentage of female crab found by survey to be in soft-shell state during a period one week prior to the June 15 summer and October 1 fall opening dates to establish the level of soft-shell prevalence in the population of each district. The season/area shall remain closed by emergency order when the above ratio exceeds 20% of the ratio found in nonmolting periods."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Season opening dates both in summer and fall season are not managed to avoid female and sublegal male in soft-shell condition.

Explanation: Mortality due to handling during commercial harvest of sublegal males and females during molting (soft-shell life stage) has been reported to approach 50% in Dungeness

crab. Since this molt period may vary from one year to another as well as differing from Southern Southeast Alaska to Northern Southeast Alaska, the management plan must have flexibility to set season dates to avoid this unnecessary mortality. Current practices in the Dungeness fisheries of California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia monitor populations for soft-shell condition and prohibit commercial harvest activity during those periods. Failure to recognize this mortality effect on a population can contribute to catastrophic declines and failure of fisheries. The current 3S Management Plan has been reported to widely harvest from 85%–93% of available recruits in Southeast Alaska, Registration Area A making this additional mortality a significant impact on the remaining 7–15% of available year class recruits.

This mortality rate and concerns regarding negative impacts in Dungeness crab fisheries have been discussed in Alaska Department of Fish and Game reports and documents, and scientific papers (see Krause et al 1991 among others) with numerous recommendations that this failure in management practices must be corrected.

PROPOSED BY: John Norton (HQ-F14-039)

PROPOSAL 62 - 5 AAC 32.146. Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan. Modify Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan with open seasons, areas, and harvest levels based on historic data, as follows:

Proposed action: Remove current language establishing projected harvest total and season dates for Registration Area A based on a 14-day harvest period which begins on June 15 each year. Strike from regulation all sections 5 AAC 32.146

Proposed language: “The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) shall establish an inseason management plan establishing opening dates, areas open to harvest, and specific harvest levels for each district in Southeast Alaska Registration Area A. Annual harvest amount levels will be established by the department for each individual district and section based on historic records of catch per unit effort (CPUE), crab harvested, number of pot lifts, population and harvest trends from the preceding 10-year period (where data is available), molt timing, population size and composition (age and sex ratios) needed to sustain that stock, and other effects that may influence mortality or health of the population. Age and sex ratios refers specifically to maintaining appropriate year class strength and sex ratios for reproductive success, as male size (age class) affects availability to females. A harvest area will be closed by emergency order when the established harvest level has been met. Dates of openings will be set to insure that commercial harvest will not occur in an area during periods of molting/soft-shell condition.”

An independent stock assessment program shall be initiated in the 2015–2016 harvest year that over a five year period it will become the basis by which seasons openings and harvest limits within Registration Area A will be determined. At least one major Dungeness crab habitat area within each district as well as other appropriate areas within specific sections with a significant

history of Dungeness crab harvest levels will be sampled annually. Population levels in these high value habitat areas shall be used as guides to set harvest rates and openings for the districts and its sections as a whole for that year. An example would be that population levels on the Katzehin River Delta, a high value Dungeness habitat area in District 115 Section 34 (115-34), could be used to set harvest levels throughout District 115-34 and would be used to help set harvest goals for all of District 115 and its remaining sections. Those sections of a district that do not have substantial harvest levels would not be sampled, but would be managed in accordance with goals determined through indicator sites in proximity. In the above example, District 115-35 would not be sampled as it has not had any significant harvest in the past decade. Its harvest level would be determined by goals set for the adjoining section, which in this example would be District 115-34.

As one researcher put it, the importance of minimum population size on a given stock cannot be underestimated. When they pass below a minimum threshold they collapse and may not reestablish themselves for extremely long periods of time, if at all.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Overharvest of Dungeness crab in excess of sustainable levels in Registration Area A, Southeast Alaska.

There are numerous metrics that indicate that the Dungeness crab stocks of Southeast Alaska are declining, and in some cases area specific stocks may be below sustainable levels. Since the peak harvest level of 7,332,665 pounds in 2002–2003 the last three years harvests have hovered 2,550,000 pounds. This is a stunning metric. If one excludes the extraordinary 2002–2003 harvest and instead looks at the 5 subsequent years where annual harvests hovered around 4,500,000 pounds, there is still a stunning decline of 50% from those levels during each of the past three seasons. The data argue forcefully that the current management system is failing to meet its statutory responsibility to manage this resource at optimum levels. Anecdotal evidence support this conclusion, including CPUE estimates from subsistence, sport, and personal use fishers, as well as the avalanche of complaints from communities throughout Southeast Alaska regarding the disappearance of local crab stocks. There are a number of possible causes for this observed decline including overfishing, oceanic and climate effects and increased sea otter predation. While I acknowledge that sea otter predation has a significant effect, sea otters are not present in Upper Lynn Canal and cannot be responsible for the decline seen in this area. Oceanic and climate effects can certainly affect population levels; however the dramatic increase in commercial fishing effort in the Haines area precludes them from being seriously considered as primary causative agents for the decline currently being witnessed for local Dungeness crab populations.

Regardless of the cause of the decline it is incumbent for the department to insure adequate populations for sustainable harvests for all user classes. Region-wide regulations are inadequate to insure specific stock populations meet minimum population levels to insure propagation. Research has established that Dungeness crab move very little, so if you fish out an area there is little possibility for immigrants to repopulate that area. A serial depletion model has been proposed for Dungeness populations in Southeast Alaska which describes declines in harvest levels in a given season ten years ago ballooned to 18,000 pot lifts per season in 2011–2012.

Local CPUE's for District 115 now sit where Yakutat's did in the late 1990's when its fishery collapsed. Interestingly and unfortunately Yakutat has remained closed to commercial harvest for the past 14 years and shows no signs of recovery.

While annual total harvest levels for Registration Area A of 2,600,000 pounds or less have occurred three times during the 20-year period of 1990–1991 to 2010–2011, the fact that the harvest for each of the least three seasons has been below 2,600,000 pounds or less shouts at us that a change in management strategy is required. The department must change its plan to one which reflects fishery effort, i.e. how many pot lifts occur, how many crabs were removed from population, and the baseline population levels needed for specific stocks in order to perpetuate that stock. Depletion of individual stocks below sustainable population levels has a long lasting effect. To correct the failure of the current management plan to protect local stocks from overharvest I have suggested an independent stock assessment program, that over a five year period will determine population levels in primary habitat areas in each district of Registration Area A that will help prevent overharvest from occurring. For a simplified view of how this would work, in one year the area between Haines and Amalga Harbor would have to be assessed, a distance of approximately 50 miles. There are discreet areas that are well known for their productivity and these would be the focus for assessing district population levels. I assume that local knowledge would be able to identify these high value areas in other districts such that in a five year period these areas would provide a metric by which to judge population strength and sustainable harvest levels area wide. While there is a fiscal cost to a survey project of this type it is worth noting that the value of the 2013–2014 season reported at \$6,435,971 and this argues that sustaining this fishery is very much an economic necessity for Southeast Alaska families. A research program with a fiscal note of \$250,000 would be an investment of 3.9% of gross value toward maintenance and improvement of the fishery. I am advocating that a more robust management program would promote higher sustainable harvest levels and therefore higher economic return to the communities of Southeast Alaska. That is exactly what existing policy statements and regulations require.

PROPOSED BY: John Norton (HQ-F14-041)

PROPOSAL 63 - 5 AAC 32.146. Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan. Modify threshold levels for opening and closing of summer and fall fishing seasons under the Southeastern Alaska Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan, as follows:

In the absence of adequate stock assessment, the department shall manage the Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A (Southeastern Alaska) using a precautionary approach. When stocks are assessed to be low, the department shall, subject to the commissioner's authority under 5 AAC 32.035, reduce the harvest of legal Dungeness crab and reduce the handling of non-legal, light, and soft-shell Dungeness crab by complying with the following:

- (1) no later than 14 days after the start of the summer Dungeness crab fishing season specified in 5 AAC 32.110, the department shall establish a projection of harvest thresholds for the season;

(2) if the department projects that the entire season's catch of legal Dungeness crab will be;

(A) 1.5 million pounds or less, the department will close the summer Dungeness crab fishing season no sooner than 21 days after the season opened, and the fall Dungeness crab fishing season specified in 5 AAC 32.110 will not open;

(B) more than 1.5 million pounds, but less than 1.75 [2.25] million pounds, the department will close the summer Dungeness crab fishing season no sooner than 28 days after the season opened, and the fall Dungeness crab fishing season will be open for 30 days;

(C) more than 1.75 million pounds, but less than 2.25 million pounds, the department will close the summer Dungeness crab fishing season no sooner than 53 days after the season opened, and the fall Dungeness crab season will be open for 53 days;

(D) [(C)] more than 2.25 million pounds, the summer and fall Dungeness crab fishing seasons will occur as specified in 5 AAC 32.110;

(3) if the department determines that harvest projections fail to meet the threshold for a season as described in (2)[(C)] **(D)** of this section due to soft-shelled crabs early in the summer Dungeness crab fishing season, the department may open the fall Dungeness crab fishing season as specified in 5 AAC 32.110.

(4) if the department determines that harvest projections fail to meet the threshold for a season as described in (2)(D) of this section, the department may consider other factors such as loss of grounds utilized and/or amount of participation and adjust the above schedule accordingly.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Dungeness crab season being closed under the SE AK Dungeness Crab management plan (5 AAC 32.146) due to less effort/participation due to consolidated grounds from sea otter predation. Sea otters are starting to be seen in some of the inside areas (Districts 6, 8, & 11) that are some of the most productive crab grounds this past winter. Although the 2013/14 Dungeness crab season was predicted to be below the 2.25 million pound threshold and the summer season was shortened by seven days, in the end the final harvest for the season was over 2.25 million pounds (2,589,572) even with the shortened season.

Since 1982 and present there are four seasons that the total harvest was under 2.25 million pounds but over 1.75 million pounds. This was prior to the implementation of the management plan when the fishery was managed with size, sex and season. Those normal fluctuations should be within the range of allowing a normal season length.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (EF-C14-157)

PROPOSAL 64 - 5 AAC 32.146. Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan. Repeal section of Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan regarding summer season soft-shell crab catch that may allow fall season to open, as follows:

Paragraph (3) of 32.146. repealed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Delete paragraph (3) of 32.146 which allows for the harvest threshold to be met when determining fall season openings when the number of soft-shell crab present reduce the early summer harvest level.

Rational: This paragraph does not make sense from a resource viewpoint. Despite the high presence of soft-shell crab in the first two weeks of the June 2013 harvest season, there was no reduction in harvest for the remaining season. Unfortunately, the early weeks of the fishery killed sublegal males at mortality rates that have been reported as high as 50%. The reduction of sublegal males in the remaining population due to this collateral mortality will reduce year class strength for as many as four subsequent year's classes, decreasing contributions to a sustainable population level and reproduction effort in those years. Those lost recruits must be immediately replaced by current season recruits to maintain appropriate sustainable population levels in subsequent years. In effect, the mortality seen in 2013–2014 June harvest must be seen as a debt that must be immediately paid to sustain subsequent years of harvest. California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia all understand the effect of soft-shell mortality and manage season openings to avoid those periods. To view this mortality as a null effect is incorrect.

PROPOSED BY: John Norton (HQ-F14-038)

PROPOSAL 65 - 5 AAC 32.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A. Extend regionwide commercial Dungeness crab season closure date from November 30 to February 28, as follows:

delete 5 AAC 32.110(1) and (2)

Amend 32.110(3) to read "**From 8:00 am June 15 through 11:59 pm August 15 and from 8:00 am October 1 through 11:59 February 28.**"

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Dungeness crab season should be consistent across Southeast Alaska and should extend through February. There is no biological reason not to fish on Dungeness crab through that date. Crab prices are typically high

in January and February. Local and export markets would benefit. Some nonresident permit holders might be harmed by a reduction in summer yield.

All crab fisheries should open at 8:00 a.m.

PROPOSED BY: Peter Roddy (EF-C14-120)

PROPOSAL 66 - 5 AAC 32.146. Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan. Manage Upper Lynn Canal commercial Dungeness crab fishery based on CPUE, as follows:

5 AAC 32.035. Closure of Dungeness crab registration areas and special procedures
(2): catch per unit of effort and rate of harvest

Should be changed to read:

(2): **catch per unit of effort (CPUE) and rate of harvest.**
(A) CPUE for all waters of District 115 shall be assessed during commercial openings utilizing the ADFG fish ticket data. A CPUE result of 2 or lower shall trigger a closure of Dungeness harvest by commercial, sport, and personal use fishers. The fishery will remain closed until a CPUE of 2.1 or above is attained.

No cost options considered by Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee (ULCAC) to assess CPUE following closures:

- Option 1: Close the fishery for 24 months following a CPUE of two or fewer crab per pot. After 24 months, the fishery would again open and be assessed based on the harvest CPUE. No additional cost to implement.
- Option 2: Following a closure due to a CPUE of two or fewer crab per pot, and prior to the next season, one or more commercial fishing vessels would test fish to assess CPUE. Costs would be covered by the sale of their harvested crab.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The ADF&G currently utilizes a 3S (3S- size, sex, season) management system on a region wide scale for sustaining harvest levels of Dungeness crab in Region A. However the ADF&G has been unable to provide the ULCAD with meaningful interpretation of available data as it relates to 5 AAC 32.035 for the portion of the Region A that lies within the ULCAC's jurisdiction. As a result the AC recommends utilizing existing data, a CPUE, currently collected by the ADF&G to establish a threshold to ensure sustainability for all users groups.

In a 2012 report to the Board of Fish, ADF&G states the "classical 3-S management usually is not effective to manage intensive, highly-competitive fisheries". Due to declines in crab in other areas of Region A (2012 ADF&G report to BOF) and the development of new local markets since 2006, the Upper Lynn Canal has seen an increase in commercial harvest, followed by a significant decrease in crab harvest rate, indicative of population decline. Since 2007, CPUE of

commercial crabs harvested in statistical areas 115-31-35 have decline from 7.8 in 2006/2007 to 2.8 in 2013, a statistically significant decline of 12.7% per year. Subsistence crabbers have reported to the local AC a significant decline in their catch rate as well. During this same time period (2006– 2013), the total number of commercial pot lifts, as recorded by the department from commercial harvest fish tickets, increased from 2,096 (2006) to 14,210 (2013) with a peak of 18,034 pot lifts in 2012. The ADF&G has reliable data on CPUE for commercial harvest in this area only back to the year 2000. From 2000–2007, CPUE increased at a rate of 12.3% per year, from 3.2 to 7.5, indicative of population increase. During this increase, commercial effort was low at 469–2,096 pot lifts per year. The coincident large increase in pressure and decline in the crab population suggests the current management plan is not adequate to sustain local crab populations. Given the observed 60% declines in CPUE since 2007, coupled with an approximate 600% increase in commercial effort, we believe this local area cannot support this rate of commercial, sport, and personal use harvest, as well as subsistence harvests. In a 2012 report to the BOF concerning Dungeness crab in Southeast Alaska, the ADF&G expressed concern that the current Region A harvest rate may be unsustainable, as “trends in recruit composition of the harvest indicate that the fishery is increasingly dependent on annual recruitment” such that a smaller portion of strong year classes are carried over to buffer the fishery against the effects of a poor year class”. A fishery dependent on annual recruitment suggests that, localized areas within the region, with limited markets and fisheries, could be in danger of overexploitation if pressure should dramatically increase as we have observed in our area. This suggests the current plan is failing to manage crab populations at the appropriate spatial scale to ensure viable populations and sustainable yield for multiple user groups near communities. We arbitrarily choose the management criteria of a minimum of two CPUE for harvest openings of legal size crab due to lack of guidance provided by the ADF&G and an assumed threshold of two crabs per pot being economically viable for the commercial fleet.

The regulation should be adopted in order to establish and maintain a sustainable Dungeness crab harvest for all users groups in the upper Lynn Canal and the waters of District 115. If the regulation is not changed and pressure remains high throughout the area, District 115 crab harvest rates could continue to decline leading to a full commercial closer and further reduced opportunity for subsistence use. We recommend the board take action now to reduce the rate of decline in CPUE as measured by the ADF&G and ensure a future harvest of Dungeness crab in Upper Lynn Canal. We believe the current management methods lack precautionary measures to prevent collapses of available harvest, as occurred in Yakutat and Prince William Sound. We considered many options including, partial closure to commercial only, limited by season, and area, with sunset clauses in hopes of ensuring a return of commercial harvest to the area if sustainable. We considered full closures to all user groups, limits on number of pots that could be fished, log books, and several other options; however our decisions continued to be limited by the lack of data available about Dungeness crab in our area. Therefore we recommend the department actively manage District15 for all users.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee (EF-C14-098)

PROPOSAL 67 - 5 AAC XX.XXX. This proposal is a comment and does not seek regulatory change.

No changes to current regulations are necessary. The Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee recommendations to limit commercial crab fishing do not reflect the view of the majority of residents in Haines.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee proposal to eliminate or limit commercial Dungeness crab fishing in the upper Lynn Canal. Current Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulations have successfully managed this fishery for decades.

PROPOSED BY: Jim Szymanski (EF-C14-73)

PROPOSAL 68 - 5 AAC XX.XXX. This proposal is a comment and does not seek regulatory change.

No changes to current regulations are necessary. The Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee recommendations to limit commercial crab fishing do not reflect the view of the majority of residents in Haines.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee proposal to eliminate or limit commercial Dungeness crab fishing in the upper Lynn canal. Current fish and game regulations have successfully managed this fisheries for decades.

PROPOSED BY: Randa Szymanski (EF-C14-74)

PROPOSAL 69 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Repeal specific commercial Dungeness crab fishery closed waters in areas around Tenakee Inlet, Sitka Sound, and Port Althrop, as follows:

- Amend 5 AAC 32.150(2)"....facility at 135 18.18' W longitude **and north of the latitude of Corner Bay Point.**"
- delete 32.150(3)
- delete 32.150(10)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Large areas of Area A are closed to commercial Dungeness fishing. In many if not all cases these areas are excessive.

Port Althrop is closed despite 2010 census data showing a population of 14, including only two below the age of 18. This closure primarily benefits nonresident clients of sport lodges and should be repealed.

Likewise, 2010 data shows 114 residents of Tenakee, including ten under 18 years. The currently closed area is far in excess of the needs of those residents and removes productive grounds from the fishery thus costing the state revenues and jobs.

The Sitka Sound closure was opposed by the Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee. The committee’s representative at the board meeting acted on his own initiative to bring about a result contrary to the wishes of the committee which had sought to harmonize the 13B season with the rest of District13 and, failing that, maintenance of the status quo ante (a season from October1 through February 28).

PROPOSED BY: Peter Roddy (EF-C14-121)

PROPOSAL 70 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close commercial Dungeness crab fishery in a portion of Hetta Inlet, as follows:

5 AAC 32.110 Commercial Dungeness Crab

Commercial harvest of Dungeness crab is closed in the waters beginning at the head of Natzuhini Bay extending to the head waters of Sulzer Inlet, including all the waters of Sukwaan Strait and Hetta Inlet. The line of the closure would extend from round point on Blanket Island to Copper City on the Lime Point Shore, including all waters north and east of the line.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The community of Hydaburg would like to close the waters adjacent to the community to the commercial harvest of Dungeness crab, starting at the head waters of Natzuhini Bay and ending at the head of Sulzer Inlet, including all the waters of Sukwaan Straits and Hetta Inlet. The line of closure would extend from Round Point to Copper City, and all waters north and east of that line.

Dungeness crab is an important personal and subsistence resource to the community. There are currently no regulations that protect the sensitive stocks that are in our immediate harvest areas.

The area needs to be closed to the commercial harvest due to many factors.

First, other areas of Southeast have had drastic declines in the overall abundance of the resource, increasing pressure on areas that usually aren’t traditionally harvested commercially.

Second, sea otter predation is now a known factor in the decline of all marine species in Southeast Alaska. We have an expanding population that is threatening our local abundance of Dungeness crab.

Third, the community needs an area we can depend on to meet our local needs, without the threat of overharvest or competition with commercial interest.

PROPOSED BY: Anthony Christianson Hydaburg LAC Chairman (EF-C14-060)

PROPOSAL 71 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close commercial Dungeness crab fishery in a portion of Whale Pass, as follows:

Closing the Whale Pass estuary to commercial Dungeness crab fishing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In Area A, the following waters of Whale Pass from the Fish and Game markers at the north entrance to Whale Pass to a line drawn from 56° 05'03 N. 133° 04'07.5 W. on the northwestern end of Thorne Island due west to 56° 05'03 N. 133° 07'01 W. an unnamed point on Prince of Wales Island shall be closed to the taking of Dungeness crab.

PROPOSED BY: Whale Pass Community Association (HQ-F14-063)

PROPOSAL 72 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close commercial Dungeness crab fishery in a portion of Frederick Sound, as follows:

5AAC 32.150 CLOSED WATERS IN REGISTRATION A. In Area A, the following waters are closed to the taking of Dungeness Crab

(17) That portion of Frederick sound west of a line from Point Frederick to Prolewy Point, and that portion of Wrangell Narrows north of the latitude of Danger Point.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The intensity of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the vicinity of Petersburg severely reduces the availability of Dungeness crabs for personal use users. The intense summer commercial fishery has also resulted in a stock comprised of primarily "recruit" crabs. The few crabs that are available are generally at or just above the minimum legal size. Relatively small numbers of crabs are being held over from season to season allowing them to grow in width and weight. A small area around Petersburg, which is closed to commercial fishing, should provide personal use opportunities that are currently not available or are severely restricted by the effect of the commercial fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Burrell (EF-C14-071)

PROPOSAL 73 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close commercial Dungeness crab fishery in a portion of Frederick Sound, as follows:

5AAC 32.150 CLOSED WATERS IN REGISTRATION A. In Area A, the following waters are closed to the taking of Dungeness Crab

(17) That portion of Frederick Sound west of a line from Point Frederick to point northeast of the Sukoi Islands at 56° 54.467' N. latitude and 132° 54.324' W. longitude

and along 56° 54.467' N. latitude to a point on Kupreanof Island, and that portion of Wrangell Narrows north of the latitude of Danger Point.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The intensity of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the vicinity of Petersburg severely reduces the availability of Dungeness crabs for personal use users. The intense summer commercial fishery has also resulted in a stock comprised of primarily "recruit" crabs. The few crabs that are available are generally at or just above the minimum legal size. Relatively small numbers of crabs are being held over from season to season allowing them to grow in width and weight. A small area around Petersburg, which is closed to commercial fishing, should provide personal use opportunities that are currently not available or are severely restricted by the effect of the commercial fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Burrell (EF-C14-072)

PROPOSAL 74 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Big Bear/Baby Bear Marine Park near Sitka, as follows:

Disallow commercial crabbing in all or most of the Big Bear/Baby Bear Marine Park bays anchorage. The small Southeast Baby Bear and North Baby Bear would be our first and second priority, but, restricting crabbing to only parts of the marine park may add confusion to the regulations. Perhaps the best solution is to ban commercial crabbing in the entire Big Bear/Baby Bear Bays State Marine Park, as has been done in Thorne Bay and Tenakee Springs where commercial crabbing is not allowed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Addressing commercial crabbing in Big Bear/Baby Bear Bays State Marine Park (25 miles north of Sitka). This is a popular, protected anchorage for boats waiting to go through Sergius Narrows and commercial crabbing with so many crab buoys, makes it difficult to anchor and to get sport crab. Commercial fishing inhibits the purpose of state marine parks. All boats will continue to have difficulty anchoring in this marine park and risk getting their prop or anchor caught in crab pot lines. In the South Baby Bear Bay, we had to move a broken and discarded commercial trap to the beach that we got our anchor caught in (Chart #17323: 57° 25.8' N. 135° 33 25' W.).

PROPOSED BY: Larry Edgerton & Charlene Foley (HQ-F14-007)

PROPOSAL 75 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close nearshore waters around Angoon to commercial Dungeness crab fishery, as follows:

Commercial Dungeness crab fishery will not be allowed to fish or lay commercial pots from Danger Point/Kootznahoo Head into Mitchell Bay, Favorite Bay, Kanalku Bay and its immediate environs.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial Dungeness crab in Angoon Alaska, Dungeness crab is being depleted by a commercial permit in the Angoon Area. We need to compete with multiple pots in a small area and therefore our sport and personal needs are not being met for our small community. This is a small area and the community is not being allowed to access to harvest with their sport gear because of all the commercial pots that prohibit the local residents from harvesting crab for personal use.

PROPOSED BY: City of Angoon (HQ-F14-034)

PROPOSAL 76 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close commercial Dungeness fishing in areas around Colt and Horse Islands near Juneau, as follows:

Close to commercial Dungeness crabbing: waters north of a line from the southernmost tip of Horse Island extending west to Admiralty Island and to a line from Admiralty Island east to the northernmost tip of Colt Island.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Close to commercial crabbing the area from the south end of Horse Island and extending to the north end of Colt Island, encompassing the area west to Admiralty Island. Commercial crabbers have for many years harvested Dungeness crab in the Bear Creek area northwest of Colt Island. In 2012 commercial crabbers set pots along the Admiralty shoreline for nearly 1 mile west of Colt and Horse Island. 2012 was the first year that a commercial crabber set pots in this area, from our recollection of cabin use since 1986. Colt Island was offered for sale in the 1970's and Horse Island in 1986, which comprise nearly 120 lots on the two islands, many with cabins. For those who enjoy setting a Dungeness pot for personal use there should be a reasonable chance an individual could be rewarded with crabs. This expectation is severely diminished when competing against commercial crabbers.

PROPOSED BY: Ron and Nan Schonenbach (EF-C14-021)

PROPOSAL 77 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close commercial Dungeness fishing around Portland Island and Point Lena near Juneau, as follows:

Close to commercial Dungeness crabbing: waters from the southernmost tip of Point Louisa, extending 500 feet seaward of Mean High Water, to Point Lena.

Alternative description— Close to commercial Dungeness crabbing: waters east of a line extending from the northernmost tip of Portland Island to Point Lena.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Close to commercial Dungeness crabbing the area between Point Louisa and Point Lena, an area extending 500 feet seaward from Mean High Water. The area from Point Louisa and Portland Island south through Gastineau Channel was closed to commercial Dungeness crabbing in 1980 and the area from

Point Lena north to Tee Harbor was closed in 2000. The requested closure area was commercially crabbed in 2012, the first time that some long term residents ever recall seeing a commercial crabber work the shoreline. There are nearly 90 waterfront homes along this 2.5 mile shoreline. For those who enjoy setting a Dungeness pot for personal use, there should be a reasonable chance an individual could be rewarded with crabs. The expectation is severely diminished when competing against commercial crabbers.

PROPOSED BY: Ron and Nan Schonenbach (EF-C14-022)

PROPOSAL 78 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close waters to Game Creek and Gartina Creek near Hoonah to commercial Dungeness crab fishing to improve subsistence fishery, as follows:

Hoonah Indian Association proposes that both the entrance to Game Creek and Gartina Creek be closed to commercial Dungeness crab pots.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would close off the waters within a mile radius of the entrance to Game Creek and Gartina Creek to commercial Dungeness crab fishing, within the waters of Port Frederick Bay. These waters are particularly important to the residents of Hoonah for their traditional subsistence Dungeness crab harvest. Obtaining any amount of subsistence Dungeness crab within the Port Frederick waters has become increasingly more difficult for Hoonah residents in recent years. This is due to an increase in the number of commercial crab pots present in subsistence Dungeness fishing areas.

Currently it is very difficult to navigate through these small coves during harvest months because of the large amount of commercial crab pots. Hoonah residents own very small skiffs and fuel is expensive. Closing off these subsistence Dungeness crabbing areas within Port Frederick Bay would make it easier for Hoonah residents to harvest their subsistence Dungeness crab.

PROPOSED BY: Hoonah Indian Association (EF-C14-181)

PROPOSAL 79 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close portions of Chilkat Inlet to commercial Dungeness crab fishing until harvest levels rebound, as follows:

Proposed Language:

(16) waters of District 15-34 Chilkat Inlet that are above the southern tip of Kochu Island to the mouth of the Chilkat River, and waters of Lynn Canal within Districts 115-34 and 115-33 above the latitude of Mud Bay (Flat Bay) Point to the mouth of the Chilkoot River.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Declining Dungeness crab commercial catch per unit effort (CPUE) for District 115, extremely low catch rates reported by subsistence, sport and personal use fishers. I requested that the board close a portion of District

115 to commercial harvest until sustainable harvest population levels can be established by independent survey.

Rational: There is no regulatory pathway that is apparent which would decrease commercial fishing effort in the Haines area other than to request a closure. Historic commercial pot lift levels of approximately 2,000 lifts per year in District 115 saw a steep increase in 2007 which peaked in 2012-2013 at just over 18,000 lifts in that season. The 14,210 lifts of the 2013–2014 season appears to have brought the local crab population to the brink of collapse. Graphs of CPUE vs pot lifts for District 115-31-35 mirror those of Yakutat during 1993–1999 collapse of that fishery. Current CPUE values for District 115 are at levels similar to those from which Yakutat stocks were unable to recover in 1996–1999. If Yakutat’s data can be accepted as indicative of demonstrating how a fishery collapses, then it follows that District 115 is about to collapse. The only avenue to prevent that from occurring is to close this area to further commercial harvest. This area would be reopened to commercial harvest upon completion and implementation of a management plan that would insure a harvest level appropriate for the sustainable biomass of District 115.

PROPOSED BY: John Norton (HQ-F14-040)

PROPOSAL 80 - 5 AAC 47.090. George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery. Modify pot limits, buoy marking requirements, responsible parties, and management provisions for the George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery, as follows:

(d) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 47.035(c), no more than six pots per registered sport fishing operator, may be used and each pot may be lifted no more than three times per day. A pot lifted more than twice must be removed from the water on the third lifting and not returned to the water until the next calendar day. Pots may be set, but not pulled, by a separate designated support vessel that does not carry clients and is not otherwise used for fishing while designated as a support vessel. The department must be notified in writing of any support vessel designation before the support vessel is used to set pots. The vessel remains designated as a support vessel for the remainder of the calendar year unless the department is notified in writing that the designation is terminated.

(e) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 47.035

(f), the name and address of each sport fisherman using the gear is not required to be inscribed on a keg or buoy. However, a keg or buoy attached to a pot must be inscribed with the name of the registered sport fishing operator, the operator’s address, and the name(s) or the division of motor vehicles boat registration number(s), issued under 2 AAC 70, of the vessel(s) used to operate the pot. The sport fishing guide in command of the sport fishing operator’s vessel, and the person pulling or setting the pot, are responsible for any violations.

...

(i) The commissioner may close the fishery by emergency order, or close and immediately reopen the fishery with additional conditions by emergency order, if the commissioner determines that a closure or additional conditions are reasonably necessary for the protection of

the resource. The commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery if the personal use Dungeness crab fishery in the area is closed. The commissioner may reduce the number of allowable pots or the number of allowable lifts, or both, if more than one sport fishing operator registers for the George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery was implemented at the request of Experience Alaska Tours (EAT). EAT was interested in developing an eco-tour in George Inlet that allowed guests to pull crab pots, view live crab, return their catch to the ocean, and return to George Inlet Lodge for a Dungeness crab meal. The tour has been highly successful and demand continues to increase.

Originally EAT operated three boats. Under regulation, each boat was allowed to operate two pots and each pot was allowed to be pulled up to three times per day. In 2011 EAT replaced two of its smaller tour boats with a larger boat. Standard protocol during a tour has been to pull two pots per tour. This allows guests two opportunities to experience the excitement as the pot comes out of the water, as well as diminishes the chance the trip will get skunked. The area is very productive and on the rare occasion when one pot has not fished well, the second pot usually always does. As demand for the tour has increased, EAT is faced with the possibility of reducing the quality of the tour by only pulling one pot per trip in order to accommodate additional trips.

Changes to these regulations would also allow EAT (or any other registered business to this fishery) the flexibility to operate tours in a manner that accommodates its guests and meets the interests of the business. For instance, under current regulations a smaller group may be forced to be accommodated on EAT's smaller passenger vessel, because that vessel is the only one that has pots that can still be pulled that day. However, given the choice, the company may prefer to use the larger and more comfortable vessel as a way to enhance the tour for guests. Current regulations would prohibit such accommodation.

The original regulations anticipated three boats, 2 pots each, with a maximum of three pot pulls per day. For EAT's original boat fleet, this equated to 6 total pots and 18 total pot pulls per day. This proposed regulation would eliminate the need for each pot to be assigned to a specific vessel but would still limit the registered sport fish operator (EAT, in this case) to a total of 6 pots and 18 total pot pulls per day. The changes simply give the business more flexibility with their smaller boat fleet to meet the demands of the customer and the needs of the business.

Since its inception no other company, other than EAT, has registered for this superexclusive fishery. Proposed changes to 5 AAC 47.090(i) would give the Commissioner the ability to restrict the number of pots or pulls if more than one sport fishing operator registers for the fishery.

This tour has been in operation since 2003 and is a shining example of how an eco-tour can successfully meet the demands of conservation as well as support industry. The crab stocks in

George Inlet continue to be very healthy and our log books show strong catches over the history of this fishery. The tour employs close to 30 seasonal employees, as well as five full-time year-round positions. In 2013 the tour purchased 50,000 pounds of Petersburg-processed Dungeness crab to serve to tour guests, supporting the seasonal tourist economy in Ketchikan as well as the Southeast commercial crab fishing industry as well.

PROPOSED BY: Experience Alaska Tours (EF-C14-012)

PROPOSAL 81 - 5 AAC 47.090. **George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery.** Modify sport fishing guide requirements in the George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery, as follows:

(b) During the calendar year of registration, a sport fishing operator[, SPORT FISHING GUIDE,] or vessel registered for the George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery may not participate in any other Dungeness crab fishery, or any other guided sport fishery as a vessel or operator. **A sport fishing guide registered for the George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery may not participate in any other Dungeness crab fishery, or any other guided sport fishery as a guide while registered for the superexclusive fishery. A sport fishing guide may rescind their registration for the superexclusive fishery by submitting a request in writing to the Commissioner.**

...

(j) Notwithstanding (c) of this section, during the 2008 calendar year, before April 1, a sport fishing operator, sport fishing guide, or vessel owner may register for the George Inlet superexclusive ecotourism guided sport ecotourism fishery. After registering for the fishery, a sport fishing operator [,SPORT FISHING GUIDE,] or vessel owner may not fish for Dungeness crab in any other area or participate in other guided sport fishery as a vessel or operator. **A sport fishing guide may not fish for Dungeness crab in any other area or participate in any other guided sport fishery as a guide while registered for the superexclusive fishery.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This restriction places an unnecessary burden on both the employer and the employee. The employer may feel compelled to reduce an employee's hours or lay them off due to slow tour sales but be less inclined to do so given the fact that the employee's job opportunities have been diminished as a result of registering for the superexclusive fishery. The employee may wish to seek employment with another company or branch out on their own, but may be prohibited from doing so because they are ineligible to participate in another sport fishery as a guide. Additionally, the seasonal nature of this fishery requires employees to seek out other "off-season" employment to support themselves. It is not uncommon for sport fishing guides to seek employment in the commercial fishery during the winter. This includes crabbing, shrimping, and long lining for bottom fish. There are not similar provisions in place for other sport fish guides (i.e. a charter guide that

fishes for halibut is not prohibited from fishing on a long line boat, a charter guide that facilitate his guests setting crab pots is not prohibited from commercially crab fishing).

PROPOSED BY: Experience Alaska Tours (EF-C14-013)

PROPOSAL 82 - 5 AAC 77.666. Personal use Tanner crab fishery. Increase the pot limit from 4 pots per boat to 10 pots per vessel for personal use Tanner crab fishery in the Southeastern Alaska Area, as follows:

No more than four pots per person and no more than 10 pots per boat may be used to capture Tanner crab.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Four pots per boat is too restrictive.

PROPOSED BY: Peter Roddy (EF-C14-123)

PROPOSAL 83 - 5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area; and 5 AAC 77.666. Personal use Tanner crab fishery. Repeal closure of Tanner crab sport and personal use fishery two weeks prior to July 1 in the Southeastern Alaska Area, as follows:

"Fishing for shellfish is open the entire year except:
King crab: (residents only): check for emergency order....."
Delete references to Tanner crab.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The two-week closure serves no good purpose. It was intended to provide a fair start for the personal use king crab fishery on July 1. The king crab fishery opens by emergency order and not until after stock assessment surveys are complete; this is typically sometime in August: thus the Tanner closure achieves nothing but to criminalize otherwise innocent behavior.

PROPOSED BY: Peter Roddy (EF-C14-124)

PROPOSAL 84 - 5 AAC 34.170. Fishing seasons for Registration Area D. Establish golden king crab commercial fishery in Registration Area D under commissioner’s permit, as follows:

PERMITS FOR GOLDEN KING CRAB IN AREA D. (a) Male golden king crab may be taken in Registration Area D only under the conditions of a permit issued by the commissioner.

(b) No more than 100 pots may be operated from a vessel

(c) The permit required in (a) of this section

- (1) may specify season dates;
- (2) may specify areas of fishing operations by district, subdistrict, or registration subareas;
- (3) may establish minimum legal size limits;
- (4) may require an onboard observer during all operations;
- (5) may specify the type, size, and configuration of pots; pots must include an escape mechanism designed to allow female and undersized male crab to exit the pot during fishing operations;
- (6) may require mandatory completion of logbooks provided by the department and require that the logbooks be attached to the fish ticket at the time of landing; and
- (7) may set other conditions deemed necessary by the commissioner for conservation and management purposes.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 34.170 B states that "male golden king crab may be taken only during periods established by emergency order." I have spoken with the department and they would prefer to open the Yakutat golden king crab fishery by commissioner's permit and recommended I put in a proposal to that effect.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright (EF-C14-061)

PROPOSAL 85 - 5 AAC 34.1XX. Logbooks and 5 AAC 34.1XX. Reporting requirements for king crab in Registration Area D. Establish logbook requirement and standards for commercial king crab fisheries in Registration Area D, as follows:

5 AAC 34.1XX. Logbooks. (a) In Registration Area D, during a king crab season, an operator of a vessel registered to fish in the commercial king crab fishery shall complete logbooks provided by the department.

(b) Logbooks described in (a) of this section shall be

(1) updated daily;

(2) sealed in envelopes provided by the department to maintain confidentiality; and

(3) submitted to the primary processor or buyer for attachment to the fish ticket; the processor or buyer shall forward fish tickets with the attached, sealed envelopes containing logbooks to the department in accordance with 5 AAC 39.130.

(c) A catcher/seller described in 5 AAC 39.130 shall attach logbooks described in this section to the department copy of fish tickets.

(d) A person may not make a false entry in the logbook required in (a) of this section.

5 AAC 34.1XX. Reporting requirements for king crab in Registration Area D. In addition to the reporting requirements in 5 AAC 39.130 and 5 AAC 34.075, the commissioner may require an owner or operator of a vessel validly registered to fish in the commercial king crab fishery in Registration Area D to report to a local representative of the department the following catch information:

(1) the number of legal king crab on board the vessel and the number of pot lifts conducted during the fishing period in any fishing area, district, or portion of a district; and
(2) any other information that the commissioner determines is necessary for the conservation and management of the resource; the board directs the commissioner to consult with the fishing industry in developing reporting requirements under this paragraph.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations in Registration Area A require logbooks and allow for reporting requirements in Tanner crab and king crab fisheries. Logbooks and reporting requirements have proved to be beneficial in inseason management and post season fishery performance analyses in both fisheries. While no documented effort has occurred in the red and blue king crab fishery in Registration Area D since the 2000/2001 season when three permits recorded landings, there has been some recent interest in the fishery. In the 2013/2014 season a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 5,000 pounds of red and blue king crab in combination was targeted. Mandatory logbooks and reporting requirements would enable the department to more easily target similar GHLs in the future, and would improve the quality of the harvest data.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-095)

PROPOSAL 86 - 5 AAC 34.185. Lawful gear for Registration Area D. Modify lawful gear to allow use of square king crab pots in Registration Area D, as follows:

5 AAC 34.185. LAWFUL GEAR FOR REGISTRATION AREA D.
(c) repealed 1/24/15;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 34.185. LAWFUL GEAR FOR REGISTRATION AREA D.

(c) King crab may not be taken with pots that have tunnel eye openings located on the vertical plane of the pot.

I would like 34. 185 (c) repealed. The language of this regulation prohibits "square" pots from being used for king crab in registration Area D. I own a string of "square" pots that I use for the registration Area A king crab fishery and would like to use those same pots in registration Area D, rather than buy a new string of gear specifically for registration Area D.

No other registration area in the state has a regulation containing wordage that prohibits the use of "square" pots. In my opinion it is an arbitrary and unnecessary regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright (EF-C14-063)

PROPOSAL 87 - 5 AAC 34.185. Lawful gear for Registration Area D. Reduce the commercial king crab pot limit in the waters of Yakutat Bay and Russell Fjord from 100 pots per vessel to 40 pots per vessel, as follows:

(b) During an open commercial king crab season in those waters north and east of a line from Point Manby to Ocean Cape,

(1) no more than **40** [100] king crab pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for king crab;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations allow for a 100 pot limit for king crab in waters of Yakutat Bay and Russell Fjord, where virtually all of the historical red and blue king crab harvest in Registration Area D has occurred. No documented effort has occurred in the red and blue king crab fishery in Registration Area D since the 2000/2001 season when three permits recorded landings. In the 2013/2014 season a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 5,000 pounds of red and blue king crab in combination was targeted. A pot reduction would enable the department to more easily target similar GHLs in the future.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-096)

PROPOSAL 88 - 5 AAC 34.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 35.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A. Allow the operation of commercial pot gear for groundfish before and during a commercial king or Tanner crab season, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 34.128 to read "**...other than commercial shrimp pot, ground fish pots or Dungeness crab pots during the fourteen days**"

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations forbid operation of otherwise legal finfish pots prior to the commercial Tanner and king crab fisheries. The Pacific cod season is typically open at this time and pots are legal gear for the taking of cod. Cod is important bait in the Tanner fishery. Operation of cod pot gear is legal before and during the Tanner fishery in other regions of Alaska (see 5 AAC 35.428).

PROPOSED BY: Peter Roddy (EF-C14-118)

PROPOSAL 89 - 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. Create new commercial golden king crab fishery area in Cross Sound, as follows:

Add 5 AAC 34.107(h) Cross Sound Area: all waters of Area A west of District 14 and north of the latitude of Imperial Pass.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown crab are found outside existing fishing areas. A new area west of the Icy Straits area would allow opportunity to harvest those crab and learn more about their abundance and distribution.

PROPOSED BY: Peter Roddy (EF-C14-122)

PROPOSAL 90 - 5 AAC 35.180. Lawful gear for Registration Area D. Reduce commercial Tanner crab pot limit in Registration Area D, as follows:

5 AAC 35.171 paragraph (b), (1) no more than **40** [100] pots may be operated from a vessel;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to have a study done to determine if there exists enough resource to have a limited commercial Tanner crab fishery. We would like to reduce the number of allowable pots to a more conservative number in an effort to utilize the resource without harming it.

We do not feel this reduction will harm anyone as the season has been closed by emergency order for some time. The reduction should be considered temporary, and we would ask that the pot limit be brought back to its historical limit should a complete recovery of stocks occur. We considered what the reduction level should be. It was decided that 40 pots wasn't too many, and yet might allow a small fishery to take place. It is an open number subject to approval of the Department.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-087)

PROPOSAL 91 - 5 AAC 34.108. Description of blue king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A. Correct a district reference for Holkham Bay and a misspelling of Point Astley, as follows:

5 AAC 34.108. Description of blue king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A. (a)
Repealed / / [THE WATERS OF DISTRICT 10 IN HOLKHAM BAY EAST OF A LINE FROM POINT COKE TO POINT ASTLEY.]

- (b) The waters of District 11
 - (1) in Taku Inlet north of the latitude of Point Bishop;
 - (2) in Port Snettisham east of a line from Point Styleman to Point Anmer;
 - (3) in Holkham Bay east of a line from Point Coke to Point Astley.**
- (c) The waters of District 14 in Glacier Bay north of the latitude of Point Gustavus.
- (d) The waters of District 15 in Lynn Canal north of the latitude of Point Sherman Light.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations defining blue king crab fishing areas in Registration Area A reference Holkham Bay as part of District 10. Holkham Bay is actually part of District 11. This proposal corrects that district reference, and corrects a misspelling for Point Astley.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-094)

PROPOSAL 92 - 5 AAC 02.120. Subsistence king crab fishery; 5 AAC 34.120. Size limits for Registration Area A; 5 AAC 77.164. Personal use king crab fishery; 5 AAC 77.664. Personal use king crab fishery. Increase legal size limit for blue king crab in subsistence, personal use, and commercial fisheries in Registration Areas A and D, as follows:

5 AAC 02.120. Subsistence king crab fishery. In the subsistence taking of king crab,

...

(3) in the districts described in 5 AAC 30.200

(A) red and blue king crab may not be taken from April 1 through June 30;

(B) only male red, blue, and golden king crab seven inches or larger [, AND MALE BLUE KING CRAB SIX AND ONE-HALF INCHES OR LARGER,] in width of shell may be taken or possessed;

5 AAC 34.120. Size limits for Registration Area A. In Registration Area A, only male king crab seven inches or greater of width of shell may be taken or possessed except that

...

~~(3) repealed~~ / / [MALE BLUE KING CRAB SIX AND ONE-HALF INCHES OR GREATER IN WIDTH OF SHELL MAY BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED];

5 AAC 34.180. Size limits for Registration Area D. The size limits for king crab in Registration Area D are the same as those described for king crab in Registration Area A in 5 AAC 34.120.

5 AAC 77.614. Personal use king crab fishery. In the personal use taking of king crab,

...

(2) the daily bag and possession limit is two male king crab; only male red, blue, and golden king crab seven inches or greater in width of shell [, AND MALE BLUE KING CRAB SIX AND ONE-HALF INCHES OR GREATER IN WIDTH OF SHELL] may be possessed; male king crab less than the minimum legal size and female king crab that have been taken must be immediately returned to the water unharmed;

5 AAC 77.664. Personal use king crab fishery.

...

(3) the king crab size limits are as follows:

(A) only male red, blue, and golden king crab seven inches or greater in width of shell may be taken or possessed; and

(B) repealed / / [ONLY BLUE KING CRAB SIX AND ONE-HALF INCHES OR LARGER IN SHELL MAY BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, blue king crab are harvested commercially during the red king crab, golden king crab, and Tanner crab fisheries, and caught during subsistence and personal use fisheries in Southeast Alaska and the Yakutat Area. The current legal size is six and one-half inches carapace width. Other king crab species, such as red king crab and golden king crab, have a current legal size of seven inches carapace width, with biological information to support these legal sizes. There is no biological justification for the six and one-half inch blue king crab legal size. Blue king crab share similar biology with golden king crab and red king crab and have the longest reproductive cycle, making them more susceptible to overfishing at a reduced legal size.

Size limits are an important management tool used to allow harvest on the portion of a crab population that has reached sexual maturity and has been allowed time to contribute reproductively to the population to allow for future recruitment. These regulations will better provide that opportunity under commercial, subsistence, and personal use regulations, and will make size limits consistent for king crab within Southeast and the Yakutat areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-097)

PROPOSAL 93 - 5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of Southeast Alaska Area; and 5 AAC 77.660. Personal use shrimp fishery. Establish a harvest reporting permit for sport and personal use shrimp fisheries in waters of Section 11-A, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(e) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

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

(e) In the waters of District 11, as described in 5 AAC 33.200(k),

...

(3) if sport fishing for shrimp in the waters described in 5 AAC 33.200 as Section 11-A, a harvest recording form is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.016.

5 AAC 77.660 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

5 AAC 77.660. Personal use shrimp fishery. In the personal use taking of shrimp,

...

(7) in the waters described in 5 AAC 33.200 as Section 11-A, shrimp may be taken only under the authority of a permit issued under 5 AAC 77.015; only one permit may be issued to a household each year; a permit holder shall record harvest information on forms provided by the department.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Due to low shrimp abundance as indicated by declining commercial fishery catch per unit of effort in Section 11-A,

the commercial fishery was closed in 2013 to allow the shrimp stock to rebuild. In addition, the department closed the sport and personal use shrimp fisheries in Section 11-A by emergency order on July 1, 2013. There are limited personal use and sport fishery harvest data available for this area; however, creel census data from 2003–2007 indicate that combined sport and personal use fishery harvests were equal to commercial harvests during that time. This proposal seeks to improve effort and harvest information for sport and personal use shrimp fisheries in Section 11-A when these fisheries are reopened.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-099)

PROPOSAL 94 - 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. Establish a spawner index management system for the Southeastern Alaska commercial spot shrimp fishery, as follows:

It is requested that the Board renew policy direction to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) respecting introduction of spawner index management, with clear instructions that test fishing be continued, and carried out thoroughly and properly in adherence with such guidance and agreed protocols.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish a spawner index management system for the Southeast Alaska spot prawn pot fishery.

For the January, 2012 Southeast shellfish meeting I submitted a proposal under this same title (Proposal 171 / page 148 in the 2012 proposal book) stating:

"A spawner index system such as used in British Columbia is generally recognized to offer the best available in-season management and optimal resource utilization. Spawner index uses a defined ratio of males to females in the catch to determine if the fishery in a given area should remain open or be closed. The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) should direct the department to begin moving toward this kind of system in the Southeast Alaska spot prawn pot fishery, with a goal of full implementation by the 2015 board cycle. Interim steps could include testing of the system in selected areas."

This proposal resulted in creation of an industry / management committee to address the issue at that board meeting. Good progress was made. Two test areas were identified, and protocols for proceeding were agreed to. The board ratified the effort and provided regulatory flexibility to exceed guideline harvest level's (GHL) in those areas if spawner indexing indicated fishing could continue beyond the established GHL. The Legislature appropriated funds for the project. ADF&G personnel subsequently traveled to British Columbia to consult with their Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada counterparts on implementation of a spawner index. In sum, everything was in place for a successful multi-year test of spawner index management, which offered the long-term prospect for improved inseason management and better economic results for fishermen.

Unfortunately, in key test instances in both the 2012 and 2013 seasons, a local management biologist elected to close the fishery contrary to the spawner index protocols, thereby compromising the science of the test fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Fisk (EF-C14-156)

PROPOSAL 95 - 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. Establish management direction to modify commercial pot shrimp fishery GHs based on indicators of shrimp population size determined by CPUE, size data, and geographic distribution, as follows:

5 AAC 31.145 SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA (REGISTRATION AREA A) POT SHRIMP MANAGEMENT PLAN

a) The purpose of the management plan under this section is to provide the department with direction for the management of the spot shrimp (*Pandalus platyceros*) and coonstripe shrimp (*Pandalus hypsinotus*) stocks in Registration Area A (Southeastern Alaska). The department shall manage the spot and coonstripe shrimp stocks for sustained yield according to the principles specified in the management plan under this section.

(b) The department shall manage

(1) all the districts or portions of districts, in Registration Area A based on the harvest of spot shrimp, except that

(A) District 11 shall be managed based on the harvest of spot and coonstripe shrimp; and

(B) Districts 15 and 16 shall be managed based on the harvest of coonstripe shrimp;

(2) the spot and coonstripe shrimp fisheries to

(A) maintain a number of age classes of shrimp to ensure the long-term viability of those stocks and reduce the dependence on annual recruitment;

(B) reduce fishing periods for shrimp stocks during the biologically sensitive periods of the shrimp's life cycle, such as egg hatch, growth, and recruitment, and when shrimp stocks are considered to be poor quality for the market place;

(C) reduce mortality of small shrimp of any species;

(D) maintain an adequate broodstock for the rebuilding of the shrimp stocks, if rebuilding becomes necessary.

(E) harvest levels will move in relation to indicators of the population size. Indicators of population size include but are not limited to CPUE, size data, geographic distribution of shrimp within an area and survey data if available.

(c) Repealed 5/11/2012.

(d) The commissioner may, by emergency order, open a shrimp fishing season from May 15 through July 31 (summer season) in a district where the guideline harvest range was not reached during the season specified in 5 AAC 31.110 (winter season).

(e) The guideline harvest ranges for spot shrimp are specified in 5 AAC 31.115(1) - (10), and (12) - (14), and are based primarily on the average catch of pot shrimp from the 1990-1991 season through the 1994-1995 season.

(f) Repealed 7/18/2003.

(g) There are no specific guideline harvest ranges for coonstripe shrimp, but the allowable harvest of coonstripe shrimp will be based on the average catch of coonstripe shrimp in each district during the 1995–1996 season through the 1999–2000 season. The provisions of this subsection do not apply in Districts 15 and 16.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently the Department management is very slow to respond to changes in the shrimp population by increasing or decreasing harvest. This results in lost economic opportunity to fishermen when populations are increasing and results in damage to the stocks when populations are declining. We believe that there are stock indicators of abundance that could be more effectively used such as but not limited to CPUE, size data, geographic distribution of shrimp within an area and survey data when available.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen’s Alliance (EF-C14-139)

PROPOSAL 96 - 5 AAC 31.115. Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. Provide additional commercial pot shrimp fishery management flexibility in specific fishing locales in Registration Area A, as follows:

5 AAC 31.115 Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A. (a) **Except as provided for in 5 AAC 31.145 (h), the** [THE] following are the district guideline harvest ranges for the taking of shrimp by pots in Registration Area A:

- (1) District 1: 0 – 164,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (2) District 2: 0 – 120,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (3) District 3:
 - (A) Section 3-A: 0–264,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
 - (B) Sections 3-B and 3-C, combined: 0 – 70,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (4) District 4: 0–28,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (5) District 5: 0–20,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (6) District 6: 0–82,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (7) District 7: 0–104,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (8) District 8: 0–28,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (9) District 9: 0–18,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (10) District 10: 0–58,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (11) District 11
 - (A) Sections: 11-A, 11-B, and 11-C, combined: 0–15,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp;
 - (B) Section 11-D: 0–30,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (12) District 12:
 - (A) Tenakee Inlet: 0–34,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
 - (B) remainder of District 12: 0–15,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (13) District 13:
 - (A) Sections 13-A and 13-B, combined 0 – 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp;

- (B) Section 13-C: 0–50,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (14) District 14: 0–20,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (15) District 15: 0–20,000 pounds of coonstripe shrimp;
- (16) District 16: 0–20,000 pounds of coonstripe shrimp.

(b) For the purposes of this section, District 12: Tenakee Inlet includes the waters of District 12 that are west of a line from the easternmost tip of East Point to South Passage Point.

5 AAC 31.145 Southeastern Alaska (Registration Area A) Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan

(a) The purpose of the management plan under this section is to provide the department with direction for the management of the spot shrimp (*Pandalus platyceros*) and coonstripe shrimp (*Pandalus hypsinotus*) stocks in Registration Area A (Southeastern Alaska). The department shall manage the spot and coonstripe shrimp stocks for sustained yield according to the principles specified in the management plan under this section.

(b) The department shall manage

(1) all the districts or portions of districts, in Registration Area A based on the harvest of spot shrimp, except that

(A) District 11 shall be managed based on the harvest of spot and coonstripe shrimp; and

(B) Districts 15 and 16 shall be managed based on the harvest of coonstripe shrimp;

(2) the spot and coonstripe shrimp fisheries to

(A) maintain a number of age classes of shrimp to ensure the long-term viability of those stocks and reduce the dependence on annual recruitment;

(B) reduce fishing periods for shrimp stocks during the biologically sensitive periods of the shrimp's life cycle, such as egg hatch, growth, and recruitment, and when shrimp stocks are considered to be poor quality for the market place;

(C) reduce mortality of small shrimp of any species;

(D) maintain an adequate broodstock for the rebuilding of the shrimp stocks, if rebuilding becomes necessary.

(c) Repealed 5/11/2012.

(d) The commissioner may, by emergency order, open a shrimp fishing season from May 15 through July 31 (summer season) in a district where the guideline harvest range was not reached during the season specified in 5 AAC 31.110 (winter season).

(e) The guideline harvest ranges for spot shrimp are specified in 5 AAC 31.115(1) – (10), and (12) – (14), and are based primarily on the average catch of pot shrimp from the 1990–1991 season through the 1994–1995 season.

(f) Repealed 7/18/2003.

(g) There are no specific guideline harvest ranges for coonstripe shrimp, but the allowable harvest of coonstripe shrimp will be based on the average catch of coonstripe shrimp in each district during the 1995–1996 season through the 1999–2000 season. The provisions of this subsection do not apply in Districts 15 and 16.

(h) The department may select areas listed in 5 AAC 31.115 to provide inseason management flexibility with management strategies. The department will continue to manage the pot shrimp fishery in these selected areas as specified in 5 AAC 31.145(b).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current guideline harvest range (GHR) needs to be exempted in areas that are using an experimental harvest strategy. While the board adopted amended language at the 2011 board meeting in RC 29, the language was not implemented into regulation. The language adopted allowed for experimental harvest strategies in consultation with industry and the shrimp task force to be implemented. Industry believes that one of the experimental harvest strategies has promise and would like to expand the strategy into other districts.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen’s Alliance (EF-C14-140)

PROPOSAL 97 - 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; and 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. Divide District 1 into three distinct commercial pot shrimp fishing areas, as follows:

District 1 will be divided into three separate shrimp management areas. Area S1 will be all waters of District 1 north and east of a line from Pt. Sykes to Pt. Alava and north and east of a line from Survey Pt. to Camano Pt. Area S2 will be all areas of District 1 south of a line from Camano Pt. to Survey Pt and south of a line from Pt. Alava to Pt. Sykes and north of Foggy Pt, this area will include all waters of George Inlet, Carroll Inlet and Thorne Arm. Area S3 will be all waters of District 1 South and East of Foggy Pt. including all waters of Portland Canal. Each area will be allowed 25,000 pot lifts and will then close.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? District 1 is the largest geographic area used to manage the pot shrimp fishery in Southeast. This area needs to be broken into smaller areas that will allow the department to manage the discrete shrimp populations instead of as one large population. In the recent past this area has closed when some parts of the area had not had any harvesting take place. The department staff is also quite busy during this time of year and there has been a reluctance to vary the current management strategy to allow access to areas that are unfished or to take advantage of areas of abundance within this district.

Implementing the following management plan will allow the fleet to cover the grounds with each area and catch shrimp if they are available, while not allowing fishing to continue on grounds once they have been already fished.

PROPOSED BY: Brennon Eagle (EF-C14-099)

PROPOSAL 98 - 5 AAC 31.143. Reporting requirements for commercial shrimp vessels in Registration Area A. Modify commercial pot shrimp fishery reporting requirements for Registration Area A, as follows:

5 AAC 31.143 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL SHRIMP VESSELS IN REGISTRATION AREA A. (a) Unless otherwise specified by the department, the owner or operator of a commercial shrimp vessel operating pot gear in Registration Area A shall report by telephone or in person to a local representative of the department within two business days of deploying shrimp gear and two business days after ceasing shrimp fishing in any district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level established by the department, including the following information:

(1) the pounds in whole weight by species of shrimp on board the vessel taken during the fishing period in any district or portion of a district;

(2) other information requested by the department for the purpose of conserving or developing shrimp resources.

(b) In addition to the reporting requirements specified in (a) of this section, the weekly reporting requirements in Registration Area A for vessels commercial shrimp fishing with pots or beam trawls are as follows:

(1) unless other arrangements have been made with a local representative of the department, each week an owner or operator of a shrimp pot catcher-processor vessel, or the owner or operator of a shrimp pot catcher-seller vessel, operating gear in the waters of Registration Area A shall contact, by telephone or in person, the ADF&G area office in the area where shrimp fishing occurs, before 12:00 noon Wednesday during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.; the following information must be provided at the time of contact:

(A) the permit holder's name;

(B) the name and ADF&G license plate number of the shrimp pot catcher-processor vessel;

(C) the following information regarding ADF&G fish tickets:

(i) ADF&G fish ticket number of each fish ticket used since the last contact;

(ii) date of landing on each fish ticket;

(iii) district and statistical area on each fish ticket;

(iv) the number of pot lifts on each fish ticket; (v) days that pots soaked on each fish ticket;

(vi) weight of spot and coon shrimp per fish ticket specifying whether whole or tail weight;

(vii) the size mix of the shrimp that were sorted for sale

(D) date of last delivery;

(E) any other information the commissioner determines is necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The department has identified not having the size information from the pot shrimp fishery in managing the fishery as a problem. The industry has submitted proposals in the past to require reporting of shrimp size mix previously. The department has opposed those proposals previously but when industry

suggests ways to manage the fishery differently, we are told they don't have the information to implement the possible strategies. A volunteer program between the department and industry has existed for a while to provide the size mix of shrimp that was sorted for sale and allowed for an experimental management strategy to be implemented in District 7 for the last three years.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (EF-C14-138)

PROPOSAL 99 - 5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A. Standardize, limit, and reduce commercial shrimp pot gear in Registration Area A, as follows:

Limit shrimp pot gear as follows:

1. Small pots:
 - a. Reduce the maximum limit of small pots from 140 to 100 per license;
 - b. Limit each string to be comprised of five pots only;
 - c. Pots must be 15 fathoms apart on a string.
2. Large pots:
 - a. Reduce the maximum limit of large pots from 100 to 75 per license;
 - b. Limit each string to be comprised of three pots only;
 - c. Pots must be 20 fathoms apart on a string.
3. In addition to the pot limits described above, single-pot deployment would not be allowed.
4. Gear would be limited to one pull per day, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Standardization and reduction of shrimp pot gear.

Currently the pot shrimp fishery is much like a derby style fishery, with most districts open less than one month in order to prevent overfishing. This proposal would provide better control by managers and allow longer openings. Managers would be able to more accurately determine how much linear coverage is being fished in a district at any time.

PROPOSED BY: Don Westlund (HQ-F14-014)

PROPOSAL 100 - 5 AAC 31.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A. Clarify use of other gear during a commercial shrimp season in Registration Area A, as follows:

5 AAC 31.128(b) is amended to read:

- (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 [BOTH] commercial shrimp pots and any type of **sport, personal use, or** subsistence pots.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Resident commercial shrimp fishermen fishing in areas with a positive customary and traditional use finding are restricted to the

number of pots specified in 5 AAC 31.124(e) when setting subsistence shrimp pots while concurrently commercial shrimp fishing, but are not similarly restricted in setting sport or personal use shrimp pots. 5 AAC 31.124(e) restricts the number of shrimp pots that may be set for commercial and subsistence uses, in aggregate, to 140 small pots or 100 large pots. In consideration of subsistence priority and regulatory consistency, sport and personal use shrimp pots should be added to the regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-100)

PROPOSAL 101 - 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. Revise the Southeastern Alaska Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan to include an April to October commercial fishery, regionwide, for non-spot shrimp, as follows:

Actual regulatory language and the enforcement and management measures for the fishery should be worked out with Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) and members representing the fishery. I highly recommend a summer fishery however; as it generally dodges some reproductive cycles and market conditions are better.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Revise the Southeast Alaska Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan to include an April to October fishery, region wide, for non-spot prawn shrimp. This would include, but not be limited to coonstripe, humpback and pink shrimp. Spot shrimp are a small percentage of the top grade shrimp available to and easily caught by pots in Southeast Alaska. Pots catch smaller quantities of larger sized and higher quality shrimp than trawlers working on the same species. The current spot prawn seasons are very short and occur during winter, leaving fishers to do clean-ups or put the gear away for 10 months. The extra fishing time on other species should, eventually, markedly increase the value of this fishery. Pot fishermen can easily and cleanly target these other species, even in close proximity to large numbers of spot prawns. Detailed log books along with weekly reporting, or call-ins, facilitate enforcement and provide data to assist management. This fishery has the potential to take pressure off the summer Dungeness crab season also, among other benefits.

PROPOSED BY: Stephen N. Farler (EF-C14-018)

PROPOSAL 102 - 5 AAC 31.161. Shrimp trawl fishing seasons and logbook requirements for Registration Area D; 5 AAC 31.166. Shrimp trawl guideline harvest range for Registration Area D; and 5 AAC 31.170. Lawful gear for Registration Area D. Remove otter trawl as legal trawl gear in commercial shrimp trawl fishery in Registration Area D, as follows:

Recommend that the original shrimp trawl regulation be reenacted but excluding the otter trawl fishery as an acceptable gear type.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Open the Yakutat area to the shrimp beam trawl commercial fishery. We emphasize that this opening be for beam trawl fishery only. This fishery has shown a minimal impact on all non-targeted marine species. By freezing on board the fishing vessel and possibly storing in on land facilities, we feel the shrimp beam trawl fishery will have a positive socioeconomic impact on the Yakutat area.

PROPOSED BY: Paul D. Prevatt and Jess Sims (HQ-F14-058)

PROPOSAL 103 - 5 AAC 31.125. Lawful shrimp trawl gear for Registration Area A. Establish maximum vessel length for beam trawl shrimp fishery in Registration Area A, as follows:

5 AAC 31.005 REGISTRATION AREAS ESTABLISHED; REGISTRATION OF VESSELS should be revised as follows:

- (a) unchanged
- (b) unchanged

(c) The maximum allowable length of commercial shrimp trawl vessels in Registration Area A shall not exceed 65 feet length overall, provided that vessels that exceed that length and have been duly registered to trawl for shrimp in Area A in at least three years since 2000 may continue to be registered for the fishery. Any replacement of such a vessel shall comply with the 65 foot length limitation. This length limitation shall not apply to floating processors as defined in 5 AAC 39.130 (k) (9) or tenders for shrimp as defined in 5 AAC 31.033.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish size limit on vessels in Southeast Alaska Beam Trawl Shrimp Fishery

There is currently no size limit on vessels that can be employed in the Southeast Alaska Beam Trawl Shrimp Fishery. However, the board has acted indirectly in the past to effectively limit the size and type of vessel that could be employed. When it prohibited the use of otter trawls in 1997, making beam trawls the only permissible gear; the board's goal was to prevent the introduction of large, factory-type vessels typical in other areas. The concern was that such large vessels constituted a threat to sustainable management of the fishery and to the economic stability of a long-established small boat fishery. Otter trawls were viewed as synonymous with such large vessels. Hence, banning otter trawls was seen as a way to prevent large vessels entering and over-capitalizing the fishery. Also cited were concerns about environmental impacts, particularly with bycatch. The small-scale and slow towing speeds of traditional Southeast Alaska beam trawl gear were seen as relatively environmentally benign.

However, all beam trawling is not inherently small-scale and environmentally friendly. Large beam trawlers are used extensively in the North Sea. Powerful vessels in excess of 100 feet, with 1,000 to 3,000 horsepower, tow very heavy gear at speeds of six to seven knots. Nothing in current regulation prevents introduction of similar large-scale, potentially very destructive technology in the Southeast Alaska Shrimp Trawl Fishery.

Large vessels are not required for successful prosecution and re-development of the Southeast Alaska Shrimp Fishery, including development of significant onboard value adding capability. This has been demonstrated by smaller vessels already in the fishery. (For example, one vessel, owned and operated out of Wrangell has been a very successful and consistent producer, doing top quality, carefully graded, frozen at sea shrimp for many years.) The State of Alaska has a 65' limit for small-scale catcher processor vessels under Department of Environment Conservation (DEC) Direct Market Vessel License. It is proposed that 65' be established as the maximum length overall (LOA) for shrimp beam trawl vessels in Area A, using the same measurement rules applied to salmon seine vessels. There are some beam trawlers that currently exceed this length, but most are smaller. It is suggested that those that exceed 65' be "grandfathered in" if they have been in the fleet for some time.

Failure to institute a reasonable vessel size limit leaves the door open to possible introduction of much larger vessels as interest in the fishery renews. This could lead to a classic over-capitalization "arms race" in which existing, small-scale Alaskan shrimp fishermen would be at a severe disadvantage. Individual fishermen and the regional economy could suffer. Instituting the proposed vessel size limit would put reasonable development sideboards in place to complement and protect limited entry rules and conservative biological management already in place.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Fisk (EF-C14-144)

PROPOSAL 104 - 5 AAC 31.125. Lawful shrimp trawl gear for Registration Area A.
Modify beam trawl gear specifications for Registration Area A, as follows:

Draft new regulation language:

5 AAC 31.125 LAWFUL SHRIMP TRAWL GEAR FOR REGISTRATION AREA A.

(a) unchanged

(b) unchanged

(c) The maximum size of beam that may be employed may not exceed 60 feet in length. Multiple trawls may be used provided that the aggregate length of all beams employed shall not exceed 60 feet in total length.

(d) The maximum weight of the beam trawl gear employed shall not exceed 3,000 pounds, not including nets and towing warps. Those items to be included in calculation of this weight limit are the beam itself, D-rings, staves or other devices providing vertical opening, shoes or other bottom contact devices, braces, bridles and connecting hardware, footrope and roller gear, and any weights, including chain, attached to or suspended from the foregoing gear and / or the towing warp. Multiple trawls may be used provided the aggregate weight of all beams as described above shall not exceed 3,000 pounds in total weight.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Limit total beam length, regulate total beam weight, eliminate single net requirement.

5 AAC 31.125 Lawful shrimp trawl gear for Registration Area A, subsection (c) states “a registered shrimp vessel may not have at any time more than two trawl nets on board the vessel. However, only one trawl may be in the water at any time.” Other than the mesh size restrictions provided in sub-section (b), this is the only regulation defining beam trawl gear in the Southeast Alaska beam trawl shrimp fishery. The purpose of the existing regulation is to limit the amount of gear that can be fished, thereby limiting the catching power of vessels — the idea being to both slow down the pace of the fishery and level the playing field amongst the various participating vessels.

The vessels that have traditionally participated in the Southeast Alaska beam trawl fishery have been limited in practical terms to beams of about 60' in length. Above this size the rigs simply become too ponderous to handle safely or efficiently. Moreover, design of the gear and traditional rigging resulted in gear that was most effective only at rather slow towing speeds of 1 to 1.5 knots per hour. The net result of traditional practice and the “only one trawl in the water at any time” regulation has been to place a reasonable catching power limitation on vessels in the beam trawl shrimp fishery. Further, the slow towing speeds of traditional gear had a positive environmental effect of limiting bycatch and bottom disturbance. Species like halibut and salmon can easily avoid small, slow moving traditional Southeast Alaska beam trawl gear. However, technology is currently available that would meet the technical requirements of existing regulations, but which would entirely upset the desirable overall balance of catching power, resource availability, and environmental protection that should be maintained.

At the same time, there have been advances in net and rigging technology that could have positive environmental and operating safety benefits, but which are not available to Alaska fishermen under the current regulation. Accordingly, it is proposed that 5 AAC 31.125 (c) be replaced with new subsections that will maintain current catching power and environmental compatibility while allowing fishermen to design and use safer, less expensive and even more environmentally friendly beam trawl gear, as follows:

1. The overall length of beam trawls will be specified, with the maximum total beam length not to exceed 60' (This limit accommodates all beam trawls known to have been in use in the last 10-12 years);
2. The total weight of beams in use shall not exceed 3,000 pounds, not including the net(s). The weight limit will apply to the beams themselves, the D-rings, shoes or staves, the footrope, and any weights attached to those structures or suspended from towing warps, bridles, Delta plates, etc. that weight down the overall trawl and make it easier to maintain bottom contact;
3. The number of beam trawls fished will no longer be limited, provided that the aggregate length of all the beams in use may not exceed the total beam length limit of 60', or the total allowable weight of 3,000 pounds. In other words a fishermen would be able to fish a single 60' trawl with a beam weight of 3,000 pounds, or two 30', 1,500 pound trawls, or even three 20', 1,000 pound trawls if he so chose.

The catching power of a trawl net is determined by its mouth opening and the speed with which it is towed over the ground. Mouth opening is principally a function of horizontal and dimension. The proposed maximum 60' of beam obviously limits the total horizontal opening. (Vertical opening is generally less critical, and the general hydrodynamics of nets prevents this dimension getting "out of bounds" in any practical sense.)

The proposed limitation on the weight of the beam structures and footrope will act to limit towing speed to that which has been typical for Southeast Alaska. This is critical because, all other things being equal, a net towed at 3 knots will have twice the catching capability of one towed at 1.5 knots, simply by dint of covering twice the ground in the same time. Greater weight allows bottom contact to be maintained at higher towing speeds. It should be noted that beam trawl technology currently in use in the North Sea off Holland, Belgium and Denmark is marked by very powerful vessels towing very, very heavy gear at speeds of 6 to 7 knots. Nothing in our current regulations prevents the introduction of similar gear to the Southeast Alaska Beam Trawl Shrimp Fishery. Not only would such gear completely upset the existing catching power equilibrium in the fleet, it would have potentially very profound, negative environmental impacts in terms of bottom disruption and increased bycatch. The proposed 3,000 pound beam weight limit will accommodate even the most "beefy" of traditional Southeast Alaska gear, while effectively barring the introduction of extremely heavy, destructive gear.

With the overall length and weight of beam thus limited, there is no reason to limit the number of rigs employed so long as they do not, in aggregate exceed those limits. However, there are good safety and environmental reasons why multiple rigs should be allowed provided that, in aggregate they stay within the overall beam length and weight limits. A single 60', 3,000 pound beam with netting, floats, etc. can easily exceed 4,000 pounds in total weight. Add in a good catch of 2,000 to 3,000 pounds, and you have a large, ponderous and potentially dangerous mass of gear and shrimp. Traditional single rigged Southeast Alaska beam trawls are most often towed from a block mounted on the vessel's boom, and are recovered over the side. This method creates stability issues that limit the weather in which vessels can safely fish. And the high towing point is believed to be implicated in at least one vessel capsizing and loss of life in recent times.

Allowing vessels to double rig (or even triple rig) would result in lower towing points, hence greater stability, and would more than halve the weight of the individual trawls, making them easier and safer for the crew to handle. Two 30' trawls require about half the total netting needed for a single 60' trawl, meaning less initial expense, less drag, hence less fuel used while towing, and less material used. This same principle can also be applied by rigging two smaller nets on an individual beam. This is called duplex rigging. Obviously, these advantages cannot be obtained under the existing, outmoded single net rule.

What would happen if no action is taken? Not giving fishermen the option to use multiple trawls will mean significant economic, safety and environmental benefits will be foregone, and needed technological innovation in the fishery will be stifled. But, if multiple rigs are permitted without also regulating total beam length and weight, the opportunity to use multiple nets will likely be used only to increase the total amount of gear deployed and upset the existing catching power

balance in the fleet. This would be felt most by smaller vessel operators. By the same token, allowing multiple rigs with the suggested limitations will not hurt or disadvantage operators who wish to continue using traditional single rigged trawls. But, regulating total beam length and weight is necessary even if multiple rigs are not permitted, as nothing in current regulation prevents introduction of very large and heavy gear that is both environmentally undesirable and destructive of the traditional catching power balance amongst vessels in the fleet.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Fisk (EF-C14-153)

PROPOSAL 105 - 5 AAC 31.143. Reporting requirements for commercial shrimp vessels in Registration Area A. Clarify commercial beam trawl registration location as ADF&G office specified by the department, as follows:

5 AAC 31.143 is amended to read:

(b) In addition to the reporting requirements specified in (a) of this section, the weekly reporting requirements in Registration Area A for vessels commercial shrimp fishing with pots or beam trawls are as follows:

...

(2) each week an owner or operator of a shrimp beam trawl catcher-processor vessel operating gear in the waters of Registration Area A shall contact, by telephone or in person, the ADF&G **office specified by the department** [AREA OFFICE IN PETERSBURG] before 12:00 noon Wednesday during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.; the following information must be provided at the time of contact:

...

(c) The fish ticket requirements for commercial shrimp pot and beam trawl vessels in Registration Area A are as follows:

...

(2) an owner or operator of a shrimp beam trawl catcher-processor vessel shall complete a separate fish ticket for each day fished for each district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level established by the department, and in which shrimp are harvested and processed on board the vessel; fish tickets must be submitted to the department within seven days of closure of a district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level; a shrimp beam trawl catcher-processor who has stopped fishing in a district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level shall contact, by telephone or in person, the **ADF&G office specified by the department** [LOCAL ADF&G AREA OFFICE IN PETERSBURG] and report the information specified in this paragraph before fishing in a new district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level established by the department.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The regulation currently requires beam trawl shrimp catcher processors to contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Petersburg area office for their weekly call, and when changing districts. The fishery is no longer

managed out of the Petersburg area office, thus maintaining a requirement for communications to be with this office causes unneeded confusion. The proposed language would allow the department to designate a single contact point preseason.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-098)

PROPOSAL 106 - 5 AAC 31.XXX. Shrimp beam trawl fishery task force. Establish a shrimp beam trawl fishery task force, as follows:

Recommendation: Establish a Southeast Alaska Shrimp Beam Trawl Task Force and direct it to examine:

- i.) Economic revitalization of the Area A shrimp beam trawl fishery, including support for both the catcher (for peeling) and catcher processor sectors, and promotion of value maximization and full utilization of the resource; and
- ii) All rules currently applicable to the fishery for efficacy, and with recommending changes, additions or deletions to such rules to benefit fleet economics, safety and resource conservation. Given the industry’s dire economic straits, the board should provide for rule changes and implementation of Task Force recommendations within the 3-year cycle so as not to delay or forestall vitally needed changes.”

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 31.111. Shrimp Beam Trawl Fishing Seasons and logbook requirements for Registration Area A. etc. Establish a Shrimp Beam Trawl Task Force

For the January, 2012 Southeast shellfish meeting in Petersburg I submitted a proposal under this same title (Proposal 177 / page 154 in the 2012 proposal book) stating:

“The board should establish a Beam Trawl Task Force tasked with:

- i) Economic revitalization of the Area A shrimp beam trawl fishery, including support for both the catcher (for peeling) and catcher processor sectors, and promotion of value maximization and full utilization of the resource; and
- ii) Examining all rules currently applicable to the fisher for efficacy, and with recommending changes, additions or deletions to such rules to benefit fleet economics, safety and resource conservation. Given the industry’s dire economic straits, the board should provide for rule changes and implementation of Task Force recommendations within the three year cycle so as not to delay or forestall vitally needed changes.”

In framing the issue for the board I noted that the shrimp trawl fishery — while in trouble — was a venerable contributor to the regional economy, with nearly a century of biologically sustainable economic output. In 2010 only 4 of 27 permits were fished, and landings were down to less than 3% of the prior 15-year average. Many of the problems faced by the industry were due to fierce

international economic competition, but I also noted failure to innovate and an economic model — supported by existing fishery management — built around the lowest value product forms.

In 2012 the board recognized the problems facing the industry, but elected not to put a formal task force in place, instead it directing the department to work in “normal channels” with industry to identify possible management improvements.

Shrimp beam trawl landings bounced back somewhat in 2011, with some 414,000 pounds taken as a result of some buying interest by an out of state peeler. However, they slumped again in 2012 to 233,000 pounds — less than 10% of the mid-point guide harvest range (GHR). Participation remained very low, with only 6 fishermen making landings, and the value of permits dropped to an all-time low of just \$12,900, considerably less than a third of the 2001 value of \$43,800. In sum, the fishery remains in dire economic shape, with no in-region processor, a few fishermen struggling along with meager direct markets, and most just “sitting it out”, hoping for better condition.

Could a task force have helped? The answer is “yes”. A task force could have catalyzed renewed interest. It could have worked on regulatory issues of importance to long-term regeneration of the fishery. (I have introduced proposals on two such issues – vessel size and easing a gear restriction — for consideration at the 2015 Southeast Shellfish meeting. But many others, like mesh sizes, additional open areas, etc. could benefit from industry/management deliberation.) The existence of a task force could even have helped the industry raise needed funds. (Just recently a NOAA S-K grant application to help fund industry marketing, product development and organization failed in large measure because it could not be linked to an existing management improvement effort. The application was sponsored by Southeast Conference, on behalf of the industry, but the existence of a Board of Fisheries empowered task force would have greatly strengthened its rationale.)

PROPOSED BY: Greg Fisk (EF-C14-178)

PROPOSAL 107 - 5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close a portion of District 8 near Petersburg to commercial pot shrimp fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 31.136 CLOSED WATERS IN REGISTRATION AREA A. Shrimp may not be taken **(6) with trawls and pots in the waters of Frederick Sound from Point Frederick to a point northeast of the Sukoi Islands of 56° 54.467' N latitude and 132° 54.324' W longitude and along 56° 54.467' N latitude to a point on Kupreanof Island, and that portion of Wrangell Narrows north of the latitude of Green Point.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The intensity of the commercial pot fishery and the duration of the trawl shrimp fishery immediately adjacent to the City of Petersburg reduces the opportunities and availability of spot prawns, pink shrimp, coonstripe shrimp, and to a lesser degree sidestripe shrimp to personal use users. A small

commercial closure around the community will provide for the personal use of shrimp that are currently reduced by commercial harvests and seasons in the area.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Burrell (EF-C14-070)

PROPOSAL 108 – 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.
Clarify weekly commercial fishing periods for sea cucumbers, as follows:

5 AAC 38.140(b) and (d) are amended to read:

(b) Sea cucumbers may be taken from October 1 through March 31. Fishing periods will be as follows:

(1) [THE] fishing [PERIODS IN OCTOBER] will occur during periods set by the commissioner by emergency order; the **weekly fishing period** [PERIODS] will be on Mondays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; **beginning in November, fishing periods may be extended by emergency order to obtain the guideline harvest level;**

(2) [THE FISHING PERIODS FROM NOVEMBER THROUGH MARCH WILL OCCUR DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS ON MONDAY AND ONE-HALF OF THE DAYLIGHT HOURS ON TUESDAY EACH WEEK DURING PERIODS SET BY THE COMMISSIONER BY EMERGENCY ORDER, EXCEPT THAT] during the week of Thanksgiving, **the fishing period** [PERIODS] will occur **on Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon** [DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS ON SUNDAY AND ONE-HALF OF THE DAYLIGHT HOURS ON MONDAY; THESE FISHING PERIODS MAY BE EXTENDED BY EMERGENCY ORDER TO OBTAIN THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL].

...

(d) Except as specified in (l) of this section, a CFEC permit holder may not land or possess more than 2,000 pounds of eviscerated sea cucumbers during any **weekly** fishing period established by the department. Harvest limits may be repealed by emergency order if guideline harvest levels have not been reached. **Open fishing times occurring on Monday and Tuesday each week, or on Sunday and Monday during the week of Thanksgiving, are considered one open period.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Language in the sea cucumber management plan defining a fishing period is unclear and confusing. Open fishing times that occur on Monday and Tuesday (or Sunday and Monday during the week of Thanksgiving) are not clearly defined as one fishing period. This is important since there is a 2,000 pound trip limit for each fishing period established by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department). There is general understanding among users, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and the department that fishery openings occurring on Monday and Tuesday are considered one fishing period and the trip limit applies accordingly. Clarification of the weekly fishing period will remove any confusion that exists.

All fishery openings are being described by starting and ending times, in place of “daylight hours” from November through March, to reflect actual practice.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-101)

PROPOSAL 109 - 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.
Reduce commercial sea cucumber fishing periods in October and establish specific fishing times in November, as follows:

5 AAC 38.140 Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan. (a)
(1) the fishing periods in October will occur during periods set by the commissioner, by emergency order; the fishing periods will be on Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **The fishing periods starting in November will occur during periods set by the commissioner, by emergency order, the fishing periods will be on Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce the sea cucumber fishery from 1 1/2 days to one day per week during the month of October. This may help extend the season. The fishing time beginning in November would go back to 1 1/2 days per week.

PROPOSED BY: Phil Doherty (EF-C14-059)

PROPOSAL 110 - 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.
Allow increased trip limit and permit stacking in commercial sea cucumber fishery, follows:

5 AAC 38.140 Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan
(d) Except as specified in (l) of this section, a CFEC permit holder may not land or possess more than 2,000 pounds of eviscerated sea cucumber during any fishing period established by the department **except if they are operated a stacked permit which will allow them to harvest an additional 50% of the established harvest limit.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The sea cucumber fishery is facing a declining resource due to an increasing sea otter population. Sea otters will severely reduce if not eliminate sea cucumbers in a harvest area once they become established in that area. Sea cucumber divers are looking at reducing the amount of effort on the fishing grounds as areas are eliminated from harvest and the remaining fishing grounds become more crowded. Sea cucumber divers are managed on a 2,000 pound trip limit per open period. Sea cucumber divers would like to be able to stack permits with the second permit only being allowed 50% of the harvest limit. That is if a diver buys a second transferable permit then if the established harvest limit is 2,000 pounds the diver could harvest 3,000 pounds.

This should not affect the department's abilities to correctly manage the fishery. They would need to know how many stacked permits are available to fish in making their weekly harvest calculations.

This may also slow the fishery down which may help the market price.

PROPOSED BY: Phil Doherty (EF-C14-057)

PROPOSAL 111 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan. Allow department to set trip limits on geoduck harvest based on market conditions, as follows:

5AAC 38.142 Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan

(k) The commissioner may establish the maximum amount of geoducks that may be harvested during a fishing period. If the commissioner determines that a rate of delivering geoducks will contribute to conservation, law enforcement, waste reduction, or assist the development of the fishery, **or if market conditions warrant a reduction in the fishery**, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, a fishing period in a designated area, and reopen a fishing period in the same area for which the commissioner designates a rate of delivery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southeast Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) would like to be able to use trip limits at times in the geoduck clam fishery to limit the harvest to meet marketing demands. While 5AAC 38.142 (k) allows for trip limits to "assist the development of the fishery" it is unclear and perhaps allocative for ADF&G to impose trip limits if SARDFA's Geoduck Committee recommends it. The department has allowed trip limits in the past due to marketing problems, but only when 100% of the Geoduck Committee recommends it.

SARDFA would like to allow the department, working cooperatively with SARDFA's Geoduck Committee, to use trip limits when a majority of the Geoduck Committee votes to impose a trip limit.

PROPOSED BY: Phil Doherty (EF-C14-056)

PROPOSAL 112 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan. Establish a weekly trip limit of 1,000 pounds of geoduck clams for each CFEC permit holder with no more than two permit holders on a vessel, as follows:

Establish a weekly trip limit of 1,000 pounds of geoduck clams per valid Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) geoduck permit holder.

During an open fishing period, no more than two individuals, each of whom possess a CFEC geoduck clam permit, may operate diving gear and land commercially harvested geoduck clams from a vessel that is licensed or registered to commercially fish for geoduck clams.

No vessel that is licensed or registered to commercially fish for geoduck clams may land or possess more than 2,000 pounds of geoduck clams per week.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue for the Board of Fisheries to address is the "derby-style" geoduck clam fishery in Southeast Alaska. This manner of fishing greatly contributes to a depressed fisherman price and substantially increases diving risks by concentrating vessels and divers in small areas for limited time openings. This has resulted in greater than normal fishing risks, i.e. diver entanglements, vessel confrontations and low fishing prices.

PROPOSED BY: Cornelis Bakker (EF-C14-167)

PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 02.15X. Closed waters in Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area. 5 AAC 28.150. Closed waters in Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. 5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A. 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. 5 AAC 34.15X. Closed waters in Registration Area A. 5 AAC 35.15X. Closed waters in Registration Area A. 5 AAC 38.1XX. Closed waters in Registration Area A. 5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeastern Alaska Area. 5 AAC 77.6XX. Closed waters in the Southeastern Alaska Area. This proposal is also scheduled for consideration during the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish meeting. Prohibit fishing, around Cache Island, for bottomfish, crab, and shrimp by all users, as follows:

Create a micro marine conservation zone around Cache Island, Naha Bay Southeast Alaska; where all bottom fishing, crabbing and shrimping will be prohibited by all groups. The no fish zone will extend from shore out to 300 feet.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Help depleted bottom fish rebound and relieve stress of over fishing for bottom fish species and shellfish.

Micro marine conservation zones have been successfully created around the globe and have enabled fish populations to rebound successfully from the stresses of over fishing. Rather than regulate the single species of fishes; micro conservation zones help to restore and sustain an entire ecosystem and their inhabitants. In setting aside a small area; the conservation zone will have little effect on user groups. But their impact on the fish populations will be significant over

time and will benefit areas beyond the conservation zone. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough set aside all the islands from Clover Pass to Naha Bay as preservation islands where no development is allowed. We are taking it one step further and creating the water around Cache Island as a conservation zone. They work together.

PROPOSED BY: Naha Conservation

(EF-C14-187)

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT FINFISH
FEBRUARY 23–MARCH 3, 2015

PROPOSAL 114 - 5 AAC 27.190. Herring Management Plan for Southeastern Alaska Area. Establish a management plan for herring spawning aggregates that have been below threshold, as follows:

5 AAC 27.190 *Herring Management Plan for Southeast Alaska Area.* For the management of herring fisheries in the Southeast Alaska Area, the department

- (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 estimate 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;

(7) shall allow spawning biomass to exceed minimum biomass thresholds for five (5) consecutive years before fishing can occur.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the *Southeast Alaska Sac Roe Herring Fishery Management Plan* harvests Pacific herring stocks exceeding minimum biomass thresholds determined by Alaska Department of Fish and Game. These thresholds are a measure of biomass available, but care needs to be taken when harvesting stocks that have not recently met the threshold limit in place for that stock. Stocks that have been depressed, but recently show a spike in biomass, could be at risk of overharvest or be unsustainable if conservative measures, such as meeting thresholds for five consecutive years, are not put in place. Current thresholds do not allow for stocks to rebuild to pre-fishery biomasses and are managed under a shifted baseline.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka Tribe of Alaska (EF-C14-173)

PROPOSAL 115 - 5 AAC 27.190. Herring Management Plan for Southeastern Alaska Area. Establish a management plan for herring spawning aggregates that have been below threshold, as follows:

5 AAC 27.190 *Herring Management Plan for Southeast Alaska Area.* For the management of herring fisheries in the Southeast Alaska Area, the department:

- (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 as an exploitation rate between 10 percent and 20 percent of the estimate 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;

(7) shall allow spawning biomass to exceed minimum biomass thresholds for five (5) consecutive years before a fishery can occur.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the Southeast Alaska Sac Roe Herring Fishery Management Plan harvests Pacific herring stocks exceeding minimum biomass thresholds determined by Alaska Department of Fish and Game. These thresholds are a measure of biomass available, but care needs to be taken when harvesting stocks that have not recently met the threshold limit in place for the stock. Stocks that have been depressed, but recently spike in biomass, could be at risk of overharvest or be unsustainable if conservation measures, such as meeting thresholds for five consecutive years, are not in place. Current thresholds do not allow for stocks to rebuild to pre-fishery biomasses.

PROPOSED BY: Organized Village of Kasaan (HQ-F14-037)

PROPOSAL 116 - 5 AAC 27.190. Herring Management Plan for Southeastern Alaska Area. Require a commercial herring fishery to occur when herring biomass is above minimum threshold, as follows:

That the wording of the section be changed to read "except as provided elsewhere, shall allow a harvest of herring at an exploitation rate of between 10 percent and 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? The section reads "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." I would like to change the wording "may allow a harvest" to "shall allow a Harvest."

If the minimum threshold is met, there should be a fishery. The science is there to protect the stock and threshold levels are set so harvest will not be detrimental to the stock. The department needs to adhere to their science and not use arbitrary "feelings" if a fishery is opened or not.

PROPOSED BY: Larry Demmert (EF-C14-028)

PROPOSAL 117 - 5 AAC 01.716. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amount necessary for subsistence uses. Lower the amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence for Sitka Sound herring, as follows:

The amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) should be based on good data which is available. Lower the ANS to 60,000 to 120,000 pounds or recommend a program for further study to corroborate Southeast Herring Conservation Alliance (SHCA) harvest numbers.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The ANS for Section 13-A and 13-B is based on anecdotal information. There is better information on which to base the ANS.

Herring eggs on branch harvest has not been well documented by weights and measures during the period from 1970 to 2008. However, in 2009 and 2010, SHCA conducted a herring eggs on branch harvest program with a strict protocols for weights, measures, and mapping. No data are available for 2011; unfortunately a local group prevented the harvest. In 2012 through 2014, the program was re-instituted continuing precise weights and measures of herring eggs on branches.

During the study period from 2009 to 2014, it is evident that variation in the herring egg branch harvest is not due to the sac roe fishery, but rather timing of spawn, spawn duration, weather, and participation effort. According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Subsistence Division, participation in herring egg branch harvest has steady declined. Our observations confirm low participation. What SHCA has found is that a harvest of 30,000 to 40,000 pounds of eggs saturates the gifting of eggs in Sitka. Additional eggs are certainly harvested by individuals, whom we have also monitored, but there is insufficient effort to harvest more than 100,000 pounds and it is likely much lower than 100,000 pounds.

The current ANS are not real harvest numbers based on good data. If the current ANS 136,000–237,000 were not being used as a tool to shut down the sac roe herring fishery it would be immaterial. The ANS has been artificially inflated for that very reason. The fact is, it is possible to harvest this amount of eggs although 186,000 pounds, the mid-point of the ANS, would require 300 4" diameter hemlock trees and five or six forty foot boats with good hydraulics to harvest it in the 10 day spawn period when the eggs would be of high quality.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Herring Conservation Alliance (EF-C14-111)

PROPOSAL 118 - 5 AAC 27.195. Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery. Modify distribution of commercial harvest under the Sitka Sound herring management plan to provide additional subsistence harvest opportunity, as follows:

(2) distribute the commercial harvest **over space and time**[by fishing time and area]**by allowing fifty (50) percent of the guideline harvest level (GHL) to harvested then allowing twenty five (25) percent of the anticipated nautical miles of spawn to occur prior to harvest the remaining GHL**[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).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Issue: At the 2012 preseason stakeholder meeting, the Sitka Sound commercial herring fishery manager was asked, “considering that subsistence needs were only met twice in the last seven years, how do you plan on changing the way you manage the fishery over space and time to ensure a more reasonable opportunity exists for subsistence needs to be met?” He replied that he was not going to change the way he managed the fishery and that he felt there were other variables (outside of the fishery) that affected the subsistence harvest. Although there may be variables outside the manager’s control that affect the subsistence harvest, those variables need to be taken into account when managing the one variable he can control, the commercial sac roe fishery. This proposal will force the distribution of the fishery over time to ensure a more reasonable opportunity exist for subsistence needs to be met.

What would happen if nothing is done? The fisheries manager’s refusal to change the way the fishery is managed over space and time will continue to result in a high frequency of needs not being met.

Other solutions considered: Administrative action is the only remedy at this time.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Feldpausch (EF-C14-186)

PROPOSAL 119 - 5 AAC 27.150. Waters closed to herring fishing in Southeastern Alaska Area. Remove the area locally known as the "core area" from the closed waters of District 13 in Sitka Sound, as follows:

5 AAC 27.150 (a) would end at (6). (7) District 13, in the waters north and west of the Eliason Harbor.....etc. would be deleted from regulation as a closed area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The closed waters described in 27.150 (a)(7), locally referred to as the Core Area, is not necessary and should be repealed. Established in 2012, the Core Area with major islands Middle, Kasiana, and Crow has had good quality spawn deposition since the 1970’s and is well documented in Alaska Department of Fish and Game data. Herring eggs oHQ-F14-061n branch harvest has not been well documented by weights and measures during the same period. However, in 2009 and 2010, Southeast Herring Conservation Alliance (SHCA) conducted a herring eggs on branch harvest program with a strict protocol for weights, measures, and mapping; these were years when the Core Area was open. No data is available for 2011; unfortunately a local group prevented the harvest. In 2012 through 2014, years when the Core Area was closed as per 27.150 (a)(7), the program was re-instituted continuing precise weights and measures of herring eggs on branches.

During this period from 2009 to 2014, it is evident that variation in the herring egg branch harvest is not due to the sac roe fishery, but rather timing of spawn, spawn duration, weather, and

participation effort. The sac roe fishery has been prosecuted in the Core Area during the study period, and frequently adjacent to the Core Area with no ill effect on our herring egg on branch harvest program. All eggs are provided to the community for free.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Herring Conservation Alliance (EF-C14-108)

PROPOSAL 120 - 5 AAC 27.150. Waters closed to herring fishing in Southeastern Alaska Area. Remove the area locally known as the "core area" from the closed waters of District 13 in Sitka Sound, as follows:

5 AAC 27.150 (a) would end at (6). (7) District 13, in the waters north and west of the Eliason Harbor.....etc. would be deleted from regulation as a closed area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The closed waters described in **27.150 (a)(7)** locally referred to as the Core Area is not necessary and should be rescinded. Established in 2012, the Core Area with major islands Middle, Kasiana, and Crow has had good quality spawn deposition since the 1970's and is well documented in ADF&G data. Herring eggs on branch harvest has not been well documented by weights and measures during the same period. However, in 2009 and 2010 SHCA conducted a herring eggs on branch harvest program with a strict protocols for weights, measures, and mapping; these were years when the Core Area was open. No data is available for 2011, unfortunately a local group prevented the harvest. In 2012 through 2014, years when the Core Area was closed as per **27.150 (a)(7)**, the program was re-instituted continuing precise weights and measures of herring eggs on branches.

During this period from 2009 to 2014, it is evident that variation in the herring egg branch harvest is not due to the sac roe fishery, but rather timing of spawn, spawn duration, weather, and participation effort. The sac roe fishery has been prosecuted in the Core Area during the study period, and frequently adjacent to the Core Area with no ill effect on our herring egg on branch harvest program. All eggs are provided to the community for free.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Herring Conservation Alliance (EF-C14-109)

PROPOSAL 121 - 5 AAC 27.150. Waters closed to herring fishing in Southeastern Alaska Area. Expand commercial herring fishery closed waters of District 13 in Sitka Sound, as follows:

Exclude commercial sac roe herring fishing within a defined core spawning and subsistence area within Sitka Sound, to allow for a more reasonable opportunity for subsistence needs to be met, as follows:

(7) District 13, in the waters **encompassed by a line extending from the western most tip of Makhnati Island, to the northern most tip Aleutski Island, to the Baranof Island shore at the O'Connell Bridge, north along the Baranof Island shoreline, to Harbor Point, to the northern most point of Big Gavanski Island, from the western most point**

of Big Gavanski Island, to northwestern tip of Crow Island, to Bieli Rocks, and ending at western most tip of Makhnati Island. [NORTH AND WEST OF THE ELIASON HARBOR BREAKWATER AND MAKHNATI ISLAND CAUSEWAY FROM THE WESTERNMOST TIP OF MAKHNATI ISLAND TO THE EASTERNMOST POINT ON BIELI ROCK TO THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF GAGARIN ISLAND TO A POINT ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF CROW ISLAND AT 57° 06.43' N. LAT., 135° 28.27' W. LONG. TO A POINT ON THE WESTERN SHORE OF MIDDLE ISLAND AT 57° 06.41' N. LAT., 135° 28.11' W. LONG. TO A POINT ON THE SOUTHEASTERN SHORE OF MIDDLE ISLAND AT 57° 05.56' N .LAT., 135° 26.23' W. LONG. TO THE GREEN NAVIGATION MARKER NORTHEAST OF KASIANA ISLAND, TO THE BARANOF ISLAND SHORE AT 57° 05.26' N. LAT., 135° 22.95' W. LONG.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the last 13 years, subsistence needs (amount necessary for subsistence) have been met six times, with needs only being met twice in the last seven years (2007–2013). The harvest of herring by the sac roe fishery in or adjacent to the core subsistence herring egg harvest area disrupts pre-spawn and spawning herring and has a negative impact on the quantity and quality of the subsistence harvest. In 2012 the Board of Fisheries modified a similar proposal and approved a closure area approximately half the size of what was requested. The closure of this approved area was adhered to in 2012 and 2013; unfortunately the ANS was not met in either of those years. Closure of the full area requested will increase the opportunity for the ANS to be met.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka Tribe of Alaska (EF-C14-179)

PROPOSAL 122 - 5 AAC 27.160. Quotas and guideline harvest levels for Southeastern Alaska Area. Lower the spawning biomass threshold for Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery from 25,000 to 20,000 tons, as follows:

Unless the department believes there is a sound biological reason to have the threshold at 25,000 tons, the spawning biomass threshold should be rolled back to 20,000 tons.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The spawning biomass threshold for harvest 27.160 (g) in the Sitka Sound Sac Roe Herring Fishery is currently 25,000 tons. The threshold was raised five years ago from 20,000 to the current value, but not based on scientific or stock assessment reasoning. The department did not propose the change at the time and was neutral on the 25,000 ton threshold. It was pushed through on a split vote.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Herring Conservation Alliance (EF-C14-127)

PROPOSAL 123 - 5 AAC 27.160. Quotas and guideline harvest levels for Southeastern Alaska Area. Assign equal quota shares in the Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery, as follows:

For the G01A herring fishery, the quota shall be divided equally amongst participating permit holders, with not more than three permits per vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Make the G01A herring fishery equal split. Due to the lack of ability of Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) to manage the G01A herring fishery, i.e.; have not caught even half the quota in the last two years due to the biomass not separating until spawning, making it impossible to catch the quota, the quota shall be divided equally amongst participating permit holders, with not more than three permits per vessel. This will allow for fishers to make sets on the biomass under department supervision without catching too much of the fish at one time or going over the quota.

PROPOSED BY: Larry Demmert (EF-C14-024)

PROPOSAL 124 - 5 AAC 27.160. Quotas and guideline harvest levels for Southeastern Alaska Area. Allow purse seine permit holders to vote on equal quota shares in the Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery, as follows:

Permit holders in the G01A herring fishery shall be able to vote before the start of the fishery or during the fishery, for equal split, and a super majority, 70%, shall qualify the fishery for equal split.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the G01A herring fishery the only way for an equal split is if all the permit holders agree. This is unacceptable and causes great loss of income. The department cannot manage the fishery effectively when the herring biomass is so large and the last few years the herring have not separated out very much and have almost immediately hit the beach spawning. I am suggesting that it should be a super majority instead of 100% of permit holders voting to agree to an equal split fishery. In 2012, seiners only caught 1/3 of what the legal quota was (the department erroneously and in my opinion illegally reduced the quota in 2013 without any scientific basis) and caught less than half the quota in 2012. This loss of the fishery cost over \$7 million to the fishermen, \$140,000 per permit and \$1.4 million to the tenders and unknown millions to the processors in 2013 (based on 10,000 tons not caught) and over \$8 million to the fishermen, \$160,000 per permit and \$3 million to tenders in 2012 (based on 15,000 tons not caught). This is unacceptable.

To let a few permit holders cause this much economic loss and hardship to hundreds of crew and processing workers, not to forget all the infrastructure jobs that are affected.

PROPOSED BY: Larry Demmert (EF-C14-026)

PROPOSAL 125 - 5 AAC 27.160. Quotas and guideline harvest levels for Southeastern Alaska Area. Reduce the harvest rate and establish a maximum guideline harvest level for the Sitka Sound commercial sac roe herring fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 27.160

(g) The guideline harvest level for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B shall be established by the department **at** [AND WILL BE] a harvest rate **of 10 percent of the spawning biomass.** [PERCENTAGE THAT IS NOT LESS THAN 12 PERCENT, NOT MORE THAN 20 PERCENT, AND WITHIN THAT RANGE SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE FOLLOWING FORMULA:

$$\text{HARVEST RATE PERCENTAGE} = 2 + 8 \text{ [SPAWNING BIOMASS (IN TONS)] / 20,000}$$

The guideline harvest level shall not exceed 10,000 tons. 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? The current guideline harvest level (GHL) for the Sitka Sound sac roe fishery is exceeding market demand and is one of the variables affecting subsistence herring egg harvester's ability to meet their needs or the amount necessary for subsistence. A proposed 10 percent GHL with a 10,000 ton cap would maximize the value of the resource to the sac roe fishery, other commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries (salmon, ground fish, etc.), and the ecosystem. These proposed amendments would increase subsistence herring egg harvest opportunities under the same premise that the state's hatchery program operates under that, putting/leaving (in the case of herring) more fish in the water increases harvest opportunities.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka Tribe of Alaska (EF-C14-176)

PROPOSAL 126 - 5 AAC 27.XXX. New Section. Establish a commercial open pound herring spawn on kelp fishery in Sitka Sound, as follows:

The change in regulation language would allow herring seine permit holders in Sitka to use open platforms to harvest herring roe on kelp. Many ideas were given to the department and board during previous board meetings.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 1998 and 1999 an experimental open pound herring roe on kelp fishery was conducted in Sitka Sound. This project identified open pounds as a viable alternative to the sac roe fishery and produced published studies, data, and video which demonstrate the positive results of this alternative harvest method. The proposal for open pounding in Sitka Sound was first presented to the Board of Fisheries in 1996. Nineteen years is a long time ago and the environment surrounding the sac roe fishery has changed. Perhaps it is time for the board to consider this concept again. Open pound herring roe

on kelp as an alternative harvest method promotes conservation and would increase the value of the herring fishery in Sitka Sound.

PROPOSED BY: Darrell Kapp (EF-C14-091)

PROPOSAL 127 - 5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-B, 12-A, and 13-C, and District 7. Reduce kelp allocations in the commercial herring spawn on kelp fishery to no more than 1,000 blades per permit holder, as follows:

The kelp allocation in any area in southeast Alaska shall not exceed 1,000 blades per permit holder, whether single or multiple permit pens.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In all southeast spawn on kelp fisheries, the kelp allocation for a permit holder shall not exceed 1,000 blades, whether it is a multiple or single pen. The kelp market is a finite market of around 1,000 tons of product per year. In years of large abundance the market crashes, resulting in very low prices, i.e. \$2.00 per lb. This has happened several times, each time taking several years to recover. Also I believe that the large kelp allocations in Hoonah Sound had a direct impact in the collapse of the stock, due to too many fish in the pens, over fishing.

PROPOSED BY: Larry Demmert (EF-C14-025)

PROPOSAL 128 - 5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-B, 12-A, and 13-C, and District 7. Modify herring spawn on kelp pound configurations, as follows:

5 AAC 27.185(cc) Two closed pounds as specified in 5 AAC 27.130(c) may be combined into one single closed pound structure and operated by multiple permit holders. The combined pound may have a maximum surface area of 800 square feet with a maximum depth level of 30 feet. The middle web cannot be removed, it can be weighed down. The kelp allocations per permit holder and other provisions specified in this section also apply to the combined pounds; however permit holders may transfer additional herring into the combined single closed pound structure after the two closed pounds are connected and combined into a single structure. A Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permit holder who intends to operate a combined pound must register with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game before placing the pound in the water. This pound structure may not be connected to any other pound structure.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 5 AAC 27.185(cc) delete the words (only when kelp is at the maximum allocation) and add a sentence saying (the web in the middle cannot be removed, it can be weighed down with a weight.) We have been doing this for the last two years and it works well. The fish just slowly move back and forth over the middle web which is held down about one foot with a weight.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Svenson (HQ-F14-004)

PROPOSAL 129 - 5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds fisheries in Sections 3-B, 12-A, and 13-C, and District 7. Allow permit holders to retain herring in a closed pound for seven days, as follows:

Herring shall be released from the pounds by noon on the seventh day.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to change the release day of herring in the pound fishery to noon, 12:00 p.m., on the seventh day. The release time of midnight on the sixth day causes undue hardship plus it makes the actual time of fish in the pens to less than six days. It makes it more difficult for harvest and gives the chance of sea lions to enter pens and ruin product. We are small businessmen and a family fishery, and to maximize the product we have to stay at the pens until midnight and then guard them until daylight when it is safer to harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Larry Demmert (EF-C14-092)

PROPOSAL 130 - 5 AAC 28.1XX. Spiny dogfish pot fishery in Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area; and 5 AAC 28.174. Spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. Create a commercial fishery for spiny dogfish in Southeast Alaska using pot gear, as follows:

Create a new spiny dogfish pot fishery in Southeast Alaska with regulations as described to be determined by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

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

1. Spiny dogfish are currently an underutilized fishery.
2. In processing spiny dogfish, nearly all of the carcass is utilized, (including organs) except the head. When markets are developed, this fishery could provide new revenue streams and opportunities for fishers, processors, and communities.
3. Spiny dogfish tend to travel in large dense packs by size and sex. Longline spiny dogfish fisheries in British Columbia's Strait of Georgia have resulted in concerns over the inability to fish selectively, resulting in unwanted harvest of fecund females. A pot fishery could resolve those issues by the fact that the fish are harvested live and could be released unharmed, coupled with regulations on:
 - a. Season duration

- b. Pot limits
- c. Escapement rings
- e. Legal size retention (slot limits)

PROPOSED BY: Don Westlund and Larry McQuarrie (HQ-F14-015)

PROPOSAL 131 - 5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. Allow pots in commercial sablefish fishery, as follows:

Insert language in regulations to allow pots as well as long line fishing in black cod fishery. Fish that are caught in pots would be harvested without loss.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Would like to see regulation changes to allow not only longline but pot gear to be used in the Southeast black cod fishery. Also to allow longliners the ability to transfer non-utilized quota from longline to pots. Separate fishing areas or times to avoid gear conflicts.

Reason 1. Pot gear would cut down on fish loss due to whales, birds, sand fleas, and slime eels. As well would reduce bycatch mortality. Create an opportunity for utilization of total allowable catch. Like to erase the fisheries management gray area on fish mortality and fish landed.

Alternate pot gear would alleviate rush to get quota out of the water before conflict in other fisheries quota holders are involved in.

PROPOSED BY: John and Cindy Johanson (HQ-F14-054)

PROPOSAL 132 - 5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. Add pot gear as a legal gear type for permits currently limited to longline gear for commercial sablefish harvest in Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict fishery, as follows:

Allowing current C61C permit holders to use pot gear for sablefish harvest.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict (SSEI) permit holders C61C permits to elect to harvest their equal quota share (EQS) using longline pot gear as a gear type and modify the sablefish fishing season to account for the alternative harvest methods while retaining separate harvest period for SSEI C91C permit holders.

Allowing current C61C permit holders to use pot gear will to the extent adopted eliminate degradation caused by sperm whale interaction.

In addition, pot gear harvest methods eliminate loss from visibility injured or dead immature sablefish better protecting the resource.

PROPOSED BY: John Johansen (HQ-F14-061)

PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. Add pot gear as a legal gear type for permits currently limited to longline gear for commercial sablefish harvest in Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict fishery, as follows:

Allowing current C61C permit holders to use pot gear for sablefish harvest.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict (SSEI) permit holders C61C permits to elect to harvest their equal quota share (EQS) using longline pot gear as a gear type and modify the sablefish fishing season to account for the alternative harvest methods while retaining separate harvest period for SSEI C91C permit holders.

Allowing current C61C permit holders to use pot gear will to the extent adopted eliminate degradation caused by sperm whale interaction.

In addition, pot gear harvest methods eliminate loss from visibility injured or dead immature sablefish better protecting the resource.

PROPOSED BY: John Johansen (HQ-F14-061)

PROPOSAL 134 - 5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. Add pot gear as a legal gear type for commercial sablefish permits currently limited to longline gear in the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict fishery, as follows:

For the southern Southeast Alaska sablefish fishery, permit holders have the option of using pot gear or hook and longline gear.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently in the southern Southeast sablefish fishery there are two seasons, June 1 to August 15 longline only (21 permits) and September 1 to November 15 pot only (3 permits).

On June 1 typically more than half the longline permits begin fishing on finite productive fishing grounds causing gear conflict and rockfish bycatch along with a disproportionate amount of sablefish biomass removal in 3 to 5 days.

I believe that if the option to use pots instead of longline were allowed, the gear conflict would be less, rockfish and other bycatch would be greatly reduced, and predation by sand fleas and hagfish on sablefish might be eliminated.

This option has been allowed in the Prince William Sound sablefish fishery.

Allowing pots would also give the option to fish grounds infested with sand fleas and hagfish not being utilized by the longline fleet. Pots allow the fish to swim around escaping the sand flea and hagfish.

Pots allow for live delivery of product increasing revenue per pound.

PROPOSED BY: Bill Connor (EF-C14-010)

PROPOSAL 135 - 5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. Update and clarify the areas where sablefish may be taken with longline gear in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, as follows:

5 AAC 28.130(a) is amended to read:

(a) In the Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict, [THE SOUTHEAST OUTSIDE SUBDISTRICT, AND THE EAST YAKUTAT DISTRICT,] sablefish may be taken only with longlines. In the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict, sablefish may be taken only with longlines and pots.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? State waters sablefish fisheries in Southeast Alaska exist only in waters of the Northern Southeast Inside (Chatham Strait) and Southern Southeast Inside (Clarence Strait) subdistricts. The East Yakutat District is no longer defined under Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area regulations; this area is now categorized as the East Yakutat (EYKT) Section. The EYKT section is located within the Southeast Outside (SEO) Subdistrict. 5 AAC 28.170(h) prohibits the retention of sablefish in state waters of the SEO, except as provided for in 5 AAC 28.170(c). Elimination of the reference to EYKT and SEO in this regulation would help avoid potential confusion over the possibility of sablefish fishing opportunities in these areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-077)

PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 77.674. Personal use bottomfish fishery. Establish 50 fish harvest limit for personal use sablefish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 77.674(6) (A) the annual possession limit of sablefish is 50 per household.
(B) the maximum number of permits that may be fished at any one time per vessel is 4 permits.

Above would be added to the following existing language: A personal use fishing permit issued by the department under 5 AAC 77.674 is required to take sablefish; the department will issue only one sablefish personal permit per household per year; a permit holder shall record personal use sablefish harvest information on harvest recording form provided by the department.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is currently no limit on personal use sablefish harvest and no restrictions on the amount of longline gear that can be used to harvest personal use sablefish. Sablefish stocks are at low levels in both state and federal waters with no indication of strong incoming year classes. Unrestricted personal use harvest invites undue pressure on stocks and distortion/abuses of personal use needs.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Longline Fishermen’s Association (HQ-F14-031)

PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC 77.674. Personal use bottomfish fishery. Establish an annual limit and gear restriction in the personal use sablefish fishery, as follows:

Taking of sablefish under the required permit is limited to 50 fish per year. Hook and line gear is legal gear with a hook limit of 350 hooks per permit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unlike for salmon, there is currently no fish or gear limit for sablefish taken under a Department personal use/subsistence permit although a permit is required. The amount of reported catch from these permits doubled between 2012 and 2013. The Board of fisheries generally sets personal use and subsistence fishery limits at an amount typical of household use. Setting a gear limit comparable to the catch limit will reduce by catch and discard mortality.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Curran (EF-C14-137)

PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 28.175. Logbooks for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. Require groundfish fishermen using dinglebar, mechanical jig, or hand troll gear to report the specific location of fishing operation by latitude and longitude in logbooks and clarify the reporting of amount of hooks fished to be consistent with that information requested in the logbook, as follows:

5 AAC 28.175(b)(2) is amended to read:

(2) for dinglebar **troll gear**, mechanical **jigging machines** [JIG], or hand troll gear must include the date, the specific location of harvest by **latitude and longitude, in degrees and decimal minutes**, [SIX DIGIT STATISTICAL AREA] and nearest headland, the number of lines and **total number of** hooks [PER LINES] used, the average depth fished, the hours fished [FOR EACH LINE], and the number of bycatch fish taken, by species, **for each unique geographic location fished**; for the target species the following is required:

- (A) the number retained;
- (B) the number discarded; and
- (C) for lingcod only, their estimated sex ratio;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current logbook reporting requirements, consisting of six-digit statistical area and the nearest headland, do not

always provide staff with enough detailed information to accurately assign groundfish harvest to the proper area. Logbooks are often submitted without statistical area information or adequate headland descriptions for staff to make an accurate area assignment. A requirement to report latitude and longitude of fishing locations will not only provide for more accurate fish ticket data, it will also furnish staff with detailed information on where these fisheries are prosecuted.

Over the years, the department has utilized the latitude and longitude information reported in longline logbooks for a variety of research activities. Current jig fishery logbook location data can only be summarized to the statistical area level. The proposed amendment would allow department staff to have access to more detailed harvest information which would assist in future management of these fisheries.

The current regulatory language requires that number of lines and number of hooks used per line are reported in the logbook. In jig fisheries that allow the use of multiple lines, reporting is inconsistent and it is often difficult for staff to determine whether fishermen are reporting the number of hooks per line or the total number of hooks used. In order to avoid this confusion, the lingcod logbook form has been updated to request the total number of hooks used. The proposed regulation amendment will provide consistency with the current fishery logbook.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-075)

PROPOSAL 139 - 5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. Define mechanical jigging gear separate from dinglebar troll gear and establish limits on hooks to be used, as follows:

5 AAC 28.130 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(m) In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, a mechanical jigging machine is a device that deploys a single line with lures or baited hooks and retrieves that line with electrical, hydraulic, or mechanically powered assistance. A mechanical jigging machine allows the line to be fished only in the water column, in a manner that the hooks connected to the line are fished above the seafloor and the line is oriented vertically within the water column. A mechanical jigging machine line may not be pulled through the water or deployed while the vessel is making way. A mechanical jigging machine must be attached to a vessel registered to fish with a mechanical jigging machine. The mechanical jigging machine line may not be anchored to the seafloor or operated unattached from the vessel. No more than five mechanical jigging machines may be operated from a vessel, with no more than 30 hooks per line operated from a mechanical jigging machine.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current statewide definition (5 AAC 39.105(d)(25)) for mechanical jigging machines is not detailed enough to clearly distinguish mechanical jig gear from dinglebar troll gear for fisheries in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska. Dinglebar troll gear is a single line that is retrieved and set with a troll gurdy with a terminally attached weight from which one or more leaders with one or more hooks are pulled through the

water while a vessel is making way. This fishing line is towed through the water parallel to the seafloor and is quite effective at harvesting lingcod. Vessels using dinglebar troll gear are limited to the operation of a single line, a regulatory restriction that industry requested during the development of the directed lingcod fishery in the 1990s.

The statewide definition of mechanical jigging machine is vague enough that a permit holder fishing under that type of permit may utilize gear intended for dinglebar fishing and avoid the single line dinglebar restriction. Trolling a line of horizontally-oriented hooks over the sea floor is not the customary fishing method associated with mechanical jig machines. Without a clear distinction between mechanical jig and dinglebar troll gears, fishermen using dinglebar troll gear to harvest lingcod will be able to fish multiple lines by fishing under the auspices of a mechanical jig permit. Fishermen using multiple dinglebar lines will have higher catch rates of lingcod, which will complicate inseason management of these fisheries; the East Yakutat area allocation is already taken in as few as three or four days under the dinglebar single line restriction.

Current Eastern Gulf of Alaska regulations do not limit the number of mechanical jigging machines or hooks that may be used in groundfish fisheries in this area. The proposed limits on jig machines and hooks would standardize the Southeast groundfish fisheries mechanical jig regulations with the rest of the state; i.e. Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-076)

PROPOSAL 140 - 5 AAC 28.173. Lingcod possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. Increase minimum commercial lingcod size limit to 30 inches from tip of snout, or 22.75 inches from front of dorsal fin, to tip of tail, as follows:

All lingcod retained must measure at least 30 inches from tip of snout to tip of tail or 22.75 inches from front of dorsal fin of tip of tail.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase lingcod minimum length for retention in the commercial fishery from 27 inches to 30 inches

Lingcod is a highly valued fish in commercial, sport, subsistence and personal use fisheries and as such, should be protected.

1. This can be done without harm to the commercial fishery due to the fact that the allocation is based on pounds, not number of fish.
2. The harvest will not change but the number of fish left in the water for recruitment in future years will increase.
3. The result will be a higher quality product and reduced processing costs.
4. It will bring size limits in line with the lower slot limit for inside sport fisheries.
5. Lingcod are a hardy fish and can tolerate being released if under the legal size limit.

PROPOSED BY: Don Westlund and Larry McQuarrie (HQ-F14-012)

PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 28.150. Closed waters in Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. Allow commercial salmon fishermen using troll gear in Sitka Sound to retain up to two lingcod per trip for personal use, as follows:

Allow trollers in the Sitka Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) to catch and retain up to two lingcod per trip for home-pack provided that they are marked in a manner that the department specifies so as to distinguish them from salable fish. (i.e. trim the lobes of the tail or remove the anal fin, etc.) The retention of these fish is to be recorded on a fish ticket upon landing.

5 AAC 28.150 New subsection: Not withstanding

(a) of this section, up to two lingcod per trip may be retained as bycatch in the salmon troll fishery in the waters described in (a) of this section. The department may mandate that these fish be retained for personal use and may not be sold and may further require that any such lingcod aboard a troller fishing in the waters defined in (a) of this section be marked by removing the fin(s) to ensure that they are not sold.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unlike halibut longliners, salmon trollers are not currently permitted to retain bycatch lingcod when fishing within the Sitka LAMP. While some restriction on commercial sale of bycatch lingcod in the LAMP may be appropriate, the current regulations do not even allow for retention of lingcod for personal use. The local lingcod population is healthy enough to support a small amount of additional harvest. Trollers that catch a lingcod or two in waters outside of the LAMP have to offload their lingcod before they can fish within the LAMP. The Central Southeast Outside quota for troll bycatch lingcod is rarely, if ever, taken.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka (EF-C14-102)

PROPOSAL 142 - 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. Repeal Sitka Sound Special Use area lingcod regulations, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(g)(1)(A) is repealed:

(g) In the Sitka vicinity:

(1) in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area, defined as 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.,

(A) **repealed** / / [THE NONRESIDENT BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR LINGCOD IS A BAG LIMIT OF ONE FISH, AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF TWO FISH];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lingcod regulations for the Sitka Sound Special Use Area have been superseded by more conservative regulations established by regional emergency orders. Emergency orders have been issued each year since 2001 to manage for the sport fishery allocation, and are expected to be issued annually for the foreseeable future. Specific lingcod regulations for the Sitka Sound Special Use Area are no longer necessary.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-090)

PROPOSAL 143 - 5 AAC 47.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish. Require all anglers releasing nonpelagic rockfish to release them at depth, and require at least one deep water release mechanism on board vessels used by sport anglers, as follows:

The regulation to release non-pelagic rockfish at depth as written for guided anglers should be extended to apply to all sport fishers, including the requirement to have on board at least one operable at-depth release mechanism.

All sport-caught non-pelagic rockfish that are intended to be released must be released at the depth they were caught or at least 100', whichever is shallower.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently only guided fishers are required to release non-pelagic rockfish at depth. Statistically it is estimated that there is as much as an 80% survival rate for non-pelagic rockfish that are released at depth. While it is not practical for the commercial fishery to release at depth, there is no reason why all other sport harvesters should not also be required to release non-pelagics at depth in order to conserve the resource.

PROPOSED BY: Don Westlund and Larry McQuarrie (HQ-F14-016)

PROPOSAL 144 - 5 AAC 47.065. Demersal shelf rockfish delegation of authority and provisions for management. Repeal mandatory retention requirements for nonpelagic rockfish, as follows:

[ALL NON-PELAGIC ROCKFISH CAUGHT MUST BE RETAINED UNTIL THE BAG LIMIT IS REACHED.]

No other changes to the regulation would be required.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, guided fishers are required to retain all non-pelagic rockfish until the limit is reached, after which, if additional non-pelagic rockfish are caught they must be released at depth.

Often very small non-pelagic rockfish are caught, retained and wasted because they are too small to salvage any practical amount of meat after being fileted. They are considered simply not worth the effort.

In addition to smaller rockfish, it is common for larger non-pelagic rockfish to be caught while targeting other species. The fact the angler is targeting other species often indicates that rockfish are an unintended and unwanted catch. Rockfish are not allowed to be retained by crew. Under current regulations non-pelagic rockfish must be retained until a limit is achieved, whether they are wanted or not, often resulting in undesired retention and unnecessary mortalities.

The harvest and waste of non-pelagic rockfish can be prevented if the regulations allowed discretion in the release at depth of such rockfish prior to achieving a limit. Release at depth is estimated to result in 80% survivability, but a rockfish retained results in 100% mortality. The resulting waste causes frustration to clients and guides alike, and calls into question the practicality of the regulation as written.

PROPOSED BY: Don Westlund and Larry McQuarrie (HQ-F14-011)

PROPOSAL 145 - 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. Repeal Sitka Sound Special Use Area and Ketchikan Area nonpelagic rockfish regulations, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(g)(1)(B) is repealed:

(g) In the Sitka vicinity:

(1) in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area, defined as 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.,

...

(B) **repealed** _____ / _____ / _____ [THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR NONPELAGIC ROCKFISH IS THREE FISH, OF WHICH NO MORE THAN ONE MAY BE A YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH];

5 AAC 47.021(j)(1) is repealed:

(j) In the vicinity of Ketchikan:

(1) **repealed** _____ / _____ / _____ [IN THE WATERS OF BEHM CANAL, CLARENCE STRAIT, TONGASS NARROWS, NICHOLS PASSAGE, GEORGE INLET, CARROLL INLET, THORNE ARM, REVILLAGIGEDO CHANNEL, AND ALL CONTIGUOUS WATERS ENCLOSED BY THE LATITUDE OF BUSHY POINT LIGHT (55° 44.00' N.

LAT.), A LINE FROM POINT ALAVA TO THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF HAM ISLAND, A LINE FROM CEDAR POINT TO DALL HEAD TO A POINT IN MIDSTREAM CLARENCE STRAIT AT THE LATITUDE OF DALL HEAD (55° 07.12' N. LAT.) TO CAAMANO POINT, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR NONPELAGIC ROCKFISH IS THREE FISH, OF WHICH NO MORE THAN ONE MAY BE A YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonpelagic rockfish regulations in the Sitka Sound Special Use and Ketchikan areas have been superseded by more conservative regulations established by regional emergency orders. Emergency orders have been issued annually since 2006 to manage for the sport fishery allocation, and are expected to be issued annually for the foreseeable future. Nonpelagic rockfish regulations specific to the Sitka Sound Special Use and Ketchikan areas are no longer necessary.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-091)

PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 28.150. 5 AAC 32.150. 5 AAC 38.XXX. 5 AAC 47.021. 5 AAC 77.6XX. Prohibit fishing, around Cache Island, for bottomfish, crab, and shrimp by all users, as follows:

Create a micro marine conservation zone around Cache Island, Naha Bay Southeast Alaska; where all bottom fishing, crabbing and shrimping will be prohibited by all groups. The no fish zone will extend from shore out to 300 feet.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Help depleted bottom fish rebound and relieve stress of over fishing for bottom fish species and shellfish.

Micro marine conservation zones have been successfully created around the globe and have enabled fish populations to rebound successfully from the stresses of over fishing. Rather than regulate the single species of fishes; micro conservation zones help to restore and sustain an entire ecosystem and their inhabitants. In setting aside a small area; the conservation zone will have little effect on user groups. But their impact on the fish populations will be significant over time and will benefit areas beyond the conservation zone. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough set aside all the islands from Clover Pass to Naha Bay as preservation islands where no development is allowed. We are taking it one step further and creating the water around Cache Island as a conservation zone. They work together.

PROPOSED BY: Naha Conservation (EF-C14-187)

PROPOSAL 146 - 5 AAC 01.716. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amount necessary for subsistence uses. Revise the amounts reasonable necessary for subsistence for salmon in Districts 12 and 14.

5 AAC 01.716(c)(4) is amended to read:

(c) The board finds that the following numbers of salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses in the Southeastern Alaska Area:

...

(4) Districts **12 and 14** [11, 12, 14, AND 16]: ~~x,xxx-xx,xxx~~ [4,178 - 10,133];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 5 AAC 01.716 there is no customary and traditional use finding for salmon in districts 11 and 16 although they are included in the ANS (5 AAC 01.716(c)(4)). Districts 12 and 14 encompass distinctive fisheries and this proposal provides the opportunity to create separate ANS options for districts 12 and 14. The ANS finding for the area encompassed by districts 11, 12, 14, and 16 was made by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) in 2006. The range was defined by the lowest and highest annual estimated subsistence harvest of salmon, based on annual permit data from within the permit area from 1996–2003. An ANS finding that reflects traditional uses of particular stocks within District 12 and District 14 may be a more useful tool for the board when evaluating reasonable opportunities for subsistence harvests specific to communities within those two districts. Additionally, as noted above the districts that comprise the geographic scope of this ANS range include two districts (11 and 16) with no customary and traditional use determinations; therefore, they should not be included in an ANS finding.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-093)

PROPOSAL 147 - 5 AAC 01.716. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amount necessary for subsistence uses. Reconsider amounts necessary for subsistence in the Angoon area, as follows:

The Board of Fisheries adopts amounts necessary for subsistence specific to the Angoon Area based on the best available information provided by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Subsistence Division household use studies.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reconsideration of how the amounts necessary for subsistence is determined and applied in the Angoon Area.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (HQ-F14-021)

PROPOSAL 148 - 5 AAC 01.XXX. New Section. Allow for designation of community subsistence harvesters for Hoonah residents, as follows:

This proposal would allow for a community harvester(s) to be designated to fish within the Icy Straits area described in 5AAC 01.716(a)(4). The community harvester would be able to harvest the limits of multiple subsistence salmon permits in their possession, within specified limitations similar to those currently provided for in 5AAC 01.760(e) Redoubt Bay and Lake Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. The Hoonah Indian Association believes that provisions of how this community harvester permit system works would best be left to the discretion of the Board of Fisheries.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hoonah Indian Association proposes a community harvester opportunity for the sockeye subsistence fishery. A community harvester would be able to harvest for people without boat transportation, and low-income families that cannot afford to make the trip to the sockeye streams nearest to Hoonah. The current proxy system is inadequate to accommodate the needs of community households that lack the means to travel to the more distant systems provided for on the current subsistence salmon permit. Hoonah residents traditionally have used the customary and traditional subsistence use area described in 5AAC 01.716(a)(4). Takanis Bay, Surge Bay and Hoktaheen are all waters regularly used by Hoonah residents to obtain their subsistence sockeye, however the ride through Icy Straits in a small skiff is both dangerous and very costly. Allowing a community harvester to fish multiple households when they make the long trip out to the sockeye streams would be much more efficient in terms expense and would provide additional opportunity for Hoonah community members to harvest salmon necessary to meet their subsistence needs.

There is currently nothing in regulation allowing residents to fish the permits of other residents outside of the current proxy provisions. Under current regulations, low-income families who do not own skiffs, cannot afford the price of fuel and/or are unable to safely navigate waters outside of Port Frederick Bay in their skiffs are not able to harvest sockeye salmon to put up for the winter.

PROPOSED BY: Hoonah Indian Association (EF-C14-180)

PROPOSAL 149 - 5 AAC 01.710. Fishing seasons. Modify weekly subsistence salmon fishing schedule for Klawock Inlet, Klawock River, and Klawock Lake, as follows:

Change the days of the week in the Klawock River Subsistence Fishery to start at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday and continue until 5:00 p.m. Saturday weekly. Closed from 5:00 p.m. Saturday to 8:00 a.m. Tuesday.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently the Klawock River Subsistence Fishery is open 8:00 a.m. Monday through 5:00 p.m. Friday. This effectively limits people who work a regular weekday job, from participating easily. The restriction was

established to reduce access by off island users during the weekends. The Craig Advisory committee feels strongly that a two day break in fishing is necessary for escapement to move up the river. Adjusting the fishing to include one day of the weekend, allows for that as well as allowing more working people to fish within their schedules.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F14-051)

PROPOSAL 150 - 5 AAC 01.720. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Close certain portions of the Klawock River drainage to subsistence salmon fishing with seines and gillnets in July and August, as follows:

Waters in the Klawock River drainage upstream of a point at 133° 4'57.38" W 55° 33'1.287" N are closed to the use of seines and gillnets during July and August.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This restriction is necessary for conservation of sockeye salmon in the Klawock River. The sockeye salmon population in the Klawock River is at a very low level and the use of seine and gillnet gear in this area during July and August poses an unacceptable management risk of unknowingly overharvesting this resource.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (HQ-F14-024)

PROPOSAL 151 - 5 AAC 01.725. Waters closed to subsistence fishing. Close Klawock River to subsistence salmon fishing upstream of the Klawock River Bridge, as follows:

Closing the Klawock River to subsistence fishing east and upstream of the Klawock River Bridge.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Low escapement for the Klawock River Sockeye Subsistence Fishery is a problem. Escapement was less than 1,200 fish each of the last two seasons. The escapement for 2009 was approximately 22,000 fish. Escapement is documented by weir count. A high number of fish are taken in this fishery at the river mouth where they are vulnerable due to shallow water and confined space. Klawock River Sockeye have been an important subsistence resource for generations. The Klawock River supported the first cannery in Alaska in 1878 based on the sockeye run.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F14-050)

PROPOSAL 152 - 5 AAC 01.750. Vessel specifications and operations. Repeal the outboard motor horsepower restriction for Klawock River, as follows:

Repeal the horsepower restriction on the Klawock River Subsistence Fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The horsepower restriction on the Klawock River Subsistence Fishery limited the people who could participate. Many people are limited to one boat and they should not be left out of the fishery. Historically the horsepower restriction was limited to keep commercial seine skiffs from harvesting fish and either overharvesting or selling fish.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F14-052)

PROPOSAL 153 - 5 AAC 01.720. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Allow subsistence harvest of salmon with purse seine and gillnet gear in portions of Districts 12 and 13 near Angoon, as follows:

A subsistence permit issued under 5 AAC 01.015 for salmon taken in those waters of Chatham Strait in the vicinity of Angoon will specify the (1) area where the salmon may be taken; (2) time period during which the salmon may be taken; and (3) gillnet gear that may be used, not to exceed 50 fathoms in length. Individuals may join gillnets together for increased efficiency.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow the use of purse seine and gillnet gear for the harvest of salmon within the area described in 5 AAC 01.716 (6). This will assist the community of Angoon in meeting their subsistence and community needs for salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (HQ-F14-019)

PROPOSAL 154 - 5 AAC 01.720. Lawful gear and gear specifications and 5 AAC 77.682. Personal use salmon fishery. Move gear specifications for harvesting subsistence salmon in Shipley Bay from the personal use regulations to the subsistence regulations of the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC), as follows:

5 AAC 01.720(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

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:

(5) set gillnets may be used in District 5 in Shipley Bay within 100 yards of the terminus of Shipley Creek.

5 AAC 77.682(g)(2)(C) is repealed:

5 AAC 77.682. Personal use salmon fishery.

(g) Salmon may be taken by gear listed in 5 AAC 01.010(a) except as may be restricted on a personal use fishing permit and except as follows:

(2) set gillnets may not be used to take salmon except

(C) **repealed** / / [IN DISTRICT 5 IN SHIPLEY BAY, WITHIN 100 YARDS OF THE TERMINUS OF SHIPLEY CREEK];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is a positive finding for customary and traditional uses of fisheries resources in District 5, including the waters of Shipley Bay. Allowable gear for Shipley Bay is incorrectly included under personal use regulations and it should be added under subsistence regulations. Subsistence fishermen may have difficulty finding regulations describing lawful gear for Shipley Bay because it is in the wrong chapter of the Alaska Administrative Code.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-078)

PROPOSAL 155 - 5 AAC 47.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish. Allow party fishing in Southeast Alaska saltwater fisheries, as follows:

When two or more persons, who are licensed or otherwise authorized to sport fish in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska, are angling for finfish aboard a vessel in these waters, fishing by all authorized persons aboard may continue until combined limits of finfish are taken and possessed aboard the vessel. (Modified wording of California’s regulation to fit SE waters.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Friends and families fishing from a boat generally continue fishing until the combined limits for all persons on board has been reached. Parents often let children catch their fish. Guests are frequently allowed to catch and retain fish on the limits of other persons onboard. This proposal would legalize a very common practice. Additionally, compliance with the existing bag limit regulation contributes to waste through increased release mortality when “excess” fish of one person’s limit must be discarded. These fish could be retained by transferring possession to another, unlimited angler on board. Retention of “extra” fish by others must be ignored by Fish and Wildlife patrol or children, guests, and friends originally catching the “extra” fish should be cited. Washington State and California have regulations allowing ocean boat limits.

PROPOSED BY: James B. Faro (HQ-F14-066)

PROPOSAL 156 - 5 AAC 47.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish. Allow the use of bow and arrow to take salmon in the Southeast Alaska Area by certified bow anglers, as follows:

Allow salmon to be taken by archery bow and arrow during open fishing season in Southeast Alaska by certified bow-fishers.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I propose a new regulation that would allow personal use fishing with archery bow and arrow. Users would be required to be approved by the International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP).

This is a good idea because it would allow archers to catch fish from the beach near creeks where salmon are congregating before going up the stream to spawn. In these areas, it is already legal for fishers to fly fish, spin cast, and snag for personal use. Adding archery would allow additional fishers to share in the resource.

Requiring the IBEP certification ensures safety of the fishery and other fishers. Additionally, this would probably require adding information and procedures required for bow-fishing to the present IBEP approved course.

PROPOSED BY: Eddie E. Carte (EF-C14-038)

PROPOSAL 157 - 5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area; 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; 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; and 5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan. Reduce the king salmon size limit from 28 inches or greater in length to 26 inches or greater in length in the Southeast Alaska Area, as follows:

The minimum size limit for Pacific king salmon will be 26 inches.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I have been sport fishing in Southeast Alaska for over 30 years and have witnessed an increase in the number of king salmon that have to be released due to being just under the minimum retention size of 28 inches. Like with Pacific halibut, Pacific king salmon have also experienced a recent reduced size at age phenomena. It is time to consider reducing the minimum size limit of king salmon to better align with the current stock size at age composition. The current 28-inch size limit, which was originally implemented to increase the yield of the fishery, may just be doing the opposite today with an increase in release mortality.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Yamada (EF-C14-105)

PROPOSAL 158 - 5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan. Modify the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan by eliminating inseason reductions to the annual limit, as follows:

With the exception of the terminal harvest areas and other special hatchery harvests, efforts should be made to maintain king salmon bag, possession, and annual limits for nonresidents at a constant value throughout the season so as to ensure inside sport fishers the opportunity to access their historical share of the available treaty harvest.

Equally important, level bag limits provide stable marketable opportunities for all guided sport businesses, inside and outside, throughout the entire length of the season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident sport fishers make up by far, the greatest percentage of guided anglers in Southeast Alaska, well over 90% in nearly every guided operation. King salmon harvest limits are the most restrictive regulations that the nonresident angler faces, so it follows that king salmon regulations carry more impact than any other harvest issue for the guided industry in Southeast. Sport-caught treaty king salmon are a precious commodity and as such should be allocated very carefully so that all Southeast sport fishers, as much as practical, have their historical opportunity for harvest, particularly in times of low abundance such as we saw in 2013. It is a well-established fact that the “outside” waters of Southeast Alaska have a much greater abundance of treaty kings in general, and especially earlier in the season, that occur “inside.” As a result of that early opportunity outside anglers are able to harvest treaty kings before the inside sport fishery has even started. The situation this proposal addresses is aggravated when early season bag limits are liberalized (increased) and then progressively ratcheted down as the season goes on, as was the case in 2013. Liberal bag limits early in the season result in a large portion of the sport allocation of previous treaty kings being caught by outside fishers before inside areas even have the chance at harvesting their share of the allocation. Essentially the practice of liberalizing bag limits early in the season then restricting them down in the steps over the course of the season disenfranchises inside nonresident anglers. Harvest data for 2013 are not available as of this writing, but it will be interesting to see if there were skewed area harvest percentages from the historical norms, with the inside harvests being lower than the norm and outside harvests being higher. If that is the case then the concerns that prompted this proposal will be validated.

Of equal concern are the uneven harvest opportunities over the course of a single season presented by progressively changing bag limits. For the guided and lodge industries, customers (almost all of which are nonresidents) pay close attention to regulations that affect their opportunities for success, and they book their trips accordingly. This is no more true than limits for the highly prized king salmon. Changing restrictions changes demand for our products, and uneven marketability within the season causes havoc on our businesses. Guided and lodge operations cannot gear up or gear down as bag limits are altered and demand fluctuates month to

month. If nonresident daily bag limits and annual harvest limits are maintained constant as much as possible throughout the length of the season, then outside and inside operators will all benefit in a more stable demand environment.

PROPOSED BY: Don Westlund and Larry McQuarrie (HQ-F14-013)

PROPOSAL 159 - 5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Establish nonresident annual limits for coho, sockeye, chum, and pink salmon in salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area, as follows:

(2) salmon, other than king salmon: may be taken from January 1–December 31; no annual limit **for residents. The annual limit for nonresidents is three times the daily bag limit for silver salmon, sockeye salmon, pink salmon and chum salmon;** no size limit;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Abuses to sport fishing bag and possession limits by some nonresident anglers are well known. These behavior patterns by a few nonresidents are contributing to conservation issues on some streams that are difficult to quantify and address. One of the first pieces of information required to assess the impacts of nonresident anglers is to document the total harvest of salmon by this group. Personal use and subsistence fisheries for Chinook, silver, and sockeye salmon generally have annual limits that are recorded in the field on a harvest record. The mail-out harvest survey is inadequate for this type of accounting.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (HQ-F14-022)

PROPOSAL 160 - 5 AAC 47.022. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Establish nonresident annual limits for coho, sockeye, chum, and pink salmon in fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area, as follows:

(b)
(2) salmon, other than king salmon: may be taken from January 1–December 31; no annual limit **for residents. The annual limit for nonresidents is three times the daily bag limit for silver salmon, sockeye salmon, pink salmon and chum salmon;** no size limit;

...

(c)
...
(2) salmon, other than king salmon: may be taken from January 1–December 31; no annual limit **for residents. The annual limit for nonresidents is three times the daily bag limit for silver salmon, sockeye salmon, pink salmon and chum salmon;** no size limit;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Abuses to sport fishing bag and possession limits by some nonresident anglers are well known. These behavior patterns by a few nonresidents are contributing to conservation issues on some streams that are difficult to quantify and address. One of the first pieces of information required to assess the impacts of nonresident anglers is to document the total harvest of salmon by this group. Personal use and subsistence fisheries for Chinook, silver, and sockeye salmon generally have annual limits that are recorded in the field on a harvest record. The mail-out harvest survey is inadequate for this type of accounting.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (HQ-F14-023)

PROPOSAL 161 - 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 multiple hooks in all fresh waters in the Yakutat Management Area, as follows:

Allow for single hook only sport angling in all fresh waters of the Yakutat area, Cape Fairweather to Cape Suckling, from January 1 to December 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A proposal to allow for single-hook only sport angling in all fresh waters of the Yakutat area, Cape Fairweather to Cape Suckling, from January 1 to December 31.

The reason for this is conservation. The committee met and discussion was heard. Complaints about fish lying dead in holes were heard. Discussion from sport fishing representatives stated that going to single hook would help reduce the amount of incidental mortality, while still allowing the angler the experience and opportunity to obtain their catch. A proposal to do this on the Situk River was recommended by Yakutat Advisory Committee, ratified by the Board of Fisheries, and went into effect in 2009. Since that time it has met with favorable results. While it was unknown if implementation had reduced mortality, there were no complaints from sport fishermen or related industry.

The Yakutat Advisory Committee considered implementing this proposal on other rivers of high sport use, but decided that expanding to all fresh waters was a simpler format and would be best for the welfare of the fish.

Left unchanged, there will continue to be an increased chance of incidental mortality with the currently allowed treble (3-barbed) hook, thereby hindering the number of returning spawners, lowering the number of returning stock, and reducing overall opportunity to anglers. The additional incidental mortality will add to the "dead fish on the bottom's unsightliness" as complained about by lodge owners.

This proposal should help fish recover from a release and improve survival rates. It should also be a benefit to all user groups with no one expected to be negatively impacted.

The Yakutat Advisory Committee considered adding the language: **single barbless**. There wasn't opposition to barbless, but it should be handled in a separate proposal, having had another chance for discussions. Should the board see fit to add this language, the advisory committee heard no opposition to it either.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-076)

PROPOSAL 162 - 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 multiple hooks and barbed hooks in all fresh waters of the Yakutat Management Area, as follows:

Proposal to restrict sport fishing in all fresh waters of the Yakutat area; Cape Fairweather to Cape Sukling, to single barbless hook only, with the exception of two single barbless hooks may be used in tandem when bait is allowed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The reason for this is conservation. The committee met and discussion was heard. Complaints about fish lying dead in holes were heard. Discussion from sport fishing representatives stated that going to single hook would help reduce the amount of incidental mortality, while still allowing the angler the experience, and the opportunity to obtain their catch. A proposal to do this on the Situk River was recommended by Yakutat Advisory Committee, ratified by the Board of Fisheries, and went into effect in 2009. Since that time, it has met with favorable results. While it is unknown if implementation had reduced mortality, there were no complaints from sport fishermen, or related industry.

We considered just implementing it on other rivers of high sport use, but decided that expanding to all fresh waters was a simpler format, and would be best for the welfare of the fish.

Left unchanged, there will continue to be an increased chance of incidental mortality with the currently allowed treble (three barbed) hook, there by hindering the number of returning spawners, lowering the number of returning stock, and reducing overall opportunity to anglers. The additional incidental mortality will add to the "dead fish on the bottom's unsightliness" as complained about by lodge owners.

This proposal should help fish recover from a release, and improve survival rates. It should also be a benefit to all user groups, with no one expected to be negatively impacted.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-086)

PROPOSAL 163 - 5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of Southeast Alaska Area. Reduce the Yakutat Village Lagoon coho salmon bag and possession limits to two fish greater than 16 inches in length, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(b) In the Yakutat vicinity:

...

(3) in the waters of Yakutat Village Lagoon shoreward of Mallot Avenue, the bag and possession limit for coho salmon greater than 16 inches in length is two fish;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the coho salmon bag and possession limits for the Yakutat Village Lagoon are the least conservative on the Yakutat road system, causing angler effort to focus on this small, easily accessible drainage. Northern pike eradication efforts were completed in 2009 allowing coho salmon to recolonize this drainage. Given the small size of this drainage, accessibility from the Yakutat road system, and recolonization by coho salmon, more conservative bag and possession limits are needed to protect the sustainability of this small coho salmon population.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-087)

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; 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. Designate the Village Lagoon and the Village Lagoon drainage as a youth-only fishery, as follows:

A proposal to restrict angling in Village Lagoon and accompanying lakes to youth under the age of 18 only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We feel that given the proximity to the road system and the small size of the run, some means of control is in order. Too many anglers, as to ruin the experience or too much pressure on the stocks are the main concern. In addition the public hazards of an increasing number of cars parked along the highway with accompanying pedestrian issues. Restricting access to youth only will eliminate the traffic concerns, and yet provide a fun place to fish close by for kids. We feel there are plenty of other places to fish for the adults.

We do not feel anyone will be adversely affected.

We considered adding elderly and handicapped, but decided against adding these. It was felt there would still be the possibility of to many sport anglers who were eligible as seniors as to

potentially be a problem, and we felt that there would be better places to consider for creating a handicapped fishing area.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-085)

PROPOSAL 165 - 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. Allow the use of bait when sport fishing for salmon in the Kaliakh River, as follows:

Allow sport fishing using bait for salmon in the Kaliakh River.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to change the sport fishing regulation to allow using bait in the Kaliakh River since it is a silty river and has not been commercial fished in years and it would help take a little pressure off the Tsiu River.

PROPOSED BY: Harold Perantie (EF-C14-114)

PROPOSAL 166 - 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. Establish an effective date of April 1 for the District 11 sport fishery for king salmon and rescind the closure in upper Taku Inlet, as follows:

1. Establish the waters of upper Taku Inlet as permanently opened
2. Set the effective date for the D-11 fishery at April 1.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce unnecessary regulatory action on the Juneau Area king salmon sport fishery. Juneau anglers fish under three sets of king regulations: 1) Southeast King Management Plan; 2) Taku River king salmon fishery in salt waters of District 11 and 3) a designated terminal harvest area (THA) fishery for hatchery king salmon. The complexity associated with these inseason regulatory changes is confusing to anglers. The intent of this proposal is to reduce unnecessary regulatory action. Amendments to these regulations may have allocative implications.

PROPOSED BY: Juneau-Douglas Advisory Committee (HQ-F14-032)

PROPOSAL 167 - 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 freshwaters along the Juneau road system to sport fishing for hatchery-produced king salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023(e)(1) is amended to read:

- (e) In the Juneau vicinity:
 - (1) in all drainages crossed by the Juneau road system,
 - (A) unless otherwise specified in [(B) – (J) OF] this paragraph,

...

(vi) the bag and possession limit for king salmon is four fish; no size limit; king salmon harvested by a nonresident angler does not count toward that angler's nonresident annual limit;

...

(M) in Fish Creek Pond from June 1 – August 31,
(i) the use of bait, weighted hooks and lures, and multiple hooks with a gap between point and shank larger than one-half inch are permitted; and
(ii) king salmon hooked elsewhere than in the mouth may be retained.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Since 1993, Juneau freshwater drainages crossed by the road system have been opened to sport fishing for king salmon by emergency order to allow for harvest of hatchery-produced king salmon. Establishing this freshwater fishery in regulation would eliminate confusion among sport anglers without causing a conservation concern since there are no indigenous king salmon stocks on the Juneau road system.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-089)

PROPOSAL 168 - 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 freshwaters along the Juneau road system to sport fishing for hatchery-produced king salmon, as follows:

- (e) In Juneau vicinity:
 - (1) in all drainages crossed by the current Juneau road system
 - (A) unless otherwise specified in (B) – (J) of this paragraph:
 - (vi) the bag and possession limit for king salmon is four fish of any size, king salmon harvested by nonresident anglers do not count toward the annual limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hatchery king salmon are released in and around several freshwater drainages on the current Juneau road system and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game has issued an emergency order to allow harvest opportunity for these fish on an annual basis since 1993. This proposal would open king salmon fishing year round in the fresh water drainages crossed by the current Juneau road system and eliminate confusion over when and where king salmon fishing is allowed. There are no wild indigenous stocks of king salmon on the Juneau road system.

PROPOSED BY: Juneau-Douglas Advisory Committee (HQ-F14-033)

PROPOSAL 169 - 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. Repeal the Eagle River Beach area Dolly Varden sport fishery closure, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(d)(4) is repealed:

(d) In the Juneau vicinity:

...

(4) **repealed** / / [IN THE WATERS OF EAGLE RIVER BEACH, FROM THE BOY SCOUT CAMP NORTH TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED ON THE MAINLAND SHORE AT THE LATITUDE OF SENTINEL ISLAND LIGHT AT 58° 32.78' N. LAT., 134° 55.27 W. LONG., TO A DISTANCE ONE-QUARTER MILE OFFSHORE, DOLLY VARDEN MAY ONLY BE TAKEN FROM JUNE 1–MARCH 31];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Retention of Dolly Varden in the Eagle River Beach/Boy Scout Beach area north of Juneau is prohibited from April 1 – May 31. This closure went into effect in 1983 due to concerns over declining catch rates and harvest in the Juneau roadside fishery. Current harvest and escapement data indicate the Dolly Varden stocks present along the Juneau road system shoreline are stable and therefore a closure is no longer necessary.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-088)

PROPOSAL 170 - 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. Allow the use of bait from September 15 through October 15 when sport fishing in the Klawock River, as follows:

"Allow the use of bait in the Klawock River System (River and Lake) from September 15 through October 15 of each year".

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Committee C Summary at the Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish Meeting on March 1, 2012 regarding Proposal 263, 5 AAC 47.023, discussed the prohibition of the use of bait in the Klawock River.

Reasons given (at this meeting) were used to restrict the use of bait in the Klawock River from September 15 through October 15 of each year. These reasons are in question.

Discussion follows:

1. There are no "wild run" coho in the Klawock River. There is a wild spawning area up in the Klawock Lake area, but there is no wild coho run associated with the run. There has been a hatchery on the Klawock River since 1892, releasing smolts back into the river for over 120 years. I also understand that the hatchery started raising coho and releasing coho smolts in the

early 1900's; about 1912. Therefore, no true "wild run coho" can possibly exist in the Klawock River.

2. I have personally fished the rivers all over the Prince of Wales Island for the past 37 years (since 1978.) This year will be my 34th year fishing the Klawock River. None of my fishing partners over these years have ever caught or have even seen any other fisherman catch or even view either a steelhead or cutthroat trout in the September 15 through October 15 timeframe.

3. There is absolutely no logical reason for a bait fisherman to select a female coho over a male coho. A male coho is normally a bigger fish and will be better eating than a female that was just filled with eggs. There are always plenty of female coho in our catches to provide all the bait needed without selecting.

4. The use of bait has never increased the mortality rate of released coho. We keep what we catch. You will find that most bait fishermen are meat fishermen. We like to get on the rivers early, catch our fish, and get them to the processor as soon as possible. Using non-bait fishing equipment can easily double or triple fishing time on the river, and can actually keep other fishermen from accessing the river. This could also help other fishermen to find another place to fish (and spend their money). In my opinion and experience, I get more "foul hooked" fish when using either a fly or a spinner, because a coho will take a bait directly into their mouth, whereas with a fly or a spinner you are actually dragging your equipment over their backs and into their heads, eyes, dorsal fins, and tails. I expect the mortality rate for non-bait fishing equipment could actually be higher than with bait.

PROPOSED BY: Jerald E. Ogburn (EF-C14-044)

PROPOSAL 171 - 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.
Allow the use of bait after September 15 when sport fishing for coho salmon in the Klawock River, as follows:

Allow the use of bait in the Klawock River after September 15 for coho salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I have fished on Prince of Wales Island for some time now. In my opinion, I see no reason to close the Klawock River to bait fishing. In the past few years, having to fish the Klawock with spinners or flies has resulted in foul-hooking coho, requiring the release of damaged coho. Fishing with bait in the Harris resulted in very few foul-hooked fish.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Fortner (EF-C14-069)

PROPOSAL 172 - 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. Repeal Ketchikan Creek harvest regulations applying to adipose fin-clipped steelhead, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023(i)(6)(D) is repealed:

(i) In the Ketchikan vicinity:

...

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

...

(D) **repealed** / / [THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR STEELHEAD IS TWO FISH IF ONE OF THE FISH HAS A CLIPPED ADIPOSE FIN, AS EVIDENCED BY A HEALED SCAR];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hatchery-produced steelhead are no longer released in Ketchikan Creek, making the regulation allowing retention of hatchery-produced steelhead, identified by a clipped adipose fin, misleading and unnecessary.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-092)

PROPOSAL 173 - 5 AAC 01.716. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amount necessary for subsistence uses. Require the board to address habitat, conservation, and subsistence priority when considering regulations and policies, as follows:

5 AAC 01.176

...

(d) In Southeastern Alaska, the board must always assess the impact that past and current management actions for wild and hatchery salmon have had on each community's ability to meet cultural and traditional subsistence uses. The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) must specifically address habitat, conservation, and subsistence priority obligations in their regulations and policies for commercial, sport, personal use, and hatchery programs. When the board considers regulations and policies that might compromise customary and traditional subsistence uses the affected communities shall be consulted. The board shall use the traditional use areas outlined in Goldschmidt and Haas (1946) to determine the communities they are obligated to consult with.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The board is obligated to sustain wild salmon habitats and stocks and provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses of those wild stocks (i.e., AS 16.05.258 (a) and 5 AAC 39.220). The board has not effectively addressed these wild salmon habitat, conservation, and subsistence priority obligations when promulgating regulations that allow other users to harvest and release wild and

hatchery salmon. As a result, many communities are not meeting their cultural and traditional subsistence needs for fish because too many are being caught by other users and wild fish are being supplanted by hatchery release.

PROPOSED BY: Kootznoowoo Corp. Inc.

(HQ-F14-060)

PROPOSAL 174 - 5 AAC XX.XXX. New Section. Establish a Taku River king salmon management plan, as follows:

Create a management plan in regulation that provides that if the pre-season Taku River king salmon terminal run forecast (available each year in December) is less than the mid-point of the inriver escapement goal range (27,500 fish), the troll fishery in District 14 is closed to taking king salmon for the spring fishery (April 15–June 30), and the sport king salmon bag limit in commercial fishing District 11, District 14, and District 12 north of the latitude of Point Couverden, is reduced to one fish from April 15–June 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Taku River is home to Southeast Alaska’s largest and most important king salmon stock, and it is rapidly declining. There is no management plan governing the catch of Taku River kings, even though most of the sport catch and all of the commercial troll catch of Taku-bound kings occurs before the in-river escapement can be estimated. The escapement goal range is 19,000–36,000 fish. The sport fishery occurs within a few miles of the river and the commercial troll catch occurs many miles away in Icy Strait and other northern inside waters. To provide some degree of protection to this important run, a management trigger needs to be established for determining the viability of having a fishery on this stock during years of expected low abundance, especially for the troll fishery which is the first harvester and by far the major harvester of the Taku stock. The troll catch of Taku king salmon is usually two to six times the sport catch of Taku king salmon, and easily exceeds the sport and gill net catch combined in poor years.

This proposal cannot be expected to be the cure-all for the Taku king salmon stock status, but it is a step in the right direction during poor runs. The 2013 Taku king run did not meet the lower end of the escapement range, and the 2014 pre-season forecast is for another weak run. Sport catches of wild king salmon in the Juneau area have declined in the last several years. If poor runs continue and nothing is done to reduce the harvest in poor years, the stock will continue to decline. This stock has supported generations of sport and commercial fisheries, and it a travesty to watch it decline without attempting to right the ship.

The District 14 spring troll fishery has been justified in the past as a king salmon hatchery access fishery even though there is no king salmon hatchery within dozens of miles of the fishery, and even though far more wild kings are caught than hatchery fish. The spring fishery morphed into a regular spring troll fishery with few regulations or controls, and is now a potential problem for intercepting wild Southeast king salmon returns during years of low abundance.

The language of the proposal would still allow trolling for chum salmon in Icy Strait in the spring. Only the Chinook fishery is proposed to be closed during poor runs.

The mid-point of the escapement range is a suggested starting point for discussion about when this plan commences. A point higher in the range than the midpoint can be justified as well.

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsmen Inc. (HQ-F14-036)

PROPOSAL 175 - 5 AAC 33.364. Southeastern Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan. Evaluate potential changes to enhanced salmon allocations, as follows:

It is recommended that a task force be set up by the Board of Fish to revisit the current allocation plans effectiveness since inception and recommend any changes to the Board of Fish. This would allow for all gear groups and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to voice concerns over the current plan and allow for all changes that have occurred over time to be accounted for in any recommendations that are made to the board.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Over the past 20 years changes in the Southeast Alaska fishing industry; including fleet composition (numbers of permits for different net gear types), differences in market conditions, new production areas, new fisheries, and changes in treaty agreements to name a few show that the Board of Fish should revisit the *Southeast Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan*. This is a plan that over time should be reviewed and adjusted on a set schedule to reflect the ever evolving salmon fisheries in Southeast Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Donald Churchill (EF-C14-182)

PROPOSAL 176 - 5 AAC 33.364. Southeastern Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan. Establish new enhanced salmon allocations by gear type, as follows:

We propose that the board direct the Northern Regional Planning Teams (RTP), the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc. (NSRAA) and Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc. (DIPAC) boards to develop a detailed harvest management plan. We anticipate that the plan would:

- 1) Be modified annually based on the:
 - a. results of the previous year;
 - b. forecast returns of each species of enhanced salmon at each release site
 - c. expected prices.

- 2) Include target harvest levels for each gear group for each species of significance by release site.

3) Show a means by which half of the troll imbalance-which is currently at 10% (based on 17% share during the 2009–2013 period) will be eliminated to make the troll share during the 2015–2019 period at least 22%, with the anticipation that the remaining imbalance be eliminated in the following five year period.

4) Be initially submitted to the board no later than the last board meeting of the 2016–17 cycle with updates to follow annually

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Trollers have remained well below their allocation under the Southeast Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan (5 AAC 33.364) for many years. These allocation ranges were established to ensure a "fair and reasonable distribution of the harvest of salmon from enhancement projects among the seine, troll and gillnet commercial fisheries." At least with regard to the troll fleet, the actual harvest has persistently fallen well short of the fair share of 27–32% provided.

It is necessary that the NSRAA board, DIPAC board and Northern RTP take a deliberate approach to craft a future harvest plan that closes the allocation imbalance over a reasonable period of time using the tools set forth in Board of Fish (board) Findings 94-148FB Guiding Principle #13.

Furthermore, in Findings 94-11, the Board of Fisheries agreed with the consensus recommendation of the State Allocation Task Force that when the value of a gear group’s harvest over a trailing five year period has been outside of this distribution for three consecutive years, the first course of action is to make an adjustment to access terminal harvest area fisheries in order to achieve the board-prescribed balance. The second course of action to remedy an allocation imbalance under Board of Fisheries Findings 94-11 is the additional production of enhanced salmon to benefit the gear group(s) below allocation.

Over the past two decades that the trollers have been below their allocation share, the existing Northern RPT & hatchery board system has failed to develop a successful solution to solve the imbalance. We know that it is possible for hatchery boards to develop well-balanced harvest plans since SSRAA manages to do so.

PROPOSED BY: Chum Trollers Assoc. (EF-C14-171)

PROPOSAL 177 - 5 AAC 33.385. Mist Cove Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 40.042. Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association Special Harvest Areas. Close common property commercial salmon fishery in a portion of Mist Cove Special Harvest Area to allow hatchery operations, as follows:

Mist Cove Special Harvest Area (SHA) shall remain open to sport salmon fishing, and to commercial trolling during the summer troll fishery, except for an area of Mist Cove SHA as follows: south of a line at 56° 31.07' N. lat., 134° 40.20' W. long., to a point at 56° 31.07' N. lat., 134° 40.12' W. long. shall be closed to common property fishing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), in consultation with Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), closes a very small portion of its SHA to common property fishing each year via emergency order in order to provide safety to staff, and protect floats, barrier nets, net pens, and other infrastructure. In addition, the closure provides an area for protection of coho for economic harvest. NSRAA, in consultation with ADF&G, would like to codify this in regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (HQ-F14-009)

PROPOSAL 178 - 5 AAC 33.385. Mist Cove Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 40.042. Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association Special Harvest Areas. Close common property commercial salmon fishery in a portion of Mist Cove Special Harvest Area to allow hatchery operations, as follows:

Mist Cove Special Harvest Area (SHA) shall remain open to sport salmon fishing, and to commercial trolling during the summer troll fishery, except for an area of Mist Cove SHA as follows: south if a line at 56° 31.07' N. lat., 134° 40.20' W. long., to a point at 56° 31.07' N. lat., 134° 40.12' W. long., shall be closed to common property fishing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), in consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), closes a very small portion of its SHA to common property fishing each year, via emergency order in order to provide safety to staff, and protect floats, barrier nets, net pens, and other infrastructure. In addition, the closure provides an area for protection of coho for economic harvest. NSRAA in consultation with ADF&G would like to codify this in regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (HQ-F14-025)

PROPOSAL 179 - 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 Harvest Areas. Close common property commercial salmon fishery in a portion of Kasnyku Bay Special Harvest Area to allow hatchery operations, as follows:

Kasnyku Bay Special Harvest Area (SHA) shall remain open to sport salmon fishing, and to commercial trolling during the summer troll fishery, except for a small portion of the SHA north and west of a line between a point of 57° 13.165' N. lat., 134° 51.859' W. long., and a point of 57° 13.079' N. lat., 134° 52.018' W. long., and the waters north of a line from 57° 13.051' N. lat., 134° 52.238' W. long., and a point of 57° 13.063' N. lat., 134° 52.202' W. long.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), in consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), closes a very small portion of its Kasnyku SHA to common property fishing each year. The commercial closure is via emergency order, while the sport closure has been done with posted ADF&G sport fish closure signs. NSRAA closes this area in order to provide safety to staff, and protect floats, barrier nets, net pens, and other infrastructure. In addition, the closure provides an area for protection of coho, Chinook, and chum salmon for broodstock purposes and for economic harvest. NSRAA, in consultation with ADF&G, would like to codify this in regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (HQ-F14-010)

PROPOSAL 180 - 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 Harvest Areas. Close common property commercial salmon fishery in a portion of Kasnyku Bay Special Harvest Area to allow hatchery operations, as follows:

Kasnyku Bay Special Harvest Area (SHA) shall remain open to sport salmon fishing, and to commercial trolling during the summer troll fishery, except a small portion of the SHA north and west of a line between a point at 57° 13.165' N. lat., 134° 51.859' W. long., and a point at 57° 13.051' N. lat., 134° 52.238' W. long., and a point 57° 13.063' N. lat., 134° 52.202' W. long., shall be closed to common property fishing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), in consultation with ADF&G, closes a very small portion of its Kasnyku SHA to common property fishing each year. The commercial closure is via emergency order, while the sport closure has been done with posted ADF&G sport fish closure signs. NSRAA closes this area in order to provide an area for protection of coho, Chinook, and chum salmon for broodstock purposes and for economic harvest. NRSAA, in consultation with ADF&G, would like to codify this in regulation

PROPOSED BY: Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (HQ-F14-026)

PROPOSAL 181 - 5 AAC 40.XXX. District 6: Neck Lake Special Harvest Area. Establish a Neck Lake Special Harvest Area, as follows:

5 AAC 40 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 AAC 40.XXX. District 6: Neck Lake Special Harvest Area. (a) There is established a Neck Lake Special Harvest Area for the Southern Southeast Aquaculture Association harvest of hatchery salmon returns to the Neck Lake remote release site, consisting of the

waters of Whale Pass north and west of a line from 56° 05.55' N. latitude, 133°07.30' W. longitude, to 56°05.82' N. latitude, 133°06.58' W. longitude.

(b) A hatchery permit holder harvesting salmon within the special harvest area is exempt from the provisions of 5 AAC 33.310. The open fishing season and area for the hatchery permit holder is from June 15 through August 31 in those waters of the Neck Creek upstream of the beginning of the fish pass. Additional fishing periods and area may be established by emergency order.

(c) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 33.330, legal gear for the hatchery permit holder in the special harvest area is a weir, dip nets, or beach seines. Additional gear may be established by emergency order.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Cost recovery on Neck Lake remote-released hatchery salmon by the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association has been conducted annually by emergency order since 1998. The project is successful and is expected to occur annually in the future. Establishing a Neck Lake Special Harvest Area with harvest parameters will eliminate the need to issue an emergency order every year.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-086)

PROPOSAL 182 - 5 AAC 33.376. District 13: Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan. Modify fishing ratios and sunset date in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 33.376. District 13: Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan (a) The intent of this management plan is to distribute the harvest of hatchery-produced salmon in the area described in (b) of this section between the purse seine, drift gillnet, and troll fleets.

(b) The department, in consultation with the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), shall open and close, by emergency order, fishing seasons and periods to manage the waters of Deep Inlet, Aleutkina Bay, and contiguous waters south of a line from a point west of Pirates Cove at 56_ 59.35' N. lat., 135_ 22.63' W. long., to the westernmost tip of Long Island, to the easternmost tip of Long Island, to the westernmost tip of Emgeten Island, to the westernmost tip of Error Island, to the westernmost tip of Berry Island, to the southernmost tip of Berry Island, to the westernmost tip of the southernmost island in the Kutchuma Island group, to the easternmost tip of the southernmost island in the Kutchuma Island group, to the westernmost tip of an unnamed island at 57_ 00.30' N. lat., 135_ 17.67' W. long., to a point on the southern side of the unnamed island at 57_ 00.08' N. lat., 135_ 16.78' W. long., and then to a point on the Baranof Island shore at 56_ 59.93' N. lat., 135_ 16.53' W. long., as follows:

(1) salmon may be taken by seines and drift gillnets only during periods established by emergency order as follows:

(A) openings for seines and gillnets must be rotated between net gear groups; the department, in consultation with NSRAA, shall close fishing between openings;

(B) the time ratio for gillnet openings to seine openings is two to one, except that beginning with the first emergency order of the XXX season through the last emergency order of the XXX season[2012 SEASON THROUGH THE LAST

EMERGENCY ORDER OF THE 2014 SEASON], the time ratio for gillnet openings to seine openings is **XXX TO XXX** [ONE TO ONE] after the third Sunday in June;

(2) salmon may be taken by troll gear when the waters described in this subsection are closed to commercial net gear;

(3) the commissioner shall close the seasons in the waters described in this subsection to trolling during hatchery cost recovery periods;

(4) before July 1, in order to protect local sockeye salmon stocks, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the fishing season and immediately reopen the fishing season during which the minimum mesh size of a gillnet in the drift gillnet fishery is six inches.

(c) A drift gillnet operated in the terminal harvest area may not exceed 200 fathoms in length.

(d) The waters described in (b) of this section, west of 135_20.75' W. long., will be closed to purse seine and drift gillnet gear beginning with the first emergency order of the season through the third Saturday in June.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Joint Southeast Regional Planning team (JSERPT) has submitted this placeholder proposal as a way for the board to address imbalances in the enhanced salmon allocation management plan in Southeast Alaska (5 AAC 33.364). The current regulation was a proposal submitted by the JSERPT last board cycle and will sunset in 2014. The JSERPT will be considering recommendations to the board regarding this new proposal and other enhanced salmon allocation proposals at its fall 2014 meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Joint Southeast Regional Planning Team (EF-C14-172)

PROPOSAL 183 - 5 AAC 33.376. District 13: Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan. Modify commercial salmon fishery purse seine and drift gillnet fishing time ratios in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area, as follows:

Proposed language:

(B) the time ratio for gillnet to seine time is two to one, except that beginning with the first emergency order of the 2015 season through the last emergency order of the last year in the S.E. Alaska finfish Board of Fisheries cycle, the time ratio for gillnet openings to seine openings is one to one after the third Sunday in June through statistical week 30. Commencing statistical week 31, gillnet to seine time will be two to one, respectively. If preliminary 2015 season S.E. Enhanced Allocation numbers indicate the seine fleet will be within their range (44% - 49%) for enhanced salmon based on the 5 year rolling average, the following season (2016) the gillnet to seine ratio will be 2-1, respectively from the first emergency order to the last of that season. If the following year (2016) brings the five year rolling average of the seine fleet below their range, the gillnet to seine ratio shall be 1-1 from the third Sunday in June through statistical 30, and 2-1 starting statistical week 31 through the end of the season. The latest preliminary allocation numbers as determined by NSRAA data analysis and verified by ADF&G from the previous season will be used to

determine the following year rotation schedule. This section will sunset at the end of the 2015 board cycle. [2012 SEASON THROUGH THE LAST EMERGENCY ORDER OF THE 2014 SEASON, THE TIME RATIO FOR GILLNET OPENINGS TO SEINE OPENINGS IS ONE TO ONE AFTER THE THIRD SUNDAY IN JUNE;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The seine and driftnet fleets, as part of an overarching agreement, have determined that a change in rotation access is appropriate for the coming board cycle.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters and Southeast Alaska Seiners
(EF-C14-162)

PROPOSAL 184 - 5 AAC 33.377. District 2: Kendrick Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan. Open Kendrick Bay Terminal Harvest Area to commercial salmon fishing with troll gear, as follows:

5 AAC 33.337. DISTRICT 2: KENDRICK BAY TERMINAL HARVEST AREA SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN. (a) The management plan in this section allows for the harvest of hatchery produced chum salmon in Kendrick Bay by purse seine and troll fleets.

(b).....and set the fishing times for the seine and troll fleets concurrently as follows: salmon may be taken by seine and troll only during periods established by emergency order.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? All of Southern SE Regional Aquaculture's (SSRAA's) special harvest areas (SHA) including Neets Bay, Anita Bay, and Nakat Inlet, are generally open to troll gear whenever they are open for common property harvest by any gear type except for the Kendrick Bay SHA. This is stated specifically in the regulations for Anita Bay (5 AAC 33.383) and Nakat Inlet (5 AAC 33.372) and has been done as a common practice in Neets Bay (5 AAC 33.370) except in those instances where there is a specific rotation that includes troll as part of that rotation or opens a specific areas of Neets Bay concurrently to troll with a net gear rotation elsewhere in the SHA. The SSRAA Board proposes opening the Kendrick Bay SHA to troll gear whenever the SHA is otherwise open to seine.

While troll gear does not compete effectively with seine gear there may be instances where trollers find some meaningful use of the Kendrick SHA. These would include trolling in the outer portion of McLean Arm which is adjacent to a spring access chinook fishery — particularly during periods of bad weather. It is also possible, though not likely, that trollers could access chum salmon in the SHA in the event openings for seine were not well attended. Trollers also find safe anchorage in the SHA during periods of bad weather and would simply

like to troll to and from that anchorage. And, the SSRAA Board, recognizing a long-term imbalance in the allocation of enhanced fish, would like to make the inclusion of troll gear consistent for all of its SHA's.

PROPOSED BY: John Burke for SSRAA Board of Directors (EF-C14-036)

PROPOSAL 185 - 5 AAC 33.383. District 7: Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan. Change fishing ratios and sunset date in the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 33.383. District 7: Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan (a)
The Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area consists of the waters of Anita Bay south and west of a line from the tip of Anita Point to 56_ 14.26' N. lat., 132_ 23.92' W. long.

(b) The commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, fishing seasons and periods to manage the common property fisheries to harvest excess salmon returning to the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area. The Terminal Harvest Area will be opened and closed under this subsection to the harvest of salmon as follows:

(1) The waters within one-quarter mile of the northern shoreline of Anita Bay west of a line from 56_ 12.31' N. lat., 132_ 26.22' W. long. to 56_ 12.06' N. lat., 132_ 26.22' W. long., and east of a line from 56_ 11.96' N. lat., 132_ 29.58' W. long. to 56_ 11.73' N. lat., 132_ 29.36' W. long., will be open from June 15 through July 10;

(2) The waters south and west of the waters specified in (1) of the subsection, will be closed as follows:

(A) from June 15 through June 25, the waters of the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area that are west of 132_ 26.22' W. long. will be closed to the harvest of salmon;

(B) from June 26 through July 1, the waters of the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area that are west of 132_ 26.98' W. long. will be closed to the harvest of salmon;

(C) from July 2 through July 10, the waters of the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area that are west of 132_ 28.00' W. long. will be closed to the harvest of salmon

(3) the waters within the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest not described in (1) and (2) of this subsection will be open for the entire fishing season.

(c) This management plan distributes the harvest of hatchery-produced king, coho, and chum salmon among the purse seine, troll, and gillnet fisheries when there are excess fish not being harvested by the hatchery operator. (

d) The department shall manage the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area from May 1 through November 10 to distribute the harvest of excess hatchery-produced king, coho, and chum salmon as follows:

(1) salmon may taken by troll gear at any time;

(2) salmon may be taken by seines and drift gillnets only during periods established by emergency order;

(3) in establishing emergency order season openings for the seine and drift gillnet fisheries, the department shall rotate openings between these gear groups and shall provide for a time ratio for gillnet openings to seine openings of two to one; however, if

approximately equal numbers of salmon are not being harvested by the two gear groups, the ratio and timing of openings may be altered, and beginning with the first emergency order of the XXX season through the last emergency order of the XXX season[2012 SEASON THROUGH THE LAST EMERGENCY ORDER OF THE 2014 SEASON], the time ratio for gillnet openings to seine openings is XXX to XXX [ONE TO ONE].

(e) A drift gillnet operated in the terminal harvest area may not exceed 200 fathoms in length.

(f) Salmon may be taken in the terminal harvest area under sport and personal use fishing regulations at any time. A personal use permit issued under 5 AAC 77.682 for the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area shall include the following conditions:

- (1) salmon may be taken for personal use only by drift gillnet;
- (2) a drift gillnet operated for personal use may not exceed 50 fathoms in length;
- (3) the annual bag and possession limit for personal use is 25 salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Joint Southeast Regional Planning team (JSERPT) has submitted this placeholder proposal as a way for the board to address imbalances in the enhanced salmon allocation management plan in Southeast Alaska (5 AAC 33.364). The current regulation was a proposal submitted by the JSERPT last board cycle and will sunset in 2014. The JSERPT will be considering recommendations to the board regarding this new proposal and other enhanced salmon allocation proposals at its fall 2014 meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Joint Southeast Regional Planning Team (EF-C14-170)

PROPOSAL 186 - 5 AAC 33.383. District 7: Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan. Modify commercial salmon fishery purse seine and drift gillnet fishing time ratios in the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area, as follows:

Proposed language:

(d) The department shall manage the Anita Bay terminal harvest area (THA) from May 1 through November 10 to distribute the harvest of excess hatchery-produced king, coho, and chum salmon as follows:

(3) in establishing emergency order season openings for the seine and drift gillnet fisheries, the department shall rotate openings between these gear groups and shall provide for a time ratio for gillnet openings to seine openings of two to one, respectively; however, the ratio and timing of openings may be altered, beginning with the first emergency order of the 2015 season through statistical week 30, the time ratio for gillnet opening to seine openings is 1-1. Commencing statistical week 31, the time ratio gillnet openings to seine openings is 2-1. If preliminary numbers indicate the seine fleet will in all likelihood be within their enhanced allocation range for one year on a 5 year rolling average, the following year the drift gillnet to seine ratio will be 2-1 from the first emergency order opening through the final of the season. If the following year brings the seine fleet below their allocation range for 1 year on a 5 year rolling average, the gillnet to seine ratio will be 1-1 from the first emergency order of the season through statistical week 30, and starting with statistical week 31 gillnet to seine ratio of 2-1 until

the end of August, when the season will return to the normal 24 hour seven day a week all gear groups schedule. The latest NSRAA preliminary numbers, verified by ADF&G from the previous season will be used to determine the following season's rotation schedule. This section will sunset at the end of the 2015 board cycle. [IF APPROXIMATELY EQUAL NUMBERS OF SALMON ARE NOT BEING HARVESTED BY THE TWO GEAR GROUPS, THE RATIO AND TIMING OF OPENINGS MAY BE ALTERED, AND BEGINNING WITH THE FIRST EMERGENCY ORDER OF THE 2012 SEASON THROUGH THE LAST EMERGENCY ORDER OF THE 2014 SEASON, THE TIME RATIO FOR GILLNET OPENINGS TO SEINE OPENINGS IS ONE TO ONE.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Anita Bay THA net rotations. The seiners and gillnetters want to change the fishing time for the next cycle to accommodate each other in a cooperative, overall agreement on allocative issues. This is a joint proposal by United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters and Southeast Alaska Seiners.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters and Southeast Alaska Seiners
(EF-C14-161)

PROPOSAL 187 - 5 AAC 33.387. District 9: Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan. Allow commercial salmon drift gillnet gear in Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area, as follows:

Proposed language:

(d) the management plan in this section distributes the harvest of hatchery-produced chum salmon among the purse seine, troll, **and drift gillnet fisheries** when there are excess fish not being harvested by the hatchery operator.

(e) The department shall manage the Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area to distribute the harvest of excess hatchery-produced chum salmon as follows:

(1) the gear group that is **farthest below** [FURTHEST FROM] that gear group's allocation of enhanced salmon will begin with the first rotation.

(2) purse seine openings will be limited to a maximum of two fishing days per week in the terminal harvest area in order to harvest surplus of chum salmon;

(3) troll openings will be limited to a maximum of five fishing days per week in the terminal harvest area in order to harvest surplus chum salmon;

(4) drift gillnet openings will be limited to a maximum of two fishing days per week in the terminal harvest area in order to harvest a surplus of chum salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Include drift gillnet in Southeast Cove terminal harvest area management plan as a tool to facilitate corrections to enhanced allocation imbalances that may occur in the future. The following management plan includes days and time but the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association board will determine which groups should fish if a fishery is developed. It may be a case where one or possibly even two gear groups do not fish in the area for an entire year if there is only trolling and cost recovery. We recognize this. We are simply recognizing the drift gillnet fleets potential

and variable opportunity as we would any groups opportunity as defined by the enhanced salmon allocation plan.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters and Southeast Alaska Seiners
(EF-C14-164)

PROPOSAL 188 - 5 AAC 33.387. District 9: Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan. Modify commercial seine and troll fishing schedules in Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area, as follows:

(e) The department shall manage the Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area to distribute the harvest of excess hatchery produced chum salmon as follows:

[(1) THE GEAR GROUP THAT IS FURTHEST FROM THAT GEAR GROUP'S ALLOCATION OF ENHANCED SALMON WILL BEGIN WITH THE FIRST ROTATION;

(2) PURSE SEINE OPENINGS WILL BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF TWO FISHING DAYS PER WEEK IN THE TERMINAL HARVEST AREA IN ORDER TO HARVEST SURPLUS CHUM SALMON;

(3) TROLL OPENINGS WILL BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF FIVE FISHING DAYS PER WEEK IN THE TERMINAL HARVEST AREA IN ORDER TO HARVEST SURPLUS CHUM SALMON.]

(1) Seining may be allowed by emergency order from the third Sunday in June through July 8 and from July 31 through the first Saturday in August.

(2) Trolling may be allowed by emergency order from July 9 through July 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In order to achieve harvest levels sufficient to make substantial progress towards reducing the allocation imbalance, trollers need a sufficient density of fish over a large enough area to allow the fleet to work without interfering with one another. A regular seine rotation would prevent the buildup to fish required for this to happen. Rather than two days per week for seiners and five day for trollers, we propose that beginning with 2017, the troll days be grouped in a single block to allow this build up to occur.

Trollers have remained well below their allocation under *The Southeast Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.364) for many years. These allocation ranges were established to ensure a "fair and reasonable distribution of the harvest of salmon from enhancement projects among the seine, troll and gillnet commercial fisheries." At least with regard to the troll fleet, the actual harvest has fallen well short of the fair share of 27-32% provided.

Furthermore, in Findings 94-11, the Board of Fisheries agreed with the consensus recommendation of the State Allocation Task Force that when the value of a gear group's harvest over a trailing five year period has been outside of this distribution for three consecutive years, the first course of action is to make an adjustment to access of terminal harvest area fisheries in

order to achieve the board prescribed balance. This trigger has been met for nearly two decades so additional troll access in this terminal harvest area and others is clearly due.

The second course of action to remedy an allocation imbalance under Board of Fisheries Findings 94-11 is the additional production of enhanced salmon to benefit the gear group(s) below allocation. The Southeast Cove release has been recently increased to approximately double previous numbers, so many of the returning adults will be new production.

PROPOSED BY: Chum Trollers Association (HQ-F14-059)

PROPOSAL 189 - 5 AAC 33.374. District 12: Hidden Falls Hatchery Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan. Remove reference to 5 AAC 33.366 *Northern Southeast Seine Salmon Fishery Management Plans* and clarify language regarding fishing openings, as follows:

5 AAC 33.374(c)(2) is amended to read:

(c) From April 15 through June 30, chum and king salmon may be taken by troll and purse seine gear as follows:

...

(2) if **Sunday** [WEEKLY] seine openings or midweek openings [SCHEDULED UNDER 5 AAC 33.366] do not occur, in order to achieve broodstock and cost recovery goals, the troll fishery for the harvest of chum salmon will be closed; if more than seven days remain before the July 1 general summer troll **fishery** [SEASON] opening, troll fisheries for king salmon may continue; however, chum salmon caught must be released immediately and may not be retained or sold;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The regulation incorrectly cites weekly openings and mid-week openings found under 5AAC 33.366 *Northern Southeast Seine Salmon Fishery Management Plans*. The *Hidden Falls Hatchery Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan* at 5 AAC 33.374 is independent of the *Northern Southeast Seine Salmon Fishery Management Plans*, and 5AAC 33.366 should not be referenced. Seine openings under 5 AAC 33.374. *Hidden Falls Hatchery Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan* occurs on Sunday or during mid-week, and are not referred to as weekly openings.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-085)

PROPOSAL 190 - 5 AAC 33.366. Northern Southeast seine fishery management plan. Modify accounting of commercial sockeye salmon purse seine harvest limit in Amalga Harbor Special Harvest Area, as follows:

Proposed language:

(a) During July, the department may allow the operation of purse seines in District 12 north of Point Marsden to harvest pink salmon migrating northward in Chatham Strait only as follows:

(2) The department shall close the seine fishery in District 12 north of Point Marsden during July after 15,000 wild sockeye salmon are taken; hatchery-produced sockeye salmon will not count against the 15,000 sockeye salmon harvest limit; all wild sockeye salmon harvested by seine vessels that the department identifies as fishing north of Point Marsden **in District 12** during any July fishing period when other areas are **concurrently open, [CONCURRENTLY]** **and for the 2015 board cycle, the first 2,000 wild sockeye salmon taken during the normal full sustainable harvest area (SHA) common property seine fishery openings at Amalga SHA, in District 11,** will be counted against the 15,000 sockeye salmon harvest limit under this paragraph; during the openings, the department will use aerial flyovers, on-the-ground sampling and interviews to estimate the sockeye salmon harvest north of Point Marsden.

In the event of reduced area in Amalga as happened July 18, 2013, this will already have achieved the allocative and conservation effect, so only normal SHA Amalga openings will count towards the sockeye cap.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2012 a purse seine fishery was started at DIPAC's Amalga Harbor SHA to harvest returning chums in excess of cost recovery and broodstock needs. In prosecution of this fishery, in both 2012 and 2013, incidental sockeyes were also harvested. A relatively high percentage of these sockeye were enhanced. In order to blend the allocative as well as the potential conservation requirements of this fishery, the first 2000 wild sockeye incidentals harvested at Amalga SHA in the common property seine harvest will be counted against the 15,000 wild sockeye cap outlined in this regulation when the normal area is open. When there is an area restriction, such as happened July 18, 2013, there will be no count of the sockeye against the 15,000 Hawk Inlet cap. This is to replace any area restrictions for allocation and conservation. We support the current time and area being fished in the Amalga SHA.

This is a joint proposal by Southeast Alaska Seiners and United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters and Southeast Alaska Seiners
(EF-C14-160)

PROPOSAL 191 - 5 AAC 33.366. Northern Southeast seine fishery management plan.
Modify accounting of commercial sockeye salmon purse seine harvest limit in Amalga Harbor Special Harvest Area, as follows:

(a) During July, the department may allow the operation of purse seines in District 12 north of Point Marsden to harvest pink salmon migrating northward in Chatham Strait only as follows:

(2) the department shall close the seine fishery in District 12 north of Point Marsden during July after 15,000 wild sockeye salmon are taken; hatchery produced sockeye salmon will not count against the 15,000 sockeye salmon harvest limit; all wild sockeye salmon harvested by seine vessels that the department identifies as fishing north of Point Marsden in District 12 during any July fishing period when other areas are concurrently open, **and all**

wild sockeye salmon taken during the common property seine fishery at Amalga Harbor SHA, in District 11, will be counted against the 15,000 sockeye salmon harvest limit under this paragraph; during the openings, the department will use aerial flyovers, on-the-ground sampling and interviews to estimate the sockeye salmon harvest north of Point Marsden.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A purse seine fishery has been conducted in the Amalga Harbor special harvest area (SHA) for the years of 2012 and 2013 to harvest hatchery chum that exceed Douglas Island Pink and Chum's (DIPAC's) needs for cost recovery and broodstock. Although this fishery is conducted in a SHA there is still an incidental catch of wildstock fish including sockeye caught during the seine openings. Sampling from DIPAC has shown that the sockeye caught are composed of both wild stock and enhanced origins. To account for continued harvest of these mixed stock sockeye salmon by the seine fishery in the Amalga Harbor SHA all wild stock sockeye components of the catch in the Amalga SHA will count against the 15,000 wild sockeye cap outlined in the current regulations.

PROPOSED BY: Ryan Cook (EF-C14-183)

PROPOSAL 192 - 5 AAC 33.366. Northern Southeast seine fishery management plan. In Districts 12 and 14 require reporting of commercially caught sockeye salmon that are not sold, as follows:

5 AAC 33.366 Northern Southeast seine salmon fishery management plans needs to be modified to include:

(c) In District 12 and District 14, commercial purse seine fishermen shall report on an Alaska Department of Fish and Game fish ticket, at the time of delivery of the commercial catch, the number of sockeye salmon retained from commercial catch but not sold. For the purposes of this subsection, "delivery: means the offloading of the finfish for sale or for transport to a buyer for sale later.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In recent years there have been concerns in meeting conservation and subsistence priority obligations for sockeye salmon returning to lakes and streams in the Chatham Strait Area. To effectively manage for escapement and subsistence needs, there needs to be an accurate reporting on fish tickets of the number of sockeye salmon caught in the commercial purse seine fisheries in Icy Strait and Chatham Strait. Subsistence and personal use fishers are required to report on subsistence/personal use permits, their take of salmon and trout by location, date, and species. Commercial purse seine fishers in the area should also be required to report by location and date the number of sockeye salmon retained but not sold, as well as the number sold. In some years, the number of sockeye salmon taken for home use or otherwise not sold or reported on fish tickets might be significant relative to the number taken in subsistence fisheries. The suggested wording for the regulation comes from the General Provision 5 AAC 39.010 (b) which only

requires commercial fishermen to report the number of steelhead that are retained from the commercial catch but not sold.

PROPOSED BY: Kootznoowoo, Inc. (HQ-F14-056)

PROPOSAL 193 - 5 AAC 33.366. Northern Southeast seine fishery management plan.
Restrict and prohibit commercial salmon seining in portions of Districts 12 and 14, as follows:

(c) The department may allow the operation of purse seines in District 12, Subdistricts 12, 13, 14, 16, and 17, and District 14, Subdistrict 27, no more than one 15-hour opening every seven days. The department must open these subdistricts concurrently whenever they are opened and concurrently with openings in other districts in the region.

(d) The department may not allow the operation of purse seines in District 12, Subdistrict 15, or in District 14, Subdistricts 21 and 23.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Additional constraints are needed in the Northern Southeast Seine Salmon Fishery Management Plans (5 AAC 33.366) to protect and maintain subsistence salmon stocks and fisheries in the Chatham Strait Area. In several recent years, high commercial purse seine effort in passing stock fishing areas in Icy Strait and Upper Chatham Strait has interfered with the ability of Angoon residents to meet their subsistence needs for salmon. To reduce harvest pressure on salmon returning to the lakes and streams in the Angoon area, the commercial purse seine effort needs to be moderated in the passing stock fishing areas and shifted closer to the inlets and bays where the targeted pink salmon are going. This will help managers to selectively harvest or protect individual stocks and help meet subsistence priority obligations for the residents of Angoon. This proposal limits the maximum weekly fishing times in the principal passing fishing areas to one 15-hour opening every seven days. This regulation change should be adopted to help avoid fishery restrictions or closures by the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture as authorized under Title VII §804 of ANILCA.

PROPOSED BY: Kootznoowoo, Inc. (HQ-F14-055)

PROPOSAL 194 - 5 AAC 33.366. Northern Southeast seine fishery management plan.
Close a portion of Lisianski Inlet to commercial salmon fishing with purse seine gear, as follows:

Lisianski Inlet south of a line from 57° 56.79' N latitude, 136° 14.14' W longitude to 57° 56.86' N latitude, 136°12.35' W longitude is closed to commercial purse seining.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial seine fishing effort in Lisianski Inlet has increased significantly. The seiners used to fish Lisianski Inlet every odd year (every other year), the openings were two days per week, and seining was closed by mid-August. The seiners use spotter boats with high-technology fish finding equipment to locate

salmon, and the seine effort restricts commercial salmon trollers from fishing areas they have traditionally fished at - the salmon trollers are local Pelican residents displaced by the seine effort.

PROPOSED BY: Patricia Phillips (EF-C14-051)

PROPOSAL 195 - 5 AAC 33.366. Northern Southeast seine fishery management plan.
Close a portion of Lisianski Inlet to commercial salmon fishing with purse seine gear, as follows:

Lisianski Inlet west of a line from (Miner Island) 58° 00'26.32" N, 136° 20'15.84 W to (Scotty Cove) 57° 58'59.94 N, 136° 18'01.20" W is closed to commercial purse seining. (Latitude and longitudes are approximate.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce interception of coho salmon migrating to home streams in Lisianski Inlet. The Lisianski Inlet entrance to Lisianski Strait is a pinch point corridor for migrating salmon. High-tech spotter boats and seine vessels are highly effective at locating and intercepting stream bound salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Patricia Phillips (EF-C14-052)

PROPOSAL 196 - 5 AAC 33.XXX New Section. Establish new salmon statistical areas in District 13, as follows:

Lisianski Inlet north of 57° 52.68' N latitude to a line from 57° 58'59.94" N., 136°18'01.20" W. to 57°59'42.77 N., 136°17" 07.19" W.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish additional statistical lines in Section 13 - Lisianski Inlet in order to identify seine harvest of salmon bound for Lisianski Inlet salmon spawning streams. The proposal defines the significance of pink salmon harvest inside Lisianski Inlet with the timing of the harvest. Creating new statistical lines help identify the amount of Lisianski stream bound coho interception. Harvest records record a significant interception of coho by commercial salmon purse seine in Section 13 Lisianski Inlet. Statistical area 95 covers a vast area - the early interception, and most of the effort in weeks 29 and 30 occurs near the line at Soapstone and Column Point. Is this early effort Lisianski bound cohos? Weeks 33, 34, and 35 (August), in 2011, records substantial coho interception; more than likely these are cohos bound for Lisianski salmon stream. Cohos from Lisianski stream systems are important subsistence fish resource for residents of Pelican. Does ADF&G have escapement levels for Lisianski coho stream systems? The community would like to know if the commercial salmon purse seine fishery in Lisianski Inlet is intercepting "Inlet" salmon. Equally important, the community's permit for chum incubation boxes, to support the development of a salmon hatchery at Pelican, requires Pelican to demonstrate the early chum run does not interfere with local wild coho stocks. The community will benefit from more concise harvest numbers

that are more reflective of salmon bound for Lisianski Inlet salmon spawning streams. (The proposed line in Lisianski Inlet will run from Scotty Cove to a point parallel on the other side of Lisianski Inlet.)

PROPOSED BY: Patricia Phillips (EF-C14-53)

PROPOSAL 197 - 5 AAC 33.XXX New Section. Establish new salmon statistical areas in Lisianski Inlet, as follows:

Lisianski Inlet north of 57° 52.68' N. latitude to a line from 58° 04'.208' N., 136°25.971' W. to 58° 04.382' N., 136°24.779 W. (From Mite Cove marker on Yakobi Island east to Chichagof Island across Lisianski Inlet. Latitude and longitudes are approximates.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The purpose is to separate Soapstone and Column Point commercial salmon purse seine fishery from the commercial salmon purse seine fishery that occurs inside Lisianski Inlet from a line south of Mite Cove marker. The current harvest records are cumulative and there are no indicators or stock analysis of the multi-stock fishery. Are these fish harvested primarily bound for Lisianski Inlet streams? Are most salmon harvested at Soapstone-Column Point a mixed fishery with salmon migrating inbound towards Inian Passage/Icy Straits or migrating to Lisianski Inlet spawning streams?

Additionally, the City of Pelican obtained a Streamside Salmon Incubation Permit with the primary objective of determining run timing for early run chum salmon released at Pelican Creek. Having a Lisianski Inlet focused statistical line assists with this determination.

PROPOSED BY: Patricia Phillips (EF-C14-54)

PROPOSAL 198 - 5 AAC 33.350. Closed waters. Establish closed waters around sockeye salmon streams in the Angoon area, as follows:

5 AAC 33.350(m) is amended to read:

(m) District 12:

(1) **within two nautical miles of the Chichagof Island shoreline south of 57° 41.65' N. lat. and north of 57° 37.91' N. lat., including the waters of Basket Bay** [BASKET BAY: WATERS INSIDE A LINE FROM 57° 39.80' N. LAT., 134° 53.77' W. LONG. TO 57° 39.28' N. LAT., 134° 53.88' W. LONG.];

...

(10) **within two nautical miles of the Admiralty Island shoreline south of the latitude of Parker Point at 57° 36.73' N. lat. and north of the latitude of Point Samuel at 58° 28.25' N. lat., including the waters of Kootznahoo Inlet** [KOOTZNAHOO INLET: WATERS EAST OF A LINE FROM THE TIP OF TURN POINT TO VILLAGE ROCK LIGHT];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Include in regulatory closed waters those areas that are currently closed by emergency order for the conservation of sockeye salmon stocks important to subsistence needs. These two proposed closed areas have been closed by emergency order for at least the last 10 years.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-083)

PROPOSAL 199 - 5 AAC 33.350. Closed waters. Prohibit commercial fishing for salmon with purse seine gear within the possessory boundary of Angoon for five years, as follows:

5 AAC 33.366 Northern Southeast Seine Salmon Fishery Management Plans needs to be modified to include:

(c) The department may not allow the operation of commercial purse seines for the next five years within the possessory boundary of the Angoon people (as identified in the Goldschmidt and Haas, 1946).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Additional constraints are needed in the Northern Southeast Seine Management Fishery Plans (5 AAC 33.366) to protect and maintain subsistence salmon stocks and fisheries in the Angoon Area. In several recent years, high commercial purse seine efforts in the Angoon Area has interfered with the ability of Angoon residents to meet their subsistence needs for salmon. The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture have advised the State of Alaska that they need to take actions to manage fisheries for subsistence priority obligations for the residents of Angoon by the 2015 season or face fishery restrictions or closures authorized under Title VIII §804 of ANILCA. This proposal prohibits the operation of commercial purse seines within the traditional waters of the people of Angoon (see chart 10 in the Goldschmidt, W.R. and T.H. Haas, 1998. Haa Aani, Our Land: Tlingit and Haida land rights and use. Editor, T.F. Thornton. University of Washington Press, Seattle, and Sealaska Heritage Foundation, Juneau) for five years. This closure should give the State of Alaska enough time to develop a seine salmon fishery management plan that effectively addresses the escapement and subsistence priority obligations for salmon in the Angoon area.

PROPOSED BY: Angoon Community Association (HQ-F14-053)

PROPOSAL 200 - 5 AAC 33.350. Closed waters. Close waters within the Admiralty Monument proclamation boundary to commercial fishing for salmon with purse seine gear, as follows:

5 AAC 33.366 *Northern Southeast Seine Salmon Fishery Management Plans* needs to be modified to include:

...
(c) The department may not allow the operation of purse seines within the Admiralty Monument proclamation boundary.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Additional constraints are needed in the *Northern Southeast Seine Salmon Fishery Management Plans* (5 AAC 33.366) to protect and maintain subsistence salmon stocks and fisheries in the Chatham Strait area. In several recent years, high commercial purse seine effort (deeper nets, powerful and oversized fish holds) along the Admiralty Island shore has interfered with the ability of Angoon residents to meet their subsistence needs for salmon. To reduce harvest pressure on salmon returning to the lakes and streams in the Angoon area the commercial purse seine effort needs to be moderated along the Admiralty shore. This proposal prohibits commercial purse seine fishing within the Admiralty Monument proclamation boundary—a boundary set by a presidential proclamation which is approximately 3,000 feet off the shore of Admiralty Island. Admiralty Island and proclamation waters are a sacred site to the people of Angoon. This regulation change should be adopted to help avoid fishery restrictions or closures by the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture as authorized under Title VIII §804 of ANILCA.

PROPOSED BY: Kootznoowoo Inc. (HQ-F14-057)

PROPOSAL 201 - 5 AAC 33.350. Closed waters. Close certain waters of Chichagof Island and Admiralty Island to commercial salmon fishing with purse seine gear, as follows:

The area within two nautical miles of Chichagof Island between points two nautical miles north and two nautical miles south of Basket Bay and the area within two nautical miles of Admiralty Island south of Parker Point and north of Point Samuel are closed to purse seining.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To reduce interception of sockeye salmon stocks, which are important for subsistence uses by residents of Angoon, by commercial salmon purse seine fishing.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (HQ-F14-020)

PROPOSAL 202 - 5 AAC 33.XXX. Seine vessel length restriction for Southeastern Alaska Area. Clarify measurement standards for the commercial salmon purse seine vessel length limit in the Southeastern Alaska Area, as follows:

Amend the regulation so that there is clarity for fishermen and the enforcing agency. There needs to be a measurement standard that is fair to the all participants with history in the fishery and that is enforceable by regulators.

There are two options:

1) Amend the current regulation so that where an anchor roller ends and the hull begins is defensibly defined. Then measure every seine boat that registers in area A and set up a registry with CFEC to record each boat for future reference.

2) Scrap the current regulation and write a new one that sets up a registry at CFEC which requires that the federal document showing the length overall of each vessel must be submitted each year before a boat can renew its license.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The 58 foot length limit for salmon seine boats needs clarification.

There are many seine boats seining for salmon in Southeast Alaska that are longer than 58 feet. There have been numerous complaints to CFEC and Troopers about these boats, but no one wants to be on the spot to measure them.

It appears that the current regulation is not defensible or these boats would not be fishing among us.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas McAllister (EF-C14-33)

PROPOSAL 203 - 5 AAC 33.332. Seine specifications and operation. Establish and define a maximum speed at which a commercial salmon fishery purse seine may be towed, as follows:

The state should add to definition a speed at which a seine net may be towed through the water to eliminate any chance that with advancing technologies a seine net may be turned into an inland waters trawl net.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? With advances in both the use of new gear types (spectra gear) and in efficiencies on both seine boats and seine skiffs it has allowed new seine gear to be used more like trawl gear being towed through the water instead of just being used to encircle fish. Without definition of a speed at which a net may be towed though the water seine nets have the potential to become an inland waters trawl net.

PROPOSED BY: Jason Shull (EF-C14-184)

PROPOSAL 204 - 5 AAC 33.XXX. Use of aircraft unlawful. Prohibit the use of spotter planes during open commercial salmon fishing periods where purse seine gear is allowed, as follows:

Spotter planes may not be in the air during open hours of any salmon seine opening, including hatcheries and special openings.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Prohibit the use of spotter planes during open hours in the southeast salmon seine fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Larry Demmert (EF-C14-023)

PROPOSAL 205 - 5 AAC 33.XXX. Use of aircraft unlawful. Prohibit the use of unmanned aircraft during open commercial salmon fishing periods where purse seine is allowed, as follows:

Prohibit drones flying during any salmon seine opener.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Prohibit the use of drones during any salmon seine opening. Spotter planes are just watching other boats and crowding out the guys catching fish, because they can't find their own, drones will do the same thing.

PROPOSED BY: Larry Demmert (EF-C14-030)

PROPOSAL 206 - 5 AAC 33.200. Fishing Districts and Sections. Clarify the boundary between sections 15-A and 15-C at Sherman Rock, as follows:

5 AAC 33.200(o)(3) is amended to read:

(o) District 15: waters of Lynn Canal north of the latitude of Little Island Light;

...

(3) Section 15-C: all waters of the district south of the latitude of Sherman Rock [LIGHT], except for the waters of Section 15-B.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sections 15-A and 15-C share a boundary at the latitude of Sherman Rock. Regulations describe the southern boundary of Section 15-A as the latitude of Sherman Rock and the northern boundary of Section 15-C as the latitude of the Sherman Rock Light. There is no fixed light at Sherman Rock. The nearest light is located approximately one half nautical mile north of Sherman Rock at Point Sherman. Current regulations could be misinterpreted to create an overlap of sections 15-A and 15-C in the area between Sherman Rock and Point Sherman Light. Defining the northern boundary of Section 15-C as the latitude of Sherman Rock will clarify the shared boundary.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-084)

PROPOSAL 207 - 5 AAC 33.310. Fishing seasons and periods for net gear. Increase commercial drift gillnet salmon fishing opportunity in Section 6-D, as follows:

Proposed language:

(c) Salmon may be taken by gillnets in the following locations only during fishing periods established by emergency order that start on a Sunday and close by emergency order:

...

(2) District 6

(B) Section 6-D west of a line from Mariposa Rock Buoy to the northernmost tip of Point Harrington to a point on Etolin island at 56° 09.60' N. lat., 132° 42.70' W. long., to the southernmost tip of Point Stanhope is open from the second Sunday in June through the first Saturday in August and from the first Sunday in September until the season is

closed. **For the 2015 board cycle: the area is open from the second Sunday in June until the season is closed, however from the first Sunday in August until the first Sunday in September this area may be open if pink salmon abundance also warrants seine openings in this area. When a seine opening is announced the area will be closed to gillnet at 11:59 p.m. on the day preceding a seine opening and will remain closed for the duration of that seine opening. At the end of the 2015 BOF cycle, this section reverts to the regulation in effect as of 12/31/14.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Section 6-D west of a line from Mariposa Rock Buoy to the northernmost tip of Point Harrington to a point on Etolin Island a 56° 09.60' N. lat., 132° 42.70' W. long., to the southernmost tip of Point Stanhope is closed to gillnet for virtually the entire month of August.

This area abuts a gillnet area, 6-C. Having 6-D closed for a month precludes the gillnet fleet from fishing what can be a very productive stretch of beach in what can be a very productive time frame. It condenses the gillnet fleet to smaller area than is necessary. In years of high pink abundance, a seine fishery is conducted in 6-D by emergency order. By regulation the gillnet fleet is precluded from sharing in this abundance.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters and Southeast Alaska Seiners
(EF-C14-163)

PROPOSAL 208 - 5 AAC 33.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Establish a drift gillnet mesh size restriction in District 8 when the directed king salmon fishery is closed, as follows:

"In District 8 during years of no directed king salmon fishing, the maximum mesh size allowed is six (6) inches."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I believe this is consistent with the District 11 management plan. Currently there is no maximum mesh size in District 8 (Stikine River Area) during the directed sockeye fishery during years when there is no directed fishery allowed for king salmon. Without a maximum mesh size, gillnetters are allowed to fish large mesh nets and target king salmon every year even though there is no directed fishery for kings in some years.

A similar management plan for District 11 (Taku River Area) contains a mesh restriction during the sockeye fishery when there is no directed king salmon fishing allowed.

Not only is this a conservation issue, but also a fairness issue between user groups. Both recreational fishers and commercial trollers are restricted when there is no directed fishery allowed for king salmon in this area. Having a maximum mesh size similar to the District 11 management plan provides consistency for these transboundary rivers and does not interfere with gillnetters ability to target sockeyes.

Without this mesh restriction some gillnetters will continue to target king salmon during the sockeye fishery even though there is no directed king fishery allowed.

PROPOSED BY: Stan Malcom (EF-C14-043)

PROPOSAL 209 - 5 AAC 33.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow drift gillnets with mesh size of four and seven-eighths inches or less to have a depth of up to 120 meshes, as follows:

By adopting regulations allowing nets of 4 7/8" or less mesh size to increase allowable mesh depth up to a maximum of 120 meshes. A current 4 7/8" 60 mesh net is approximately 24 feet in total depth, without tide. The 60 mesh net likely fishes at a depth of less than 20 feet (calculating for wind, tide and drift), allowing the majority of pink salmon to swim under the net.

By doubling the allowable depth to 120 meshes or approximately 48 feet, perhaps 36–40 fishable feet (again calculating for wind, tide and drift, this will increase opportunity for the drift gillnet fleet to harvest pink salmon and thus diversify the drift gillnet fishery for participants. It also gives the drift gillnet fleet the opportunity to gain on historical pink salmon harvests in traditional and historical drift gillnet areas. Net lengths will be in accord with existing regulations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To provide additional opportunity for the gillnet fleet to become more efficient and productive in the pink salmon fishery in traditional and historical drift gillnet areas. Our nets are designed to harvest larger species. As thus, our 60 mesh net may hang 30 plus feet if fishing for chums or sockeyes, or perhaps even 40 feet if for kings. But allowing for the much smaller pink salmon mesh size, our net shrinks to a mere 24 flat stretched feet, or about 20 feet or less while fishing. We need a deeper pink salmon net in order to harvest pink salmon.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (EF-C14-165)

PROPOSAL 210 - 5 AAC 33.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow the use of single filament mesh in a commercial salmon drift gillnet in the Southeastern Alaska Area, as follows:

A new section in 5 AAC 33.331. Gillnet specifications and operations would be added as follows:

(k) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 39.250(c), in the Southeast Alaska area, a person may use single filament mesh web in a drift gillnet.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow the use of monofilament web in the drift gillnet fishery. The cost of web has gone up approximately 30%

over the last 10 years and is expected to increase over the next couple of years. The cost of high end commercial fishing gillnet web is now \$24.50/pound while monofilament cost about 1/2 the price at \$12.46/pound.

Monofilament was approved for use in the Cook Inlet Fishery and that fishery has shown that over time some fishermen will choose to use monofilament web while others continue to use the more conventional web. We are just asking for the opportunity for those who wish to use monofilament to have that choice as a cost savings.

PROPOSED BY: Kathy's Net Loft & Gear Supplies (Kathy & Ed Hansen) (EF-C14-110)

PROPOSAL 211 - 5 AAC 30.345. Requirements and specifications for operation of two units of set gillnet gear in Yakutat Area. Remove the sunset clause from Yakutat Area commercial salmon set gillnet permit stacking regulation, as follows:

5 AAC 30.345. Requirements and specifications for operation of two units of set gillnet gear in the Yakutat area.

The Yakutat Advisory Committee proposes that the board remove paragraph (e) [THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2014.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Yakutat Advisory Committee asked for this to be adopted at Southeast and Yakutat Finfish 2012. It was with a sunset provision. The section was implemented, there was minimal effort, but it was utilized. There was not adverse reactions or complaints heard. It did provide a small opportunity for improvement in a fishery that has had a 10-year average gross income of around \$13,000. The advisory committee feels that keeping the section in the order that it is written is appropriate.

The advisory committee does not feel that anyone will be adversely affected. We considered no other options.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-078)

PROPOSAL 212 - 5 AAC 30.345. Requirements and specifications for operation of two units of set gillnet gear in Yakutat Area. Allow the owner of two commercial salmon set gillnet permits to fish both permits throughout the Yakutat Area, as follows:

Proposal 5 AAC 30.345. Requirements and specifications for operation of two units of set gillnet gear in the Yakutat area.

Remove the restrictions of where and when two permits can be fished by one fishermen, and allow for two permits anywhere in the district, when a setnet fishery is conducted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are 157 limited entry set gillnet permits in the Yakutat area. That number won't change, only the hands they're in. This shouldn't change the scope of the fishery; only allow for more aggressive fishermen the opportunity to fish harder. In a fishery with an average gross income of \$13,000, something needs to be done to revitalize the fishery, as it is currently failing and many simply choose not to fish from the lack of profits.

No one will be adversely affected, and it will help the fishermen.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee. (EF-C14-079)

PROPOSAL 213 - 5 AAC 30.XXX. New Section. Allow multiple commercial salmon set gillnet permit holders to jointly harvest and deliver fish, as follows:

Two to three Yakutat setnet permit holders may register with ADFG to jointly harvest salmon and deliver fish to the processors. Registration will include the vessel number of any vessel that may be used by this co-op partnership. The vessels registered must display its ADF&G permanent license plate number followed by the letter "D" to identify the vessel as holding multiple permit holders on board. A permit holder who is registered may also fish by themselves if their permit card lists that vessel on it, and the letter "D" is covered up during that trip. When the "D" is displayed the permit holders registered together must be on board the vessel. A permit holder may only be registered in one co-op partnership at a time, but may be involved in more than one partnership within one year. If fish are harvested in more than one sub-district the fish tickets of each partner in the co-op partnership will show the same estimation of amount of fish caught in each sub-district.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Although the Yakutat setnet fishery has historically operated in partnerships, enforcement is now writing violations for pooling the fish from several sites or units of gear. Yakutat setnet gear is fished out of small open 20 foot skiffs, very often under hazardous and rough conditions. For reasons of safety, conservation of fuel, and general overall ease of operations for the fishermen, temporary partnerships will often arise. There may be three or more permits all being fished out of one small skiff. Keeping track of which fish came from which net is impossible most of the time under these conditions, and to avoid anyone feeling shorted, these fish were considered common property and distributed on a percentage basis among the fishermen at the processors. Typically the split is 50/50, but there are instances where this is not the case, such as when a permit holder with a vessel fishes with a permit holder without a vessel. This has been a common practice prior to limited entry, and we would like to develop a regulation where this practice can continue in the future without fear of prosecution. This is not a permit stacking request.

If this is not implemented, increased violations will be issued and historical practices of the fishery will have to change which will increase the danger of the fishery and lower the economic viability of the fishery.

We considered making it mandatory for there to always be an exactly even split. This would alleviate any potential conflicts with Child Support Enforcement Division, or other court ordered garnishees against one or more of the potential partners, but decided against it, as this is not the intent of fish tickets.

We would prefer to leave it up to the individual fishermen to split the fish based on a percentage that determine, but if exactly even splits were mandatory it is preferable to no splits at all. We are resubmitting this proposal hoping to resolve whatever it was that failed it in 2012. Any options would be considered.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-080)

PROPOSAL 214 - 5 AAC 30.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Remove depth restrictions from commercial salmon set gillnet gear, as follows:

Proposal to allow unlimited mesh depth in Yakutat set gillnet fishery anywhere in the district, anytime a fishery is conducted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would remove mesh depth restriction currently set at 45 mesh deep. It would primarily be a benefit in the Yakutat Bay pink salmon fishery, and would not affect any of the other fisheries. No one will be adversely affected, and it would be a benefit to setnet fishermen in the pink salmon fishery. In addition, it would make gear purchases less wasteful.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-081)

PROPOSAL 215 - 5 AAC 30.331. Gillnet specifications and operations Allow commercial salmon set gillnets up to 60 meshes deep after July 1, as follows:

Change the mesh length restriction. Proposal to allow for 60 mesh deep nets in Yakutat Bay only, after July 1 instead of 45 mesh deep.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would primarily aid in the harvest of pink salmon in Yakutat Bay, which tend to run deeper than other species. No one would be adversely affected, and no resources would be harmed.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-082)

PROPOSAL 216 - 5 AAC 30.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Clarify gillnet specifications in the East River in September, as follows:

5 AAC 30.331(a)(1)(F) is amended to read:

- (a) Set gillnets with mesh size smaller than eight inches.....:
 - (1) in the Yakutat District

...

(F) East River, one net not to exceed 20 fathoms, except that starting the first **Sunday** [MONDAY] in September, two nets not to exceed 20 fathoms each and an aggregate length not to exceed 40 fathoms;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At the 2003 Southeast Region Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, the opening day for all fishing periods in the Yakutat Area was changed from Monday to Sunday in 5 AAC 30.320. *Fishing periods*. At that time, 5 AAC 30.331. *Gillnet specifications and operations* (a)(1)(F) was not changed to reflect the new opening day. As a result, the department must issue an emergency order each year effecting an allowable gear change for the East River from Monday to Sunday for the first fishing period in September. This oversight should be corrected to align these regulations.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-081)

PROPOSAL 217 - 5 AAC 30.310. Fishing seasons. Establish an opening date for the Tsiu River commercial salmon fishery, as follows:

- (1)
 - (A) In the Yakataga District opening and closing dates will be made by emergency order
 - (B) In the Tsiu River the opening will be on the third Sunday in August.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Opening date for the Tsiu River Fishery; processors and fishermen need a date certain for the start of the commercial fishery. Uncertainty in the opening dates creates problems for processors and fishers needing to stage equipment and support for the commercial fishery (i.e. airplanes, camps, boats, etc.).

PROPOSED BY: John Vale (HQ-F14-042)

PROPOSAL 218 - 5 AAC 30.350. Closed waters. Redefine closed waters in the Lost River, as follows:

5 AAC 30.350(a)(7) is amended to read:

- (a) Salmon may not be taken in the following waters:
 - (7) Lost River:
 - (A) before the opening of the fishing period for the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet during the second week of July, upstream from ADF&G regulatory markers located in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet 100 yards downstream from the terminus of the river;**
 - (B) following the closure of the fishing period for the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet during the second week of July, and for the remainder of the season, upstream from**

ADF&G regulatory markers located in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet 500 yards downstream from the terminus of the river [UPSTREAM FROM ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 500 YARDS UPSTREAM FROM THE MOST DOWNSTREAM TREE LINE ON THE WEST BANK AT THE TERMINUS OF THE RIVER];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The tree line referenced in the regulation was undercut by the river and no longer exists. Closed waters for Lost River are defined each year since 1999 in the annual Yakutat set gillnet fishery management plan. Prior to and including the fishing period during the second week of July, closed waters markers are set 100 yards from the terminus of Lost River to allow additional area in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet fishery so as to harvest stocks bound for the Situk and Ahrnklin rivers. Following closure of the second week of July fishing period, when Lost River salmon stocks enter Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet, Lost River closed waters markers are relocated 500 yards from the terminus of the Lost River. This affords an area of protection for Lost River salmon stocks as they traverse the open waters of the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-082)

PROPOSAL 219 - 5 AAC 30.XXX New Section. Establish new salmon statistical areas in Yakutat Bay, as follows:

Proposal to draw a line from the North tip of Khantaak Island, to Point Latouche, creating a separate statistical area for salmon setnet fisheries.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This area is primarily a pink salmon harvest area, but it is managed in accordance with what the sockeye run strength is and sockeye harvest conducted at the mouth of Yakutat Bay. Pink salmon fishermen are missing out on opportunity. In addition, there have been conflicts and warnings issued, and much confusion regarding 500 yard buffer zones around small no name creeks that are listed in the anadromous water catalog. This proposed area should be excluded from the 500 yard ruling on any creeks unless posted as not fishable with ADF&G regulatory markers. Currently, Humpy Creek is the only stream that is ever marked accordingly. Pinks spawn all over in this area, and the 500 yard rule simply should not apply in this area. No one will be adversely affected, and it will be a benefit to pink salmon harvesters.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-83)

PROPOSAL 220 - 5 AAC 29.020. Description of fishing districts and winter boundary line. Modify the winter boundary line for the commercial salmon troll fishery, as follows:

(b) For the purposes of this chapter, the winter troll boundary line" for the winter season and periods established in 5 AAC 29.070 is a line across Yakutat Bay as follows; A line extending

from the intersection of Loran-C line 7960-Y-30630 with the shoreline at Point Manby to the intersection of Loran-C lines 7960-Y-30630 and 7960-X-148 ~~delete [40]~~ **add [30]** to the intersection of Loran-C lines 7960-X-148 ~~delete[40]~~ **add [30]** and 7960-Y-30440 to the intersection of Loran-C line 7960-Y-30440 with the shoreline at Ocean Cape light.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The winter troll boundary line was modified by an adoption of a proposal by the Yakutat Advisory Committee in 2003. At the time, the numbers established in regulation did not reflect the original intent of the Yakutat Advisory Committee proposal. This proposal will correct that oversight.

Prior to 2003, historical catch records indicate there was very little winter king harvest in the Yakutat area. The previous regulation had the winter line as the furthest south point of Ocean Cape, across Yakutat Bay, to the furthest point south of Point Mamby. Point Mamby is really a gradual corner several miles long.

Basing what is technically inside waters or out on this, is not so easy. If you went out to where the beach turns and goes up the coast to draw a transect, it changed the allowable fishing area. These were simple headlands to use when laws were written, and nobody was there to address it otherwise.

As Yakutat fishermen acquired more troll permits and increased winter trolling, it became apparent the bulk of the king salmon were around reefs that arcs out and across Yakutat Bay. Fishermen were forced to go across Yakutat Bay in the dead of winter to access them which was a serious safety concern. The original proposal recommended moving the point of Ocean Cape out to sea approximately 1½ to 2 miles, and the Mamby Point marker out to sea approximately three to four miles. This would move the point to point winter line out to sea beyond the arc of the reef, and include good nearby fishing habitat for the troll fleet for marginal days.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-077)

PROPOSAL 221 - 5 AAC 29.020. Description of fishing districts and winter boundary line.

Expand the winter commercial salmon troll fishery in the Yakutat Area to the territorial sea line, as follows:

A proposal to add to 5 AAC 29.020. Description of fishing districts and winter boundary line. Paragraph (b) Add (Alaska salmon troll Statistical area 181-40 out to the Territorial sea line across the mouth of Icy Bay.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This inside waters area was not added to the list when the winter boundary line was established. It is remote and the odds of it being fished in the winter fishery are small. However, it does offer a safe place to fish for someone who might want to get away from it all and explore. Fish some terrain that hasn't been mapped and remapped. We feel that it wasn't right that it was left out. We feel this will not

negatively impact anyone or any resource. It is 60 miles down the open beach from the farthest North trolling community of Yakutat. It is a winter time fishery. If it gets fished at all, it will likely be very infrequent.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-084)

PROPOSAL 222 - 5 AAC 29.090. Management of the spring salmon troll fisheries. Correct regulatory language to clarify a contribution rate of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon for the spring salmon troll fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 29.090(d)(1)(C) is amended to read:

- (d) In its management of the spring fisheries under this section, the department shall
 - (1) first consider changes in the previous year’s spring fisheries; the department shall open the fisheries if they meet the following requirements:

...

- (C) in order to continue the fishery each year without modification of areas previously established, the contribution rate of **Alaska hatchery-produced** [HATCHERY] stocks to the directed fishery harvest must exceed 20 percent.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The omission of the word “Alaska” when referring to “hatchery stocks” could be interpreted to allow the contribution of all coastwide hatchery stocks to be considered in management decisions. In other words, contributions from hatchery stocks originating outside Alaska would be considered combined with those originating in Alaska.

Spring troll fisheries target Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon and are managed according to guidelines based on the percentage of Alaska hatchery stocks in an individual spring fishery. Adding the word “Alaska” would correct this regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-079)

PROPOSAL 223 - 5 AAC 29.100. Management of the summer salmon troll fishery. Change the king salmon harvest percentage for the initial opening in the summer salmon troll fishery from 70 percent to 60 percent, as follows:

5 AAC 29.100(c) is amended to read:

- (c) The department shall manage the summer king salmon troll fishery as follows:
 - (1) the department shall manage the summer king salmon troll fishery
 - (A) to take **60** [70] percent of the remaining king salmon harvest **if the preseason abundance index is above 1.60, or take 70 percent of the remaining king salmon harvest if below 1.60** calculated as the annual troll harvest ceiling minus the winter and spring troll harvests of treaty king salmon in an initial opening beginning July 1; and

(2) in order to provide for the harvest of the remaining portion of the king salmon harvest following a coho salmon closure, the department shall manage the king salmon harvest as follows:

(A) if approximately **60 or** 70 percent or more (**depending on the preseason abundance index**) of the remaining troll king salmon harvest was taken during the initial opening under (1)(A) of this subsection the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the waters of frequent high king salmon abundance described in 5 AAC 29.025 for the remainder of the summer salmon troll season in order to slow down the harvest rate; however, if after 10 days, the department determines that the annual troll king salmon harvest ceiling might not be reached by September 20 with those waters closed, the commissioner shall reopen, by emergency order, the waters of frequent high king salmon abundance;

(B) the department shall reopen the summer king salmon troll fishery in the waters of frequent high king salmon abundance described in 5 AAC 29.025 if the department determines that less than **40 or** 30 percent of the king salmon harvest goal for the initial opening under (1)(A) of this subsection was taken in that opening **depending on the preseason abundance index**;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to amend 5AAC 29.100(c)(1)(A) and (2)(A) and (2)(B) to take 60 percent of the remaining king salmon harvest if the preseason abundance index is above 1.60 (70 percent is in existing regulations and would remain in effect if the preseason abundance index is below 1.60). The five reasons to decrease the percentage to 60 percent harvest of king salmon on high abundance seasons are:

1. Higher value for king salmon in late season;
2. Higher quality product;
3. Minimizes the incidental hook & release of king salmon;
4. Spreading the income derived from king salmon more evenly among the fleet; and
5. Greater opportunity for in-season management during the August opening

PROPOSED BY: John Murray (EF-C14-104)

PROPOSAL 224 - 5 AAC 29.100. Management of the summer salmon troll fishery. Allow the commissioner to open a season during which a trip limit is in effect for king salmon in the commercial summer salmon troll fishery, as follows:

If at any point in the summer troll fishery the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) determines that there is insufficient Chinook quota remaining for a competitive opening, and the commissioner determines that a trip limit would provide an effective means of harvesting the fish, s/he will reopen the fishery using a trip limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? When too few king salmon remain on the summer troll quota to effectively manage the fishery, ADF&G forgoes harvest rather than risk going over the troll Chinook allocation or the Pacific Salmon Treaty quota. This

proposal would provide an alternative for ADF&G to conduct a fishery on smaller increments of treaty fish. A similar option is already provided for the lingcod fishery at 5 AAC 28.173 (a)(f).

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Trollers Association (EF-C14-169)

PROPOSAL 225 - 5 AAC 29.114. District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan. Change the sunset date in the District 12 and 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fishery Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 29.114. District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan (a) The purpose of the management plan in this section is to give the department direction for the orderly development of enhanced chum salmon troll fisheries during the directed troll fisheries in Cross Sound, Icy Strait, and Northern Chatham Strait, while providing for the conservation of wild stocks.

(b) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, the Northern Chatham Strait Fishery Area in District 12 for up to four weekdays per week beginning on the second Monday in June through the last week in June to the retention of pink and chum salmon only. The Northern Chatham Strait Fishery Area consists of those waters enclosed by a line from 58°_ 11.29' N. lat., 134°_ 53.27' W. long. to 58°_ 10.40' N. lat., 135°_ 02.63' W. long. to 58°_ 07.78' N. lat., 135°_ 00.78' W. long. to 58°_ 05.81' N. lat., 134°_ 47.09' W. long.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 29.090, the spring troll fisheries in District 14 will be managed to minimize the harvest of wild chum salmon and may be closed by emergency order based on wild chum salmon abundance.

(d) Participants in District 12 and District 14 enhanced chum salmon troll fisheries shall comply with the following retention and recordkeeping requirements:

(1) the operator of a salmon troll vessel shall keep the fish caught in each enhanced chum salmon fishery area separate from any other fish on board the vessel;

(2) a fish buyer shall separate fish caught in each enhanced chum salmon fishery area until delivered to the port of landing and shall issue a separate fish ticket for fish caught in each enhanced chum salmon fishery area.

(e) The provisions of this section do not apply after **December 31, XXX** [DECEMBER 31, 2014].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Joint Southeast Regional Planning team (JSERPT) has submitted this placeholder proposal as a way for the board to address imbalances in the enhanced salmon allocation management plan in Southeast Alaska (5 AAC 33.364). The current regulation was supported by the JSERPT in the "Industry Consensus" letter submitted last board cycle. The current regulation will sunset in 2014. The JSERPT will be considering recommendations to the board regarding this new proposal and other enhanced salmon allocation proposals at its fall 2014 meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Joint Southeast Regional Planning Team (EF-C14-174)

PROPOSAL 226 - 5 AAC 29.114. District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan. Remove sunset clause from District 12 and 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fishery Management Plan, as follows:

(a) The purpose of the management plan in this section is to give the department direction for the **MANAGEMENT** [ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT] of enhanced chum salmon troll fisheries during the directed troll fisheries in Cross Sound, Icy Strait, and Northern Chatham Strait, while providing for the conservation of wild stocks.

(b) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, the Northern Chatham Strait Fishery Area in District 12 for up to four week days per week beginning on the second Monday in June through the last week in June to the retention of pink and chum salmon only. The Northern Chatham Strait Fishery Area consists of those waters enclosed by a line from 58°, 11.29' N. lat., 134°, 53.27' W. long. to 58°, 10.40' N. lat., 135°, 02.63' W. long. to 58°, 07.78' N. lat., 135°, 00.78' W. long. to 58°, 05.81' N. lat., 134°, 47.09' W. long.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 29.090, the spring troll fisheries in District 14 will be managed to minimize the harvest of wild chum salmon and may be closed **to the retention of chum salmon** by emergency order based on wild chum salmon abundance.

(d) Participants in District 12 and District 14 enhanced chum salmon troll fisheries shall comply with the following retention and record keeping requirements:

(1) the operator of a salmon troll vessel shall keep the fish caught in each enhanced chum salmon fishery area separate from any other fish on board the vessel;

(2) a fish buyer shall separate fish caught in each enhanced chum salmon fishery area until delivered to the port of landing and shall issue a separate fish ticket for fish caught in each enhanced chum salmon fishery area.

[(E) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2014.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2012 the Board of Fisheries adopted the Districts 12 and 14 *Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan* on an experimental basis. Section (e) of this plan includes a sunset date of December 31, 2014. The plan provides trollers important opportunity to harvest enhanced chum salmon. Fishermen in this area have landed a high percentage of the target hatchery fish with minimal bycatch of wild stocks or other species. We propose that the management plan remove the sunset and be made permanent and that the plan be renewed with the purpose of changing from orderly development to management. We further ask that the Chinook fishery be permitted to remain open in the event that the chum fishery is closed, as this was the intent of the proposal as originally submitted in 2012.

PROPOSED BY: Chum Trollers Association

(EF-C14-177)

PROPOSAL 227 - 5 AAC 29.114. District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan. Remove sunset clause from District 12 and 14 enhanced commercial chum salmon troll fishery and allow fishing 7 days per week, as follows:

Provide the potential for this fishery to expand to seven days per week and delete the sunset clause:

5 AAC 29.114 DISTRICT 12 AND DISTRICT 14 ENHANCED CHUM SALMON TROLL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(b) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, the Northern Chatham Strait Fishery Area in District 12 for up to **seven days** [FOUR WEEKDAYS] per week beginning on the second Monday in June through the last week in June to the retention of pink and chum salmon only. The Northern Chatham Strait Fishery Area consists of those waters enclosed by...

...
[(e) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2014.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Northern Chatham Strait Enhanced Chum Spring Troll Fishery (District 112-16) will terminate at the end of 2014 unless reauthorized by the Board of Fisheries. This district was opened in 2013 as an experimental area as the result of Board of Fisheries' authorization in 2012. A successful chum troll fishery was developed which has had minimal conflict with other gear groups and very little bycatch.

As initially implemented, the fishery was restricted to four days per week due to concerns of potential conflicts with Juneau sport fishermen. The experience of these first seasons has shown that there is very little use of this district by sport fishermen in late June. The four days/week restriction has been a significant barrier to the full development of this troll fishery. Removing the four day/week maximum and allowing ADF&G staff to manage the fishery as needed to keep conflicts with other gear groups and wild chum harvest at low levels would potentially alleviate this problem.

Trollers remain well behind their allocated share of enhanced salmon under 5 AAC 33.364. If expanded to seven days per week, the North Chatham fishery has the potential to significantly help to correct this imbalance. If the North Chatham fishery were to be permitted to sunset, the discrepancy will be further exacerbated.

PROPOSED BY: Kole Koski (EF-C14-034)

PROPOSAL 228 - 5 AAC 29.110. Management of coho salmon troll fishery. Close the commercial troll fishery for coho salmon from August 1–10, as follows:

A mandatory 10-day closure from August 1 to August 10 to regulate the commercial harvest of coho salmon in Southeast Alaska.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial outside waters troll fishery, the coho salmon are not allowed to migrate into the inside waters of Southeast Alaska, more salmon need to escape for local residents living in the Inside Passage of Southeast Alaska. We also need better escapement of salmon for our river systems. In the past, we had 10-day closures and the City of Angoon would propose the State of Alaska institute a policy to allow more fish for an inside fishery. The City of Angoon would like to propose a 10-day closure from August 1 to August 10 to allow our subsistence, commercial and sport fisheries to share the coho fishery. Angoon’s subsistence needs, commercial harvest and sport harvest are in dire need of healthy returns and foremost our subsistence needs suffer the most by lack of fish.

PROPOSED BY: City of Angoon (HQ-F14-035)

PROPOSAL 229 - 5 AAC 29.114. District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan. Allow commercial salmon fishing with troll gear in an area between North Chatham Strait and Homeshore, as follows:

Draw a line from the Western boundary line of the northern Chatham Strait area starting at: 58° 10.00 N. Lat, 135° 2.35' W. Long, to a point at 58° 10.00' N. Lat, 135° 6.24' W. Long, to a point on the Eastern boundary of the Homeshore area at 58° 11.59' N. Lat, 135° 9.19 W. Long.

Fishing would be permitted in the area south of this line when the northern Chatham and or Homeshore area is open.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow trollers participating in the chum fishery in the northern Chatham Straits enhanced chum area to troll between that area and the Homeshore area.

Currently trollers wishing to move between one area and another must pull their gear or troll miles to the south into the Point Sophia area. Most troll vessels are slow displacement hulls and cannot move faster than seven knots at slack tide with their gear up. Being able to troll between the two areas makes more sense. The area involved is relatively small and is a natural corridor between the two areas. This proposal makes the northern Chatham chum area more accessible and practical for trollers.

PROPOSED BY: Matthew Donohoe (EF-C14-168)

PROPOSAL 230 - 5 AAC 29.150. Closed waters. Restrict commercial salmon fishing with troll gear in Section 15-C beginning July 1, as follows:

Proposed language:

(a) Unless otherwise specified in the chapter, the waters listed in this section are closed to the taking of salmon with troll gear, except as follows:

(4) beginning July 1, the waters of District 15-C are open to trolling concurrently during periods that non-terminal harvest area waters are open to commercial drift gillnet fishing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, portions of District 15 are open for the general troll season on July 1 each year. This area has historically received very little effort as there are very few king salmon in the area to harvest. Recently, troll effort targeting chum salmon has increased. Experimental fisheries targeting enhanced chum in districts 14 and 12 are currently being prosecuted to understand the effect this new and emerging fishery may or may not have on wild stocks. The wild chum stock component of those fisheries is currently 20%. Chances are a fishery in district 15 will mirror those results. Our concern is that if there is a full blown high effort chum targeting troll fishery conducted in district 15, gillnet time and area may be reduced, as we are managed strictly on wild stock (chum and coho) abundance.

There is also anecdotal evidence that because of the small lures and slow speeds associated with chum trolling, that there are a significant amount of very small sub-legal king salmon incidentally being caught in this new fishery. These small Chinooks must be released by the troll fleet, but with a 25% mortality rate, there may be significant risk to out migrating Taku and Chilkat river fish; both runs that can ill afford incidental at sea mortality.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (EF-C14-166)

PROPOSAL 231 - 5 AAC 29.150. Closed waters. Reduce the area open to commercial salmon fishing with troll gear in Naha Bay during the summer, as follows:

Move the permanent commercial fish boundary marker farther out to Cache Island, thus keeping Naha Bay a sanctuary or safe haven for the returning wild salmon to spawn.

This solution should be immediate; since we are going on the fifth summer now since the boundary marker was moved back from Donnelly Point.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Preserving returning the wild salmon stocks of Naha Bay and River. Naha Conservation is a group of property owners from Loring, Alaska, Naha Bay. Some of us are seasonal, part-time and full-time residents. We see firsthand the comings and goings of Naha Bay, including the fish, their cycles and all that follows. We speak from knowledge that covers several generations. We believe in conservation

and taking the conservative approach to sustaining our limited resources and something is better than nothing. We are hopeful though and thank you for considering what we have to say and propose today.

Wild pink, chum and some sockeye that are returning to the Naha River and area creeks to spawn are being incidentally caught by commercial troll fishing boats who are targeting Neets Bay Hatchery chum for their eggs.

Sometime in the summer of 2010 the commercial fish boundary marker was moved further back into Naha Bay, almost to Dog Fish Island. Summer of 2010 was when the first trollers came into the bay following a large school of hatchery chum and since this time and every summer since the small wild stock of pinks, chum and sockeye returns have disappeared. At first it was exciting to see all the activity on the bay, the boats the action. Loring came back to life for a bit, but year after year we have noticed something was different.

Last summer 2013 was the worst. There was no fish at all in the bay all of July and August. The pinks normally are coming in schools. We did not see this. A small run of chums did arrive in mid-September to spawn in a small creek in Naha Bay, but the numbers were few. The bears were hungry last summer. We saw them pacing up and down the Naha River and Roosevelt Lagoon looking for anything to eat.

Though the amount of trollers fishing in the bay were few last year compared to years past, they are still having an effect on the wild salmon stock.

We believe wild salmon stocks should be given every opportunity and chance to spawn if they make it back as far as the bay into which the creek or river flows into. The bay should be a safe haven for the fish. Given the dwindling wild stock of sockeye left on the Naha River action must be taken immediately.

We support our commercial fisheries and all the people who make their living off the sea, but we have seen firsthand our wild fish returns have dropped in these few short summers.

Never before have trollers come into Naha Bay and trolled nonstop for two weeks, 10 to 15 trollers at a time during the peak run. This is having an impact. We have talked to a couple of different trollers who have confirmed they are catching up to 10 to 15 wild pinks per day and maybe one or two sockeye and some wild chum. Multiply this by the number of boats and you will see the numbers add up quick. .

PROPOSED BY: Lisa Grogan, Naha Conservation (EF-C14-096)

PROPOSAL 232 - 5AAC 29.120. Gear specifications and operations. Clarify power troll gear specifications regarding hand troll gurdies and fishing rods, as follows:

5 AAC 29.120(b)(1) is amended by adding a new subparagraph to read:

(b) The maximum number of trolling lines that may be operated from a salmon troll vessel is as follows:

(1) from a power troll vessel:

...

(C) from each power troll gurdy: only one line to which multiple leaders and hooks may be attached; a person may not use hand troll gurdies or fishing rods to take salmon commercially on board a registered power troll vessel;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Power troll gear is not clearly described nor is it clearly stated that fishing rods may not be used to fish commercially onboard a vessel registered for power troll gear. While 5 AAC 29.120(f) states that “a person may not use a salmon power troll vessel to take salmon with hand troll gear once that vessel has been registered and marked as specified...,” it does not specifically mention fishing rods. Adding that level of detail to the regulation would further clarify power troll gear specifications.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-080)

PROPOSAL 233 - 5 AAC 29.120. Gear specifications and operations. Allow downriggers as legal commercial salmon hand troll gear for the entire year, as follows:

The new regulation would repeal a portion of section (b)(2)(B) and implement the winter hand troll provisions listed in section (j) on a year round basis.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Two fishing rods attached to two downriggers are legal hand troll gear only during the winter troll season. This proposal requests that winter hand troll regulations are adopted for the entire year. This proposal would allow hand trollers to operate legal rod and reel gear at a known depth, the same luxury afforded to salmon trollers using hand troll and power troll gurdies. The difference is that those that choose to attach their fishing rods to a hand operated troll gurdy or downrigger will be restricting themselves to the operation of one lure or baited rig per rod.

This proposal has been before the board in other cycles and there have been comments made that this change could have a meaningful impact on Chinook harvest. There have also been concerns raised that this proposal would cause enforcement issues. There is no evidence to support either of these concerns. Past supporters of this proposal have cited shoulder injuries, the safer operation of rod and reel gear vs. hand gurdies for solo fisherman in small boats in rough weather, or the fact that they would just prefer to participate in their fishery using fishing rods

attached to downriggers, even if it limits them to only two lures. Passage of this regulation would restrict only those hand trollers that chose to use rod and reel gear in combination with downriggers.

PROPOSED BY: Troy Bayne

(EF-C14-142)

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
STATEWIDE DUNGENESS CRAB, SHRIMP, AND MISC. SHELLFISH
MARCH 17-20, 2015**

PROPOSAL 234 - 5 AAC 38.411. Fishing seasons for sea cucumbers in Registration Area

J. Establish weather criteria to delay opening of commercial fishing periods for sea cucumbers in the Kodiak District of Registration Area J, as follows:

Opening of a weekly sea cucumber fishing period in all sections of the Kodiak Area will be delayed for 24-hours if the National Weather Service marine forecast for Area 138 (Shelikof Strait) and/or Area 132 (Marmot Island to Sitkinak) issued at 4:00 a.m. on the day before and the day of the scheduled opening date contains gale warnings. If after the initial delay, the 4:00 a.m. forecast for the current day plus the following day again contains a gale warning, the weekly fishing period opening will be delayed an additional 24-hours. Delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis until gale warnings are no forecasted for the day before and day of the scheduled opening.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish criteria to delay opening of a weekly sea cucumber fishing period in the Kodiak Area based on poor weather. The Kodiak sea cucumber fishery occurs during October and November when poor weather and rough seas are common. During some years vessels are unable to safely reach the fishing grounds prior to opening of the weekly fishing periods due to poor weather. Additionally, water visibility is reduced for cucumber divers diving in rough seas. Delaying the start of weekly fishing periods based on the marine forecast will improve safety for all vessels and divers and ensure an equal opportunity for small vessels to participate in the fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Vitt/Kadma (HQ-F14-002)

PROPOSAL 235 - 5 AAC 38.411. Fishing seasons for sea cucumbers in Registration Area

J. Modify the Chignik District fishing season for sea cucumbers to open two weeks earlier than the remainder of Registration Area J, as follows:

In Registration Area J, a person may take sea cucumbers only from October 1 through April 30 and only under the authority of a permit issued by the commissioner; except in the Chignik Area where a person may take sea cucumbers only from the September 15 through April 30 and only under the authority of a permit issued by the commissioner.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide more opportunity for sea cucumber harvest in the Chignik Area. There is no local processor in Chignik so all cucumbers must be delivered to Kodiak. An earlier start date may allow for cucumber fishing during a time of year with better weather and safer operation and transport.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Vitt/Kadma (HQ-F14-003)

PROPOSAL 236 - 5 AAC 32.410. Fishing seasons for Registration Area J. Establish an earlier season closure for the Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, and Aleutian districts' commercial Dungeness crab fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 32.410(a) is amended to read:

5 AAC 32.410. Fishing seasons for Registration Area J. (a) In the Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, and Aleutian Districts, male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed from 12:00 noon May 1 until 11:59 p.m. **November 1** [DECEMBER 30], except that in the waters of the Kodiak District south of the latitude of Boot Point at 56° 49.98' N. lat., and east of longitude of Boot Point at 153° 46.10' W. long. and waters south of the latitude of Cape Ikolik at 57° 17.40' N. lat., and west of the longitude of Boot Point at 153° 46.10' W. long., male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed only from 12:00 noon June 15 until 11:59 p.m. **November 1** [DECEMBER 30].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the Kodiak, Chignik, and Alaska Peninsula districts, less than five percent of the total annual Dungeness crab harvest occurs after November 1. Reports from the Alaska Wildlife Troopers and fishery stakeholders indicate Dungeness crab gear loss is higher in November and December due to winter storms compared to summer and fall months. Lost or unretrievable pots may increase Dungeness, Tanner and king crab mortality through ghost fishing and result in gear conflicts with other fisheries that occur after the Dungeness crab seasons close.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-106)

PROPOSAL 237 - 5 AAC 02.466. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of shellfish stocks and amount necessary for subsistence uses. Amend the customary and traditional (C&T) use finding for shellfish in the Kodiak Area by adding Tanner crab to the list of shellfish stocks customarily or traditionally taken for subsistence, as follows:

5 AAC 02.466(a) is amended to read:

(a) The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) finds that the following shellfish stocks are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence:

(1) king crab in the Kodiak Area, as described in 5 AAC 02.400, except for the Semidi Island Overlap, the North Mainland, and the South Mainland Sections, as described in 5 AAC 35.505(a);

(2) Dungeness crab and miscellaneous shellfish, on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula between Kilokak Rocks 156° 19' W. long. and Cape Kumlik 157° 27' W. long.;

(3) Tanner crab in the Kodiak Area, as described in 5 AAC 02.400, except for the Semidi Island Overlap, the North Mainland, and the South Mainland Sections, as described in 5 AAC 35.505(a).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 5 AAC 02.466 there is no C&T finding for Tanner crab although there is a subsistence Tanner crab fishery provided under 5 AAC 02.425. Tanner crab were included in the original customary and traditional use worksheet presented to the Alaska Board of Fisheries; however, Tanner crab were not on the agenda at that meeting so no finding was made at that time. This proposal would add a C&T finding for Tanner crab to 5 AAC 02.466.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-108)

PROPOSAL 238 - 5 AAC 38.425. Closed waters for scallops in Registration Area J. Amend scallop closed waters description, as follows:

5 AAC 38.425(3) is amended to read:

5 AAC 38.425. Closed waters for scallops in Registration Area J.

(3) all waters enclosed by a line from Cape Chiniak at 57° 37.20' N. lat., 152° 09.37' W. long. to a point offshore at 57° 38.00' N. lat., 152° 09.00' W. long., continuing to a point offshore at 57° 38.00' N. lat., 151° 47.00' W. long., continuing to Cape St. Hermogenes on Marmot Island at 58° 15.00' N. lat., 151° 47.00' W. long., and a line from Marmot Cape at 58° 10.00' N. lat., 151° 52.00' W. long., to Pillar Cape on Afognak Island at 58° 08.90' N. lat., 152° 06.77' W. long., and a line from Inner Point on Kodiak Island to Afognak Point at 152° 47.75' W. long.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the March 2012 Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting the board adopted a proposal submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) to update and standardize scallop closed waters boundary descriptions in the Kodiak Area. At that time, the closed-waters boundary line from Cape Chiniak to Marmot Island was inadvertently modified reversing a longstanding bottom trawl and dredge gear closure area. Prior to the start of the 2013 and 2014 scallop fisheries, the department used emergency order authority to close this area to scallop dredging consistent with the pre-2012 regulation. This proposal would correct this error in regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-107)

PROPOSAL 239 - 5 AAC 32.052. Dungeness crab pot gear storage requirements. Remove Registration Area A from the 72-hour Dungeness crab pot storage limitation requirement, as follows:

5 AAC 32.052(b)(2)(A) any portion of Registration Areas D and H; or
Eliminate area A from this clause.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulation does not allow enough time for removal of stored pots following the closure of most of the waters of area

A. As written, all pots must be removed from the water within 72 hours of the closure during the darkest and stormiest part of the year. By contrast seven days are allowed following the closure in August and the closure in February.

PROPOSED BY: Peter Roddy

(EF-C14-119)

PROPOSAL 240 - 5 AAC 77.518. Personal use clam fishery. Reduce the personal use bag and possession limits for razor clams in eastern Cook Inlet, as follows:

I recommend limiting the daily harvest limit in eastern Cook Inlet, from the mouth of the Kenai River to the southernmost tip of the Homer Spit to 15 clams per day, and 15 clams in possession. The new regulation would read:

“In the personal use taking of clams, there are no bag, possession, or size limits for clams, except that from the mouth of the Kenai River to the southernmost tip of the Homer Spit, the bag limit for razor clams is the first 15 clams harvested and the possession limit is 15 clams.”

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the board to address the current Pacific razor clam harvest limit listed in 5 AAC 77.518(2)(A).

The regulation cited above reads, “In the personal use taking of clams, there are no bag, possession, or size limits for clams, except that from the mouth of the Kenai River to the southernmost tip of the Homer Spit, the bag limit for razor clams is the first 60 clams harvested and the possession limit is 120 clams.

On May 28, 2013, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) issued Emergency Order (EO) 2-RCL-7-13-13, which reduced the razor clam harvest limit to 25 clams per day, and 25 clams in possession from the mouth of the Kenai River to the southernmost tip of the Homer Spit. This EO expired on December 31, 2013. On March 11, 2014, the ADF&G issued EO 2-RCL-7-10-14, which closes Ninilchik Beach areas to the taking of clams from the north bank of Deep Creek north to a marker located approximately 3.2 miles north of the Ninilchik River. Additionally, the bag and possession limit for razor clams was again reduced to the first 25 razor clams harvested for the remaining eastside Cook Inlet beaches extending from the mouth of the Kenai River to the southernmost tip of the Homer Spit.

ADF&G staff has cited poor recruitment, low abundance, and few age classes at Ninilchik as motivating factors behind the EOs. ADF&G publications indicate that abundance at Ninilchik Beach was the lowest on record in 2013. The declining population at Ninilchik Beach cannot sustain the harvest rate currently cited in 5 AAC 77.518(2)(A), and will not be able to sustain it any time in the near future, especially if the ADF&G continues to observe a trend of low recruitment. The department’s own publication, “Recreational Fisheries in the Lower Cook Inlet

Management Area, 2011–2013, with updates for 2010” states “Significant annual recruitment needs to occur for several years for the abundance to rebound at Ninilchik Area beaches.”

Historically, most razor clam harvest has occurred at Ninilchik Beach. Recreational diggers will move to other beaches in the region, which may not be able to sustain the harvest pressure. Reducing the razor clam harvest limit in the Alaska Administrative Code will help to protect and preserve declining razor clam populations in eastern Cook Inlet.

PROPOSED BY: Ivan Z. Encelewski (EF-C14-107)

PROPOSAL 241 - 5 AAC 77.518. Personal use clam fishery. Reduce the personal use bag and possession limits for razor clams in eastern Cook Inlet, as follows:

5 AAC 77.518

(2) there are no bag, possession, or size limits of clams, except that

(A) from the mouth of the Kenai River to the southernmost tip of the Homer Spit, the bag limit for razor clams is the first **25** [60] clams **dug** [harvested] and the possession limit is **25 razor** [120] clams.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce the personal use harvest and possession limits on razor clams because populations of humans and sea otters are increasing and the razor clam populations cannot support the liberal bag limit.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C14-152)

PROPOSAL 242 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Reduce the sport bag and possession limits for razor clams in eastern Cook Inlet, as follows:

5 AAC 58.022(a)

(14) razor clams: may be taken from January 1-December 31 as follows:

(A) from the mouth of the Kenai River to the southernmost tip of the Homer Spit: the bag limit is the first **25 razor** [60] clams **dug** [harvested]; the possession limit is **25 razor** [120] clams.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce the harvest and possession limits of razor clams because populations of humans and sea otters are increasing and the razor clam populations cannot support the liberal bag limit.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C14-151)

PROPOSAL 243 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area; and 5 AAC 77.518. Personal use clam fishery. Close east Cook Inlet beaches to all razor clam harvest, as follows:

Close East Side beaches to all razor clam harvest until such time as the resource recovers.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? East Side beaches in Cook Inlet have a lack of razor clams due to over harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Jim St. Peter (HQ-F14-001)

PROPOSAL 244 - 5 AAC 77.518. Personal use clam fishery. Establish personal use bag and possession limits for razor clams in West Cook Inlet, as follows:

I recommend implementing a baseline harvest limit of 60 clams per day and 120 clams in possession for West Cook Inlet. I also recommend that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game implement regular monitoring of this population.

The new regulation would read:

5 AAC 77.518 In the personal use taking of clams,

.....

(2) there are no bag, possession, or size limits for clams, except that

....

(D) in West Cook Inlet [describe specific area] the bag limit for razor clams is the first 60 clams harvested and the possession limit is 120 clams.”

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? With regards to razor clam harvesting in West Cook Inlet, I would like the board to address the current regulation 5 AAC 77.518(2).

The regulation cited above reads, “In the personal use taking of clams, there are no bag, possession, or size limits for clams”.

There are currently no harvest limits in West Cook Inlet. This area has become very popular for recreational razor clam digging, as more people are accessing the area by private/chartered boat/plane than in the past. Reduced harvest limits and an emergency order closing Ninilchik Beach in East Cook Inlet may result in even more harvest in West Cook Inlet.

The ADF&G does not currently conduct regular monitoring of the West Cook Inlet razor clam population. Comprehensive data are lacking for growth, abundance, and fecundity. There is not enough information available to determine whether the West Cook Inlet razor clam population can sustain unlimited harvest.

Implementing a harvest limit for razor clams in West Cook Inlet will help to protect and preserve this highly exploited, unstudied population.

PROPOSED BY: Ivan Z. Encelewski (EF-C14-126)

PROPOSAL 245 - 5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan. Change harvest allocation guidelines under the Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan, as follows:

Revisit the *Spot Shrimp Management Plan*. The plan called for a sport fish allocation of 60% to commercial harvest of 40% after subsistence was taken from the surplus harvest amount.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Return the allocation to the sport fishery for spot shrimp in Prince William Sound. Three years ago the Board of Fisheries was misled about the intentions of the proposal which took the allocation away from sport fish. There was no public input to this. There was not a proposal that spoke to taking away an allocation and making a guideline harvest level. The fishery should be on the conservative side of management based on the fact of the failure of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to manage sustainable shellfish fisheries in Southcentral Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Crawford (HQ-F14-048)

PROPOSAL 246 - 5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan. Change harvest strategies under the Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan, as follows:

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game shall determine harvest strategies so that sport fishers shall harvest 60% of spot shrimp harvest.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Restore sport allocation and tools to achieve allocation in spot shrimp fishery in Prince William Sound. The Board of Fisheries (board) removed the allocation in the last meeting changing it to a guideline harvest level (GHL) using a proposal that was directed toward closing the commercial fishery. This violated board protocol and should be fixed.

PROPOSED BY: Joe Hanes (HQ-F14-044)

PROPOSAL 247 - 5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area; 5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan; and 5 AAC 77.553. Personal use shrimp fishery. Modify pot limits per person and household, and increase the pot limit from five to 10 shrimp pots per vessel, as follows:

People would save money in gas, and the activity would be considerably safer if we were allowed to take another person with pots to check both households pots on one boat during the same trip out.

Also, a change from 'person' to 'household' would prevent people from abusing the five pot limit by getting five pots for additional family members.

Therefore, I would recommend changing the regulation from 'five pots per person, to five pots per household'. I would also recommend the change from max. five pots per vessel, to max. ten pots per vessel'.

New language:

"Five shrimp pots per household, with a maximum of ten pots per vessel may be used."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently in Prince William Sound you are allowed 'five shrimp pots per person, maximum five per vessel'. Gas prices have increased over the years and it costs a lot more money to take your boat out to check your family's shrimp pots. Also, during times of strong currents and higher winds it is dangerous to check your pots by yourself.

Currently in the southeast you are allowed 'Five shrimp pots per person with a maximum of ten pots per vessel'.

PROPOSED BY: Daniel Mott (EF-C14-154)

PROPOSAL 248 - 5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area; 5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan; and 5 AAC 77.553. Personal use shrimp fishery. Modify reporting requirements for sport and personal use shrimp fishing in the Prince William Sound Area, including monthly reporting, as follows:

Sport and personal use shellfish fisheries in Prince William Sound shall be required to record and log catch results immediately upon harvest, while on the fishing grounds, on a department issued permit and harvest record. In addition, and until the harvest record (permit) is returned to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) at the end of the season by existing regulation, monthly reporting of effort and catch results by statistical area will be submitted to ADF&G for resource management by the permit holder; due by the 1st of each month while a permit is in possession. Timely reporting would allow sound management decisions to be made in season, if necessary, for the health of this fisheries resource.

Proposed administrative code would take the form of the following:

5 AAC 55.055 Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan

(a)

...

(2) a harvest recording form is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.016;

(A) the department shall collect from this record, at a minimum, the harvest date, catch weight, number of pots pulled, and statistical area.

5 AAC 55.022 General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Prince William Sound Area

(b)

...

(5)

(D) only under a permit issued by the department; a harvest recording form under 5 AAC 75.016 is required;

(i) shall be in possession of the permit holder while engaged in harvesting shrimp;

(ii) shall be used to immediately upon harvest, record all required catch information;

(iii) and while a sport or personal use permit is issued, and has not yet been returned to the department, permit harvest information shall be reported to the department monthly, by online or other methods as determined by the department, no later than the 1st of each month during open fishing periods.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is currently no reporting required of sport and personal use shrimp fishers in Prince William Sound. Because of this, it is impossible to ensure harvest remains within stated management Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) allocations.

Sport and personal use fishers comprise 60% of the shrimp total allowable harvest for this region; however, reporting how much is harvested is not required. There has been continued growing interest and participation in this fishery by recreational participants, which places increasing pressure on the fishery. The lack of timely and actual catch data can only lead to the speculation of harvest levels or reliance on the inaccurate and incomplete statewide sport fish creel survey, which is not available until long after the season closes by regulation. Harvest reporting by all user groups is essential for the sustainable management of this fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Brett Wilbanks

(EF-C14-130)

PROPOSAL 249 - 5 AAC 02.210. Subsistence shrimp fishery. Create a subsistence permit for shrimp in the Prince William Sound management area.

Make available a subsistence permit to Alaska residents. Review the *Spot Shrimp Management Plan*. All Alaskans should be able to harvest under the state subsistence regulations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The *Spot Shrimp Management Plan* talks about a subsistence allocation. This is to be taken out before other allocation issues are decided. There is no subsistence permit offered. How does the Alaska Department of Fish and Game figure out the subsistence part of the allocation? Just a guess?

PROPOSED BY: Wynn Gilbertson (HQ-F14-046)

PROPOSAL 250 - 5 AAC 31.206. Area E registration. Clarify that a person may only register one vessel each season for the Registration Area E shrimp pot fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 31.206 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(c) A person may register only one vessel to participate in the Registration Area E shrimp pot fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A principal component of the management plan for the Prince William Sound Area E commercial shrimp pot fishery is a vessel pot limit. Registration for this fishery needs to be clearly limited to one vessel per person in order to prevent one person from operating more than one limit of gear. Clarification of this will aid managers, law enforcement, and participants.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-102)

PROPOSAL 251 - 5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E. Amend the boundary between shrimp pot fishing areas in Registration Area E, as follows:

5 AAC 31.210(a) is amended to read:

(a) In the waters of the Inside District west of a line from Middle Point at 60° 20.00' N. lat., 147° W. long., north to a point at 60° 40.00' N. lat., 147° W. long., then northeast to the Coast Guard marker light on Goose Island at 60° 42.78' N. lat., 146° 43.63' W. long., to a point on Knowles head at 60° 41.00' N. lat., 146° 37.50' W. long., shrimp may be taken from April 15 through September 15, as established by emergency order. Fishing in this area will be rotated on a tri-annual basis between the following waters:

- (1) the waters north of 60° 40.00' N. lat. [,] and east of 148° W. long.;
- (2) the waters south of those waters described in (1) of this section and north **and west of a line from 60° 30.00' N. lat., 147° 57.70' W. long to 147° W. long.** [OF 60° 25.00' N. LAT.]
- (3) the waters south of **60° 30.00' N. lat.** [60° 25.00' N. LAT.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current boundary line between Area 2 ((5 AAC 31.210(a)(2)) and Area 3 (5 AAC 31.210(a)(3)) splits three statistical areas. Moving it north will align the boundary with statistical area boundaries. This will result is a small loss of area to Area 2 and a concurrent gain of area to Area 3. In 2012, the Alaska Board of Fisheries opened additional waters in Area 2 to commercial shrimp pot fishing; the loss of the area proposed will not significantly impact the fishery when it occurs in Area 2.

Conversely, Area 3 has a relatively low abundance of shrimp, and the additional area proposed should positively impact the fishery, when it occurs in Area 3.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-103)

PROPOSAL 252 - 5 AAC 31.235. Closed waters in Registration Area E. Add additional waters closed to the taking of shrimp with trawl gear and correct coordinates within the closed waters section, as follows:

5 AAC 31.235(a) is amended to read:

- (a) The following waters are closed to the taking of shrimp with trawl gear:
 - (1) waters enclosed by a line from Point Whitshed to Point Bentinck, a line from Cape Hinchinbrook Light to Seal Rocks Light to Zaikof Point **at 60° 18.48' N. lat., 146° 55.10' W. long.** [(60° 19.00' N. LAT., 146° 55.00' W. LONG.)], and by a line from a point at 60° 11.00' N. lat., 147° 20.00' W. long. on the northwest side of Montague Island, north to a point at 60° 30.00' N. lat., 147° 20.00' W. long., then east to a point at 60° 30.00' N. lat., 147° 00.00' W. long., then northeast to Knowles Head (60° 41.00' N. lat., 146° 37.50' W. long.);

...

- (3) waters of Port Gravina north of a line from Gravina Point at 60° 37.37' N. lat., 147° 15.22' W. long. to Red Head at 60° 40.25' N. lat., 147° 30.22' W. long.;**
- (4) waters of Port Valdez north of 61° 01.00' N. lat.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Port Gravina and Port Valdez are both important Tanner crab habitat. In order to protect the Tanner crab population, these waters should be closed to the taking of shrimp with trawl gear. In addition, precisely defining the coordinates of geographical points is important and has become more common in the regulations. Coordinates that define Zaikof Point in this regulation do not match those in

5 AAC 28.263, which were updated at the December 2011 Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting. Accuracy and consistency within regulations will benefit fishery managers, participants, and enforcement.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-104)

PROPOSAL 253 - 5 AAC 31.206. Area E registration; and 5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E. Change Registration Area E shrimp pot commercial fishery designation from exclusive to superexclusive area and season closing date from September 15 to August 1, as follows:

If there must be a commercial harvest then more restrictive dates need to be implemented. A later opening such as June 15 with a smaller allocation to leave room for miscalculations of subsistence harvest and misrepresentations of population estimates. Return the superexclusive language to the commercial permit. No vessel should be able to participate in this fishery and any other commercial fishery in the state. Close this fishery no later than August 1.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Restrict commercial spot shrimp harvest. Questionable information on populations. This should not be open to commercial fishing. Sport and commercial gear types are not compatible. Bycatch or the slow escapement of undersize shrimp out of a large number of commercial pots has not been accounted for. There is still egg bearing shrimp in the early commercial fishery. History shows that this cannot withstand the pressure of the commercial fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Crawford (HQ-F14-049)

PROPOSAL 254 - 5 AAC 31.214. Shrimp pot guideline harvest level for Registration Area E. Increase the current 25 percent statistical area harvest cap or restriction to 50 percent of the total commercial guideline harvest level (GHL), as follows:

We propose that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) statistical area cap be changed from 25% to 50% of the guideline harvest level (GHL).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is currently a 25% cap of the commercial GHL which can be caught in any one ADF&G statistical areas. This is regardless of shrimp habitat and populations. Many of the ADF&G statistical areas have little to no shrimp habitat and populations, and the most productive ADF&G statistical areas have shown that they can produce a sustainable catch much greater than the 25% cap allows. This 25% cap has made it so that the commercial fleet cannot utilize their allotted GHL because once forced out of areas that have a lot of good shrimp habitat and therefore populations, they cannot find enough shrimp to keep catching the GHL.

This still allows a very conservative regulatory measure to be on the books, and is more consistent with how shrimp are caught mainly in a very few highly productive habitat rich ADF&G statistical areas in the non-commercial fishery year after year, and it will allow the commercial fishers to fully utilize a sustainable resource.

PROPOSED BY: Whittier Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C14-141)

PROPOSAL 255 - 5 AAC 31.226. Shrimp pot marking requirements for Registration Area

E. Increase the minimum number of commercial shrimp pots, or require a distance greater than 300 feet between first and last pot, before a buoy must be placed on each end of the longline in Registration Area E, as follows:

31.226

...

(c) Shrimp pots deployed on a longline, including six [FIVE] or more pots or with a distance greater than 300 feet between the first and last pot, must have a buoy attached to each end of the longline...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulation limits the number of shrimp pots fished on one string to four with a buoy and line to the surface on one end. When five or more pots are fished on a string, current regulation requires a second line and buoy attached to the other end. In practice the vast majority of gear in Prince William Sound is fished in four pot strings. I would like the board to consider increasing the legal limit of pots fished with one line and buoy, from four pots to five.

Fishing five pots per string is often desirable to better anchor your string to reduce gear loss and also to reduce the amount of line and buoys required to deploy your legal compliment of gear, which in a fishery designed and intended for small boats is an issue worthy of consideration. Furthermore, ADF&G always sets the pot limit as a multiple of five which in the very common case of 30 or 50 pots forces you to fish an entire extra string of gear for two pots. Requiring a second line and buoy on a long string of gear makes sense, but not for a string of five pots.

Past arguments against this concept have claimed the second buoy is needed to help see where the gear is set and avoid gear conflicts. However in areas of concentrated effort, the second buoy can easily be confused as a separate string if gear, so the desired goal is not accomplished. Instead of requiring a second buoy when fishing five pots, establishing a maximum distance between the first pot and the last pot on a string of five or less pots would better accomplish the effort to reduce conflict and allow the individual fishermen the advantages listed above. A limitation of 300 feet in string length would insure that any actually longlines would still have two buoys to mark their location and assist in recovery in case of a broken line, as these concerns are legitimate in an actual longline context. Three hundred feet allows for five pots 75 feet apart or for four pots 100 feet apart, but is still approximately half the length of the associated buoy line. This is more than sufficient marking for separation purposes. If the board feels that the

length restriction is unnecessary the length restriction could be dropped, and just up the string limit from four to five.

It is important to realize that adding one pot to a string is for most fishermen an increase of 50-80 feet of stringer line in the water, whereas an extra buoy line is an additional 500-700 feet of line depending on depth. It is fairly clear which is a higher risk for entanglement with other gear. In fact, it is likely that an increase from four to five pots on a string and the resulting 20% decrease in buoys and buoy line would actually result in a significant reduction in tangles and gear conflict between boats in the commercial fishery as well as recreational fishermen. Furthermore, the 20% reduction in line would be a significant reduction in both line required and would increase efficiency in actual gear operation a similar amount. The significant benefits of an increase in string limit from four to five pots appear to be offset by virtually no negatives and merits consideration.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Person (EF-C14-125)

PROPOSAL 256 - 5 AAC 31.226. Shrimp pot marking requirements for Registration Area E. Increase the minimum number of commercial shrimp pots before a buoy must be placed on each end of the longline in Registration Area E, as follows:

Change regulation to: Shrimp pots deployed on a longline with six [FIVE] or more pots must have a buoy attached to both ends of the longline.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Existing commercial shrimp regulations read: Shrimp pots deployed on a long line with five or more pots must have a buoy attached to both sides of the longline. I am asking for that number to be increased to six. Being able to fish a string of five pots with one buoy would reduce the amount of rope and related gear necessary to conduct this fishery. This is intended to be a small boat fishery, making this adjustment would be in line with that intent. In addition, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game always issues pot limits in multiples of five this would be in line with those decisions.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Person (EF-C14-143)

PROPOSAL 257 - 5 AAC 31.245. Reporting requirements for Registration Area E. Amend the reporting requirements for the commercial shrimp pot fishery in Registration Area E, as follows:

(a)

(b) [THE OPERATOR OF A CATCHER-SELLER VESSEL OR A CATCHER-PROCESSOR VESSEL USED TO TAKE SHRIMP IN REGISTRATION AREA E SHALL COMPLETE AN ADF&G FISH TICKET BEFORE ANY SHRIMP ARE REMOVED FROM THE VESSEL.] Before landing shrimp, the operator of a shrimp pot [CATCHER-SELLER VESSEL OR CATCHER-PROCESSOR] vessel operating in Registration Area E shall contact

the Cordova office at a telephone number provided by the department at the time of registration and provide the following information:

- (1) the CFEC permit holder's name;
- (2) the name of the vessel and the ADF&G number of the registered vessel;
- (3) the following information for each ADF&G fish ticket that pertains to that trip:
 - (A) the preprinted fish ticket number, **when available**;
 - (B) the date of landing;
 - (C) the statistical areas fished;
 - (D) the number of pot lifts in each statistical area;
 - (E) the round weight of all shrimp taken by species and statistical area.

(c) Each **trip** [week], the operator of a shrimp pot vessel operating in Registration Area E shall contact, by telephone, the local area office in Cordova **no earlier than 24 hours before fishing** [BEFORE 12:00 NOON WEDNESDAY] at a telephone number provided by the department at the time of registration and provide the following information:

- (1) the CFEC permit holder's name;
- (2) the name of the vessel and the ADF&G license number of the registered vessel;
- (3) the following information for each [ADF&G FISH TICKET THAT PERTAINS TO THAT] trip:
 - (A) the number of **pots intended to be operated from the vessel** [POT LIFTS IN EACH STATISTICAL AREA];
 - (B) the [ROUND WEIGHT OF ALL SHRIMP TAKEN BY SPECIES AND] statistical area **the vessel is intending to fish; and**
 - (C) **the intended length of trip.**

(d) The operator of a catcher-seller vessel or a catcher-processor vessel used to take shrimp in Registration Area E shall complete an ADF&G fish ticket before any shrimp are removed from the vessel.

(e) The commissioner may require additional reporting during periods of high effort.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current reporting requirements specify a Wednesday call-in (5 AAC 31.245(c)) which does not meet the management needs of this fishery: it provides incomplete and not always relevant information. In addition, it is often difficult for participants to comply with. Eliminating the Wednesday call-in requirement and requiring all vessels to contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) prior to fishing will allow accurate estimation of effort and potential catch rates; this will assist the department in making timely management decisions and reduce the reporting burden on participants.

The current reporting requirements also specify that catcher-sellers and catcher-processors call in a landing report to the department upon landing. Some vessels operate as both catcher-sellers and catchers only, occasionally during the same trip; this leads to confusing and incomplete reporting. Requiring all vessel operators to call in a landing report will simplify the regulation and facilitate accurate accounting of harvest and effort.

Adding additional reporting requirements, if necessary, will ensure flexibility within the management plan to address periods of potential high effort.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-105)

PROPOSAL 258 - 5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E.
Close the commercial shrimp pot fishery in Prince William Sound, as follows:

Close the commercial fishery. Open only to state subsistence fishery. At the very least close the commercial fishery, and give a state subsistence priority to this fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Prince William Sound (PWS) spot shrimp. This is not a viable fishery in its current state. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is making guesses on population estimates. When we see a dramatic decline it will be too late. When did Kachamak close to sport shrimping? How long does it take for PWS to recover from the last time of overharvest by commercial fisheries? Explain the lack of shrimp in Area 3. The board was told that there were plenty of shrimp there. The ADF&G has no successes in shellfish management in Southcentral Alaska. Be conservative to the management of this fishery. This fishery is a family event to provide for Alaska families. Revisit the management plan.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Crawford (HQ-F14-047)

PROPOSAL 259 - 5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E.
Close the commercial shrimp pot fishery in Prince William Sound, as follows:

Close all commercial spot shrimp fisheries in Prince William Sound

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Close all commercial spot shrimp in Prince William Sound (PWS). If current catch reports are accurate every commercial fisher in PWS is losing money. Why are we giving our resources away? Conflict continues between commercial and sport users. Catch per unit effort continues to fall in non-commercial zones due to the fact that more sport fishers are crowded into non-commercial zones to avoid conflict.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Benkert (HQ-F14-043)

PROPOSAL 260 - 5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E.
Close the commercial shrimp pot fishery in Prince William Sound, as follows:

Close the commercial spot shrimp fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Mismanagement of the fragile spot shrimp in PWS. There is history of overharvest by commercial fisheries for spot shrimp in PWS. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has a terrible record for management of shellfish in Southcentral Alaska. This has been a mistake from the beginning. The fishery was fully allocated before the commercial harvest was started. ADF&G told the Board of Fish that they had this in control. Look to the closure of Area 3 to show that they have no idea what is going on with shrimp. The method of counting shrimp has to be suspect. Please do not crash this fishery again. This has been a fun family fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Wynn Gilbertson (HQ-F14-045)

PROPOSAL 261 - 5 AAC 41.070. Prohibitions on importation and release of live fish.
Modify prohibitions on importation and release of live fish to specifically address amphibians in Alaska, as follows:

Our organization prefers the following action:

Modification of the language in 5 AAC 41.070(a) to read: Except as provided in (b) - (d) and (f) of this section, no person may import any live fish into the state for purposes of stocking or rearing in the waters **or lands** of the state.

Modification of the language in 5 AAC 41.070(c) to read: Ornamental fish not raised for human consumption or sport fishing purposes may be imported into the state, but may not be reared in or released into the waters **or onto the land** of the state. Fish wastes and waste water from ornamental fish may not be released directly into the waters of the state.

Addition of language in 5 AAC 41.070 to read:

(f) Live amphibians originating from wild stocks or cultured stocks may be imported for captive rearing purposes providing that the animals:

(1) Are not capable of surviving in the wild in Alaska;

(2) Are not capable of causing genetic alteration of a species that is indigenous to Alaska;

(3) Are not capable of causing significant reduction in the population of a species that is indigenous to Alaska;

(4) Are not capable of transmitting a disease to species that are indigenous to Alaska;

(5) Do not otherwise present a threat to the health or population of a species that is indigenous to Alaska;

(6) Are not captured from the wild for use as a pet;

(7) Do not present a conservation concern in the species' native habitat outside of the state;

(8) Can be reasonably maintained in good health in private ownership and;

(9) Do not present a likelihood that concerns about, or threats to human health and safety will lead to adverse consequences to captive animals

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Six native species of amphibians occur in the state of Alaska, and several non-native species of amphibians have established viable populations. We know very little about the basic population parameters for Alaska's amphibians, and to date there has been no regulatory action directly pertaining to the conservation of this taxonomic group in the state. To begin to rectify the situation, we are asking that several regulations be modified or created to address pressing conservation concerns.

The above language mimics that which is applied to "game" under the "clean list" regulations in 5 AAC 92.029(h). We also recommend that a "clean list" of amphibian species be established to limit the import of non-native species that pose substantial threats to the state's native amphibians. In addition, we believe that the state should consider joining 19 other states by hiring a full-time dedicated herpetologist to expand our knowledge of Alaska's amphibian populations and to address conservation issues pertaining to this taxonomic group.

The term "ornamental fish" in 5 AAC 41.070(c) does not adequately define the inclusion of "amphibians," which are defined as "fish" as per AS 16.05.940, nor does it address amphibians that exhibit terrestrial life stages. The statute reads:

"Ornamental fish not raised for human consumption or sport fishing purposes may be imported into the state, but may not be reared in or released into the waters of the state. Fish wastes and waste water from ornamental fish may not be released directly into the waters of the state."

As written, the statute fails to distinguish which amphibians would qualify as "ornamental species." The statute does prevent release "into the waters of the state," but fails to restrict release on land.

In addition to the above concerns, Alaska's native amphibians are not protected from imported species in the same manner as "game" under the clean list established in 5 AAC 92.029(h).

Without clarification, potentially invasive amphibian species may be brought to the state and released, consequently harming native amphibian species through competition, predation, genetic modification and disease transmission. Invasive amphibian species also have the potential to impact other native taxa, including fish. A verified account of a non-native species, the blue-spotted salamander, being introduced onto state "land" near Chugiak and subsequently surviving the winter was documented in 2013. Several other examples are available.

Bullfrogs in particular are considered a major threat to native amphibian species where they do not occur naturally. They are a voracious and aggressive predator that frequently consume other amphibians. In addition, they are known to frequently carry diseases that could significantly

impact native amphibian populations. Many states have taken action to prevent the import and release of this species.

It does not make sense to our organization that amphibians are defined as fish in the state. Most management and regulatory decisions made for fish do not apply to amphibians. More information on Alaska's amphibians and the threats facing them can be obtained from the Alaska Herpetological Society's (AHS) website: www.akherpsociety.org. AHS is recognized by the State of Alaska as a non-profit organization and its IRS 501(c)3 application is pending.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Herpetological Society (EF-C14-047)

PROPOSAL 262 - 5 AAC 41.005. Permit required. Modify permitting requirements to specifically address the collection, transport, and possession of amphibians in Alaska, as follows:

Our organization prefers the following:

Modification of the language in 5 AAC 41.005 (a) to read:

No person may transport, possess, export from the state, or release into the waters **or onto the lands** of the state, any live fish unless the person holds a fish transport permit issued by the commissioner or his authorized designee, and the person is in compliance with all conditions of the permit and the provisions of this chapter, **unless otherwise provided in the provisions of (e) and (f) of this section.** A fish transport permit will be issued for a fixed term subject to the provisions of (c) of this section.

Addition of language in 5 AAC 41.005 to read:

(e) species of native amphibians may be handled, collected, transported, possessed and displayed as pets, educational aids, or research specimens without a permit provided that:

(1) the individual engaging in these activities holds a valid fishing license and is a resident of Alaska

(2) no more than 4 adults, and 25 eggs, tadpoles or larvae of each species are handled, collected, transported, possessed or displayed by an individual each calendar year

(3) reasonable precautions are undertaken to prevent the spread of disease including but not limited to the use of latex gloves and the disinfecting of clothing and gear

(4) records of collection date, species, number, and location are maintained by the individual

(5) no wild-caught amphibian is sold, traded, bartered or used as a prize

(6) no wild-caught amphibian nor its offspring are bred for commercial purposes or exported from the state

(7) there is no known threat to or decline in the population from which the amphibians are collected as determined and advertised by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(8) individuals not returned under the provisions of (9) of this section are kept in captivity for the entirety of their lives or humanely euthanized

(9) they only be returned to the wild if

A) they originated in the wild and are being returned to the exact same location that they were collected from

(B) they have not been held in captivity with any other reptile or amphibian

(C) they have not been in captivity more than 30 days

(D) there are no obvious signs or symptoms of disease

The above solution mirrors the regulations of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Idaho Fish and Game.

Addition of language in 5 AAC 41.005 to read:

(f) a non-native species of “ornamental fish” may be possessed as a pet in Alaska without a permit provided that provisions 5 AAC 41.070 regarding prohibitions on importation and release of live fish, and 18 AAC 36.005 regarding the import of animals are met in their entirety.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? By adding the above exemptions for the collection of wild amphibians, there would be less demand for the import of non-native amphibians as pets and educational aids. This could limit the risk of introduced invasive species and pathogens that could harm native amphibian populations. Native amphibians may also benefit from increased educational opportunities provided by legal collections and possessions.

An alternative would be to establish an entire chapter in Title 5 pertaining to the management and conservation of amphibians in Alaska. While this would bring the state in line with most other states by explicitly addressing issues related to this taxonomic group, the task would require far more expertise, labor, and resources than are provided here. Still, we recommend that the state begin to formally address and manage amphibians separately from fish and that the state hire a professional full-time herpetologist that is vested with the authority to oversee the management and conservation of these species. Nineteen other states have secured at least one dedicated herpetologist for these purposes.

No statute or regulation currently addresses the collection of live native fish for use as pets. One statute, 5 AAC 41.005(a), does stipulate that:

No person may transport, possess, export from the state, or release into the waters of the state, any live fish unless the person holds a fish transport permit issued by the commissioner or his authorized designee, and the person is in compliance with all conditions of the permit and the provisions of this chapter. A fish transport permit will be issued for a fixed term subject to the provisions of (c) of this section.

To date, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has not developed a mechanism for obtaining permits for the transport or possession of fish as pets. For amphibians (legally defined as fish as per AS 16.05.940), many people import these species when moving to the state, many residents

collect native amphibians for pets or for use in classrooms as educational aids, and pet stores regularly sell several amphibian species. This is apparently in violation of 5 AAC 41.005 (a).

If this problem is not resolved, people will continue to collect, transport and possess amphibian species as pets without a permit and without proper oversight. This puts pressure on native amphibians by removing individuals from natural breeding populations indiscriminately and by increasing the risk of invasive species introductions and exposure to pathogens through greater demand on the pet trade. It also causes individuals that are engaging in these activities to be knowingly or unknowingly in violation of the law.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Herpetological Society (EF-C14-048)

PROPOSAL 263 - 5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Reduce the length of drift gillnet gear, as follows:

Shorter (half-size) nets for entire fishing, limited days to dipnetting, one tide a day only, more fees from out of state residents, and prohibit motors on the Kenai.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This one is for Cook Inlet, where I do have chances to fish as crewmen in the August. My proposal in long battle with different fish parties, is to all drift fleet half of net only. So set net, one net per permit only. It is worth of trying. We all will make, perhaps a little less in pay, but more salmon will escape.

PROPOSED BY: Pavel R. Vitek (HQ-F14-064)

PROPOSAL 264 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Modify length of drift and set gillnets based on preseason sockeye salmon forecast, as follows:

Having Fish and Game boats to patrol set net sites and cite violators. Also, Department of Natural Resources to inspect legality of each site. There is not supposed to be any spare sites, as some people have. I would like to propose to install chips on each lease, that way helicopters can find illegal sets. Chip to outside 50 fathom buoys.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I set net in Kwichak District. Every spring, forecast for escapement goals are announced. Last year only 16,000,000 fish. My proposal is, ones is below certain amount of fish, then all of drift and setnet fleet should be allowed only half nets to fish. They may not like it, but 75 fathoms of drift, 25 fathoms of set for permit only. But this emergency order will help escapement goals earlier and as result will be more fish for most of us. It takes only short time to restock longer gear. Longer nets not necessary catch more fish. It is worth trying.

PROPOSED BY: Pavel R. Vitek (HQ-F14-065)

PROPOSAL 265 - 5 AAC 75.XXX. Use of earthworms as bait. Ban the use of live earthworms as bait in freshwater sport fishing, as follows:

Proposed language under statewide sport fishing regulations, freshwater sport fishing:

"Freshwater sport fishing: (1) Fish may not be taken in fresh water by means of

...

(e) live bait, including earthworms."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Freshwater sport fishing regulations should explicitly prohibit the use of live earthworms as bait to prevent the spread of invasive earthworms that can damage Alaska's natural systems. Earthworms sold for and used as fishing bait in Alaska are not native here, but have now become established at some boat launches in Alaska, apparently from their use as live bait and subsequent dumping of live earthworms or earthworm-containing media onto the ground. These earthworms have been documented to be detrimental to native plants and wildlife in other parts of northern North America and may cause similar harm here in Alaska.

Further reading:

<http://greatlakeswormwatch.org/>

<http://worms.biology.ualberta.ca/>

http://arctos.database.museum/mediaUploads/mbowser/Saltmarsh_DM_2012.pdf

The statewide regulations may not be under review in this meeting, but I want to at least draw attention to this issue.

PROPOSED BY: Matt Bowser (EF-C14-35)

PROPOSAL 266 - 5 AAC 39.645. Shellfish onboard observer program. Modify procedure for assigning observer coverage in king and Tanner crab fisheries, as follows:

That if a vessel was chosen for an observer one year that vessel would be excluded the following year but can be put on the reserve list.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The random selection of observers for king & Tanner pot fishery in the Bering Sea, because it's uneven.

PROPOSED BY: David Harris F/V Arctic Mariner (EF-C14-62)

PROPOSAL 267 - 5 AAC 75.023. Freshwater sport fishing. Repeal exception for use of footgear with felt soles while sport fishing in fresh water, as follows:

Repeal: 5 AAC 75.022(d):

(d) Beginning January 1, 2012, the use of footgear with absorbent felt or other fiber material on the soles is prohibited while sport fishing in fresh water.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Fisheries ban on wearing felt soles while fishing, making wading and rafting while fishing unsafe and dangerous for people. Anyone who has spent much time in the field—or worse, had unexpected “swims”—knows how dangerous our cold waters are and how quickly one could lose their life. Even a quick dunk can be unforgiving and have dire consequences. The difference between wearing felt and wearing rubber or caulked boots is like night and day. Unfortunately, there are no alternatives, regardless of what you are told. If you are personally unaware of this fact, then you have little experience wading rivers or streams in Alaska and need to better educate yourself on the issue. Safety wise, it is the same as driving without a seat belt, or running a chainsaw without a pair of chaps. Sure you may get by without them, but do you want to get into an accident without your seat belt on? In essence, that’s what the Board of Fisheries (and the Board of Game) ban does. Your ban states loud and clear that our safety—our lives life, and that of our children’s and loved ones—is unimportant to you.

While your attempt to thwart the spread of invasive plants and animals is noteworthy, your lack of adequate analysis of the scientific data on this subject is both troubling and reckless. People will die--drown and perish while fishing, due to our cold water temperatures because of your decision. It’s as simple as that. Can felt soles transport invasive plants and animals?

Unfortunately, yes they can. But please look at the research—which is extremely limited at best. This small amount of research, much which has not been peer reviewed, has indicated that felt soles can spread such invasives as Didymo (rock snot), possibly whirling disease, and one New Zealand mudsnail was proven to be transported by a felt boot. One! Research has also proven that these invasives can be carried and transported to other waters on shoe laces, socks, inside the wading boots themselves, on the wading material itself and even on rubber wading boots. Furthermore, research has also proven invasives can be transported from one water body to another by boat trailers and through bilge water of boats and float planes traveling to and from different water bodies. Even Darwin wrote many years ago, about migrating waterfowl transporting plants and animals from one water body to another, both internally and externally. Why not ban all of these vectors then? Your ban on felt soles is as sensible as an open season on waterfowl, float planes and boats. Perhaps you should just ban people all together. Please—research the information yourself, not just the data and information you have been spoon fed by environmental alarmists.

Your mandate is to manage fish—not people. Seasons, catch limits, methods of fishing, fishing areas etc. —not wardrobes, and definitely not personal safety equipment. Your ban is an inherent attack on our personal freedoms to travel afield as we see fit. And your ban is making law abiding citizens break the law. Our safety and that of our children is more important than

any of the perceived benefits you believe are achieved by this ban---especially when there are so many other vectors which you have not addressed. The last time I looked, this country is a free one, with “inalienable rights” of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, (which for many of us is the pursuit of fish and game!). When did we give up the right to decide what we should wear and not wear while in the field? What legal authority gives you the right to ban articles of clothing and make our travels less safe and even dangerous? Every time we allow another entity to take away our rights, we lose more of our personal freedoms and your taking of our right to travel afield as we see fit is an abuse of your power. None of us want to see invasive plants and animals overtake our waters and lands, but your ban on felt soles is baseless, unwarranted, poorly thought out, and most of all reckless. The next drowning of an Alaskan fisherman, possibly a young fisherman, may well be because of your poorly thought out decision to ban felt soles. Their blood may well be on your hands because of your decision. If you’re okay with that and that doesn’t bother you, you need to rethink your service to the people of Alaska.

A better and more proactive approach would be to educate people on invasives and how to prevent spreading them instead of “outlawing” personal protective equipment. Use ADF&G’s internal education program to educate people on how to treat their felt soles, waders, bilge water etc. before and after being in Alaskan waters. According to ADF&G personnel, their concern is not so much with Alaskans spreading invasives as it is with tourists bringing them into the state. Why punish Alaskans then? Why not educate and target the tourists when they come into the State? Some effort has been done in this regard but it could be more, and your "ban" should be removed.

PROPOSED BY: Jake Sprankle

(EF-C14-90)
