ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT FINFISH AND SHELLFISH
JANUARY 11-23, 2018 | SITKA, ALASKA

SOUTHEAST PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL 53

5 AAC 32.126. Dungeness crab pot marking requirements for Registration Area A; 5 AAC 34.126. King crab pot marking requirements for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 35.126. Tanner crab gear marking requirements for Registration Area A.

Clarify regulations related to the sale of buoy tags to commercial Dungeness crab fishery permit holders, as follows:

5 AAC 32.126(b) is amended to read:

(b) Identification tags are issued before each fishing season, are uniquely numbered for each registration year, and will be issued **to the permit holder** at the time of vessel registration [FOR THAT VESSEL ONLY]. The **permit holder**, [VESSEL OWNER] or the **permit holder's** [OWNER'S] agent, shall apply for identification tags at a department office designated to issue tags. Replacement of lost tags during a season is permitted if the **permit holder** [VESSEL OPERATOR] submits a sworn statement or affidavit describing how the tags were lost and listing the numbers of the lost tags. Tags shall be renewed annually at the time of registration before each fishing season.

5 AAC 34.126 is amended to read:

(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 34.051(c), identification tags are issued before each fishing season, are uniquely numbered for each registration year, and will be issued to the permit holder at the time of vessel registration. The permit holder, or the permit holder's agent, shall apply for identification tags at a department office designated to issue tags. [IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 5 AAC 34.051, IN REGISTRATION AREA A, REPLACEMENT] **Replacement** of [IDENTIFICATION] **lost** tags [LOST] during the season is permitted if the [VESSEL OPERATOR] **permit holder** and at least one crewmember submit sworn statements or affidavits, in person, at a department office in Registration Area A, describing how the tags were lost and listing the numbers of the lost tags.

(b) If multiple CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel simultaneously for the golden king crab and Tanner crab fisheries, the tags are issued to the vessel for the duration of the fishing seasons.

5 AAC 35.126 is amended to read:

(b) Identification tags are issued before each fishing season, are uniquely numbered for each registration year, and will be issued **to the permit holder** at the time of vessel registration [FOR THAT VESSEL ONLY]. The permit holder, [VESSEL OWNER] or the **permit holder's** [OWNER'S] agent, shall apply for identification tags at a department office designated to issue the tags. Replacement of tags lost during the season is permitted if the **permit holder** [VESSEL OPERATOR] and at least one crewmember submit sworn

statements or affidavits, in person**,** at **a** [THE] department office **in Registration Area A**, [THAT ISSUED THE TAGS] describing how the tags were lost and listing the numbers of the lost tags [TAGS SHALL BE RENEWED ANNUALLY BEFORE EACH FISHING SEASON].

(c) Each Tanner crab ring net must have an identification tag, as specified in (a) of this section.

(d) If multiple CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel simultaneously for the Tanner crab and golden king crab fisheries, the tags are issued to the vessel for the duration of the fishing seasons.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The department has maintained a procedure of selling and associating buoy tags to a permit holder, and not to a specific vessel or CFEC permit card. This allows permit holders to switch vessels mid-season and keep their purchased tags, and also allows permit holders in the Dungeness crab fishery to switch permits and keep some or all of their purchased tags.

Issuing buoy tags to a specific vessel or a specific CFEC permit card creates logistical problems for enforcement and crab management staff, so the exception to issue buoy tags to a specific vessel in cases when multiple CFEC permit holders register a vessel simultaneously for the Tanner crab and golden king crab fisheries would allow the department to use the same approach it uses now for a single individual registering for the Tanner crab and golden king crab fisheries with a single permit that allows the privilege to fish for both species.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-104)

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PROPOSAL 54

5 AAC 32.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.

Reduce the maximum number of pots per vessel in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial Dungeness crab fishery from 300 pots to 240 pots, as follows:

(a) In Registration area A, no more than 240 Dungeness Crab Pots may be operated from a single vessel to take Dungeness crab under any circumstances. A person may not operate more pots than allowed under the terms of that persons CFEC permit. If multiple CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel the maximum number of pots that may be operated from that vessel is the aggregate of the number of pots allowed under the registered permit holder permits, except that the number of pots operated on board that vessel may not exceed 240 pots.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To reduce the number of Dungeness Crab pots that a single vessel can operate. This proposal will reduce the number of Dungeness Crab pots on the fishing grounds from a possible 42450 pots to 33960 pots. Due to sea otter predation the Dungeness fishing grounds have become over saturated with gear, this proposal if adopted would take some of the pressure off the grounds and allow fisherman to more effectively operate their gear.

PROPOSED BY: Ryan Littleton (EF-F17-005)
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PROPOSAL 55

5 AAC 32.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.

Increase the maximum number of pots per vessel in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial Dungeness crab fishery from 300 pots to 400 pots, as follows:

(a) In Registration Area A, no more than **400** Dungeness crab pots may be operated from a single vessel to take Dungeness crab under any circumstances. A person may not operate more pots than allowed under the terms of that persons CFEC permit. **If additional CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel, each additional permit will be allowed to operate one third of the terms of the additional persons CFEC permit aboard that vessel.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the Area A Dungeness crab fishery there is too many commercial crab pots fishing. Due to the increased efficiency of the fleet, there is shorter soak times which do not allow non-legal crab to leave the pot through the escape rings.

This proposal would increase the number of crab pots per vessel to 400. This will increase soak times allowing non-legal crab time to escape the pot. This proposal would only give one third of the value of the terms of a stacked permit. This will remove a significant number of pots out of the water for the whole fleet.

PROPOSED BY: Derek Thynes (EF-F17-114)
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PROPOSAL 56

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Close waters of Twelvemile Arm to commercial fishing for Dungeness crab, as follows:

(11) waters of Twelve-mile Arm west of a line **at 55'31.262'N lat., 132'34.141"W long, to 55"30.170'N lat., 132'33.731'W long., and north and east of a line at 55'26.410'N lat., 132'40.050'W long., to 55'26.333'N lat., 132'39.529'W long.**;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The residents of Prince of Wales Island have continued to see an increased presence of commercial Dungeness crab fisherman in 12-mile arm. The commercial Dungeness crab fleet has seen an increased in sea otters in other areas of Southeast Alaska and very low numbers of Dungeness crab in those areas. The area of Hollis has seen an increase of personal use Dungeness crab fisherman from the communities on the western shore of Prince of Wales. The fisherman of Hollis continues to see lower numbers of crab from the increase of all users. A small increase to the area closed to taking Dungeness crab commercially will continue to allow a sustainable biomass to be harvested by personal use fisherman to supplement the high cost of living and depressed economy on Prince of Wales Island. The commercial Dungeness crab fleet would not be impacted by this small increase to the existing closed fishing area.

PROPOSED BY: Hollis Community Council Inc. (EF-F17-022)
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PROPOSAL 57

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

Close waters in the Klawock vicinity to sport fishing for Dungeness crab, as follows:

The taking of Dungeness Crab by sport fishermen will be prohibited: in the waters near and surrounding Klawock; East of a point located on Prince of Wales Island North of Pt Ildefonso: at 55”34.625 North latitude; 133.16.554 West longitude; to Fern Point; at 55”30.210 North latitude; 133.16.741 West longitude; and North of Tranquil Point; at 55”22.936 North latitude; 133.13.513 West longitude; These waters include Big Salt Lake, Picnic Bay, Shinaku Inlet, Klawock Inlet, San Alberto Bay, Bacareli Bay, Port Saint Nick and Trocadero Bay.

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

The taking of Dungeness Crab by sport fishermen: in the waters near and surrounding Klawock; East of a point located on Prince of Wales Island North of Pt Ildefonso: at 55”34.625 North latitude; 133.16.554 West longitude; to Fern Point; 55”30.210 North latitude; 133.16.741 West longitude; and North of Tranquil Point; at 55”22.936 North latitude; 133.13.513 West longitude; These waters include Big Salt Lake, Picnic Bay, Shinaku Inlet, Klawock Inlet, San Alberto Bay, Bacareli Bay, Port Saint Nick and Trocadero Bay.

- Reasoning: economic; Charter businesses have been utilizing these areas to gather crab for profit by supplementing their businesses and decreasing the biomass for subsistence users on Prince of Wales Island. Klawock and the surrounding communities have a large subsistence population that relies heavily on subsistence resources.
- Excessive pressure by charter businesses and sea otter population is depleting the resource
- A regulation closure of these specific areas to charter businesses would allow for the sustainability of the species for subsistence users on Prince of Wales Island and increase biomass of the species.
- The number of Charter businesses in Craig and Klawock is approximately 150 registered charter vessels multiplied by 4 people @ 5 crab per person per boat = 3000 crab per day that can be taken by Charter businesses
- Economics – charters can afford to buy gas and go beyond these immediate areas surrounding the community of Klawock
- The subsistence users in Klawock have only the bare necessities (18 foot Lund, 40 hp motor at best) to gather subsistence foods. Whereas the Charter businesses have top of the line gear (24 foot North River with twin 150 hp to 300 hp motors)
- In Klawock 73 % of households are at or below the federal and state poverty level and depend on local harvesting to sustain their households
- Klawock population is over half Native and is losing Traditional gathering areas to out of State business owners i.e.; charter businesses
- A majority of Prince of Wales Island communities are economically depressed with high rates of unemployment and other government assistance programs

- High cost of living on Prince of Wales Island
- This area has never been closed to sport fishing (charter businesses) help increase the biomass of Crab
- Depleted areas include all listed; Shinaku Inlet has been completely decimated from over harvesting to include human and marine mammals
- Oral histories have proven factual that these areas have been customary, traditional harvesting areas for the local Tlingit and Haida tribes since time immemorial, since then the population as a whole includes both Native and non-Native that rely on the subsistence lifestyle to sustain their households throughout the year
- There is not a Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) in place to better manage local resources for the subsistence user

PROPOSED BY: Tom & Brenda Leask, Byron Vaughn Skinna Jr. (EF-F17-104)

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PROPOSAL 58

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

Close waters in the Klawock vicinity to sport fishing for Dungeness crab, as follows:

The taking of Dungeness crabs by chartered sport fishing boats should be prohibited at least in the middle area of the West coast of Prince of Wales Island. The Klawock Cooperative Association, Tribe cannot speak for other parts of Southeast, Alaska but perhaps the Alaska Board of Fisheries should consider the impact of charter boat harvests of Dungeness crab elsewhere too.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The taking of Dungeness crab by sport fishermen in the areas adjacent to Craig and Klawock is decimating a resource that has traditionally been used for subsistence purposes.

Why it needs to be addressed: Approximately 150 charter boats are licensed to sport fish the middle area of the West coast of Prince of Wales Island. The target fish are salmon and halibut, with bottom fish also taken. But charter operators add a bonus. They set crab pots that they pull up on the way back from a fish run, and the charter fishers are treated to the freshest possible crab dinners. Unlike the subsistence harvesters who fish crab periodically for their families (they don't eat crab every day), charter operators have a steady stream of new clients almost daily throughout their season, so they can leave their crab pots, freshly baited daily, to fish without a break throughout their entire season. A little math shows that they can take thousands of Dungeness crab per day. Title IX of ANILCA provides that rural Alaskans are to be given priority in the use of subsistence foods whenever the viability of the resource is threatened. Subsistence users of Dungeness crabs in the areas mentioned have seen a reduction in the resource. A finite subsistence resource is being diminished by a fishery that is, in effect, an add-on luxury for sports fishers, but a serious threat to subsistence users.

PROPOSED BY: Klawock Tribe (EF-F17-108)

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PROPOSAL 59

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

Close the Yakutat Area Dungeness crab sport fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(b) is amended by adding a new subparagraph to read:

(b) in the Yakutat vicinity;

(4) in all waters between the longitude of Cape Suckling (144º W. long.) and a line running southwest from the western most tip of Cape Fairweather at 58º 47.89' N. lat. and 137º 56.68' W. long., sport fishing for Dungeness crab is closed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Surveys conducted by the department indicate that the Dungeness crab stock in the Yakutat Area has not rebuilt following the closure of the commercial fishery in 2000. Surveys conducted in 2004, 2012, and 2013 indicate the population has not recovered. The Dungeness crab sport fishery in the Yakutat vicinity has been closed each year since 2005 by emergency order.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-128)

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PROPOSAL 60

5 AAC 47.xxx. New section.

Establish a guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery in Sitka Sound, as follows:

I would like to be able to take clients on eco tours in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area. On these tours I would like to pull pre set crab pots and or rings, for viewing purposes only.

I do not intend to retain anything so I would like to save my clients money and save them from purchasing a sport license.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I propose a guided sport eco-tourism Dungeness crab fishery similar to the one in George Inlet near Ketchikan. Except I propose the ability to deregister and reregister for the commercial crab fishery as opposed to being registered for a full calendar year.

PROPOSED BY: Kenyatta Bradley (HQ-F17-050)

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PROPOSAL 61

5 AAC 34.100 and 35.100. Description of Registration Area A.

Expand waters of king and Tanner crab Registration Area A to include all waters from zero to 200 miles offshore, as follows:

Registration Area A **consists of all Pacific Ocean waters north of** [HAS AS ITS SOUTHERN BOUNDARY] the International Boundary **line** at Dixon Entrance, and **south of a line extending**

231 deg. southwest [AS ITS NORTHERN BOUNDARY A LINE EXTENDING SEAWARD from the western tip of Cape Fairweather at 58° 47.89' N. lat., 137° 56.68' W. long. to the intersection with the seaward limit of the three-nautical-mile territorial sea at 58° 45.91' N. lat., 138° 01.53' W. long. **and all Pacific Ocean waters south of 58° 45.91' N. lat.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Rewrite the Southeast King and Tanner Regulations to include all waters of the pacific ocean. The state has the management authority of crab fisheries out to 200 miles, however the language of 34.100 and 35.100 restrict Registration Area A to the 3 mile line, preventing access to crabs outside of 3 miles. Registration Areas A and D are the only Registration Areas that do this.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright (EF-F17-064)

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PROPOSAL 62

5 AAC 34.160 and 35.160. Description of Registration Area D.

Expand waters of king and Tanner crab Registration Area D to include all waters from zero to 200 miles offshore, as follows:

Registration area D **consists of all Pacific Ocean waters east of** the longitude of Cape Suckling(144 deg. W. long.), and **north of a line extending 231 deg. southwest from** the western tip of Cape Fairweather at 58.47.89N. lat., 137.56.68W. long.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Rewrite the Yakutat King and Tanner Regulations to include all waters of the pacific ocean. The state has the management authority of crab fisheries out to 200 miles, however the language of 34.160 and 35.160 restrict Registration Area D to the 3 mile line, preventing access to crabs outside of 3 miles. Registration Areas A and D are the only Registration Areas that do this.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright (EF-F17-065)

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PROPOSAL 63

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan.

Open an exploratory commercial red king crab fishery in specific areas during years of low estimated abundance, as follows:

(c) on years the departments estimate of the available harvest is below the minimum threshold of 200,000 pounds of legal male red king crab, there will be an exploratory fishery in Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 south of Devils Elbow at 56. 34.73 N. lat., 6 south of Midway Rock at 56.31.84 N. lat., 7, 8 south of Banana Point at 56.33.11 N. lat., and Outside Waters.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The size and scope of the of Red King Crab biomass in Southern Southeast Alaska is unknown. The state has limited resources, tasking the department to conduct an extensive survey to quantify the biomass of Red King Crab in Southern Southeast Alaska is not an option. Having an exploratory Red King Crab fishery in

non surveyed areas that also have traditionally low effort/harvest(Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, outside waters and portions of Districts 5, 6 and 8)on years that the Southeast Red King Crab biomass estimate does not meet the minimum threshold of 200,000 pounds of legal male Red King Crab, would provide the state with revenue, fisherman with opportunity, and the department with valuable(free)survey information

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright, Luke Whitethorn, Yancey Nilsen, and Derek Thynes

(EF-F17-062)

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PROPOSAL 64

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan and 5 AAC 34.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.

Manage the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial red king crab fishery under an equal quota share when harvestable surplus is less than 200,000 pounds, as follows:

5 AAC 34.113. **Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan**

(c) **Until January 24, 2021,** the department shall **open the fishery as an equal quota share if the department's estimate of the available harvestable surplus is greater than 50,000 pounds of legal male red king crab and less than the minimum threshold of 200,000 pounds of legal male red king crab. When the minimum threshold of 200,000 pounds is met or exceeded, the traditional fishery shall be prosecuted.**

5 AAC 34.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A

(b) The following king crab pot limits are in effect in Registration Area A:

(1) During the commercial red king crab season, the maximum number of king crab pots that may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for king crab is as follows:

(A) No more than 20 king crab pots when the guideline harvest level is at least **50,000** [200,000] but not more than 399,999 pounds;

(B) no more than 30 king crab pots when the guideline harvest level is at least 400,000 but not more than 499,999 pounds;

(C) no more than 40 king crab pots when the guideline harvest level is at least 500,000 but not more than 599,999 pounds;

(D) no more than 50 king crab pots when the guideline harvest level is 600,000 pounds or more;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We are looking for a way to prosecute a red king crab fishery when there is a harvestable surplus of less than 200,000 pounds of legal male red king crab. This minimum threshold has not been addressed in several years, while the red king crab market price has increased. The minimum threshold was first set at 300,000 pounds in 1988 and later lowered to 200,000 in 2002 by the request of the industry and processors in response to the rising value of red king crab. According to the McDowell Group, since 2000, the statewide average price of red king crab has increased from $7.02 a pound to $13.50 in 2015.

We set this regulation to sunset before the start of the 2021/2022 season to allow this fishery management plan change a trial period of one board cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association (HQ-F17-059)
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PROPOSAL 65

5 AAC 34.107. Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A.

Expand fishing area for the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial golden king crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 34.114 **Southeast Alaska Golden King Crab Management Plan,** (b) To the extent possible, golden king crab shall be managed as a separate stock in each defined fishing area.

Deciding which fishing area these new areas are added in to, and therefore managed in conjunction with, is a somewhat complex matter. The following outline is more to show the intent of adding the areas rather than a guideline of how they should be added.

5 AAC 34.107. **Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A. –**
(a) Northern area: all waters of section 11-A, **District 13, north of the latitude of Point Gardner at 57.01.00 N. lat.** and all waters of Districts 12 and 15.

(b) Icy Straight Area: all waters of **Districts 14 and 16**.

(c) Northern Stephens Passage Area: all waters of Sections 11-B and 11-C.

(d) East Central Area: all waters of Section 11-D, District 10, and District 9 east of a line from Kingsmill Point at 56.50.00 N. lat., 134.25.17 W. long. to Point Gardner at 57.01.00 N. lat., 134.37.00 W. long., **and all waters of District 8.**

(e) Mid-Chatham Straight Area: all waters of District 9 north of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56.33.67 N. lat., and west of a line from Kingsmill point to Point Gardner**, and all waters of District 13, south of the latitude of Point Gardner and North of the latitude of Point Ellis.**

(f) Lower Chatham Straight Area: all waters of **Districts 9 and 13, south of the latitude of Point Ellis.**

(g) Southern Area: all waters of **Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7**.

(h) Outside Area: all waters of Registration Area A not described in a-g.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current regulatory description of Golden King crab fishing areas within Registration Area A does not include all waters of Registration Area A. Not included in the description are all of : Districts 3, 16, and (the as of yet undefined) Southeast Outside waters; portions of Districts 5, 7, 8, and 13. Because these

areas are not in the description of Golden King Crab fishing areas, they are described in the Southeast Golden King Crab Fishery Announcements as “not open”. They are essentially closed to fishing for no other reason than the fact that they are not described as fishing areas.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright, Frank Warfel, and Yancey Nilsen (EF-F17-063)

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PROPOSAL 66

5 AAC 34.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.

Implement weather-related fishery closure delays for the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial golden king crab fishery, as follows:

(g) An area closure may be delayed if the National Weather Service forecast for the area contains gale force wind warnings of 35 knots and higher on the 4:00 a.m. forecast for the 2 days preceding and the day of an area closure in which case the area closure will be delayed 24 hours. If after the initial delay gale warnings continue the area closure may be delayed an additional 24 hours. An area closure delay may continue until weather improves. Managers shall take into account tidal conditions when selecting final closure day after a weather delay. For the purpose of this subsection, the corresponding National Weather Service Forecast shall be consulted for each area.

(1) Southern Lynn Canal;

(2) Northern Chatham Straits;

(3) Southern Chatham Straits;

(4) Stephens Passage;

(5) Frederick Sound;

(6) Clarence Strait;

(7) Southeast Outside Waters.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unsafe weather conditions at time of closure of golden king crab areas in Registration Area A.

Currently in regulation there is language to delay the start of the golden king crab fishery for safety reasons due to weather. Yet there is nothing in regulation to delay the closure of areas based on the same criteria.

When asked for a delay of closure of an area because of unsafe conditions I was told that the department was unable to do that after a closure announcement had been made.

Other solution would have been for department to create an emergency order delaying season. While capable of doing this department refused to use this tool. I think putting criteria in regulation takes the burden off of managers shoulders.

PROPOSED BY: Yancey Nilsen (EF-F17-066)

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PROPOSAL 67

5 AAC 34.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.

Establish a regulatory closure date for the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial golden king crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 34.110(b) is amended to read:

(b) Male golden king crab may be taken only from 12:00 noon on the date with the smallest Juneau tidal range between February 10 and February 17, as announced by emergency order **through November 15**. [;UNTIL THE SEASON IS CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The purpose of this proposal is to provide maximum fishing opportunity while allowing the department adequate time to assess fishery data after the season closes. The proposed season end date provides a three-month closure for processing and analysis of fishery data; similar to what is provided for the Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery. Setting a fixed season end date also allows fishery participants to better plan their annual fishing operations. An end date in regulation would not supersede current management practices of targeting GHLs by fishery area and closing fishery areas by emergency order when GHLs are met, or closing areas short of GHLs due to conservation concerns.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-106)

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PROPOSAL 68

5 AAC 34.114. Southeast Alaska Golden King Crab Management Plan.

Define methods used to set guideline harvest levels in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial golden king crab fishery, as follows:

(d) The *Policy on King and Tanner Crab Resource Management* (90-04-FB, March 23,1990) states that a Guideline Harvest Level is a preseason estimate of the level of allowable king and Tanner crab harvest. In those fisheries with accurate population estimates the appropriate harvest rate is applied to the best point estimate to determine the GHL. For those fisheries without surveys or historical catch information adequate for estimating the population size, the GHL will be set based on historical fishery performance, catch, and population trend. Due to the lack of formal assessments and only data being available from the fishery, each Golden King crab area shall open for a set of tides to a pre-season guideline harvest level that is a minimum of 10% of the upper range of the guideline harvest range set for the area. After one set of tides, the GHL can be re-assessed and the fishery will be managed in-season accordingly.

(e) In-season adjustments may be made to the guideline harvest level and length of the fishing season. Information upon which such adjustments are based may include: 1.) overall fishing effort; 2.) catch per unit of effort and rate of harvest; 3.) relative abundance of Golden King crab; 4.) achievement of guideline harvest level (GHL); 5.) proportion of soft-shelled crabs and rate of dead loss; 6.) general information on stock condition including adequacy of reproductive stock; 7.) timeliness and accuracy of catch reporting; 8.) adequacy of subsistence harvests; 9.) the impact of severe or unexpected environmental conditions on the handling and trapping morality of crab; and 10.) other factors that affect ability to meet objectives of the policy. When this information shows that continued fishing effort would jeopardize the reproductive viability of king crab stocks within a registration area, or continued fishing would be counter to the goal and policies established by the Board, the registration area or a portion of the registration area will be closed by Emergency Order.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Amend the *Southeast Alaska Golden King Crab Management Plan* to further clarify for fishermen the expectations of how the fishery will be managed.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association and Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (HQ-F17-058)

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PROPOSAL 69

5 AAC 34.115. Guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A.

Reduce Southeastern Alaska Area commercial golden king crab fishery guideline harvest ranges, as follows:

5 AAC 34.115(b) is amended to read:

(b) In Registration Area A, the guideline harvest ranges for the taking of golden king crab in the following areas are:

(1) Northern Area:	0 – **145,000** [175,000] pounds;
(2) Icy Strait Area:	0 – **55,000** [75,000] pounds;
(3) North Stephens Passage Area:	0 – 25,000 pounds;
(4) East Central Area:	0 – **225,000** [300,000] pounds;
(5) Mid-Chatham Strait Area:	0 – 150,000 pounds;
(6) Lower Chatham Strait Area:	0 – 50,000 pounds;
(7) Southern Area:	0 – 25,000 pounds;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2009, the Alaska Board of Fisheries increased the upper end of guideline harvest ranges (GHRs) in three of seven golden king crab fishery areas (Northern, Icy Strait, and East Central). The golden king crab fishery in Southeast Alaska has declined considerably since the 2012/2013 season, similar to stock declines during the 1990s after intense fishing pressure in the 1980s. This proposal would lower the upper end of the GHR ranges for the Northern, Icy Strait, and East Central fishery areas to their previous levels which

are more representative of the long-term range of harvest levels comprising maximum sustained yield for these stocks than are the status quo GHRs.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-107)
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PROPOSAL 70

5 AAC 34.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.

Reduce the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial golden king crab fishery pot limit from 100 pots per vessel to 80 pots per vessel, as follows:

5 AAC 34.125(b)(2) is amended to read:

(b)(2) when the commercial golden king crab season is open in Registration Area A, and the commercial red king crab or Tanner crab season is closed, no more than **80** [100] king crab pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fishing for king crab;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A golden king crab pot reduction to 80 pots would mirror the pot allowance currently in regulation for the Tanner crab fishery, which has the same start date as the golden king crab fishery. Reducing the number of pots in the fishery will help to ease fishing pressure on the Southeast Alaskan golden king crab stock and improve management precision in targeting fishery area guideline harvest levels.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-108)
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PROPOSAL 71

5 AAC 35.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow operation of commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use pots in the 14 days after closure of the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial Tanner crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 35.128(c) is added:

(c) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 35.053(1), during the 14 days after the close of the commercial Tanner crab season in Registration Area A; a vessel or person that participated in a commercial Tanner crab fishery may operate commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use pots in Tanner crab Registration Area A after putting Tanner crab pots in storage, as specified in 5 AAC 35.052, and, unless the registration is already invalidated under 5 AAC 35.020(k), after invalidating the vessel's Tanner crab registration by contacting, in person, a local representative of the department.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current commercial Dungeness crab and king crab regulations allow for operation of commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use pots in the 14 days after commercial closures if gear is put in storage as specified in regulation and a local representative of the department invalidates the vessel's registration. Current Tanner crab regulations only allow the operation of other commercial pots (not subsistence, sport, or personal use pots) in the 14 days after the commercial closure if gear is put in storage as specified in regulation

and a local representative of the department invalidates the vessel's registration. The change specified above would align the commercial Tanner crab fishery with commercial Dungeness crab and king crab fisheries to allow operation of commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use pots in the 14 days after commercial closures if gear is put in storage as specified in regulation and a local representative of the department invalidates the vessel's registration.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-116)

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PROPOSAL 72

5 AAC 35.113. Registration Area A Tanner crab harvest strategy.

Re-define 'non-core' areas and define 'exploratory' areas in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial Tanner crab fishery, as follows:

(c)

We recommend re-defining all areas of the non-core that have had a landing in the last 5 seasons as 'non-core.' All remaining areas that are not defined as core or non-core, shall be defined as 'exploratory' areas. Exploratory areas should remain open for a minimum of 14 days after noncore areas close.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to re-define 'non-core' areas and define 'exploratory' areas. Some areas of Southeast have not been fished for Tanners in decades, and we would like to give fishermen an opportunity to try these areas.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright, Ty Barkhofer, Dale Bartells, John Berry, Charlie Christensen, Jerry Dahl, Troy Denkinger, Ken Eichner, Craig Evens, Jeremy Jensen, Aaron Miller, Mike Nilsen, Yancey Nilsen, Dennis O'Neil, Justin Peeler, Eric Rosvold, Aaron Severson, Mark Severson, Gary Slaven, Derek Thynes, Kory Versteeg, Dan Vick, Luke Whitethorn, Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association, Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance, Alaska Glacier Seafoods, Icicle Seafoods (HQ-F17-057)

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PROPOSAL 73

5 AAC 35.113. Registration Area A Tanner crab harvest strategy.

Manage the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial Tanner crab fishery using an equal quota share, as follows:

(b)

(1) In the Area A Tanner crab fishery, the holder of a CFEC permit or interim use permit for tanner crab may not retain more tanner crab in the directed fishery than the annual amount of tanner crab equal quota share that is specified by the department. The department shall determine the annual amount of tanner crab equal quota share by dividing the annual harvest objective, by the number of CFEC permits and interim use permits eligible to be fished in the fishery. The department shall use the best available information, including harvest rate and biological data, to set the annual harvest objective.

(2) When participating in the Area A Tanner crab fishery, a person holding a CFEC permit or interim use permit for that fishery must retain in the persons possession and present for inspection on board the vessel on which that person in registered to fish, a copy of each completed fish ticket issued to the person during the current season. The permit holder shall provide each buyer with the total weight of tanner crab that the permit holder has landed to date in the fishery for that year.

(3) If a permit holders harvest exceeds the permit holders equal quota share established by the department under (1) or (2) of this section for that year, by not more than five percent, the department shall reduce the permit holders equal quota share for the following year by the amount of the overage. The adjusted equal quota share is the permit holders quota share for that year. If a permit holders harvest exceeds the permit holders quota share by more than five percent, the proceeds from the sale of the overage in excess of five percent shall be surrendered to the state. A permit holder may not assume that the ability to adjust a quota share under this section is an opportunity to knowingly exceed a quota share or to exceed the equal quota share in an amount greater than five percent as such action may be prosecuted under AS 16.05.722 or AS 16.05.723.

(4) If a permit holders harvest is less than the permit holders equal quota share established under (1) or (2) of this section for that year, the department shall increase the permit holders equal quota share only for the following year by the amount of the underage that does not exceed five percent of the equal quota share.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Area A tanner crab fishery is the only active tanner crab fishery left in the state of Alaska. It has gone from a month long fishery in the 1980's to only a week in 2017. Unfortunately, in 2017 the price is roughly the same as it was 30 years ago, unadjusted for inflation. Coincidentally, the product form has not changed in 30 years either. This is because we as commercial fishermen rush out, quickly catch the tanners, and drop them off at the processors where they have no choice but to put them into the same antiquated, easy, quick, box frozen product form. Fishermen and Processors alike need a significantly longer season to creatively market these unique crab. Under 5 AC 35.110, the commercial fishing season for tanner crab in Area A is from February 10 to May 1. Having a fishery that uses all of these available days will allow fishermen and processors alike to derive the highest value out of this unique State of Alaska resource.

I propose making the Area A Tanner crab fishery a mirror of the EQS in the Northern and Southern Southeast Sablefish fisheries. Divide the total harvest objective by the number of limited entry permits. Allow each permit holder to fish the full three month fishery. Allow each permit holder to sell when and to whom they want to at a price both parties agree is fair. Give the processors incentive to develop new markets that provide themselves, fishermen and the State of Alaska more revenue. The same amount of crab will be caught with either harvest strategy. But the State of Alaska has a duty to help maximize the value of its peoples resource.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Kittams (EF-F17-112)

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PROPOSAL 74

5 AAC 35.165. Description of Registration Area D districts.

Establish a tanner crab fishery in a section of the Yakutat District, as follows:

(a) Yakataga District: all waters of Alaska between the longitude of Cape Suckling (144° W. long.) and the longitude of Icy Cape (141° 42' W. long).

(b) Yakutat District: all waters of Alaska between the longitude of Icy Cape (141° 42' W. long.) and a line projected southwest from the westernmost tip of Cape Fairweather.

(1) Yakutat Bay Section: all waters of the Yakutat District northeast of a line from Ocean Cape at *(coordinates)* to Point Manby at *(coordinates)* [REGISTRATION AREA D DISTRICTS ARE DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 30.200].

Approximately 20 years ago, all forms of commercial crab fishing ceased in the Yakutat area. At the time, stocks were declining, and there appeared to be a biological need to do so. Since then, the Yakutat A.C. has been working toward getting these fisheries tested, and or obtaining a limited, test fishery. We asked for the tanner crab pot limit to be reduced from 100 pots to 40, with the intent of having a small, two week test fishery to see what kind of stocks are available. The pot limit was reduced, but the fishery never happened. We've asked to have a Dept. sanctioned biomass study done, but have been informed that there is no money for the study. Revisiting our original proposal, we recommended that we implement a 2 week test fishery, in which our fishermen provide boats, Dept. staff would be welcome, and the crab can be released, we just need to know what is out there. We have had numerous testimonies that state that subsistence pots are coming up full of tanner crab, and our hope is to see if market quantities are available. To date, we have been told that this test fishery cannot proceed, because the Yakutat area is big, and our local boats would not sample it all the way from Fairweather to Sukling.

Therefore, this proposal asks that the Yakutat tanner crab fishery statistical area be broken up in this fashion. Yakutat Bay would become its own statistical area, separate from the rest of the district by a line from Ocean Cape, to Point Mamby. This area could then be allowed a 2 week test fishery in which participants must register and Dept. staff would be welcome to come and count crab, which could then be released. If it is determined that there are in fact market quantities of crab available, then a structured fishery could proceed according to those findings. If market quantities are in fact found in Yakutat Bay, then we would ask that an official sampling of the remainder of the district be conducted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Our proposed solution has been outlined. Commercial crab fisheries were a huge part of Yakutat's economy, as well as to fishermen who came here from other regions. If we're going to be proper stewards of the resource, then a better mechanism is needed for testing and managing fisheries that have been emergency closed. We fully understand the State's limited financial abilities, and we are trying to accommodate the need with the use of volunteers. Currently, it would appear that if your commercial fishery is ever emergency closed, it means you have permanently lost it. We find this unacceptable.

What we are asking for is a test fishery, all crab would be released unharmed, and no one would be adversely affected. The volunteer fishermen are available to test Yakutat Bay anytime, and in any fashion the Dept. sees fit.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F17-026)

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PROPOSAL 75

5 AAC 77.660. Personal use shrimp fishery.

Reopen the personal use shrimp fishery in Section 11-A, as follows:

Reopen 11A to personal use. It was closed in 2013 with an old shrimp survey from 2007.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 11A shrimp: the department is saying 11A is the same as Tenakee Inlet. That is a big commercial inlet for shrimp and is 60 miles south from 11A.

PROPOSED BY: Nick Yurko (HQ-F17-002)

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PROPOSAL 76

5 AAC 47.035. Methods, means and general provisions – Shellfish.

Establish mesh size requirements for Southeast Alaska Area sport fishing shrimp pots, as follows:

I recommend the board impose a minimum mesh size for sport shrimp pots in southeast Alaska, both netted and rigid, equal to the sport fish regulations already in place describing legal gear of shrimp pots in southcentral Alaska as follows. This is a direct copy and paste from southcentral sportfish shellfish regulations. Under this regulation, rigid sport shrimp pots must have a mesh opening of 7/8 inch square inside measurement.

Shrimp pot requirement:

- Two vertical sides of all shrimp pots must be made entirely of webbing big enough to allow a 7⁄8-inch round wooden dowel to go through without stretching or otherwise deforming the opening.
- The two vertical sides must touch each other and cannot be covered by anything.
- The other two sides, top, bottom, and tunnels may be composed of any material.
- The 7⁄8-inch size allows undersize and juvenile shrimp to escape.

A shrimp pot with no definable sides, such as a round pot, must have 50% of its vertical surface area covered with 7⁄8-inch webbing. The other 50% of its vertical sides, as well as its top and bottom, may be composed of any material.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are no restrictions in place regarding mesh size of shrimp pots for sport fishing in southeast Alaska to allow juvenile shrimp to escape.

Due to a trend in declining shrimp stocks and closures of several areas in southeast Alaska to sport and commercial use, it would seem to be a logical and responsible action to impose a minimum mesh size on sport shrimp pots to allow the escapement of juvenile shrimp. With no mesh restrictions in place, extremely young shrimp are harvested without a method for them to escape, facilitating the decline of this resource.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Woodrow (EF-F17-013)

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PROPOSAL 77

5 AAC 47.035. Methods, means, and general provisions – Shellfish.

Amend shellfish methods and means and rescind unnecessary abalone regulations, as follows:

5 AAC 47.035 is amended to read:

(b) Shellfish may be taken [ONLY] as **provided in 5 AAC 75.035 or as** follows:

(1) **Repealed __/__/__** [SHRIMP MAY BE TAKEN BY POTS AND RING NETS];

(2) **Repealed __/__/__** [CRAB MAY BE TAKEN BY POTS, RING NETS, DIVING GEAR, DIP NETS, AND HOOKED OR HOOKLESS HAND LINES];

(3) **Repealed __/__/__** [CLAMS MAY BE TAKEN BY RAKES, SHOVELS, OR MANUALLY OPERATED CLAM GUNS];

(4) **Repealed __/__/__** [ABALONE MAY BE TAKEN BY ABALONE IRONS, DIVING GEAR, OR BY HAND, EXCEPT THAT A DIVER USING A COMPRESSED AIR SYSTEM, SUCH AS SCUBA OR HOOKAH, MAY NOT TAKE ABALONE];

(5) scallops may be taken by diving gear, dip nets, or by hand;

(6) shellfish not otherwise specified in this chapter maybe taken by hook and line in addition to all gear specified in (b) of this section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations for the sport harvest of shrimp, crab and clams in Southeast Alaska are redundant with statewide regulations.

In 2012, the abalone sport fishery was closed making abalone methods and means regulations under this section unnecessary.

In Southeast Alaska all shellfish species not listed within 5 AAC 47.020 have no bag possession, annual, or size limits (5 AAC 47.020(18)). However, the methods and means by which these unlisted species may be harvested are not defined in sport fishing regulations. Adding section (6) would identify the gear that may be used to harvest shellfish species for which there is no bag, possession, or size limits. This situation most commonly applies to the harvest of squid and octopus.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-125)

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PROPOSAL 78

5 AAC 31.105. Description of Registration Area A districts and sections, and 5 AAC 31.115. Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A.

Add sections for Districts 6, 8, and 10 and provide shrimp fishery guideline harvest ranges for the new areas, as follows:

5 AAC 31.105(f) is amended to read:

(f) District 6: waters of Clarence Strait that are north of a line running from Narrow Point **(55° 47.45′ N. lat., 132° 28.57′ W. long.)** to Lemesurier Point **(55° 46.02′ N. lat., 132° 16.93′ W. long.)**, to Ernest Point **(55° 51.00′ N. lat., 132° 22.21′ W. long.)**, [AND ENDING AT] **to** the

most southerly point on Etolin Island **(55° 54.79′ N. lat., 132° 21.24′ W. long.)**, [WATERS OF] Stikine Strait [THAT ARE] south of the latitude of Round Point **(56° 16.65′ N. lat.)**, [WATERS OF] Sumner Strait [THAT ARE] west of a line from Point Alexander **(56° 30.54′ N. lat., 132° 56.94′ W. long.)** to Low Point **(56° 27.18′ N. lat., 132° 57.17′ W long.)**, and [THAT ARE] east of a line from Point Baker **(56° 21.52′ N. lat., 133° 37.58′ W. long.)** to Point Barrie **(56° 26.18′ N. lat., 133° 39.27′ W. long.)**, [WATERS OF] Wrangell Narrows [THAT ARE] south and west of a line [RUNNING] from Prolewy Point **(56° 50.12′ N. lat., 132° 56.45′ W. long.)** to the northern tip of Mitkof Island **(56° 49.38′ N. lat., 132° 56.31′ W. long.)**, and **all** waters of Duncan Canal[.]**;**

(**1) Section 6-A: waters north of a line from the tip of Point Colpoys (56° 20.17′ N. lat., 133° 11.90′ W. long.) to the tip of Macnamara Point (56° 19.85′ N. lat., 133° 04.00′ W. long.), west of a line from the tip of Low Point (56° 27.18′ N. lat., 132° 57.17′ W long.) to the tip of Point Alexander (56° 30.54′ N. lat., 132° 56.94′ W. long.) and east of a line from the tip of Point Barrie (56° 26.18′ N. lat., 133° 39.27′ W. long.) to the tip of Point Baker (56° 21.52′ N. lat., 133° 37.58′ W. long.);**

(2) Section 6-B: waters south of a line from the tip of Point Colpoys (56° 20.17′ N. lat., 133° 11.90′ W. long.) to the tip of Macnamara Point (56° 19.85′ N. lat., 133° 04.00′ W. long.), north and west of a line from the tip of Luck Point (55° 59.04′ N. lat., 132 44.07′ W. long.) to the tip of Point Stanhope (56° 00.69′ N. lat., 132° 36.46′ W. long.) to Lincoln Rock Light (56° 03.40′ N. lat., 132° 41.85′ W. long.) to Key Reef Light (56° 09.61′ N. lat., 132° 49.78′ W. long.) to Nesbitt Reef Light (56° 13.22′ N. lat., 132° 51.83′ W. long.) to the tip of Point Nesbitt (56° 13.92′ N. lat., 132° 52.32′ W. long.);

(3) Section 6-C: waters enclosed by a line from Lincoln Rock Light (56° 03.40′ N. lat., 132° 41.85′ W. long.) to the westernmost point of Screen Islands (56° 05.60′ W. lat., 132' 42.61′ W. long) to the westernmost point of Marsh Island (56° 06.98′ N. lat., 132° 43.20' W. long.) to the westernmost point of Steamer Rocks (56° 08.41 N. lat., 132° 43.64′ W. long.) to Mariposa Rock Buoy (56° 10.67′ N. lat., 132° 44.35′ W. long.) to the tip of Point Nesbitt 56° 13.92′ N. lat., 132° 52.32′ W. long.) to Nesbitt Reef Light to Key Reef Light (56° 13.22′ N. lat., 132° 51.83′ W. long.) to Lincoln Rock Light (56° 03.40′ N. lat., 132° 41.85′ W. long.);

(4) Section 6-D: all other waters of the district.

5 AAC 31.105(h) is amended to read:

(h) District 8: waters of Frederick Sound that are south of a line running from Wood Point **(56° 59.47′ N. lat., 132° 56.97′ W. long.)** to Beacon Point (**56° 56.36′ N. lat., 132° 59.74′ W. long.,** [BUT NOT INCLUDING] **excluding** Wrangell Narrows**)**, [WATERS OF] Sumner Strait [THAT ARE] east of a line [RUNNING] from Point Alexander **(56° 30.54′ N. lat., 132° 56.94′ W. long.)** to Low Point **(56° 27.18′ N. lat., 132° 57.17′ W long.)**, [WATERS OF] Stikine Strait [THAT ARE] north of the latitude of Round Point **(56° 16.65′ N. lat.)**, [WATERS OF] Zimovia Strait [THAT ARE] north of the latitude of Nemo Point **(56° 22.97′ N. Lat., 132° 24.28′ W. long.)**, and [WATERS OF] Eastern Passage [THAT ARE] west of a line [RUNNING] from Hour Point (56° 27.80′ N. lat., 132° 16.63′ W. long.) to Babbler Point **(56° 29.08′ W. lat., 132° 17.36′ W. long.)**.

(1) Section 8-A: the waters of the district north of a line from Blaquiere Point (56° 35.06′ N. lat., 132° 32.54′ W. long.) to Kakwan Point (56° 41.62′ N. lat., 132° 13.12′ W. long.);

(2) Section 8-B: the waters of the district south of a line from Blaquiere Point (56° 35.06′ N. lat., 132° 32.54′ W. long.) to Kakwan Point (56° 41.62′ N. lat., 132° 13.12′ W. long.).

5 AAC 31.105(j) is amended to read:

(j) District 10: [WATERS OF] Frederick Sound**,** [and of] Stephens Passage, **and contiguous waters [**THAT ARE] north of a line from Beacon Point **(56° 56.36′ N. lat., 132° 59.74′ W. long.)** to Wood Point **(56° 59.47′ N. lat., 132° 56.97′ W. long.)**, east of a line from Point Macartney **(57° 01.49′ N. lat., 134° 03.51′ W. long.)** to the southern tip of Elliott Island **(57° 15.20′ N. lat., 134° 03.72′ W. long.)**, [AND] north of the latitude of the southern tip of Elliott Island **(57° 15.20′ N. lat., 134° 03.72′ W. long.)**, [WATERS OF] Seymour Canal [THAT ARE] south of 57°37′ N. lat., and [WATERS OF STEPHENS PASSAGE THAT ARE] south of a line [RUNNING] from Point League **(57° 37.76′ N. lat., 133° 40.47′ W. long.)** to Point Hugh **(57° 34.21′ N. lat., 133° 48.58′ W. long.)**.

(1) Section 10-A: waters of the district west of line from Pinta Point (57° 05.90′ N. lat., 133° 53.40′ W. long.) to 57° 12.60′ N. lat., 133° 53′ W. long., to a point on the line extending from Pinta Point to False Point Pybus (57° 22.10′ N. lat., 133° 51.79′ W. long.)., to the northernmost tip of Akusha Island (57° 18.40′ N. lat., 133° 39.28′ W. long.) to McDonald Rock light (57° 25.10′ N. lat., 133° 52.55′ W. long.), to 57° 36′ N. lat., 133° 44.76′ W. long.;

(2) Section 10-B: waters of the district north of a line from Pinta Point (57° 05.90′ N. lat., 133° 53.40′ W. long.) to Cape Fanshaw (57° 11.12′ N. lat., 133° 35.40′ W. long.) and east of line from Pinta Point to 57° 12.60′ N. lat., 133° 53′ W. long., to a point on the line extending from Pinta Point to False Point Pybus (57° 22.10′ N. lat., 133° 51.79′ W. long.)., to the northernmost tip of Akusha Island (57° 18.40′ N. lat., 133° 39.28′ W. long.) to McDonald Rock light (57° 25.10′ N. lat., 133° 52.55′ W. long.), to 57° 36′ N. lat., 133°44.76′ W. long.;

(3) Section 10-C: waters of the district east of a line from Pinta Point (57° 05.90′ N. lat., 133° 53.40′ W. long.) to Cape Fanshaw (57° 11.12′ N. lat., 133° 35.40′ W. long.);

5 AAC 31.115(a)(6) is amended to read:

(6) District 6: [0 – 82,000 pounds of spot shrimp;]

(A) Sections 6-B, 6-C, and 6-D combined: 0–60,000 pounds of spot shrimp;

5 AAC 31.115(a)(8) is amended to read:

(8) District 8: [0 – 28,000 pounds of spot shrimp;]

(A) Sections 8-A and 10-C combined: 0–20,000 pounds of spot shrimp;

(B) Sections 8-B and 6-A combined: 0–25,000 pounds of spot shrimp;

5 AAC 31.115(a)(10) is amended to read:

(10) District 10: [0 – 58,000 pounds of spot shrimp;]

(A) Sections 10-A and 10-B combined: 0–50,000 pounds of spot shrimp;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial pot shrimp fishing areas were originally determined using salmon fishing districts and sections. District 8 encompasses two separate water bodies (Frederick Sound and Sumner Strait) that are divided by Mitkof Island. The shrimp stocks in these two water bodies are separate and are closer linked to portions of Districts 6 and 10. This proposal would separate District 8 and combine the separated portions to portions of districts 6 and 10. The result will be all of eastern Frederick Sound will be managed as one area and all of eastern Sumner Strait will be managed as another area, thereby allowing the department to better manage shrimp populations in these areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-113)
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PROPOSAL 79

5 AAC 31.110. Shrimp pot fishing seasons and periods for Registration Area A and 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.

Repeal winter commercial shrimp fishery and modify fishing season for the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial shrimp fishery to avoid egg bearing shrimp, as follows:

Open the shrimp commercial fishing in April after the shrimp have got eggs hatch.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the commercial shrimp opening from October when most shrimp have eggs.

PROPOSED BY: Nick Yurko (HQ-F17-001)
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PROPOSAL 80

5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A.

Reduce the maximum number of pots per vessel, limit the number of pots per string and pot spacing, and limit gear to one operation cycle per day in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial shrimp fishery, 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 4 pots only, 25 string max;
    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. Limits each string to be comprised of 3 pots only, 25 string max;
    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 8am to 4pm.

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 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-F17-088)

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PROPOSAL 81

5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A; 5 AAC 31.126. Shrimp pot marking requirements for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 31. 141. Logboooks.

Allow commercial shrimp pots in the Southeastern Alaska Area to be pulled only one time per day, as follows:

The solution is to limit the number of times a pot can be picked to once a day by adding a new regulation to 5 AAC 31.124. To be successful, several other regulations would need to change. First, limit the number of buoys each boat may have in the water to 20 in 5 AAC 31.126(c). Second, each set of pots must have a buoy on each end with an identifying set number that will be used in the logbook, also in 5 AAC 31.126(c). Third, the time, latitude and longitude when each set is picked and set should be recorded in a daily logbook in ink, which would be a new regulation in 5 AAC 31.124. This would result in boats fishing longer sets and no more than 10 sets per boat. By boats hauling longer sets and documenting when they haul them, enforcement would be easily accomplished. When considering these regulation changes, also consider: 1) only minor changes would occur to gear; 2) the importance of estimating number of pot lifts in ADF&G's attempt to calculate daily production; 3) reduction in fleet efficiency and prolonging the season length; 4) reduction in the occurrence of stock depletion; 5) the possibility of more hours to work gear daily; 6) reduction of the number of undersize shrimp harvested or disturbed; 7) the only other change that could be made to protect small shrimp is to look at a minimum size for retention.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial pot shrimp fishermen are allowed to pick their pots multiple times a day. This practice adversely affects shrimp stocks and managers ability to accurately assess effort levels. The need for a single daily lift of shrimp gear has been discussed with knowledge that short soaks will yield a larger percentage of small shrimp. This practice hurts the long term health of shrimp stocks. The most often stated objection is that a single pick regulation cannot be enforced. However, the Canadian fishery is proof that it can be done.

PROPOSED BY: James E. Smith (EF-F17-010)

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PROPOSAL 82

5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Close the Section 11-A commercial shrimp fishery, as follows:

Keep unit 11A to personal use shrimp fishing as is.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Close commercial shrimp in Unit 11A. There were two fishermen who tried this unit and didn't find good shrimp to keep fishing.

PROPOSED BY: Nick Yurko (HQ-F17-003)

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PROPOSAL 83

5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A and 5 AAC 34.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Close waters of Section 11-A to commercial fishing for shrimp and red king crab, as follows:

The commercial fishery for red king crab and spot shrimp in 11-A should be abolished.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial fishing in 11-A for red king crab and shrimp. Historic lack of personal use fisheries after a commercial opening

There always was an abundance of crab and shrimp to support a personal use fishery in 11-A. each time there was a commercial opening the stocks were decimated which resulted in very lengthy closures. I commercial fished westward and kodiak for twenty years and realize that it is a wonderful way to make a living-we are only asking for a small piece of these fisheries for personal use-most personal use fisherman are only active for a few months and would barely touch the stocks that have by now rebuilt. The crab and shrimp surveys have been very inconclusive and areas of abundant crab/shrimp are often overlooked. the computer models can easily be wrong and there should be in place a way to log and document our sport effort to help with research. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Gallant (EF-F17-118)

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PROPOSAL 84

5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Close additional waters in District 2 to commercial pot shrimp fishing, as follows:

(4) Shrimp may not be taken: in the waters of Kasaan Bay north and west of a line from the northern most tip of Daisy Island located at 55'28.816'N lat, 132'19.379''W long. northeast to a point on Kasaan Penisula located at 55'30.533'N lat, 132'18.191'W, including all waters of Twelve-mile Arm;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? ~~The 2013 October commercial shrimp season for District 2 has left the personal use shrimpers with low shrimp biomass. District 2 is a large area; however the commercial fishing fleet focused their efforts in the waters of Kasaan Bay and Twelve-mile Arm in 2013 which are adjacent to the communities of Hollis and Kasaan. Both areas were hard to navigate during the fishery from the large amount of commercial gear. After the 2013 commercial season, personal use fishermen had a hard time

locating shrimp in the waters of Kasaan Bay and Twelve-mile Arm. When shrimp was harvested, the numbers of them caught, and continue today in the single digits and small in size. The area used to receive moderate personal use fishing pressure through-out the year from residents of Prince of Wales Island as well as Ketchikan. Prince of Wales has a large population of subsistence / personal use users who rely on the land and ocean to feed their families. The island has a high cost of living with a financially depressed economy. ADF&G held a 2014 commercial shrimp season; however they closed Kasaan Bay and Twelve-mile Arm after a period where the commercial fishermen were catching very low numbers for the effort they put in to the fishery. Kasaan Bay and Twelve-mile Arm remained closed for the 2015 and 2016 commercial shrimp seasons by emergency order due to a low biomass. The personal use fishermen have exhausted most of their efforts and express they will continue their efforts when the shrimp catch rate equals the financial burden of fuel and operation costs. Currently the shrimp biomass is harvested commercially in October while the female shrimp contain eggs and is marketed to an overseas market. This commercial closure of Kasaan Bay and Twelve-mile Arm is a small percentage of District 2 which runs the eastern shores of Prince of Wales Island south of Narrow Point and north of the US/Canadian border. This area includes all waters of bays and sounds on Prince of Wales Island on the eastern shore, south of Narrow Point. The large commercial vessels can easily navigate these areas open to commercial shrimping and away from the communities of Hollis and Kasaan who rely on a subsistence lifestyle to exist.

A regulation closure of the area to commercial shrimping would protect a relatively small percentage of District 2 to allow personal use fishermen to utilize the resource. Ketchikan personal use fishermen would benefit from closed commercial shrimp area as buoys in the Kasaan Bay are routinely observed with Ketchikan addresses. The area selected for the closure is in close proximity to the community of Hollis and village of Kasaan. Both places have harbors and boat launches which are utilized by all residents of Prince of Wales Island with small vessels. Commercial vessels would still be able to fish District 2 in waters not directly adjacent to the communities of Hollis and Kasaan.

PROPOSED BY: Hollis Community Council Inc. (EF-F17-021)

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PROPOSAL 85

5 AAC 31.111. Shrimp beam trawl fishing seasons and logbook requirements for Registration Area A.

Expand current beam trawl shrimp fishery logbook requirement to cover all fishing areas, as follows:

5 AAC 31.111 (a) (3) is amended to read:

(a) In Registration Area A, **a person may fish for shrimp only after contacting the department and obtaining a logbook; the logbook must be completed and attached to the corresponding shrimp fish tickets. Shrimp** [SHRIMP] may be taken by beam trawls only as follows:

…

(3) in Districts 3, 5, 9, 11, in District 6, that portion south of a line from Mitchell Point to Point St. John, in District 10, that portion west of the longitude and north of the latitude of the westernmost tip of Cape Fanshaw, and in District 7, except in Eastern Channel west of 132º 06.50' W. long., from May 1 through February 28; [A PERSON MAY FISH FOR SHRIMP ONLY AFTER CONTACTING THE DEPARTMENT AND OBTAINING A LOGBOOK; THE LOGBOOK MUST BE COMPLETED AND ATTACHED TO THE CORRESPONDING SHRIMP FISH TICKETS;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Harvest in the southeast shrimp beam trawl fishery most recently peaked in the mid-1990s at approximately three million pounds. Due to a poor market, catch subsequently dropped to less than 100,000 pounds by 2007. In recent seasons catches have been expanding and additional information for management is needed. The current regulations require logbooks in areas with a history of low effort and a majority of trawl shrimp are landed from districts with no logbook requirement, thus only pounds harvested by species is reported. Without the corresponding effort data there is no way to calculate catch per unit effort (CPUE) for the fishery. Without this basic stock health metric the department must manage the fishery based on harvest levels that allowed for fishery expansion over 30 years ago. This proposal would allow department staff to have access to both catch and effort information which would improve management of the fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-114)

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PROPOSAL 86

5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.

Open fishing areas deemed to have stable sea cucumber populations to commercial harvest of sea cucumbers without a pre-fishery stock assessment survey, as follows:

(c)(1) On an annual basis the department may identify certain areas to open that do not require a pre-fishery survey.

These areas are to be identified prior to the season's assessment surveys. The Guideline Harvest Level would be based on the previous survey. No area can go more than one rotation cycle without an assessment survey. The department may identify these areas based a long term assessments and in areas of stable populations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) would like to modify the *Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan* to allow ADF&G to open areas for the commercial harvest of sea cucumbers without a pre-fishery stock assessment survey. Stock assessment survey are very expensive both for SARDFA and ADF&G. Sea cucumber stock assessment surveys have been done for approximately 30 years in SE AK. SARDFA would like to have some areas with long term stable populations be open to harvest without a pre-fishery survey. Any area that would be identified could only miss one pre-fishery assessment. ADF&G, in cooperation with SARDFA, would identify the areas prior to the department conducting assessment surveys.

This proposal is intended to lower the annual costs of surveys for both SARDFA and ADF&G.

What would happen if nothing is changed? Status quo. ADF&G would continue to do expensive dive assessment on all sea cucumber beds scheduled to be open that year.

What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them? It is possible to continue with the current system, but continuing high costs of surveys may limit the department's ability to survey all open areas which would cost SARDFA sea cucumber divers GHL.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F17-066)

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PROPOSAL 87

5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.

Open waters of a number of fishing areas previously closed to commercial sea cucumber harvest, as follows:

(k) The following waters are closed to commercial sea cucumber fishing:

…

(k) (2) repealed (Dist. 2 Kasaan Bay)
(k) (3) (A) repealed (Dist. 3 Sukkwan Straits)
(k) (3) (B) (i) repealed (Dist. 3 Prince of Wales Island)
(k) (3) (B) (ii) repealed (Dist. 3 Port Caldera)
(k) (4) repealed (Dist. 5 Shipley Bay)
(k) (5) repealed (Dist. 6 Whale Pass/Coffman Cove)
(k) (6) repealed (Dist. 9 Rowan Bay)
(k) (7) repealed (Dist. 10 Gambier)
(k) (8) repealed (Dist. 11 Stephens Pass)

…

(k) (11) (A) repealed (Section 13-A Chichagof Island)
(k) (11) (B) repealed (Section 13-B Whale Bay)
(k) (12) repealed (Section 14-B Port Fredrick)
(k) (13) repealed (Section 15-C Lynn Canal)
(k) (14) repealed (Dist. 16 Torch Bay)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) would like to modify the *Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan* by eliminating several closed waters sections. These closed water are mainly near small towns, but there is no available information to show that allowing a harvest in these areas every three years would harm local harvest of sea cucumbers for personnel or subsistence use.

All of these areas are adjacent to waters open to the commercial harvest of sea cucumbers. This should increase the GHL in years of declining harvest due to sea otters. This modification does not attempt to open areas in SE AK that the department uses as control areas.

What would happen if nothing is changed? The status quo remains. Possible increase in the sea cucumber GHL would not happen.

What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them? At this time we have not considered other solutions. It may be possible to adjust each individual area, but there is no information available showing personnel use sea cucumber harvest within these areas.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F17-067)
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PROPOSAL 88

5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.

Modify the method for establishing the guideline harvest level in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial sea cucumber fishery, as follows:

(h) M = 0.32 estimated instantaneous mortality rate for sea cucumbers; P = virgin population size, taken as the **mid-point** (lower bound) of the one sided 90 percent confidence interval.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) would like to have ADF&G establish the Guideline Harvest Level for the sea cucumber fishery using the mid-point of the one-sided 90 percent confidence interval based on their assessment surveys. This would allow for a higher GHL while maintaining a conservatively managed fishery especially in areas where sea otters are decimating the sea cucumber population.

What would happen if nothing is changed? The GHL would still be managed at lower levels, especially in areas where sea otters are decimating the population regardless if the lower or mid-point is used.

What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them? It is possible to discuss this on an area by area basis. SARDFA believes in areas where sea otters are decimating the sea cucumber population the extremely conservative management of the lower bound of the confidence level is not necessary.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F17-068)
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PROPOSAL 89

5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.

Modify the method for establishing the guideline harvest level in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial geoduck fishery, as follows:

(g) The guideline harvest level for each area will be calculated as two percent of the most recent estimated biomass, **using the mid-point of the one-sided 90 percent confidence interval**, per year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) would like to have ADF&G establish the Guideline Harvest Level for the geoduck clam fishery using the mid-point of the one-sided 90 percent confidence interval based on their assessment surveys. This would allow for a higher GHL while maintaining a conservatively managed fishery.

What would happen if nothing is changed? There would remain annual confusion as to whether ADF&G is managing for the lower end of the confidence level or the mid-point.

What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them? It is possible to discuss on an annual basis the department's management goal, however SARDFA believes this would eliminate any confusion on how the fishery is being managed.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F17-064)

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PROPOSAL 90

5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.

Open previously non-surveyed fishing areas to a limited commercial harvest of geoducks without a pre-fishery stock assessment survey, as follows:

(g)(1) The department may open for commercial harvest areas that have not been surveyed in order to identify areas that may have commercially viable geoduck beds.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) would like to work with ADF&G in opening new geoduck clam areas in Southeast Alaska. Geoduck beds are difficult and expensive for ADF&G to survey and open. SARDFA would like for ADF&G to open areas that have not been surveyed to identify where commercially viable beds might be. If after a small controlled fishery it is determined there is a commercially viable geoduck bed ADF&G would do an official assessment survey and establish a Guideline Harvest Level for future years.

What would happen if nothing is changed? Status quo remains and it becomes more difficult and expensive to expand the geoduck fishery.

What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them? ADF&G or SARDFA could do exploratory dives to locate beds, but this is expensive and unreliable for both ADF&G and SARDFA.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F17-065)

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PROPOSAL 91

5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.

Establish a weekly geoduck harvest limit of 1,000 pounds per diver in the Southeastern Alaska Area, as follows:

(n) A calendar weekly limit of 1,000 lbs. of geoduck clams harvested and landed per licensed geoduck clam diver is imposed. The calendar week begins on Monday night 12:01 am AST and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 pm AST. A 10% overage is allowed with the sale of the overage deposited in a separate ADFG account which will be used to offset the annual ADFG operating budget for the management of this fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The geoduck clam fishery is a small and unique fishery. These large clams are individually harvested by divers. They are harvested, transported and delivered to overseas markets **alive**. Geoducks clams have a limited "shelf life" and the difference in value between a dead, processed clam and a live clam is large. Almost unbelievably so, the difference can be $1.50/lb. compared to $15/lb. Our manner of fishing, a 6 hour "free for all," damages the value of our resource and damages Alaska reputation as a leader in high quality seafood.

The problems associated with our current fishery regime have been endemic in our industry for more than a decade. We routinely overwhelm air cargo and its capacity to timely deliver this product to its destination. We overwhelm the boxing facilities and purchasers capacity to effectively transport and sell this live clam due to the production uncertainties of a "free for all" fishery. Every other North American jurisdiction that has a geoduck clam fishery has imposed trip limits, individual fishing quotas, individual vessel quotas or marketing quotas to address the price differential between live and processed and between market demand and supply. The overseas markets demand and will pay top dollar for high quality product. As long as the harvest operates with the understanding, this is a highly perishable product that commands a premium price when intelligently marketed. By imposing these limits, other than a simple time limit, the fishermen, achieve prices that can be **4 to 10 times** greater and not create market disruptions.

These numbers make a tremendous difference in the overall value of our fishery and the fish tax paid to Alaska. We have written into regulation that this is a "live market" fishery because of the substantial market value increase associated with this harvest strategy. This increased value is tremendously important since we self-fund our fishery through SARDFA. This is an important point, the fishermen, pay for the cost of this fishery. The cost does not come out of the General fund. We have substantial costs associated with the required DEC annual water quality testing, the DEC's weekly PSP testing per area and the ADFG's administrative and survey budget required to open our fishery. There have been prices paid for our harvest that do not meet these costs and it has been a continual struggle since this fishery's establishment to meet these ongoing and ever increasing regulatory costs.

This proposal seeks to eliminate the other factors in the fishery that contribute to our low prices and poor market reputation. Beyond the desire for intelligent marketing is another and graver concern regarding diver safety. Geoduck clams do not move, most of the beds with the "faster digging" are known to the divers. ADFG's directing a fishery by time, contributes to overcrowding of vessels and divers on these "better" areas with diver entanglements and physical altercations a routine occurrence. By spreading out the harvest time and placing a weekly trip limit on the fishermen the necessity of these unsafe practices will be greatly reduced. Why is that? There are many beds that are small with lower densities or deeper which limit a diver's productivity which

aren't utilized due to this "free for all" fishery. This may have the corollary effect in giving ADFG more bed information through our logbook program and the potential to possibly increase quotas via the addition of new beds.

PROPOSED BY: Cornelis "Casey" Bakker (EF-F17-072)
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PROPOSAL 92

5 AAC 38.168. Guideline harvest range for the taking of scallops in Registration Area D.

Remove guideline harvest range for District 16 scallops and set one guideline harvest range for all of Scallop Registration Area D, as follows:

In Scallop Registration Area D, described in 5 AAC 38.076(b) (2), the guideline harvest range for the taking of weathervane scallops is ~~as follows:~~ 0 - 285,000 pounds of shucked meats
~~(1) in District 16 as described in 5 AAC 33.200(p) : zero - 35,000 pounds of shucked meat;~~
~~(2) in the remainder of Scallop Registration Area D: zero - 250,000 pounds of shucked meat.~~

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Combine scallop areas Area D and Area 16. Scallop beds cross the line separating these two areas making it difficult to harvest and manage.

Area 16 can be an unpredictable area for fishing scallops. Some years catch rates and meats are too small, while other years catch rates are quite good and meats larger, making this a difficult area to manage, fish and plan for year to year.

If there was Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) encompassing both areas, fishermen would go to areas of higher catch rates whether in Area D or 16 and not fish in an area of lower catch rates just because there was a GHL set in there. Fishermen if allowed naturally will tend to fish in areas of highest catch rates, therefore this regulation change would help avoid needless localized depletion in areas of low catch rates.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Scallop Association (HQ-F17-023)
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PROPOSAL 93

5 AAC 38.1XX. Southeastern Alaska Area Squid Fishery.

Establish a commercial fishery for squid, using purse seine gear, in the Southeastern Alaska Area, as follows:

I recommend the State of Alaska start a directed purse seine fishery for Market Squid (*Doryteuthis opalescens*) in Registration Area A Southeastern Alaska.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is a growing population of Market Squid (*Doryteuthis opalescens*) in Registration Area A coastal waters. Market Squid is

harvested in directed purse seine fisheries along the west coast of the United States, primarily in Oregon and California. Wholesale values for Market Squid can reach as high as $3,500mt on lean harvest years and in over supply years range between $1,400mt- $1,600mt. This economic opportunity is going untouched in Coastal Alaska.

The northern range of Market Squid is likely expanding due to Pacific Ocean warming. It is known the warming ocean and acidification will negatively affect some economically important species (e.g. crab, shellfish), and therefore the State should be proactive and encourage the development of new fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Justin Peeler (EF-F17-097)

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PROPOSAL 94

5 AAC 01.716. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amount necessary for subsistence uses.

Reduce the amount of herring spawn reasonably necessary for subsistence in Sitka Sound, 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 upon 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. In 2012 through 2017, the program was continued utilizing the same methodology for weighing, measuring, and mapping herring eggs on branches.

During the study period from 2009 to 2017, 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 declined over time. SHCA observations confirm low participation. The SHCA egg harvest program has demonstrated that a harvest of 30,000 to 40,000 pounds 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 50,000 pounds.

SHCA's work provides a basis for the ANS numbers in regulation. The ANS was established decades ago based on anecdotal estimates, yet when SHCA had some of the same harvesters who helped establish those numbers on the subsistence harvest boat, the estimated weights compared to certified scale weights repeatedly demonstrated a factor of 1 to 3.5. For example, the 2009 data

show estimated weights were 3 to 4 times higher than the true certified weights. SHCA harvesters found certified scale weights of 3,000 pounds of herring eggs were consistently judged to be 9,000 to 12,000 lbs., an over-estimate of 6 to 9,000 lbs.

The current ANS numbers for herring eggs are not founded on good information. 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, however, 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, based on SHCA's work it would require 300 four inch+ diameter hemlock tree sets, and five or six forty-foot boats with hydraulics to harvest the eggs in the 10 day spawn period.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Herring Conservation Alliance (EF-F17-083)
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PROPOSAL 95

5 AAC 27.110. Fishing seasons for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Repeal the commercial sac roe herring fishery in Sections 15-B and 15-C, as follows:

(b)(1)(F):
I would like to see the current language of 5 AAC 27.110 (b) (1) (F) repealed and thus close herring fishing in sections 15-B and 15-C

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to delete fishing district 15 – B and 15-C from the areas open for herring sac roe fishing.

In the 1960's through 1982 there was a herring fishery in this area. The stocks were over fished or decreased for some other reason. The herring stocks in this area have not been commercially fished in the last 35 years and the stocks have not recovered.

In the years since the last commercial fishery there have been numerous changes in the area. The whale populations have increased and a very viable tourist industry has developed. There has been a large increase in the sport fishing effort, both sport and charter. Sightseeing, bird and animal watching, photograph and many other activities have developed around the herring stocks.

It is my belief that the herring stocks are fully utilized at this time by other animals, birds and fish, and by the people who enjoy watching and or utilizing them. The herring are very susceptible to damage from the commercial fishery as seen in them not recovering in the last 35 years. Thus I believe this commercial fishery should be eliminated.

PROPOSED BY: Rollin Young (EF-F17-056)
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PROPOSAL 96

5 AAC 27.110. Fishing seasons for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Repeal the commercial sac roe herring fishery in Section 11-A, as follows:

(b)(1)(C)

I would like the current wording to be deleted and be replaced with the word "Repealed" with the date of the repeal.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to delete fishing district 11-A from the open area for herring sac roe fishing.

In the 1960's through 1982 there was a herring fishery in this area. The stocks were over fished or decreased for some other reason. The herring stocks in this area have not been commercially fished in the last 35 years and the stocks have not recovered.

In the years since the last commercial fishery there have been numerous changes in the area. The whale populations have increased and a very viable tourist industry has developed. There has been a large increase in the sport fishing effort, both sport and charter. Sightseeing, bird and animal watching, photograph and many other activities have developed around the herring stocks.

It is my belief that the herring stocks are fully utilized at this time by other animals, birds and fish. They are very susceptible to damage from the commercial fishery as seen in them not recovering in the last 35 years. Thus I believe the commercial fishery should be eliminated.

PROPOSED BY: Rollin Young (EF-F17-052)
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PROPOSAL 97

5 AAC 27.110. Fishing seasons for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Open the Southeastern Alaska Area winter commercial food and bait herring fishery on December 1, as follows:

the herring bait fishery shall open on December 1st of every year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Return the bait fisheries to a December 1st opening date as is traditional, the earlier opening causes more fish to be sifted through and killed by this wanton waste fisheries which the department turns a blind eye to, sets are made and fish are shallower up which kills them then they are let go if they don't like the size or if it too big a set they pump what they can and let the rest go, which is wanton waste.

PROPOSED BY: Larry Demmert (EF-F17-075)
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PROPOSAL 98

5 AAC 27.190. Herring Management Plan for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Reduce harvest rate for commercial herring fisheries in the Southeastern Alaska Area, as follows:

We propose the following language changes be made to the *Herring Management Plan*:

These changes allow for a more conservative approach to the commercial sac roe fishery while also providing for a sustainable commercial fishery.

5 AAC 27.190 Herring Management Plan Statistical Area A
(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~~ 0 and 10 percent of the estimated spawning biomass when that biomass is above the minimum threshold level;
(5) ~~may~~ must identify and consider sources of mortality in setting harvest guidelines or deduct an ecosystem allocation of at least 25% from the commercial fishery allocation;
(6) by emergency order, may modify fishing periods to minimize incidental mortalities during commercial fisheries.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like the Board to consider the rapidly changing ecosystem of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska and Sitka Sound and take management actions to help provide for a robust herring population and sustainable commercial fishery by lowering the harvest rate of the sac roe fishery in Sitka Sound either through a reduced sliding scale (0-10%) and/or through an ecosystem set aside taken off the commercial fishery quota.

Herring are an especially important species that needs the utmost consideration from the board of fish because of its cultural and subsistence significance, the importance of the commercial herring fishery and the importance of herring as a prey species for most all other commercial fish species, for its role as prey for important sport fish, and for its ecosystem role. It is clear that there are changes taking place in the Gulf of Alaska with ocean conditions that we have not seen before and the arrival of new species to the SE Alaska coast. At this time, with those changes, it is imperative that we take a more conservative approach to management to ensure the continuation of commercial, sport, and subsistence fishing stocks and for the maximum resilience of the ocean ecosystem.

Sitka Sound is the site of one of the largest remaining sac roe herring fishery on the west coast. According to Hebert (2016) “After a period of building since about the late 1990s, herring spawning biomass in Southeast Alaska is now in a period of decline, which has become apparent over the past few years. The total combined spawning biomass estimated in 2015 for all of Southeast Alaska is at a level similar to that of the late 1990s”. Although the Sitka Sound herring stock appears to be stable or increasing in recent years, spawn deposition has decreased (miles of spawn) for Sitka Sound (Hebert 2016). In 2017 spawn deposition along the road system is very light with only 1 or two layers of eggs. Sitka Sound has been experiencing rapid changes due to changing climate: this includes increased ocean acidification (OA), warming temperatures, the intrusion of new species (ie market squid), and a changing predator field with increasing populations of humpbacks whales spending more residence time in Sitka Sound, particularly in the winter and early spring. Implications of the 2-year residency of market squid are unknown but they likely consume larval herring, co-occurring in squid spawning habitats. The current fishery management plan was implemented in 1994, well before our current climate conditions and

although a 20% maximum harvest rate was the norm at the time, other commercial fisheries for herring on the west coast are currently using a 10% maximum harvest rate. Other fisheries managed by ADFG have very conservative harvest rates because they are potentially vulnerable. This includes sablefish in chatham, lingcod in SE Alaska, and rockfish in SE Alaska. These precedents would support a more conservative approach towards the herring resource which is a species that supports most of the other commercial species in the region as its base food source. There is local concern that, in part, due to rapid changes in the environment, the Sitka Sound herring resource is vulnerable and given its irreplaceable role as the key prey species supporting healthy salmon, halibut, and rockfish fisheries and its integral role in our marine ecosystem as a forage for whales, pinnipeds, and seabirds it is imperative that any fishery removals be cautiously approached.

Current management states that management:
(1) shall identify stocks of herring on a spawning area basis;
(2) shall establish minimum spawning biomass thresholds below which fishing will not be allowed;
(3) shall assess the abundance of mature herring for each stock before allowing fishing to occur;
(4) except as provided elsewhere, may allow a harvest of herring at an exploitation rate between 10 percent and 20 percent of the estimated spawning biomass when that biomass is above the minimum threshold level;
(5) may identify and consider sources of mortality in setting harvest guidelines;
(6) by emergency order, may modify fishing periods to minimize incidental mortalities during commercial fisheries.

It puts an unfair burden on ADFG to be able to seasonally adjust commercial fishery quotas as allowed by number (5) above as there is little precedent for that. However, this is an important management tool in a rapidly changing ecosystem. In 2017, it was clear that humpbacks were present in large numbers as the larger bodies of herring arrived into the Sound. This increased residency and feeding capacity (and increasing population size of humpbacks) is not factored into a fishery model natural mortality estimate but has a large impact on the resource. Estimates of whale consumption of herring can exceed 10,000 tons – similar in magnitude the Sitka Sound commercial fishery. Further, the herring larvae are likely to be prey for market squid, a new predator to our ecosystem and the impacts of that are also unknown. Finally, Ocean Acidification and warming conditions in the gulf of Alaska have been shown to negatively impact Atlantic herring, with Ocean Acidification impacting adult herrings ability to successfully forage. Shelton et al (2014) and Levin (2016) have published recent work for informing ecosystem-based fishery management of forage fish. One approach is to develop a set aside for the ecosystem ("1/3 for the birds") which would allow this to be taken off the top. Another approach would be to lower the exploitation rate to a place that is more conservative given the fact that the current model cannot account for changes in ocean conditions, increased predation, or the potential regime changes that we may be seeing in the Sitka Sound/Gulf of Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Thoms (HQ-F17-026)
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PROPOSAL 99

5 AAC 27.160. Quotas and guideline harvest levels for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Reduce maximum harvest rate used to establish the commercial sac roe herring fishery guideline harvest level in Sections 13-A and 13-B from 20% of the spawning biomass to 10% of the spawning biomass, as follows:

(g) The guideline harvest level for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B **will** [SHALL] be established [BY THE DEPARTMENT AND WILL BE] **using** a **maximum** 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:

HARVEST RATE PERCENTAGE = 2 + 8 [SPAWNING BIOMASS (IN TONS)] /20,000)]

The fishery will not be conducted if the spawning biomass is less than 25,000 tons.

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

ADF&G data suggest that the Sitka Sound herring biomass was on an upward trend starting 1995 and peaked in 2009. This reported increase in biomass combined with the Board approved maximum harvest rate of 20% has significantly increased the annual GHLs. The length, duration, and intensity of the fishery have increased substantially in an attempt to harvest these excessive GHLs. The Sitka Tribe of Alaska firmly believes that this increased fishing effort is disrupting the spawning patterns of herring in the Sound and is causing a high frequency of subsistence herring egg harvester needs not being met.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will continue to be a high frequency of subsistence herring egg harvester's needs not being met.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED Closing the fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka Tribe of Alaska (HQ-F17-070)

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PROPOSAL 100

5 AAC 27.160. Quotas and guideline harvest levels for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Amend formula used to calculate guideline harvest levels for the commercial herring sac roe fishery in Sections 11-A, 15-B, and 15-C, as follows:

I would like to have the following wording included in 5 AAC 27.160 –

The guideline harvest level for the herring sac roe fishery in Section 11-A, 15-B and 15-C shall be established by the department and will be a harvest rate percentage that is not less than 5 percent, not more than 10 percent, and within that range shall be determined by the following formula:

Harvest Rate Percentage = 2 + 8 (*Spawning Biomass (in tons)* /20,000)
The fishery will not be conducted if the spawning biomass is less than 20,000 tons.
After ten consecutive years of conducting a successful fishery without harming the stocks, the harvest rate percentage can be increased to not less than 10 percent, not more than 20 percent, and within that range shall be determined by the following formula:
Harvest Rate Percentage = 2 + 8 (*Spawning Biomass (in tons)* /20,000)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The herring stocks in the Juneau area, 11-A, 15-B and 15-C, have not recovered since the last commercial fishery 35 years ago. I do not believe this fish stock can withstand a commercial fishery and have submitted a proposal to close this fishery.

Should the Board not agree with closing the fishery I would like to see the Board adopt a cautious approach to the fishery. The solution I propose is to adapted a regulation similar to the Sitka management regulation, which seems to be successful. It is my intent that if there is a fishery in the future that the harvest rate would be half of what the Sitka fishery allows for the first ten year. After that it could increase if the stocks are still doing good. I do not want to see this stock fail again.

PROPOSED BY: Rollin Young (EF-F17-073)
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PROPOSAL 101

5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp fisheries in Sections 3-B, 12-A, and 13-C, and District 7.

Reduce bait fishery harvest limit in the Section 3-B commercial herring spawn on kelp fishery, as follows:

the 3b bait share of the GHL shall be 30%.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce the herring bait fishery portion of the GHL to 30%. This fishery is a wanton waste fishery which for some reason the department turns a blind eye to and this needs to stop.

PROPOSED BY: Larry Demmert (EF-F17-074)
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PROPOSAL 102

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 herring bait fishery harvest limit and increase spawn on kelp herring fishery harvest limit in Section 3-B, as follows:

(h) In Section 3-B, the harvest limit for the bait fisheries is 30 percent of the guideline harvest level for the Craig/Klawock herring stock, and the harvest limit for the spawn-on-kelp pound fishery is 70 percent of that harvest guidelines level. Any portion of the harvest limit not taken by the bait fisheries during a calendar year may be taken by the pound fishery during that year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We are respectfully requesting that the herring allocation between the bait fishery and the herring pound fishery, and that the bait fishery be reduced to 30% and the herring pound fishery be at 70%. There is over 200 permits for the herring pound fishery in Southern southeast Alaska, with approximately 120 utilized in the 2017 season. The herring spawn pound fishery has a 1 to 1.5 million dollar impact between the communities of Southeast Alaska, whereas the herring bait fishery had 3 boats that fished and has had little to no impact on the communities in Southeast Alaska. Based upon the 2016-2018 statewide Herring Fishing Regulations, the Southeastern Herring Pound fisheries is regulated to ensure that the herring biomass is not damaged, as we are a catch and release fishery, as well as a healthy herring stock is maintained. Which was documented again this year with over 25 miles of spawn in the Craig/Klawock area. Whereas with the bait fishery (5 AAC 27.179. 1,2,3,4,(b) 1,2,3,4) page 11 in the handbook, there are minimal regulations, controlling or securing the welfare of future herring stock, with a 100% mortality rate, there is no observation done by Fish and Game during this fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Archie and Roseann Demmert (HQ-F17-027)

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PROPOSAL 103

5 AAC 27.185. Management plan for herring spawn on kelp in pounds in Sections 3-B, 12-A, and 13-C and District 7.

Reduce the Section 3-B winter bait herring fishery harvest limit and increase the Section 3-B spawn on kelp herring fishery harvest limit, as follows:

(h) In Section 3-B, the harvest limit for the bait fisheries is 35 (60) percent of the guideline harvest level for the Craig/Klawock herring stock, and the harvest limit for the spawn-on- kelp pound fishery is 65(40) percent of that guideline harvest level. Any portion of the harvest limit not taken by the bait fishery during a calendar year may be taken by the pound fishery during that year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to change the allocation of guideline harvest limit for the bait fisheries, which is currently set at 60 percent of the GHL for the Craig/Klawock herring stock, and the GHL for the spawn-on- kelp pound fishery, which is currently set at 40 percent of that guideline harvest level for the Craig/Klawock herring stock.

The S.O.K. Fishery provides greater economic value for its average of 135 participants, than the bait herrings average of 3 participants. Average exvessel value for the 5 year period 2009-2013 (2013-2016 are confidential) was 1.6 million dollars. Average exvessel value for the bait fishery is undetermined due to confidentiality, but according to the last 5 years harvest data, average harvest was 2340 tons annually. Furthermore, in the SOK fishery the herring are released when

the fishery is over, providing a chance for the herring to return the following year. While in the bait fishery, 100% mortality is expected.

In years of low GHL, 2017 for an example, SOK participants suffer a 50% reduction in blade allocation when our GHL falls below 400 tons.

PROPOSED BY: Lance Watkins (HQ-F17-051)
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PROPOSAL 104

5 AAC 27.150. Waters closed to herring fishing in Southeastern Alaska Area.
Repeal closed waters in the District 13 commercial herring fishery, 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.

5 AAC 27.150. Waters closed to herring fishing in Southeastern Alaska Area Herring may not be taken in:

~~(7) District 13, in the waters 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? The closed waters described in 27.150 (a)(7) locally referred to as the Core Area is not necessary for successful herring egg gathering, 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 1970s and is well documented in ADF&G historical data, spawn maps and spawn assessment surveys. However, the harvest of herring eggs on branches has not been well documented by certified weights and measures during the same period. In 2009, 2010, 2012-2017 SHCA conducted a 'herring eggs on branch' harvest program with methodologies for weights, measures, and mapping of harvest areas; these were years when the Core Area was open (2009-2010) and closed (2012-2017) to commercial herring harvest. No data is available for 2011 due to a local group opposing the boat operator of the herring egg on branch program. In 2012 through 2017, years when the Core Area was closed as per 27.150 (a) (7), the herring eggs on branch program was conducted with identical methodologies as the 2009 to 2010 period to determine weights and measures of subsistence harvested eggs. These data are supplied to ADF&G Subsistence Division annually.

During the years 2009 to 2017, it is evident that variation in the herring egg branch harvest is not due to the sac roe fishery, but rather the timing of the spawn, spawn duration, weather, and, participation effort. One important factor is the overall biomass, which, according to department

stock assessment, has been on an increasing trend since the mid-1970's. Subsistence Division data also corroborates these factors and trends.

Nevertheless, SHCA has always obtained sufficient eggs to satisfy all comers to the local dock for distribution. In fact, we often return unused eggs to the ocean. 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. The proponents of the Core Area closure stated it needed to be closed in order to obtain herring eggs on branches; yet in the years before the closure, SHCA was able to harvest 70,000 lbs from the core area shortly after the fishery was prosecuted.

SHCA's herring egg harvest has established accurate information on weights harvested and local demand for the product.. Lacking accurate information, the ANS was established decades ago based on anecdotal estimates. When SHCA had some of the same harvesters who helped establish those numbers on the SHCA subsistence harvest boat, the estimated weights compared to certified scale weights repeatedly demonstrated an error factor of 1 to 3.5. For example, the 2009 data show estimated weights were 3 to 4 times higher than the true certified weights. SHCA harvesters found certified scale weights of 3,000 pounds of herring eggs were consistently judged to be 9,000 to 12,000 lbs., an over-estimate of 6 to 9,000 lbs.

It is evident that successful harvest of herring eggs requires sustained effort, a large volume of trees/branches, and significant human power or horse power to collect the branches with egg deposition. All SHCA eggs are provided to the community of Sitka over a period of 5 to 7 days.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Herring Conservation Alliance (EF-F17-082)

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PROPOSAL 105

5 AAC 27.150. Waters closed to herring fishing in Southeastern Alaska Area.

Expand closed waters in the District 13 commercial herring fishery, as follows:

(7) District 13, in the waters 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 57Ø 06.43' N. LAT., 135Ø 28.27' W. LONG. TO A POINT ON THE WESTERN SHORE OF MIDDLE ISLAND AT 57Ø 06.41' N. LAT., 135Ø 28.11' W. LONG. TO A POINT ON THE SOUTHEASTERN SHORE OF MIDDLE ISLAND AT 57Ø 05.56' N .LAT., 135Ø 26.23' W. LONG. TO THE GREEN NAVIGATION MARKER NORTHEAST OF KASIANA ISLAND, TO THE BARANOF ISLAND SHORE AT 57Ø 05.26' N. LAT., 135Ø 22.95' W. LONG. **NAKWASINA SOUND FROM DOG POINT TO KRUGLOI POINT AND FROM ALLEN POINT TO THE BARANOF ISLAND SHORE AT 57° 25' 20.66", KATLIAN BAY FROM MOSQUITO COVE TO LISIANSKI POINT, ALEUTKINA BAY FROM THE NORTHWEST TIP OF SILVER POINT AT 57° 00'47.016" N. LAT., 135° 18' 4.9674" W. LONG. TO THE NORTHWEST TIP OF LUCE ISLAND AT 57° 00'42.318" N. LAT., 135° 19' 27.0762" W. LONG. TO THE WESTERNMOST POINT ON ERROR**

ISLAND AT 57° 00’ 32.8566” N. LAT., 135° 19' 30.3558” W. LONG. TO THE NORTHEAST ENTRANCE TO DEEP INLET AT 56° 59’ 34.8858” N. LAT., 135° 18' 41.3928” W. LONG.

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

In the last 15 years, subsistence needs (amount necessary for subsistence) have been met 8 times, with needs only being met three in the last 7 years (2010-2016). The harvest of herring by the sac roe fishery in or adjacent to the core subsistence herring egg harvest area disrupts prespawn and spawning herring and has a negative impact on the quantity and quality of the subsistence harvest. In 2012 the Board 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, and although the ANS was not met in either of those years the closure of these waters protected the harvest that did occur. Closure of additional areas requested will increase the opportunity for the ANS to be met.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The commercial herring sac-roe fishery will continue to disturb prespawning and spawning herring in this area, thus negatively affecting the subsistence fishery.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED MOA between Sitka Tribe of Alaska and ADF&G was not able to remedy negative impacts to traditional subsistence herring roe harvesting.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka Tribe of Alaska (HQ-F17-071)
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PROPOSAL 106

5 AAC 27.150. Waters closed to herring fishing in Southeastern Alaska Area.
Expand closed waters in the District 13 commercial herring fishery, 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 57Ø 06.43' N. LAT., 135Ø 28.27' W. LONG. TO A POINT ON THE WESTERN SHORE OF MIDDLE ISLAND AT 57Ø 06.41' N. LAT., 135Ø 28.11' W. LONG. TO A POINT ON THE SOUTHEASTERN SHORE OF MIDDLE ISLAND AT 57Ø 05.56' N .LAT., 135Ø 26.23' W. LONG. TO THE GREEN NAVIGATION MARKER NORTHEAST OF KASIANA ISLAND, TO THE BARANOF ISLAND SHORE AT 57Ø 05.26' N. LAT., 135Ø 22.95' W. LONG.]

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

In the last 15 years, subsistence needs (amount necessary for subsistence) have been met 8 times, with needs only being met three in the last 7 years (2010-2016). The harvest of herring by the sac roe fishery in or adjacent to the core subsistence herring egg harvest area disrupts prespawn and spawning herring and has a negative impact on the quantity and quality of the subsistence harvest. In 2012 the Board 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, and although the ANS was not met in either of those years the closure of these waters protected the harvest that did occur. Closure of the full area requested will increase the opportunity for the ANS to be met.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The commercial herring sac-roe fishery will continue to disturb prespawning and spawning herring in this area, thus negatively affecting the subsistence fishery.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED Closure of the fishery or a significant reduction in the harvest rate.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka Tribe of Alaska (HQ-F17-072)

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PROPOSAL 107

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.

Establish a herring spawn on kelp commercial fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B, as follows:

In the district 13A and 13B Sitka Sac Roe fishery, if there is a minimum of 1500 tons left unharvested, they could be allocated to the existing Northern Roe on Kelp Fishery. It would be a minimum of a 2 person per pound fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is times when the Sitka Sac Roe fishery will leave thousands of tons unharvested because they are “garbage fish” i.e. too small. These could be used by the northern roe on kelp fishery. This fishery could only happen if 1500 tons minimum were left unharvested. This would be all the roe on kelp fishery needs. There would be no guarantee of a fishery, just a possible opportunity. Reasoning behind this number is there are 110 permit holders, 2 permit holders per pound, and each pound can hold 20 tons of herring which would be 1100 total tons of herring needed, but 1500 tons would be a safe amount to open a fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Svenson (HQ-F17-055)

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PROPOSAL 108

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.

Expand the open area for the spawn on kelp herring pound fishery in Section 3-B, as follows:

The Sse spawn on kelp boundary shall expand to include waters of San Christoval channel and the gulf of Esquibel south of a line from the northern most tip of St Phillips island to Point Garcia permanently.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To expand the southern southeast spawn on kelp boundary to include waters of San Christoval channel and the gulf of Esquibel south of a line from the northern most tip of St Phillips island to Point Garcia permanently.

PROPOSED BY: Larry Demmert (EF-F17-023)

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PROPOSAL 109

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 no more than four Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission limited entry permit holders to operate in a single pound structure in the Southeastern Alaska Area herring spawn on kelp fishery, as follows:

Stick to the Regulations in place. If the GHL does not permit a "regular" fishery, with 24/7 fishing hours from the time it opens and the normal allocated kelp blade numbers, then do not have a fishery at all.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to propose that there be no more than four Roe-On-Kelp permits in one pound structure to be a requirement, It could remain an option, but not a requirement, regardless of the GHL in order to have a fishery like there was in spring of 2017 in the Southern Southeast Alaska area. It is a logistical nightmare for the fisherman and law enforcement. We had too much time invested and could not fish. The fish went by the traditional pounding grounds at night or too deep of water and were uncatchable until they were 5 miles north west and spawning in an area where no pound structures were staged to properly execute a fishery. By the time there was enough spawn to lift the restrictions, it was all over. wasted money and resources.

PROPOSED BY: Houston Vaughan (EF-F17-024)

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PROPOSAL 110

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 the department to close fishing to some herring pound types to manage the fishery within the allowable guideline harvest level, as follows:

5 AAC 27.185(b) is amended to read:

(b) In Sections 3-B, 12-A, and 13-C, and District 7, a herring spawn-on-kelp CFEC permit holder may jointly operate an open pound with one or more other herring spawn-on-kelp CFEC permit holders and a closed pound with one or more other herring spawn-on-kelp CFEC permit holders. A permit holder operating an open pound may use fronds or individual kelp blades in the open pound, but may not use both during a fishing season.

(xx) The department may close fishing for some pound types listed in 5 AAC 27.185 (c) and 5 AAC 27.185 (dd)(2) if necessary to avoid exceeding the guideline harvest level.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At the 2015 Southeast and Yakutat Finfish board meeting, the kelp allocation table was modified to give incentives for permit holders to join into multi-permit, combined pounds. In addition, there was no kelp allocation and thus no fishery, when the guideline harvest level (GHL) was less than 250 tons. This was initially effective as the number of structures decreased from 76 in 2015 to 46 in 2016.

The modification to the kelp allocation tables did not provide the incentives needed for the unexpected drop in GHL that occurred in the 2017 season. In order to remain within the GHL of 349 tons, the department determined that no more than 20 herring pounds could be allowed. This number of pounds was determined using the GHL of 349 tons and assumptions of 20 tons of herring per pound and 125 permits participating in the fishery. The department closed the fishery to herring pounds with fewer than six permit holders by invoking 5 AAC 27.185 (q) which allows the department to restrict the transfer of herring into pounds, effectively limiting the fishery to 20 pound structures.

The department is asking that language be added to the regulation to make clear that the department may close any of the pound types to fishermen in order to achieve the appropriate number of pound structures and thus manage the fishery within the GHL.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-109)

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PROPOSAL 111

5 AAC 27.130. Lawful gear for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Define and allow closed half pound structures in the Southeastern Alaska Area herring spawn on kelp fishery, as follows:

Give the department the resources to allow pounds with half the surface square footage as those defined in 5 AAC 27.130 (e)(l)(C).

Draft Regulatory Language:

5 AAC 27.130(e)(l)(C)**(vi) If the commissioner determines that" half pounds" will contribute to the conservation of a resource or management of the fishery, the commissioner may, by**

emergency order, allow pounds as defined in 5 AAC 27.130 (e)(l)(C) with half of the surface square footage and a minimum of half of the required permit holders to be used.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2016, the number of pound structures Craig/Klawock herring pound fishery was 46. The 2017 Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) for the Craig/Klawock herring pound fishery was 349 tons. The department estimates that 20 tons of herring are used per pound structure, which only allows for 17.5 pounds on the grounds to remain within the 2017 GHL, and the department is only allowing a minimum of six permit holders to per closed pound.

By only allowing six permit holders per closed pounds this forces permit holders to work with permit holders that are not part of the original group and are not necessarily on the same page regarding management of the pound.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Svenson (HQ-F17-009)

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PROPOSAL 112

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.

Use a conversion factor applied to final product weight to determine harvest in the Southeastern Alaska Area herring spawn on kelp fishery, as follows:

(C) Guideline Harvest Range for Herring (Tons)
(D) Guideline Harvest Range for Herring (Tons)

A harvest of 0,273 tons of spawn-on-kelp per ton of herring shall be allowed in the open pound fishery for spawn-on-kelp. The closed pound fishery should be shut down until the dead loss of herring and a harvest metric based on weight can be determined.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Alaska Department of Fish and Game did a study in Sitka and determined a percentage of harvest, based on weight, that represents the extraction from the herring biomass when harvesting spawn-on-kelp using the open pound method. This study was based upon the open pound experimental fishery conducted in 1998 & 1999. The regulations should now use weight, in the open pound fishery, as the determining factor for herring spawn on kelp harvest, not the number of kelp blades.

PROPOSED BY: Darrell Kapp (EF-F17-080)

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PROPOSAL 113

5 AAC 28.190. Harvest of bait by commercial permit holders in Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Expand description of allowable groundfish parts that may be used as bait, as follows**:**

The holder of a valid CFEC interim use or limited entry permit may take groundfish in the waters of Alaska in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area for use as bait in the commercial fishery for which the permit is held as follows:

(1) except for sablefish, lingcod, thornyhead, shortraker, rougheye, and yelloweye rockfish, groundfish may be taken at any time; sablefish, lingcod, thornyhead, shortraker, rougheye, and yelloweye rockfish may not be taken for bait or used for bait, except that the head, tail, fins, **closely trimmed skeleton,** and viscera of delivered and processed commercial sablefish, lingcod, and thornyhead, shortraker, rougheye, and yelloweye rockfish may be used for bait;

(2)...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Clarify Parts of Groundfish That May Be Used as Bait:

In 2012, at the request of the Department, the BoF amended 5 AAC 28.190(1) that strictly prohibited the use of certain commercially caught groundfish species as bait to make clear that unsalable scraps could be used as bait. The specific language was copied from 5 AAC 75.026 (b), an existing regulation that addressed the use of sport-caught fish as bait. In 2013 however, the BoF realized that the latter regulation was lacking and modified it to specifically include filleted-out carcasses among the parts of the fish that are legal to use as bait when sportfishing. The commercial regulation was not addressed at that time.

This proposal simply seeks to once again match the wording in 5 AAC 28.190(1) with the language in 5 AAC 75.026(b). This would make the commercial regulation more clearly align with the department's original intent "to allow all waste products-anything that would be headed to the grinder" to be used as bait. (SE Groundfish Manager to the Sitka AC during Dec 6, 2011 meeting). This is in keeping with common practice and common sense.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka (EF-F17-012)

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PROPOSAL 114

5 AAC 28.180. Prohibitions for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Allow the transport of live groundfish for the purposes of export or sale for human consumption, as follows:

(c) Unless authorized by terms of a scientific, propagative, or educational permit issued under AS 16.05.340(b), **or for export or sale for human consumption,** a person may not possess groundfish in a manner that indicates an intent to keep the groundfish alive.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Remove the restriction on keeping groundfish alive to allow for live transport of sablefish and other groundfish as seafood for human consumption.

PROPOSED BY: John M. Johanson (EF-F17-059)
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PROPOSAL 115

5 AAC 28.1XX. New section.

Create a new commercial fishery for spiny dogfish sharks using pot gear in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, as follows:

Create a new Spiny Dogfish pot fishery in Southeast Alaska with regulations as described below to be determined by ADF&G.

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 some 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 harvests of fecund females. A pot fishery could resolve those issues by the fact that the fish are harvested live and can be released unharmed, coupled with regulations on:
a. Season duration,
b. Pot limits
c. Tunnel size
d. Escapement rings
e. Legal site retention (slot limits)

PROPOSED BY: Don Westlund and Larry McQuarrie (HQ-F17-085)
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PROPOSAL 116

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 a regional sablefish nonresident annual limit, as follows:

Restrict Sablefish (Black Cod) as follows:
All areas: [Chatham Strait and Lower Lynn Canal - District 12]
-no size restrictions
-nonresident - 4 daily, 4 in possession, 8 fish annual limit, harvest record required

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? An annual bag limit will help ensure the long-term sustainability of the resource while maintaining angler opportunity to harvest sablefish. Sablefish are a commercially valuable species that have been fully utilized since 1991. Significant sport fishing pressure is a recent occurrence that has increased steadily, with estimated harvests nearly tripling from 2010's estimated harvest of 4,793 fish to 2015's estimated harvest of

13,338 fish. Sablefish biomass is stable, but near historic lows in abundance. Considering this and changing ocean conditions, it is important to carefully manage all user groups to prevent unrestrained growth in harvests. There is currently no limit on entry for sablefish anglers or guides. This proposal allows for angler opportunity, does not limit the number of people that can participate, and ensures reasonable management of a new user group in a fully utilized fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Carina Nichols (EF-F17-123)
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PROPOSAL 117

5 AAC 77.674. Personal use bottomfish fishery.

Allow pots as a legal gear type in the Southeastern Alaska Area personal use sablefish fishery, as follows:

(2). The new regulation should read something like the following:
"Personal use bottomfish may be taken only by longline, or hand held line , except sablefish may be taken with pots"

Give ADF&G the authority to determine a reasonable number of pots allowed per house-hold permit and per vessel in the sablefish personal use fishery.
The new regulations should exempt pots for sablefish from unlawful gear types in the personal use fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The personal use sablefish fishery takes less than 2% of the region wide catch each year. Since the Department has undergone pot surveys it has shown that by-catch in pots compared to longline is virtually nil.
The use of long line is indiscriminate to what it catches and impossible to target sablefish only.

Longline gear will also catch multiple species that do not fall under the personal use fishery permit such as halibut and long lived sleeper sharks.

There is a greater potential for lost longline gear in the areas and depths at which sablefish are targeted than by using pot gear. Lost longline gear is a hazard for other sport and commercial fisherman and kills off more of the resource indiscriminately.

The use of pots will greatly reduce by-catch, reduce lost gear, and conserve resource. Pots are already legal gear in subsistence only areas.

The regulation **[5 AAC 77.674(2)]** prohibiting this gear type in personal use areas is broad based language covering all bottom fish species in the personal use fisheries and does not specifically address sablefish and the unique challenges associated with harvesting this specie.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Woodrow (EF-F17-038)
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PROPOSAL 118

5 AAC 28.110. Sablefish fishing seasons for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Change the season opening date for the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict commercial sablefish fishery to coincide with the federal sablefish fishery, as follows:

Opening date for the Southern Southeast Sablefish Fishery to coincide with the opening of the Federal Sablefish IFQ season and closing on November 15th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the opening date for the southeast sablefish fishery to coincide with the Federal sablefish IFQ season.

Currently most of the quota is removed in a month and a half. Depletion of the local stocks are occurring. This could be avoided with a season that is spread out over 9 months. This would allow the local stocks to remain healthy and prevent overfishing at any one time. This would curtail the preemption of invasive species building up and replacing sablefish in their normal habitat.

Currently the last few years have not seen a completed survey. Survey stations have changed, so the quota is really not based on any true numbers. So by extending the season there should be no conflict with the setting of the annual quota.

Currently PWS has a statewater sablefish fishery, and pollock fishery that has their quota based off the federal survey.

Cook Inlet has a statewater sablefish fishery based off the federal survey.

The Aleutians have a statewater sablefish fishery based off the federal survey.

So I believe southern southeast sablefish fishery could also be based off the federal season survey. The additional benefit would be to the state; by saving survey money from the budget.

If this seems to conflict with the state management for any reason and the state needs to do a survey, similar steps could be taken similar to the federal survey and the season could close two weeks prior to the survey or the month of May and the state could perform a survey.

Spreading the season out over nine months is similar to the way many fisheries are managed.

PROPOSED BY: Bill Connor (EF-F17-025)

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PROPOSAL 119

5 AAC 28.110. Sablefish fishing seasons for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Amend gear and season dates for Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict commercial sablefish fishery, as follows:

(a)(2) in the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict, from 8:00 a.m. **March** [JUNE] 1 until 12:00 noon August 15 with longline gear **or pot gear**, and from 8:00 a.m. September 1 **for the three**

existing pot permits until their quota is caught, then all permit holders fishing longline gear or pot gear until 12:00 noon November 15 [WITH POT GEAR].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the timing and allowable gear types for Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict sablefish permit holders.

Several Southern Southeast Sablefish longline permit holders have been unable to fully harvest their quota and thus have not been able to realize the economic benefits of their permits due to marine mammal interaction. Changing the timing and use of gear types will minimize the loss of sablefish due to marine mammal interaction, reduce bycatch and lost bait, increase the average size of fish, and reduce waste caused by hagfish and sand fleas.

The solution I recommend is allowing all sablefish permit holders for the Southern Southeast area to fish using either longline or pot gear at their discretion. Currently there are 22 permit holders, but 19 are required to use longline gear.

PROPOSED BY: John M. Johanson (EF-F17-057)

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PROPOSAL 120

5 AAC 28.110. Sablefish fishing seasons for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Modify fishing seasons in the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict commercial sablefish fishery to allow concurrent fishing with pot and longline gear, as follows:

(a) In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, sablefish may be taken only as follows:

…

(2) in the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict, **from 8:00 am June 1 until 12:00 noon November 15 for longline and pot gear.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Longline permit holders in the Southern Southeast Sablefish Fishery will be allowed to use pots to harvest their sablefish begining in 2018. The longline season is currently June 1 to August 15 for the nineteen permit holders. The current pot fishery allows the three permit holders to fish from September 1 to November 15. All 22 permit holders should have the option to fish either gear for the duration of the current fishing season.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Kittams (EF-F17-107)

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PROPOSAL 121

5 AAC 28.110. Sablefish fishing seasons for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Allow Southern Southeast Inside permit holders the option of using longline or pot gear for sablefish, as follows:

Allow all Southern Southeast Inside permits the option of using longline or pot gear for sablefish. Any permits choosing to continue using longline gear are subject to a quota reduction of 50% to account for higher bycatch and loss to the biomass due to marine mammal predation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce the quota allocation for sablefish permit holders in the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict to account for marine mammal depredation.

Depredation by marine mammals on Southern Southeast Inside sablefish from vessels using longline gear. Marine mammals have learned to associate the sound of longline gear hauling sablefish. These mammals are concentrating near the working longlines and stripping the hooked sablefish from the lines. This results in losses of up to 80% of the sablefish on the line, depleting the stocks of sablefish far more rapidly per caught pound than by vessels using pot gear. This requires the longline vessels to catch more fish in order to land their quota. It also greatly increases the bycatch rates and sea bird bycatch. Marine mammals are unable to prey upon sablefish caught using pot gear.

PROPOSED BY: John M. Johanson (EF-F17-058)

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PROPOSAL 122

5 AAC 28.160. Harvest guidelines and ranges for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Base guideline harvest limits for the commercial sablefish fishery on federal survey data, as follows:

Eliminate the state sablefish survey for the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, and adopt the federal Southeast Outside survey for determining the annual quota allotments.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Use the federal sablefish survey Southeast Outside for the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, rather than the State of Alaska conduct its own separate survey for the Easter Gulf region.

By using the federal survey, rather than conducting its own, the State of Alaska will save on the expense of conducting its own survey. Also, since the federal survey is conducted earlier in the year, the stocks will be assessed earlier. This will allow the permit holders to start their season earlier, reducing gear conflicts and allowing adjustments to reduce losses to marine mammals, sand fleas, and hagfish.

PROPOSED BY: John M. Johanson (EF-F17-060)

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PROPOSAL 123

5 AAC 28.173. Lingcod possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Increase the minimum retention size for lingcod in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area commercial fishery, as follows:

(e) All lingcod retained must measure at least 30" from tip of snout to tip of tail or 22.75" from front of dorsal fin to tip of tail.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase the Lingcod minimum length for retention in the commercial fishery from 27" to 30".

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-F17-087)
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PROPOSAL 124

5 AAC 28.150. Closed waters in Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area and 5 AAC 28.173. Lingcod possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.
Allow the sale of up to two lingcod taken as bycatch in the commercial salmon troll fishery in Sitka Sound, as follows:

5 AAC 28.150. Closed waters in Eastern Gulf of Alaska.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, lingcod may be retained as bycatch in the halibut longline fishery and [for a permit holder's personal use] in the commercial salmon troll fishery in the waters described in (a) of this section, as limited by the provisions of 5 AAC 28.173(a) and (e).

AND

5 AAC 28.173. Lingcod possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

(a) In the Southeast District, a vessel fishing for...

(4) salmon with troll gear in the waters of Sitka Sound described in 5 AAC 28.150(a) may retain and have on board no more than two lingcod only from May 16 through November 30, or until closed by emergency order[, and only if the permit holder

(A) immediately removes the dorsal fin of the lingcod retained; the head of a lingcod retained under this paragraph must remain attached to determine if the lingcod meets the legal size requirement of (e) of this section

(B) weighs and reports the lingcod retained for the permit holder's personal use on an ADF&G fish ticket as required in 5 AAC 39.130; a lingcod retained under this paragraph may not be sold].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow sale of up to 2 lingcod as troll bycatch in Sitka LAMP

Current lingcod bycatch regulations in the troll fishery are confusing, particularly in the Sitka LAMP (Sitka Sound Special Use Area). From 1997-2014 all retention or even possession of bycatch lingcod was prohibited for any commercial vessel trolling within the Sitka LAMP. In 2015 the BoF adopted a proposal to allow trollers to retain or possess up to 2 lingcod while in the LAMP, but since the level of harvest that would result was unknown at the time, the original proposal was modified to mandate that these fish only be allowed to be home-packed, thus making the fish easily identifiable in the harvest record. (The Sitka LAMP is not defined as a separate groundfish district or troll sub-district, so it would not otherwise be clear from a fish ticket whether a lingcod had been caught in the LAMP.) The past three years of data shows that the combined regulatory restrictions have been extremely effective at limiting harvest.

Given that the Central SE Outside (CSEO) troll bycatch lingcod quota has historically been underutilized (in part due to the closure of the Sitka LAMP) it is appropriate to slightly loosen the restrictions in the Sitka LAMP. This proposal would retain the region-wide seasonal closure and the standard CSEO lingcod:salmon bycatch allowance, as well as the 2 fish limit specific to the LAMP, but would allow those two lingcod to be sold.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka (EF-F17-018)

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PROPOSAL 125

5 AAC 47.065. Demersal shelf rockfish delegation of authority and provisions for management.

Repeal mandatory retention requirements for nonpelagic rockfish, as follows:

The regulation should be changed to eliminate the wording: "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-pelagics are caught they must be released at depth.

a. Often very small non-pelagic rockfish are caught, retained and are wasted because they are too small to salvage any practical amount of meat after being fileted. They are considered simply not worth the effort.

b. 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 fish 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-F17-089)

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PROPOSAL 126

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

Require all anglers to release nonpelagic rockfish at depth with a deepwater release mechanism, 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-F17-090)

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PROPOSAL 127

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 provisions for reducing the resident pelagic rockfish bag limit in Central Southeast Outside waters, as follows:

(8)(A)

I propose that the Board of Fisheries direct the Department to refrain from reducing the CSEO resident sport bag limit for pelagic rockfish below the 5 per day established in 5 AAC 47.020 (8) (A), unless the resident share of the sport pelagic rockfish harvest in CSEO has exceeded 50% for two consecutive years.

Note: In Southeast Alaska, very few residents fish from a charter boat, whereas the great majority of non-residents do so. Hence, a distinction based on residency is in practice very similar to a

charter/non-charter distinction. This proposal adopts the former convention solely because it has been the most common past practice of the Board of Fisheries.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? From 2007 to 2015 the harvest of pelagic rockfish by charter fishermen in the Sitka area (Central Southeast Outside-CSEO) more than doubled. Concern over this increased catch led the Department to use Emergency Order authority in 2016 and 2017 to reduce the bag limit for all sport anglers from 5 per day to 3 per day. The non-charter anglers' catch of pelagic rockfish had actually decreased between 2007-2015, yet they too were required to make further reductions due to concerns stemming from the increased charter harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka (HQ-F17-074)

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PROPOSAL 128

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 pelagic rockfish limits in the Sitka Area, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(g) is amended by adding a new subparagraph to read:

(g) In the Sitka vicinity:

(8) in waters west of Baranof and Chichagof Islands, south of 57° 30′ N. lat. and north of the latitude of Cape Ommaney (56 ° 09.60′ N.) the bag limit for pelagic rockfish is three fish and possession limit of six fish, no size limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2016 and 2017 the department reduced the bag limit of pelagic rockfish to three fish through emergency order authority to reduce harvest. Pelagic rockfish harvest in the Sitka Area, as estimated by the statewide harvest and marine creel surveys, has gradually increased from 20,000 fish in 2009 to over 60,000 fish in 2014 and 2015 representing a 3-fold increase in sport harvest in recent years. Although there is limited stock information, analysis of the length-weight composition of the sport harvest shows a slight, but gradual decline in average weight since 2006 indicating a possible change in the population structure. This may be a result of increased harvest. A reduction in bag limit from five to three pelagic rockfish is predicted to reduce harvest to a level similar to that seen in 2011 through 2013. This proposal is designed to protect pelagic rockfish in the interest of conservative management until additional stock information is available.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-127)

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PROPOSAL 129

5 AAC 28.171. Rockfish possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Reduce the trip limit in the East Yakutat Section and clarify trip limits in the Southeast District and East Yakutat Section commercial demersal shelf rockfish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.171(d) and (e) are amended to read:

(d) In the Southeast District east of 137° W. long., a vessel or CFEC permit holder may not **catch, take or possess on board the vessel, or** sell **from that vessel** more than 6,000 pounds [(BLED WEIGHT)] of demersal shelf rockfish **(as delivered, whole or** bled weight) in any five-day period. All demersal shelf rockfish taken in excess of 6,000 pounds (**as delivered, whole or** bled weight) by a vessel or CFEC permit holder in any five-day period must be weighed and reported on an ADF&G fish ticket **as a trip limit overage**. All proceeds from the sale of demersal shelf rockfish in excess of 6,000 pounds (**as delivered, whole or** bled weight) shall be surrendered to the state.

(e) In the East Yakutat Section, a vessel or CFEC permit holder may not **catch, take or possess on board the vessel, or** sell **from that vessel** more than **8,000** [12,000] pounds [(BLED WEIGHT)] of demersal shelf rockfish **(as delivered, whole or bled weight)** in any five-day period. All demersal shelf rockfish taken in excess of **8,000** [12,000] pounds (**as delivered, whole or** bled weight) by a vessel or CFEC permit holder in any five-day period must be weighed and reported on an ADF&G fish ticket **as a trip limit overage**. All proceeds from the sale of demersal shelf rockfish in excess of **8,000** [12,000] pounds (**as delivered, whole or** bled weight) shall be surrendered to the state.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The annual commercial guideline harvest level (GHL) available for the EYKT directed DSR fishery has been greatly reduced since the trip limit was established in 1991. The department has successfully managed the fishery under the current trip limit however; there is an increased risk of GHLs given the declining trends in DSR biomass and current level of effort in the fishery.

The current regulatory language leaves room for interpretation that is not necessarily consistent with the original intentions of the trip limit restrictions. The directed DSR fishery has been operating as a high quality, high value fishery targeting yelloweye rockfish that are iced and sold to the domestic fresh market. The proposed regulatory modifications serve to clarify and expand on the mechanics of the trip limit in order to improve fishery manageability and maintain accepted fishery quality standards.

The five-day restriction was originally instituted as a means to control the pace of the fishery. Current regulatory language limits how often a vessel may sell a DSR trip limit but does not require a waiting period before returning to fishing operations. Generally, it takes a couple of days for a vessel to turn around after an offload and get in position to resume fishing operations; therefore the five-day period has typically expired before the vessel returns to port. Recently, motivated individuals have been able to return to fishing on the day following an offload, caught another trip limit, and then had to wait out the remainder of the five-day period before they can legally offload. The proposed change restricts vessels from taking or possessing more than a trip limit of DSR within the five-day period and will prevent unnecessary delays to offloads which helps ensure that fish of the highest quality are delivered to the marketplace. Fishery managers will also be able to more accurately predict how much DSR has been caught based on what a vessel may catch and possess within the trip-limit period.

The proposed change ties the sale of fish to being offloaded from that vessel. Current language is vague regarding the sale of fish and these changes clarify that DSR cannot be documented on a fish ticket at sea and then considered sold. This update helps clarify that a vessel may not possess more than one trip limit during the five-day period.

The current regulation bases the trip limit on the round weight of DSR. The standard for this fresh market fishery is bled rockfish; the process of bleeding rockfish accounts for a two percent loss in weight. In order to allow permit holders to sell a full trip limit of landed product, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adjusted this regulation to allow a trip limit of bled rockfish to be landed. A trip limit of bled rockfish when converted to round (whole fish) weight is equal to 6,122 or 12,245 pounds. The proposed language change serves to clarify recent questions as to whether vessels that do not bleed their catch can sell an additional 122 or 245 pounds of DSR to match the equivalent bled weight of rockfish. This was never the intention of the previous regulatory change.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-105)

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PROPOSAL 130

5 AAC 01.725. Waters closed to subsistence fishing.

Close subsistence fishing for salmon in Chilkat Inlet through July 15, and Chilkat River from June 15 to August 1, as follows:

(3) District 15, Waters of the Chilkat Inlet are closed to fishing prior to July 15th and waters of the Chilkat River are closed to fishing from June 15th to August 1st

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal addresses the need for conservation of the Chilkat Chinook salmon population through a closure of the Chilkat Inlet through July 15th and the closure of the Chilkat River from June 15th to August 1st in the District 15 Southeast Alaska subsistence fishery. With the low returns of Chinook salmon to the Chilkat River over the last 10 years this closure would allow for the maximum number of returning Chinook salmon to reach the spawning grounds in the upper reaches of the river system without having to navigate past fishing gear. Although this closure may seem extreme, Chinook stocks in the Haines area and throughout Southeast Alaska have been suffering low returns and this measure will help a larger proportion of the returning population spawn to ensure the future survival of this stock. This closure would only effect the Chilkat side of the subsistence fishery, thus allowing subsistence fishermen who wanted to fish earlier in the season fishing opportunity in the Chilkoot Inlet and Lutak Inlet areas of the district. Leaving the Chilkat river open from June 1st to June 14th which is currently done will allow for the harvest of early sockeye when Chinook returning to the river system are in limited numbers. Sockeye, Chum and Coho salmon are still returning to Chilkat River in large numbers after August 1st so fishermen wanting opportunity in the river system would still have ample time after the closure period to harvest fish also. I feel this proposal would help in the local conservation effort to protect the Chilkat Chinook stock and the overall conservation effort to protect Chinook salmon stocks in Southeast Alaska while still allowing for subsistence users time to harvest fish throughout the season. This conservation measure is commensurate with other restrictions applied to Southeast Alaska commercial and sport fisheries by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

PROPOSED BY: William Prisciandaro (EF-F17-098)
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PROPOSAL 131

5 AAC 01.720. Lawful gear and gear specifications.

Implement maximum gillnet mesh-size restrictions in the Chilkat Inlet and River subsistence salmon fishery, as follows:

(5) in District 15, in the waters of Chilkat Inlet and Chilkat River, the maximum allowable gillnet mesh size is 5 3/8" prior to August 1st.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal addresses the need for conservation of the Chilkat Chinook salmon population through the use of a maximum gillnet size restriction of 5 3/8" through August 1st in the Chilkat Inlet and Chilkat River areas of the District 15 Southeast Alaska subsistence fishery. Considering low returns of Chinook salmon to the Chilkat River system over the last 10 years, changing to maximum size of gillnets allowed to be fished in the Haines area subsistence fisheries could help curtail Chinook salmon from being caught in the subsistence fishery both in the salt water and Chilkat River. Prior to August 1 gillnets with a mesh size of 5 3/8" or less would still allow sockeye and pink salmon to be caught while allowing Chinook a better chance of bouncing off gillnets and reaching their spawning grounds. A mesh restriction should also reduce catches of larger, productive female spawners. After August 1st most Chinook salmon have reached their spawning grounds; relaxing the mesh restriction off would allow users who are targeting chum and coho Salmon to use larger mesh sized nets to more effectively catch those species. If this change is not adopted there could be Chinook salmon incidentally harvested at a time when the Chilkat River is seeing record low returns. This conservation measure is commensurate with other restrictions applied to Southeast Alaska commercial and sport fisheries by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee (EF-F17-068)
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PROPOSAL 132

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 33.384. Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Amend sport king salmon regulations in Districts 11, 12, 14, and 15 based on the Taku River king salmon preseason escapement estimate, as follows:

Sport Fishery

If preseason chinook projection is:

A. In upper 1/3 of escapement range, Taku Inlet north of Cooper Point closed to king fishing April 15 through June 15. Waters of Lynn Canal above latitude of Eldred Rock closed to king fishing. Maximum limit two (2) king salmon per day.

B. In middle 1/3 of escapement range, Taku Inlet and waters from Limestone Inlet to a line from Pt Louisa to Symonds Point closed to king fishing April 15 through June 15. Waters of district 15 that are open to sport fishing, maximum limit one (1) king salmon per day.
C. In lower 1 /3 of escapement range, all waters of district 11 and 15 closed to king salmon fishing. Waters of district 12 and 14 open to sport fishing, maximum limit of one (1) king salmon per day.

Notes: This proposal would affect only waters of Southeast Alaska inside the surf line from April 15 to June 30. It would apply only when preseason projections of run strength fall within or below established escapement range goals. It would not apply if projections came in above established escapement range goals.

Should in-season indicators of abundance (CPUE in fisheries, Juneau sport catch, tag recoveries, fish wheel data) show projected run strength failing to materialize, the Department will take immediate action to reduce harvest opportunity in all fisheries and move more kings into the escapement.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has excellent data available on king salmon life histories, harvest, spawning, and distribution. Existing management strategy has failed to put adequate annual escapements into the Taku and Chilkat rivers. Both stocks are currently at all-time lows and future projections of returns are at an all-time low. The Chilkat run has been below minimum escapement four of the last five years and the Taku has been below minimum two of the last four years. 2006 was the last year the Taku received an escapement above the escapement range and for the last decade, all harvest has come directly out of the escapements Years of fishing on escapement is to a large degree why these stocks are at all-time lows.

The goal of this proposal is to put adequate, annual escapements of king salmon into the Taku and Chilkat rivers.

PROPOSED BY: Michael R. Bethers (HQ-F17-054)
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PROPOSAL 133

5 AAC 29.090. Management of the spring salmon troll fisheries; 5 AAC 29.095. District 8 King Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 29.097. District 11 King Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 33.368. District 8 King Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 33.384. Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan; and 5 AAC 33.XXX. New Section (District 11 King Salmon Management Plan).

Base duration of commercial salmon troll and drift gillnet gear spring openings on preseason king salmon abundance projections, as follows:

Commercial Proposal

Troll Fishery

If preseason chinook projection is:

A. In upper 1/3 of escapement range, spring troll areas in districts 9, 12, and 14 will be open concurrently to a maximum of four (4) days per week.
B. In middle 1/3 of escapement range, spring troll areas in district 9, 12, and 14 will be open concurrently to a maximum of two (2) days per week.
C. In lower 1/3 of escapement range, spring troll areas in districts 9, 12, and 14 will be closed April 15-June 30.

Gillnet Fishery
If preseason chinook projection is:
A. In upper 1/3 of escapement range, there will be no targeted king openings. Normal areas open for sockeye on normal starting date.
B. In middle 1/3 of escapement range, there will be no targeted king openings. Reduced open areas adjacent to river mouths, mesh restrictions in effect, sockeye openings to occur on normal dates.
C. In lower 1/3 of escapement range, there will be no targeted king openings. Major areas closed to protect king salmon, mesh restrictions in effect, no king retention, sockeye openings may be delayed, night closures through June 30th.

Notes:
This proposal would affect only waters of Southeast Alaska inside the surf line from April 15 to June 30. It would apply only when preseason projections of run strength fall within or below established escapement range goals. It would not apply if projections came in above established escapement range goals.

Should in-season indicators of abundance (CPUE in fisheries, Juneau sport catch, tag recoveries, fish wheel data) show projected run strength failing to materialize, the Department will take immediate action to reduce harvest opportunity in all fisheries and move more kings into the escapement.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has excellent data available on king salmon life histories, harvest, spawning, and distribution. Existing management strategy has failed to put adequate annual escapements into the Taku and Chilkat rivers. Both stocks are currently at all-time lows and future projections of returns are at an all-time low. The Chilkat run has been below minimum escapement four of the last five years and the Taku has been below minimum two of the last four years. 2006 was the last year the Taku received an escapement above the escapement range and for the last decade, all harvest has come directly out of the escapements. Years of fishing on escapement is to a large degree why these stocks are at all-time lows.

The goal of this proposal is to put adequate, annual escapements of king salmon into the Taku and Chilkat rivers.

PROPOSED BY: Michael R. Bethers (HQ-F17-053)
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PROPOSAL 134

5 AAC 29.090. Management of the spring salmon troll fisheries.

Close the spring commercial salmon troll fishery in Districts 9, 12, and 14 when the Juneau area sport fishery is closed to protect king salmon, as follows:

Close the troll fishery in districts 9,12 and 14 from April 15 to June 15 whenever the Juneau sport fishery is closed to protect Taku chinook from April 15 to June 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Taku and Chilkat king salmon stocks are at all time lows and predicted escapements for both rivers are way below the minimum escapement goals. Both stocks have exhibited a downward spiral over the last ten years. Although the Territorial Sportsmen concur that poor ocean survival may be the major limiting factor it is imperative that we take every possible conservation measure to assure that every spawning king salmon reaching our coast makes it to the rivers. The Department of Fish and Game has adopted many of the measures this spring that were proposed by our organization two years ago in Sitka. However, those measures are too little and too late. There is a conservation crisis here. The troll fishery is the largest harvester of the spring Taku king salmon run and should participate fully in its conservation. Taku stocks (and Chilkat stocks) are taken in districts 9, 12 and 14.

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsmen, Inc./Ron Somerville (EF-F17-076)

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PROPOSAL 135

5 AAC 01.670. Lawful gear and gear specifications.

Modify lawful gear for subsistence salmon fishing in Yakutat Bay, as follows:

We propose that subsistence fishing in Yakutat Bay with a gillnet be conducted as follows; The permit holder must be on, or in control of his net, or it must be disabled, (tied up) so as not to be capable of harvesting fish in his absence during the months of April, May, June, and July. By doing so, the hope is to eliminate any Chinook be removed from the net by marine mammals.

We considered making this a district wide function for all fisheries, but decided it was only needed for what is primarily a fishery targeting Chinook, as this is the species that is jeopardy, and the main time it's a problem is during the months of April and May because there are not yet any other species of salmon around for predators accept for Chinook.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the chronically low numbers of Chinook returning to the Situk estuary require us to make every effort to allow for as many Chinook as possible to reach the spawning grounds. During the months of April, May, June, and July, there is a substantial subsistence fishery that takes place in Yakutat Bay. During the months of April and May, the primary target is Chinook salmon. We understand the need for rural citizens to eat, we would just like to trim as much waste as possible. This fishery is slow pace, so nets are left unattended for lengthy periods of time. This allows for seals and sea lions to harvest Chinook from the nets while the fisherman is absent. The solution we recommend is eliminating as much waste as is possible.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F17-040)
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PROPOSAL 136

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.

Extend the area closed to sport fishing downstream and upstream of the Situk River weir during June and July, as follows:

(b)(6) We recommend that the current waters closed to sportfishing 100 yards above and below the weir across Situk River, be extended to 300 yards above and below the weir for the months of June and July to create a bigger safety area for the salmon waiting to pass through. Should the number of Adult Chinook counted through the weir reach minimum escapement goals during the months of June or July, the closed area would revert back to 100 yards above and below.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Situk River has been experiencing chronically low returns of Chinook salmon. 4 of the last 5 years have seen numbers of adults counted thru the weir fall below minimum escapement goals. Our intent is to identify any potential places in which conservation measures may help alleviate this.

It has come to our attention through numerous testimonies that the weir across the Situk River, causes a barrier which the salmon tend to stack up below. This winds up being a place that sport anglers like to frequent for this reason. By nature, everybody wants to fight the biggest fish in the river. Chinook have to be immediately released, but that doesn't help, if they are harmed. Accounts describe Adult Chinook with 4 or 5 lures hanging from it. We would like to create a bigger safety buffer zone.

The Situk is a long river, with many holes to fish in, this will not harm anyone's ability to recreate.

We were informed by Dept. staff that there has been tampering with the existing regulatory markers. It is our recommendation that fines should be increased, to include losing one's sport license for a length of time for violation of this code. There is much at stake here, and the regulatory markers must be respected.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F17-027)
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PROPOSAL 137

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Increase the regional resident king salmon possession limit when the Southeast Alaska Area preseason king salmon abundance index is greater than 2.0, as follows:

(c)(2) a resident bag limit of 3 kings salmon and possession limit of **6** [3] king salmon 28 inches or greater in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide Alaska residents additional opportunity to harvest king salmon during periods of high levels of abundance; when the Southeast abundance index is greater than 2.0.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Fox (EF-F17-030)

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PROPOSAL 138

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Allow the retention of other salmon while fishing for king salmon with two rods, as follows:

I would like to see a clearer definition of what to do in the situation described below, included in the fish and game regulations. Also I would like to see retention of Coho and other salmon species, included in the 2 pole king salmon fishing period. As the Coho run is just about over anyway, I cannot see it having much of an impact on the overall catch of Coho for the year. As I am more or less subsistence fishing when I am out sport fishing, and I don't get out as much as I like, if I do catch a late Coho, while fishing for kings with two poles, it would be nice to be able to throw it in the freezer.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to have the board clear up a question I have gotten different answers to depending on which law enforcement officer, or fish and game person, I have asked. If you are fishing with 2 poles for King Salmon, as allowed between October 1st to April 1st, and you catch a rockfish, should you shake it as it's not the target species of the 2 pole opening? Or should you keep it as the regulations require you to keep the first rock fish caught? Also I would like to see the 2 rod fishing period be extended to include all species of salmon caught, as there are some Coho's left in early October and it's a shame to have to shake them because you are fishing 2 poles.

PROPOSED BY: Eric Tyson (EF-F17-044)

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PROPOSAL 139

5 AAC 33.387. District 9: Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan.

Eliminate provisions for a rotational fishery in Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area and allow the department to manage the fishery in consultation with the hatchery operator, as follows:

(d) The management plan ~~in this section~~ ~~distributes~~ **[allows for]** the harvest of hatchery-produced chum salmon among the purse seine**,[gillnet],** and troll fisheries when there are excess fish not being harvested by the hatchery operator. **[The gear and rotations, if any, shall be determined by the commissioner, in consultation with the hatchery operator by emergency order.]**

~~(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.~~

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association began operations at Southeast Cove in 2014 a satellite release site for the Gunnuk Creek Hatchery, which NSRAA purchased in 2017. NSRAA was not the operator when the regulation was established and prefers to develop the management plan for SE Cove with fishermen and ADF&G's Area Management Biologist through the NSRAA Board process. As NSRAA develops experience with the program returns, EO fisheries, and economic harvests, NSRAA expects to develop a management plan for board of fish adoption.

PROPOSED BY: Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association' (EF-F17-046)
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PROPOSAL 140

5 AAC 33.383. District 7: Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Prohibit use of drift gillnet gear for commercial salmon fishing in the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area during the 2018–2020 fishing seasons, as follows:

(d)(3) except as specified in [(4) AND (5) of] this subsection, in establishing emergency order openings for the **2018-2020 fishing season, net harvest is limited to seine only.** [PURSE SEINE AND DRIFT GILLNET FISHERIES, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ROTATE OPENINGS BETWEEN THESE GEAR GROUPS AND SHALL PROVIDE FOR A TIME RATIO FOR GILLNETT OPENINGS TO SEINE OPENINGS OF TWO TO ONE:]

[(4)(A) (B) (C)]

[(5)(A)(B)(I)(II)]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The gillnet fleet has abundant fishing opportunity and has been very effective at harvesting the majority of the Anita Bay returns in their traditional common property openings in District 108. The seine fleets only real opportunity to access these fish is in the Terminal Harvest Area (THA). The gillnet harvest value has averaged 155% of their mid-point allocation range over the last 10 years while the seine fleet is below their lower allocation range. This action would give additional fishing opportunity to the seine fleet in the Anita THA to help balance the allocation imbalance between the net fleets.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS) (EF-F17-086)
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PROPOSAL 141

5 AAC 33.376. District 13: Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan and 5 AAC 33.383. District 7: Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Modify net rotation schedules for the commercial drift gillnet gear and purse seine gear salmon fisheries at Deep Inlet and Anita Bay terminal harvest areas, as follows:

Proposed language:
Adjust net rotation schedules for drift gillnet and purse seines in Deep Inlet and Anita Bay on a 1 day gillnet to 1 day seine net rotations, starting the first EO of 2018 to the last EO of 2020.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The enhanced allocation data shows the gillnet fleet above their range and the seine fleet slightly below their range according to the 5-year rolling average. A shift in time to 1:1 for the next 3 years would put the seine fleet with in their allocation range. Due to the seine fleets' gear efficiencies and overall catching power, any modification of more time other than 1:1 rotation at Deep Inlet or Anita Bay is excessive.

This proposal modifies net rotation schedules at both Deep Inlet and Anita Bay to address enhanced salmon allocation imbalance.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (USAG) (HQ-F17-081)

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PROPOSAL 142

5 AAC 33.376. District 13: Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Modify drift gillnet and purse seine fishing rotations in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area, as follows:

(b)(1)(C) for the ~~2015 – 2017~~ **[2018 – 2020, or through 2022 if there is a 5 year BOF cycle]**seasons**,** from the third Sunday in June through statistical week 30, the time ratio for gillnet openings to seine openings is one to one, **[and from statistical week 31 through the end of the season the time ratio for gillnet to seine openings is one to two,** ~~except that during the 2016 and 2017 seasons~~ **when the preliminary enhanced salmon harvest value data from the previous season indicates the seine gear group is below 46.0% based on the five-year rolling average; however, if the five-year rolling average for seine is at or above 46.0% the fishing ratio is one to one for gillnet to seine, and if the five-year rolling average is at or above 49.0%, the gillnet to seine ratio is two to one;]** ~~within that group's enhanced salmon allocation percentage range, based on the~~ five-year rolling average as described in 5 AAC 33.364, ~~the time ratio for gillnet openings to seine openings is two to one for the entire season~~;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The NSRAA board of directors passed a motion by majority vote at its Annual Meeting in March 2017 to adjust the gillnet to seine rotation at Deep Inlet for the purpose of adjusting the allocation imbalance as per **5 AAC 33.364 #94-02-FB.** The purse seine group is below their allocation range (5 year rolling average) and the gillnet group is above its range. This change is expected to significantly effect the annual value of

seine harvest in a positive direction and commensurately negatively effect the value of the gillnet harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association' (EF-F17-049)
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PROPOSAL 143

5 AAC 33.376. District 13: Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Change the time ratio for drift gillnet gear to purse seine gear openings in Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area, as follows:

(b)(1)(B) [EXCEPT AS SPECIFIED IN (C) OF THIS PARAGRAPH,] The time ratio for gillnet openings to seine openings is **one to two** [TWO TO ONE] ;

[(C) FOR THE 2015 - 2017 SEASONS, FROM THE THIRD SUNDAY IN JUNE THROUGH STATISTICAL WEEK 30, THE TIME RATIO FOR GILLNET OPENINGS TO SEINE OPENINGS IS ONE TO ONE, EXCEPT THAT DURING THE 2016 AND 2017 SEASONS IF THE POSTSEASON PRELIMINARY ENHANCED SALMON HARVEST VALUE DATA FROM THE PREVIOUS SEASON INDICATES THE SEINE GEAR GROUP IS WITHIN THAT GROUP'S ENHANCED SALMON ALLOCATION PERCENTAGE RANGE, BASED ON THE FIVE-YEAR ROLLING AVERAGE AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.364, THE TIME RATIO FOR GILLNET OPENINGS TO SEINE OPENINGS IS TWO TO ONE FOR THE ENTIRE SEASON;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The gillnet harvest value has averaged 155% of their mid-point allocation range over the last 10 years while the seine fleet is below their lower allocation range. This action would give additional fishing opportunity to the seine fleet at Deep Inlet to help balance the allocation imbalance between the net fleets.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS) (EF-F17-084)
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PROPOSAL 144

5 AAC 33.376. District 13: Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Allow increased commercial salmon fishing opportunity with troll gear in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area, as follows:

(b) (2) & (3).

In the proposed regulation that follows, regular text is existing regulation, **bolded is proposed and [bracketed] may be deleted.

(2) salmon may be taken by troll gear when the waters described in this subsection are closed to commercial net gear.

(A) Beginning with the first day of the August coho closure described in 5 AAC 29.110(b)(2), or August 20 if there is no closure, salmon may also be taken by troll gear when the waters described in this subsection are open to commercial net gear

(3) the commissioner [shall] **may** close the seasons in the waters described in this subsection to trolling during hatchery cost recovery periods.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Title: *Allow Trolling in Deep Inlet THA during certain Net and Cost Recovery Fisheries*

Trollers have been below their allocation of enhanced salmon established by BOF Finding 94-148-FB and adopted into regulation 5 AAC 33.364 *Southeast Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan*. When such an imbalance persists, (and the troll share has been consistently below the allocation range for over 20 years using the measure directed by the Allocation Plan) the Allocation Plan provides direction for the BoF to adjust terminal area fisheries to achieve that balance. The 13th point of BOF Finding 94-148-FB similarly states that the first tool to be used to make the distribution of the harvest meet the allocation goals is to make adjustments to Special Harvest Area management.

NSRAA has recently re-established a coho return to Deep Inlet. These fish primarily return in August- along with the later portion of the chum run. Both of these runs are well suited to a troll fishery. This proposal would change the Deep Inlet management plan to be more similar to management of SSRAA terminal areas which are open to trolling during all net openings.

The region-wide troll closure is a period of extremely limited opportunity for trollers. While net gear might preempt all available water during a highly-subscribed net opening, sometimes there would be opportunity to troll behind the gillnet fleet or when the seine fleet is divided between hatchery and wild fish opportunities. Allowing trollers to fish in Deep Inlet during cost recovery fisheries (which typically do not occupy more than a small fraction of the THA due to the small number of cost recovery boats) could be a potentially significant troll opportunity. Later in the year as the chum run tapers off, the net effort frequently decreases to the point that there is regularly room for simultaneous troll access.

PROPOSED BY: Chum Trollers Association (EF-F17-109)

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PROPOSAL 145

5 AAC 33.372. District 1: Nakat Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Allow commercial salmon fishing with purse seine gear in the Nakat Inlet Terminal Harvest Area, as follows:

(a) This management plan provides for the terminal area common property harvest of hatchery-produced coho and chum salmon in the Nakat Inlet Terminal Harvest Area and distributes the harvest between the **purse seine,** troll and drift gillnet fleets.

(b) The department, in consultation with the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA), shall manage the waters of Nakat Inlet north of Surprise Point at 54_ 49.10' N. lat. and west of 130_ 42.75' W. long. from June 1 through November 10 to distribute the harvest of hatchery-produced coho and chum salmon. Fishing will be open continuously to troll gear and drift gillnet gear from June 1 through November 10, **unless the gillnet fleet is above their allocation range for the most recent five year rolling average; at which time openings for purse seine will occur one day a week for 12 consecutive hours starting at 6am**, unless closed earlier by emergency order.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Seine access to the Nakat Terminal Harvest Area (THA) was removed from regulatory language when the seine fleet was above their target allocation range. Flexibility in managing the THA has proven over time to be the only immediately effective way to attempt to balance allocation imbalances, especially within the net fleets. At the time this agreement was reached it was believed that "additional production" could address these issues; that assumption has proven to be inaccurate. The gillnet harvest value has averaged 155% of their mid-point allocation range over the last 10 years while the seine fleet is below their lower allocation range. This action would give additional fishing opportunity to the seine fleet in the Nakat THA only when the gillnet fleet is above their allocation range.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS) (EF-F17-090)

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PROPOSAL 146

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

Do not include enhanced salmon produced by private nonprofit hatcheries in *Southeastern Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan* gear-specific value allocations, as follows:

Removing all private non profits (PNPs) from the southeast Alaska area enhanced salmon allocation management plan would then provide for a simple and just system of producing, taxing and spending to achieve allocation percentages set forth in the allocation plan the current system allows for abuse and manipulation by one gear group or another based on incomplete data while taxes are still collected on all gear groups. Prince William Sound also removed PNPs from their allocation plan in accordance with the removal of wild fish, as the contribution from PNPs is difficult to fully ascertain and provide equally for all users. PNPs operate in gear specific areas geographically and do not have equal gear group representation, nor do they receive enhancement taxes to fund future projects. Removing PNP production from the overall plan would satisfy the intent of the allocation percentages set forth in the allocation plan without undue manipulation by PNPs production.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently the se Alaska allocation area enhanced salmon management plan requires collection of salmon enhancement taxes from all parts of se Alaska, which only go to the two regional aquaculture associations, NSRAA and SSRRA. There are multiple private non profit (PNPs) hatcheries that also produce enhanced fish but do not receive salmon enhancement taxes. Production from these PNPs however is taxed in each area in which the fish are caught. Money collected is supposed to be spent on gear

specific projects in order to meet the allocation percentages set forth in the se salmon allocation plan. The regional associations are the only recipients of enhancement taxes. Each regional association also is set up to provide for gear specific representation. Private non profits (PNPs) are not required to have gear specific representation and may not be located in areas to benefit all gear groups. Production from the PNPs cannot be evenly distributed to all gear groups without severe and major upheaval in all fishing districts as fishing districts are currently set aside for various gear groups with limited crossover. Each regional association has fishing areas available to all three gear groups. However, the production from the PNPs is utilized in determining allocation of enhanced fish amongst all gear groups, even though the PNPs do not receive the salmon enhancement tax and do not have a fair just process for divvying up enhanced salmon production as the regional associations are set up to provide.

PROPOSED BY: Donald Churchill j.r. (EF-F17-106)

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PROPOSAL 147

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.

Amend Mist Cove salmon closure to allow for taking of salmon with fly fishing gear and prohibit snagging, as follows:

In Mist Cove, south of a line from ADF&G regulatory markers located at 56° 3 1.07’ N. lat., 134° 40.20’ W. long to 56° 31.07 N. lat 134° 40.12 W. long., to the barrier net., sport fishing for salmon is open to fly fishing only. Snagging of salmon is prohibited 300 yards north of a line from ADF&G regulatory markers located at 56° 3 1.07’ N. lat., 134° 40.20’ W. long to 56° 31.07 N. lat 134° 40.12 W. long.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I respectfully request The Board of Fisheries address this issue.

In Mist Cove, south of a line from ADF&G regulatory markers located at 56° 3 1.07’ N. lat., 134° 40.20’ W. long to 56° 31.07 N. lat 134° 40.12 W. long., sport fishing for salmon is closed;

On the last meeting the Board of Fisheries closed this area to prevent damage to net pens and provide safety for the crew working the site.

Our Family operates a small fishing lodge in Port Alexander and I have flown guests to Mist Cove for the last eighteen years. I primarily guided my clients for fly fishing in that closed area and have never damaged any net pens or endangered any crew.

Mist cove is very popular and more people are going there to fish. There are charter boats that go there to snag salmon with weighted treble hooks with up to four fishers on a boat. This practice is dangerous to the crew, other fishers and can damage the net pens.

I feel that the regulation needs to change to allow fly fishing only in the closed area and extend the line 300 yards eastward to close any guided snagging of salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Kevin Mulligan (EF-F17-089)
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PROPOSAL 148

5 AAC 33.369. District 1: Herring Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Expand the Herring Bay Sportfish Terminal Harvest Area to provide additional sport fishing opportunity for hatchery-produced king salmon, as follows:

Open an additional sub-area to the Ketchikan Sport Terminal Hatchery Area (STHA) with a two fish daily bag limit, that coincides with the opening and closing of the Ketchikan STHA. This daily bag limit would not count against any annual limits.

This sub-area would abut the southern edge of the STHA in area 101-27 In Nichols Passage and extend further south to Hid Reef on the eastern corner, to the junction of 101-25 and 101-29 In Clarence Strait, and continue northward within area 101-29 to a line extending due west (True) from South Valenar Point to the western boundary of 101-29. It should be noted that this sub-area is extremely small in comparison to the Spring Troll Access Area for commercial harvesters. (See attached diagram of proposed sub-area)*

This increased access would help alleviate the inequities between Inside and Outside sport fisheries in the early days of each season, and increase marketability of Inside sport fisheries, thereby stretching the season and increasing benefits to the local economy. It would benefit sport fishers ln years of low Treaty King Salmon abundance, and would also reduce gear conflicts In the Neats Bay Chum Salmon troll fishery and seine and gillnet King Salmon fisheries Inside the Neats Bay THA by giving sport fishhers an alternative access to hatchery King Salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase access to hatchery raised King Salmon in the Ketchikan area. Current regulations ensure that sport fishermen continue to lose the opportunity to catch hatchery King Salmon by not allowing increased bag limits in areas of increased hatchery abundance.

PROPOSED BY: Don Westlund and Larry McQuarrie (HQ-F17-085)

**Proposal submission instructions indicate any additional information provided with the form, such as tables, Internet web links, or charts, will not be included in the proposal book. The referenced graph will be included in the public comment material for the appropriate meeting.*
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PROPOSAL 149

5 AAC 40.042. Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association Special Harvest Areas.

Extend the closing date for salmon harvest by the hatchery permit holder in Deep Inlet Special Harvest Area, as follows:

(a) The following special harvest areas are established for the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association:

…..

(7) Deep Inlet for king, chum, and coho salmon: the waters of Deep Inlet, Aleutkina Bay, and contiguous waters south of a line from a point on the westernmost end of Cape Burunoff at 56_ 59.04' N. lat., 135_ 23.23' W. long., to a point west of Cape Burunoff at 56_ 59.11' N. lat., 135_ 23.59' W. long., to a point one-half mile west of the westernmost tip of Long Island at 57_ 00.17' N. lat., 135_ 22.69' 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. will be open for harvest by the hatchery permit holder from 12:01 a.m. June 15 until 11:59 p.m. **October 31** [September 15], except Sandy Cove is closed south of 56_ 59.05' N. lat.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association's Bear Cove and Deep Inlet Special Harvest Areas (SHA) closing dates do not align. The Bear Cove closure is October 31 due to late returning coho. However, at Deep Inlet where the majority of the coho smolt are released and return, the regulation closes the SHA in mid-September. NSRAA needs the ability to collect broodstock and/or harvest in Deep Inlet through the end of October. It now requires an EO to do so.

NSRAA proposes a simple date change to **[October 31]** in the (7) Deep Inlet section. No other changes needed.

PROPOSED BY: Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association' (EF-F17-045)

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PROPOSAL 150

5 AAC 40.042. Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association Special Harvest Areas.

Establish a special harvest area in Crawfish Inlet, as follows:

(a) The following special harvest areas are established for the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association:

…

[(10) Crawfish Inlet for Chinook and chum salmon the hatchery special harvest area (SHA) is designated as all waters within Crawfish Inlet east of 135°11.05′ W. longitude for all gear as in (c)(10); troll only Crawfish SHA to include south of 56^0 47.14' and east of a boundary defined by points: 56^0 44.16 lat, 135^0 15.80' long to 56^0 43.30' lat, 135^0 17.81' long, to 56^0 41.93' lat, 135^0 17.54' long, to 56^0 47.14' lat, 135^0 13.80' long Aspid Cape.]

….

(c) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 33.330, legal gear for the hatchery permit holder in a special harvest area are as follows:

…

[(10) Crawfish Inlet: purse seine, drift gillnet, hand purse seine, beach seine, dip net, and troll gear];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) initiated a chum and chinook salmon enhancement program at Crawfish Inlet in 2015 when the current Special Harvest Area east of 135°11.05′ W. longitude was established. Chum salmon begin returning to Crawfish Inlet in 2017 and chinook in 2018; in order to provide additional benefit to the troll fleet, NSRAA in cooperation with ADF&G Troll Management would like to extend the SHA boundary for commercial troll fishing primarily during June and July for Chinook and late July to early September for chum salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association' (EF-F17-048)

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PROPOSAL 151

5 AAC 33.XXX. New Section.

Establish a terminal harvest area and management plan for Carroll Inlet, as follows:

5 AAC 33.371. District 1: CARROLL INLET TERMINAL HARVEST AREA SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN.

a) This management plan distributes the harvest of hatchery produced king salmon in the Carroll Inlet Terminal Harvest Area between the purse seine, troll and drift gillnet fleets.

b) The department, in consultation with the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA), shall manage the Carroll Inlet Terminal Harvest Area from June 11 through July 10 for troll gear and June 15 to July 10 for purse seine and drift gillnet gear to provide for the harvest of hatchery - produced king salmon, unless closed earlier by emergency order. The Carroll Inlet Terminal Harvest Area consists of the waters of Carroll Inlet north of Nigelius Point at 55°33.50' N. Latitude.

c) A drift gillnet operated in the terminal harvest area may not exceed 200 fathoms in length.

d) May 1 to July 10, the Carroll Inlet THA will be expanded to include all waters of Carroll Inlet north of the latitude of California Head. The expanded area will open only for the harvest of king salmon by troll gear.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? From 1986 through 1995, SSRAA released chinook salmon at Carroll Inlet. At that time, the Alaska Administrative Code

section describing the *Carroll Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan* was found at 5 AAC 33.371 as noted above. Regulation 5 AAC 33.371 was repealed on 5/31/2009.

SSRAA's programs are continually changing and evolving. In the spring of 2016, 400,000 chinook salmon were released by SSRAA at Carroll Inlet, following four weeks of saltwater net pen rearing on-site. This site was permitted by the Department through the RPT process. Releases are authorized by FTP(s). Subsequent yearly releases of chinook at this site are planned.

The issue that SSRAA would like the Board to address is the reestablishment of administrative regulations and a Terminal Harvest Area (THA) for Carroll Inlet. The submission of this proposal, along with the solution contained within it, has been thoroughly discussed and approved by the 21-member SSRAA Board of Directors. Alternatives to this plan were considered in this process, and changes were made to reflect consensus. The SSRAA Board has representation from all three salmon gear groups, sport fisheries, subsistence users, native corporations, chambers of commerce, municipalities, processors and the public at-large.

If nothing is changed, i.e. there is no *Carroll Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan* going forward: 1.) The Department would have to manage this area on a EO basis that would cause unnecessary work and frustration for them and others; 2.) Commercial fishers would not know what to expect in terms of fishing time and area each season, leading to lower catches and higher expenses; 3.) The regulations would suffer from internal inconsistencies.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (HQ-F17-073)

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PROPOSAL 152

5 AAC 33.383. District 7: Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Update area description and coordinates of the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area boundaries, as follows:

5 AAC 33.383(a) is amended to read:

(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 **at 56° 13.69′ N. lat., 132° 22.50′ W. long.** to **a point on the northern shore at** 56° 14.26′ N. lat., **132° 23.93′ W. long.** [132° 23.92′ W. long.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The area description in regulation is inconsistent with current commercial salmon markers. The proposed changes will provide a better and more precise description of the Anita Bay THA boundaries.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-102)

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PROPOSAL 153

5 AAC 33.360. District 1 Pink Salmon Management Plan.

Repeal the *District 1 Pink Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

[ON AND AFTER THE THIRD SUNDAY IN JULY IN DISTRICT 1, WHEN A PURSE SEINE FISHERY IS HARVESTING PINK SALMON STOCKS SUBJECT TO CONCURRENT SALMON FISHING BY DRIFT GILLNETS IN SECTION 1-B, THE FOLLOWING TIME FORMULA APPLIES:

(1) WHEN THE PURSE SEINE FISHERY IS OPEN FOR ANY PORTION OF ONE DAY DURING A FISHING WEEK, THE DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY MUST BE OPEN FOR 48 HOURS DURING THE SAME FISHING WEEK;

(2) WHEN THE PURSE SEINE FISHERY IS OPEN FOR ANY PORTION OF TWO DAYS DURING A FISHING WEEK, THE DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY MUST BE OPEN FOR 96 HOURS DURING THE SAME FISHING WEEK;

(3) WHEN THE PURSE SEINE FISHERY IS OPEN FOR ANY PORTION OF THREE OR MORE DAYS DURING A FISHING WEEK, THE DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY MUST BE OPEN FOR 120 HOURS DURING THE SAME FISHING WEEK.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The gillnet fleet is not managed for pink salmon abundance, so it doesn't make sense to link the seine opportunity to gillnet access. When these regulations were adopted, gillnet opportunities in 1-B were significantly less than they are today. The success of the Nakat enhanced production in this area has generated opportunity far beyond wild pink salmon abundance opportunities. We view this as housekeeping.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS) (EF-F17-093)

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PROPOSAL 154

5 AAC 33.XXX. New Section.

Establish a management plan for pink salmon in Lower Clarence Strait, as follows:

Reinstate the *Lower Clarence Strait Pink Salmon Management plan* with modifications.

Proposed Language:

(1) During the month of August when seine is open in District 2 the top portion is gillnet exclusive from a line south of the latitude of Adams Point and north of a line at the latitude of Ingraham Point.

(a) For every 15 hours seine opening in District 2 gillnet will receive 24 hours. For every 39 hours seine opening in District 2 gillnet will receive 48 hours.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The gillnet fleet in Southeast Alaska have a rough management goal to receive 5 percent of the pink salmon yearly harvest. This average has not been reached in recent years with a 20 year average of 3.5 percent harvest of pink salmon by gillnet. If nothing changes, the gillnet fleet will lose opportunity to harvest wild pink salmon. This proposal is brought to the Board because there is historical participation in District 2 by gillnet to relieve pink salmon harvest imbalance. We feel that harvesting in this district will not negatively impact the biological health of the resource.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (USAG) (HQ-F17-078)
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PROPOSAL 155

5 AAC 33.366. Northern Southeast seine salmon fishery management plans.

Eliminate the wild sockeye salmon harvest limit for the District 12 commercial salmon purse seine fishery, as follows:

(a)

…

[(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, AS DESCRIBED IN THIS PARAGRAPH; DURING THE OPENINGS, THE DEPARTMENT WILL USE AERIAL FLYOVERS, ON-THE-GROUND SAMPLING INTERVIEWS, AND FISH TICKETS TO ESTIMATE THE SOCKEYE SALMON HARVEST NORTH OF POINT MARSDEN IN DISTRICT 12 AND IN THE AMALGA HARBOR SPECIAL HARVEST AREA IN DISTRICT 11; HATCHERY-PRODUCED SOCKEYE SALMON WILL NOT COUNT AGAINST THE 15,000 SOCKEYE SALMON HARVEST LIMIT; THE WILD SOCKEYE SALMON HARVEST THAT WILL COUNT AGAINST THE 15,000 SOCKEYE SALMON HARVEST LIMIT UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH IS AS FOLLOWS:

(A) 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 OPEN CONCURRENTLY; AND

(B) THROUGH THE 2017 SEASON, UP TO 2,000 WILD SOCKEYE SALMON HARVESTED IN COMMON PROPERTY FISHERIES IN THE AMALGA HARBOR SPECIAL HARVEST AREA IN DISTRICT 11 WHEN THE ENTIRE COMMON PROPERTY HARVEST AREA IS OPEN.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Foregone opportunity by the purse seine fleet on north and south bound pink salmon stocks that are excess to escapement needs.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS) (EF-F17-081)
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PROPOSAL 156

5 AAC 33.366. Northern Southeast seine salmon fishery management plans.

Change time period the District 12 commercial salmon purse seine fishery wild sockeye salmon harvest cap is in effect to reflect current sockeye salmon run timing, as follows:

Modify the Hawk Inlet commercial wild sockeye cap of 15,000.

Proposed language:

(1) Between Stat week 28 and Stat week 33, 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:

(a) The department shall close the seine fishery in District 12 north of Point Marsden prior to Stat week 33, after 15,000 wild sockeye are taken; hatchery-produced sockeye salmon will not count against the 15,000 sockeye harvest limit; 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.

(b) All incidental wild sockeye salmon harvested in District 11-A Amalga SHA common property seine fishery will be counted against the cap of 15,000 sockeye salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The original Hawk Inlet shoreline sockeye cap was instituted in 1989, almost 30 years ago; the goal was to conserve northern migrating wild sockeye salmon. While the causes of climate change continue to be debated, the science of climate change and its effects are undeniable. The data shows later, more condensed sockeye run timing migrating through northern southeast Alaska. Therefore, the dates of the Hawk Inlet shoreline sockeye cap should be shifted to continue to conserve the northern southeast Alaska sockeye stocks of: Chilkoot, Chilkat, Berners Bay, Taku, Speel, and Crescent. Failure to do so ignores climate change and the shift in wild sockeye salmon run timings that have occurred in northern southeast Alaska since 1989.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (USAG) (HQ-F17-076)

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PROPOSAL 157

5 AAC 33.366. Northern Southeast seine salmon fishery management plans.

Include wild sockeye salmon harvested in the Amalga Harbor Special Harvest Area in the District 12 commercial salmon purse seine fishery wild sockeye harvest limit, 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:

(1) the department may open only those portions of the area in which a harvestable abundance of pink salmon is observed; open areas and times must consider conservation concerns for all species in the area;

(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 **including wild sockeye salmon harvested by the seine fleet in a common property opening of the Amalga SHA for chum salmon** during any July fishing period when other areas are open concurrently 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 harvest north of Point Marsden.

(b) Salmon may be taken during emergency order openings for chum salmon in Excursion Inlet only in waters of Section 14-C north of the latitude of the northern tip of the Porpoise Islands; the

department may open the area by emergency order only after consideration of concerns for chum and coho salmon conservation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A common property seine fishery in Amalga Harbor SHA occurred the first time in 2012. After five years of seine opportunities in the Amalga Harbor SHA it is felt that the additional harvest of sockeye occurring in the SHA by the seine fishery is affecting the migration of sockeye stocks to upper Lynn Canal and Taku. Sockeye salmon stocks in the area during July are Chilkoot, Chilkat, Berners Bay, Taku, Speel, and Crescent. The District 15 and District 11 gillnet fisheries are ending up on a 6" net restriction for sockeye conservation every year.

The purpose of this proposal would be to close the seine fishery in District 12 north of Point Marsden once the sockeye cap is reached but that all wild sockeye caught north of Point Marsden including sockeye caught in District 11A is counted toward the sockeye cap.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (USAG) (HQ-F17-076)
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PROPOSAL 158

5 AAC 33.366. Northern Southeast seine fishery management plans.

Include wild sockeye salmon harvested in the Amalga Harbor Special Harvest Area in the wild sockeye salmon harvest limit for the commercial salmon purse seine fishery in District 12, 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 **including all wild sockeye salmon harvested by the seine fleet in a common property opening of the Amalga SHA for chum salmon** during any July fishing period when other areas are open concurrently 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 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) since 2012 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 should count against the 15,000 wild sockeye cap.

PROPOSED BY: Ryan Cook (EF-F17-103)
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PROPOSAL 159

5 AAC 33.XXX. New Section.

Prohibit the use of all aircraft used to locate salmon or direct commercial fishing operations during open commercial salmon fishing periods in the Southeastern Alaska Area, as follows:

Use of [UNMANNED] aircraft unlawful.

In the Southeastern Alaska Area, during an open commercial salmon fishing period, a person may not use an [UNMANNED] aircraft to locate salmon for the commercial taking of salmon or to direct commercial fishing operations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Ban the use of all aircraft as "spotter planes" during the commercial salmon fishing period.

Currently aircraft is being used to evade law enforcement and spot fish in closed areas, such as creeks and estuaries. The aircraft then communicates the location of salmon in closed areas to vessels. The vessels then dispatch personal watercraft (jetskis) to herd the fish from closed areas into open areas, where they are illegally harvested. This would make the regulation for Southeast align more closely with other salmon fisheries, such as Prince William Sound Area.

PROPOSED BY: John M. Johanson (EF-F17-061)

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PROPOSAL 160

5 AAC 33.350. Closed waters.

Allow commercial fishing for salmon in waters near selected streams in Boat Harbor, Anita Bay, Deep Inlet, and Nakat Inlet Terminal Harvest Areas up to a straight line between the seaward extremities of the exposed tideland banks, as follows:

add new section **(g) the AWC streams within the following terminal harvest areas (THA) listed below will remain open to commercial salmon fishing up to a straight line between the seaward extremities of the exposed tideland banks, or as marked by ADF&G regulatory markers; the provisions of 5 AAC 39.290 do not apply.**

Boat Harbor - AWC stream #115-10-10500

Deep Inlet – AWC streams #113-41-10390; #113-41-10380; #113-41-10370; #113-41-10360

Anita Bay – AWC Streams #107-30-10800 (Brad Creek); #107-30-10810; #107-30-10836; #107-30-10840; #107-30-10900; #107-30-10780; #107-30-10760

Nakat – AWC Streams #101-11-10220 (Eagle Creek); #101-11-10230 (Folly Creek); #101-11-10250; #101-11-10270 (Muskeg Creek) #101-11-10290; #101-11-10330; #101-11-10370 (Nakat Creek); #101-11-10390 (Sockeye Creek); #101-11-10410

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In Southeast Alaska, in the terminal harvest areas (THA) for the drift gillnet fleet there are streams listed in the Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC) for the presence of salmon (not spawning or rearing) that we would like clarified that these streams are exempt from 5 AAC 39.290, 500 yard requirement. Instead as in

Kodiak as per 5 AAC 18.350 (8) Closed Waters, these streams listed below would remain open to commercial salmon fishing by drift gillnet gear up to a straight line between the seaward extremities of the exposed tideland banks of the streams and creeks. This will help clarify that within the terminal harvest areas some of which are extremely small that Enforcement can not give a ticket for being close to a stream mouth, as these streams are not important for the spawning or rearing of any salmon species and the conduct of gillnet fisheries in these areas has not harmed any wild stocks within the THA.

When 5 AAC 39.290 was changed several cycles ago, it has become very difficult to determine the closed areas that the 500 yards pertains to, particularly section (3) which states "over the beds or channels of fresh water of streams or rivers of this state".

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance & United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (HQ-F17-069)

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PROPOSAL 161

5 AAC 33.350. Closed Waters.

Update commercial salmon fishery closed waters coordinates in Whitewater Bay, as follows:

5 AAC 33.350(m)(13) is amended to read:

(13) Whitewater Bay: waters within a line from Point Caution to **57°**[50°] 15.62′ N. lat., 134° 36.**79′** [.42] W long.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The closed waters description for Whitewater Bay in regulation is in error.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-118)

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PROPOSAL 162

5 AAC 30.310. Fishing seasons and periods for net gear.

Open additional fishing area in the remainder of the Yakutat District as mitigation for king salmon conservation closures around the Situk and Lost Rivers, as follows:

We recommend that before any further restrictions in the estuary be implemented, proper consideration of the repercussions on both the economy of Yakutat, and even the health of the Situk itself be considered. Too many Sockeye in the system is in itself unhealthy.

Therefore, we ask that if the estuary is to be closed from the confluence of the Lost River to the mouth of the estuary, and thereby displacing a large portion of the commercial sockeye gillnet fleet, another area be opened, so that harvest of Sockeye can continue.

Our recommendation for this would be to expand the fishery in the area known as the "remainder of the district" currently limited to a 15 fathom net. Expansion would increase the legal net length from 15 fathoms to 75 fathoms. The area would be limited from Ocean Cape Eastward to a one mile limit from the mouth of estuary, and up to one mile offshore. Currently, 75 fathom nets are allowed for a sockeye season that coincides with openings in the estuary inside Yakutat bay, limited to a line from Ocean Cape to point Mamby. This action would allow these nets to proceed around the corner, and down the beach.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Situk River Chinook count has fallen below minimum escapement for 4 of the last 5 years. The forecasted 2017 run looks to be below minimum too, which will make 3 years in a row. Efforts have been made to increase the number of spawners by the Department. Sport retention has been closed. A no fishing corridor for commercial gillnetting around where the Situk flows into the Situk/Ahklen estuary has been increased. All have failed to have the desired affect.

The Lost River Sockeye count has fallen below minimum escapement for 6 years in a row. A no commercial gillnetting corridor around where the Lost flows into the Situk/Ahklen estuary has also been increased. It also, has failed to have the desired affect.

In 2015 a banner run of sockeye moved thru the Situk weir. Over and above the upper level escapement goal. Sport bag limit was doubled from 3 fish to 6 per day, and still they kept coming. Typically, the commercial setnet opening posted as 2.5 days per week would be extended to absorb the influx, but the estuary and Yakutat bay net fisheries received no extensions, because we were concerned about the chronically low Chinook count. This amounted to an approximate ex-vessel loss in excess of 500,000 dollars in a community that is in dire straits economically.

A cost analysis from Yakutat's only processor indicates that without a commercial sockeye fishery, they won't be able to remain in business to purchase other species. Without a processor, Yakutat will not survive economically. Even entities unaffiliated with commercial fishing will be impacted by the domino affect of losing the processor. Without production from the processor, it is questionable whether daily jet service would be warranted. This would impact lodges and sport anglers tremendously.

No one blames the Department for taking the steps it has to date, but it is felt that much more serious closures to the current commercial fishery structure, above, and below, the confluences of both the Situk and Lost rivers into the estuary are imminent. A plan needs to be in place to allow for a viable commercial Sockeye setnet fishery to take place that can harvest Situk bound Sockeye, while having a minimal effect on Situk bound Chinook, and Lost River bound Sockeye.

Catch records indicate an extremely low harvest of Chinook in the nets that fish near Ocean Cape. There are higher numbers of Chinook harvested in the waters of Monti Bay, but has everything to do with proximity to the bottom and the beach. Nets on Ocean Cape, and if allowed, down the beach as described, have to be outside of the surf line to be accessible, and therefore are well off of the bottom. It is our belief that this fishery would have a much lower impact on migrating Chinook. We also feel that if closing commercial gillnetting from the confluence of the Lost river

all the way down the estuary and in the ocean in a one mile radius around the mouth is warranted, than the proposed fishery would have less of an impact on this stock by way of reducing proximity.

The weir on the Situk would still be in place, and management of the commercial openings length would still be regulated by the Department as needed.

Other solutions we considered- The current Yakutat Bay setnet fishery openings for Sockeye is managed in accordance to Situk estuary openings. The basis for this is genetic tissue sampling that indicates as much as 70% of the catch was destined for the Situk River. As stated, the fishery inside Monti Bay has a fairly substantial harvest of Chinook. Though there is no genetic data to make determination from, we felt it fair to assume a high percentage of local Chinook are harvested, given the 70% Situk Sockeye data from the same harvest time. Retention of Chinook for sale is forbidden in the estuary, but is allowed in Yakutat Bay. We considered asking for retention to be closed, but given the fairly high mortality rate of salmon released from a net, we decided this would do little good. We considered closing the areas of high abundance, (namely Monti Bay), but decided that though this would likely aid in increasing numbers of Chinook reaching the Situk, what we as the Yakutat Advisory Committee are charged with is the overall health of the Yakutat area. We decided that this action would do nothing to help the chronically low numbers of Lost River Sockeye, that will inevitably cause the displacement of a large amount of commercial fishermen. We decided to focus on more places for fishermen to fish, rather than less.

Another solution we considered that was deemed too hard to put into proposal form, but does need to be said is, we would like the Department to consider changing the hands off policy towards helping nature out with chronically failing stocks. We are facing the economic ruin of our community and ways of life that has been handed down for generations do a couple of stocks that never were that strong to begin with. The Lost river Sockeye numbers are so low, it is doubtful they would ever recover no matter what you close. Why is it that determination can't be made, and then a recovery program implemented? The lake they spawn in has become so over grown you can walk on most of it. It's more muskeg than lake. A habit restoration that allows fish to reach gravel would help. Incubator boxes and egg guns to allow for eggs to hatch without predation would help. Some of our runs our endangered, make some of us endangered too, is not the solution to this. Fixing the runs is.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F17-039)

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PROPOSAL 163

5 AAC 30.345. Requirements and specifications for operation of two units of set gillnet gear in Yakutat Area.

Continue to allow set gillnet gear permit stacking in the Yakutat Area, by removing the sunset provision, as follows:

(e) We ask that the sunset clause be removed, and this proposal become permanent.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Gillnetting in the Yakutat area is currently operating under a Board generated proposal with a sunset clause that allows for a

person who holds two Yakutat area limited entry gillnet permits to operate two nets in the Situk, Khaliak, or Yakutat bay during the fall season, or for sockeye if the projected Chinook run strength for the Situk River is greater than 1000 fish.

We reviewed implementation of this proposal during the last 5 years that it has been in effect. We found there to be very few who have actually utilized it, and no adverse affects. We feel it provides opportunity for those who wish to work harder to try to better themselves.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F17-041)
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PROPOSAL 164

5 AAC 30.350. Closed waters.

Update commercial salmon fishery closed waters description at the mouth of the Situk River to provide a more accurate description of current closed waters, as follows:

5 AAC 30.350(a)(2) is amended to read:

(2) Situk River: upstream of a line from the ADF&G regulatory marker [LOCATED ON HOGGISH POINT SOUTHEAST TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER ON THE OPPOSITE BANK OF THE SITUK RIVER CHANNEL] **located on the western bank of the Situk River mouth near the Yakutat Seafoods buying station, to an ADF&G regulatory marker buoy anchored in the channel directly off the mouth of the Situk River, and** to an ADF&G regulatory marker on the cut bank on the eastern side of the mouth of Johnson Slough:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The area description in regulation is inconsistent with current commercial salmon markers. Hoggish Point no longer exists and the proposed language will provide a better description of the waters closed to commercial fishing near the mouth of the Situk River.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-115)
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PROPOSAL 165

5 AAC 30.350. Closed waters.

Change commercial salmon fishery closed waters description for Tsiu and Tsivat Rivers to more accurately reflect current stream mouth location, as follows:

5 AAC 30.350 (a)(12) is amended to read:

(2) Tsiu/**Tsivat** **[**R]**r**iver**s**: upstream of ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately **[**ONE-HALF] **three-quarters of a** mile downstream from Duck Camp Island**, and upstream of ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately one-half mile upstream from the confluence of the Tsiu/Tsivat rivers.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The area description for closed waters on the Tsiu River is no longer applicable due to geophysical changes in the river channel. One major and two minor overflow channels from the Tsivat River have cut across the sand flats inland of the Tsiu River and the major overflow channel is the new migration route for coho salmon. This new confluence of the Tsiu and Tsivat rivers is approximately one mile downstream of Duck Camp Island. Salmon are no longer migrating up the Tsiu River, instead entering the Tsivat River well before they reach the current upper markers. This proposal will provide a more accurate description of closed waters that describes the current situation.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-117)
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PROPOSAL 166

5 AAC. 33.366. Northern Southeast seine salmon fishery management plans.

Allow a weekly commercial fishery targeting pink salmon with purse seine gear in District 12, as follows:

To allow a index fishery similar to the pt. Augusta index fishery, to occur weekly. This fishery needs to occur at the north eastern portion of stat area 112-16, with 1/2 mile stretch of beach up to 1/2 mile offshore off beach.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow better access to fish data for north bound pink salmon in northern southeast, stat area 112-16.

We currently rely on test fish data and it's my belief a directed index fishery would supply better data for the management of this area.

PROPOSED BY: Stan Savland (EF-F17-092)
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PROPOSAL 167

5 AAC 33.350. Closed waters.

Close waters beyond one half mile from shore in Districts 12 and 14 to commercial fishing for salmon with purse seine gear, as follows:

(m) District 12:
…
(16) waters beyond ½ mile of the shoreline in sub-districts 112-14 and 112-16 during any seine openings
...
(o) District 14:
…
(10) waters beyond ½ mile of the shoreline in sub-districts 114-25 and 114-27 during any seine openings

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would address the need to allow for the harvest of pink salmon in the Icy Straits and northern Chatham Straits areas while allowing for the passage of other stocks through the fishing area. The Icy Straits and Northern Chatham Straights areas are known to be an area containing many mixed stocks that are traveling to river systems such as the Taku, Chilkat and Chilkoot. Only allowing seine fisheries to be persecuted within ½ mile of the shoreline would allow for the department to direct the fishing effort toward the targeted species, pink salmon, while other stocks can pass through this area where stock composition can be hard to determine. This change would be particularly helpful in years when a system such as the Chilkat is tracking below the escapement goal for a species, like sockeye, but there is large return of pink salmon needing to be harvested.

PROPOSED BY: William Prisciandaro (EF-F17-099)

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PROPOSAL 168

5 AAC 33.350. Closed waters.

Close certain waters of Districts 12 and 14 to commercial salmon fishing with purse seine gear, as follows:

(m) District 12:

…

(16) waters in sub-districts 112-14 and 112-16 would be closed to seine fishing

…

(o) District 14:

…

(10) waters in sub-districts 114-25 and 114-27 would be closed to seine fishing

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal asks the department to close seine fishing in the Icy Straits and Northern Chatham Strait areas for conservation of Chinook salmon. This area is known to be a travel corridor for both juvenile and adult Chinook stocks from many river systems. During 2017 and most likely continuing, restrictions have been placed on subsistence, commercial and sport fisheries in areas to the north of the Icy Straits and Northern Chatham Straits while no restrictions have been placed on commercial seine fisheries in this area to help conserve Chinook stocks. Chinook salmon returns to the Chilkat and Taku Rivers have missed escapement goals multiple times over the last decade and conservation measures like this are necessary to allow Chinook salmon to rebound from many years of low returns. It is in the best interest of all that we help Chinook stocks now so that we can have a healthy fishery in the future that can be enjoyed by everyone.

PROPOSED BY: Ryan Cook (EF-F17-101)

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PROPOSAL 169

5 AAC 33.310. Fishing seasons and periods for net gear.

Open Section 6-D the second Sunday of June to commercial fishing for salmon with drift gillnet gear, as follows:

(c)(2)(A) Sections 6-A, 6-B, [AND] 6-C **and 6-D** open on the second Sunday of June;
(B) [DELETE ALL MATERIAL]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Gillnet fishermen wishing to harvest pink salmon in District 6 are precluded from doing so under existing regulations. These conditions are in part due to the closures associated with McDonald Lake conservation measures, which have forced fishermen into already crowded and limited areas. This proposal rectifies the situation by providing access for pink salmon in District 6(D) during years of high pink salmon abundance.

Gillnet fishermen will continue to have limited time and area already. Secondly, gillnetters are not adequately harvesting their allocation of wild pink salmon in Southeast Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (USAG) (HQ-F17-079)
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PROPOSAL 170

5 AAC 33.310. Fishing seasons and periods for net gear.

Open a portion of District 10 the third Sunday of June to commercial fishing for salmon with drift gillnet gear only, as follows:

(k)(1) **District 110-31 opens on the third Sunday of June for gillnet only.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Gillnet fishermen have limited time and fishing area compared to other fishing groups targeting wild salmon in Southeast Alaska. Currently, gillnet fishermen have the smallest amount of area in which to target wild salmon and the fewest number of days available for harvest. Gillnet harvest opportunities are extremely restricted while the current harvests by the gillnet fishery accounts for only 18% of the entire SE salmon harvest.

Gillnetters will continue to have limited opportunities to harvest wild salmon. Gillnetters will have fewer square miles of water in which to target salmon and gillnetters will continue to bear the brunt of most conservation measures as the gillnet fisheries are based around terminal areas.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (USAG) (HQ-F17-080)
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PROPOSAL 171

5 AAC 33.331. Gillnet specifications and operation.

Add District 6 to the mesh-size restriction area and allow implementation of the mesh-size restriction for an additional month, as follows:

5 AAC 33.331 (d) is amended to read:

(d) In Districts **6,** 8, 11, and 15, through the fourth Saturday in **July** [JUNE], the commissioner may, by emergency order, establish fishing periods during which the maximum gillnet mesh size is six inches.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Southeast Alaska (SEAK) king salmon stocks are currently experiencing a cycle of very low abundance. Over the past five years (2012–2016), the eleven king salmon index systems did not meet escapement goals 45% of the time. In 2017, the Taku and Chilkat Rivers were not expected to meet their escapement goals despite conservation measures. The Stikine River had a terminal run size forecast near the midpoint of the escapement goal range after accounting for conservation measures.

In response to the ongoing cycle of low productivity of SEAK king salmon stocks, Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries held a series of meetings in winter 2017 to develop a management strategy maximizing king salmon escapements across the region that included closures and time and area reductions for subsistence, sport, and commercial salmon fisheries throughout SEAK. Another critical part of this management strategy is a gillnet mesh restriction in districts 6, 8, 11, and 15, implemented over the entire duration of the king salmon runs to Chilkat, Taku, and Stikine rivers. Current regulations allow implementation of mesh restrictions in Districts 8, 11, and 15 through the first Saturday in June, which excludes District 6 and only covers a portion of these king salmon runs. SEAK king salmon runs typically peak in late June to early July and are largely complete by late July.

In March 2017, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted an emergency regulation allowing the department to implement the mesh-size restriction in District 6 and extend the mesh-size restriction through the fourth Saturday in July for districts 6, 8, 11, and 15. This emergency regulation was in effect for the 2017 fishing season and this proposal seeks to make those provisions a permanent management tool for conservation of SEAK king salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-110)

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PROPOSAL 172

5 AAC 29.090. Management of the spring salmon troll fisheries.

Remove restrictions on harvesting non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon in the spring commercial salmon troll fishery on the Gravina Island shore, as follows:

Proposed language: New section 5 AAC 29.090(d)(1)(D)(vii) to read *"There is no limit on the number of non-Alaska hatchery produced salmon that may be taken in district 101-29 during statistical weeks 23 through 27, since the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is in excess of 66 percent or more of the king salmon taken in that fishery, averaged of a 10-year period"*

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The intent of the spring troll fishery is very specific and clearly stated in the 2015-2018 S.E. Alaska/Yakutat Areas Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations: *"The department shall manage the spring troll fisheries to target Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon"* (5 AAC 29.090(b)).

There are several tools that the Regulations engage for this purpose. These tolls are designed to limit the catch of non-Alaska hatchery-produced fish. An additional tool could be added to complement those which are currently in place. Doing so would allow an increased number of Alaska hatchery-produced fish to be caught, maximizing this resource for the highest value.

We recommend that district 101-29 be exempted from the Regulation' restrictions contained in 5 AAC 29.090(d)(1)(D) during statistical weeks 23-27. This sub-district would be selected based on high historical abundance of Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon during these statistical weeks.

A graph of district 101-29 is attached*, depicting the 10-year average spring troll catch numbers for king salmon originating from Canada, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California and Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association. For this particular sub-district, it is clear that the relative catch of SSRAA-produced versus all other king salmon caught during week 23 through 27 is overwhelmingly Alaska hatchery-produced.

This recommendation is in accordance with 5 AAC 29.090(d)(2) *"consider additional fishing periods based on the best scientific data and on input from salmon trollers"*

Who would benefit:

- SSRAA would receive 3% more money
- Power and Hand troll fleets
- Fewer disruptions in management

PROPOSED BY: Charlie Piercy (HQ-F17-005)

**Proposal submission instructions indicate any additional information provided with the form, such as tables, Internet web links, or charts, will not be included in the proposal book. The referenced graph will be included in the public comment material for the appropriate meeting.*

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PROPOSAL 173

5 AAC 29.114. District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan.

Allow commercial fisheries using troll gear to target enhanced chum salmon in Districts 12 and 14 to continue by removing the sunset provision, as follows:

Delete [(e) The provisions of this section do not apply after December 31, 2017.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sunset of *District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan.*

Without adoption of this proposal or extending the deadline this productive troll fishery will end. Trollers, tenders, fish processors, the communities of Hoonah, Elfin Cove, Gustavus, Excursion Inlet, Juneau, Haines, and other SE communities with troll residents will suffer. Consumers who

appreciate high quality brite, troll handled, chum salmon will be denied. The Chinook salmon resource will benefit as less trailers will be targeting Chinook salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association Troll Representatives: George Eliason, James Moore, Zack Olson, Bert Bergman (HQ-F17-010)

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PROPOSAL 174

5 AAC 29.114. District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan.

Establish commercial fisheries targeting enhanced chum salmon using troll gear in portions of Districts 9 and 10, as follows:

District **9, 10,** 12, and 14, Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan. 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, Northern Chatham Strait, **and in the waters of Districts 109 and 110 enclosed by a line from the Washington Bay light to 56° 43.11' N lat., 134°28.84' W long., to 56° 52.47' N lat., 134° 30.24' W long., to the Turnabout Island Light to Pinta Point at 57°05.96' N lat., 133°53.55' W long** while providing for the conservation of wild stocks. **Maps attached***

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Northern South East Alaska Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) has taken over the South East Cove chum release site and Gunnuck Creek Hatchery. NSRAA and is building the returns substantially. It is expected these chums will be returning in the area proposed in June and early July. Presently the District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan does not include this area of District 12 or the Turnabout Is/Pinta Rocks,110-17 area of 110. So, we have offered this proposed solution by extending the plan to part of the Chatham Strait Spring Troll Area 112- 12 and the Turnabout Is./Pinta Rocks area of 110- 31 in ADF&G areas 9 and 10.

PROPOSED BY: Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association Troll Representatives: George Eliason, Eric Jordan, James Moore, Zack Olson, Bert Bergman (HQ-F17-011)

**Proposal submission instructions indicate any additional information provided with the form, such as tables, Internet web links, or charts, will not be included in the proposal book. The referenced graph will be included in the public comment material for the appropriate meeting.*

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PROPOSAL 175

5 AAC 29.114. District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan.

Implement a king salmon possession restriction for vessels participating in the enhanced chum salmon troll fishery, as follows:

Add a new provision (d)(3) to read:

(d)(3) When a spring king salmon troll fishery is closed, a person may not have king salmon on board a salmon troll vessel while fishing for chum salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The *District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan* was adopted in 2012. This plan was developed to provide additional opportunity for salmon troll fishermen to target enhanced chum salmon during the spring troll fisheries. The plan allows salmon troll fishermen to continue to fish for enhanced chum salmon in specified areas of districts 12 and 14 following any closure of these fisheries to the retention of king salmon as described in 5 AAC 29.090(d)(1)(D).

When the plan was adopted provisions restricting possession of king salmon while participating in enhanced chum salmon fisheries was inadvertently omitted. This proposal will add a king salmon possession restriction to the *District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan* prohibiting salmon troll vessels participating in enhanced chum salmon fisheries from possessing king salmon in areas that have been closed to directed spring troll king salmon fishing.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-103)

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PROPOSAL 176

5 AAC 29.112. Management of chum salmon troll fishery.

Establish a commercial fishery using troll gear to target hatchery-produced chum salmon in Crawfish Inlet, as follows:

Current regulations provide for two other hatchery areas to remain open to trolling for chum salmon during the coho closure. We propose that Crawfish Inlet be added to this short list of areas. The entire Inlet has been preliminarily been designated as a Terminal Harvest Area, which suggests that the presence of wild coho in Crawfish Inlet should be negligible

Proposed language:

5 AAC 29.112. Management of chum salmon troll fishery.

(a) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, a hatchery chum salmon troll fishery only during the summer coho salmon troll fishery closures specified in 5 AAC 29.110(b)(2).

(b) If the commissioner opens a season under (a) of this section, chum salmon fishing will occur only:

(1) in the waters of Sitka Sound and the Eastern Channel east of a line from Vitskari Rock Light to Inner Point, south of a line from Inner Point to Black Rock at 57_ 03.12' N. lat., 135_ 25.63' W. long., to Signal Island Light at 57_ 02.78' N. lat., 135_ 23.58' W. long., and north of a line from Cape Baranof at 56_ 59.03' N. lat., 135_ 23.23' W. long., to Kulichkof Rock at 56_ 59.52' N. lat., 135_ 26.62' W. long., to Vitskari Rock Light; and

(2) in the waters of Neets Bay east of the longitude of Chin Point to the longitude of the easternmost tip of Bug Island.

(3) in the waters of Crawfish Inlet in any or all portions east of 135 degrees 11.05'W, as determined by the Department.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture's (NSRAA) new Crawfish Inlet release site has been developed, in part, to provide opportunity for trollers to harvest chum and attempt to better balance the harvest of enhanced salmon. However, current regulations require a mid-August closure of 2-10 days to provide for coho allocation and/or conservation; this closure typically occurs during the peak of the Crawfish chum return.

In 1994, the Board of Fisheries (Board) formed a task force composed of seine, gillnet, and troll representatives to develop an allocation plan for enhanced salmon. The Southeast Alaska Allocation Task Force recommended, and the Board approved, a troll allocation of 27-32% of the total value of the commercial catch of enhanced salmon. When authorizing the allocation plan, the Board also unanimously adopted a set of Guiding Principles (94-148-FB) to assist the Regional Planning Teams, ADFG, and future Boards in arriving at hatchery allocation decisions.

The troll fleet has consistently fallen short of its allocated share of enhanced salmon. Since 2005, the actual troll share has averaged just 16-19%. This long-term shortfall is economically significant and estimated to be roughly $4 million per year.

Achievement of hatchery allocation goals is based on review of 5-year rolling averages. The 9th guiding principle provides that when a gear group has been outside of its allocated range for three consecutive years as measured using a 5-yr average, adjustments can be made. The troll fleet has been below its allocation range for 22 consecutive years.

To partially address this imbalance, in 2014 NSRAA began releasing chum salmon at Crawfish Inlet to create a troll chum fishery. This is in keeping with the 13th guiding principle, which states that new production is an appropriate tool to assist in meeting allocation percentage goals.
PROPOSED BY: Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F17-028)
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PROPOSAL 177

5 AAC 29.110. Management of coho salmon troll fishery.

Allow commercial fishing with troll gear for hatchery-produced coho salmon, in certain areas, during commercial troll fishery coho salmon conservation closures, as follows:

(e) Not withstanding other sections of this regulation, the department in consultation with hatchery operators may, for the purpose of allowing troll access to hatchery coho, define areas where coho retention is permitted during closures made under (b) of this section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The troll fleet is chronically behind on its allocation of enhanced fish. We would like to see ADFG given the authority to open

areas where the fleet can access hatchery coho during the August troll closure. ADFG should be given flexibility to determine whether to open these areas each year based on the health of wild stocks and the broodstock needs of the hatchery operators.

In 1994, the Board of Fisheries (Board) formed a task force composed of seine, gillnet, and troll representatives to develop an allocation plan for enhanced salmon. The Southeast Alaska Allocation Task Force recommended, and the Board approved, a troll allocation of 27-32% of the total value of the commercial catch of enhanced salmon. When authorizing the allocation plan, the Board also unanimously adopted a set of Guiding Principles (94-148-FB) to assist the Regional Planning Teams, ADFG, and future Boards in arriving at hatchery allocation decisions.

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PROPOSED BY: Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F17-030)

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PROPOSAL 178

5 AAC 29.080. Management of the winter salmon troll fishery.

Restrict fishing area in Sitka Sound when harvest of non-Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon reaches 30,000 fish by March 1, as follows:

(b) In years when the harvest of non-Alaska hatchery-produced fish reaches 30,000 before the first of March, the department shall by emergency order, move winter fishing line at Cape Edgecumbe light to the Southernmost tip of Point Woodhouse in to: the Southern tip of Shoals Point to the Northern tip of Biorka Island to the Southernmost tip of Point Woodhouse until the first of April.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The winter fishery closed before April 1, in 2015 and 2016. This caused serious financial hardship on the fishermen who do not fish the Sitka area in the winter. It is unfair to the rest of the Southeast communities to suffer the winter troll season closing so early due to extreme high harvest rates occurring in the Sitka winter fishery.

The best month for access to winter kings is April for the fisherman who live South of Sitka. The weather is better at that time and many of the smaller boats will have a fair chance at getting their share of the winter fishery at that time. Fish are just starting to show up in the areas South of Sitka in April. This proposal at a minimum should allow the winter troll fishery to reach the 15th of April and would give the rest of Southeast fisherman the access to winter kings that they have come to depend upon.

PROPOSED BY: Randy Ferdinand (HQ-F17-012)
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PROPOSAL 179

5 AAC 29.080. Management of the winter salmon troll fishery.

Adopt measures to reduce harvest rate in the winter commercial salmon troll fishery during times of high king salmon abundance, as follows:

(a) The department shall manage the winter salmon troll fishery so that the harvest of king salmon does not exceed a guideline harvest level of 45,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced fish, with a guideline harvest range of 43,000 to 47,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced fish, plus the number of Alaska hatchery king salmon harvested during the winter troll fishery. In this subsection, "non-Alaska hatchery-produced fish" means king salmon not originating from a hatchery in this state.

(b) The department using the following line restrictions and criteria, shall by emergency order, manage the winter troll fishery to achieve the guideline harvest range of 43,000 to 47,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook no earlier than April 14th.

Line restrictions.

Yakutat area district 183-10
1. Temporarily change the current winter fishing line at Yakutat Bay at the westernmost tip of Point Manby, at 59'41.66' N. lat, 140' 19.70 W. long, to 59'40.02' N. lat., 140'24.36' W. long, to 59' 31.25' N. lat., 139' 53.69 W. long., to Ocean Cape light 59'32.06 N, 139'51.46 W**.' To the Yakutat spring troll fishery area line at Point Manby 59'41.56 N, 140'19.70 W to Ocean Cape light 59'32.06 N, 139'51.46 W.'**

Sitka Area District 113
2. Temporarily change the current winter fishing line at Cape Edgecumbe light to the southernmost tip of Point Woodhouse**,**

To the southernmost tip of Shoals Point (approximately 57*00.64 N, 135*38.28 W) to the Northernmost tip of Biorka Island (approximately 56'52.080N, 135'33.010W) to the southernmost tip of Point Woodhouse.

Chatham strait District 109
3. Temporarily change the current winter fishing line at Cape Ommaney to Nation Point,;

To Cape Ommaney to Crowley light (approximately 56*07.20 N, 134* 15.54 W) on Kuiu Island to Nation Point on Coronation Is.

Sumner strait area District 105
4. Temporarily change the current winter fishing line at Helm Point to the southernmost tip of Cape Addington**,**

To Cora Point (approximately 55* 54.82 N, 134* 06.94 W) on Coronation Is. to the southernmost tip of Cape Addington.

Noyes Island area District 104
5. Temporarily change the current winter fishing line at the southern most tip of Cape Addington to western most tip of Cape Chirikof**,**

To the southernmost tip of Cape Addington to the northwestern most tip of Outer Point (approximately 55*22.55 N,133* 40.67 W) to the northern most tip of Granite Pt (approximately 55* 19.08 N, 133*41.40 W) to the western most tip of Cape Chirikof

Criteria

A) Implementation of line restrictions may only occur if the catch rate of non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook in the winter troll fishery is predicted to reach the guideline harvest range of 43,000 to 47,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook before April 14th.

B) Implementation of line restrictions may only occur after January 1.

C) Implementation of line restrictions may only occur after the winter harvest has reached 25,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook.

D) Implementation of a line restriction in a district can only occur if that district's current harvest of non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook exceeds the percentages outlined below.

District 183 --- 14% of the current winter harvest of non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook

District 113 --- 65% of the current winter harvest of non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook

District 109 --- 11% of the current winter harvest of non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook

District 105--- 12% of the current winter harvest of non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook

District 104 --- 8 % of the current winter harvest of non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook

E) All temporary line restrictions shall be lifted April 15th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In years when Chinook are in extreme high abundance the winter troll fishery has closed earlier than it should. Even though the closing of the winter fishery before April 14th is rare, the times that it has occurred, have had

negative economic impacts on the fishing communities in Southeast Alaska. This proposal is meant to slow the winter fishery's harvest rate down in these years of extreme high abundance.

The length of the winter season affects the troll harvest in the communities throughout Southeast Alaska. For the southern and non coastal communities, the loss of the latter part of the winter fishery hits them especially hard because the fish do not show up in their area until the later part of the season.

Since the weather improves in the later part of the fishery, the small boats lose their best opportunity to participate in the fishery when it closes early. This proposal should improve the safety of the fishery due to alleviating the desire to fish terrible weather because, fisherman will no longer feel pressured by the possibility of the season closing early.

This proposal should aid in maintaining a constant supply of fresh king salmon to the markets that would otherwise go without when the season closes early. Early closure leaves a wide break before spring fisheries start up, therefore leaving vacant winter fishery markets open for farm fish take over.

This proposal should improve the quality of the product because in rough weather, fish are subject to bruising and scaling that does not occur in calmer water. And finally this proposal should also help in avoiding the glutting of the fresh fish market by slowing the harvest rate down in years of high abundance

PROPOSED BY: Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-018)
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PROPOSAL 180

5 AAC 29.090. Management of the spring salmon troll fisheries.

Reduce triggers in the Southeastern Alaska Area spring commercial salmon troll fishery by five percent in years of high king salmon abundance, as follows:

Reduce the percentage triggers in the spring troll fishery by 5% only when the abundance index, or some similar measure of abundance, is determined by the Chinook Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC), to be at a level equivalent to 1.95 or higher as measured by the PSC Chinook model.

5 AAC 29.090. Management of the spring salmon troll fisheries

…

(d) In its management of the spring fisheries under this section, the department shall

(1) first consider changes in the previous years' spring fisheries; the department shall open the fisheries if they meet the following requirements:

(A) a directed fishery may occur only if an Alaska hatchery return is expected to exceed broodstock requirements;

(B) at least one spring fishery shall be conducted annually, targeting the king salmon returning to each Alaska hatchery that meets its broodstock requirements;

(C) in order to continue the fishery each year without modification of areas previously established, the contribution rate of hatchery stocks to the directed fishery harvest must exceed 20 percent;

(D) **if the preseason king salmon abundance index is less than 1.95**, the department shall manage each spring salmon troll fishery as follows:
…

(E) if the preseason king salmon abundance index is 1.95 or greater, the department shall manage each spring salmon troll fishery as follows:

i. no more than 1,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon may be taken in a fishery if the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is less than 20 percent of the king salmontaken in that fishery;

ii. no more than 2,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon may be taken in a fishery if the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is at least 20 percent but less than 30 percent of the king salmon taken in that fishery;

iii. no more than 3,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon may be taken in a fishery if the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is at least 30 percent but less than 45 percent of the king salmon taken in that fishery;

iv. no more than 5,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon may be taken in a fishery if the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is at least 45 percent but less than 61 percent of the king salmon taken in that fishery;

v. there is no limit on the number of non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon that may be taken in a fishery if the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is 61 percent or more of the king salmon taken in that fishery;

(F) [(E)] if the requirements of (A) – (D) **or (E)** of this paragraph are met, the department shall open the spring salmon troll fisheries until no later than one day before the opening of the summer salmon troll fishery;

(2) consider additional fishing periods based on the best scientific data and on input from salmon trollers;

(3) if the preseason king salmon abundance index ~~determined by the Chinook Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission~~ is at least 1.15 and the amount of the winter troll fishery guideline harvest level remaining on May 1 is 10,000 or more king salmon, apply the following provisions:

(A) if the guideline harvest level remaining is at least 10,000 king salmon but not more than 15,000 king salmon, 250 additional non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon will be added to the maximum allowable number of non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon to be taken as provided in (2)(D) **or (E)** of this subsection;

(B) if the guideline harvest level remaining is more than 15,000 king salmon, 500 additional non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon will be added to the maximum allowable number of non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon to be taken as provided in (2)(D) **or (E)** of this subsection.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2014 and 2015, an abundance of Chinook salmon caused spring trolling areas to be restricted or closed prematurely, due to the high presence of treaty kings. The high abundance was largely attributed to Columbia River fall run Chinook, which were experiencing the largest returns since the dams were erected in 1938. ATA is requesting consideration of a small adjustment to the spring troll management plan, so that the fishery can avoid disruption should we see similar abundance in future years.

The spring troll fishery is structured in such a way as to allowing the targeting of Alaska hatchery Chinook, while minimizing the harvest of fish that count against the Pacific Salmon Treaty (treaty) quota. From April through June, small areas are opened to trolling near hatcheries or in corridors where Alaska hatchery fish are known to transit. The amount of fishing time allowed in each area varies and is determined weekly, with some openings lasting just 1-3 days per week. Guideline harvest levels for treaty Chinook have been established and those levels correlate to the percentage of Alaska hatchery fish contributing to the harvest in each spring area. Once the guideline level is reached, that area is closed to spring fishing.

The abundance of Chinook salmon in Southeast has been extraordinarily high in most of the recent years. In 2014, the model utilized by the Chinook Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission generated a pre-season abundance index of 2.57 and a quota of 439,400. As a result, seven spring areas across the region experienced time/area restrictions or closures, due to this strong showing of treaty Chinook that overwhelmed the spring hatchery harvest. 2013 and 2014 were the first years on record that the percent of Alaska hatchery kings in the spring troll fishery declined instead of increased, in mid to late June.

This extreme abundance continued into 2015 & 2016 and ADFG was compelled to manage the spring fishing areas conservatively. Both time and area restrictions were implemented in the face of large Columbia River returns, which had already caused the 2015 winter troll fishery to close

on March 25th - the earliest closure since 1972. In 2016, the winter fishery closed on March 8, which was seven weeks earlier than the regulatory closure date of April 30th; making it the earliest winter troll closure since at least 1950.

Loss of opportunity in the spring hatchery areas reduces troller's access to the hatchery Chinook our industry pays for, many of which are raised to mitigate chronic reductions in the treaty Chinook salmon quota and do not count against the annual quota. In addition, any loss of access to Alaska hatchery Chinook further confounds the troll fleet's ability to achieve its enhanced salmon allocation under 5 AAC 33.364 (see also: 94-148-FB).

Allowing a small reduction in the spring hatchery percentage triggers, only when abundance is anticipated to be very high, should help ensure that the troll fleet maintains access to spring hatchery areas, while also adhering to the original purpose, which was to help target effort in those areas with the most hatchery stocks while minimizing the harvest of treaty Chinook.

Until recently, the abundance of West Coast Chinook salmon has been such that ADFG could manage the spring troll fishery well within the Board of Fisheries goals for the fishery using the current regulations. However, the 2014 and 2015 seasons proved that the coastwide Chinook resource is capable of extraordinary spikes in abundance. It is likely that these fish will be present in similarly large numbers at some point in the future and the troll fishery could be disrupted again. It is obvious that additional management tools are needed for use in years of exceptional abundance, thereby reducing the potential for disruption and providing better access hatchery king salmon that are the target of the spring fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F17-029)

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PROPOSAL 181

5 AAC 29.100. Management of the summer salmon troll fishery.

Reduce the percentage of remaining commercial king salmon troll fishery harvest taken during the initial summer king salmon retention period from 70% to 60% during years of high king salmon abundance, as follows:

(c)(1)(A) to take **60** [70] percent of the remaining king salmon harvest **if the preseason abundance index is above 1.60 or take 70% of the remaining king salmon harvest if below 1.60**

…

(2)(A) if approximately **60 or** [70] percent or more **(depending on the pre-season abundance index) …**

(B) …. If the department determines that less than **40** or [30] …….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 5 AAC 29.100 (C) (1) (a) and (2) (A) and (B) to take 60% of the remaining king salmon harvest if the pre-

season abundance index is above 1.60 (70% is the existing regulation and would remain in effect if the pre-season abundance index is below 1.60). The five main reasons to decrease the % to 60% on high abundance seasons:

1. Higher value for larger average size King salmon in late seasons;
2. Higher quality product;
3. Minimizes incidental hook and release of king salmon due to less non-retention days;
4. Spreads the income derived from king salmon more evenly among the fleet;
5. Greater opportunity for in-season management during the late season opening.

PROPOSED BY: John Murray (HQ-F17-048)

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PROPOSAL 182

5 AAC 29.100. Management of the summer salmon troll fishery.

Establish a starting date for the reopening the summer commercial king salmon troll fishery, as follows:

Replace 29.100 (c)(l) (B)(ii) "if a closure is not necessary to achieve coho salmon harvest guidelines after the reopening of the king salmon troll fishery, no later than August 20, but only following a two-day closure to allow a fair start."

With:

"if a closure is not necessary to achieve coho salmon harvest guidelines after the reopening of the king salmon troll fishery, following a two-day closure to allow a fair start."

And create a new 29.100 (c)(l) (B)(iii) to read: "The date for opening shall be the second Tuesday in August"

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish a specific starting date for the summer salmon troll fishery.

If nothing is changed, fishermen and processors will not be able to plan for events around an unknown specific starting date for this fishery.

I considered a specific starting date in August, i.e. the 8th, but a Tuesday start allows an advantage for full-time fishermen

PROPOSED BY: Charlie Piercy (HQ-F17-004)

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PROPOSAL 183

5 AAC 29.100. Management of the summer salmon troll fishery.

Modify commercial salmon fishing closed waters adjacent to the Situk River, as follows:

(i) - We propose that the Eastern no trolling boundary set at the mouth of the Dangerous River be moved Westward 2 miles, as the Western boundary was, to retain the same size no trolling corridor.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Situk River mouth has migrated West approximately 2 miles. The Yakutat Advisory Committee submitted a proposal to move the no trolling corridor in place around the mouth of the Situk estuary Westward Approximately 2 miles to account for the river's migration. This proposal was adopted. We only moved the Western boundaries further Westward with our action, and we failed to moved the Eastern Boundaries, which are currently set at the mouth of the Dangerous River. By this over sight, what we actually did was increase the no trolling zone around the mouth of the estuary, which was not our intent. We only meant to account for the migration of the estuary.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F17-042)
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PROPOSAL 184

5 AAC 29.120. Gear specifications and operations.

Modify gear specifications for the commercial salmon hand troll fishery, as follows:

(j) Notwithstanding any other provision in this section the following hand troll specifications apply: (1) a downrigger may not be used with a troll gurdy; (2) a hand troll gurdy or downrigger powered by hand or hand crank may be used in conjunction with a fishing rod, and is not considered power troll gear; (3) an electric, hydraulic, or power assisted downrigger is considered a power troll gurdy and may not be used in conjunction with a fishing rod;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? allow the use of 2 manually operated down riggers in conjunction with 2 sport rods as a legal means of taking fish in the hantroll fishery year round.

PROPOSED BY: Shawn Mcconnell (EF-F17-091)
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PROPOSAL 185

5 AAC 77.682. Personal use salmon fishery.

Increase opportunity to harvest salmon and allow additional gear types in the Southeastern Alaska Area personal use salmon fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 77.682 (k) The Department shall issue permits allowing personal use fishing for salmon with efficient gear types, such as drift gill nets and multiple line troll gear, in all districts open to commercial salmon fishing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide SE Alaska residents "fair and reasonable" opportunities to efficiently fulfill their personal use salmon needs, as required by AS16.05.251(d).

Contrary to statute, and while failing to act in the broad public interest.....

The Board currently prohibits all personal use fishing for both king and coho salmon in SE Alaska (5AAC 77.682 c).

And.

The Board provides no, or very little, personal use fishing opportunities for pink, chum, and sockeye salmon in SE Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Fox (EF-F17-011)

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PROPOSAL 186

5 AAC 77.027. Prohibitions for use of personal use-taken shellfish.

Define what constitutes a guest of a lodge, charter vessel, or other enterprise, as follows:

(a)(3) shellfish is to be consumed by the client or guest or is consumed in the presence of the client or guest. **A "guest" is defined as a person(s) who is not providing payment for any service rendered before, during, or after being considered a guest.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A commercial establishment has been claiming to be providing shellfish to their "guests" (who are any patrons of the bar) that were harvested under personal use regulations. Local Fish and Game enforcement has said it is a grey area because the owner of the establishment is present and his patrons are his guests.

PROPOSED BY: Susan Doherty (EF-F17-115)

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PROPOSAL 187

5 AAC 77.682. Personal use salmon fishery.

Open personal use sockeye salmon fishing in the Klawock River, as follows:

(i)(3) We recommend that the right to fish between the Craig-Klawock Highway Bridge and the Klawock River with subsistence beach seines be restored. We recommend that the Alaska Board of Fish make a priority of restoring the great salmon runs that Klawock elders remember.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The area in which subsistence beach seining in the Klawock River watershed is permitted has been diminished in recent years by prohibiting fishing in the area between the Craig-Klawock Highway bridge and the Klawock River.

Why it needs to be addressed: The remaining fishing area below the bridge is limited, and catches in recent years have been drastically reduced. Klawock subsistence fishers have the dilemma of, on the one hand, wishing to increase the escapement, and therefore the sockeye runs, and on the other hand, having an immediate need for sockeye every year for the following winter.

PROPOSED BY: Klawock Tribe (EF-F17-105)

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PROPOSAL 188

5 AAC 77.683. Personal Use Fishery Management Plan for the Juneau, Petersburg, Wrangell, Sitka, and Ketchikan Road Systems.

Provide for personal use harvest of hatchery-produced salmon in Ketchikan Creek, as follows:

5 AAC 77.683 is amended to read:

Salmon streams flowing across or adjacent to the road systems of Juneau, Petersburg, Wrangell, Sitka, and Ketchikan support only limited runs of salmon. Harvestable numbers of salmon in excess to the spawning escapement needs for those streams are normally of such a small magnitude that these numbers alone are not sufficient to support the consumptive demands of those communities. Therefore, the department shall not issue permits which allow the use of nets for streams along the road systems of those communities **with the exception of Ketchikan Creek where hatchery-origin fish may be harvested.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Deer Mountain Hatchery located on Ketchikan Creek in downtown Ketchikan is operated by the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association. This hatchery has annual returns of king salmon, some of which escape saltwater fisheries and are surplus to the needs of the hatchery. Current regulations prevent a personal use fishery targeting these excess hatchery fish.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-112)

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PROPOSAL 189

5 AAC 77.XXX. Personal use aquatic plant fishery.

Provide regulatory provisions necessary to harvest aquatic plants for personal use within the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game nonsubsistence areas in the Southeast Alaska Area, as follows:

Aquatic plants may be harvested by hand for personal use at any time and there are no bag or possession limits except that:

(a) within the Ketchikan nonsubsistence area defined in 5 AAC 99.015(1) there are no harvest limits, except that:

(1) along the shoreline adjacent to the Ketchikan road system, the daily harvest and possession limit is 10 gallons of attached aquatic plants.

(2) there is no limit to the harvest of detached aquatic plants on the beach adjacent to the Ketchikan road system.

(b) within the Juneau nonsubsistence area defined in 5 AAC 99.015(2) the daily harvest and possession limit is 5 gallons of attached aquatic plants, except that:

(1) the shoreline adjacent to the Juneau road system is closed to the taking of attached aquatic plants.

(2) <u>there is no limit to the harvest of detached aquatic plants at the daily high tide line.</u>

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations for personal use harvest of aquatic plants stipulate that aquatic plants may only be harvested according to provisions of Chapter 77; however no provisions exist in Chapter 77 for harvest of aquatic plants. Current regulations allow harvest for noncommercial use outside of nonsubsistence areas with no season or bag limit but prohibit (due to lack of provisions allowing it) personal use harvesting of aquatic plants within the nonsubsistence areas described in 5 AAC 99.015. The cities of Juneau and Ketchikan are located in these areas. Many local residents do not realize there is no provision for personal use of aquatic plants and there is likely significant harvest of personal use kelp of various species occurring illegally.

The Juneau nonsubsistence area is centered on the community of Juneau with a population in excess of 30,000, making it the largest community in the region. The aquatic plant resource is not particularly robust in inside waters around Juneau, likely due to reduced salinity from freshwater run off, and the plant population is subject to overharvest. Provisions of this proposal will allow for enforcement of sustainable personal use kelp harvests.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-111)

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<u>PROPOSAL 190</u>

5 AAC 77.682. Personal use salmon fishery.

Increase the personal use household limit for sockeye salmon in the Taku River drainage, as follows:

(f) In the Taku River drainage, the total annual limit for each personal use sockeye salmon permit is **10** sockeye salmon for a household of 1 person and **20** sockeye salmon for a household of 2 or more persons.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current bag limits do not provide a fair and reasonable opportunity for Juneau residents to efficiently fulfill their personal use salmon needs.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Fox (EF-F17-029)

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<u>PROPOSAL 191</u>

5 AAC 77.682. Personal use salmon fishery.

Amend the personal use salmon season in the Taku River drainage to open the fishery on the fourth Saturday in June, as follows:

(h)(3) In the Taku River drainage, sockeye salmon may be taken only in waters from the Taku River Lodge upstream to the United Sates/Canada border and from **<u>the fourth Saturday in June</u>** [only from July 1] through July 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide Alaska residents a more fair and reasonable opportunity to efficiently fulfill their personal use salmon needs and aligns better with the commercial fishery opening of the third Sunday in June in Canada and in the U.S.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Fox (EF-F17-031)

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PROPOSAL 192

5 AAC 77.682. Personal use salmon fishery.

Allow personal use fishing for salmon in District 11, as follows:

(h)(4) in district 11 salmon may be taken during periods closed to commercial fishing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide Alaska residents a fair and reasonable opportunity to efficiently fulfill their personal use salmon needs in the Juneau area by allowing drift gillnet salmon fishing in district 11.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Fox (EF-F17-033)

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PROPOSAL 193

5 AAC 77.682. Personal use salmon fishery.

Establish a personal use salmon set gillnet fishery in Section 15-A, as follows:

Resident personal use fishing is allow (or not restricted) in area 15 a.
Limits should not exceed reasonable household yearly consumption.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Open personal use set netting in Lynn Canal on the west side. I am proposing this issue because I have a cabin on the west side of Lynn Canal and harvesting salmon for personal use is very hard to do in that area 15 A. At this time only drift netting is allowed 3 miles north of my cabin and only at limited times. All summer long I watch commercial fishermen set their nets in front of my cabin and they are allowed to have personal use fish. I think I should also. All Alaskans should have the right to personal use fisheries especially someone who owns land on a very remote beach in Alaska. Thank you for your consideration.

PROPOSED BY: Ken Kreitzer (EF-F17-079)

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PROPOSAL 194

5 AAC 77.682. Personal use salmon fishery.

Allow personal use fishing for salmon in District 15, as follows:

(5) in district 15 salmon may be taken during periods closed to commercial fishing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide Alaska residents a fair and reasonable opportunity to efficiently fulfill their personal use salmon needs in the Juneau area by allowing drift gillnet salmon fishing in district 15.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Fox (EF-F17-034)

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PROPOSAL 195

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 sockeye salmon in Southeast Alaska Area salt waters, 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 two times the daily bag limit for sockeye salmon;** no size limit; . . . .(continue with current text)

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-F17-013)

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PROPOSAL 196

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 sockeye salmon in Southeast Alaska Area fresh waters, 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 two times the daily bag limit for sockeye salmon; no size limit; . . . (continue with current text for remainder of section)

(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 two times the daily bag limit for sockeye salmon**; no size limit; . . . (continue with current text for remainder of section)

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-F17-014)

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PROPOSAL 197

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

Simplify current freshwater sport fishing regulations for king salmon in freshwater drainages of the Sitka Sound Special Use Area, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023(g)(10) is amended to read:

(g) In the Sitka vicinity:

(10) in the freshwater drainages that drain into the Sitka Sound Special Use Area, described in 5 AAC 47.021(g)(1),

(A) the bag **and possession** limit for king salmon, [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH,] is **ten** [FIVE] fish, **no size limit; and**

(B) **repealed __/__/__;** THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR KING SALMON, LESS THAN 28 INCHES IN LENGTH, IS FIVE FISH; AND]

(C) a king salmon taken by a nonresident does not count towards the nonresident annual limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Wild king salmon stocks are not present in the freshwater drainages of the Sitka Sound Special Use Area. Liberal king salmon bag and possession limits in these drainages provide incentive and opportunity for anglers to harvest surplus hatchery fish that have strayed. The current regulatory separation between allowed size categories (five king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, and five fish less than 28 inches in length) are not biologically necessary and add unnecessary regulatory complexity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-126)

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PROPOSAL 198

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.

Amend the open season for Dolly Varden in Auke Bay, as follows:

This regulation currently reads as follows: "In the waters of Auke Bay, east of a line from Waydelich (Wadleigh) Creek to and ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one-quarter mile south of the mouth of Auke Creek, Dolly Varden may be taken only from June 1 - March 31 ... ."

I would like the Board to amend the relevant part of this regulation to read: "south of the mouth of Auke Creek, Dolly Varden may be taken only from July 1 - April 30 ... ."

The proposed change to this regulation simply shifts the closed season in order to allow local Dolly sport fishing to occur in May and June. The existing and proposed regulation both keep the waters closed for 2 months; the proposed simply shifts the period when Dolly fishing may occur from April and May, to May and June.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is a very healthy population of Dolly Varden in the area defined by this regulation. There is no heavy sport fishing pressure on Dolly Varden in this area. Auke Lake feeds Auke Creek and Dolly Varden are the major predator of salmon fry migrating out of Auke Lake and Auke Creek, where there is a NMFS salmon hatchery. The closure authorized by the existing regulation prohibits Dolly fishing when there are Dolly Varden present in the defined waters; before and after April and May, there are no Dolly Varden present at all, because there is nothing for them to prey on. Changing the regulation to allow Dolly Varden fishing in May and June would give sport anglers like me a chance to actually take our kids there to actually try to catch a Dolly.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Weyhrauch (EF-F17-001)

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PROPOSAL 199

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.

Increase the bag limit for Dolly Varden on the Juneau road system, as follows:

Proposal: Increase the daily bag and possession limit on the Juneau road system beaches and drainages to four fish. This will allow those who harvest Dolly Varden for the table to enjoy a more reasonable bag limit and be less particular regarding the size of their kept catch.

Proposed language:

5 AAC 47.023(e)(1)(A)(v) the bag and possession limit for Dolly Varden is **four** [TWO] fish;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Dolly Varden are abundant in the Juneau area, but bag and possession limits are quite small. This is unnecessarily limiting to shore side anglers who harvest fish for the table but haven't access to the boat accessible marine fishery.

Dolly Varden limits are 10 per day and 10 in possession nearly everywhere in Southeast; on the Juneau road system beaches the limit is 2 per day and 2 in possession. By my experience and the observations of others who fish the Juneau beaches and watersheds, the number of fishermen who harvest Dolly Varden are few, but those who do harvest are typically those who haven't access to the marine fishery by boat. However, they are fishing within sight of boat fisherman who – should

they choose – may harvest five times as many Dollies. The reason for this disparate arrangement is unknown to anyone searching for a management objective in the available literature. I have heard that the reason for the small road system limit may be to eliminate the need to manage the fishery at all – the limit is so small that no concern need be exerted to maintain a harvestable population. If so, that is an abdication of responsibility by the Department and an arbitrary limit on fishermen in Juneau who may be providing for their families by harvesting the fish to which they have access without a boat. It also results in an incentive for those who do harvest to release many fish because, with a two fish limit, one wants to maximize the bag. This undoubtedly results in many fish that may be mortally wounded being released.

PROPOSED BY: Verne Skagerberg (EF-F17-032)

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PROPOSAL 200

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.

Prohibit snagging in all salt and freshwaters along the Juneau road system, with minor exceptions, as follows:

Snagging of sport fish (salmon, trout, char, etc...) is prohibited in all fresh and saltwater along the Juneau Road System, with exception to approved areas when hatchery fish abundance is strong. These excluded areas would include Fish Creek Pond and the beach in front of Wayside Park to from the retaining wall to within the existing boundary line 150 feet of the CBJ Wayside Park Fishing Park. All other waters will be closed to snagging as a method and means.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There has been growing concern of user group conflict between sport groups, mainly between snagging and all other user groups. With the expanded fishing opportunities on the Juneau Road System have seen more clash than before. The method and means of anglers using sport fishing gear (bait, spin, fly, etc...) coexist and work together with etiquette. Anglers using snagging as a method and means focus only on the harvest and forego etiquette, causing conflict to other anglers

In addition to conflict with other user groups, anglers utilizing snagging are searching for the highest quality fish, mainly hatchery. In some areas, such as the Sheep Creek area, anglers trying to snag hatchery silver salmon will unintentionally snag other species such as dolly varden, cutthroat trout, pinks salmon, flounder. All of which are non hatchery native fish. These fish are often discarded as trash and are returned to the water mortally wounded by the heavily lead weighted large treble hooks. Intentionally discarding of mortally wounded game fish is a waste.

This solution gives persons who prefer snagging as a method and means, to have access to hatchery fish for harvest. At the same time it will help curb user conflict. It may also help curtail some of the poaching associated with snagging.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Cole (EF-F17-085)

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PROPOSAL 201

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 catch-and-release only in the Juneau vicinity Dredge Lakes area, as follows:

In all waters within the Dredge Lakes area. Catch and Release only. No possession of sport fish or bait in the area is permitted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Ever increasing poor quality sport fishing in the Dredge Lake Area, Juneau, AK. Due to lack of fish and high fish pressure.

PROPOSED BY: Tony Soltys (HQ-F17-015)

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PROPOSAL 202

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 only single, barbless hooks on artificial lures in the Dredge Lakes area, as follows:

In all waters within the Dredge Lakes area, only single barbless hooks on artificial lures are permitted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Ever increasing poor quality sport fishing in the Dredge Lake Area, Juneau, AK. due to lack of fish and high fishing pressure.

PROPOSED BY: Tony Soltys (HQ-F17-016)

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PROPOSAL 203

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.

Rescind the salmon sport fishing closure in Sheep Creek, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023 (e)(l)(J) is amended to read:

(e) In the Juneau vicinity:

(1) in all drainages crossed by the Juneau City and Borough road system,

(J) Auke Nu Creek, Kowee Creek on Douglas Island, [SHEEP CREEK], and Waydelich Creek (Wadleigh Creek) are closed to sport fishing for salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The salmon fishing closure in Sheep Creek is no longer necessary. This closure was established to protect hatchery broodstock. Recently the Sheep Creek hatchery facility was removed and the site is no longer used for broodstock collection making the closure unnecessary. This action will provide additional fishing opportunity and simplify regulation by removing an unnecessary regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-121)

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PROPOSAL 204

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.

Amend bag limit and season provisions and establish an annual limit for sockeye salmon in Windfall Creek, as follows:

I recommend that with the strong sockeye stock and if escapement goal are reached, Windfall Creek goes to a harvest tag system where anglers can harvest up to their yearly allowance in a single day. Where the creek will be closed the June 1st through Aug 1 with the exception on Tuesday-Thursday and Sat-Sun in the month of June. This will give the creek Mondays and Fridays for safe fish passage in the month of June.

For example, if ADF&G Area Biologist find the run can handle a 3 fish annual harvest per angler, then the season will be as follows: Windfall Creek will be open to fishing in the month of June with the exception of Mondays and Fridays. The creek will be closed to all sport fishing from 12:01 am to 11:59 pm on those days. Anglers are allowed 3 sockeye per day with a total annual limit of 3 fish. Harvest must be recorded on your fishing license. Anglers may not sport fish for sockeye salmon once their harvest limit has been reached.

Opening the creek to a limited harvest with more allowable fishing days would help spread out the fishing pressure and crowding issues currently seen under the current regulations. It should also allow for minimal escapement needed to keep the run at healthy stock levels.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Background: Currently the outlet creek of Windfall Lake is Juneau's only roadside sockeye fishery. By Emergency Order, Windfall Creek is open to fishing for sockeye salmon every Saturday and Wednesday in the month of June. There is a one fish per day/one in possession harvest allowance when the stock allows. Because it is the only roadside sport fishery for sockeye in Juneau, the small stream sees excessive crowding on the days that it open. This can cause user conflict and "hole hogging" as the fish tend to sit in only a few small locations near the creek mouth.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Cole (EF-F17-087)

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PROPOSAL 205

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 and barbed hooks in the Tsiu River drainage, as follows:

(b)(x) In the Tsiu drainage area barbed and multiple hooks, lures prohibited for all sport fishing in fresh water.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to see the Tsiu river go single, barbless hooks for all sport fishing for Salmon in fresh water. It would help to eliminate the waste of a valuable resource.

PROPOSED BY: Harold Perantie (EF-F17-002)

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