

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES WORKSESSION**

**October 9-11, 2007
Anchorage, Alaska**

DESIGNATED REPORTER: Rita St. Louis

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

Agenda Change Requests

ACR NO. 1

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Add restrictions to Sitka Sound Herring fishery to protect Salisbury Sound (Section 13A) stocks.

DISCUSSION: The board acknowledged this fishery is viewed as a single spawning aggregation, not as two stocks. It therefore felt criterion three (correcting an unforeseen effect of a regulation) was not met.

ACR NO. 2

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow set gillnet running lines within 500 feet of 18 foot high tide mark in Naknek River Special Harvest Area to remain during drift gillnet openings.

DISCUSSION: The board felt the three criteria for ACR were not met. The provisions of the regulations passed in 2006 are working as the board intended.

ACR NO. 3

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Reduce mesh size for gillnets to preserve the genetic diversity and historical size structure of the Yukon River king salmon.

DISCUSSION: The board stated this issue was thoroughly discussed during AYK meeting. They acknowledged that stocks will fluctuate from year to year, but the new information provided was not unusual. The board concluded this proposal did not meet the ACR criteria.

ACR NO. 4

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Address Yukon River salmon conservation concerns in reference to US/Canada Treaty obligations.

DISCUSSION: The board stated this is a highly allocative issue, and that it did not meet the ACR criteria.

ACR NO. 5

ACTION: Accepted

DESCRIPTION: Revise stocked waters management plan.

DISCUSSION: The board found this ACR addressed an unforeseen effect that a former regulation caused. Unforeseen reduction in hatchery production has caused reduced release of fish. Therefore the department needs EO authority to manage these reduced stocks by changing such things as methods and means, and bag limits. This topic was scheduled for the March 2008 meeting.

ACR NO. 6**ACTION: Accepted**

DESCRIPTION: Add new management measures to prevent overharvest and ensure accurate accounting, biological sampling and enforcement of state-waters scallop harvest.

DISCUSSION: The vessel-based limited entry program will sunset in December 31, 2008, and needs to be renewed otherwise it will revert to an open access fishery. This is a delicate resource, so there is a conservation concern which needs to be addressed. This topic was scheduled for the March 2008 meeting.

ACR NO. 7**ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Review Naknek River Special Harvest Area 3:1 drift gillnet to set gillnet ratio for open periods.

DISCUSSION: The board agreed this does not meet criterion three (correcting an unforeseen effect of a regulation); furthermore the ACR is allocative. The current regulations and management meets the intent of the regulation.

ACR NO. 8**ACTION: No action**

DESCRIPTION: Change designation of Yukon River king salmon from a "yield concern" to a "management concern".

DISCUSSION: The board agreed that stock of concern is not a regulatory matter. The department, not the public, is charged with recommending changes in stock status.

ACR NO. 9**ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Revise Yukon River king salmon escapement goals to address quality of escapement.

DISCUSSION: Because escapement goals were reviewed in 2007, the board recommended no revisions. Existing goals meet escapement goals.

ACR NO. 10**ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Readdress use of "windows" for subsistence fishery management on the Yukon River.

DISCUSSION: The board agreed this does not meet ACR criteria. The system in place works. The subject in this ACR was discussed thoroughly during the AYK meeting.

ACR NO. 11**ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Review of the demersal shelf rockfish management to avoid unattended closures in sport fishery.

DISCUSSION: The board agreed there is not a conservation concern. The criteria for ACR, especially criterion one, are not met. The board found no linkage of closing halibut or salmon with closing rockfish. There is no commercial rockfish fishery in this area.

ACR NO. 12**ACTION: Accepted**

DESCRIPTION: Allow subsistence harvest of clams in Kachemak Bay.

DISCUSSION: The board agreed this corrects an error in regulations. The board previously adopted a positive customary and traditional finding for clams in Port Graham district. This topic was scheduled for the November 2007 meeting.

ACR NO. 13 **ACTION: No action**
DESCRIPTION: Modify fishing in the Outer Port Heiden Section to address subsistence needs.
DISCUSSION: The board took no action base on action taken on ACR 23.

ACR NO. 14 **ACTION: Failed**
DESCRIPTION: Increase allowable set gillnet length for Naknek River Special Harvest Area.
DISCUSSION: The board agreed the proposal has merit, but should be taken up in cycle because its implications are highly allocative.

ACR NO. 15 **ACTION: Accepted**
DESCRIPTION: Update definitions to include Dark Rockfish (*S. ciliatus*).
DISCUSSION: Because of recent revisions to dusky rockfish classification, the new species needs to have defined management criteria. The board concluded this ACR meets criterion three. This topic was scheduled for the March 2008 meeting.

ACR NO. 16 **ACTION: Accepted**
DESCRIPTION: Clarify western boundary of Ugashik District.
DISCUSSION: The board agreed there was an error made in boundaries of the district when it adopted the last regulation. This topic was scheduled for the March 2008 meeting.

ACR NO. 17 **ACTION: Failed**
DESCRIPTION: Modify ratio of openings for set gillnet and drift gillnet in Naknek-Kvichak District.
DISCUSSION: The board found this ACR does not meet the criteria. The intent of the regulation was to get away from exact percentages because they are impossible to attain. The board's intent was to give the managers the tools they need to manage the fishery as intended.

ACR NO. 18 **ACTION: No action**
DESCRIPTION: Reinstate original comprehensive allocation plan for the Naknek River Special Harvest Area.
DISCUSSION: The board took no action base on action taken on ACR 7.

ACR NO. 19 **ACTION: No action**
DESCRIPTION: Modify fishing in the Outer Port Heiden Section to increase passage of Bristol Bay stocks.
DISCUSSION: The board took no action base on action taken on ACR 23.

ACR NO. 20 **ACTION: No action**
DESCRIPTION: Close fishing in the Outer Port Heiden Section to increase passage of Bristol Bay stocks.
DISCUSSION: The board took no action base on action taken on ACR 23.

ACR NO. 21 **ACTION: Failed**
DESCRIPTION: Reinstate 100,000 sockeye salmon cap and maximum 24 hour fishing restriction in the North Peninsula.

DISCUSSION: The board found this does not meet criteria for ACRs because it is highly allocative; furthermore the department has authority to close the fishery if needed for conservation purposes.

ACR NO. 22**ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Revise management plan for Southeastern District Mainland.

DISCUSSION: The board agreed this does not meet criteria for ACR. The department has authority to manage the fishery. This action was found by the board to be allocative.

ACR NO. 23**ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Modify fishing in the Outer Port Heiden Section to address subsistence needs.

DISCUSSION: The board concluded problems in meeting subsistence needs were more from a lack of fishing effort than from lack of opportunity. The intent of the regulation as adopted in February 2007 was achieved according to the board.

ACR NO. 24**ACTION: Accepted**

DESCRIPTION: Have state halibut regulations mirror federal regulations for consistency with the North Pacific Halibut Act and international treaty.

DISCUSSION: State regulations are presently inconsistent with federal regulations which cause enforcement confusion and confusion among anglers. The board agreed this ACR would correct an error in regulation. This topic was scheduled for the November 2007 meeting.

ACR NO. 25**ACTION: Accepted**

DESCRIPTION: Allow use of proxies for subsistence, sport, and personal use shellfish fisheries.

DISCUSSION: The board noted that finfish regulations allow proxies. It wants to have a uniform policy with both finfish and shellfish regulations. Criterion three was met, which was an unforeseen effect of a regulation. This topic was scheduled for the November 2007 meeting.

Board generated proposals

The board also considered other topics and acted to develop board generated proposals on the following topics:

- Modify Pollock trip limits for vessels in a 24-hour period. (*scheduled for November 2007 meeting*)
- Amend or repeal the Adak state-waters walleye Pollock fishery. (*scheduled for November 2007 meeting*)
- Reduce maximum vessel size to 60 feet for all permitted gear types in the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery. (*scheduled for November 2007 meeting*)
- Provide for a pot-gear reopening of the A season fishery and in the B season in the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery. (*scheduled for November 2007 meeting*)
- Increase the size of tunnel openings for groundfish pots used in the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery. (*scheduled for November 2007 meeting*)

- Modify vessel length definition to exclude bulbous bow in vessel length calculation statewide. (*scheduled for November 2007 meeting*)
- Modify seabird avoidance measures (*scheduled for March 2008 meeting*)

Other actions

The board elected officers: Mel Morris (chairman), John Jensen (vice chairman).

A proposal seeking a Holitna Basin Fisheries Reserve which was deferred from February 2007 (#157) was tabled to board's Habitat Committee for further review.

The board selected Vince Webster as the Board of Fisheries representative on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Bering Sea Salmon Bycatch Workgroup.

The board established a committee of Larry Edfelt and John Jensen to work with staff and public to develop recommendations on eco-tourism fishing.

The board scheduled board hearings on Upper Cook Inlet finfish proposals in Wasilla and Soldotna on January 30, 2008 just prior to the February 1-12, 2008 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting in Anchorage.

The board set limits on accepting written public comment at 100 printed pages per individual or group relating to proposals at any one meeting prior to the two-week comment deadline before meetings and 10 printed pages per individual or group after the two-week written comment deadline.

Meeting dates and locations for 2008/2009 meeting cycle

The board set meeting dates and locations for the 2008/2009 meeting cycle as follows:

- Work Session (Agenda Change Requests, cycle organization, Stocks of Concern): October 8-10, 2008 in Anchorage
- Prince William Sound and Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Finfish and Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, Misc. Shellfish: December 1-6, 2008 in Valdez
- Southeast and Yakutat Crab, Shrimp, Misc. Shellfish (including Dungeness, King, and Tanner): January 18-27, 2009 in Petersburg
- Southeast and Yakutat Finfish (including salmon, herring, groundfish): February 17-26, 2009 in Sitka
- Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, Misc. Shellfish (except Southeast, Yakutat, and PWS) and Supplemental Issues: March 16-20, 2009 in Anchorage
- Proposal Deadline for cycle: 5:00 p.m. April 10, 2008
- Agenda Change Request Deadline for cycle: 5:00 p.m. August 22, 2008