

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
Prince William Sound and Copper River Finfish/Shellfish,
and Supplemental Issues
December 1-7, 2008 Cordova, Alaska

PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

COMMITTEE A: PWS AND COPPER RIVER SUBSISTENCE AND PERSONAL USE

Subsistence

- NA 1 Reclassify Chitina Subdistrict as a subsistence fishery. *Failed to find significant new information or error in 2003 finding.*
- C/A 2 C&T determination for freshwater fish in Upper Copper/Susitna. *Positive C&T finding; ANS of 25,000 - 42,000 useable pounds of non-salmon fish.*
- C 3 Open Crosswind Lake to subsistence fishing.
- NA 4 Restrict subsistence king salmon fishery in Copper River District.
- C 5 Marking requirements for subsistence drift gillnet gear.
- C/A 6 Modify marking of subsistence-taken fish in Copper River District. *Positive C&T finding for portions of PWS; ANS of 115-200 salmon.*
- C 7 Clarify legal subsistence gear for Prince William Sound.
- F 8 Open subsistence season May 1 in Copper River District.
- NA 9 Open subsistence season May 10 in Copper River District. *Due to Proposal 8.*
- C 10 Amend subsistence fishing seasons in PWS and Copper River districts.
- C 11 Eliminate restrictions on subsistence permit issuance in PWS.
- C 12 Reformat regulations on fish wheel specifications.
- NA 13 Increase distance between fish wheels from 75 to 300 feet.
- F 14 Prohibit dipnetting within 30 feet of a fish wheel.
- C 15 Reformat regulations for subsistence annual possession limits.
- F 16 Modify annual limits in the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery.
- NA 17 Modify annual limits in the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery. *Due to Proposal 16.*
- F 18 Amend Copper River Management Plan to include harvest monitoring.
- NA 19 Require daily harvest reporting in Glennallen Subdistrict fishery. *Due to Proposal 18.*
- NA 20 Require harvest reports within 48 hours in Glennallen Subdistrict. *Due to Proposal 18.*
- C 21 Allow retention of rockfish and lingcod taken in subsistence fisheries.

Personal Use

- F 22 Increase annual limit of personal use sockeye salmon.
- F 23 Change time period for setting supplemental periods.
- F 24 Restrict supplemental permits if commercial fishery closes.
- F 25 Increase PU king salmon limit and modify recording requirement.
- NA 26 Require reporting by transporters in personal use fishery. *Due to Proposal 18.*
- F 27 Extend Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery boundary.

COMMITTEE B: PWS GROUND FISH, HERRING, AND SHELLFISH**PWS Herring**

- C 28 Clarify fishing season and periods for herring bait fishery in PWS.

PWS Groundfish

- NA 29 Expand Prince William Sound sablefish season area to four months. *Due to Proposal 30.*
- C 30 Modify Prince William Sound sablefish season dates.
- C 31 Remove commissioner's permit requirement (sablefish) from regulation.
- C/A 32 Retention of lingcod in Prince William Sound groundfish fisheries. *Allowed directed fishery July 1-Dec. 31 and addressed bycatch.*
- NA 33 Retention of lingcod in drift gillnet salmon fishery. *Due to Proposal 32.*
- NA 34 Manage by emergency order in the Pacific cod fishery. *Due to Proposal 37.*
- NA 35 Modify opening of Pacific cod fishery. *Due to Proposal 37.*
- C/A 36 Allow retention of Pacific cod. *Specified longline gear use.*
- C/A 37 Allow retention of Pacific cod in halibut and blackcod fisheries. *Specified bycatch allowances.*
- C/A 38 Expand outside district to harvest of Pacific cod. *Established specific boundaries.*
- C 39 Allow fishing for Pacific cod in state waters near Cordova.
- C 40 Remove commissioner's permit requirement (Pollock) from regulation. *Identified basis for written finding in reference to observers.*
- F 41 Establish Area E commercial skate fishery.
- F 42 Allow retention of spiny dogfish in longline fishery.
- C/A 43 Delete portions of groundfish guiding principles. *Added Prince William Sound to list of exempt areas.*

PWS Shellfish

- T/A 44 Establish a commercial shrimp pot fishery management plan. *Amended by the substitution of a draft management plan specifying a GHL of 40% of allowable harvest. Tabled to March 2009 for additional public comment.*
- NA 45 Open commercial pot shrimp fishery. *Due to Proposal 44.*
- NA 46 Open commercial spot shrimp fishery in Prince William Sound. *Due to Proposal 44.*
- C 47 Remove permit requirement (shrimp trawl) from regulation. *Identified basis for written finding in reference to observers.*
- NA 48 Set spot shrimp guideline harvest level at or near mid 1980s level. *Due to Proposal 44.*
- T 49 Exclusive registration for sport or commercial spot shrimp fishery. *Tabled to March 2009 for additional public comment.*
- C 50 Modify Central and Northwest section boundary in shrimp fishery.
- NA 51 Allow sport and commercial seasons for shrimp to run concurrently. *Due to Proposal 44.*
- NA 52 Limit sport spot shrimp area during commercial openers. *Due to Proposal 44.*
- F 53 Open non-commercial spot shrimp fisheries open through Dec 31.
- NA 54 Reduce sport spot shrimp fishery to May 15- Sept 1. *Due to Proposal 44.*
- NA 55 Reduce sport shrimp season for commercial fishery. *Due to Proposal 44.*
- NA 56 Require registration and permitting for sport shrimp fishery.
- NA 57 Open subsistence fishing for all crab species year-round.

COMMITTEE C: PWS COMMERCIAL SALMON**Fishing Districts**

- C 58 Correct error in description of Coghill District.
- C 59 Clarify western boundary of Granite Bay Subdistrict.
- C/A 60 Modify boundaries in Eastern and Southeastern districts. *Specific boundaries established.*
- F 61 Open east side of Hinchinbrook and Montague Island to drift gillnet.

Main Bay Salmon Hatchery Harvest Management Plan

- F 62 Require removal of set gillnet anchor buoys at inactive sites.
- NA 63 Remove set gillnet buoys and running lines when not in use.
- F 64 Increase distance between set gillnets in portion of Eshamy District.
- F 65 Modify gear separation for Main Bay and Crafton Island subdistricts.

- NA 66 Modify drift gillnet use near set gillnets in Main Bay Subdistrict.
- C 67 Clarify alternating periods and gear use in Main Bay Subdistrict.
- F 68 Alternate drift and set gillnet gear use in Eshamy District.

PWS Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan

- F 69 Open seine areas to provide June harvest opportunity.
- NA 70 Modify allocation to purse seine and drift gillnet fleets.
- F 71 Allow purse seines in Coghill District and Port Wells prior to July 21.
- NA 72 Allow purse seines in Coghill District and Port Wells prior to July 21. *Due to Proposal 71.*
- NA 73 Open Coghill District to purse seine harvest of sockeye *Due to Proposal 71.*
- NA 74 Remove start date for seine gear in Coghill District. *Due to Proposal 71.*
- F 75 Actively manage set gillnet harvest to achieve 4% allocation.
- F 76 Alternate drift gillnet and purse seine in Prince William Sound.
- NA 77 Set ending date for pink salmon management in the Coghill District.
- F 78 Change allocation percentage that triggers set gillnet restrictions.
- NA 79 Change allocation percentage that triggers set gillnet restrictions. *Due to Proposal 78.*
- NA 80 Restrict set gillnetting to 36 hours per week.
- NA 81 Reduce hatchery chum salmon production.

Fishing Gear and Vessels

- T 82 Allow use of two set gillnet permits in Eshamy District. *Tabled to Board's Restructuring Committee.*
- F 83 Increase allowable purse seine length to 225 fathoms.
- F 84 Modify gear specifications for purse seine leads.
- C/A 85 Delete 200 mesh minimum depth for purse seines. *Specified only first five fathoms in length from one end may be less than 200 meshes.*
- F 86 Allow salmon seine vessel greater than 58 feet in length. *(This proposal was split between Prince William Sound and Southeast. Only the Prince William Sound portion failed.)*

COMMITTEE D: PWS AND COPPER RIVER SPORT

Prince William Sound

- C 87 Change boundary between Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay and PWS.

- C 88 Add regulation for Johnstone Bay freshwater sport fishery.
- T 89 Clarify definition of "spear" in saltwater. *Tabled to next Statewide Finfish meeting, approximately March 2010.*
- F 90 Allow gaffing lingcod in the mouth.
- F 91 Reduce bag and possession limit for salmon shark.
- C 92 Lower sport fish rockfish bag limits.
- C 93 Lower rockfish bag limit in the subsistence fishery.
- NA 94 Limit number of lines fished on charter vessels.
- F 95 Redefine sport fishing gear for finfish in PWS.
- C 96 Allow use of sport caught pink and chum salmon for bait in PWS.
- NA 97 Allow use of sport caught pink and chum salmon for bait in PWS. *Due to Proposal 96.*
- C 98 Modify Whittier terminal harvest area to reduce wild salmon harvests.
- NA 99 Reduce area open to coho salmon fishing in Passage Canal.
- F 100 Close a portion of Ibeck Creek to sport fishing.
- F 101 Close a portion of 18-Mile Creek to sport fishing for coho salmon.
- F 102 Close waters along Copper River Highway to fishing for coho salmon.
- NA 103 Close all salmon spawning areas to sport fishing.

Copper River Salmon

- C 104 Close king salmon fishing on Lakina R., Slana R., and Sinona Creek.
- C 105 Expand existing areas closed to king salmon fishing in Copper River.
- NA 106 Close Ahtell Creek to king salmon fishing.
- C/A 107 Extend king salmon season on the Copper River to August 10. *Modified seasons, bag, possession, and size limits.*
- NA 108 Extend king salmon season on the Klutina River to August 10. *Due to Proposal 107.*
- NA 109 Extend king salmon season on the Tonsina River to August 10. *Due to Proposal 107.*
- F 110 Allow retention of unintentionally hooked sockeye salmon.
- C/A 111 Prohibit removal from water any salmon not retained. *Required retention and counting towards bag limit if removed from water.*
- F 112 Include any salmon landed or released against daily bag limit.
- F 113 Close Klutina and Gulkana rivers to power boat use 2 days/week.

Resident Species

- NA 114 Restrict hatchery and stocking programs.
- C/A 115 Update stocked waters list for the Upper Copper/Upper Susitna area.
Added Kathleen Lake and Tolsona Lake.
- C 116 Remove rainbow trout/steelhead regulations for Tolsona Lake.
- C 117 Repeal the Lake Burbot Management Plan.

COMMITTEE E: COPPER RIVER COMMERCIAL SALMON**Retention of Fish Taken in a Commercial Fishery/Subsistence Participation**

- F 118 Restrict commercial activity by participants of subsistence fisheries.
- F 119 Prohibit homepack of king salmon in Copper River District.
- C 120 Repeal reporting of king salmon taken but not sold.

Fishing Gear

- F 121 Prohibit use of dipnets and gaffs in commercial fishery.
- C 122 Specify buoy marking requirement for commercial drift gillnet gear.

Closed Waters

- C/A 123 Update and clarify coordinates defining Inside Closure. *Specific waters identified.*
- F 124 Open east side of Kayak Island to drift gillnetting.
- NA 125 Expand fishing area in Bering River District.

Copper River Management Plans

- NA 126 Modify inriver escapement goals for Copper River.
- C 127 Repeal reference to inriver goal.
- F 128 Delay commercial fishing until 5,000 fish pass Miles Lake sonar.
- NA 129 Increase sustainable escapement goal for Copper River king salmon.
- F 130 Allow one fishing period in statistical weeks 20 and 21.
- F 131 Restrict fishing within inside closure area of Copper River.
- F 132 Eliminate restrictions within inside closure area of Copper River.

COMMITTEE F: SUPPLEMENTAL PROPOSALS

- T 369 Clarify regulations on non-pelagic trawl closure in the Bristol Bay Area.
Tabled to December 31, 2008 for final action.

- T/A **370** Add two areas for closure to non-pelagic trawl gear to compliment the recent essential fish habitat closures by the federal government in the Bering Sea. *Amended to add St. Lawrence Island Habitat Conservation Area, the Northern Bering Sea Research Area, and the Nunivak Island, Etolin Strait and Kuskokwim Bay Habitat Conservation Area. Tabled to December 31, 2008 for final action.*
- T **371** Provide a uniform vessel size limit of 60 feet in the Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery. *Tabled to December 31, 2008 for final action.*
- T **372** Reduce daily catch limit to 75,000 pounds for the Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery. *Tabled to December 31, 2008 for final action.*
- T/A **373** Limit longline vessel to 55 feet in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands management area Pacific cod fishery. *Amended to a 58 foot limit and tabled to December 31, 2008 for final action.*
- T/A **374** Amend the management plan to allow the commissioner to require additional reporting requirements during the parallel fishery statewide. *Amended to specify reference to federal regulation as revised October 16, 2008. Tabled to December 31, 2008 for final action.*
- T/A **375** Require that all groundfish taken in a commercial fishery to be reported on a fish ticket statewide. *Amended to add specific reporting requirements. Tabled to March 2009.*

Other actions

The board rescheduled Proposal 379 to the next Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting, approximately February 2011. This proposal addresses the Upper Cook Inlet Central District drift gillnet fishery management plan. It was previously scheduled for the March 2009 meeting. The rescheduling was done to allow for a more thorough public review and comment by addressing this issue in cycle.

The Board of Fisheries revisited the topic of the December 1-8, 2009 Bristol Bay Finfish meeting location and decided to keep the meeting in Anchorage as scheduled. The board was aware that many stakeholders reside in Bristol Bay area communities but it also noted that many others live outside of the Bay. It reviewed CFEC permit data on residency as part of its analysis. It also reviewed the many letters received on both sides of the issue. The board looked at the pattern of meeting locations back to 1990. Based on that analysis, it reaffirmed its conclusion that Anchorage was the most appropriate location for the 2009/2010 cycle and that Naknek or King Salmon would be appropriate for the subsequent 2012/2013 Bristol Bay cycle. (The December 2006 meeting was in Dillingham.) The board decided to hold a hearing in the Bristol Bay region prior to the December 2009 board meeting to either focus specifically on the "restructuring" proposals or cover all the proposals listed for the December 2009 meeting. The board also expressed concern about the overall confusion to the public when meetings are scheduled then later changed.