

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
DECEMBER 8–11, 2013
LOWER COOK INLET FINFISH**

PROPOSAL 46 - 5 AAC 58.0XX. New Section. Allow party fishing in Cook Inlet saltwater sport fisheries, as follows:

Allow party fishing for all species in the Cook Inlet Saltwater Fisheries.

ISSUE: Party fishing/boat limit is currently illegal. The daily limit applies to the angler who sets the hook, small children, disabled anglers, women and sea sick anglers sometimes need or want help to hook a fish but then it is not legal for them to keep it as their limit since they did not set the hook. This results in many fathers, mothers, husbands and other anglers being issued tickets for exceeding the individual personal bag limit. If this happens on a guide vessel the guide then is also ticketed for assisting an angler in exceeding a daily bag limit. There is also a bias in enforcement of this rule as it is impossible to enforce on private boats, and only enforced on charter boats with undercover cops.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued criminalization of honest anglers, and families fishing together, and sea sick anglers.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Small children, families, seasick anglers and charter boat captains.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? State of Alaska will receive less revenue from fines.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Housh (HQ-F13-215)

PROPOSAL 47 - 5 AAC 56.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area; 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 59.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area; 5 AAC 60.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area; 5 AAC 61.110. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Susitna River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 62.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area. Prohibit use of barbed hooks while sport fishing for salmon in Cook Inlet fresh waters. *(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)*

In the freshwater systems of Cook Inlet, only barbless hooks are legal for salmon fishing.

ISSUE: There are 650,000 salmon (a huge number) that are caught and released every year in Cook Inlet, resulting in over a 150,000 salmon mortality. Salmon are a valuable food and economic renewable resource that are highly valued as such, and should not be reduced to a resource that is allowed to be played with and then wasted for the sole purpose of recreation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? High numbers of salmon, equating into millions of pounds of food and millions of dollars into the economies, will continue to be wasted.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Fresher salmon will be harvested and less fish will be caught with snag gashes in their flesh. More salmon will be available to the angler for food in their freezer instead of being a salmon mortality floating out to sea.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The resource and users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those anglers who put their recreational wants above the salmon waste that result from catch and release mortality.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F13-339)

PROPOSAL 48 - 5 AAC 56.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 57.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 58.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 59.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 60.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 61.XXX. New Section; and 5 AAC 62.XXX. New Section. Designate all waters where catch-and-release fishing occurs on salmon as single, unbaited, barbless-hook waters. *(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)*

All salmon fishing where catch and release is a management option or practice, shall be designated as single, unbaited, barbless hook waters as per 5 AAC 75.023.

ISSUE: This proposal seeks to reduce the amount of mortality due to catch and release practices in Cook Inlet.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Over five hundred thousand salmon will be caught and released, many of these fish will not spawn successfully.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Increases the “sport” aspect of fishing, improves the quality of the experience while reducing the millions of pounds of wasted salmon. The following table summarizes the numbers of salmon released annually. These numbers do not include personal use salmon that are released annually. Most catch and release mortality rates often are measured

within the first 24 hours. The real question is “how does catch and release mortality affect spawning success rates?” Most reported hook & release mortality rates do not include kings that are hooked/released and washout of the Kenai River, only to end up in a gillnet. These washouts are accounted to the gillnet harvest and not in the 24 hour catch and release mortality rates.

As can be seen in the included table, during the 1996 through 2009 sport fishing years, there were, on average, 645,646 salmon caught and released in Upper Cook Inlet. The mortality, incomplete spawning or total spawning failure associated with the hooking, playing, landing and release of these 645,646 fish annually amounts to millions of pounds of salmon that could have been harvested for human consumption. Considering the level of the allocation struggles in Upper Cook Inlet, it is appropriate to stop or severely reduce these catch and release numbers.

The 2010, 2011 and 2012 catch and release fish numbers will be made available as an RC at the 2014 Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fish meeting, providing ADF&G release updated catch and release numbers. When the harvest(s) and the catch and release numbers are added together with the coho numbers, the sport numbers become significant. Alaska Department of Fish and Game does not subtract the catch and release losses from the escapement(s). This often would result in lowering all “true” net escapement numbers, often below the minimum escapements required.

Table 1. Total number of salmon released in Upper Cook Inlet Responses with catch							
Year	King	Coho	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Total	
1996	15,036	87,006	34,679	154,545	156,626	51,349	484,205
1997	13,368	103,169	64,169	154,443	53,923	36,994	412,698
1998	13,095	70,756	79,991	121,677	217,973	53,121	543,518
1999	13,578	115,015	82,405	173,944	52,498	50,128	473,990
2000	17,608	109,704	153,609	184,033	449,681	76,155	973,182
2001	14,407	102,065	139,320	146,903	108,408	66,663	563,359
2002	13,901	89,887	176,167	220,652	287,010	99,339	873,055
2003	13,502	129,641	118,725	261,515	85,511	84,455	679,847
2004	12,595	99,454	167,114	229,592	280,311	63,298	839,769
2005	12,041	121,662	117,485	251,886	81,842	43,900	616,775
2006	12,104	99,905	133,834	220,149	275,577	50,936	780,401
2007	11,565	96,116	84,676	217,548	120,073	34,109	552,522
2008	11,521	61,537	101,113	180,593	279,875	41,482	664,600
2009	10,970	52,123	91,902	188,791	211,138	37,162	581,116
1996-2009							
Average	95,574	110,371	193,305	190,032	56,364		645,646

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Salmon populations

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some fishermen

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 49 - 5 AAC 56.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 57.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 58.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 59.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 60.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 61.XXX. New Section; and 5 AAC 62.XXX. New Section. Establish criteria to designate waters in Cook Inlet as single, unbaited, barbless hooks waters. *(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)*

5 AAC 75.023. Gear for single-hook waters.

(a) In waters designated as single, **barbless**-hook, waters, sport fishing is permitted only as follows:

(1) with **no** more than one single, **unbaited, barbless circle-hook** with gap between point and shank one-half inch or less;

(2) hooks or lures (including those of standard manufacture) may not have additional weight attached to them; weights may be used only ahead of the hook or lure.

(b) Multiple hooks are prohibited in waters designated as single **barbless** hook waters. (In effect before 1984; a.m. 4/28/84, Register 90).

ISSUE: This proposal seeks to reduce the hooking mortalities on released salmon.

Table 1. Total number of salmon released in Upper Cook Inlet							
Year	Responses with catch	King	Coho	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Total
1996	15,036	87,006	34,679	154,545	156,626	51,349	484,205
1997	13,368	103,169	64,169	154,443	53,923	36,994	412,698
1998	13,095	70,756	79,991	121,677	217,973	53,121	543,518
1999	13,578	115,015	82,405	173,944	52,498	50,128	473,990
2000	17,608	109,704	153,609	184,033	449,681	76,155	973,182
2001	14,407	102,065	139,320	146,903	108,408	66,663	563,359
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2008	11,521	61,537	101,113	180,593	279,875	41,482	664,600
2009	10,970	52,123	91,902	188,791	211,138	37,162	581,116
1996–2009 Average		95,574	110,371	193,305	190,032	56,364	645,646

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hundreds of thousands of hooked and released fish (645, 646 annual average from 1996–2009) will continue to die or fail to spawn. Use of single, unbaited, barbless hooks will facilitate removal of the hook from fish.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? If hook and release fishing is going to be used as a

management strategy, then a single, unbaited, barbless hook must be used to enable the safe release of salmon. The mortality associated with baited hook(s), treble hooks and large hooks of any type increases salmon mortalities and lowers spawning success. Most hook and release mortality studies report the mortality rate within the first 24 hours of after release, 6%–7% –8%. The real question and statistic is “how did hook and releasing affect spawning success?” On coho salmon in the Mat-Su, 70% of the hooked and released coho died without spawning.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Salmon that otherwise would have spawned.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Hook and keep every salmon, no hook and release fishing.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (HQ-F13-107)

PROPOSAL 50 - 5 AAC 56.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 57.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 59.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 60.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 61.XXX. New Section; and 5 AAC 62.XXX. New Section. Prohibit catch-and-release fishing for coho salmon in all Cook Inlet fresh waters. (*This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.*)

No catch and release fishing for coho salmon in the fresh water streams of the Cook Inlet Drainages.

ISSUE: Catch and release mortality on coho salmon is 69% in the lower 15 to 20 miles of fresh water systems.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Wanton waste of 69% of coho, which is a tragic waste of a valuable nutritious food. Also many small coho systems will be jeopardized from getting their spawning goals even after other users sacrificed to get cohos into the system. Future coho returns, especially in small coho systems, will continue to be jeopardized.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The coho harvested will be of quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The resource, future coho returns and the users depending on the salmon resources for recreation and a living.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those anglers that only consider their enjoyment of catch and releasing coho with no consideration to the detrimental effects their fishing practice is causing.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None. A catch and release mortality of 69% is immoral, if not criminal.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F13-340)

PROPOSAL 51 - 5 AAC 58.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish. Prohibit catch-and-release fishing for coho salmon in the Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area, as follows:

There will be no catch and release fishing for coho salmon. Any coho salmon caught and brought to hand must be retained and becomes part of the anglers bag and possession limit.

ISSUE: The excessive catch and release mortality of coho salmon which is nearly 70 percent.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Legalized wanton waste will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Barbless hooks for catch and release but don't know the effect of those hooks.

PROPOSED BY: Brandie Ware (HQ-F13-048)

PROPOSAL 52 - 5 AAC 56.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 57.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 59.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 60.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 61.XXX. New Section; and 5 AAC 62.XXX. New Section. Prohibit catch-and-release fishing for salmon in all Cook Inlet fresh waters. (*This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.*)

In the Cook Inlet drainage there are no catch and release salmon fisheries in fresh waters. An angler must keep all salmon landed up to the regulated bag limit for that species.

ISSUE: Reduce the waste of salmon that is caused by the large number of salmon that are caught and released as documented from the high mortalities in the catch and release salmon fisheries.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? ADF&G reports show there is an average of 650,000 salmon caught and released in the Cook Inlet sports fishery every year. Catch and release results in hundreds of thousands of salmon wasted each year from either becoming a valuable food source or a spawner for producing future returns. Coho are extremely susceptible. The 1993 ADF&G report on the "Mortality of coho salmon caught and released using sport

tackle in the Little Susitna, Alaska – ADF&G documented a 69% mortality on coho salmon in the lower (10 to 15 miles) of fresh water systems. This lower section is where the majority of catch and release occurs. This lower section of fresh water systems is the highest for mortality because of the stress caused by hook and release when salmon are the most susceptible because of chemical changes the body is undergoing to acclimate to fresh water.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Salmon harvested in the lower section of fresh water systems are of higher quality than salmon harvested further upstream as dictated by the amount of time the salmon has been in fresh water.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The resource and people. People will be able to access crowded areas because anglers will not be taking up space hook and release fishing. The small salmon systems will be more assured of meeting their spawning escapement goals. The State of Alaska will have a positive image for respecting a valuable food source by eliminating this practice of playing with salmon for entertainment that results in high mortality which is nothing more than blatant wanton waste.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those anglers who like catch and release for their enjoyment or profit and have little regard for wanton waste.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Just prohibiting catch and release fishing in the lower 15 miles of fresh water systems, but that would still promote wanton waste and be hard to enforce.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F13-337)

PROPOSAL 53 - 5 AAC 56.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Prohibit anglers who are releasing a fish from removing the head of a fish out of the water. *(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)*

All sport fish caught and released in the fresh waters of the Kenai Peninsula must be handled such that the head is not removed from the water.

ISSUE: Salmon, trout, or other sport fish caught in fresh waters of the Kenai Peninsula, but intended to be released, should not be taken out of the water.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The mortality rates for fish kept out of water for any length of time, before being released, will continue to be higher than what is generally expected.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This regulation would increase the numbers of sport fish in our fresh waters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All who are concerned with increased mortality rates with poor fish release practices.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? All who want to get that perfect picture of a fish completely out of the water.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F13-383)

PROPOSAL 54 - 5 AAC 56.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 57.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 59.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 60.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 61.XXX. New Section; and 5 AAC 62.XXX. New Section. Prohibit sport fishing in major spawning areas where spawning fish are present in Cook Inlet salmon waters. *(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)*

Sport fishing in major spawning areas, as defined by the department, is prohibited when spawning fish are present.

ISSUE: Fish being caught and harassed in their spawning beds.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fish hooked and released while protecting their eggs die before they spawn. Fish caught and removed before they spawn can deplete the run, or if only large ones are removed the size of fish will eventually become smaller.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. If the largest fish are continually harvested, then only smaller ones will return.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Spawning salmon and therefore the people of Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who fish in spawning beds and sort through their catch or just catch and release fish for fun.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? End hook and release so fish can spawn.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F13-332)

PROPOSAL 55 - 5 AAC 56.124. Harvest record required; annual limits for the Kenai Peninsula Area; 5 AAC 57.124. Harvest record required; annual limits for the Kenai River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 58.024. Harvest record required; annual limits; 5 AAC 59.124. Harvest record required; annual limits for the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area; 5 AAC 60.124. Harvest record required; annual limits for the Knik Arm Drainages Area; 5 AAC

61.124. Harvest record required; annual limits for the Susitna River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 62.124. Harvest record required; annual limits for the West Cook Inlet Area. Decrease Cook Inlet king salmon annual limit to two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, of which only one can be from the Kenai River. *(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)*

5 AAC 58.024. Harvest Record Required; annual limits.

(a) Except as otherwise specified in 5 AAC 58.022(b) for specific areas, the following provisions regarding harvest records and annual limits apply to taking king salmon 20 inches or greater in length in the Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area:

(1) a nontransferable harvest record is required and must be in the possession of each person taking king salmon 20 inches or greater in length; for a licensed angler, a harvest record appears on the back of the angler's sport fishing license; for an angler not required to have a sport fishing license, a harvest record may be obtained, without charge, from department offices and fishing license vendors in the Cook Inlet area;

(2) immediately upon landing a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, the angler shall enter the date, location (water body), and species of the catch, in ink, on the harvest record;

(3) nothing in this section affects or modifies a bag or possession limit specified in this chapter, the annual limit for the combined waters described in this subsection and in 5 AAC 56.124, 5 AAC 57.124, 5 AAC 59.124, 5 AAC 60.124, 5 AAC 61.124, and 5 AAC 62.124 **is two** [FIVE] king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, not more than **one** [TWO] of which may be taken from that portion of the Kenai River drainage open to king salmon fishing, and not more than two of which may be taken in combination, from Deep Creek and the Anchor River, except that from January 1 through June 30, [A KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES IN LENGTH TAKEN FROM THE KENAI RIVER DOES NOT COUNT TOWARDS THE ANNUAL LIMIT].

(b) A person obtaining a duplicate sport fishing license or duplicate harvest record shall record on that form all the information required under (a)(2) of this section for all king salmon previously landed during that year that were subject to the harvest record reporting requirements of this section and 5 AAC 56.124, 5 AAC 57.124, 5 AAC 59.124, 5 AAC 60.124, 5 AAC 61.124, and 5 AAC 62.124.

ISSUE: Too few kings returning to Cook Inlet, by having some anglers fill their needs before the summer and from stock other than Cook Inlet should help all those involved.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The problems with too much effort for weak runs will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Resource hogs.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Problem is too liberal a sport fishery for weak king stocks.

PROPOSED BY: Mary J. Adami

(HQ-F13-222)

PROPOSAL 56 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Decrease the Cook Inlet saltwater king salmon bag and possession limit to one king salmon and reduce the annual limit to two king salmon. *(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)*

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

(a) Except as provided in (b) of this section, the following are the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and special provisions for finfish and shellfish in the Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

(1) king salmon: may be taken from January 1–December 31; bag and possession limit of **one** [TWO] fish; no size limit; an annual harvest limit of **two** [FIVE] king salmon 20 inches or greater in length; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 58.024; a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length that is removed from the water shall be retained and becomes a part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking it; a person may not **remove any portion of** a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(2) salmon, other than king salmon: may be taken from January 1–December 31; bag and possession limit of six fish, of which only three per day and in possession may be coho salmon; no size limit;

(3) rainbow/steelhead trout: no open season; may not be retained or possessed; all rainbow/steelhead trout caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a rainbow/steelhead trout from the water;

(4) Arctic char/Dolly Varden: may be taken from January 1–December 31; bag and possession limit of five fish; no size limit;

(5) halibut: may be taken only from February 1–December 31; bag limit of two fish; possession limit of four fish; no size limit;

(6) rockfish: may be taken from January 1–December 31; bag limit of five fish and 10 in possession, of which only one per day and two in possession may be non-pelagic rockfish as defined in 5 AAC 75.995; no size limit;

(7) lingcod: maybe be taken only from July 1–December 31; bag and possession limit of two fish; minimum size is 35 inches in length with the head attached or, if the head is removed, 28 inches in length from the front of the dorsal fin to the top of the tail;

(8) shark (all species of the orders Lamniformes, Squaliformes, or Carcharhiniformes): may be taken from January 1–December 31; bag and possession limit of one fish; annual harvest limit of two fish; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.012;

(9) king crab: no open season; may not be retained or possessed;

(10) Dungeness crab: no open season; may not be retained or possessed;

(11) Tanner crab: may be taken only form July 15–March 15, except that the waters east of Cape Fairfield are closed and when the sport fishery in the Kamishak District or Barren

Islands District is closed to the taking of Tanner crab, the sport fishery in the Eastern, Outer, and Central Districts shall remain closed as specified under 5 AAC 35.410(c); bag and possession limit of five male crab; minimum size is five and one-half inches across the widest part of the shell, including spines, a shellfish harvest recording form is required as specified in 5 AAC 58.026;

(12) littleneck clams and butter clams: may be taken from January 1–December 31; with a combined bag and possession limit of 80 clams; minimum size for littleneck clams is one and one-half inches in length across the widest part of the shell; minimum size for butter clams is two and one-half inches in length across the widest part of the shell;

(13) repealed 7/13/2012;

(14) razor clams: may be taken from January 1–December 31 as follows:

(A) from the mouth of the Kenai River to the southernmost tip of the Homer Spit: the bag limit is the first 60 clams harvested, the possession limit is 120 clams;

(B) on the remaining beaches of the Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Area: no bag, possession, or size limits;

(15) shrimp: no open season; may not be retained or possessed:

(16) other finfish and shellfish not specified in this subsection: from January 1–December 31; no bag, possession, or size limits.

(b) The seasons, bag, possession, an size limits, and special provisions set out in this subsection are localized exceptions to those specified in (a) of this section for the Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area:

(1) in waters of Cook Inlet north of the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00'N. latitude):

(A) king salmon

(i) repealed 3/2/2011;

(ii) the salt waters within a one mile radius of the terminus of the Ninilchik River are closed to sport fishing for king salmon from January 1–June 30, except that sport fishing from shore is allowed on Memorial Day weekend and the following two weekends and the Monday following each of those weekends;

(iii) in the salt waters south of the latitude of the mouth of the Ninilchik River (60° 03.99'N. latitude) to the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00'N latitude) and within one mile of shore, a person may not, after taking a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, fish for any species of fish on that same day as specified in 5 AAC 58.055(e),

(B) Tanner crab: in Kachemak Bay, east of a line from Point Pogibshi to Anchor Point, the open season is from July 15–December 31 and from January 15 or the beginning of the commercial Tanner crab season, whichever is later, through March 15;

(C) the following waters, within one mile of shore, are closed to all sport fishing from April 1 through June 30, as specified in 5 AAC 58.055(d):

(i) south of the latitude of the Ninilchik River to the latitude of an ADF&G regulatory marker located two miles south of Deep Creek at 60° 00.68'N. latitude, except that sport fishing from shore is allowed on Memorial Day weekend and the following two weekends and the Monday following each of those weekends,

(ii) from the latitude of an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile north of Stariski Creek at 59° 54.37'N. latitude to the latitude of an ADF&G regulatory marker located one mile south of Stariski Creek at 59° 52.98'N. latitude;

(iii) from the latitude of an ADF&G regulatory marker located two miles north of the Anchor River at 59° 48.92'N. latitude to the latitude of an ADF&G

regulatory marker located two miles south of the Anchor River at 59° 45.92'N. latitude;

(2) in the waters of Cook Inlet south of the latitude of the Anchor Point Light at 59° 46.14'N. latitude, including all of Kachemak Bay, to the latitude of Cape Douglas at 58° 51.10'N latitude, and east to the longitude of Gore Point at 150° 57.85'W. longitude:

(A) king salmon: from October 1–March 31, king salmon do not need to be entered on a harvest record and do not count against the annual limit set out in (a)(1) of this section and 5 AAC 58.024;

(B) salmon, other than king salmon: in the waters from the Homer city dock near the entrance of the Homer Boat Harbor, including the entire Homer Boat Harbor, northwest along the east side of the Homer Spit to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 200 yards northwest of the entrance to the fishery enhancement lagoon on the Homer Spit, including the enhancement lagoon, and to a distance 300 feet from the shore, the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is six fish, of which six per day and in possession may be coho salmon;

(C) a person 16 years of age or older may not sport fish in the Homer Spit youth fishery zone, established by ADF&G regulatory markers to include a portion of the Homer Spit fishery enhancement lagoon, during designated youth fishery days, which occur on the first Saturday in June and the first and third Saturday in August;

(D) Tanner crab: in Kachemak Bay east of a line from Point Pogibshi to Anchor Point, the open season is from July 15–December 31 and from January 15 or the beginning of the commercial Tanner crab season, whichever is later, through March 15;

(E) in the waters of Tutka Bay Lagoon sport fishing is prohibited within 100 yards of the Tutka Bay Lagoon hatchery net pens;

(3) in waters east of the longitude of Gore Point (150° 57.85'W. longitude) to the longitude of Cape Fairfield (148° 50.25'W. longitude), and north of the latitude of Cape Douglas (58° 51.10'N. latitude);

(A) in the salt waters north of a line between Cape Resurrection and Aialik Cape (Resurrection Bay Terminal Harvest Area):

(i) king salmon: from May 1–August 31, the bag and possession limit is two fish; from September 1–April 30, the bag and possession limit is one fish; king salmon do not need to be entered on a harvest record and do not count against the annual limit set out in (a)(1) of this section and 5 AAC 58.024.

(ii) salmon, other than king salmon bag and possession limit is six fish, of which six per day and in possession may be coho salmon;

(iii) lingcod: no open season, may not be retained or possessed;

(B) in the salt waters south of a line between Cape Resurrection and Aialik Cape:

(i) king salmon: from January 1–December 31, the bag and possession limit is one fish; king salmon do not need to be entered on a harvest record and do not count against the annual limit set out in (a)(1) of this section and 5 AAC 58.024;

(ii) salmon, other than king salmon, bag and possession limit between Gore Point and Cape Fairfield is six fish, of which only three per day and in possession may be coho salmon.

ISSUE: Too few kings returning to Cook Inlet, by having some anglers fill their needs before the summer and from stocks other than Cook Inlet should help all those involved.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The problems with too much effort for weak runs will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Resource hogs.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Problem is too liberal a sport fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Mary J. Adami (HQ-F13-223)

PROPOSAL 57 - 5 AAC 56.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 57.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 58.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 59.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 60.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 61.XXX. New Section; and 5 AAC 62.XXX. New Section. Limit amount of sport-caught fish that may be exported to 100 pounds of fillets. *(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)*

One hundred pound exporting limit-filets.

ISSUE: Over limits and sales of sport caught fish.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continual waste and abuse.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? One hundred pounds is more than enough.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident Alaskans.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fed Ex, UPS.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: John McCombs (HQ-F13-375)

PROPOSAL 58 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Close Anchor River to sport fishing on Wednesdays, as follows:

Eliminate the five Wednesday openings for king salmon fishing on the Anchor River, as was always the case through 2007. The new regulation would just omit any Wednesday dates for fishing.

ISSUE: The number of days per week that the Anchor River is open for king salmon fishing should be reduced. Wednesday openings were allowed, starting in 2008, because of the abundance of King salmon returning to the Anchor River, which is no longer the case.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? With the decrease in the numbers of king salmon returning to the Anchor River, no reduction in the number of days fished per week could continue to add to the problem.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All who want to see our king salmon fisheries continue into the future.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who are just concerned with the here and now!

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F13-380)

PROPOSAL 59 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Delay reopening Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Stariski Creek to sport fishing by two weeks, as follows:

(a)(2) Anchor River drainage, except the Bridge Creek reservoir:

...

(C) from its mouth upstream to the junction of the North and South forks sport fishing is open

...

(ii) from July **15** [1] – October 31;

...

(a)(5) Deep Creek drainage:

...

(C) open to sport fishing from the mouth to ADF&G regulatory markers located two miles upstream,

...

(ii) from July **15** [1] – October 31;

...

(a)(10) Stariski Creek drainage:

...

(C) from its mouth upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge, from July 15 [1] – October 31, is open to sport fishing, except for king salmon;

ISSUE: The king salmon season in the Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Stariski Creek drainages closes June 30. King salmon continue to enter these streams through mid-July based on escapement counts through the Anchor River weir, which is located approximately two river miles (RM) upstream from the mouth.

Under current regulations, specified waters of the Anchor River, Deep Creek and Stariski Creek open to sport fishing for species other than king salmon on July 1. In July, bait and multiple hooks are allowed from the mouth upstream to approximately two miles, and fishing conditions are typically good to excellent due to low, clear water conditions. During low river levels, late-arriving king salmon tend to hold and their numbers build in the area open to sport fishing for other species. This makes king salmon vulnerable to hooking and associated mortality by anglers fishing primarily for Dolly Varden and by anglers targeting king salmon for catch and release under the guise of fishing for Dolly Varden or other species. Once river levels rise, most of the holding king salmon migrate upstream to their spawning areas.

Through July 15, king salmon are the dominant species present in these streams. Based on king salmon escapement data (2004–2012), 16% (or 1,150 fish) of the total escapement was counted during July, 67% (or 771 fish) of which was counted from July 1–15. Based on the weir data from 1987–1995, 11% (or 1,077 fish) of the Dolly Varden run enters the river from July 1–15. The average date of peak Dolly Varden counts occurred on July 24, just before the peak spawning period of king salmon in late July to early August.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hooking of maturing king salmon will continue, resulting in a decrease in king salmon escapement. Enforcement actions to cite anglers who target king salmon from July 1–15 will continue to be difficult. During years of low abundance, the department may continue to use emergency order authority to close these waters in order to meet king salmon spawning escapement goals.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Enforcement personnel, department staff, and the public.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anglers who wish to fish these waters during the first two weeks of July.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: The department considered the following two solutions for the month of July: 1) limiting gear to one un-baited, single-hook, artificial lure with a gap between point and shank 3/8 inch or less, or 2) closing these rivers for the month of July; then opening by emergency order once the Anchor River king salmon escapement reaches the lower bound of the sustainable escapement goal.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F13-278)

PROPOSAL 60 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Modify sport fishing season to allow fishing during November and December on Lower Cook Inlet streams, as follows:

The regulations should read as they did three years ago. The entire Stariski, Deep Creek, Ninilchik, and Anchor river drainages are closed to all fishing January 1st to May 25th. For these areas: In all flowing waters, only one un-baited, **single-hook**, artificial lure is allowed September 1–December 31.

ISSUE: Stariski, Deep Creek, Ninilchik, and Anchor River drainages closed to all fishing November 1st to May 25th.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? 1. Loss of revenue from visitors and tourists for Kenai Peninsula. 2. Fishing opportunities lost for Dolly Varden fishermen. 3. Fishing opportunities lost for catch and release steelhead fishermen. 4. Fishing opportunities lost for anglers without access to a boat.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It does improve the quality of the resource because more anglers get the opportunity to experience catch and release fishing for steelhead and fishing for Dolly Varden. This is a great opportunity for anglers to be able to fish without access to a boat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? 1. Increased revenue for Kenai Peninsula especially Deep Creek, Anchor Point and Homer. 2. Fishing opportunity for catch and release steelhead fishermen. 3. Fishing opportunities for Dolly Varden. 4. Fishing opportunities for local Kenai Peninsula residents without access to a boat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I did not consider any solution because the steelhead run and Dolly Varden runs are plentiful. I propose adopting the same regulations we did three years ago. Increase the penalty for mishandling steelhead. Most steelhead fishermen are passionate about fishing and deeply respect the resource. Steelhead and Dolly Varden continue running well after ice forms over the rivers.

PROPOSED BY: Timothy Ray Berg II

(HQ-F13-326)

PROPOSAL 61 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai

Peninsula Area. Reduce king salmon bag and possession limit to one fish on the Ninilchik River, as follows:

The allowable daily limit of king salmon during the king salmon openers on the Ninilchik River would be one king, which could either be a wild or hatchery fish.

ISSUE: The allowable daily limit of king salmon during the king salmon openers on the Ninilchik River should be reduced from 2 fish to 1 fish.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? With the decrease in the numbers of king salmon returning to the Ninilchik River, allowing a two fish limit could continue to add to this problem.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All who want to see our king salmon fisheries continue into the future.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who are just concerned with the here and now!

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F13-381)

PROPOSAL 62 - 5 AAC 62.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area. Change the Clearwater Creek drainage closed-waters boundary description for sport fishing, as follows:

(6) the Clearwater Creek drainage, **including Roscoe Creek,** is closed to sport fishing upstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one-half mile upstream of its confluence with the Chinitna River; [ROSCOE CREEK IS CLOSED TO SPORT FISHING UPSTREAM FROM AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF MILE UPSTREAM OF ITS CONFLUENCE WITH THE CHINITNA RIVER;]

ISSUE: The current closed waters description is confusing. Roscoe Creek does not flow directly into the Chinitna River; it flows into Clearwater Creek approximately one mile upstream of the Clearwater Creek and Chinitna River confluence, and therefore is included in the Clearwater Creek drainage closure.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The description of closed waters for Roscoe Creek will remain inaccurate. Sport fishing in Roscoe Creek will still be closed even if nothing is done.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public, enforcement personnel, and department personnel all benefit from clear, accurate regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F13-276)

PROPOSAL 63 - 5 AAC 58.0XX. New Section. Allow use of sport-caught pink and chum salmon for bait in the salt waters of Cook Inlet, as follows:

In salt waters of Cook Inlet, sport-caught pink and chum salmon may be used as bait. Salmon used as bait count against the daily bag limit.

ISSUE: Pink and chum salmon may be sport caught and used as bait in Prince William Sound, but not in Cook Inlet. This can lead to confusion to anglers who fish both areas. Bring both areas into regulatory alignment.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Anglers who are accustomed to using pinks and chums as bait in Prince William Sound may bring bait salmon to Cook Inlet, and anglers who would like to use pinks and chums for bait in Cook Inlet will not be able to.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anglers who want to use pinks and chums for halibut bait.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F13-131)

PROPOSAL 64 - 5 AAC 58.0XX. New Section. Allow use of sport-caught pink salmon for bait in the salt waters of Cook Inlet, as follows:

It would allow the use of pink salmon for bait in North Gulf Coast waters, Resurrection Bay, and Cook Inlet. Pink salmon used for bait would still count towards an anglers daily bag limit.

ISSUE: Allow the use of sport caught pink salmon to be used for bait. This regulation exists in Prince William Sound. Pink salmon used for bait will still go towards daily bag limit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Confusion on why this is allowed in Prince William Sound but not in other areas. There are abundant pink salmon runs and not passing this will prevent anglers from using a resource to catch more desirable species. Pink salmon is a high quality bait that is well liked by Halibut, grey cod, lingcod, rockfish and dogfish sharks.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It may go towards angler success to harvest more desirable species. Pink salmon released in the marine waters I believe have a high mortality rate.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All anglers who want to legally use pink salmon for bait.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? This would just extend the regulation across south central marine fisheries from Prince William Sound to Cook Inlet.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai-Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F13-210)

PROPOSAL 65 - 5 AAC 58.0XX. New Section. Allow use of sport-caught spiny dogfish shark for bait in the salt waters of Cook Inlet, as follows:

Sport caught spiny dogfish may be used as bait. Fish used as bait count against the daily bag limit. (This regulation provides for an exception to the “sport caught fish may not be used as bait” similar to the exception for pink and chum salmon in Prince William Sound).

ISSUE: Few, if any anglers target spiny dogfish, yet they can often be a pest when halibut fishing. Anecdotal evidence supports the theory that when a piece of dogfish is used as bait, dogfish will no longer be caught, but halibut will continue to bite. If one or two dogfish are used as bait, it could spare many from being caught and released and associated mortality.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Dogfish will continue to be damaged when carelessly released, anglers plagued by dogfish will have to move to avoid them, and any angler using dogfish as a “deterrent” bait will be in violation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Since the object of the regulation is to catch fewer dogfish, it should result in less waste and catch and release mortality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anglers who want to catch fewer dogfish, but don’t want to move from a good halibut area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A few dogfish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Make dogfish a non-game species with no limit, but we would rather retain the limit.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F13-385)

PROPOSAL 66 - 5 AAC 58.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish. Allow use of archery gear for sport fishing in Cook Inlet salt waters, as follows:

Salmon may be taken by archery in saltwaters open to snagging by regulation. This purposefully excludes the Nick Dudiak fishing lagoon. Archery gear may be defined as a solid fiberglass arrow with a barbed head, and must be attached to a reel affixed to the bow.

ISSUE: Lack of opportunity for fishing with archery tackle.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Archers who would like to pursue fish with a bow will be limited to pike and with pike eradication on the Kenai Peninsula there are few opportunities.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Archers who want to bow fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Making archery legal for any fish legal to snag. This would have allowed salmon shark to be taken by archery and that would raise biological objections.

PROPOSED BY: Dave Lyon (HQ-F13-134)

PROPOSAL 67 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area and 5 AAC 58.055. Upper Cook Inlet Salt Water Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Relocate the Bluff Point marker north to the southern Anchor River marker for management of Upper Cook Inlet saltwater early-run king salmon sport fishery, as follows:

South marker of the Anchor River in the Early-Run King Salmon Management Plan is designated as the Anchor Point Light located at 59 46.142 north latitude (a Coast Guard maintained official light).

ISSUE: Confusion of location and identification of closed area markers between the Winter Salt Water king salmon area and Early Run King Salmon Management Plan.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued confusion of location and identification of closed boundaries (doesn't solve problem on north marker of Anchor River boundary in the Early Run King Salmon Management Plan.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who fishes in the Anchor Point main sport fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We didn't consider any other locations because the Anchor Point Light is already used in other sport fish regulations.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas H. Hagberg (HQ-F13-212)

PROPOSAL 68 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area; and 5 AAC 58.055. Upper Cook Inlet Salt Water Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Relocate the Bluff Point marker north to the southern Anchor River marker for management of Cook Inlet king salmon sport fishery, as follows:

Any king salmon restrictions that are implemented by EO or regulation in Cook Inlet the line will be the Anchor River South Marker instead of Bluff Point.

ISSUE: Bluff Point is a difficult land mark to judge where it is open and closed. At the Anchor River marker there is a big orange sign and easily seen. Most salmon caught south of the Anchor River marker are feeder kings not spawners. Closing the area between the Anchor River marker and Bluff Point is not necessary.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued confusion with Anglers of exactly where the open/close line is. Continued lost opportunity in a small area that is unnecessary to close.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All anglers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Mel Erickson (HQ-F13-162)

PROPOSAL 69 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area; and 5 AAC 58.055. Upper Cook Inlet Salt Water Early-run King Salmon Management Plan. Modify the Upper Cook Inlet salt water early-run king salmon season to end on June 24 instead of June 30, as follows:

Open the saltwater king salmon conservation zone in the Deep Creek and Anchor River closed area on June 25th.

ISSUE: The Early run is considered over by June 25 in Lower Cook Inlet but the area does not open up for fishing until July 1st. Fish caught in the commercial fishery after this date are counted as second run fish, so the sport fishery should open too if the commercials are open.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lost opportunity for anglers in average and above average returns. In years of low abundance managers can still use an EO to close the area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Increased opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Anglers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Mel Erickson (HQ-F13-164)

PROPOSAL 70 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area and 5 AAC 58.060. Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan. Modify the date king salmon apply to the annual limit in the Lower Cook Inlet winter saltwater king salmon fishery from April 1 to May 1, as follows:

Change date king salmon must be written on back of license from April 1 to May 1

ISSUE: Dates required to record annual harvest of king salmon change from April 1 to May 1. These fish are feeder kings not spawners.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Anglers and communities will continue to lose money and opportunity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Small coastal communities, all anglers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? April 15 instead of May 1. Does not allow as much opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Joe Hanes (HQ-F13-202)

PROPOSAL 71 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area and 5 AAC 58.060. Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan. Decrease the Lower Cook Inlet winter saltwater king salmon bag and possession limit to one fish, and establish an annual limit of two king salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 58.060. Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan.

(a) The purpose of the management plan under this section is to meet the Board of Fisheries' goal of slowing the growth in the sport harvest of king salmon in the salt waters of Lower Cook Inlet during the winter, which occurs from October 1 through March 31.

(b) In the winter salt water king salmon sport fishery in Lower Cook Inlet.

(1) The guideline harvest level is 3,000 king salmon;

(2) the sport harvest will be estimated annually by the department's statewide harvest survey;

(3) the bag and possession limit of king salmon is **one** [TWO] fish;

(4) the annual limit **of two fish** and harvest record specified in 5 AAC 58.022 and 5 AAC 58.024 [DO NOT] apply.

(c) For the purposes of this section, Lower Cook Inlet consists of the salt waters south of the latitude of the Anchor Point Light at 59° 46.14' N. latitude, including all of Kachemak Bay, to the latitude of Cape Douglas at 58° 51.10' N. latitude, and east to the longitude of Gore Point at 150° 57.85' W. longitude.

ISSUE: Too few kings returning to Cook Inlet, by having some anglers fill their needs before the summer and from stocks other than Cook Inlet should help all those involved.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The problems with too much effort for weak runs will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Resource hogs.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Problem is too liberal a sport fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Mary J. Adami (HQ-F13-221)

PROPOSAL 72 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Eliminate the third Saturday in August (late-run coho) from the youth-only fishery in the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon, as follows:

(b)(2)(C) a person 16 years of age or older may not sport fish in the Homer Spit youth fishery zone, established by ADF&G regulatory markers to include a portion of the **Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon** [HOMER SPIT FISHERY ENHANCEMENT LAGOON], during designated youth fishery days, which occur on the first Saturday in June and the first [AND THIRD] Saturday in August;

ISSUE: Three youth-only fishery zones were established at the Homer Spit fishing lagoon, now named Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon. The fisheries were scheduled to provide fishing opportunities for early-run king salmon, early-run coho salmon, and late-run coho salmon. Late-run coho salmon were from Bear Lake broodstock and are no longer approved for stocking in Kachemak Bay due to the ADF&G genetics policy. Regulations providing for the youth fishery, on the third Saturday in August at the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon when fish are no longer present, do not provide a benefit to the youth angler; therefore, these regulations should be repealed.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The third Saturday in August will continue to be open as a youth-only fishery on the Homer Spit. The department will be required to mark a youth fishery zone at the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon. The youth angler will likely experience poor fishing success.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public and department staff.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F13-280)

PROPOSAL 73 - 5 AAC 77.545. Kachemak Bay Personal Use Dip Net Fishery Management Plan. Require personal use-caught salmon in the China Poot dip net fishery to be marked, as follows:

5 AAC 77.545. Kachemak Bay Personal Use Dip Net Fishery Management Plan. **(a)** In China Poot Creek, upstream from ADF&G regulatory markers, sockeye salmon may be taken by dip net from July 1 through August 7, with a bag and possession limit of six fish. King, pink, chum, and coho salmon may not be retained or possessed. All king, pink, chum, and coho salmon caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed.

(b) A person may not possess salmon taken under this section unless both tips (lobes) of the tail fin have been completely removed from the salmon before the person conceals the salmon from plain view or transports the salmon from the shoreline or streambank adjacent to waters open to personal use fishing where the salmon were removed from the water when fishing from shore or from the waters open to personal use fishing when fishing from a boat.

ISSUE: In order to differentiate salmon caught under sport, commercial, or personal use regulations, statewide regulations require salmon taken under the authority of a personal use salmon fishing permit to be marked by removing both tips of the tail fin from the salmon before the salmon is concealed from plain view or transported from the fishing site.

No permit is required for Alaska residents to participate in the China Poot personal use fishery. Therefore, identification of personal use-harvested fish by clipping both tips of the tail fin is not required by 5 AAC 77.010(f). Alaska residents who participate in the China Poot personal use and sport fisheries may legally possess six sockeye salmon from each fishery, for a total harvest of twelve sockeye salmon. Since there is currently no marking requirement in the China Poot personal use fishery, it is difficult for enforcement personnel to identify which fish have been harvested from which fishery. Annually, Alaska Wildlife Troopers receive complaints of overharvest of personal use-caught fish. Since these fish are not marked, it is difficult to cite the offense. Enforcement personnel checking bag limits of fish in the Homer harbor or at fishing cleaning tables near the harbor are unable to verify from which fishery the fish was harvested. Difficulties increase when anglers clean personal use-caught sockeye salmon from other fisheries (e.g., Kasilof). Because personal use fish are not marked, it also becomes more difficult to track if these fish are used for commerce.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Enforcement of bag limits in the personal use or sport fishery will continue to be difficult. Citing individuals for the sale of whole or headed and gutted personal use fish will remain difficult.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public, enforcement personnel, and fishery managers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F13-277)

PROPOSAL 74 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Decrease lingcod bag and possession limit in Cook Inlet from two to one, as follows:

Lingcod bag limit: One fish per day/two in possession. Note: The one fish per day bag limit will bring Cook Inlet to the same as east of Gore Point. Much of the effort occurs on the line.

ISSUE: Drastic increase in fishing pressure on lingcod in the Lower Cook Inlet and Gulf of Alaska.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Anglers fishing for lingcod will continue to see a growing scarcity of lingcod.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? By cutting the bag limit in half will leave more fish available to spawn to enhance sustainability.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anglers that have seen a decline in recent years, making it hard to harvest a two fish limit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anglers that want to get two fish in one trip. Allowing two fish in possession, they still can.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Shortening the season or closing certain areas.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F13-132)

PROPOSAL 75 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Modify the lingcod sport fishing season to begin on June 1 instead of July 1, as follows:

Open Lingcod Season west of Gore Point on June 1st

ISSUE: Lingcod season not opening until July 1st. Lost opportunity for anglers fishing for Lingcod. Summers are short in Alaska and many days the weather is too rough to reach the Lingcod grounds in July and August. King salmon stocks are down statewide and there are not many fishing options for anglers in June except halibut. Lingcod opens in Southeast in early Summer and don't see any reason it should not open in this area prior to July 1.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lost fishing opportunity and less options and species for anglers to fish for in the month of June.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Improves and increases angler opportunity, Seas & weather is calmer in June.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All anglers, increased opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Open sometime in May or different date in June.

PROPOSED BY: Mel Erickson (HQ-F13-161)

PROPOSAL 76 - 5 AAC 01.560. Fishing seasons and daily fishing periods. Clarify open periods for subsistence salmon fishing in August in Seldovia Bay, as follows:

5 AAC 01.560(b) Salmon may be taken for subsistence purposes only as follows:

(8)(B) during the first two **consecutive** Saturdays and Sundays in August from 6:00 a.m. Saturday until 6:00 p.m. Sunday, except that if a commercial fishing period is open, the subsistence fishing period shall be closed by emergency order and reopened by emergency order during the next period closed to commercial fishing;

ISSUE: This proposal would modify the language used to describe the opening period for Seldovia Bay to clarify that the open period is the first two consecutive Saturdays and Sundays in August.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The public will continue to be confused as to which Saturday and Sunday in August the regulation refers to.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BY IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Participants in the subsistence fishery and fishery managers will have clarity as to the open period for fishing in August.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F13-172)

PROPOSAL 77 - 5 AAC 21.200. Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections. Change line and descriptions separating the Port Dick North and South sections in the Outer District, as follows:

- (g) Outer District
 - (5) Port Dick Subdistrict
 - (A) Delete.
 - (B) Delete

REPLACE. WITH:

- (g) Outer District
 - (5) Port Dick Subdistrict
 - (A) Port Dick Headend Section: All waters of Pt. Dick West of 151.15.00 W. long.
 - (B) Port Dick Middle Creek Section: All waters of Pt. Dick between 151.15.00 W. long. and 151.10.50 W. long.
 - (C) Port Dick Island Creek Section: All waters of Pt. Dick East of 151.10.50 W. long. and West of the Pt. Dick Outer Section line.

ISSUE: The line separating Pt. Dick North and South sections. This line is unenforceable due to its length and there is no means to visually reference the existing line points.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued confusion interpreting the closed areas.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fisherman, the enforcement department, and the management of discrete stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one that we can think of.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Other lines were discussed but this one seemed best.

PROPOSED BY: Cook Inlet Seiners Association (HQ-F13-317)

PROPOSAL 78 - 5 AAC 21.200. Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections. Remove the "300 yards offshore" reference, and remove references to regulatory markers and replace with latitude and longitude coordinates for certain waters, as follows:

- (d)(5) Humpy Creek Subdistrict: all waters east of a line from **a point** [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER] on Glacier Spit at 59° 38.00' N. lat., 151° 12.10' W. long., to the Northshore Subdistrict line at 59° 38.00' N. lat., 151° 19.70' W. long., and southeast of a line from that point on the Northshore Subdistrict line at 59° 38.00' N. lat., 151° 19.70' W. long., to a

point north of Chugachik Island at 59° 45.00' N. lat., 151° 02.80' W. long., to a point on the mainland at 59° 44.50' N. lat., 151° 02.10' W. long.;

(d)(6) Northshore Subdistrict: all waters north of a line from Coal Point at 59° 36.00' N. lat., 151° 24.50' W. long., to a point north of Chugachik Island at 59° 45.00' N. lat., 151° 02.80' W. long., then northwesterly to **a point** [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER,] one-half statute mile southwest of the terminus of Swift Creek [,] at 59° 47.15' N. lat., 151° 05.45' W. long.;

...

(d)(8) Halibut Cove Subdistrict: all waters within a line from **a point** [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER] on Glacier Spit at 59° 38.00' N. lat., 151° 12.10' W. long., to the intersection of the Northshore Subdistrict line at 59° 38.00' N. lat., 151° 19.70' W. long., to Coal Point to Peterson Point.

...

(g)(5)(A) Port Dick North Section: all waters of the northern shore of West Arm **north of a line between 59° 16.10' N. lat., 151° 06.07' W. long. and 59° 18.49' N. lat., 151° 17.18' W. long.** [BOUNDED BY A LINE FROM THE ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT 59° 18.60' N. LAT., 151° 17.10' W. LONG., SOUTH TO A POINT 300 YARDS OFFSHORE, THEN SOUTHEASTERLY TO 59° 16.10' N. LAT., 151° 06.07' W. LONG., THEN NORTH TO THE WATERFALL AT 59° 16.65' N. LAT.];

ISSUE: There is confusion regarding the precise location of "a point 300 yards offshore" that could be resolved by a definition using GPS coordinates. In addition, the Division of Commercial Fisheries' regulatory marker maintenance program was cancelled in the late 1990s due to a lack of funding. Consequently, markers referenced in these regulations are no longer being maintained and their condition is unknown.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Confusion will continue regarding references in regulation to nonexistent regulatory markers, in addition to imprecision associated with a point defined as "300 yards offshore".

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen, department staff, and enforcement personnel.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F13-169)

PROPOSAL 79 - 5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters. Close waters to commercial fishing within one statute mile of the terminus of any anadromous fish stream in Cook Inlet as measured from mean lower low tide, not mean high tide. (*This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.*)

- (A) within one statute mile of the terminus, at [MEAN HIGH TIDE] **lower low water**, of the Kustatan River and the Drift River;
- (B) within one statute mile **of the terminus, at mean lower low water** of the Big River **and Bachatna Creek**;
- (C) within [500 YARDS] **one statute mile** of the terminus, at mean [HIGH TIDE] **lower low water**, of any anadromous fish stream;
- (D) within [900 FEET] **1,000 yards** of the stream bed or channel of any anadromous fish stream throughout the intertidal portion of that stream out to the lower low water mark.

ISSUE: Current regulations listing closed waters for commercial fishing on the west side of Cook Inlet are not consistent with restrictions around other stream mouths and may allow commercial harvest too close to the mouths of four important coho salmon producing streams. All one statute mile and other fishing closures around all west side Cook Inlet river mouths should be designated from mean lower low water.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has failed to identify an adequate coho escapement goal for any west side Cook Inlet streams. Sportfish participation has increased dramatically in the last decade and these systems cannot continue to support commercial harvest at their mouths without threatening sustainability.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No. Product quality would not change.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial users and thousands of sport users would benefit from additional salmon passage into west side Cook Inlet rivers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A small number of drift gillnet fisherman that target these west side Cook Inlet coho stocks in August.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Do not allow any commercial drift gillnet fishing from McArthur River to Drift River. This may be seen as too restrictive.

PROPOSED BY: Mark Glassmaker (HQ-F13-228)

PROPOSAL 80 - 5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters. Amend waters closed to commercial fishing in Lower Cook Inlet, as follows:

- (a) Salmon may not be taken in any of the waters listed in this section.

...

- (d) Southern District

(1) northeast of a line from **59° 44.43' N. lat., 151° 02.18' W. long. to a point** [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT 59° 44.50' N. LAT., 151° 02.10' W. LONG., TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER] on the shore one-half statute mile southwest of the terminus of Swift Creek at 59° 47.15' N. lat., 151° 05.45' W. long.;

(2) waters of China Poot Bay south and east **of a line beneath** the Homer Electric Association power line **from a point on the north shore of the north arm of China Poot Bay at 59° 33.92' N. lat., 151° 15.42' W. long., to a point on the peninsula between the north and south arm of China Poot Bay at 59° 33.47' N. lat., 151° 15.71' W. long., to a point on the south shore of the south arm of China Poot Bay at 59° 33.21' N. lat., 151° 16.46' W. long.;**

(3) waters of Sadie Cove south of 59° 30.00' N. lat.;

(4) **repealed** [WATERS OF TUTKA BAY SOUTHEAST OF 59° 25.50' N. LAT.];

(5) waters of **Jakolof** [JAKALOF] Bay south of 59° 28.07' N. lat.;

(6) waters of Seldovia Bay south of a line from [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT] 59° 25.09' N. lat., 151° 42.57' W. long., to [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT] 59° 24.84' N. lat., 151° 43.06' W. long.;

(7) waters of Port Graham Bay south of 59° 20.44' N. lat.;

(8) Northshore Subdistrict.

(e) Kamishak Bay District[:]

(1) waters of Cottonwood Bay west of a line from [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT] 59° 38.39' N. lat., 153° 39.41' W. long., to [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT] 59° 37.68' N. lat., 153° 39.51' W. long.; [151° 39.51' W. LONG.]

(2) waters of Chenik Lagoon south and west of 59° 13.42' N. lat., 154° 07.32' W. long.;

(3) waters of Iniskin Bay north of a line from 59° 46.05' N. lat., 153° 27.82' W. long. to 59° 46.69' N. lat., 153° 26.01' W. long.;

(4) waters of Right Arm in Iniskin Bay east of a line from 59° 43.93' N. lat., 153° 22.83' W. long. to 59° 42.90' N. lat., 153° 22.86' W. long.;

(5) waters of Ursus Cove west of a line from 59° 32.43' N. lat., 153° 46.06' W. long. to 59° 31.20' N. lat., 153° 45.74' W. long.

(f) Outer District

(1) waters of Port Chatham east of a line from [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT] 59° 13.32' N. lat., 151° 43.41' W. long., to [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT] 59° 12.59' N. lat., 151° 43.55' W. long.;

(2) waters of Windy Bay west of 151° 32.85' W. long.;

(3) waters of Taylor Bay north of a line [BETWEEN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY] at 59° 18.00' N. lat.;

(4) waters of Tacoma Cove and Sunday Harbor east of 151° 01.15' W. long.;

(5) waters of Koyuktolik (Dogfish Bay) east of a line from 59° 14.45' N. lat., 151° 52.72' W. long. to 59° 14.25' N. lat., 151° 52.90' W. long.;

(6) waters of Chugach Bay west of a line from 59° 11.36' N. lat., 151° 37.57' W. long. to 59° 11.03' N. lat., 151° 37.25' W. long.;

(7) waters of Rocky Bay inshore of a line from 59° 14.92' N. lat., 151° 23.82' W. long. to 59° 14.72' N. lat., 151° 23.32' W. long.;

(8) waters of Port Dick west of a line from 59° 18.16' N. lat., 151° 17.33' W. long. to 59° 18.60' N. lat., 151° 17.10' W. long.;

(9) waters of Middle Creek north of a line from 59° 18.18' N. lat., 151° 12.13' W. long. to 59° 18.08' N. lat., 151° 13.13' W. long.;

(10) waters of Island Creek inshore of a line from 59° 17.09' N. lat., 151° 08.78' W. long. to 59° 17.11' N. lat., 151° 08.30' W. long. and inshore of a line from 59° 17.04' N. lat.,

151° 08.06' W. long. to 59° 16.88' N. lat., 151° 07.15' W. long., and including the waters northwest of the island between these two lines;

(11) waters of McCarty Fjord north of a line from 57° 37.52' N. lat., 150° 19.18' W. long. to 59° 37.03' N. lat., 150° 17.01' W. long.;

(12) waters of the East Nuka Subdistrict east of a line from a point north of the entrance to McCarty Lagoon at 59° 32.76' N. lat., 150° 20.20' W. long. to a point offshore of the entrance of McCarty Lagoon at 59° 32.45' N. lat., 150° 21.00' W. long. to a point south of the entrance of McCarty Lagoon at 59° 31.90' N. lat., 150° 21.00' W. long.;

(13) waters of the East Nuka Subdistrict east of a line from a point north of the entrance to Desire Lake creek at 59° 35.02' N. lat., 150° 17.86' W. long. to a point south of the entrance to Desire Lake Creek at 59° 34.68' N. lat., 150° 17.95' W. long.

(g) Eastern District

(1) waters of Resurrection Bay west of a line from [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT] the old military dock pilings on the west shore of Resurrection Bay north of Caines Head at 60° 00.48' N. lat., 149° 24.20' W. long., to **a point** [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER] located near the Seward Airport at 60° 07.49' N. lat., 149° 24.72' W. long.;

(2) king and coho salmon may not be taken in waters of Resurrection Bay north of a line from Cape Resurrection **(59° 52.00' N. lat., 149° 16.71' W. long.)** to Aialik Cape **(59° 42.39' N. lat., 149° 31.29' W. long.)**;

(3) waters of Aialik Bay north of 59° 53.47' N. lat.

(h) In any bay, estuary, slough, or lagoon less than 300 feet in width at mean low tide.

(i) In all other streams or rivers within 500 yards of the terminus **or as specified in 5 AAC 39.290.**

ISSUE: Currently in LCI, waters closed to commercial salmon harvest are defined using a variety of methods. In addition to being specified in regulation, closed waters have historically been identified using physical signs, as well as on maps distributed by the department. Given the widespread availability of GPS technology, the Division of Commercial Fisheries is reducing its dependence on regulatory markers in this area. In addition, the Division of Commercial Fisheries' regulatory marker maintenance program was cancelled in the late 1990s due to a lack of funding. Consequently, markers referenced in these regulations are no longer being maintained and their condition is unknown.

The proposal identifies and lists all waters in LCI closed to commercial salmon fishing in regulation. It includes historical closed waters previously identified only on photocopied maps or with markers, and also applies GPS coordinates to areas currently in regulation, where needed. In addition, misspellings and erroneous GPS coordinates currently in regulation were corrected.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Regulations will remain unclear regarding waters closed to commercial salmon fishing in LCI. Confusion will continue regarding references in regulation to nonexistent regulatory markers

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen, department staff, and enforcement personnel.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Department of Public Safety
(HQ-F13-168)

PROPOSAL 81 - 5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations; 5 AAC 21.332. Seine specifications and operations; and 5 AAC 27.410. Fishing seasons for Cook Inlet Area. Establish various management measures to address decline in returning king salmon to Cook Inlet, including requiring net gear be certified as avoiding king salmon interception and closing commercial herring fisheries. *(The finfish aspects of this proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet meetings. The king and Tanner crab aspects of this proposal will be considered during the Statewide King and Tanner Crab meeting.)*

This proposal will also be addressed in the Statewide King and Tanner Crab Meeting.

Solutions;

1. Require all commercial salmon setnet gear to be certified as avoiding king salmon interception.
2. Close all commercial herring and crab fisheries identify critical habitat areas for these stocks and protect them until they return to their historic natural levels.
3. Begin increasing all freshwater salmon escapement goals until each systems water nitrogen/phosphorus levels return to their historic natural levels from the resulting rotting salmon.
Our ocean nitrogen/phosphorus levels are currently at a 50 year low. This marine energy is needed to fuel our marine food chains.
4. Require all salmon aquaculture projects to be certified as not promoting or advancing one stock at the expense of other stocks.

ISSUE: The problem is a lack of returning king salmon to all of Cook Inlet and statewide rivers and streams.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Our king salmon returns will continue declining until the state is forced to close all of our salmon fisheries for years into the future to rebuild them.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

1. Yes, if adopted my proposal would not allow commercial set nets to fish until they are certified by the state as avoiding king salmon. This solution would place the king interception problem where it should have always been, on the individuals who are inefficiently and wastefully harvesting their fisheries target.

2. Yes, if adopted my proposal would begin to reverse the negative effects which have resulted from excess commercial harvest of our herring and crab stocks. Our herring and crab stocks are currently at all-time lows thus providing our predatory fish stocks greatly reduced feed along with reduce survival prospects.

3. Yes, if adopted my proposal would begin to reverse the current negative marine food chain effects, which have resulted from maximizing commercial harvests. This water nutrient increase would be achieved by actually allocating salmon to decompose within our freshwater environments.

4. Yes, if adopted my proposal would prevent anyone from advancing one fish stock while harming other fish stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fisheries and users would eventually benefit from the proposed changes because eventually we would arrive at a healthier marine environment, which would generate more fish for everyone. There could be some temporary harvest reductions by some fisheries users but eventually these users would reap the benefits of the changes within my proposal. My proposal would cause fisheries users to benefit by requiring them to actively working to reduce their negative impacts on non-target fish stocks and other user groups.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? It is possible that some fisheries users could suffer in the short-term because they may not be able to harvest like they were allowed to in the past. In the long-term these same fisheries users would eventually benefit as the marine environment would again become healthy, thus generating much more surplus fish stocks to be harvested by all users.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? There are many theoretical solutions to our statewide problems involving returning king salmon. I have specifically rejected them because they do not focus on the marine food chain and user groups conflicting and impacting each other.

I am convinced that the reason we have stable sockeye salmon runs and unstable king salmon runs, is because for a short time in their lives kings and sockeyes feed on the same marine prey. That prey is euphausiids (crab larvae) and juvenile king salmon & sockeye salmon both feed on them. Both salmon begin their lives by feeding on zooplankton like euphausiids. Juvenal kings feed on euphausiids until they reach about (16 inches) in length but they require older euphausiids greater than 17 mm in size. Sockeyes feed on younger euphausiids which are less than 5 mm in sizes. After juvenile kings reach (16 inches) they stop feeding on euphausiids and begin exclusively feeding on things which consume euphausiids like herring and capelin. Sockeye's however continue feeding mainly on very small (3–5 mm) plankton and zooplankton like euphausiids, while juvenile kings are feeding mainly on (>17 mm) euphausiids. It is this

king salmon dietary leap which allows kings to then grow to their much greater size. These king salmon feeding characteristics then become the focus of my proposal.

With sockeye salmon exclusively feeding on (35 mm) euphausiids and juvenile king salmon exclusively feeding on (>17 mm) euphausiids, this creates a feeding conflict. This feeding conflict can be created as fisheries managements manipulate and promote only specific stock type and numbers. As fisheries managers begin to manage for (only maximum sockeye production), that action can have consequences of setting into motion an unusual but intense feeding factor within our ocean. This feeding factor can then specifically target (3–5 mm *T. spinifera*, euphausiids). These are in fact the same crab larva which juvenile king salmon will seek out later but after they have grown and reached a length greater than 17 mm. Juvenal kings less than 16 inches in length need euphausiids greater than 17 mm in length or they will starve to death. This is the primary marine feed these juvenile kings survive on during this early time in their life. The unfortunate part is that fisheries managers can expand some stocks without expanding others living beside them. This can create a supreme feeding machine with billions of sockeye's and pollock living in the same waters as kings. Together these vastly superior numbers of (small crab larvae feeders) then sweep the ocean for all euphausiid larva near the (3–5 mm) length, thus leaving little (if any) larva to grow larger for juvenal king salmon to feed on. These juvenile kings then have little to nothing to feed on as they attempt to build reserves to allow them to make their jump to feeding on herring or capelin. Because this strategic (>17 mm) euphausiid elements is therefore missing, many of these juvenile king salmon then (starve to death) and therefore never become adults. Ninety-five percent of a sockeye salmon's diet focuses on these young 3–5 mm *T. spinifera*, euphausiids. Ninety-five percent of a juvenile king salmon's diet focuses on the older (>17 mm) euphausiids, which have managed to escape massive sockeye and pollock feedings. King salmon's diets eventually switch over to small fish but the question is how do these juvenal kings get to that (switch-over point) if they cannot forage enough crab larva larger than 17 mm? Our latest marine sciences are now showing a dramatic reduction in the North Pacific marine production of crab larva. This science is telling us that we are now seeing that our (>17 mm) production of euphausiids is currently at about 1% of what it used to be historically. We still have good production levels of smaller (35 mm) euphausiids, which are feeding our sockeye and pollock stocks but 99% of the main diet of juvenile king salmon is (now completely missing). All users groups should display shock when they hear that an element like this has gone missing within our marine environment. Currently our ADF&G is not displaying shock, they are claiming that our missing kings are part of a natural marine cycle. I am claiming that it is not natural; it has been constructed by fisheries mismanagement.

Our fisheries managers continue to manage our fisheries as if we still have sufficient euphausiid resources to feed our current juvenile king salmon. Because these managers do not understand the needs of our juvenile kings, they then claim that the resulting lack of returning adult kings salmon is a "Natural Lack Of King Salmon Abundance". There is nothing "natural" about this Lack Of King Salmon. If you follow the bread crumb trail you find it leading back to a lack of (greater than 17 mm crab larva), and that lack is the direct results of fisheries mis-management. If we just assume that these juvenile kings somehow find enough (>17 mm crab larva) to survive on into adulthood, then you must consider their chances of finding enough herring or capelin to survive on as adults. Unfortunately these smaller fish also feed exclusively on the same (>17 mm

T. spinifera, euphausiids) and because we now only have about 1% of what we used to have in these euphausiids, these small fish are also now faced with the same dramatic lack of feed like juvenal king salmon. This dramatic lack of adequately sized marine food then demands closer examination. That examination needs to focus on the ocean production of plankton, zooplankton, euphausiids, herring, capelin and juvenile kings.

NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS F/NWC-91, Salmon Stomach Contents, From the Alaska Troll Logbook Program 1977–84, By Bruce L. Wing , October 1985. Type, Quantity, And Size Of Food Of Pacific Salmon (Oncorhynchus) In The Strait Of Juan De Fuca, British Columbia, Terry D. Beachami.

Interannual variations in the population biology and productivity of *Thysanoessa spinifera* in Barkley Sound, Canada, with special reference to the 1992 and 1993 warm ocean years.
R. W. Tanasichuk*, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, British Columbia V9R 5K6, Canada.

PROPOSED BY: Don Johnson (HQ-F13-065 (a))

PROPOSAL 82 - 5 AAC 21.XXX. Tutka Bay Lagoon Salmon Hatchery Management Plan.
Create a management plan for Tutka Bay Lagoon Salmon Hatchery to determine harvest priorities within the special harvest area (SHA) and describe the location of the Tutka Bay Lagoon, Paint River, and Halibut Cove Lagoon SHAs, as follows:

5 AAC 21.XXX Tutka Bay Lagoon Salmon Hatchery Management Plan

(a)The department, in consultation with the hatchery operator, shall manage the Tutka Bay Subdistrict and the Paint River Subdistrict to provide for a common property fishery and achieve the hatchery harvest and broodstock goals set by the hatchery operator and approved by the department for the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery,

(b) The Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery Special Harvest Areas are as follows:

(1)Tutka Bay Lagoon Special Harvest Area: the marine waters of the Tutka Bay Subdistrict in the Southern District southeast and shoreward of a line from 59° 30.23' N. lat., 151° 28.23' W. long. To 59° 28.63' N. lat., 151 ° 30.37' W. long., including Tutka Bay Lagoon;

(2)Paint River Special Harvest Area: the marine waters of Akjemguiga Cove west of a line from 59° 09.50' N. lat., 154° 12.83' W. long., to 59° 10.00' N. lat., 154° 12.50 W. long., including the lagoon at the Paint River mouth and intertidal fish ladder;

(3)Halibut Cove Lagoon Special Harvest Area: the marine waters of the Halibut Cove Subdistrict east of a 151° 11.90' W. long. including all marine waters of Halibut Cove Lagoon.

(c) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 21.320 and 5 AAC 21.330, and except as otherwise provided by emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060, a person holding a permit under AS 16.10.400 for the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery, and an agent, contractor, or employee of that person who is authorized under 5 AAC 40.005 (g) may:

(1) harvest salmon within the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery Special Harvest Area from 6:00 AM June 15 until 6:00 PM September 15 using purse seines, hand purse seines, and beach seines.

(2) harvest salmon within the Paint River Special Harvest Area from 6:00 A.M. July 15 until 6:00 PM August 31 using purse seines, hand purse seines, and beach seines.

ISSUE: Currently there is no hatchery management plan in regulation for this facility. This has resulted in some confusion regarding the defined location of the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery Special Harvest Area, as well as department priorities in managing salmon harvest in the Tutka Bay Subdistrict. This proposal also defines the location of the Paint River Special Harvest Area and department priorities in managing salmon harvest in the Paint River Subdistrict.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Confusion will continue regarding the regulatory structure that guides operation of this hatchery facility.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen, department staff, the general public, and the hatchery nonprofit will benefit from a clear regulatory definition of the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery program. This plan is similar to proposed plans for Port Graham and Trail Lakes hatcheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. This plan puts into regulation what is already being done in the Tutka Bay Subdistrict and establishes management priorities for new hatchery returns to the Paint River Subdistrict.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (HQ-F13-144)

PROPOSAL 83 - 5 AAC 21.377. Port Graham Salmon Hatchery Management Plan. Modify management plan for Port Graham Salmon Hatchery to determine harvest priorities within the special harvest area (SHA) and describe the location of the SHA, as follows:

(a) The department, in consultation with the hatchery operator, shall manage the Port Graham Subdistrict to provide for a common property fishery and to achieve the **hatchery broodstock and harvest goals** [ESCAPEMENT GOAL] set by the hatchery operator and approved by the department for the Port Graham salmon hatchery.

(b) The Port Graham Special Harvest Area consists of the marine waters of the Port Graham Subdistrict in the Southern District south of a line from the southern tip of Passage Island (151° 53.08' W. long., 59° 22.00' N. lat.) to a point offshore at 59° 21.45' N. lat., 151° 50.05' W. long. to a point on shore at 59° 20.83' N. lat., 151° 48.53' W. long.

(c) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 21.320 and 5 AAC 21.330, and except as otherwise provided by emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060, a person holding a permit under AS 16.10.400 for the Port Graham Salmon Hatchery, and an agent, contractor, or employee of that person who is authorized under 5 AAC 40.005 (g) may harvest salmon within the Port Graham Salmon Hatchery Special Harvest Area from 6:00 AM July 15 until 6:00 PM September 15 using purse seines, hand purse seines, and beach seines.

ISSUE: Describes the special harvest area (SHA) for the Port Graham Hatchery and outlines hatchery harvest within the SHA. The current hatchery management plan lacks a description of the historic hatchery SHA, as well as a section that outlines hatchery harvest within the SHA.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Confusion will continue regarding the management structure within which this hatchery facility operates.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen, department staff, the general public, and the hatchery nonprofit will benefit from a clear regulatory definition of the Port Graham Hatchery Program. This plan is similar to proposed plans for Tutka Bay Lagoon and Trail Lakes hatcheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. This plan puts into regulation what is already being done.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (HQ-F13-145)

PROPOSAL 84 - 5 AAC 21.373. Trail Lakes Salmon Hatchery Management Plan. Create a management plan for Trail Lakes Salmon Hatchery to determine harvest priorities within the special harvest area (SHA); describe the location of the Bear Lake, China Poot and Hazel Lake, Tutka Bay Lagoon, and Kirchner Lake SHAs; and define fishing seasons within the SHAs, as follows:

5 AAC 21.XXX Trail Lakes Salmon Hatchery Management Plan

(a) The department, in consultation with the hatchery operator, shall manage the Resurrection Bay North Subdistrict, China Poot Subdistrict, Tutka Bay Subdistrict, and the Kirchner Lake Section of the Bruin Bay Subdistrict to provide for a common property fishery and achieve the hatchery harvest and broodstock goals set by the hatchery operator and approved by the department for the Trail Lakes Hatchery.

(b) The Trail Lakes Hatchery Special Harvest Areas are as follows:

(1) Bear Lake Special Harvest Area: the marine waters of Resurrection Bay in the Eastern District north of the latitude of Caines Head at approximately 59° 58.93' N.

lat., and the fresh waters of Bear Creek, Salmon Creek, and Resurrection River downstream from, and including, the Bear Creek weir;

(2) China Poot and Hazel Lake Special Harvest Area: the marine waters of China Poot Bay Subdistrict in the Southern District inshore of, and enclosed by, a line connecting 59° 34.66' N. lat., 151° 19.27' W. long., then to 59° 35.08' N. lat., 151° 19.77' W. long., then to 59° 33.09' N. lat., 151° 25.22' W. long., and then to 59° 32.84' N. lat., 151° 24.90' W. long.

(3) Tutka Bay Lagoon Special Harvest Area: the marine waters of the Tutka Bay Subdistrict in the Southern District southeast and shoreward of a line from 59° 30.23' N. lat., 151° 28.23' W. long. to 59° 28.63' N. lat., 151° 30.37' W. long., including Tutka Bay Lagoon;

(4) Kirschner Lake Special Harvest Area: marine waters of the Bruin Bay Subdistrict in the Kamishak Bay District northwest of a line connecting 59° 25.17' N. lat., 153° 50.50' W. long. And 59° 23.17' N. lat., 153° 56.90' W. long.

(c) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 21.320 and 5 AAC 21.330, and except as otherwise provided by emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060, a person holding a permit under AS 16.10.400 for the Trail Lakes Hatchery, and an agent, contractor, or employee of that person who is authorized under 5 AAC 40.005 (g) may:

(1) harvest salmon within the Bear Lake Special Harvest Area from 6:00 AM May 15 until 6:00 PM October 31 using weirs, purse seines, hand purse seines, and beach seines.

(2) harvest salmon within the China Poot and Hazel Lake Special Harvest Area from 6:00 AM June 1 until 6:00 PM July 31 using purse seines, hand purse seines, and beach seines.

(3) harvest salmon within the Tutka Bay Lagoon Special Harvest Area from 6:00 AM June 1 until 6:00 PM September 15 using purse seines, hand purse seines, and beach seines.

(4) harvest salmon within the Kirschner Lake Special Harvest Area from 6:00 AM June 1 until 6:00 PM August 15 using purse seines, hand purse seines, and beach seines.

ISSUE: Create a hatchery management plan for Trail Lakes Salmon Hatchery. Currently, there is no hatchery management plan in regulation for this facility. This has resulted in some confusion regarding the defined location of the Trail Lakes Hatchery Special Harvest Areas, as well as department priorities in managing salmon harvest in the Resurrection Bay North Subdistrict, China Poot Subdistrict, Tutka Bay Subdistrict, and the Kirschner Lake Section of the Bruin Bay Subdistrict.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Confusion will continue regarding the regulatory structure that guides operation of this hatchery facility.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen, department staff, the general public, and the hatchery nonprofit will benefit from a clear regulatory definition of the Trail Lakes Hatchery Program. This plan is similar to proposed plans for Port Graham and Tutka Bay Lagoon hatcheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. This plan puts into regulation what is already being done.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (HQ-F13-146)

PROPOSAL 85 - 5 AAC 21.376. Resurrection Bay Salmon Management Plan and 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Prohibit sport fishing in Resurrection River until the Bear Lake sockeye salmon broodstock goal is met, as follows:

Close the new Bear Creek sport fishery until brood stock goal is met.

ISSUE: Bear Creek brood stock.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Escapement/brood stock goals will not be met.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It perpetuates fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen where enhancement occurs.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A few tidewater fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: John McCombs (HQ-F13-347)

PROPOSAL 86 – 5 AAC 28.332. Groundfish pot storage requirements for Cook Inlet. Modify Cook Inlet groundfish pot storage requirements, as follows:

5 AAC 28.332. Groundfish pot storage requirements for Cook Inlet Area. (a) Except as specified in (b) of this section, following the closure of a groundfish season to pot gear, groundfish pots must have all bait and bait containers removed, and [PARALLEL SEASON DEFINED IN 5 AAC 28.081(c)(3), POT GEAR] may be stored in the water as follows:

- (1) rectangular groundfish pots must have [ALL BAIT AND BAIT CONTAINERS REMOVED AND] all doors secured fully open; and
- (2) cone or pyramid groundfish pots must have [ALL BAIT AND BAIT CONTAINERS REMOVED AND] doors not secured closed.

(b) All groundfish pots must be removed from the water no later than **five** [5] days after the closure of a season **to pot gear**.

ISSUE: The regulatory language as written is confusing because section (a) only refers to the parallel season and thereby implies that a vessel participating in a groundfish season other than parallel does not have to remove bait from pots or secure doors open.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will continue to be confusion for fishermen and department staff regarding pot storage requirements following the closure of certain groundfish seasons, particularly state-waters Pacific cod seasons.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Pot fishermen and department staff benefit from regulatory language that clearly defines pot storage requirements for groundfish fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F13-170)

PROPOSAL 87 - 5 AAC 28.371. Landing requirements for Cook Inlet Area. Modify offloading requirements for groundfish, as follows:

5 AAC 28.371. Landing requirements for Cook Inlet Area. After 24 hours following the closure of any directed groundfish season within the Cook Inlet Area, a vessel that participated in that fishery may not have that species of groundfish on board **or the vessel must be in port at its delivery location and available and scheduled for offloading, with the permit holder on board the vessel,** unless

(1) that species has been designated as bycatch for another directed fishery and the amount on board is permissible under retained bycatch restrictions specified in regulation; or

(2) the vessel has been delayed due to extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the vessel operator, and the vessel operator has contacted a local representative of the department within 24 hours following the closure of the season and the representative has granted a reasonable amount of time for the vessel to reach the port of delivery or processing location, any amount of additional time shall be determined under the assumption that the vessel departed the fishing grounds immediately after the closure and proceeded directly to the port of delivery or processing location.

ISSUE: Although regulation 5 AAC 28.371 requires that vessels have finished offloading groundfish within 24 hours following closure of a groundfish fishery, often vessels have begun offloading, but have not completed the offload within the requisite time. The department has generally considered a vessel in compliance with the intent of the regulation if the offload has

begun within the allotted timeframe. There are many smaller vessels (<50') participating in Cook Inlet Area groundfish fisheries; their hold capacity is relatively small (<50k lb), which can make it difficult for processors to complete all offloading within 24 hours of closure of the fishery. In Seward, only two processors service the smaller vessels and this offloading backup has occurred. In the Pacific cod fishery in March 2012, permission to offload vessels after the 24-hour landing requirement was granted to the fleet through the plant manager, who expressed concern to department staff about their inability to offload a vessel within the regulatory timeframe. It was determined that the intent of the regulation was met if a vessel was in port, scheduled with a processor to offload, and available for immediate offload with the permit holder on board the vessel. Although 5 AAC 28.371 provides for a vessel to contact the department if delayed due to extraordinary circumstances (e.g., mechanical issues or weather), there is no provision for a vessel ready to offload, but unable to because the buyer or processor is backed up with other vessels.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Vessels will routinely require permission from the department to offload after the 24-hour landing requirement or else risk enforcement action due to noncompliance, even if the vessel is in port and available for immediate offload. Processors will continue to have concerns about their ability to offload vessels quickly enough to ensure that vessels are in compliance with landing requirements, particularly when several vessels arrive in port simultaneously following closure of a groundfish fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes; if processors are forced to remove groundfish from a vessel without adequate processing time, raw product quality could be negatively affected if not kept on ice. If groundfish remain on ice in the hold of the vessel until the offload can be properly completed, product quality will be maintained until the processor can accommodate the vessel.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen and processors will benefit when adequate time is allowed for offloading once a vessel is in port within the allotted timeframe.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F13-171)

PROPOSAL 43 - 5 AAC 28.36X. Cook Inlet Area State-Waters Groundfish Trawl Management Plan; 5 AAC 28.46X. Kodiak Area State-Waters Groundfish Trawl Management Plan; and 5 AAC 28.53X. Chignik Area State-Waters Groundfish Trawl Management Plan. Create state-waters groundfish management plans for trawl vessels less than 58 feet in the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas. *(This proposal will be considered at the Chignik, Lower Cook Inlet, and Kodiak Finfish meetings.)*

Central and Western Gulf of Alaska State Water trawl fisheries for all Groundfish Management. Set combined quota for state water areas of Prince William Sound (E) outside district, Cook Inlet (H), Kodiak (K) and Chignik (L) equal to 25% of all groundfish species in Central Gulf federal waters. Set quota for area (M) South Peninsula equal to 25% of all groundfish species in western Gulf of Alaska federal waters. Fishery to open January, 20th of each year, close on TAC or Bycatch limit or December 31st of same year. Participating vessels must be less than 58 feet in overall length. Landing limits of 150,000 pounds total of all species with a landing limit of 100,000 Pacific cod in a single landing. With a duration of no less than 72 hours between landings. All vessels using trawl gear in state water fisheries would be required to have 100% observer coverage, with one observer onboard for all trips. Observer cost would be paid by vessel. Set state water PSC caps for state waters including crab.

ISSUE: Develop New State Water Management Plan for groundfish in state waters for vessel less than 58 feet using trawl gear.

Management to include separate state water quota's for all groundfish, Pacific cod, flat fish, Arrowtooth and other misc. finfish. Along with PSC caps.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be no opportunity for small vessel Alaskan fisherman to utilize many species of groundfish in state waters. Result of no trawl opportunity in state waters will add pressure to other state water fisheries. National Marine Fisheries Service and the North Pacific Management Council are moving towards a federal waters catch share program in the Gulf of Alaska federal trawl fishery. With this action, it is time for the State of Alaska to manage all groundfisheries in state waters separate from federal management to maintain viable fisheries for Alaskans. Federal catch share programs are overly consolidating and not viable for small boat fisherman.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Trip limits and duration between trips would slow fishery pace to improve quality and better utilize fish, also give vessels time to avoid by-catch with a slower pace fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Small vessels who want to participate in state water fisheries, local communities that are supported by fisheries around them and other state water fisheries that could see a reduced effort.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Federal quotas would likely be reduced, but many species of groundfish are not fully utilized now in the federal fisheries.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Current management. The best way for the State of Alaska to ensure healthy viable state water fisheries for maximum benefit to Alaska is to manage all state fisheries themselves.

PROPOSED BY: Matt Hegge

(HQ-F13-121)

PROPOSAL 44 - 5 AAC 28.36X. Cook Inlet Area Pollock Management Plan; 5 AAC 28.46X. Kodiak Area Pollock Management Plan; and 5 AAC 28.53X. Chignik Area Pollock Management Plan. Create state-waters walleye pollock management plans for Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas. *(This proposal will be considered at the Chignik, Lower Cook Inlet, and Kodiak Finfish meetings.)*

Create a state water Pollock fishery in areas E, H, K, L, and M in the State of Alaska waters of the Gulf of Alaska. Set quota for state water Pollock fishery to equal twenty-five percent (25%) of federal quota annually. Areas of Prince William Sound (E)(Outside District), Cook Inlet (H), Kodiak (K), and Chignik (L) would use a combined quota equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the total combined quota of areas 620, 630, and 640 federal waters. Area (M) south Peninsula quota would be equal to twenty-five (25%) of area 610 of federal waters. State water Pollock season would open January 20th of each year, close on TAC or December 31st each year. Vessels participating in the state water pollock fisheries may be no more than fifty-eight feet in length (To include all trawling in state waters). Legal gear shall be pelagic trawl, non-pelagic trawl, seine and jig. All state water Pollock limited to a maximum of 150,000 pounds per landing, with duration of no less than 48 hours between landings. All vessels using trawl gear would be required to have 100% observer coverage with one observer onboard for all trips. Observer cost would be paid by vessel.

ISSUE: Develop a state water Pollock fishery in the Gulf of Alaska State waters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be very little to no opportunity for Alaskans to harvest Pollock in the Gulf of Alaska. Currently the state waters are open to anyone who chooses to fish Pollock when there is federal quota available. National Marine Fisheries Service and the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council are moving towards a Catch Share Program in the Gulf of Alaska Pollock fishery. With this action, it is time for the State of Alaska to create a separate state water fishery that maintains open access to harvesting Pollock in state waters for Alaska. This type of program is not constitutional within state waters of Alaska. Federal catch share programs have proven to be overly consolidating and cost to buy into catch share fisheries is not viable for small boat fishermen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The 150,000 pound trips versus 300,000 pound trips in the federal fishery would reduce harvest rate, along with minimum duration between trips. This could improve processors ability to fully utilize fish with less waste and improved quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anyone who wants to participate in state water Pollock fisheries with small vessels. Alaskan small coastal communities in these areas and the fisherman who live within these areas. Future fisherman who want to enter into fishing. The federal Pollock fishery in the central Gulf of Alaska has 30–50 large vessels participating annually. State water fisheries in the Central Gulf of Alaska have over 10 times the participants that could benefit from increased opportunity within state waters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? This action would likely reduce the federal quotas.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? With the looming possibility of a federal catch share program, I do not see any other solution to providing continued equal access to participants fishing Pollock in State of Alaska waters of the Gulf of Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Matt Hegge (HQ-F132-147)

PROPOSAL 45 - 5 AAC 28.3XX. New Section (Cook Inlet Area); 5 AAC 28.4XX. New Section (Kodiak Area); and 5 AAC 28.5XX. New Section (Chignik Area). Require 100 percent observer coverage on groundfish trawl vessels in state-waters of the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas. *(This proposal will be considered at the Chignik, Lower Cook Inlet, and Kodiak Finfish meetings.)*

All vessels fishing for groundfish with trawl gear in state-waters management area are required to carry 100% observer coverage in the Central Gulf of Alaska.

ISSUE: Trawl fisheries currently operate in the Central Gulf of Alaska under the restructured program with 13–15% observer coverage. With halibut and Chinook salmon stocks in decline and declines in available harvest for Tanner crab fisheries, accurate information on the number of these species caught as bycatch in the trawl fisheries is critical. The current levels of observer coverage do not ensure that bycatch is accurately estimated.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If observer coverage is not increased to 100% we will continue to lack accurate estimates of the amounts of bycatch. Management decisions will not be informed by reliable data and we will continue to have an incomplete understanding of the levels of mortality and impacts of bycatch on Chinook salmon, halibut and Tanner crab stocks.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? None.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Users of Chinook salmon, halibut and Tanner crab will benefit because we will have better information about the level of bycatch in groundfish fisheries. The state will benefit from better data on fisheries in state-waters. Groundfish fishermen will benefit from having accurate information about their catches and bycatch.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Those who find the 100% observer coverage requirement overly burdensome can choose to fish in federal waters and be subject to the federal observer program which does not require 100% coverage at this time.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Marine Conservation Council, Cape Barnabus Inc., Ouzinkie Community Holding Inc. (HQ-F13-264)
