
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
Lower Cook Inlet Finfish
Homer | November 28, 2023

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PC1

Submitted by: Brad Ackman

Community of Residence: Sheridan, Wyoming

Comment:

I support proposal 256 regarding bait on the Togiak River.

Proposal 256: Support



ALASKA CHARTER ASSOCIATION

██████████ ██████████
██████████
www.alaskacharter.org

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Alaska Charter Association (ACA) to oppose the adoption of Proposal 259, slated to be considered at the upcoming Board of Fisheries meeting for Cook Inlet finfish, being held in Homer, for the following reasons:

- **Consideration of Proposal 259 is being taken up out-of-cycle and at a venue outside the affected area.** The ACA is concerned that taking up the proposal in 2023 at a location in Southcentral Alaska is premature and will unduly limit the access and input of affected Southeast Alaska stakeholders. This directly contradicts provisions of Alaska's Sustainable Fisheries Policy that mandates the Board's "regulatory management and allocation decisions will be made in an open process with public involvement." ACAs position is that the issues at stake in Proposal 259 should be taken up in 2025, in accordance with the established precedent of the Board meeting every 3 years regarding the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan, in a location in Southeast Alaska, thereby providing easier access to interested parties in the affected area.
- **The premise of the Proposal is faulty.** Proposal 259 asserts that the regulatory update of January 2023 incorrectly adopted fishery management actions prohibiting an in-season management regime, which it contends is inconsistent with "Alaska's long-term practice of in-season management." This disregards the fact that the Southeast Alaska recreational/sport sector allocation has historically been managed on an average basis, rather than on an annual basis, taking into consideration the acknowledgement of ADF&G that it doesn't have the capacity to acquire the data necessary to make sound, in-season, management decisions for this fishery. It was clearly understood by all signatories to the agreement between the Alaska Trollers Association, the Southeast Alaska Guides Organization (SEAGO), and the Territorial Sportsmen, that in some years the recreational/sport sector may exceed its allocation, while in other years it will fall short. In either event, the commercial late (winter) troll fishery would serve as a buffer, having its allocation reduced during years when the recreational/sport sector exceeds its allocation, and having its allocation increased when the recreational/sport sector falls short. The net result is that the harvest from all sectors should not exceed the total allocation for the region as established by treaties and regulatory agencies.



- **The adoption of Proposal 259 could have significant adverse impacts on businesses, communities, and the State.** The uncertainty inherent in unpredictable in-season Emergency Closures in the Southeast recreational/sport king salmon fishery would constitute another hurdle for businesses and communities catering to sport anglers, particularly those anglers who reside outside Southeast Alaska. These entities are already contending with reduced abundance and bag limits for target species in the sportfishing sector, which makes it more difficult to retain existing clientele and attract new ones. Any corresponding loss of revenue would be felt throughout the companies, communities, and State patronized by said anglers.

For these reasons, the Alaska Charter Association opposes the adoption of Proposal 259 and, if the Board feels compelled to consider the measure, it should be done in-cycle (2025) during a meeting at a location (or locations) in Southeast Alaska.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne T. Nasu" followed by a horizontal flourish.

Wayne T. Nasu
Executive Director
Alaska Charter Association





Submitted by: Travis Peterson

Community of Residence: Sitka, Alaska

Comment:

This is concerning Proposal 259.

Dear Alaska Board of Fish,

I am writing to express my deep concern about Proposal 259 and the potential impact it may have on our small business, Alaska Charter Service, as well as our clients. The sudden closure of king retention, as proposed in this initiative, would create significant challenges for our clients and severe disruptions to our business operations during the summer season.

The introduction of mid-season emergency closures and an unpredictable fishery management model could directly affect our ability to provide a reliable and enjoyable fishing experience for our guests. This unpredictability would make it extremely challenging for us to plan and maintain the high level of service that our clients have come to expect from Alaska Charter Service.

The proposition's assertion that the current king salmon management plan does not reflect the intent of the stakeholder agreement is deeply concerning. It is critical for the stability and success of our business that fishing regulations are predictable and consistent. Emergency closures and unstable fishing regulations resulting from Proposal 259 would erode the confidence of our clients in the fishery and our ability to provide a reliable and enjoyable experience.

We are hopeful that the Board of Fish will recognize the potential negative impact of Proposal 259 and handle it responsibly during the upcoming Lower Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting. Furthermore, we support the idea that negotiations of the King Salmon Management Plan should take place during the 2025 Southeast meeting, as this would be the appropriate time and location for this important discussion.

It is essential for the Board to understand the opposition to the current proposal from businesses like ours that rely on a stable and predictable fishing environment to operate successfully. We urge the Board of Fish to consider the long-term implications of Proposal 259 and to seek alternative solutions that ensure the sustainability of the fishery while minimizing disruptions to small businesses like ours.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and thank you for considering the concerns of Alaska Charter Service and other small businesses that rely on stability and predictability in the fishing industry.

Sincerely,

Travis Peterson
Alaska Charter Service LLC
Sitka, Alaska
Cell # [REDACTED]

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC4

Submitted by: Linda Behnken

Community of Residence: Sitka

Comment:

I am submitting these comments on behalf of the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association. ALFA SUPPORTS Proposal 259.

Proposal 259 corrects a critical regulatory language omission from the Chinook salmon agreement forged last spring among Southeast stakeholders. By simply omitting the words, "sport fishery harvest ceiling", ADFG negated the management commitment to the 80/20 Chinook salmon split between commercial and sport fisheries. Proposal 259 seeks to reinstate this commitment.

Removing the words "sport fishery harvest ceiling" from the 2022 RC 178 agreement precludes in-season management and allows the sport fishery to exceed its allocation. Without adoption of Proposal 259, there is potential for an open-ended annual reallocation away from the troll fleet (and other gear groups) to the non-resident sport sector. This reallocation occurred in 2023, which alerted our members to the language omission. RC 178 should have been reproduced verbatim in regulation; instead, this key phrase was omitted.

Prior to 2020, the sports fishery was managed in-season. The new language is a departure from historic management and in direct conflict with the outcome of the 2022 negotiations and the Board's adopted language. Proposal 259 will restore the intent and language of that action.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Linda Behnken

Executive Director

Proposal 259: Support



PC5

Submitted by: Russell Thomas

Community of Residence: Ketchikan, AK

Comment:

My name is Russell Thomas and I am the general manager of Alaska Sportfishing Expeditions in Ketchikan. In addition to running my own business, I am also a member of Alaska's Pacific Salmon Commission (Northern Panel - Sportfish Rep) and am the Vice-President of SEAGO. I was part of the guided angler team that worked with ATA and Territorial Sportsmen to craft the current iteration of the KSMP.

I am writing to ask that you oppose Proposal 259. ATA, Territorial Sportsmen, and SEAGO all negotiated the current provisions of the KSMP in good faith. None of us knew exactly how things would work out, and used historical data to frame our discussions and craft the agreement between all parties. In short, the idea was to

allow sportfishermen to "borrow" fish from the troll fleet in years of lower king salmon abundance, and "pay back" those fish in years of high abundance. If history were to repeat itself, the proposal would have provided a net gain to the troll fleet over time. All parties agreed to hold the resident angler harmless, except in cases of extreme low abundance where continued high resident harvest could jeopardize future runs.

Since the deal was crafted I have heard some individual trollers state, "That's not what was agreed to." They argue that there was no provision to "borrow" and "pay back" fish. My question to them is, "What was agreed upon then?" If there was no agreement to "borrow" and "pay back" fish then we are left with the status quo (i.e. hard 20% sportfish cap), which is what we started with.

The negotiation went back and forth and included discussion about the amount of fish we could "borrow" in a given year, the discussion of a "bank" of some sort, and additional iterations that may have had merit but added complication that couldn't be dealt with in the short period of time we had. In the end, we agreed to static sportfish bag limits at various abundance levels and a three-year sunset clause that would allow us all to evaluate how it worked for all parties.

In two years we have seen the plan work almost exactly as we had hoped, with a 15,000 fish sport underage in 2022 that was available for troll to harvest, and a 17,000 fish sport overage in 2023 that was "borrowed" from the troll fleet. For the first time that I can remember, trollers didn't even harvest their own allocation in 2022, which didn't allow them to take advantage of the sport underage available, but the opportunity was there had they wanted it.

SEAGO's argument at the last BOF meeting was that sport fishermen didn't need additional allocation, but needed to be managed "on average" like has been done in the past. The plan was an attempt to address the needs of sport fishermen in years of low abundance without trying to take allocation from trollers when looked at over time.

If the Board is inclined to take another look at this, it should be done at the SE Board meeting. The previous agreement took place at a re-scheduled SE BOF meeting that took place in Anchorage, and participation came at great expense to those of us who traveled to Anchorage for the meetings and to participate in these discussions. To take further action at another meeting outside of SE adds additional hardship and circumvents the public process by excluding those who don't have the financial means to make the trip.

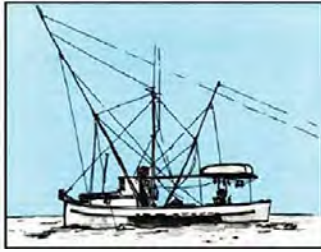
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Russell Thomas

Alaska Sportfishing Expeditions

Proposal 259: Oppose



Alaska Trollers Association



November 11, 2023

Board of Fisheries
State of Alaska
c/o Board Support



Re: Comments on Proposals 34, 35, 36, 41, 43

Dear Board of Fisheries Members:

As you are aware, the Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) represents the power trollers and hand trollers who fish throughout the waters of Southeast Alaska, up to and including Yakutat. We represent these men and women who compose a fishery which supports thousands of Southeast Alaska rural resident jobs. Furthermore, according to the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska 30% of trollers have tribal membership.

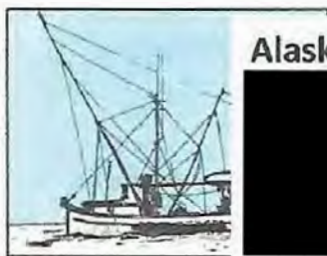
Our fishery has experienced dramatic declines over the last century, particularly through the reductions mandated by implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST). As you are probably aware, hatchery fish are not counted towards our Alaska's PST allocation. We stand firmly in support of our hatcheries and have received significant benefit from them.

Accordingly, we oppose Proposals 34, 35, 36, 41, 43 which are before you at this meeting and ask you reject all of these in support of our healthy hatchery infrastructure in Southeast.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Daugherty".

Amy Daugherty
Executive Director



Alaska Trollers Association



1.

November 11, 2023

Board of Fisheries
State of Alaska

c/o Board Support

Re: Comments on Proposal 259

Dear Board of Fisheries Members:

As you are aware, the Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) represents the power trollers and hand trollers who fish throughout the waters of Southeast Alaska, up to and including Yakutat. We represent these men and women who compose a fishery which supports thousands of Southeast Alaska rural resident jobs. Furthermore, according to the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska 30% of trollers have tribal membership.

Our fishery has experienced dramatic declines over the last century, particularly through the reductions mandated by implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST). Nevertheless, we continue to fight for our livelihoods and our way of life. Most recently, we took the initiative to intervene in costly litigation brought by the Wild Fish Conservancy (WFC), a Seattle-based, litigious nonprofit hell-bent on shutting down our fishery. In 2021, we fended off an effort by WFC to shut down our fishery when WFC requested a temporary injunction from the Western District of Washington. Earlier this year, we successfully obtained emergency relief from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that kept our fishery open for the summer season and this winter season.

We will continue to fight in every venue to preserve our fishery and our way of life. It is with that sentiment in mind that we are writing to comment on Proposal 257, 258 and especially 259.

By simply omitting two words, "sport fishery" in RC 178, ADFG removed the management guideline of the 80/20 split which was fundamental in our negotiations. Proposal 259 seeks to reinstate this guideline of everyone staying within their agreed upon cap. Until 2020 sports fishing was always managed in-season. For example in 2008, 2017, 2018, 2020 in-season changes were made to the SEAK sport fishery.

Without adoption of Proposal 259, and due to the increase of non-resident sport effort, there is a very likely annual reallocation away from troller king harvests by the non-resident sport sector. Non-



residents must be managed to within their harvest ceiling as prescribed in 5AAC 29.060. Proposal 259 only reinstates your Board's action and time on this matter and without Proposal 259, last year's agreement is entirely invalidated, as is the Board's attention and action on this matter last year.

Using "averaging" as justification for allowing overages due to "no in-season management" of non-residents allows subjective formulation. In 2022, neither the non-residents NOR the trollers came close to catching their allowed harvest so should not be used. We believe the generic term "averaging" included in the RC 178 simply recognized the department has harvest goals that can be, with the best of intentions, not perfectly attained. We would not have agreed to whatever-you-feel averaging-should-be to justify a hands-off approach to non-resident king fishing.

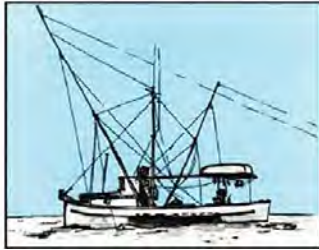
Proposal 257 and 258 seek to address the new tier levels adopted by the Pacific Salmon Commission. While we agree the new tiers need to be enshrined in regulation, both Proposal 257 and 258 would apply to current regulations which erroneously misstate the signed agreement RC 178. We therefore ask the board to incorporate the new tiers within Proposal 257 or 258, **as long as Proposal 259 adoption happens to ensure the original agreement language gets reinstated**. RC 178 did not say "no in-season management" and any inference that there was a compliant gesture or verbal indication of such is conjecture.

From our State constitution, Article 8, Section 2: "The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development , and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people." As we have pointed out repeatedly, trollers have one of the highest percentages of Alaska residents of any fishery. We ask why our State agency acts to promote the interests of largely non-resident businesses that cater largely to non-residents.

ATA has been forced to address this issue – the modifications in verbage ADFG promulgated after Board decision. We do NOT want to re-open negotiations at this point in time, nor deal with reallocation – We ask only for the agreed outcome of our negotiations at the 2022 BOF, Proposal 259.

Sincerely,

Amy Daugherty
Executive Director



Alaska Trollers Association



November 11, 2023

Board of Fisheries
State of Alaska
c/o Board Support



Re: Comments on Proposal 259

Dear Board of Fisheries Members:

As you are aware, the Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) represents the power trollers and hand trollers who fish throughout the waters of Southeast Alaska, up to and including Yakutat. We represent these men and women who compose a fishery which supports thousands of Southeast Alaska rural resident jobs. Furthermore, according to the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska 30% of trollers have tribal membership.

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We will continue to fight in every venue to preserve our fishery and our way of life. It is with that sentiment in mind that we are writing to comment on Proposal 257, 258 and especially 259.

By simply omitting two words, "sport fishery" in RC 178, ADFG removed the management guideline of the 80/20 split which was fundamental in our negotiations. Proposal 259 seeks to reinstate this guideline of everyone staying within their agreed upon cap. Until 2020 sports fishing was always managed in-season. For example in 2008, 2017, 2018, 2020 in-season changes were made to the SEAK sport fishery.

Without adoption of Proposal 259, and due to the increase of non-resident sport effort, there is a very likely annual reallocation away from troller king harvests and resident sport fishers by the non-resident



sport sector. Non-residents must be managed to within their harvest ceiling as prescribed in 5AAC 29.060. Proposal 259 only reinstates your Board's action and time on this matter and without Proposal 259, last year's agreement is entirely invalidated, as is the Board's attention and action on this matter last year.

Using "averaging" as justification for allowing overages due to "no in-season management" of non-residents allows subjective formulation. In 2022, neither the non-residents NOR the trollers came close to catching their allowed harvest so should not be used. We believe the generic term "averaging" included in the RC 178 simply recognized the department has harvest goals that can be, with the best of intentions, not perfectly attained. We would not have agreed to whatever-you-feel averaging-should-be to justify a hands-off approach to non-resident king fishing.

Proposal 257 and 258 seek to address the new tier levels adopted by the Pacific Salmon Commission. While we agree the new tiers need to be enshrined in regulation, both Proposal 257 and 258 would apply to current regulations which erroneously misstate the signed agreement RC 178. We therefore ask the board to prioritize passing Proposal 259 and support either Proposal 257 or 258 tier updates as long as Proposal 259 corrects the regulatory language matches the signed agreement. RC 178 did not say "no in-season management" and any inference that there was a compliant gesture or verbal indication of such is conjecture.

From our State constitution, Article 8, Section 2: "The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people." As we have pointed out repeatedly, trollers have one of the highest percentages of Alaska residents of any fishery. We ask why our State agency acts to promote the interests of largely non-resident businesses that cater largely to non-residents.

ATA has been forced to address this issue – the modifications in verbage ADFG promulgated after Board decision. We do NOT want to re-open negotiations at this point in time, nor deal with reallocation – We ask only for the agreed outcome of our negotiations at the 2022 BOF, Proposal 259.

Sincerely,

Amy Daugherty
Executive Director



Submitted by: Jeff Allred

Community of Residence: Waterfall Resort AK

Comment:

I support prop 257. I STRONGLY oppose prop 258 & 259

These proposals should not be happening away from the areas they are intended for and should be heard at the BOF meeting in SEAK 2025

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



11.13.2024

Dear Board of Fish,

I own and operate a three-boat lodge. On average I employ 14 people each year. Out of 14 employees, many are residents of Prince of Wales Island and Ketchikan, Alaska. I need to voice my opinion and displeasure with Proposal 259 and request that this proposal be taken up in the cycle in 2025 during the Southeast meeting.

If Proposal 259 is adopted it will create a lack of stability for our fleet. The static 3-2-1 annual limits for non-resident sport anglers across all abundance levels is calculated to produce fleet stability. The 3-2-1 is so important to our operation and to all the lodges in SE to get and maintain bookings. To be clear, there was not a misunderstanding of the agreement with the troll fleet. The troll fleet is just not following through on their commitment to the three-year process!

Make no mistake, taking up proposals out of the cycle, and out of the area being impacted, is not acceptable. It is not right to limit stakeholders' access to the board decision process. This undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions. Please do not allow the circumvention of the process that should be followed.

Thank you for your consideration to take this proposal up in the Southeast 2025 cycle as agreed upon by all parties.

Sincerely,

Derek Anderson
Owner – Screamin' Reels Guide Service & Lodge



www.srlodge.com



PC9

Submitted by: Robert Armstrong

Community of Residence: Washington, Ephrata

Comment:

Bait should be legal in this area. The salmon numbers are not affected by bait use but rather many other factors. I believe this measure is strictly a “feel-good” measure to make people feel as if they are doing something. In opposition to this, i believe efforts should be concentrated on the harder fights regarding bigger issues related to salmon run numbers. Livelihood, tourism, and DFW liscence fees depend on those that fish with bait. I hope this is taken into consideration.

Proposal 256: Support



PC10

Submitted by: Jeff Bailey

Community of Residence: Cordova

Comment:

Proposal 43.

Alaska's pristine waters and high nutrient content make it a perfect environment to raise salmon. Hatcheries located throughout Alaska contribute to the economies of many coastal communities through raw fish tax revenue. This economic contribution is vital to our coastal communities and the people who live there. Without our hatchery programs we would see a dramatic decline in tax revenue to the state and our coastal communities. The continued efforts by commercial sport fishing organizations to limit or eliminate all Alaska salmon hatcheries is unrealistic and reckless. Alaska's king salmon decline is a direct result of sport fish pressure in our spawning streams not hatchery pinks maturing in the open waters of the pacific ocean. It's time for the State of Alaska to treat king salmon as big game animals. All sport caught king salmon should be permitted through a state wide drawing system similar to moose, bison, bear and other big game animals. Report of harvest should be required within 5 to 7 days of harvest. Not a voluntary mail in sometime the following year as is currently requested by ADF&G for managment of harvest guidelines. The current system dose'nt allow for in season managment based on real time sport harvest numbers.

Proposal 43: Oppose



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries - Lower Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting

Baranof Fishing is a charter company, so by our very nature, we love to fish. We love taking our guests out, searching for them, hooking them, fighting them, landing them, and eating them. We want to celebrate these animals every way we can. That does not mean we revel in killing the maximum numbers of these animals possible.

In our 2023 season, Baranof took approximately 15000 guests fishing on our 24 boats. In total for the entire summer, we retained 180 large king salmon and released 54. With less than 1.2% of our guests retaining kings, our impact on this population is minimal, but its impact on our sales is dramatic. We don't need to catch kings, but our business relies on the *potential* to catch a king. People come to Alaska searching for king salmon, and we believe it is important both economically and culturally for Southeast that this reputation be maintained. It is far better to come to Alaska and get skunked for kings than it is to come to Alaska and be told the king fishery suddenly and unpredictably closed.

We support Proposal 257 as it best allows ***uninterrupted*** sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon as defined under the objectives of the management plan.

We strongly oppose Proposals 258 and 259. Trolling for catch and release poses such a lethal risk to fish that our captains won't do it unless they're permitted to retain the few fish they catch. These proposals threaten our ability to provide the world-class salmon fishing *potential* we have marketed to our fishing guests.

We find it frustrating that these proposals with major implications for businesses in Southeast are being considered at a meeting so far away in Homer. We believe our communities could more effectively weigh in on these issues if these proposals were heard at the Board of Fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska in 2025.

As you weigh these proposals, please consider the low fishing impact and high economic value of charter operators like us being able to market a chance at these fish.

Sincerely,

Geoff Jans
General Manager
Baranof Fishing Charters LLC





Submitted by: Richard Bates

Community of Residence: Wasilla, Alaska

Comment:

To: John Wood,

Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries

My name is Richard Bates. I am a full time alaskan resident and a guide with Waterfall Resort.

I support Proposal 257 of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

I oppose Proposal 258 of the Southeast King Salmon Management Plan.

Additionally, I oppose Proposal 259, Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

It is clear that code section 5AAC 47.055 was understood by all involved parties at the time of signing. Furthermore, the conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G demonstrates knowledge of the agreement. This is not a misunderstanding of the agreement just a lack of commitment by the troll fleet to the three-year commitment as agreed to by all parties involved

The attempt of taking up proposals out of cycle as well as out of the area of impact is unacceptable and circumvents the public process all stakeholders are entitled to.

It is my request that Proposal 259 be taken up in cycle during the 2025 Southeast meeting.

In closing, I oppose Proposal 259 and ask that the Board honor the established agreement as agreed to and signed by all involved parties.

Sincerely,

Capt. Richard Bates

Guide, Waterfall Resort

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I'm from Juneau and am part of the commercial and sport fisheries, as well as seafood processing and retail. I strongly oppose Proposal 43. Alaska's private, non-profit hatchery program is an excellent model that benefits commercial fishermen, sport fishermen, subsistence fishermen and is already managed very well with the oversight of ADF&G.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a



careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Hank Baumgart

[Redacted Signature]

Juneau, Alaska



Submitted by: Fisher Baxter

Community of Residence: Santa Cruz, CA

Comment:

There needs to be no confusion that taking up proposals out of cycle and out of the area being impacted is unacceptable as this circumvents the public process, limits stakeholders access to the board decision process, and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions. We are requesting that this proposal be taken up in cycle during the 2025 Southeast meeting. Those effected need the opportunity to attend the meeting in a location closer to home and be heard by the Board.

Despite the claims that Proposal 259 makes, the changes in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan were not a misunderstanding. It was clearly understood by all parties at the time of signing. This was explicitly clarified by the board as seen in the conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



November 12th, 2023

John Wood
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries



Re: Proposals 257-259, Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

From: Karina Belcher

Sitka, Alaska

Manager at Southeast Alaska Fishing Lodge

Thank you for the platform to comment on the proposals on the agenda for your upcoming meeting. The following comments come from my experience working in the sport industry for many years and having been born and raised in Sitka, Alaska. My comments directly relate to proposals 257-259 as they are about Southeast Alaska and King Salmon management even though this is a lower Cook Inlet meeting.

Proposal 257

I am writing the following comments in support of Proposal 257. This seems like a more manageable tier system based on the winter troll CPUE. One of the most detrimental things to our sport fishery is emergency in-season management changes. Over the last five seasons, the industry and customers have seen a pattern to the tiering of annual limits for non-residents over the course of the summer which would be drastically changed if the commercial industry has their way through proposals 258 and 259.

Proposal 258

The following comments are in opposition of Proposal 258. This proposal comes at a time in the middle of the 3 year cycles for King Salmon allocation and quota in the sport and commercial sectors. It is disrespectful to the agreement set in 2022 at the Southeast Alaska Board of Fish Meeting which should hold true until the next meeting in 2025. It is a dirty move on the part of Tad Fujioka and the commercial troll fleet to make agenda change requests resulting in these proposals being taken up in a year outside of the regular Southeast Alaska Board of Fish cycles. If they have concerns about the current Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan, then the appropriate and polite time for proposals of concern is at the next Board of Fish meeting in Southeast Alaska. By making a proposal at, of all places, a lower Cook Inlet meeting when this strictly has to do with Southeast Alaska, limits the ability for a proper rebuttal and public testimony by the people most directly negatively affected by it. Follow the process. It is not going to be the end of the world to wait until their turn to take it up at the appropriate time of the next Board of Fisheries meeting.



Proposal 259

The following comments are in opposition of Proposal 259. This proposal would do an extreme amount of harm to the sport industry in Southeast Alaska and doesn't allow for proper management procedures during times of high abundance. The argument that this doesn't align with Alaska's Sustainable Fisheries Policy is not correct. The whole idea of sustainability is based on non-harmful extraction of a resource combined with allocating the highest value per unit to that resource. A sport caught king salmon has a higher fiscal value to the community it is caught in and the city as opposed to a commercial caught king salmon as the value is diminished based on volume and is sold to a commercial plant with offices outside of Alaska. When the current agreement was set in 2022 between sport and commercial sectors, everyone was in agreement with the results and should respect it until the next appropriate time to bring up proposals for changes, which is not now. There was no incorrect adoption of language and the specifics of the agreement were clarified by the board, Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang, and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G. This can be supported by the transcripts from that 2022 Board deliberation which are available to the public as a public record. There was no incorrect adoption, trollers are wanting to back out on the agreement set in place and should be held to the agreement until the right time for change. Making a drastic allocation change every season is detrimental to the fishing industry as a whole. The ATA should not be putting us in this scenario, when they themselves were banning together against a last minute ruling which would have decimated their summer opener for king salmon due to the Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit rulings.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these proposals and I hope the thoughts brought forth by the sport fishery will be taken seriously as these proposals can impact our industry greatly.

Sincerely,
Karina Belcher



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I participate in all aspects of fisheries, from commercial, sport, and subsistence fishing to seafood processing. I stand strongly opposed to Proposal 43. I support our Hatchery programs.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.



Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Jeff Berger



Submitted by: John Bithos

Community of Residence: Ninilchik, Alaska

Comment:

Proposal 5: I submitted the proposal. Allowing more fishing from the very accessible Deep Creek and Ninilchik beaches will result in more recruitment of young Alaskans into the fishing community...it is a fun and affordable way for families to be outside, together and having an entertaining pursuit for all ages...even the toddlers get into the act throwing rocks in the water and picking up beach rocks and drift items. In addition, it will provide more days of our short summers where older fishers, many of whom have given up boat ownership, to keep fishing with the great and easy access these two areas afford. If a biologic imperative case can be made for excluding king salmon from legal take during this expansion, so be it. But...the other species that are caught from the shore are not threatened in any way and supports expanding the days where this fishery is open. Your action to make this a more available fishery location will strongly benefit family fishing inclusion...a very good thing to have occurring.

Proposal 5: Support



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I have participated in commercial gillnet fishery in PWS since 1983. Hatchery production has maintained stability to a fishery that before hatchery production was very unreliable. PWSAC and VFDA have provided stable fisheries and also large continuing payrolls to many Alaska towns and Villages. The hatcheries have provided continued reliable resources for not only the commercial fishers, but also sport fishers, processors and the State of Alaska. I do not support reducing production of any of the hatcheries in AK whether managed by State or Private Non Profits. These hatcheries are too important to the well-being of State and local economies in both commercial and sport connections. Please vote to keep hatchery production levels at present levels into the future for all.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.



Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
David Blake



Cordova, Alaska



PC19

Submitted by: Mark Borquist

Community of Residence: Vancouver, WA

Comment:

As owners of the main fishing lodge on the Togiak River, the Larsens have repeatedly shown extreme sensitivity and logic toward all of the Togiak fishery species. I strongly endorse proposal 256 as the Larsens have shown themselves to be excellent stewards of the fishery and are what all Alaskan visitors should experience.

Proposal 256: Support



PC20

Submitted by: William Borquist

Community of Residence: Washougal, WA

Comment:

Thank You.

Proposal 256: Support



November 10, 2023

John Wood
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries

Re: Proposal 259 and SE Alaska decisions being made outside SE Alaska

Chairman Wood and members of the Board,

My name is Meagan Bowers, and I have been working for sport fishing lodges in Southeast Alaska since 2012. I am writing this letter to express my concern for Proposal 259, together with how these decisions will be affecting Southeast Alaska potentially being decided outside of the proper meeting cycle as well as in an area far away from the affected areas. These decisions should be left to meeting cycles reflecting their respective areas.

If put in place, Proposal 259 will retract an agreement signed into place during the 2022 Board of Fisheries meetings. This agreement provides stability for the management of King Salmon sport fishing in SE Alaska, while also providing protection for Resident Anglers.

In years past, choosing to use "Managing on an average" as the approach has proven to be an effective tool for many years. In some years, the sport fishing community was under the annual allocation and other years they were over, but when looking at a multi-year average it fell within the 20%. It has only been within recent history that a hard 20% annual ceiling cap for sport fishing industry has been enforced. For example, if you look back at the last two seasons, Sport was 15,000 fish short of their allocation, and these fish were transferred to the Troll industry as agreed. In 2023, Sport went over by close to 17,000, and these came from Troll as agreed upon at the 2022 meetings. Looking at these numbers as an example proves that averaging out via a rolling average is the more efficient choice. For these reasons, I highly oppose Proposal



259! It was agreed upon and seems to be working as designed. There seemed to be no complaints from the "Troll fleet" when an extra 15,000 fish was received from the Sport side in 2022.

In my opinion, it makes no sense why Proposal 259 is even up for discussion at an upcoming Board of Fisheries meeting in Homer Alaska. Homer has zero connection to Southeast Alaska. By having discussions so far from the affected area (Southeast Alaska), there will not be ample representation from either side to properly hear from the people who reflect and represent the businesses and communities that rely on tourism, commercial fishing, and the King Salmon fishery in general. This is just one more example of why this proposal should be tabled until the Board of Fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska scheduled for January 2025. This is the forecasted time when the original agreement, that was signed and read into record for the Board in 2022 is slated to end.

Sincerely,

Meagan Bowers



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I'm part of the commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries in Petersburg, Alaska. I strongly oppose Proposal 43. The attack on Alaska hatcheries by a very small group of people is very concerning to me as an Alaska resident and commercial fisherman. Most concerning is the fact that these attacks are not based on facts or science and are now attempting to weaponize the Board of Fish process.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a



demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Jared Bright



[REDACTED]

Petersburg, Alaska



Submitted by: Thatcher Brouwer

Community of Residence: Juneau, AK

Comment:

November 13, 2023

Dear Honorable Board of Fisheries Members,

As a Southeast commercial salmon troller, I write in support of proposals 258 and 259 and urge you to pass these proposals during the Board of Fisheries meeting in Homer. In addition, I write in opposition to proposal 257. Thank you for determining that these proposals met the agenda change request criteria at your meeting this fall. It is important that proposals 258 and 259 be adopted so that we can continue to maintain the historic 80%-20% split of Chinook salmon between the commercial and sport sectors in Southeast Alaska.

Proposal 258 corrects an impact to the fishery that was unforeseen when the Board of Fisheries updated the Southeast Alaska Chinook Sport Management Plan in 2022 and then subsequently in 2023 the Pacific Salmon Commission process changed the process used to determine the Southeast all-gear Chinook harvest limit. It is critical that this proposal be adopted so that we can maintain the historic 80% -20% split of Chinook salmon. The current Southeast Alaska Chinook Sport Management Plan is designed to work with a process the Pacific Salmon Commission no longer uses to determine the harvest limit. It is time to update the Southeast Alaska Chinook Management Plan.

Proposal 259 corrects an error that was made following the 2022 Southeast Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting. The language of the agreement that was adopted at the Board of Fisheries meeting in RC 178 was not the same as the language that is being used in regulation. The phrase "sport fishery" was incorrectly dropped from 5AAC 47.055 in January 2023 as Registered 244. 5AAC 47.055, b(2) should read "allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the sport fishery harvest ceiling." Without the phrase "sport fishery" included, the sport fishery in Southeast Alaska has the ability to catch more than their historic 20% of the Chinook allocation.

This season the commercial fishery quota was cut in season because the sport harvest had exceeded their allocation by nearly 20,000 chinook. With growth in the guided sport sector, it is likely that this will continue to happen, effectively changing the historic agreed to allocation. Adopting proposal 259 will correct an error that has already impacted the commercial Chinook fishermen and will continue to, if not corrected.

Finally, while I appreciate the Department's effort to align the King Salmon Management Plan with the updated guidelines adopted by the Pacific Salmon Commission, I cannot support proposal 257 as written since it does not take into account the error in regulation that proposal 259 seeks to correct. I am also concerned that proposal 257 opens up the Southeast King Salmon Management Plan for rewrite during an out of cycle Board of Fisheries meeting. Any substantive changes to the Southeast King Salmon Management Plan should be made during a to Southeast cycle board meeting.

Thank you for considering my comments in support of proposals 258 and 259 and in opposition to proposal 257

Sincerely,

Thatcher Brouwer, F/V Deep Sea

Proposal 257: Oppose

Proposal 258: Support

Proposal 259: Support



Submitted by: Glynn Brown

Community of Residence: Sterling, Alaska

Comment:

I would like to propose cutting All charter boat operations back to fishing for rockfish to one day a week. They are over fishing the stock. Go to any port and watch the boats come in, their decks are covered in rockfish and this occurs on a daily basis. The resource can't stand this much pressure. I make couple personal trips a year for rockfish and have seen areas where rockfish use to be plentiful but are now barren due to charter boats over fishing them. Few more years of this and there won't be any left or the fishery will get shutdown.



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I'm tied to commercial, sport, subsistence, and public use fisheries in Cordova, Alaska. I strongly oppose Proposal 43.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.



Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Sincerely,
Kacey Brown

[Redacted Signature]

Cordova, Alaska



Submitted by: Michael Bunker

Community of Residence: Ketchikan, AK

Comment:

To whom it may concern:

My name is Captain Michael Bunker and I have been a sports fishing guide in SE AK since 2016.

I support Proposal 257. I oppose Proposals 258 and 259. I believe these proposals should not be happening away from the areas they are intended to protect and should be heard ONLY at the public Board of Fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska in 2025.

Last seasons NO HALIBUT MONDAY was very unpopular with our guests. A mid season king salmon sports fishing closure would be even more unpopular. People spend on average \$5,000 for a three day fishing excursion (x 4 guests = \$20K). Many come back annually with new guests. I often say that one 35lb king is worth +\$20K because those guests will likely come back. Commercially - that single king is maybe worth a few hundred bucks...

Mid season closures will also get people considering going to Montana for a fly fishing excursion OR to British Columbia INSTEAD of SE AK.

If there are not enough kings around - cut off the commercial fishery for them. It's (obviously) an untenable business model and they catch a lot more kings than the sports fishermen. Net: The commercial guys will have to make do with Sockeye, Chum and Pinks.

Side note: Orca need about 300lbs of king salmon per day per orca. What are they supposed to eat? Sea otters?

Thank You.

Michael Bunker.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



Submitted by: Captain Kevin Burchfield

Community of Residence: Juneau, AK

Comment:

There needs to be no confusion that taking up proposals out of cycle and out of the area being impacted is unacceptable as this circumvents the public process, limits stakeholders access to the board decision process, and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions. We are requesting that this proposal be taken up in cycle during the 2025 Southeast meeting. Those effected need the opportunity to attend the meeting in a location closer to home and be heard by the Board.

Despite the claims that Proposal 259 makes, the changes in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan were not a misunderstanding. It was clearly understood by all parties at the time of signing. This was explicitly clarified by the board as seen in the conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G.

Proposal 259: Oppose



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I participate in commercial, sport, subsistence, and public use fisheries in Anchorage and Cordova. I stand strongly against Proposal 43.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.



Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,

James Burton

[Redacted Signature]

Anchorage/Cordova, Alaska



James R. Burton
F/V Cricket

November 13th, 2023

John Wood, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries

RE: Public Comments for LCI Proposals

Dear Mr. Chair and Board of Fisheries Members, I am a third generation Fisherman from Cordova, Alaska. I have fished for herring, salmon, crab and ground fish from Southeast Alaska to the Bering Sea for the majority of my life. I have been a sport and subsistence user for fish and game resources in Alaska for all of my life. I have served as a Fish and Wildlife Aide and an Alaska State Trooper in the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection with duty stations in Kodiak, Fairbanks, Sitka and Anchorage. I served the community of Cordova, seated for two terms on Cordova City Council in addition to other various roles including the Harbor Commission and Health Services Board.

I am married and the father of four children. My oldest daughter has been fishing with me for 5 years as a full time crewman, and participates in the multiple fisheries. She is an up and coming 4th generation fisherman, recently purchasing her first permit. Commercial Fishing is critical to my family, not only as income, but a skill and tradition to be passed down. The idea that the commercial fishing industry would be willing to sacrifice the future of our fisheries for a fish ticket today couldn't be further from the truth. We are not only fishermen, but stewards of the resource with the goal to pass this industry down to the next generation. I have every intention to introduce the rest of my children to this life in hopes that they will someday have an opportunity to feed the world.

I urge you to reject Proposals 43, 59, and all similarly worded proposals and offer the following personal comments -

Proposal 43 (and 59 - and likely others for each upcoming regulatory salmon area BOF meeting cycle) essentially states that in 2000, an agreement was made to reduce hatchery egg takes for pink salmon to 25% of the year 2000 numbers.

For starters, the language of the proposal is flawed from the get go. The proposal states: ***Reduce hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 production as promised in 2000.***



Later, the language in the proposal states: ***The hatchery management met with the Governor and proffered that if the Board would not take up the proposal they would reduce their production by 25%.***

Which is it? Reduce Hatchery production in Alaska to 25% of the year 2000 egg take numbers, or reduce the 2000 egg take numbers by 25%. That's a MASSIVE difference.

Further, even if the Board of Fisheries has the authority to alter or regulate egg take numbers, it circumvents a larger process by which these numbers are arrived at - utilizing the best available science. This proposal suggests that the Board, and every stakeholder in the industry, simply agree to this reduction that is the result of an advisory committee proposal in a community with 32 residents (in the year 2000). Essentially 0.005 percent of the Alaska population of 627,963 at the time. Not that every Alaskan doesn't matter, they most certainly do, but I would suggest that the 2000 proposal was not indicative of the general wishes of Alaska - and it is most certainly outdated 23 years later. You, and WE should not be beholden to this argument generations of Alaskans later.

Having said that, proposal 43 suggests that hatchery-produced salmon compete with wild salmon for food and that as a result, ocean productivity is low. If this is true, I ask how have we seen - in the last ten years - some of the largest sockeye and pink salmon returns (sometimes simultaneously) in Alaska? How do we explain the last handful of record-breaking Bristol Bay returns that occurred at the same time that North Pacific aquaculture productions were at their current and probably record levels if you consider Russia and Asian hatchery production? Perhaps Bristol Bay sees record sockeye returns because they don't have sport fishermen stomping in and around their spawning grounds to the extent that the Chitina, Copper, Mat-Su and Kenai region do?

Continuing that thought, Russia produces pink salmon at a rate that is greater than 2:1 for Alaska. It's unclear what the split is between wild production and hatchery, but the information I have suggests it's at least 50% hatchery production. What number of eggs that takes and how many fry are released into the North Pacific Ocean I don't think we'll ever know. Which brings me to my next question for the Board:

If we accept that proposal 43 is completely factual, and we accept the correlation = causation argument regarding hatchery vs. wild salmon, food supply, etc... then: Why is the onus placed on Alaska hatcheries to bear the entire burden of the North Pacific? Salmon fry release into the ocean is in the *billions* yet this proposal takes zero consideration into the fact that this is a multinational industry, of which the State of Alaska is honestly *at least* a very distant second - to other countries over which the BOF has no control or jurisdiction.

Those arguments aside, I do not see any evidence presented in Proposal 43 to effectively quantify what benefit wild salmon would see, given a significant reduction in hatchery salmon. The lack of quantifiable, defensible data is arguably the biggest concern with this proposal. Rather than rooted in science, it essentially says the BOF needs to modify hatchery salmon production because "a long time ago those guys said they would and they didn't." As a parent, the argument feels a lot like one I'd hear from my preschooler and not something I would use to



determine the economic fallout of such a decision on the entire State of Alaska and its fishing industry.

Thank you for your time and dedication to this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Burton", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James R. Burton



Tiger Johnson. Ketchikan Alaska. Director of operations Cape Fox Commercial services

- *Despite the claims that Proposal 259 makes, the changes in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan were not a misunderstanding. It was clearly understood by all parties at the time of signing. This was clarified by the board as seen in the conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G. This is not a misunderstanding of the agreement just a lack of commitment by the troll fleet to the three-year process.*
- *There needs to be no confusion that taking up proposals out of cycle and out of the area being impacted is unacceptable as this circumvents the public process, limits stakeholders access to the board decision process, and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions. We are requesting that this proposal be taken up in cycle in 2025 during the Southeast meeting.*

In closing, **I oppose proposal 259**. I ask the board to address any changes to the King Salmon Management Plan during the 2025 Southeast meeting.

Sincerely,

Tiger Neville Johnson

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Cape Fox Commercial Services

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



PC30

Submitted by: Mitchell Carroll

Community of Residence: Chehalis, WA

Comment:

I support Proposal 257. I strongly oppose Proposals 258 and 259. I believe these proposals should not be happening away from the areas they are intended for and should be heard at the Board of Fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska in 2025.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC31

Submitted by: John Casey

Community of Residence: Warsaw, Illinois

Comment:

I Strongly appose prop 259. As a guide in south east I believe all proposals in south east should be held in southeast. Not in homer.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC32

Submitted by: Spencer Chute

Community of Residence: Sitka AK

Comment:

Hello Members of the Board,

I am writing to oppose proposal 259(formerly . ACR13) that is being presented during the lower Cook Inlet meeting this fall.

This is being taken up out of cycle where it should be presented at 2025 board of fish meetings.

The fact of the matter is that the if this proposal were to go through it would create instability in the charter industry with in season closures and also leaving fish on the table in other years.

It was agreed upon during the last board of fish to try out no in-season management with resident preference in order to provide stable harvest.

Trying to back out of this deal after only one year of implementation is wrong, and I believe we should track harvest levels over a multi-year average to assess if 80-20 is achieved.

Please stand firm to the deal made at 2022 Board of fish and let's take this matter up during the next cycle where all parties have equal participation and due process is fair.

Thank you for your time.

Spencer Chute

Proposal 259: Oppose



**CITY OF SELDOVIA
RESOLUTION 24-13**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SELDOVIA, ALASKA
SUPPORTING THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY THE SELDOVIA ADVISORY
COMMITTEE TO THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME PROHIBITING
SNAGGING IN SELDOVIA BAY FROM JANUARY 1ST THROUGH JUNE 15TH**

WHEREAS, It is the mission of Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to protect, maintain, and improve the fish, game and aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their use and development in the best interest of the economy and the well-being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle; and

WHEREAS, There is a significant economic impact for Seldovia due to the attraction of visitors fishing for the Seldovia Chinook Salmon. These visitors additionally shop in local businesses, eat in local restaurants, stay in local lodging, and spend time and money in the community; and

WHEREAS, The stocking of Chinook Salmon Smolt in Seldovia Bay began in 1987; and every summer since, the Seldovia Slough Bridge has filled with visitors and residents of Seldovia alike fishing for the Chinook Salmon. People line the beach along the slough, and boats and rafts are used to fish the middle of the Seldovia lagoon; and

WHEREAS, In a recent regulation change the salt waters of Kachemak Bay were opened to snagging to align with the rest of Cook Inlet; and this included the waters of the Seldovia slough and lagoon; and

WHEREAS, Historically the waters of the Seldovia slough and lagoon were closed to snagging until June 24th, which gave anglers the opportunity to enjoy the sport fishery before snagging opened and fish could be harvested before they began to turn; and

WHEREAS, Seldovia and this fishery would benefit if regulations were returned having a season closed to snagging in the Seldovia slough and lagoon, and

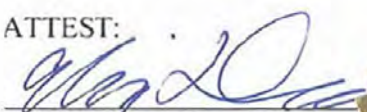
WHEREAS, Since ADF&G began releasing the king smolt in the head of Seldovia Lagoon the returning adults spend more time there causing them to turn faster than they have historically; and

WHEREAS, the Seldovia Advisory Committee drafted its proposal, with public input and City Council support; and

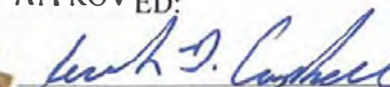
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the City Council of the City of Seldovia, Alaska is in support of Proposal #8 submitted by the Seldovia advisory committee to ADF&G prohibiting snagging in Seldovia slough and lagoon from January 1st through June 15th.

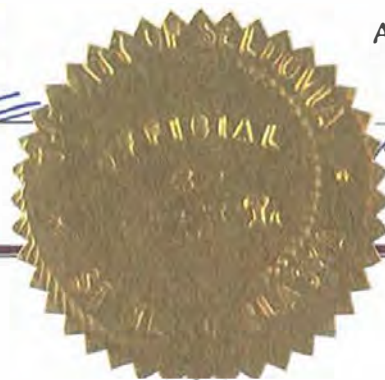
PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council of the City of Seldovia on this 23 day of October, 2023.

ATTEST:


Liz Diamant, City Clerk

APPROVED:


Jeremiah Campbell, Mayor





PC34

Submitted by: Eric Clock

Community of Residence: Seward, AK

Comment:

Lower Cook Inlet Proposal 11

Modify 5 AAC 58.060(c) to read:

(c) any sport fish angler may use 1 rod allowed per person on a vessel and 1 additional rod on the vessel to be used by any person on the vessel, when fishing for salmon with the additional rod.

Rationale: It would shorten the amount of time that a smaller vessel has to be out on the water without increasing your catch limits.

Proposal 11: Support With Amendments



PC35

Submitted by: Derrek Conces

Community of Residence: Rockaway Oregon

Comment:

I am a guide in Ketchikan Alaska during the summer months. My clients will be heavily impacted by these proposals. There were more kings last year than I have ever seen. There is no reason for closer.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC36

Submitted by: Greg Conser

Community of Residence: Albany, Oregon

Comment:

I support the changes requested Jordan and Zachery Larson.



PC37

Submitted by: Danny Cook

Community of Residence: Carnation

Comment:

Thank you for allowing public input to this proposal (256). I have been angling for salmon, trout and steelhead for nearly 50 years and have utilized about every which way these fish can be captured technique-wise as well as how to best handle them for release. Considering both ends of the spectrum in our desire to angle while also maintaining a true and honest approach to conservation, I believe this proposal makes clear and reasonable sense. Those of us whom have been doing this for many decades understand chinook salmon (kings) affinity for salmon roe. It is a well-established fact that roe is "number one" if an angler is trying to target kings. Other baits such as shrimp and sardines are used with angling techniques that have a very low to no chance of mortally hooking a fish. Proposal 256 is obviously a well thought out approach to conservation as well as allowing anglers to have reasonable chance at success in targeting other salmon species.

Proposal 256: Support



PC38

Submitted by: Scott Cook

Community of Residence: Craig, CO

Comment:

I support Proposal 256, it just makes sense. Thanks

Proposal 256: Support



PC39

Submitted by: Peter Zimmerman

Community of Residence: Homer, AK

Comment:

See Attached

Proposal 1: Oppose
With Amendments

Proposal 6: Support With Amendments

Proposal 10: Oppose

Proposal 12: Oppose

Proposal 9: Support



PC40

Submitted by: Megan Corazza

Community of Residence: Homer, Alaska

Comment:

see attached

Proposal 43: Oppose



Cook Inlet Recreational Fishermen

c/o Pete Zimmerman, Spokesman • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

October 29, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
C/O Board Support Section
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Attention: Art Nelson, Executive Director

Regarding: Upper Cook Inlet Summer, Lower Cook Inlet Summer, Winter and North Gulf Coast
Fishery Proposals - Comments

via e-mail: boardoffisheries.adfg.alaska.gov

Dear Art and Members of the Board of Fisheries:

Cook Inlet Recreational Fishermen (CIRF) is a grassroots sportfishing association formed to provide Alaska anglers a unified voice in management actions that affect the saltwater Chinook (king) salmon sport fishery in Cook Inlet and the North Gulf Coast.

We strongly support application of the best scientific information available to inform conservation and management decisions. As a result, we present you with the following information and comments concerning Proposals 1, 6, 9, 10 and 12 in advance of the Board meetings scheduled for November 28 to December 1, 2023 (Lower Cook Inlet) and February 23 to March 7, 2024 (Upper Cook Inlet). Each of these proposals pertains to Saltwater King Salmon and is of great concern.

PROPOSAL 1 - Upper Cook Inlet Summer Fishery

5 AAC 58.055. Upper Cook Inlet Summer Salt Water King Salmon Management Plan

Amend the Upper Cook Inlet Summer Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan, as follows (This proposal will be heard and public testimony will be taken at both the LCI and UCI meetings and deliberated at the UCI meeting):

5 AAC 58.055 is amended to read:

(g) if the Anchor River preseason forecast or inseason projection is less than the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal of 3,200 - 6,400 king salmon, the upper Cook Inlet salt waters north of the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.) within a mile of shore shall be closed to the retention of king salmon from May 15 to July 15; if the Kenai River is closed as specified in 5 AAC 57.160, the upper Cook Inlet salt waters north of the latitude of Bluff Point (59 40) shall be closed to the taking of king salmon from May 15 to July 15; (h) if the Kenai River is closed to the taking of king salmon as specified in 5 AAC 21.359, the upper Cook Inlet salt waters north of the latitude of Bluff Point shall be closed to the taking of king salmon from June 20 through August 15.

COMMENTS: The late run Kenai kings are generally in the river by July 31. It is possible there may be a few fish north of Deep Creek, however, the chances of hooking one of these fish is extremely low. By closing the fishery inside one mile from shore north of Bluff Point beginning July 31, the chance of interception is eliminated.



PROPOSAL 6 - Lower Cook Inlet Summer Fishery
5 AAC 58.XXX. New Section.

Create a management plan and establish a guideline harvest level for the lower Cook Inlet summer salt water king salmon sport fishery as follows:

- a) The goal of this management plan is to stabilize the sport harvest of king salmon in the mixed stock salt water fishery in lower Cook Inlet from April 1 through August 31;*
- b) The lower Cook Inlet salt waters include all salt water south of the latitude of Bluff Point at 59 40.00'N. lat excluding shore-based harvest;*
- c) the bag and possession limit is 2 king salmon any size;*
- d) the annual limit and harvest record specified in 5 AAC 58.022 applies to king salmon 20" or greater harvested in this fishery;*
- e) the guideline harvest level is X,XXX king salmon*

COMMENTS: The Board of Fisheries needs to address the inequities and inconsistencies between Alaska resident and nonresident recreational retention of king salmon.

There is a huge discrepancy in management policies of lower Cook Inlet recreational fisheries verses the rest of the state. For decades Alaska residents fishing in Southeast (SE) have had priority retaining king salmon over nonresidents. As the SE salmon charter fleet grew, non-residents began harvesting the majority of available king salmon. It was determined by the Board of fisheries that Alaska residents fishing in SE Alaska would receive an increased allotment of king salmon over non-resident fisherman. Last season for example the resident bag limit was 2 kings per day, no annual limit. Nonresident bag limit was 1 king per day with an annual limit of 3 kings.

Resident recreational fisherman in Cook Inlet need to have priority over nonresident fisherman regarding retention of king salmon. These fish provide food for our families. We are allowed to keep a total 5 kings during the 5-month summer season. The Homer charter fleet caters to primarily non-residents. Most boats carry 6 passengers (six packs) and larger boats accommodate 12 or more. One six pack charter boat can keep 12 king salmon per day. A 12 pack can retain 24 kings per day. Alaska residents are allowed 5 fish for the entire summer season. The board needs to establish a Cook Inlet recreational king salmon management plan which allows Alaska residents a harvest priority over nonresidents. A conservative summer season limit for Alaska residents south of Bluff Point would be 1 king/day over 20", no annual limit. (At the very minimum 10 kings for the summer season for Alaska residents only).

Note: ADF&G's *Lower Cook Inlet Management Area Saltwater Charter Logbook, Table 4. 2006-2022* states the Lower Cook Inlet average annual charter boat catch as follows:

Years	Average Catch
2006 - 2013	2,858 King Salmon
2014 - 2018	6,871 King Salmon
2019 - 2022	9,224 King Salmon
2022 Only	11,224 King Salmon

Posted on the ADF&G website is the 'Commissioner's Welcome' which states... *'Alaska's fish and game resources belong to Alaskan's. Furthermore, Commissioner Douglas Vincent-Lang states... 'The Department will continue to put the needs of our citizens first.'*

Alaska residents fishing in Cook Inlet waters have no priority over non-residents. Homers charter fleet is taking a disproportionate share of highly migratory, Lower Cook Inlet mixed-stock king salmon. We ask the board to honor the Commissioners pledge and establish a Cook Inlet recreational king salmon management plan similar to that of SE Alaska, allowing Cook Inlet residents a prioritized share of Cook Inlet king salmon over non-residents.

**PROPOSAL 9 - Winter Fishery****5 AAC 58.060. Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan.**

Review management options in the Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan as follows:

5 AAC 58.060(b) is amended to read:

- (1) The guideline harvest level is [4,500] X,XXX king salmon;*
- (2) The sport fish harvest will be estimated annually by the department's statewide harvest survey;*
- (3) The bag and possession limit for king salmon is [TWO] X fish;*
- (4) The annual limit and harvest record specified in 5 AAC 58.022 does [NOT] apply.*

COMMENTS: With the exception of (2019), during the past 7 years the average number of kings exceeding the Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) was 568 fish, or 12.6% above the GHL. A logical means to maintain the current GHL would be to adopt a 20-inch minimum size limit for winter kings. This would reduce the take by over 20% and give juvenile kings under 5 pounds a chance to mature.

PROPOSAL 10 - Winter Fishery**5 AAC 58.060. Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan.**

Modify king salmon limits in the Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery as follows:

5 AAC 58.060. Cook Inlet Winter Saltwater 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 Cook Inlet during the winter, which occurs from September 1 through March 31.*
- b) In the winter salt water king salmon sport fishery in Cook Inlet*
 - 1) the guideline harvest level is 4,500 king salmon;*
 - 2) the sport harvest will be estimated annually by the department's statewide harvest survey;*
 - 3) [THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR KING SALMON IS TWO FISH] Limit of 2 per day 4 in Possession with an annual harvest limit of 10 King Salmon per person from September 1st to March 31st;*
 - 4) the annual limit and harvest record specified in 5 AAC 58.022 does not apply.*
- c) For the purposes of this section, Cook Inlet consists of the salt waters of Cook Inlet west of the longitude of Gore Point at 150° 57.85' W. long., and north of the latitude of Cape Douglas at 58° 51.10' N. lat., including all of Kachemak Bay.*

COMMENTS: The most recent ADF&G four-year genetic king salmon study proved conclusively that 99% of winter king salmon caught South of Bluff Point are non-Cook Inlet fish. The kings caught recreationally during the winter fishery have no impact on Cook Inlet wild stocks. Furthermore, Cook Inlet fishermen are allowed only 5 kings during the entire 5-month summer season. The winter months are our only opportunity to 'put fish in the freezer.' The winter weather can be brutal, affording few fishable days.



PROPOSAL 12 - North Gulf Coast
5 AAC 58.065. North Gulf Coast King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan.

Modify the North Gulf Coast King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan, as follows:

Proposed Change:

(4) the bag and possession limit for king salmon is two fish, with no size limit except for May 15 -July 31 when bag and possession limit for king salmon is one fish, with no size limit;

(5) For summer fisheries (April 1-August 31): 20 inches or longer: There is a combined annual catch limit of 5 king salmon 20 inches or longer. A king salmon of 20 inches or longer that is removed from salt water must be retained and becomes a part of the bag limit for of the person who originally hooked the fish. You must not remove a king salmon of 20 inches or longer from the water before releasing it.

COMMENTS: King salmon caught throughout the North Gulf Coast are comprised of mixed stocks. West coast hatcheries provide fisherman with roughly 220,000,000 highly migratory king salmon smolt annually. Most of these fish are paid for with sportfish dollars. Current saltwater king limits are in line with other regions in the State, except Cook Inlet, which is the most restrictive region in Alaska. The Homer Charter Association submitted this proposal and if passed, should apply to non-residents.

CIRF appreciates the Board members' considerable time and effort in addressing the difficult decisions before them. CIRF members look forward to meeting and discussing these proposals with members of the Board of Fisheries at the upcoming meeting in Homer and Anchorage.

We request the Board honor the Commissioners stated pledge... *'Alaska's fish and game resources belong to Alaskans. We will continue to put the needs of our citizens first.'*

Sincerely,

Pete Zimmerman
Cook Inlet Recreational Fishermen



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I'm tied to the commercial and sport fisheries in Homer, Alaska, and I stand strongly against Proposal 43. I have owned and operated a purse seiner in PWS for 24 years. During that time I have never observed the presence of enhanced stocks affecting the wild stock return. Proposal 43 seems to be part of a larger push to cut back production statewide at all hatcheries based on inconclusive studies. This would be detrimental for many fisheries in Alaska and would greatly affect my sole livelihood.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a



permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,



Megan Corazza



Homer, Alaska



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I participate in the commercial and subsistence fisheries in Homer, Alaska, and I stand strongly against Proposal 43. Our family has strong roots in commercial fishing in Alaska beginning in 1938. Presently, we have 3 family seine boats in Prince William Sound. Fishing is a big gamble, finding a way to support our families in Alaska is always a big gamble. Fisheries and the hatcheries that complement them allow Alaskan families to survive and prosper. Alaska Department of Fish and Game provides oversight to insure science backed egg permit amounts. All stakeholders are involved in the process. Alaska has had hatcheries since 1900, the passage of time has proven that, if properly managed, they are a valuable asset and should be continued. Our country is contemplating many ways to promote man made fishery enhancement projects, Alaska already has proven Hatcheries that pay their own way and provide food for the world while providing a livelihood for the fisherman and jobs for Alaskans. With the ups and downs of natural salmon stocks that cannot be predicted, it is also impossible to demonstrate harm from hatcheries that have been on line for over 40 years. I vote to continue the hatchery program in Lower Cook Inlet and Alaska mainly because it would be shortsighted not to.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

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Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Sincerely,
Richard Corazza

[REDACTED]

Homer, Alaska



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I live in Homer and fish in Prince William Sound. I am strongly opposed to Proposal 43. Hatcheries in lower Cook Inlet and PWS are important to me because my family has been fishing out of Homer since 1939, and we believe that hatcheries contribute to the overall health and abundance of salmon in Alaska. I see the hatcheries in the Cook Inlet area benefit all user groups and families who live here, from commercial to sport and also subsistence user groups. If the hatcheries in the Inlet were shut down, I believe all the people would be shocked at the loss of fish they depend on and have come to expect. I fished Cook Inlet for 33 years with my family, and then we moved to PWS as seiners so have been involved in the growth of the hatcheries in the Sound. During the past decade, the largest wild runs the Sound had were also the largest hatchery runs which both made for viable fishing communities around Alaska and also took pressure off the wild stocks as hatchery fish became an important part of the fishery. I totally support the hatchery of Alaska!

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

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Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary



reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

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Sincerely,
Sonja Corazza



Homer, Alaska



John Wood, Chair [REDACTED]
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
[REDACTED]

November 9, 2023

Re: Lower Cook Inlet Proposals

Dear Chair Wood and Members of the Board of Fisheries,

Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) is an industry-based nonprofit strengthening commercial fishing in the Prince William Sound region by advocating for the needs of community-based fishermen. Since 1935, CDFU has represented fishermen and their families for thriving fisheries that sustain regional ecosystems, communities, and ways of life - ensuring they are well informed, resourced, and mobilized to affect positive change for all harvesters in the region.

As you deliberate, we respectfully ask you to consider our comments:

Proposal 35 - OPPOSE

We oppose this proposal to create a *Kachemak Bay Wild Fish Priority Management Plan*.

Proposal 43 - OPPOSE

We oppose this proposal to amend the *Cook Inlet Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan* to reduce hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000.

Hatchery Regional Planning Teams members include representatives from Alaska Department of Fish and Game and hold strong backgrounds in the science behind hatchery production, as well as a thorough understanding of local ecologies and regional fisheries. Their open public meetings include scientific reports and presentations based on the most current research available. We support this public framework and would like to see recommendations related to hatchery management to be made through RPTs who have vetted the matters.



Thank you for your time and consideration of our comments. We greatly appreciate the attention to the issues facing our fleet and fisheries. Should you have a need for us to help clarify anything regarding our comments, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jess Rude
Executive Director



Cordova District Fishermen United

John Wood, Chair [REDACTED]
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
[REDACTED]

November 9, 2023

Dear Chair Wood and Members of the Board of Fisheries,

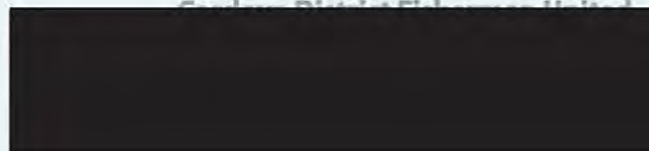
Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) requests that you do not pass a board-generated proposal delegating the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) the authority to close state waters to commercial fishing with specific gear types for the purpose of rockfish conservation. ADF&G passed an emergency petition to gain temporary emergency order (EO) authority and has used that new power to close areas of Prince William Sound (PWS) to commercial longline fisheries for now. This emergency petition can be extended or renewed; any discussion on making these regulatory changes permanent belongs in a normal, scheduled board cycle meeting.

A proposal to permanently grant EO authority to ADF&G for groundfish simply does not meet the Criteria for Development of Board-Generated Proposals as printed in the Commonly Used Regulations and Policies of the BOF¹ for the following reasons:

1. It is deeply controversial whether this is in the public's best interest. We would first like to have an opportunity to actually work with ADF&G to find practicable ways to protect rockfish in PWS.
2. There is no urgency in considering the issue, as the emergency powers granted to ADF&G can be extended, or another emergency petition considered.

¹ Alaska Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game: Criteria for Development of Board-Generated Proposal, from: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static-f/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2018-2019/common_used_policies.pdf.

1. Is it in the public's best interest (e.g., access to resource, consistent intent, public process)?
2. Is there urgency in considering the issue (e.g., potential for fish and wildlife objectives not being met or sustainability in question)?
3. Are current processes insufficient to bring the subject to the board's attention (e.g., reconsideration policy, normal cycle proposal submittal, ACRs, petitions)?
4. Will there be reasonable and adequate opportunity for public comment (e.g., how far do affected users have to travel to participate, amount of time for affected users to respond)?



3. The current process of normal board cycle proposal submittal is better suited for discussion of this item.
4. Having this discussion at the Kodiak BOF meeting on January 9th would not create reasonable and adequate opportunity for public comment. Traveling to Kodiak in the middle of winter is difficult for everyone, and the holidays are a challenging time for stakeholder groups to prepare comments and organize testimony. Furthermore, putting a proposal as controversial as this into the Kodiak meeting would diminish opportunity for public comment on the issues of vital importance to Kodiak.

CDFU represents commercial longliners in PWS and is willing and ready to work with ADF&G to find the best way forward to protect rockfish in PWS. There are many ways that CDFU could collaborate with ADF&G to help protect rockfish. We are disheartened that ADF&G never contacted us to communicate their concern for rockfish before making their emergency petition. The petition, which came after longline fishing in PWS effectively was over, claimed that “seeking the assistance of participants in the halibut longline commercial fishery to set gear away from aggregates of rockfish habitat has proven ineffective”.

Unfortunately, we have yet to find a PWS longline fisherman who was contacted by ADF&G about this issue. We are struggling to find the advisory announcements regarding PWS rockfish conservation that were cited in the emergency petition. We want a real opportunity to work with ADF&G on protecting rockfish in PWS before permanent regulatory changes are made and areas are closed to fishing.

The regulatory changes that ADF&G requested in the emergency petition are immensely controversial, and may have far reaching impacts on the commercial fishing sector and commercial fishing dependent communities throughout Alaska. The current closures in PWS, if extended into next summer and beyond, will have a devastating effect on the small boat longline fleet operating out of Cordova. Many of our members longline from their “bowpicker” vessels which once loaded down with longline gear cannot safely fish outside of PWS. By excluding those vessels from areas of PWS, these longline closures will also effectively be reallocating PWS halibut from the commercial to the sport sector.

Stakeholders and the public deserve ample time to respond to controversial proposals that are as potentially allocative and impactful as this is. A board-generated proposal passed at this point would be brought to the Kodiak meeting in January, which is an inappropriate time and place for this discussion. It is expensive and time consuming for our members to travel to Kodiak in the middle of



winter. The regular, in-cycle PWS BOF meeting scheduled for December 2024 is the right place for such a proposal to be debated. Before permanent regulatory changes are made, we would like to have the opportunity to work directly with ADF&G to identify rockfish habitat of concern and direct fishermen away from it. Similar work has successfully been done in Southeast Alaska by Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association (ALFA).

For all of these reasons, CDFU is urging all BOF members to vote against any board-generated proposals delegating EO authority to ADF&G for the purpose of rockfish conservation. We are ready to work directly with ADF&G and members of the Board of Fisheries to find the best ways forward to protect rockfish.

Sincerely,

Jess Rude
Executive Director

cc: Märit Carlson-Van Dort [REDACTED]
Gerad Godfrey [REDACTED]
Mike Wood [REDACTED]
Tom Carpenter [REDACTED]
Stan Zuray [REDACTED] Greg Svendsen [REDACTED]



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I strongly oppose Proposal 43. For three generations, my family has lived in Kachemak bay and commercially fished. After a decade of hard work, I finally have my own fishing operation, as well as permits for Lower Cook Inlet seine and Prince William Sound seine. In the winter season, I build seines in Homer. To watch these misguided groups and individuals submit proposals year after year that threaten my family's livelihood has become more than frustrating. The audacity to try and put the wants of weekend warriors from elsewhere above the needs of the local, generational year round community is shameful. I appreciate the board's decisions in the past to put Alaskans first and not sacrifice our hatcheries and resources for the sake of foreign interest and cool fish pictures. I fully trust the board to make educated choices and thank them for their service to Alaska.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

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salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

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Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks.



A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Gus Cotten

[REDACTED]

Homer, Alaska



PC45

Submitted by: Zac Coultas

Community of Residence: Otis oregon

Comment:

Zac Coultas, Waterfall Resort, as a guide in SE Alaska I oppose proposal 259.

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC46

Submitted by: Doug Cox

Community of Residence: Thorne Bay, AK

Comment:

Strongly OPPOSE Proposals 258 and 259.

We all understand that fishing and salmon specifically are essential to Alaska, the ecology and the economy. Decisions that are made in one part of the state that negatively affect another area of the state with completely different set of circumstances are not a good idea. PLEASE allow the specific policies that are needed for a healthy SE Alaska to be made in SE Alaska!

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC47

Submitted by: David Creighton

Community of Residence: Craig, AK

Comment:

I support Proposal 257. I believe ADF&G should make the correction in wording of the king salmon management plan to more accurately convey the pre-season abundance model they are using.

I oppose 258

I oppose 259. I believe this proposal is an attempt to go back on an agreement negotiated to last through the cycle ending in 2025. The intent of the agreement was to manage the sport fishery on average to the 80/20 split, as it has been done in the past, with a full understanding there would be no in season management. The writer of this proposal would like to convey there was a misunderstanding however records of the meeting clearly represent that is not the case.

Furthermore, I oppose prop. 259 being considered at this time and location. This is a SE Alaska issue being addressed in a location incredibly expensive and difficult to get to this time of year for those that like to be active in the process. I feel this should be addressed in Ketchikan in 2025 to allow for proper public process.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I'm part of the Valdez commercial and sport fisheries, and I firmly oppose Proposal 43.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

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Sincerely,
Nick Crump

[Redacted Signature]

Valdez, Alaska



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I participate in commercial fisheries and seafood processing in Valdez, Alaska. I strongly oppose Proposal 43. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

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Sincerely,
Edward Day



Valdez, Alaska



United States Department of the Interior
Office of Subsistence Management



IN REPLY REFER TO:
OSM.23130

NOV 13 2023

John Wood, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Dear Chair Wood:

The Alaska Board of Fisheries will consider 43 proposals at its Lower Cook Inlet Finfish meeting from November 28 – December 3, 2023.

The Office of Subsistence Management (OSM), working with other Federal agencies, has reviewed these proposals and will not be providing specific written comments to this set of proposals. However, OSM believes that adopting proposals 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 34, 38, 42 and/or 256 may affect Federal subsistence fisheries and users. Most of these proposals involve fisheries that are outside of Federal jurisdiction but adoption of them may impact migratory resources returning to Federal public lands that rural Alaskans rely on for the opportunity to continue subsistence activities. Although we are not providing proposal specific written comments prior to the meeting, OSM may wish to comment during the meeting on items that impact federally qualified subsistence users.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on these important regulatory matters and look forward to continuing to work with the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Sincerely,

Sue Detwiler
Assistant Regional Director
November 13, 2023

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Interagency Staff Committee
Benjamin Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Art Nelson, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Mark Burch, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Administrative Record



Submitted by: Brendan Dirks

Community of Residence: Mission Viejo, California

Comment:

In strong opposition to proposals 258 and 259

Decisions affecting fishing in south east Alaska should be held at Department of Fish and wildlife in southeast Alaska.

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC52

Submitted by: Matthew Donohoe

Community of Residence: Sitka, Alaska

Comment:

see attached

Proposal 257 Oppose

Proposal 258 Support

Proposal 259 Support

Proposal 257: Oppose

Proposal 258: Support

Proposal 259: Support



PC52

Submitted by: Matthew Donohoe

Community of Residence: Sitka

Comment:

see attached

Porposal 257, 258,259

Proposal 257: Oppose

Proposal 259: Support



PC53

Submitted by: Clay Duda

Community of Residence: Homer, AK

Comment:

See attached.

Submitting on behalf of the Homer Charter Association.

Proposal 9: Support With Amendments
Proposal 18: Oppose

Proposal 10: Oppose



Comments To the Board of Fisheries on Proposals 257, 258, and 259
By Matthew Donohoe, President Alaska Trollers Association (ATA).

Proposal 257: Oppose because it is Allocative

Proposal 258: Support

Proposal 259: Support

Dear Chairman Woods and Board Members,

In ACR 11 the Department states the purpose of the ACR is to;

“Amend the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan to align with new methods to set catch limits adopted by the Pacific Salmon Commission (5 AAC 47.055).”

The convoluted 7 Tier system suggested by the Department in Proposal 257 does not “align with new methods” or the numbers adopted by the PSC (see attached Table). The current PSC “new method” is a 17 Tier system based on a new formula. Stake holders understand that yet another “new method” is being considered at the PSC which will not be completed till some time this Spring. Until Alaska, Canada and the Southern U.S. (SUS) agree we don’t know what the new “new method” will be. If this is true what is the need for the Board of Fisheries (BOF) to adopt this new language which vacates important language in 2022’s RC 178 Agreement and may need to be revisited again.

Proposal 257 bears almost no resemblance to ACR 11. ADF&G stated in the ACR under Additional Information, *“The domestic allocation of king salmon described within 5 AAC 29.060 Allocation of king salmon in the SEAK-Yakutat area would not be affected.”* In fact Proposal 257 legitimizes the removal from 5AAC 47.055 (b)(2) the phrase “sport fishery harvest ceiling”. This phrase describes the management plan objective of not exceeding the “Sport Fishery Harvest Ceiling”. This language was also in the signed and passed RC 178 Agreement at the March 2022 BOF Meeting which Proposal 259 seeks to restore. Additionally, **unlike ACR 11, Proposal 257 also removes the phrase “sport fishery harvest limit”** followed by a harvest cap number in RC 178 and is still found there and in sections (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) of 5AAC 47.055.

Other than the all gear cap there is nothing in this Proposal that limits the sport Chinook harvest. With no limited entry, no limit on participation (Figure 3), no limit on boat size or engine capacity, no limit on length of season, no limit on harvest (other than the Pacific Salmon Treaty [PST] all gear harvest allocation), and with all outside waters open all year how can anyone speak of an undefined averaging? The guided sport sector has the growth capacity to take the entire SEAK Treaty Chinook allocation.



In staff comments on Proposal 257 the Department states, *“Under this plan the sport fishery is expected to be over allocation in years when the Alaska all-gear catch limit is low and under allocation in years when the SEAK’s all-gear catch limit is high.”*

There was no in-season management of the SEAK Sport Chinook fishery in the 2023 Summer season and harvest went 17,000 king salmon over allocation. This happened even though **2023 was not a low catch limit year.** On the new PSC 17 Tier system (table 1 below) the 2023 allocation was at Tier 9 which is higher than mid range. This demonstrates that with no in-season management sport Chinook harvest can be expected to go well over allocation not only in the low ranges but also in the mid ranges.

The 2023 Sport allocation was 37,280 Chinook but harvest was over 54,000 Kings. Of the 17,000 SEAK Sport Chinook overage 15,000 were deducted from the Troll allocation. 2,000 Chinook were taken from the gillnets. This taking caused the Troll Chinook fishery, which is 85% Alaska Resident of which 30% is Tlingit/Haida tribal members, to close early. The early closure hurt SEAK residents and favored out-of-state residents. In 2023 King Salmon commanded the only decent price paid for any salmon in Alaska. All other x-vessel salmon prices were at historic lows.

Because of the new PSC formula large SEAK King Salmon quotas are not expected in the future. This is due in part to the political dynamic of the PSC which is dominated by the lower U.S. The new formula guarantees lower Chinook harvests in SEAK even as Columbia River stocks increase. Columbia River Fall runs are the main driver of the SEAK Summer Chinook fisheries. Not being able to average Chinook catches from season to season in SEAK is due to the disastrous 2018 Treaty language requiring a hard cap, a pay-back on overages, and no banking of underages. This Alaskan Treaty disaster is partly due to accommodating positions taken by some Alaskan negotiators who seemed to think that Treaty Chinook losses can always be replaced from the allocations of other SEAK harvesters at the BOF.

When a Proposal holds some gear groups to their harvest ceiling on a valuable resource but not others that Proposal is allocative. This is true even if one is told, “If you give me a hamburger today I’ll pay you for two tomorrow... or someday, maybe”. Neither Territorial Sportsmen Inc., ATA, or SEAGO agreed to a vague and undefined averaging idea that meant no in-season management. What these three groups agreed to, as demonstrated by the signed agreement, was averaging over years but sport being held to the “sport fishery harvest ceiling”. Averaging would address management error not designed overages.

In 2023 this lack of management caused the SEAK 80/20% King Salmon sport harvest allocation mandated in 5AAC 29.060 (b)(5) to become 71/29% on a mid-range catch level year. This illustrates that dropping the phrase “sport fishery harvest limit” from 5AAC 47.055 reallocates Chinook from one gear group to another and seems to be



Proposal 257's intent. **I support Proposal 259's goal to restore this phrase** to the Management Plan not only because of the reallocation issue but because it is also what all stakeholders agreed to and signed on to in 2022.

If the Department wishes to alter the SEAK King Salmon Management Plan to comply with changes (and future changes) in the PST Agreement instead of multiple and confusing Tiers, which will need to be readdressed in the near future, the most elegant and simple solution would be to state in 5AAC 47.055, "The Sport Harvest Ceiling will be 20% of the year's PST SEAK allocated Chinook after deducting the net allocation."

Support of BOF Proposals 258

Proposal 258 Support

As written Proposal 258 is house keeping. Due to a new treaty formula created in 2023 the SEAK King salmon quota has become 17 tiers, up from 7 tiers. This proposal requests a numerical harvest limit for all 17 separate tiers. Each tier to maintain the 20%/80% quota allocation split between sports and troll fisheries.

Matthew Donohoe

Table 1

17 PST Tier	TIER 1 AI Midpoint	Catch Limit									
			Commission								
			NA Determination	Seine	Drift GN	Set GN	Total Net	Troll	Sport	100% Sport + Troll	
TIER 1	Less than 0.895										
TIER 2	Between 0.895 and 0.945	0.920	107,498	4,622	3,117	1,000	8,740	79,007	19,752	98,758	
TIER 3	Between 0.945 and 0.985	0.965	111,888	4,811	3,245	1,000	9,056	82,266	20,566	102,832	
TIER 4	Between 0.985 and 1.035	1.010	116,278	5,000	3,372	1,000	9,372	85,525	21,381	106,906	
TIER 5	Between 1.035 and 1.105	1.070	127,130	5,467	3,687	1,000	10,153	93,581	23,395	116,977	
TIER 6	Between 1.105 and 1.175	1.140	142,101	6,110	4,121	1,000	11,231	104,696	26,174	130,870	
TIER 7	Between 1.175 and 1.245	1.210	157,072	6,754	4,555	1,000	12,309	115,810	28,953	144,763	
TIER 8	Between 1.245 and 1.345	1.295	191,963	8,254	5,567	1,000	14,821	141,713	35,428	177,142	
TIER 9	Between 1.345 and 1.455	1.400	206,027	8,859	5,975	1,000	15,834	152,154	38,039	190,193	Year 2023
TIER 10	Between 1.455 and 1.555	1.505	220,091	9,464	6,383	1,000	16,847	162,596	40,649	203,244	
TIER 11	Between 1.555 and 1.665	1.610	252,358	10,851	7,318	1,000	19,170	186,551	46,638	233,188	
TIER 12	Between 1.665 and 1.765	1.715	267,594	11,507	7,760	1,000	20,267	197,862	49,465	247,327	
TIER 13	Between 1.765 and 1.875	1.820	282,830	12,162	8,202	1,000	21,364	209,173	52,293	261,466	
TIER 14	Between 1.875 and 2.015	1.945	314,799	13,536	9,129	1,000	23,666	232,907	58,227	291,133	
TIER 15	Between 2.015 and 2.145	2.080	335,288	14,417	9,723	1,000	25,141	248,118	62,029	310,147	
TIER 16	Between 2.145 and 2.285	2.215	355,778	15,298	10,318	1,000	26,616	263,330	65,832	329,162	
TIER 17	Greater than 2.285	2.285	373,801	16,073	10,840	1,000	27,914	276,710	69,177	345,887	

From: "Overview of the Sport Fishery for King Salmon in SEAK through 2020" by ADF&G Special Publication 21-10.

EFFORT

TOTAL NUMBER OF ANGLERS

The total number of anglers fishing in SEAK has experienced an annual growth rate of 3.2% between 1984 and 2019 (Figure 3). The growth in the fishery can be attributed to an increasing number of nonresident anglers while a slight decreasing trend has been observed in the number of resident anglers. In 2019, 127,886 anglers fished in SEAK of which 75% (95,966) were nonresident anglers.

While the general trend has been growth, the annual number of nonresident anglers is influenced by outside factors affecting the visitor industry in SEAK. Notably during 2008–2011, a decline in nonresident angler participation was observed, corresponding with the nationwide economic trends of the Great Recession. Although data from the Alaska Sport Fishing Survey (commonly known as the Statewide Harvest Survey, SWHS) is not yet available for 2020, other indicators suggest a drastic reduction in nonresident anglers resulting from travel restrictions and other impacts of COVID-19.

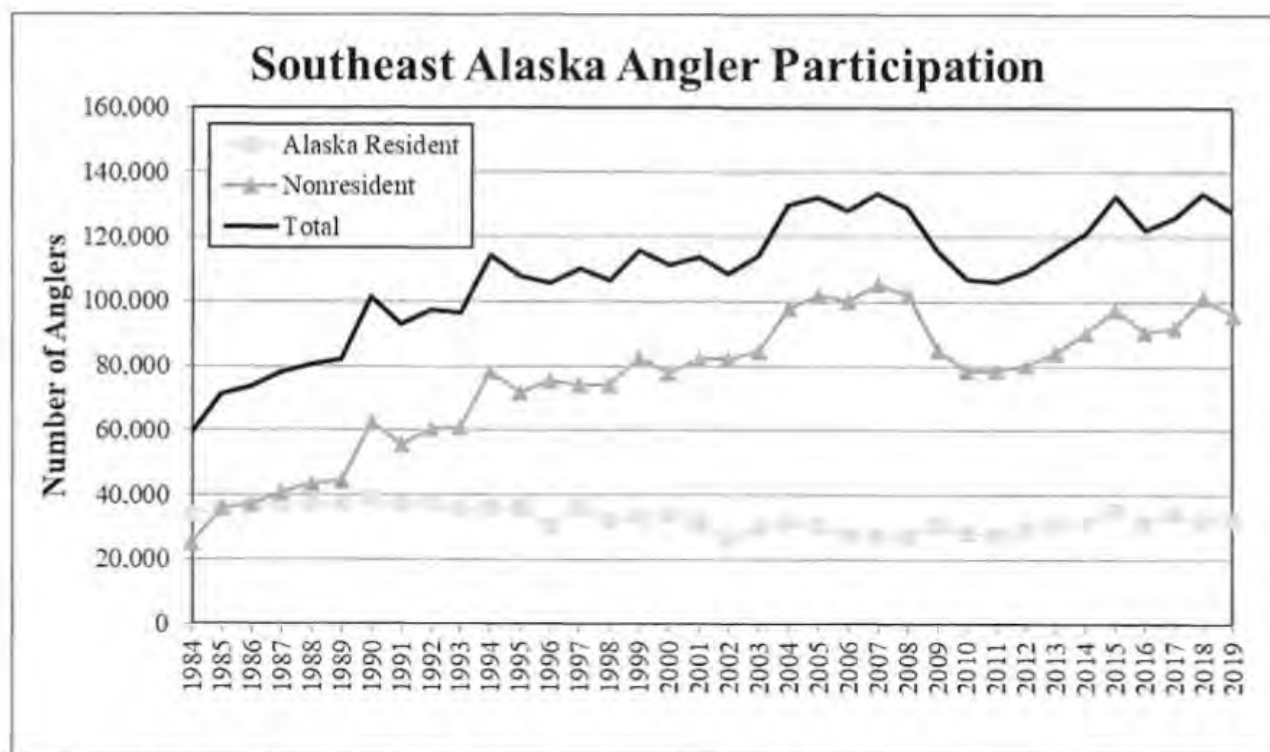


Figure 3.—Number of resident and nonresident anglers who fished in Southeast Alaska, 1984–2019 as estimated from the Alaska Sport Fishing Survey (i.e., SWHS; available at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/index.cfm?ADFG=main.home>).

Note: Angler participation estimates prior to 1996 can be found on the ADF&G Historic Statewide Harvest Survey Publications website at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/index.cfm?ADFG=main.historic>.



Homer Charter Association

Board of Fisheries
Office of the Governor
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

November 12, 2023

Re: Homer Charter Association supports raising the GHL under Proposition 9

Dear Board of Fisheries members,

The Homer Charter Association (HCA) is a trade group based in Homer, Alaska, that represents guided recreational stakeholders in the Alaskan communities of the Lower Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak. The HCA is a pillar within the cooperative framework of fishers, fleets, and marine trade workers that make our region strong and our communities resilient.

The HCA is writing to support raising the Lower Cook Inlet winter king salmon guideline harvest level (GHL) under Proposition 9 from 4,500 to 5,500.

Submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Proposition 9 seeks guidance in managing the Lower Cook Inlet winter king salmon fishery. The fishery has exceeded its current GHL every year since it was implemented in 2016. The existing GHL lacks scientific backing and is arbitrary. ADF&G analysis shows that king salmon harvests during the winter months are at and have been at sustainable levels. Consistent overages and ADF&G data support raising the GHL to 5,500 to bring it in line with historic and sustainable harvest levels.

The majority of anglers participating in the winter king fishery are locals and Alaska residents accessing the resource. Therefore, HCA supports raising the GHL to reflect current and responsible harvest levels and bring ADF&G management plan in line with data and usage.

We thank you for your consideration of our stance on the proposal, and if there are any additional questions, please contact the below email.

Thank you,

Avery Ault
President, Homer Charter Association
[REDACTED]



Homer Charter Association

Board of Fisheries
Office of the Governor

November 12, 2023

Re: Homer Charter Association against Proposal 18 as written

Dear Board of Fisheries members,

The Homer Charter Association (HCA) is a trade group based in Homer, Alaska, that represents guided recreational stakeholders in the Alaskan communities of the Lower Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak. The HCA is a pillar within the cooperative framework of fishers, fleets, and marine trade workers that make our region strong and our communities resilient.

The HCA is writing in against Proposal 18 as written.

The proposal from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) would implement separate bag limits for pelagic and non-pelagic rockfish. HCA members believe that separating the bag limits will lead to a substantial increase in non-pelagic rockfish takings. Many of our clients like to fish for a limit, which often consists solely of black rockfish or other pelagic varieties. Having a separate non-pelagic bag limit will increase pressure on those fish since more anglers and guides will specifically target non-pelagic species more frequently to catch a limit of rockfish.

HCA does support revising rockfish limits to align with other fisheries in the North Gulf Coast -- bag limit of 4 per day, 8 in possession, of which only 1 per day, 2 in possession may be non-pelagic -- as proposed in Proposal 18 from ADF&G and put forth by the HCA in Proposal 20. Current ADF&G data for Lower Cook Inlet Saltwater Rockfish show that harvest has increased in the recreational and guided-recreational fisheries, and is likely to continue to do so with more stringent limits and regulations on other fish species. Data also has shown declining average age in retained rockfish catch. Current harvest rates may be unsustainable. Long-term fisheries access should be prioritized given current data.

We thank you for your consideration of our stance on the proposal, and if there are any additional questions, please contact the below email.

Thank you,

Avery Ault
President, Homer Charter Association



PC54

Submitted by: Julie Dumon

Community of Residence: Hinsdale IL

Comment:

Strongly oppose 258 & 259

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



November 12, 2023

John Wood
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Re: Opposing Proposal 259 and Southeast Alaska Proposals being heard outside of Southeast Alaska

Chairman Wood and members of the Board,

I write on behalf of Ketchikan Hotel Owner, LLC ("KHO"), and Harp Steamboat Tenant, LLC ("Steamboat"), which own the Waterfall Resort and Steamboat Bay Fishing Club in southeast Alaska (the "Resorts"). The Resorts offer exceptional fishing opportunities to residents and non-residents alike, are renowned for king salmon fishing. Collectively, the Resorts employ approximately 34 guides and 115 staff, a number of whom are Alaska residents, and also generate substantial income for local communities and the State of Alaska through daily operations and tourism.

I strongly oppose Proposals 258 and 259. I believe these proposals should not be happening away from the areas govern and should be heard at the Board of Fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska in 2025. The manner in which this meeting is taking place, its timing and its location is highly suspicious.

Thank you for your consideration and support in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Peter G. Dumon
Waterfall Resort
Steamboat Bay Fishing Club



PC56

Submitted by: Brian Dunagan

Community of Residence: Anchorage

Comment:

I approve proposal 7

Proposal 7: Support



PC57

Submitted by: Frances Dunagan

Community of Residence: Seldovia, Alaska

Comment:

Support Proposal 7

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the purpose of having terminal king salmon fisheries is to provide an easily accessible, bank-fishing recreational opportunity for anglers. This recreational opportunity to fish kings brings tourist business to Seldovia, which needs all it can get.

Snagging is a highly efficient way of quickly wiping out fish stocks. That is why it is not allowed in rivers and streams from California to Alaska. If the Seldovia kings are quickly and efficiently snagged out, the recreational opportunity for resident pole fishermen and visiting tourist fisherman is greatly diminished. Just trying to catch a king next to somebody snagging is just about impossible due to kings being agitated. Many

Seldovia area residents have seen planes fly in and passengers quickly load up Kings by snagging. They do not spend time in Seldovia as typical pole fisherman do.

As for southcentral Alaska, king salmon snagging is not allowed In Anchorage Ship Creek and only in the Homer Nick Dudiak Lagoon by emergency order, which is usually in late June. In Seldovia, prior to adoption of current regulations, it was not open until June 21. It is my understanding Seldovia Lagoon was inadvertently left out but was allowed to stand until such time as new regulations were adopted.

Now is the time to adopt new regulations prohibiting snagging, at least until later in the season when kings quit biting. The local advisory board has recommended June 16. That seems reasonable, although I personally think June 24 is a better date.

Proposal 7: Support



PC58

Submitted by: Jon Dunagan

Community of Residence: Wenatchee, Washington

Comment:

I have traveled to Seldovia every year for the past 29 years for fishing with my family. Please do not allow King Salmon snagging or spear fishing at the Seldovia Bridge, Seldovia Slough or Seldovia Lagoon until either June 16 or June 24 every year (after the Kings have stopped biting). It is nearly impossible to catch a King with bait and tackle when spear fishermen divers or snaggers are nearby. Also, the whole point of the Seldovia King Salmon run is to attract tourists. If all the Kings are quickly snagged out, then the community does not benefit from tourists.

Proposal 7: Support



PC59

Submitted by: Stanley Dunagan

Community of Residence: Anchorage

Comment:

I would like to offer my support for Proposal 7. I think it would be a good idea to delay snagging until the proposed date. That should extend the fishery to allow broader public participation on a better sporting level. If I am trying to catch a fish with lures and bait while someone else is snagging, it have little chance of success as the snagging agitates and breaks up the schools.

I think that snorkelers spearfishing in the lagoon is an irritating and dangerous for the snorkelers. While I have not been fishing when snorkelers were present some of my friends and family have. If snorkelers pursue the kings the people fishing with lures and bait have no chance, the kings don't bite. My sister-in-law indicated that when she was fishing she did not know any snorkelers were present until one popped up right where she was fishing. Had she been trying to snag, the snorkeler could possibly have been harmed.

Proposal 7: Support



Submitted by: Thomas Dunagan

Community of Residence: Seldovia, Alaska

Comment:

SUPPORT FOR PROPOSAL 7 BANNING SNAGGING AND SPEARFISHING OF RETURNING HATCHERY KING SALMON SELDOVIA UNTIL JUNE 24.

Since 2020 regulation changes allowed snagging of king salmon from the Seldovia Harbor to the Seldovia Lagoon. In discussion with a retired ADFG fishery biologist this was inadvertently done in an attempt to simplify regulations. This regulation prohibiting snagging reaches back to the 1980s, when I first started fishing there. The reason was to provide a window for anglers to use non-snagging methods to harvest stocked kings returning to Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon, Halibut Cove Lagoon and Seldovia Lagoon. I was told the regulation also arose from safety concerns of snagging in a confined area and to also maintain a sporting fishery.

Before the 2020 regulation changes snagging was prohibited in the Seldovia Lagoon and nearby areas, Homers Nick Dudiak Lagoon and Halibut Cove Lagoon until June 24. This was also reasonable as remaining kings mainly quit biting. That way people could still get kings. By then most people had got the kings they wanted by sport fishing methods and less people were fishing. This made snagging less dangerous.

Now that snagging is allowed year around, south of the designated line from Anchor Point to Point Pogibishi, except for the Nick Dudiak Lagoon, the fishery for stocked Seldovia kings is very changed. Below is a summary of the reasons not to snag until June 24.

1. Seldovia kings were not open to snagging until June 24, which allowed for a sport and local fishing experience.
2. Snagging quickly kills all of the returning kings. The locals, of which I am one, and tourist have a greatly reduced chance of catching kings. People fly into the airport walk over to the northwest edge of the runway and quickly snag the kings and leave. How does this help the local economy?
3. Seldovia's economy is now heavily dependent on tourism and this king run brings people in to sport fish. I know companies that send employees and clients to Seldovia to fish these kings and also fish with local charters. They spend money in local restaurants, bar, food and lodging etc.
4. In 2020 when it was proposed to stop stocking kings in Seldovia and allocate the fingerlings to Homer there was strong local and outside objections. ADFG then dropped the proposal because of the strong interest to keep stocking the Seldovia kings.
5. Kings do not bite when people are snagging close to you. That forces people fishing to also snag, if they want a king.
6. Snagging is very dangerous from the Seldovia Bridge. The bridge is often quite crowded on the top and below with people fishing for kings and tourist watching the action.
7. Now some divers are spear fishing in the Lagoon. It just a matter of time until some are inadvertently snagged. Some just swim right under your boat and you're not even aware they are there. These people could easily be snagged in vulnerable areas like the throat.

If snagging is prohibited in Anchorage Ship Creek and nearby tidal areas and the Homer Nick Dudiak Lagoon, why should it be allowed in Seldovia Lagoon, harbor and channel.

Solution:

The solution is simple. Just prohibit snagging kings in the Seldovia Harbor and Seldovia Lagoon, until June 24. In other words, reinstate the old regulation with the addition of diving and spear fishing prohibition at least to June 24.

My proposal is snagging and spear fishing for king salmon is not allowed in the Seldovia Harbor, Seldovia Lagoon Channel and Seldovia Lagoon until June 24.

Proposal 7: Support



Submitted by Amanda Dunaway, F/V Pegge

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Comments on proposal 257

I support the portion of proposal 257 that amends the language to align with changes made by the Pacific Salmon Treaty for the calculation of the all gear harvest limit.

I do not support the language in 5 AAC 47.055 b(2) allowing sport harvest to continue to fish for king salmon without a harvest ceiling. This issue is addressed by Proposal 259.

I can support proposal 257 with the following change, Add "sport fishery" to 5 AAC 47.055 b(2) to read

(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the **sport fishery** harvest ceiling;

The management of king salmon in Southeast AK is a multi-faceted issue, and any changes to the current management plan need to be thoroughly discussed. I urge the Board of Fish this year to not make any changes to the king salmon management plans that are currently in place until they are scheduled to be renewed in the BOF cycle. Additionally, as trolling in Alaska is confined to Southeast AK, and the king salmon management plans are unique to each region and river system, when these management plans are reevaluated, I urge the BOF to do that in Southeast AK where these management plans govern fishing regulations.

I urge the board to consider all 3 King salmon proposals (proposal 257, 258, 259) as a whole since they are interrelated. It is necessary to make tier adjustments in Proposal 258 in order to fully align with the Pacific Salmon Treaty, not just 257.

Please see Proposal 259 and my comments on it for further discussion and context.

Comments on Proposal 258

I support proposal 258 and do not suggest any language changes.

Proposal 258 updates the King Salmon Management Plan to reflect the change from 7 to 17 tier system under the new All Gear Harvest limit under the Pacific Salmon Treaty. This is a necessary step to fully comply with the Changes made to the Pacific Salmon Treaty.



Comments on Proposal 259

Thank you for taking up ACR 13 and considering proposal 259 at the Lower Cook Inlet meeting. I support this proposal.

This proposal changes 5 AAC 47.055 (b) (2) back to the language the Board of Fish adopted in RC 178 at the March 2022 Board Of Fish Meeting. This language is found in 5 AAC 47.055 b(2).

(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the **sport fishery** harvest ceiling;

Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) and Territorial sportsmen are on record saying they would not have signed RC 178 without this language in it. Every gear group and sector needs limits on their effort. Trollers are mostly all Alaska Residents so non-resident sport directly affects people living in rural southeast Alaska. These communities need king salmon to sustain them through the year.

There is room for compromise and we found it with RC178 and we are trying it for 3 years. The Department did all of us a disservice choosing to liberalize one sector (non-resident sport) at the expense of all commercial gear groups.

King Salmon are a finite resource that many, many groups depend on. It's important to conserve this precious resource and non-resident sport is the only one not participating in that conservation. While all the other gear groups not only have a harvest ceiling, they also have limited participation due to it being a limited entry fishery and there can only be a finite number of permits every season. The sport fishing/charter sector does not have similar limits placed on them. There is no way to limit the number of people who participate every year, and therefore no way to regulate how many king salmon they catch, unless the fishery is managed **IN SEASON**. Every other stakeholder in the king salmon fishery is managed in season. All we are asking is that the sport/charter sector be also regulated in season.

The loss of 15,000 kings to our quota, which effectively limited our second king opener to one day, was devastating to my troll season. I am a dedicated king and coho troller, and fish on the outside ocean as long as the weather allows. If we had been able to catch our quota for the second king opener and not just whatever we could catch in one day, I would have caught a lot more than the 2 kings I did catch, and my season would have been a lot more profitable.

The Department made a drastic change to the agreement found in RC 178. All we are asking is that you please correct this by adding the suggested language back in to Proposal 259, which would allow the sport fishery to be regulated **IN SEASON** like all other gear groups that are allowed to fish for king salmon in SE Alaska.



PC62

Submitted by: Jackson Duvendack

Community of Residence: Tacoma Washington

Comment:

I am supporting # 246

Proposal 256: Support



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I participate in the commercial and subsistence fisheries in Cordova, Alaska, and I strongly oppose Proposal 43. I would not be able to live in Cordova without PSWAC hatcheries.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.



Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Andrew Eckley

[Redacted Signature]

Cordova, Alaska



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I'm tied to commercial fishing in Cordova, Alaska. I firmly oppose Proposal 43.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.



Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Elias Eckley

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Elias Eckley.

Cordova, Alaska



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I participate in commercial, subsistence, and public use fisheries in Cordova, Alaska. I firmly oppose Proposal 43. The salmon run that the hatcheries supply gives fishermen help to feed the world and their families when the wild run isn't strong.

Sincerely,
Richard Eckley



Cordova, Alaska



PC66

Submitted by: Jeff Ehlen

Community of Residence: Minnesota

Comment:

I support proposal 257.... I strongly oppose proposals 258 and 259. I believe these proposals should not be happening away from the areas they are intended for and should be heard at the Board of fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska in 2025

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC67

Submitted by: Ben Ekstrom

Community of Residence: Anchorage, AK

Comment:

7. I travel to Seldovia each summer to catch King Salmon and fish an average of 3-4 days per year. I have kept about 1-2 per year (hardly affecting the number of fish) and my travels there have supported the local economy. Even with snagging it takes a lot of effort to catch a king in the salt water. If this rule changes I will likely give up fishing for kings in the slough and lagoon. A much bigger problem is people who limit out, take the fish home to the freezer, then limit out again another day. If they take 8 salmon over a week by bait how is that any better than snagging?

The concern about spearfishing sounds a lot more like an unfounded bias than a true safety concern. The divers have a flag and a rope that follows them around. It would be hard to accidentally catch them.

8. It would be reasonable to have a time set for when snagging would be legal. I think June 1st would be a better date. The end of June the fish are typically getting pretty red and are less desirable for eating.

Proposal 7: Oppose

Proposal 8: Support With Amendments



PC68

November 10, 2023

John Wood
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries

Re: Proposals 257-259, Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan
Chairman Wood and members of the Board,

As a lifelong Alaskan who built our family business El Capitan Lodge and has kept it in operation for the past 36 years I want to clearly state my position on Proposal 257, 258, & 259.

I support Proposal 257 by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game that seeks to align language in the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan (KSMP) with the new multivariate pre-season model for SEAK chinook abundance.

I oppose Proposal 258.

I opposes Proposal 259 which claims to correct an error between Board intent and implementation of the 2022 iteration of the KSMP. I firmly believe no error exists and therefore the proposal does not meet the criteria for out of cycle ACRs.

Explanations

Proposals 257 and 258

The KSMP language needs editing to reference the new multivariate model now used to pre-estimate SEAK chinook abundance. The required changes are simple, implement the departments Proposal 257. The sport fishery is still held accountable to the 17 allocations of the new model when computing average harvest to achieve a 20% share of allocation with troll after net-gear subtractions which renders Proposal 258 completely useless.

Proposal 259

The proposal asserts that changes in the Alaska Administrative Code in Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan and application of the plan to the sport fishery over the past two years goes completely against to the negotiated agreement between stakeholders and Board intent when RC178 was accepted and passed in March of 2022. The architects of this proposal state that the removal of the phrase "sport fishery" going from the RC to statute removed a intended directive for in season management of the sport fishery and inflated 2023 sport harvest and therefore qualifies to be addressed out of cycle.

The language change was not a departure from intent. The transcript from the 2022 negotiations makes it clear as day that ALL parties knew EXACTLY what the details of the agreement were. Just because the troll sector doesn't like the outcome of one year in a three-year agreement does not mean they can renege on an agreement by asking for an agreement revision out of cycle.

I am quite sure if there was an abundance left on the table from sport there would be no Proposal 259. This is just another one-sided proposal asking for special treatment from the Alaska Board of Fisheries.



PC68

Furthermore, taking up Proposal 259 or amending 257 or 258 with allocative adjustments to the current KSMP during the Lower Cook Inlet meeting in Homer so close to Thanksgiving ignores Board criteria for adopting ACRs and circumvents public process. Local input and maximum access to the resource are implicit to "common use" provisions in the Alaska Constitution. Moving meetings out of Southeast Alaska to Homer to discuss Proposals that if passed could cause irreversible harm to Charter businesses is contrary to the boards principles and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions.

My entire Alaskan family respectfully ask that the Board continues to implement the 2022 intent of changes made to the KSMP and continue management discussions during the normal Southeast Alaska meeting cycle slated for just over a year from now in Ketchikan.

Sincerely,

Scott Van Valin

Scott Van Valin
Owner El Capitan Lodge



Submitted by: Mark Elf

Community of Residence: East Rockaway

Comment:

Proposal 13 Agree

Ninilchik River should be kept open to fishing for Hatchery King Salmon with 1 baited single hook regardless of the escapement numbers of Natural King Salmon (Wild King Salmon), whether those escapement numbers originate from the Anchor River or Ninilchik River.

Proposal 14 agree

Proposal 15 agree.

I also believe a regulation should be written outlawing the use of the lining technique on the Ninilchik River that is used on the Kenai River and the Kasilof River for snagging Sockeye. The terms lining, flossing, Kenai Twitch etc. all mean the same thing and that is the technique of trying to get the line in the fishes' mouth, waiting till the end of the drift and then setting the hook every time even when there is no "tension" on the line. This last hook set with every cast propels the hook through the current and inadvertent snagging of fish in parts of the body other than the mouth are common. Fishermen that use this technique, snag the Kings and other species in the belly, gills and other vulnerable areas that often kills the fish. I have been fishing the Ninilchik River for nearly 2 decades and I have observed this snagging technique being used and the harm that it causes. With the decline of King Salmon runs over the years the last thing the Ninilchik River fishery needs is to harm what we do have returning by using this harmful technique to intentionally snag! These Kings bite and there is no reason to be using lining techniques on the Ninilchik River!

Mark Elf

Proposal 13: Support With Amendments Proposal 14: Support Proposal 15: Support With Amendments



Submitted by: Wayde Elliott

Community of Residence: Portland. Oregon

Comment:

I would like to support Measure 256 where eggs can be used on the Togiak river.

Proposal 256: Support



Submitted by: Mel Erickson

Community of Residence: Soldotna AK

Comment:

Proposal 1, I oppose this proposal as written. I could support it if the may 15 date was changed to later in May, ADF&G studies have proven only 6% of kings caught in this fishery are spawning fish, and of this 6% the fish are from multiple river systems. Also the Data from past studies do not indicate any of these fish are early run Kenai Kings, the other issue i have with this proposal is the closures are based on pre season forecasts and projections and not actual sonar counts. This fishery should not be restricted or closed until sonar counts indicate that escapements will not be met. the other problem is if the entire inlet is closed to king fishing north of bluff point a boat cant fish for halibut north of bluff point if they have king salmon on board that were caught south of bluff point, the fishery should never be closed more than 1 miles from shore. Other options should also be considered like restriction of bait or less days per week to reduce time & effort instead of a total closure.

Proposal 2

I support proposal 2 and i am the author of this proposal, The king fishery along the beach from anchor point to deep creek harvests mostly feeder kings 94% and low numbers of spawners 6%, just about the same as the king fishery south of Bluff point. This fishery should remain open until late may when the department has actual run strength info from sonar counts. Most kings don't enter the rivers until very late may or early June. It is totally ridiculous that north of bluff point is closed while south of bluff point is open to harvest of 2 kings per day. A date between May 20-31st would be more in line with return of spawners.

Proposal 3. I support this proposal and am also the Author, many years the Commercial setnet fishery north of ninilchik has been open several days per week in the sockeye fishery but also is open for the harvest of King salmon, while the sport fishery along the beach between Anchor River & Deep creek is closed this makes no sense at all as the sport fishery is very small in effort and very inefficient with hooks compared to 1,000's of nets.

Proposal 4 , I support this proposal and i am also the author of this proposal. Anchor point is a much better demarcation line and much easier to determine if your south of the radar marker at anchor point than if your north or south bluff point to separate Lower cook inlet from upper cook inlet. Bluff point is inconcise as a regulatory marker and makes the regulation muddy, bear cove in Upper K bay is actually north of bluff point as is many other areas in Kbay but remains open to king salmon harvest.

Proposal 1: Support With Amendments

Proposal 2: Support

Proposal 3: Support

Proposal 4: Support

Proposal 5: Support

Proposal 6: Support With Amendments

Proposal 9: Support With Amendments

Proposal 18: Support

Proposal 23: Support



November 12, 2023

John Wood
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries



Re: Proposal 259 and SE Alaska decisions being made outside SE Alaska
Chairman Wood and members of the Board,

My name is Dennis Evans, and I have been operating charter boats in Southeast Alaska since 1996. I am writing this letter to express my concern with Proposal 259, as well as how decisions that will be affecting Southeast Alaska may be decided outside of the proper meeting cycle, and in an area far away from the areas that will be affected. These decisions should be left to meeting cycles in their respective and affected areas.

First off, Proposal 259 sets to undo an agreement that was signed into place during the 2022 Board of Fisheries meetings. This agreement provides stability for managing the King Salmon sportfishing in SE Alaska, while providing protecting for the Resident Anglers. This style of "Managing on an average" had taken place for many, many years and proved to be an effective tool used. Some years, the sport fishing community was way under their allocation, other years they were over, but on a multi-year average it fell within the 20%. It was only in the recent history that a hard 20% annual ceiling cap for sportfishing take was enforced. Even looking at the last two seasons, Sport was 15,000 fish short of their allocation, and these fish were transferred to the Troll industry as agreed. In 2023, Sport went over by close 17,000, and these came from Troll as agreed at the 2022 meetings. So still close to averaging out via a rolling average. For these reasons, I highly oppose Proposal 259! It is what was agreed to and seems to be working as



designed. There seemed to be no complaints from the "Troll fleet" when they received the extra 15,000 fish from the Sport side in 2022.

Lastly, it makes no sense to me why Proposal 259 is even being put on the table for a Board of Fisheries meeting this year in Homer Alaska. Homer has no connection to Southeast Alaska, and by having these discussions so far from the area being affected (Southeast Alaska), there is not ample representation from either side to properly hear from those communities/businesses, and/or people that rely on tourism, commercial fishing, and the King Salmon fishery in general. This is just another reason why this proposal should be tabled until the Board of Fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska in January 2025. This is the time when the original signed agreement, and read into record in front of the Board, from 2022 is slated to end.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis K. Evans".

Dennis Evans



Submitted by: Leonard Fabich

Community of Residence: Homer, Ak

Comment:

As a commercial salmon seiner in Lower Cook Inlet as well as a sport fisherman I am in opposition of proposal 35,36,41,42,43

I feel this is in the best interest of my commercial fishing endeavors and well as protecting my livelihood as a commercial fisherman.

Proposal 35: Oppose

Proposal 36: Oppose

Proposal 40: Support

Proposal 41: Oppose

Proposal 42: Oppose

Proposal 43: Oppose



Submitted by: Jeff Farvour

Community of Residence: Sitka, AK

Comment:

Dear Members of the Board of Fisheries,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. My name is Jeff Farvour, I am a year around resident of Sitka. Commercial trolling is my livelihood with trolling for king salmon accounting for much of that. Please see the following comments on proposals 257-259.

Proposal 257

I am opposed to the portions proposal 257 as written that seek to codify that the sport fishery must stop fishing only when the all-gear quota has been caught. This would make the sport quota irrelevant as it seeks to support no harvest ceiling and no in season management for sport, so the quota associated with a tier is irrelevant.

I do however support the portion of proposal 257 that amends the language to align with changes made by the Pacific Salmon Treaty to the calculation of the all-gear harvest limit.

I would urge the board not to make drastic changes to the King Salmon Management plan out of cycle and out of SEAK.

Proposal 258

I support proposal 258 and do not suggest any language changes.

Proposal 258 updates the King Salmon Management Plan to reflect the change from 7 to 17 tier system under the new All Gear Harvest limit under the Pacific Salmon Treaty. This is a necessary step to fully comply with the Changes made to the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

Proposal 259

I was involved with the negotiations that Alaska Trollers Association and Territorial Sportsmen Incorporated are on record saying they would not have signed RC 178 without this language in it. I appreciate you taking up this proposal and I agree with it.

Approx. 85% of trollers are residents of Southeast Alaska. The lack of control of non- resident sport chinook harvest directly affects people living in rural Southeast Alaska. Our communities are heavily dependent on king

salmon to sustain them through the year. It's important that not only resident trollers conserve under lower abundance but also non-resident sport be held to at a minimum the same standard of conservation.

Please keep in mind the magnitude of difference when under lower chinook abundance, trollers are penalized by fishery losses of approx. \$1M for every 7,500 fish lost due to non-resident sport harvest excess. This is especially profound when taking into considering that not only are approx. 85% of trollers residents of SE AK but that there are troll permits residing in nearly every one of SE AK's 35 communities. Many of which have populations of under 20 people and all but two communities, I believe are not connected to a mainland road system.

The result of this issue has created signal that these sorts of changes are acceptable, created a free for all raid on trollers allocation under lower abundance and promotes a culture of not respecting the hard work and good will of the two of the three signers of RC 178. Please address this situation by correcting regulations in 5 AAC 47.055 (b) (2) back to the language the Board of Fish adopted in RC 178 at the March 2022 Board Of Fisheries meeting.

Sincerely, Jeff Farvour
Sitka, AK



PC75

Submitted by: Kurt Ferse

Community of Residence: Gig Harbor, WA

Comment:

Kurt Ferse

20 year guide for Shelter Cove Lodge, Craig AK

RE proposals 257, 258, 259

I support my family and SE communities with my income from the summer fishing season in Alaska. I depend on STABLE management plans for the resources. This is why I strongly oppose proposals 258 & 259.

There needs to be no confusion that taking up proposals out of cycle and out of the area being impacted is unacceptable as this circumvents the public process, limits stakeholders access to the board decision process, and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions. We are requesting that proposal 259 be taken up in cycle during the 2025 Southeast meeting. Those effected need the opportunity to attend the meeting in a location closer to home and be heard by the Board.

Despite the claims that Proposal 259 makes, the changes in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan were not a misunderstanding. It was clearly understood by all parties at the time of signing. This was explicitly clarified by the board as seen in the conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G.

Regards,

Kurt Ferse

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



Proposal 7

This proposal should have been two separate proposals; one for snagging and the other for spearfishing. My comments are on primarily spearfishing. I have great concern over this proposal due to the obvious lack of understanding of spearfishing from the individual who proposed this. I am a certified Master Freediver, Freediving Instructor, and run a small business in Anchorage producing spearguns and providing education for diving for people all over southern Alaska. Spearfishing for Kings around Homer, Seldovia, and Anchor Point is primarily done on breath hold. Some of the best local divers can take a breath, dive down to 60 ft, and hunt the bottom for up to 2 minutes before returning. However, averaging bottom times for spearing is closer to 30 seconds.

Proposal 7 has eight talking points, all about snagging. Talking point number 8 brings up spearfishing. Specifically:

"8. Now some divers are spear fishing in the Lagoon. It just a matter of time until some are inadvertently snagged. Some just swim right under your boat and you're not even aware they are there. These people could easily be snagged in vulnerable areas like the throat."

This statement is written in a way that supports the authors viewpoint that snagging should be banned until June 24th. However, the proposal is to ban both snagging *and* spearfishing. Why? If their concern is about snagging for the previous 12 paragraphs, why suddenly turn to banning spearfishing as well. This is why this should have been two separate proposals and not lumped into one.

All divers, scuba and freedivers, are constantly drilled about safety during our training and certification. Literally, day 1 of class for any dive certification program is about safety. Every day of class we teach about rescue, first aid, and water hazards, to include diving in areas with boat traffic. In the water we are all very coherent of where boats and other hazards are. We swim and dive with bright colored buoys and flags. Some divers have even started diving with orange or red suits to help be more visible on the surface.

I must address this as well, but the odds of a diver getting snagged in the neck/throat are incredibly small. We wear extremely thick wetsuits to stay warm and some divers even wear "neck weights" that would protect the neck/throat. I have been hooked in the past by abandoned tackle suspended in the water column, but it was not able to fully get through the suit.

I truly have a hard time believing that any diver, especially spearfishers that are hunting while holding their breath, would swim under a boat, let alone within 100ft of a boat. I have personally dived with, and trained some of, spearfishers from and around Homer. All have something in common, none of them trust boats. We assume they don't see us by default (even with the markers), and we give them all a wide berth.

Additionally, Proposal 8 is basically the same proposal as Proposal 7, but without the addition of spearfishing restrictions. Why double up on proposals?

In conclusion, Proposal 7 is poorly written by someone trying to add a regulation to a sport they know nothing about, spearfishing. This proposal should be rejected and rewritten as this individual wants to add restrictions to snagging, which is what this proposal is primarily about. If they want to restrict spearfishing, it should be a separate proposal and written, or at least coordinated with, by someone who has a background in spearfishing.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions or would like further explanation. My passion is education, and I am more than willing to chat. You can reach me at [REDACTED]

V/r

Jordan Flesner



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I'm tied to commercial fishing in Homer, Alaska, and I firmly oppose Proposal 43. Hatcheries in lower Cook Inlet support a certain group of individuals. For the overall economy of Homer, they do a lot. Releasing hundreds of millions of fry into the ecosystem affects wild stock. There is no scientific evidence of what the carrying capacity of the gulf of Alaska is. As far as I know, without the state's funding, hatcheries would not be viable.

Sincerely,

Mikee Flora



Homer, Alaska



Submitted by: Jacqueline Foss

Community of Residence: Sitka

Comment:

I am opposed to proposals 34, 35, 36, 41, and 43.

All of these proposals are aimed at stopping hatcheries and creating additional regulation for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to deal with. Currently, the Department considers wild stock and has adequate tools to manage and conserve wild stock. Further, these proposals ignore existing management plans and do not provide any direction in how to integrate the two.

Proposal 34: Oppose

Proposal 35: Oppose

Proposal 36: Oppose

Proposal 41: Oppose

Proposal 43: Oppose



Submitted by Jacqueline Foss

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Comments on proposal 257

I support the portion of proposal 257 that amends the language to align with changes made by the salmon treaty to the calculation of the all gear harvest limit.

I do not support the language in 5 AAC 47.055 b(2) allowing sport harvest to continue without a ceiling. This issue is addressed by Proposal 259.

I can support proposal 257 with the following change, Add Sport fishery to 5 AAC 47.055 b(2) to read

(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the **sport fishery** harvest ceiling;

I am concerned that by including the entire section of the king salmon management plan in this proposal that The Department wants to make significant changes to the plan. This is an out of cycle meeting away from the stakeholders. I do not at all support large changes to this plan away from the affected people. Getting to homer in November is a burden for most people.

I urge the board to consider all 3 King salmon proposals (proposal 257, 258, 259) as a whole since they interrelated. It is necessary to make tier adjustments in Proposal 258 in order to fully align with the Pacific Salmon Treaty, not just 257.

Please see Proposal 259 and my comments on it for further discussion and context.

Comments on Proposal 258

I support proposal 258 and do not suggest any language changes.

Proposal 258 updates the King Salmon Management Plan to reflect the change from 7 to 17 tier system under the new All Gear Harvest limit under the Pacific Salmon Treaty. This is a necessary step to fully comply with the Changes made to the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

Comments on Proposal 259

Thank you for taking up ACR 13 and considering proposal 259 at the Lower Cook Inlet meeting. I support this proposal.

This proposal changes. 5 AAC 47.055 (b) (2) back to the language the Board of Fish adopted in RC 178 at the March 2022 Board Of Fish Meeting. This language is found in 5 AAC 47.055 b(2).



(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the **sport fishery** harvest ceiling;

Trollers and Territorial sportsmen are on record saying they would not have signed RC 178 without this language in it. Every gear group and sector need limits on their effort. They can be external—like emergency closures or other in-season management, or they can be internal and managed by the sector. The non-resident sport sector currently does not have any internal controls on their effort. In meeting with them in the 2022 Board of Fish they made no indication to me, a commercial troller with a limited-entry permit controlling our effort, that they were interested in them. As a troller, I am not at all willing to be an unlimited slush fund for a group that refuses to manage itself.

There is room for compromise and we found it with RC178 and we are trying it for 3 years. The Department did all of us a disservice choosing to liberalize one sector (non-resident sport) at the expense of all commercial gear groups. Non-resident sport took net fish this year too and the nets were not included in the crafting of RC 178.

King Salmon are a finite resource that many, many groups depend on. We are all trying to feed our families off of proceeds from our businesses and from the king salmon we all love to harvest as fishermen. It's important to conserve this precious resource and non-resident sport is the only one not participating in that conservation.

On Averaging

I want to address "Averaging." I would like to direct you to PC 462 from the 2022 Board of fish (attached to my comments) to demonstrate what "averaging" would look like according to SEAGO. Here, they includes a table of where they show their historical catch at each of the tiers. We were in tier 4 with an A.I. of 1.4 in 2023. According to the table in PC 462, they historically caught 20% of the all gear harvest and were asking for 25% of the all gear harvest. In 2023, they took **nearly 28%** of the all gear harvest. This exceeds anything even discussed or proposed at the 2022 Board of Fish. It was never agreed upon to even go as high as 25% for sport.

The conversation about the Intent of the agreement, which is not at all binding, falls apart when considering the numbers actually presented by the parties.

2022 and 2023

SEAGO and the guide sector will point out that they were under their allocation by about 15,000 fish in 2022. They feel like this justifies their 15,000 fish overage in 2023. However, when the department allocated these kings to Trollers in 2022, it did not shut down the charter sector or net sector in doing so. Everyone had a full season and the Trollers "mopped up" these king salmon in August and September because Trollers are the only gear type who can harvest these fish later in the season. This helps the State of Alaska mange King Salmon up to their limit under the Pacific Salmon treaty. There is a benefit to the State of AK and all gear groups harvesting King Salmon under the Treaty to manage to the ceiling.



Trollers were unable to capitalize on these 15,000 King Salmon on 2022 for a variety of reasons, a monster chum year and dispersed king salmon being two of them. 2023 saw catastrophic price drops for salmon throughout the state and trollers needed these kings more than ever. The loss of these fish in 2023 has harmed more trollers than any perceived benefit of harvesting sport underage could ever repair.

Retaining a sport harvest ceiling would allow The Department to manage the sport fishery to an average of 20% over the entire season rather than a surprise 28% by early August.

This change negatively affected me, personally

I lost my board seat on ATA over this change the department made on RC 178. My signature is right at the top of RC 178 as the ATA rep. I, personally, signed my name along side Russell Thomas from SEAGO and Ron Somerville from Territorial Sportsmen. We signed in good faith that this agreement would be codified into statute as written. These decisions by The Department have real consequences for real people living in rural communities. This damaged my reputation as an advocate for my gear group.

I am deeply, personally offended that a hard-negotiated regulation was changed, unilaterally, outside of the public process at the 2022 Board of Fish Meeting. This erodes the authority of the board of fish and diminishes the process that trollers, charter industry, and resident sport fish went through.

This process failed us. We negotiated and signed in good faith to try something different, only to have The Department made a drastic change to the whole agreement. Please, correct this by taking up adding the suggested language back in Proposal 259.

Attach: RC 178; PC 462

Submitted by Board Member Mitchell in cooperation with the Alaska Trollers Association, Southeast Alaska Guides Organization and the Territorial Sportsmen Incorporated. Prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Gameⁱ.

Jan Foss ATA Rep.
Don Somerville SEAGO
Don Somerville TSI

March 20, 2022

Substitute language for proposal 82:

5 AAC 29.060(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

5 AAC 29.060. Allocation of king salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area.

(a) The department shall manage the commercial and sport king salmon fisheries in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area in accordance with the conservation and harvest goals of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, as implemented by the Pacific Salmon Commission.

(b) The department shall manage the sport and commercial net and troll fisheries in accordance with the annual harvest ceiling established by the Pacific Salmon Commission. During a directed king salmon fishery in District 8 and District 11, an allowable catch above the baseline harvest level will not be counted towards the annual harvest ceiling. The annual harvest allocation of the annual harvest ceiling for each fishery is as follows:

(1) purse seine fishery: 4.3 percent of the annual harvest ceiling;

(2) drift gillnet fishery: 2.9 percent of the annual harvest ceiling;

(3) set gillnet fishery: 1,000 king salmon;

(4) troll fishery: 80 percent, after the net fishery allocations in (1) - (3) of this subsection are subtracted from the annual harvest ceiling;

(5) sport fishery: 20 percent, after the net fishery allocations in (1) - (3) of this subsection are subtracted from the annual harvest ceiling[.];

(6) if the projected annual Southeast Alaska all-gear harvest is below the annual harvest ceiling, any remaining allocation from those gear groups listed in (1) - (5) of

this subsection may be allocated to the troll fishery beginning at a season date determined by the department and established by emergency order.

(c) When computing the harvest allocations under this section, the department shall take into consideration that the Pacific Salmon Commission's annual harvest ceiling includes a pretreaty base level of 5,000 Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon and the risk factor for computing the Alaska hatchery contribution. Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon above the 5,000 fish base and the risk factor are excluded from the annual harvest ceiling. In determining each fisheries' allocation of the Pacific Salmon Commission's harvest ceiling, the department shall apportion the risk factor for computing the Alaska hatchery contribution and the 5,000 fish base into components for each fishery.

(d) For the purpose of calculating the king salmon harvest, the annual harvest period shall begin with the opening of the winter salmon troll season. For the purpose of calculating harvest performance for the king salmon fisheries under this section, the harvest in the sport and commercial net and troll fisheries will be applied to the cumulative harvest on an annual basis, as opposed to the harvest ceiling.

5 AAC 47.055 is amended to read:

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

(a) The commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, the king salmon sport fish bag and possession limits and all other necessary management measures based on the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery catch per unit effort (CPUE). The bag and possession limits and other management measures established by the commissioner will remain in effect until January 31 of the following year. If the new Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is not available by February 1, the bag and possession limits and other management measures for the remainder of the year will be based on the prior year's Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE, unless superseded by emergency order.

(b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to

(1) manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest of 20 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;

(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the sport fishery harvest ceiling;

(3) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; and

(4) **if the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 3.8 and equal to or greater than 2.0; a resident bag limit of two king salmon 28 inches or greater in**

length will be established in areas where conservation management measures for all anglers have prohibited king salmon retention, or closed to fishing for king salmon once they reopen;

(5) any projected unused balance in sport allocation may transfer to the troll fishery at a date determined by the department [PROVIDE STABILITY TO THE SPORT FISHERY BY ELIMINATING INSEASON REGULATORY CHANGES, EXCEPT THOSE NECESSARY FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES].

(c) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is equal to or greater than 20.5, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index greater than 2.2, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 69,000 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of [TWO KING SALMON IN MAY AND] one king salmon [IN OTHER MONTHS];

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(4) from July 1 through July 15 a nonresident annual limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(5) from July 16 through December 31 a nonresident annual limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(d) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 20.5 and equal to or greater than 8.7, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 2.2 and greater than 1.8, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 61,900 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon; [A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL LIMIT OF FOUR KING SALMON,] 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(4) from July 1 through July 15 a nonresident annual limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(5) from July 16 through December 31 a nonresident annual limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply to the one fish annual harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(e) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 8.7 and equal to or greater than 6.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index less than or equal to 1.8 and greater than 1.5, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 49,300 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon; [A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON,] 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(4) from July 1 through July 15 a nonresident annual limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply to the two fish annual harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(5) from July 16 through December 31 a nonresident annual limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply to the one fish annual harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(f) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 6.0 and equal to or greater than 3.8, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to

1.5 and greater than 1.2, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 37,900 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures [IN CONJUNCTION WITH WILD STOCK MANAGEMENT MEASURES]:

- (1) a **resident** bag limit of **two** [ONE] king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2) **a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon; 28 inches or greater in length;**

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual [TOTAL] harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(4) [(3)] from July 1 through July 15 [7], a nonresident annual [TOTAL] harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 [July 7] will apply towards the two fish annual [TOTAL] harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon; 28 inches or greater in length any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(6) [(4)] from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon;

[(5) FROM JULY 8 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT TOTAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON; 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH TOTAL HARVEST LIMIT; A HARVEST RECORD UNDER 5 AAC 75.006 IS REQUIRED;

(6) IF THE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS THAT THE SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION IS GOING TO BE EXCEEDED, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, CLOSE SPORT FISHING BY NONRESIDENTS TO STAY WITHIN THE SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION; THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CLOSE SPORT FISHING BY RESIDENTS ONLY IF NONRESIDENT ANGLER CLOSURES ARE INSUFFICIENT TO REMAIN WITHIN THE SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION;

(7) IN THE HAINES AND SKAGWAY VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF CHILKAT INLET NORTH OF THE ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF SEDUCTION POINT, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF SECTION 13-C, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, SOUTHEAST OF A LINE FROM NISMENI POINT TO A POINT ON THE CHICHAGOF ISLAND SHORELINE AT 57° 35.59' N. LAT., 135° 22.33' W. LONG., A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(8) IN THE JUNEAU VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF SECTIONS 11-A, 11-B AND 11-C, DISTRICT 12. SECTIONS 14-B, 14-C, 15-B, AND 15-C, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF SECTION 11-D, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(9) IN THE PETERSBURG WRANGELL VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF DISTRICT 8, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 47.057(D), AND IN A PORTION OF DISTRICT 7, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, IN THE WATERS OF EASTERN PASSAGE WEST OF A LINE FROM A POINT ON WRANGELL ISLAND AT 56° 22.19' N. LAT., 132° 11.75' W. LONG., TO A POINT ON THE MAINLAND SHORE AT 56° 22.76' N. LAT., 132° 10.62' W. LONG., A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JULY 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF DISTRICT 5 NORTH OF A LINE FROM POINT BAKER TO A POINT ON THE SHORE OF KUIU ISLAND AT 56° 20.80' N. LAT., 133° 50.87' W. LONG., DISTRICT 6, DISTRICT 7 EXCLUDING THE WATERS OF EASTERN PASSAGE WEST OF A LINE FROM A POINT ON WRANGELL ISLAND AT 56° 22.19' N. LAT., 132° 11.75' W. LONG., TO A POINT ON THE MAINLAND SHORE AT 56° 22.76' N. LAT., 132° 10.62' W. LONG., DISTRICT 9 NORTH OF LINE FROM POINT ELLIS TO PATTERSON POINT, AND DISTRICT 10, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(10) IN THE KETCHIKAN VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF BEHM CANAL AND REVILLAGIGEDO CHANNEL AND THE CONTIGUOUS BAYS, BETWEEN A LINE FROM POINT EVA TO CACTUS POINT, AND A LINE FROM LUCKY POINT AT 55° 12.62' N. LAT., 131° 16.18' W. LONG., TO MIDDY POINT AT 55° 10.19' N., 131° 19.60' W.

LONG., TO BEAVER POINT AT 55° 05.25' N. LAT., 131° 14.57' W. LONG., AND FROM POINT ROSEN AT 55° 04.74' N. LAT., 131° 10.87' W. LONG., TO QUADRA POINT AT 55° 05.14' N. LAT., 130° 59.07' W. LONG., A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM AUGUST 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF WEST BEHM CANAL AND THE CONTIGUOUS BAYS ENCLOSED TO THE NORTH BY A LINE FROM THE WESTERN ENTRANCE OF BAILEY BAY AT 55° 56.04' N. LAT., 131° 37.94' W. LONG., TO THE NORTHERN TIP OF HASSLER ISLAND AT 55° 54.28' N. LAT., 131° 37.80' W. LONG., AND A LINE FROM FIN POINT AT 55° 51.26' N. LAT., 131° 35.42' W. LONG., TO DRESS POINT AT 55° 51.15' N. LAT., 131° 33.75' W. LONG., AND TO THE SOUTH BY A LINE FROM INDIAN POINT AT 55° 36.87' N. LAT., 131° 42.07' W. LONG., TO MIKE POINT AT 55° 37.25' N. LAT., 131° 52.74' W. LONG.; A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM AUGUST 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(C) IN THE WATERS OF THE HERRING BAY SPORTFISH TERMINAL HARVEST AREA, WHICH INCLUDES THE WATERS OF NICHOLS PASS NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF DRIEST POINT, REVILLAGIGEDO CHANNEL NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF HARBOR POINT, AND TONGASS NARROWS SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF THE LEWIS REEF LIGHT, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(D) IN ALL REMAINING WATERS OF DISTRICTS 1 AND 2, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH FROM AUGUST 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31].

(g) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 3.8 and equal to or greater than 2.6, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 1.2 and greater than 1.0, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 25,800 treaty king salmon and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures [IN CONJUNCTION WITH WILD STOCK MANAGEMENT MEASURES]:

(1) a bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual [TOTAL] harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(3) from July 1 through July 7 [DECEMBER 31], a nonresident annual [TOTAL] harvest limit of two [ONE] king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by the nonresident from January 1 through June 30 [DECEMBER 31] will

apply toward the two fish **annual** [TOTAL] harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(4) **from July 8 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through December 31 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required** [IF THE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS THAT THE SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION IS GOING TO BE EXCEEDED, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, CLOSE SPORT FISHING BY NONRESIDENTS TO STAY WITHIN THE SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION; THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CLOSE SPORT FISHING BY RESIDENTS ONLY IF NONRESIDENT ANGLER CLOSURES ARE INSUFFICIENT TO REMAIN WITHIN THE SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION;

(5) IN THE HAINES AND SKAGWAY VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF CHILKAT INLET NORTH OF THE ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF SEDUCTION POINT, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF SECTION 13-C, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, SOUTHEAST OF A LINE FROM NISMENI POINT TO A POINT ON THE CHICHAGOF ISLAND SHORELINE AT 57° 35.59' N. LAT., 135° 22.33' W. LONG., A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(6) IN THE JUNEAU VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF SECTIONS 11-A, 11-B, AND 11-C, DISTRICT 12, SECTIONS 14-B, 14-C, 15-B, AND 15-C, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF SECTION 11-D, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(7) IN THE PETERSBURG WRANGELL VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF DISTRICT 8, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 47.057(D), AND IN A PORTION OF DISTRICT 7, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, IN THE WATERS OF EASTERN PASSAGE WEST OF A LINE FROM A POINT ON WRANGELL ISLAND AT 56° 22.19' N. LAT., 132° 11.75' W. LONG., TO A POINT ON THE MAINLAND SHORE AT 56° 22.76' N. LAT., 132° 10.62' W. LONG., A

RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JULY 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF DISTRICT 5 NORTH OF LINE FROM POINT BAKER TO A POINT ON THE SHORE OF KUIU ISLAND AT 56° 20.80' N. LAT., 133° 50.87' W. LONG., DISTRICT 6, DISTRICT 7 EXCLUDING THE WATERS OF EASTERN PASSAGE WEST OF A LINE FROM A POINT ON WRANGELL ISLAND AT 56° 22.19' N. LAT., 132° 11.75' W. LONG., TO A POINT ON THE MAINLAND SHORE AT 56° 22.76' N. LAT., 132° 10.62' W. LONG., DISTRICT 9 NORTH OF A LINE FROM POINT ELLIS TO PATTERSON POINT, AND DISTRICT 10, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(8) IN THE KETCHIKAN VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF BEHM CANAL AND REVILLAGIGEDO CHANNEL AND THE CONTIGUOUS BAYS, BETWEEN A LINE FROM POINT EVA TO CACTUS POINT, AND A LINE FROM LUCKY POINT AT 55° 12.62' N. LAT., 131° 16.18' W. LONG., TO MIDDY POINT AT 55° 10.19' N., 131° 19.60' W. LONG., TO BEAVER POINT AT 55° 05.25' N. LAT., 131° 14.57' W. LONG., AND FROM POINT ROSEN AT 55° 04.74' N. LAT., 131° 10.87' W. LONG., TO QUADRA POINT AT 55° 05.14' N. LAT., 130° 59.07' W. LONG., A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM AUGUST 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF WEST BEHM CANAL AND THE CONTIGUOUS BAYS ENCLOSED TO THE NORTH BY A LINE FROM THE WESTERN ENTRANCE OF BAILEY BAY AT 55° 56.04' N. LAT., 131° 37.94' W. LONG., TO THE NORTHERN TIP OF HASSLER ISLAND AT 55° 54.28' N. LAT., 131° 37.80' W. LONG., AND A LINE FROM FIN POINT AT 55° 51.26' N. LAT., 131° 35.42' W. LONG., TO DRESS POINT AT 55° 51.15' N. LAT., 131° 33.75' W. LONG., AND TO THE SOUTH BY A LINE FROM INDIAN POINT AT 55° 36.87' N. LAT., 131° 42.07' W. LONG., TO MIKE POINT AT 55° 37.25' N. LAT., 131° 52.74' W. LONG.; A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM AUGUST 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(C) IN THE WATERS OF THE HERRING BAY SPORTFISH TERMINAL HARVEST AREA, WHICH INCLUDES THE WATERS OF NICHOLS PASS NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF DRIEST POINT, REVILLAGIGEDO CHANNEL NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF HARBOR POINT, AND TONGASS NARROWS SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF THE LEWIS REEF LIGHT; A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(D) IN ALL REMAINING WATERS OF DISTRICT 1 AND 2, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH FROM AUGUST 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31].

(h) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 2.6 and equal to or greater than 2.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 1.0 and greater than or equal to 0.875, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 20,600 treaty king salmon and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a [RESIDENT] bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a harvest record under 5 AC 75.006 is required [A NONRESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH, EXCEPT THAT FROM JULY 1 THROUGH AUGUST 15 NONRESIDENT ANGLERS MAY NOT RETAIN KING SALMON];

(3) from July 1 [JUNE 16] through December 31, a nonresident total harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 [June 15] will apply towards the one fish total harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required[;

(4) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 15, A NONRESIDENT TOTAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; A HARVEST RECORD UNDER 5 AAC 75.006 IS REQUIRED;

(5) IF THE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS THAT THE KING SALMON SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION IS GOING TO BE EXCEEDED, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, ADJUST THE NONRESIDENT SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS SO THAT THERE ARE NO CLOSURES FOR RESIDENTS].

(i) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 2.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than 0.875, the all gear catch limit will be determined by the Pacific Salmon Commission, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the provisions specified in (g) and (h) of this section [AND NONRETENTION PERIODS OR OTHER RESTRICTIONS FOR RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT ANGLERS TO OBTAIN 20 PERCENT OF THE HARVEST REDUCTION FROM RESIDENT ANGLERS AND 80 PERCENT FROM NONRESIDENT ANGLERS].

(j) The commissioner may adopt regulations that establish reporting requirements necessary to obtain the information required to implement the management plan under this section.

(k) The commissioner may, by emergency order, establish that the nonresident harvest and annual limits for king salmon under this section do not apply in a hatchery terminal harvest area.

(l) the department shall manage the resident sport fishery so that there are no closures for residents, unless determined by the commissioner that additional harvest reduction to the resident bag limits is necessary to comply with the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

(m) the provisions of this section will not apply after March 31, 2025.

ⁱ Preparation of draft substitute language at the request of a Board member does not imply ADF&G support. The Department will state its position on the language during deliberation.

Southeast Alaska Guides Organization Additional Comments

Chair Carlson-Van Dort and Board Members,

We'd like to offer the following amendments to Southeast sport and commercial king salmon management that tie together conceptual ideas from Proposals 80-86, and 87. The suggestions address the payback provision required by the Pacific Salmon Treaty, resident sport priority, and sport/troll allocations.

Summary of intended outcomes:

- All gear groups, including sport, are targeted to stay at or below annual allocations
- Any projected underage of the all-gear annual harvest ceiling will be harvested by the commercial troll sector
- A reduction to the all-gear annual harvest ceiling caused by an overage the previous year will not change the allocation distribution outlined in regulation
- Non-resident anglers are subject to inseason management to prevent closures for, and provide priority to, resident anglers and to keep sport within allocation
- The sport harvest ceiling remains 20% of the combined troll/sport allocation in tiers 5-7 (e-c); sport limits are not liberalized to reach allocation and any underage goes to the troll fishery
- The sport harvest ceiling is increased to 25% of the combined troll/sport allocation in tiers 2-4 (h-f) to help accommodate resident priority and provide a base opportunity for non-residents in low abundance; sport limits are not liberalized to reach allocation and any underage goes to the troll fishery
- Prescribed bag and annual sport limits are targeted to provide a net gain to troll based on historical harvest
- Troll will achieve additional gains based on historical hindcasting of receiving underages from other gear groups, and from expected sport underages due to wild stock management and natural sport underages in high abundance

5 AAC 29.060. Allocation of king salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area (Conceptually addresses proposals 80-83, and 87)

Amend regulation as follows:

(a) The department shall manage the commercial and sport king salmon fisheries in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area in accordance with the conservation and harvest goals of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, as implemented by the Pacific Salmon Commission.

(b) The department shall manage the sport and commercial net and troll fisheries in accordance with the annual harvest ceiling established by the Pacific Salmon Commission. During a directed king salmon fishery in District 8 and District 11, an allowable catch above the baseline harvest level will not be counted towards the annual harvest ceiling. The annual harvest allocation of the annual harvest ceiling for each fishery is as follows:

(1) purse seine fishery: 4.3 percent of the annual harvest ceiling;

(2) drift gillnet fishery: 2.9 percent of the annual harvest ceiling;

(3) set gillnet fishery: 1,000 king salmon;

(4) troll fishery: 80 percent, after the net fishery allocations in (1) - (3) of this subsection are subtracted from the annual harvest ceiling **in Southeast Alaska troll winter fishery CPUE's greater than or equal to 6.0; in Southeast Alaska troll winter fishery CPUE's below 6.0, 75 percent after the net fishery allocation in (1) - (3) of this subsection are subtracted from the annual harvest ceiling;**

(5) sport fishery: 20 percent, after the net fishery allocations in (1) - (3) of this subsection are subtracted from the annual harvest ceiling[.] **in Southeast Alaska troll winter fishery CPUE's greater than or equal to 6.0; in Southeast Alaska troll winter fishery CPUE's below 6.0, 25 percent after the net fishery allocation in (1) - (3) of this subsection are subtracted from the annual harvest ceiling.**

(c) When computing the harvest allocations under this section, the department shall take into consideration that the Pacific Salmon Commission's annual harvest ceiling includes a pretreaty base level of 5,000 Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon and the risk factor for computing the Alaska hatchery contribution. Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon above the 5,000 fish base and the risk factor are excluded from the annual harvest ceiling. In determining each fisheries' allocation of the Pacific Salmon Commission's harvest ceiling, the department shall apportion the risk factor for computing the Alaska hatchery contribution and the 5,000 fish base into components for each fishery.

(d) For the purpose of calculating the king salmon harvest, the annual harvest period shall begin with the opening of the winter salmon troll season. For the purpose of calculating harvest performance for the king salmon fisheries under this section, the harvest in the sport and commercial net and troll fisheries will be applied to the cumulative harvest on an annual basis, as opposed to the harvest ceiling.

(e) If the Alaska all-gear harvest is projected to be below the annual harvest ceiling, any remaining allocation from all gear groups will be harvested by the troll fishery beginning at a season date determined by the department and established by emergency order.

(f) If the Alaska all-gear harvest exceeds the annual harvest ceiling established by the Pacific Salmon Commission, the department shall manage the commercial and sport king salmon fisheries in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area according to subsection (b) based on the revised allocation the revised annual harvest ceiling established by the Pacific Salmon Commission.

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

(Conceptually addresses proposals 82-86, and 87)

Amend regulation as follows (version with changes accepted follows marked up version):

(a) The commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, the king salmon sport fish bag and possession limits and all other necessary management measures based on the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery catch per unit effort (CPUE). The bag and possession limits and other management measures established by the commissioner will remain in effect until January 31 of

the following year. If the new Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is not available by February 1, the bag and possession limits and other management measures for the remainder of the year will be based on the prior year's Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE, unless superseded by emergency order.

(b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to

(1) manage the sport fishery to attain [AN AVERAGE] a harvest [OF] not to exceed 20 or 25 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;

(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the sport fishery harvest ceiling;

(3) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; and

(4) provide stability to the sport fishery by eliminating inseason regulatory changes, except those necessary for conservation purposes or to keep the sport fishery within its harvest allocation.

(5) at Alaska winter troll fishery CPUEs less than 3.8 and equal to or greater than 0.875; a resident bag limit of two king salmon 28 inches or greater in length will be established in areas where conservation management measures for all anglers prohibited king salmon retention or closed fishing for king salmon once they reopen.

(6) at all Alaska winter troll fishery CPUEs, if the department projects that the king salmon sport harvest allocation is going to be exceeded, the department shall, by emergency order, adjust the nonresident seasons and bag limits so that there are no closures for residents;

(7) any projected unused balance in sport allocation will transfer to the troll fishery at the appropriate date determined by the department;

(c) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is equal to or greater than 20.5, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index greater than 2.2, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% or 69,000 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of [TWO KING SALMON IN MAY AND] one king salmon [IN OTHER MONTHS]; a nonresident annual limit of three [FIVE] king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(d) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 20.5 and equal to or greater than 8.7, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 2.2 and greater than 1.8, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% or 61,900 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon; a nonresident annual limit of three [FOUR] king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(e) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 8.7 and equal to or greater than 6.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index less than or equal to 1.8 and greater than 1.5, the sport fishery harvest limit will be **20% or** 49,300 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon; a nonresident annual limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (3) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(f) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 6.0 and equal to or greater than 3.8, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 1.5 and greater than 1.2, the sport fishery harvest limit will be **25% or 47,300** [37,900] treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures: [IN CONJUNCTION WITH WILD STOCK MANAGEMENT MEASURES:]

- (1) a **resident** bag limit of **two** [ONE] king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2) **a non-resident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;**

(3 [2]) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident total harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(4 [3]) from July 1 through July [7] **15**, a nonresident total harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July [7] **15** will apply towards the two fish total harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(5 [4]) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident total harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through December 31 will apply towards the two fish harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(6 [4]) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon;

[(6) IF THE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS THAT THE SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION IS GOING TO BE EXCEEDED, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, CLOSE SPORT FISHING BY NONRESIDENTS TO STAY WITHIN THE SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION; THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CLOSE SPORT FISHING BY RESIDENTS ONLY IF NONRESIDENT ANGLER CLOSURES ARE INSUFFICIENT TO REMAIN WITHIN THE SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION;

(7) IN THE HAINES AND SKAGWAY VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF CHILKAT INLET NORTH OF THE ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF SEDUCTION POINT, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF SECTION 13-C, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, SOUTHEAST OF A LINE FROM NISMENI POINT TO A POINT ON THE CHICHAGOF ISLAND SHORELINE AT 57° 35.59' N. LAT., 135° 22.33' W. LONG., A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(8) IN THE JUNEAU VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF SECTIONS 11-A, 11-B AND 11-C, DISTRICT 12. SECTIONS 14-B, 14-C, 15-B, AND 15-C, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF SECTION 11-D, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(9) IN THE PETERSBURG WRANGELL VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF DISTRICT 8, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 47.057(D), AND IN A PORTION OF DISTRICT 7, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, IN THE WATERS OF EASTERN PASSAGE WEST OF A LINE FROM A POINT ON WRANGELL ISLAND AT 56° 22.19' N. LAT., 132° 11.75' W. LONG., TO A POINT ON THE MAINLAND SHORE AT 56° 22.76' N. LAT., 132° 10.62' W. LONG., A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JULY 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF DISTRICT 5 NORTH OF A LINE FROM POINT BAKER TO A POINT ON THE SHORE OF KUIU ISLAND AT 56° 20.80' N. LAT., 133° 50.87' W. LONG., DISTRICT 6, DISTRICT 7 EXCLUDING THE WATERS OF EASTERN PASSAGE WEST OF A LINE FROM A POINT ON WRANGELL ISLAND AT 56° 22.19' N. LAT., 132° 11.75' W. LONG., TO A POINT ON THE MAINLAND SHORE AT 56° 22.76' N. LAT., 132° 10.62' W. LONG., DISTRICT 9 NORTH OF LINE FROM POINT ELLIS TO PATTERSON POINT, AND DISTRICT 10, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(10) IN THE KETCHIKAN VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF BEHM CANAL AND REVILLAGIGEDO CHANNEL AND THE CONTIGUOUS BAYS, BETWEEN A LINE FROM POINT EVA TO CACTUS POINT, AND A LINE FROM LUCKY POINT AT 55° 12.62' N. LAT., 131° 16.18' W. LONG., TO MIDDY POINT AT 55° 10.19' N., 131° 19.60' W. LONG., TO BEAVER POINT AT 55° 05.25' N. LAT., 131° 14.57' W. LONG., AND FROM POINT ROSEN AT 55° 04.74' N. LAT., 131° 10.87' W. LONG., TO QUADRA POINT AT 55° 05.14' N. LAT., 130° 59.07' W. LONG., A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM AUGUST 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF WEST BEHM CANAL AND THE CONTIGUOUS BAYS ENCLOSED TO THE NORTH BY A LINE FROM THE WESTERN ENTRANCE OF BAILEY BAY AT 55° 56.04' N. LAT., 131° 37.94' W. LONG., TO THE NORTHERN TIP OF HASSLER ISLAND AT 55° 54.28' N. LAT., 131° 37.80' W. LONG., AND A LINE FROM FIN POINT AT 55° 51.26' N. LAT., 131° 35.42' W. LONG., TO DRESS POINT AT 55° 51.15' N. LAT., 131° 33.75' W. LONG., AND TO THE SOUTH BY A LINE FROM INDIAN POINT AT 55° 36.87' N. LAT., 131° 42.07' W. LONG., TO MIKE POINT AT

55° 37.25' N. LAT., 131° 52.74' W. LONG.; A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM AUGUST 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(C) IN THE WATERS OF THE HERRING BAY SPORTFISH TERMINAL HARVEST AREA, WHICH INCLUDES THE WATERS OF NICHOLS PASS NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF DRIEST POINT, REVILLAGIGEDO CHANNEL NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF HARBOR POINT, AND TONGASS NARROWS SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF THE LEWIS REEF LIGHT, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(D) IN ALL REMAINING WATERS OF DISTRICTS 1 AND 2, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH FROM AUGUST 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31.]

(g) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 3.8 and equal to or greater than 2.6, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 1.2 and greater than 1.0, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 25% or 32,305 [25,800] treaty king salmon and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures: [in conjunction with wild stock management measures:]

(1) a bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
(2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident total harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;
(3) from July 1 through July 15 [DECEMBER 31], a nonresident total harvest limit of two [ONE] king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by the nonresident from January 1 through July 15 [DECEMBER 31] will apply toward the one fish total harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(4) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident total harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through December 31 will apply towards the two fish harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

[(4) IF THE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS THAT THE SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION IS GOING TO BE EXCEEDED, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, CLOSE SPORT FISHING BY NONRESIDENTS TO STAY WITHIN THE SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION; THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CLOSE SPORT FISHING BY RESIDENTS ONLY IF NONRESIDENT ANGLER CLOSURES ARE INSUFFICIENT TO REMAIN WITHIN THE SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION;

(5) IN THE HAINES AND SKAGWAY VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF CHILKAT INLET NORTH OF THE ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF SEDUCTION POINT, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF SECTION 13-C, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, SOUTHEAST OF A LINE FROM NISMENI POINT TO A POINT ON THE CHICHAGOF ISLAND SHORELINE AT 57° 35.59' N. LAT., 135° 22.33' W. LONG., A

RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(6) IN THE JUNEAU VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF SECTIONS 11-A, 11-B, AND 11-C, DISTRICT 12, SECTIONS 14-B, 14-C, 15-B, AND 15-C, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF SECTION 11-D, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(7) IN THE PETERSBURG WRANGELL VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF DISTRICT 8, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 47.057(D), AND IN A PORTION OF DISTRICT 7, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, IN THE WATERS OF EASTERN PASSAGE WEST OF A LINE FROM A POINT ON WRANGELL ISLAND AT 56° 22.19' N. LAT., 132° 11.75' W. LONG., TO A POINT ON THE MAINLAND SHORE AT 56° 22.76' N. LAT., 132° 10.62' W. LONG., A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JULY 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF DISTRICT 5 NORTH OF LINE FROM POINT BAKER TO A POINT ON THE SHORE OF KUIU ISLAND AT 56° 20.80' N. LAT., 133° 50.87' W. LONG., DISTRICT 6, DISTRICT 7 EXCLUDING THE WATERS OF EASTERN PASSAGE WEST OF A LINE FROM A POINT ON WRANGELL ISLAND AT 56° 22.19' N. LAT., 132° 11.75' W. LONG., TO A POINT ON THE MAINLAND SHORE AT 56° 22.76' N. LAT., 132° 10.62' W. LONG., DISTRICT 9 NORTH OF A LINE FROM POINT ELLIS TO PATTERSON POINT, AND DISTRICT 10, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(8) IN THE KETCHIKAN VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF BEHM CANAL AND REVILLAGIGEDO CHANNEL AND THE CONTIGUOUS BAYS, BETWEEN A LINE FROM POINT EVA TO CACTUS POINT, AND A LINE FROM LUCKY POINT AT 55° 12.62' N. LAT., 131° 16.18' W. LONG., TO MIDDY POINT AT 55° 10.19' N., 131° 19.60' W. LONG., TO BEAVER POINT AT 55° 05.25' N. LAT., 131° 14.57' W. LONG., AND FROM POINT ROSEN AT 55° 04.74' N. LAT., 131° 10.87' W. LONG., TO QUADRA POINT AT 55° 05.14' N. LAT., 130° 59.07' W. LONG., A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM AUGUST 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF WEST BEHM CANAL AND THE CONTIGUOUS BAYS ENCLOSED TO THE NORTH BY A LINE FROM THE WESTERN ENTRANCE OF BAILEY BAY AT 55° 56.04' N. LAT., 131° 37.94' W. LONG., TO THE NORTHERN TIP OF HASSLER ISLAND AT 55° 54.28' N. LAT., 131° 37. 80' W.

LONG., AND A LINE FROM FIN POINT AT 55° 51.26' N. LAT., 131° 35.42' W. LONG., TO DRESS POINT AT 55° 51.15' N. LAT., 131° 33.75' W. LONG., AND TO THE SOUTH BY A LINE FROM INDIAN POINT AT 55° 36.87' N. LAT., 131° 42.07' W. LONG., TO MIKE POINT AT 55° 37.25' N. LAT., 131° 52.74' W. LONG.; A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM AUGUST 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(C) IN THE WATERS OF THE HERRING BAY SPORTFISH TERMINAL HARVEST AREA, WHICH INCLUDES THE WATERS OF NICHOLS PASS NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF DRIEST POINT, REVILLAGIGEDO CHANNEL NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF HARBOR POINT, AND TONGASS NARROWS SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF THE LEWIS REEF LIGHT; A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(D) IN ALL REMAINING WATERS OF DISTRICT 1 AND 2, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH FROM AUGUST 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31.]

(h) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 2.6 and equal to or greater than 2.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 1.0 and greater than or equal to 0.875, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 25% or 25,695 [20,600] treaty king salmon and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a [RESIDENT] bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident total harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a harvest record under 5 AC 75.006 is required; [A NONRESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH, EXCEPT THAT FROM JULY 1 THROUGH AUGUST 15 NONRESIDENT ANGLERS MAY NOT RETAIN KING SALMON;]

(3) from July 1 through July 15 [JUNE 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31], a nonresident total harvest limit of two [ONE] king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 [JUNE 15] will apply towards the two [ONE] fish nonresident total harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(4) from July 16 through December 31 [JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 15], a nonresident total harvest limit of one [TWO] king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

[(5) IF THE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS THAT THE KING SALMON SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION IS GOING TO BE EXCEEDED, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, ADJUST THE NONRESIDENT SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS SO THAT THERE ARE NO CLOSURES FOR RESIDENTS.]

(i) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 2.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than 0.875, the all gear catch limit will be determined by the Pacific Salmon Commission, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the provisions specified in (g) and (h) of this section and nonretention periods or other restrictions for resident and nonresident anglers to obtain 20 percent of the harvest reduction from resident anglers and 80 percent from nonresident anglers.

(j) The commissioner may adopt regulations that establish reporting requirements necessary to obtain the information required to implement the management plan under this section.

(k) The commissioner may, by emergency order, establish that the nonresident harvest and annual limits for king salmon under this section do not apply in a hatchery terminal harvest area.

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan (Changes accepted version)

(a) The commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, the king salmon sport fish bag and possession limits and all other necessary management measures based on the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery catch per unit effort (CPUE). The bag and possession limits and other management measures established by the commissioner will remain in effect until January 31 of the following year. If the new Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is not available by February 1, the bag and possession limits and other management measures for the remainder of the year will be based on the prior year's Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE, unless superseded by emergency order.

(b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to

(1) manage the sport fishery to attain a harvest not to exceed 20 or 25 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;

(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the sport fishery harvest ceiling;

(3) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; and

(4) provide stability to the sport fishery by eliminating inseason regulatory changes, except those necessary for conservation purposes or to keep the sport fishery within its harvest allocation.

(5) at Alaska winter troll fishery CPUEs less than 3.8 and equal to or greater than 0.875; a resident bag limit of two king salmon 28 inches or greater in length will be established in areas where conservation management measures for all anglers prohibited king salmon retention or closed fishing for king salmon once they reopen.

(6) at all Alaska winter troll fishery CPUEs, if the department projects that the king salmon sport harvest allocation is going to be exceeded, the department shall, by emergency order, adjust the nonresident seasons and bag limits so that there are no closures for residents;

(7) any projected unused balance in sport allocation will transfer to the troll fishery at the appropriate date determined by the department;

(c) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is equal to or greater than 20.5, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index greater than 2.2, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% or 69,000 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon; a nonresident annual limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(d) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 20.5 and equal to or greater than 8.7, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 2.2 and greater than 1.8, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% or 61,900 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon; a nonresident annual limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(e) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 8.7 and equal to or greater than 6.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index less than or equal to 1.8 and greater than 1.5, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% or 49,300 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon; a nonresident annual limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(f) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 6.0 and equal to or greater than 3.8, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 1.5 and greater than 1.2, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 25% or 47,300 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a non-resident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident total harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident total harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the two fish total harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident total harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through December 31 will apply towards the two fish harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon;

(g) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 3.8 and equal to or greater than 2.6, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 1.2 and greater than 1.0, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 25% or 32,305 treaty king salmon and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident total harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(3) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident total harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by the nonresident from

January 1 through July 15 will apply toward the one fish total harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(4) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident total harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through December 31 will apply towards the two fish harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(h) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 2.6 and equal to or greater than 2.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 1.0 and greater than or equal to 0.875, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 25% or 25,695 [20,600] treaty king salmon and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident total harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a harvest record under 5 AC 75.006 is required;

(3) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident total harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the two fish nonresident total harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(4) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident total harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(i) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 2.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than 0.875, the all gear catch limit will be determined by the Pacific Salmon Commission, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the provisions specified in (g) and (h) of this section and nonretention periods or other restrictions for resident and nonresident anglers to obtain 20 percent of the harvest reduction from resident anglers and 80 percent from nonresident anglers.

(j) The commissioner may adopt regulations that establish reporting requirements necessary to obtain the information required to implement the management plan under this section.

(k) The commissioner may, by emergency order, establish that the nonresident harvest and annual limits for king salmon under this section do not apply in a hatchery terminal harvest area.

Supporting Information

Res Bag Limit		Sport Alloc.	Avg. Harvest Est.	Jan 1 - June 30	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1 - Dec 31	Sport	Troll
3	Tier 7 (c)	69,000	58,855	1/3	1/3	1/3		17.1%	82.9%
3	Tier 6 (d)	61,900	53,015	1/3	1/3	1/3		17.1%	82.9%
2	Tier 5 (e)	49,300	45,238	1/3	1/3	1/3		18.4%	81.6%
2	Tier 4 (f)	37,900	38,046	1/3	1/2	1/1	1/1	20.0%	80.0%
1	Tier 3 (g)	25,800	29,412	1/3	1/2	1/1	1/1	22.8%	77.2%
1	Tier 2 (h)	20,600	24,495	1/3	1/2	1/1	1/1	23.8%	76.2%
TBD	Tier 1 (i)	TBD	TBD	TBD					

(SEAGO amended limits- average harvest based on ADFG analysis)



PC79

Submitted by: Zachary Foss

Community of Residence: Sitka

Comment:

I support proposal 259.

I'm a commercial troller and I paid dearly for a limited-entry permit. This allows me to harvest king salmon under the Pacific Salmon Treaty in the State of Alaska. Egregious changes to RC 178 effectively made my quota a bail-out program for the chronically un-managed non-resident sport fishery.

Each gear group has a set quota established by the state of Alaska. Each gear group needs to stay within the established amounts otherwise they are infringing on the purchased rights of other groups.

In the last two years, sport fish was 15,000 kings under in 2022 and more than 15,000 kings over in 2023. This is an absolute joke. Nobody else is allowed to manage their fishery like this on the entire west coast.

Please adopt the language from RC 178 in the 2022 Southeast Board of fish by supporting Proposal 259. Please give the managers at Fish and Game the tools they need i.e. in-season management.

Proposal 259: Support



PC80

Submitted by: Will Frazer

Community of Residence: Reno, NV

Comment:

Hello,

I am strongly against proposal 258, 259. I am a fishing guide in south east Alaska and if those proposals go through they would hurt me and my family financially.

I also feel that this meeting should take place in southeast Alaska so everyone's voice can be heard.

The proposal was agreed and it should go through 2024. The early data is showing that this proposal is working. So please don't make any changes.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



Submitted by: Jeremy Freisz

Community of Residence: Naches, Wa

Comment:

As a fly fisherman on the Togiak I would support 256. I catch and release only and mainly target reds. To catch one on the fly is possible and takes a lot of work and is a big reward when achieved. With shrimp I expect to catch 2-3 a day. Without it is more like 2-3 in a week.

Proposal 256: Support



Chairman Wood and members of the Board of Fish:

Nov 10, 2023

Re: Proposals 257, 258 and 259

Thank you for agreeing to re-examine the regulatory language of 5 AAC 47.055 the SE Sport King Salmon Management Plan. During the March 2022 SE BoF meeting held Anchorage representatives from Territorial Sportsmen Inc, Alaska Trollers Association and SE Alaska Guides Organization reached an agreement that was officially signed and submitted as RC178. After the BoF unanimously approved RC178, department staff later altered the meaning of the signed agreement before it was codified as 5 AAC 47.055.

The ADF&G staff claim that their substantive change reflected the intent of the parties. This is insulting to those who signed the agreement by insinuating that they didn't read or didn't understand the document that they signed. To the contrary, the record of both Ron Somerville of TSI and Jacquie Foss of ATA clearly show that they expected RC178 to mean that the non-resident sport fishery would be managed in accordance with objective (b)(2) of RC 178 to:

(b)(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the sport fishery harvest ceiling;

Specifically, the RC signed by the stakeholders and approved by the BoF provides that the sport fishery is be managed to stay within the sport fishery harvest ceiling, not the all-gear ceiling that ADF&G substituted after BoF approval.

Ron Sommerville of TSI has written a PC for this meeting. In it he states unequivocally that during the discussion leading to the signing of RC178:

***No one** (emphasis in Ron's original letter) proposed that in-season restrictions would not apply to non-residents. Had that been clearly enunciated at that meeting we would never have signed the agreement. To have left the guided fishery unregulated would have been insane.*

Similarly, Jacquie Foss of ATA clearly states in PC69 to the BoF Worksession that:

The Department made a unilateral, and allocative change to the King Salmon Management Plan

And that

The intent of this updated plan is fully contained in 5AAC 47.055(b) of RC 178. All parties signed the language and the Board of Fish unanimously passed it.

Since a majority of those who signed RC178 have reaffirmed that the words of the document accurately captured their intent, it would be absurd for the Board of Fish to believe otherwise based on the words of someone who isn't even a signatory.



Thus, it is important that the BoF **Support Proposal 259**, restoring the language agreed to in RC 178. To allow department interference to overrule a stakeholder agreement that was unanimously approved by the BoF creates terrible precedent:

- Why would people want to volunteer to provide long hours of service on the BoF in the future if Board decisions can be simply overturned by ADF&G?
- Why would a future gear group trust the BoF process enough to engage in stressful discussions with another gear group if hard-reached compromises might be thrown aside by an allocative action by ADF&G?
- Why would any fisherman or the Alaskan public at-large support the BoF process if the judgements of the BoF can be so readily overturned by ADF&G staff?

As a long-serving (~16 years) member of the Sitka AC, I have supported the BoF process for many years and I believe it has great value to the people of Alaska. I would expect that all of you, as members of the Board also believe in its value. I hope that you recognize that while the re-allocation of 17,000 king salmon in 2023 meant \$1,250,000 lost to the troll fleet, there is much more at stake than just fish. If the BoF fails to **support proposal 259 or to modify proposals 257 or 258 to restore the language of RC178**, the board will be voting for its own irrelevance.

Tad Fujioka



PC83

Submitted by: Zack Gardner

Community of Residence: Rosemount, MN

Comment:

I support proposal 257. I strongly oppose proposals 258 and 259. These proposals should be discussed and decided upon in the locations they pertain to. The king salmon population in this area is healthy and this proposal is intended for other areas and should not affect this area.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC84

Submitted by: Kurt Gates

Community of Residence: Lebanon Oregon

Comment:

256 needs my support

Proposal 256: Support



PC85

Submitted by: Bryan Gibson

Community of Residence: Craig, Alaska

Comment:

Proposals 258 & 259. Hearing these proposals out of a normal meeting cycle is unprecedented. By looking at the numbers it has shown that plan has been working as designed. While 259 states that the charter fleet went over allocation in 2023, it fails to state that the charter fleet was under their allocation in 2022 and the extra was later given to the commercial fleet. This current meeting is also being held in Homer, Alaska which is supposed to focus on that fishery, not that of SE Alaska. I strongly oppose proposals 258 and 259.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC86

Submitted by: David Gibson

Community of Residence: Victor, MT

Comment:

I support proposal 257 and strongly disagree with proposals 258 and 259

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC87

Submitted by: Darin Gilman

Community of Residence: Cordova

Comment:

Proposal 35- Oppose

Proposal 35: Oppose



Tree Tops Lodge



John Wood
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries



Re: Opposition to Proposals 259, Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

My name is Bubba Griggers and I own the owner of Tree Tops Lodge in Thorne Bay, Alaska. My wife and I have owned the lodge 23 years.

I'm writing to express my opposition to proposition 259 based on the arguments below:

- *Despite the claims that Proposal 259 makes, the changes in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan were not a misunderstanding. It was clearly understood by all parties at the time of signing. This was clarified by the board as seen in the conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G. This is not a misunderstanding of the agreement, just a lack of commitment by the troll fleet to the three-year process.*
- *There needs to be no confusion that taking up proposals out of cycle and out of the area being impacted is unacceptable as this circumvents the public process, limits stakeholders' access to the board decision process, and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions. We are requesting that this proposal be taken up in cycle in 2025 during the Southeast meeting.*

In closing, **I oppose proposal 259**. I ask the board to address any changes to the King Salmon Management Plan during the 2025 Southeast meeting.

Sincerely,

Bubba Griggers



PC89

Submitted by: Jeff Grim

Community of Residence: Portland, OR

Comment:

I support this proposal!!

Proposal 256: Support



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I commercial and sport fish in Cordova, Alaska, and I strongly oppose Proposal 43. The hatcheries provide surplus fish for harvesting.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.



Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
John Grocott

Cordova, Alaska



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I'm tied to commercial, public use, and sport fishing in Homer, Alaska. I stand firmly opposed to Proposal 43. Hatcheries are important first and foremost because I believe they can provide a consistent, reliable source of food, and income for my family. I recently read an article from Nautilus | Science Connected that it estimated that more than 90% of salmon sold in the world is farmed salmon. This is unacceptable. Alaska wild stock salmon and Alaska hatchery salmon is bar none the healthiest meat you can consume today. For that reason alone, we should not keep our hatchery progress consistent, we need to increase hatchery production in sustainable ways. If we can substantially raise the percentage of Alaska salmon sold in the world. Doing that with Alaska salmon will only boost our economy which we need. Boost Alaska salmon's global outreach which we need. Boost the health of all people and animals consuming Alaska salmon which we need. Let's roll back to my previous statements about the economy, and feeding and providing for our families. Our US economy is hurting! That is a fact! Our Alaska fishing economy is really hurting. That is also a fact! Setting aside the fact that a potential large scale war is on the horizon, and focusing solely on the economy. Is cutting jobs, and cutting a potential source of food that Alaskans and Americans can be eating the answer? I think not. Let's use facts and hard data to make a logical decision. Let's also make sure people's livings, health, and survival are at the forefront of that decision. Let's sustainably increase Alaska/Lower Cook Inlet hatchery salmon production! And let's start increasing smart with all the proven factual science and data possible. We can all agree hatcheries are not the enemy. Farmed fish is the enemy!

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:



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Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

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Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Camron Hagen

[Redacted Signature]

Homer, Alaska



PC92

Submitted by: Duane Hallman

Community of Residence: Seldovia, AK

Comment:

Proposal #7. I am in total agreement with this proposal for all the stated reasons.

Proposal 7: Support

Proposal 8: Support



PC93

Submitted by: Mark Hamm

Community of Residence: Eagle River, Alaska

Comment:

Proposal 7:

I oppose any changes to the current regulations for the Seldovia King Salmon fishery. As a long time angler in the Seldovia area, and one who has harvested kings from this fishery for over 20 years, I see no problem with the current regulations. Over those 20+ years I have harvested kings from this fishery through using lures, bait, snagging, and spearfishing,

The current regulations allow for all users to fish in the way that works best for them. When we pit differing user groups against each other, everyone loses. In the area where the majority of successful fishing takes place (in the two large lagoons upstream of the of the Seldovia airport) there is plenty of room for all fisherman, regardless of their desired method of fishing. This area is quite large and there is room for all the fisherman to fish with their desired method without infringing on other fisherman's experience.

The author if this proposal is retired and has significant time to fish the Seldovia king fishery. Not all users have this same luxury. Many only have a few weekends a year or a few days here or there. Restricting certain styles of fishing until after June 24th will effectively eliminate many potential fisherman who are unable to work their schedules until after the closure.

The author of this proposal states that allowing snagging quickly ruins the fishery by catching all of the available kings. This has NOT been my experience. During all of the years since the regulations were simplified to allow snagging, we have been able to reasonably catch kings through the 4th of July weekend. Additionally, I have seen a marked increase in the fishing participation due to the allowance of snagging. Locals, youth, and visitors enjoy the ability to fish in the way in which they most enjoy and are most efficient at. As a personal example, my young sons (Ages 9, 11, and 13) were able to each catch several king salmon last several years through snagging in early June.

The author states that he is fearful for the safety of spearfisherman. This is silly as most spearfisherman who are fishing for kings in this area are snorkeling along at the surface and are easily seen by line fisherman. There is no more risk in a spear fisherman being hooked than a line fisherman hooking another line fisherman. There are very few areas in Southcentral where you can reasonably have a chance to successfully spearfish king salmon.

The author's proposal to close spearfishing comes from a lack of understanding of what spearfishing is and the desire to eliminate other user groups from the fishery.

The board should reject this proposal, as there is no problem with how the fishery is currently operating.

Proposal 8:

Since the change of regulations in 2020 to allow snagging year-round for king salmon, there has been an increase of participation of all users (line fisherman, snaggers, and spear fisherman). As a long-time participant of this fishery, I have seen this first hand and it is great to see.

While there are individuals who want to have things "go back to the way they used to be," this is just an attempt to segregate the various user groups who enjoy fishing for kings so they can have less competition. The current regulations that allow all fishing styles for the entire season are superior to the proposal which brackets off the season at different dates for different styles of fishing.

The proposal states that pre-2020, by not allowing fisherman to snag prior to June 24th, this "gave people the opportunity to enjoy the sport fishery before snagging opened." I find this statement troubling because snagging is "sport fishing!" It is just another method of fishing. It may not be the preferred method of sport fishing by the authors of this proposal, but it is greatly preferred by many community members and fisherman who participate in this fishery.

Prior to the authors submitting this proposal, there was a robust debate on the community Facebook page (The Seldovia Chatter Box) in which community members stated their thoughts on if snagging should be allowed or not. There were MANY community members that stated publicly that their preferred method for sport fishing for this terminal fishery was by snagging. Reasons for their preference included the following:

Don't pit different user groups against each other

Snagging is fun and they enjoy that method of fishing

They don't have excessive time to fish and snagging allows them to find success faster than other methods

Snagging may be easier for younger anglers to do and allows for greater success

Snagging allows them to harvest salmon for food storage prior to it turning red and losing flavor

The Board should reject this proposal. Do not pit different users against each other by their preferred method of legal sport fishing.

In an olive branch to the authors of this proposal, the board might consider the following. Allow snagging year round in all of Seldovia Bay (current regulations) with the exception of an area 200 yards upstream and downstream of the bridge over the Seldovia Slough. This will keep the upper lagoon areas and outer bay area under the current regulations that do not prohibit snagging, but will allow a corridor where bait and lure fisherman can fish without snagging. Many of the authors and community members who are upset about snagging for kings are those who regularly fish from the bridge over the Seldovia slough. This small area around the bridge can get congested with fisherman and it may be reasonable to make it a non-snagging area to appease those who are seeking a "snag-free" experience. The other areas of the fishery are spread out and there is plenty of room for all fishing styles.

Proposal 7: Oppose

Proposal 8: Oppose



PC94

Submitted by: William Paul Hamm

Community of Residence: Anchorage

Comment:

I am writing in opposition to proposals 7 and 8. I believe that the regulations should remain as they currently stand, with no additional limitations or changes in the start date for permitting snagging and spearfishing for king salmon. I think the people participating in these activities are capable of managing their own safety concerns.



PC95

Submitted by: Christopher Hashiguchi

Community of Residence: Sitka AK

Comment:

I'm a one boat owner operator out of Sitka with a young family who has been operating out of Sitka since 1995. Owned my own boat/business since 2000.

I am strongly against Proposals 257,258 & 259.

Despite the claims that Proposal 259 makes, the changes in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055

Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan were not a misunderstanding. It was clearly understood by all parties at the time of signing. This was clarified by the board as seen in the conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G. This is not a misunderstanding of the agreement just a lack of commitment by the troll fleet to the three-year process.

The fact that the BOF is having to deal with this issue when it is not supposed to be on the agenda until the Southeast meeting in 2025 is unacceptable.

Thank you for your time and commitment to our fisheries.

Proposal 257: Oppose

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



November 11, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I'm involved in commercial fishing in Seward, Alaska, and writing to oppose Proposal 43.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.



Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Arne Hatch



Seward, Alaska



PC97

Submitted by: Richard Hattrup

Community of Residence: Olympia, Wa

Comment:

I support Proposal 256, that is, the use of non roe bait to target sockeye and coho. I fished the Togiak this past July and hope to do it again.

Proposal 256: Support



PC98

Submitted by: Alan Hed

Community of Residence: Portland Oregon

Comment:

I have been fishing the togiak River lodge for 13 years- both kings and silvers. While i have enjoyed fishing with roe for kings over the years I support no roe for kings going forward. I support single hook artificial for kings (would encourage scent or wrap) as any potential harm done to fish caught is same with or without.

I support non roe bait targeting silver and sockeye.

If serious about protecting kings ADFW should also limit other parties that target kings for subsistence or commercial purposes in bay or river. Targeting sport fisherman only in river is unfair and does not help the fishery long term



Submitted by: Matthew Herod

Community of Residence: Ketchikan, Alaska

Comment:

Re: Opposition to Proposals 259, Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

Hello,

My name is Matthew Herod and I am the Area Managing Director of Salmon Falls Resort and The Ketch Inn located in Ketchikan Alaska. Despite the claims that Proposal 259 makes, the changes in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan were not a misunderstanding. It was clearly understood by all parties at the time of signing. This was clarified by the board as seen in the conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G. This is not a misunderstanding of the agreement just a lack of commitment by the troll fleet to the three-year process. There needs to be no confusion that taking up proposals out of cycle and out of the area being impacted is unacceptable as this circumvents the public process, limits stakeholders access to the board decision process, and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions. We are requesting that this proposal be taken up in cycle in 2025 during the Southeast meeting.

In closing, I oppose proposal 259. I ask the board to address any changes to the King Salmon Management Plan during the 2025 Southeast meeting.

Sincerely,

Matthew Herod

Area Managing Director

Salmon Falls Resort & The Ketch Inn



Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

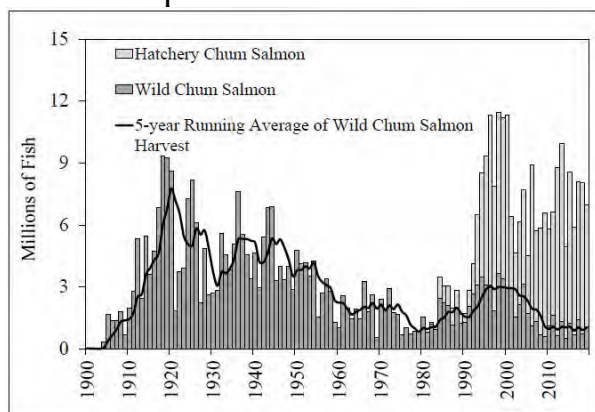
Proposal 259: Oppose

PROPOSAL 35 – 5 AAC 21.XXX. Create a Kachemak Bay Wild Fish Priority Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Nancy Hillstrand.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

Existing regulations and policies have failed to provide appropriate guidance for the department in Kachemak Bay. Wild migrating portfolio collectives of salmon stocks are masked during hatchery harvest with insufficient monitoring and inaccurate reporting of the wild component. Known massive hatchery straying into Kachemak Bays overlapping Critical Habitat/Special Purpose Site annually ensues with no department action.



This same phenomenon of mixed stock and straying is being seen (above) in SEAK where monitoring and reporting is exhibiting declines in wild salmon. Why is no corrective action is taken?

Since 3 crab species, 5 shrimp species, 2 miscellaneous shellfish, 2 clam, scallops and herring, have all been liquidated to closure, and significant stocks of wild pink salmon are below escapement goals, with massive hatchery straying from 250 miles away not halted, the Board of Fisheries may find it appropriate and advisable to govern the legislatively designated Kachemak Bay Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas/Special Purpose Site at a higher level of conservation and protection purposes in these critical fisheries nurseries.¹

¹ AS 16.20.500. Purpose.

AS 16.20.580. Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas established.

AS 16.20.590. Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area established

https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/lands/protectedareas/management_plans/kachemak_bay.pdf

¹ Alaska Constitution, Article VIII Section 7: Special Purpose Sites

AS 41.21.131 Kachemak Bay State Park Established



Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Management Plan
5 AAC 95.610 the departments guidance that acknowledges:
“fishing regulations are the authority of the Board of Fish”.

Proposal 35 asks BOF to utilize **AS 16.20.510. Taking fish in Critical Habitats**

The Board of Fisheries, where appropriate, shall adopt regulations they consider advisable for conservation and protection purposes governing the taking of fish and game in state fish and game critical habitat areas.

Since this habitat has no inhabitants.

Please form a committee or create a specific management plan consistent with 5 AAC 95.610 goals policies to align wild fish recovery management objectives that “perpetuate” rather than suppress and liquidates the inhabitants in these Critical Habitat Areas.

“Priority should be given to encouraging rehabilitation of depleted indigenous fish populations”;²

Documented declines, species by species, from unrestrained management in sensitive shallow ecosystems, has failed to connect dots of interacting food web in fishery nursery functioning habitats. To simply utter names of laws as if they will magically manage without evidence-based ecosystem functioning results, fails precautionary conservation/protection intent and purpose or any form of ecosystem management approach allowing harvest beyond thresholds into permanent closure.

A hatchery monoculture does not perpetuate diversity of wild indigenous fish resources as the priority. It feeds on it, suppressing it.

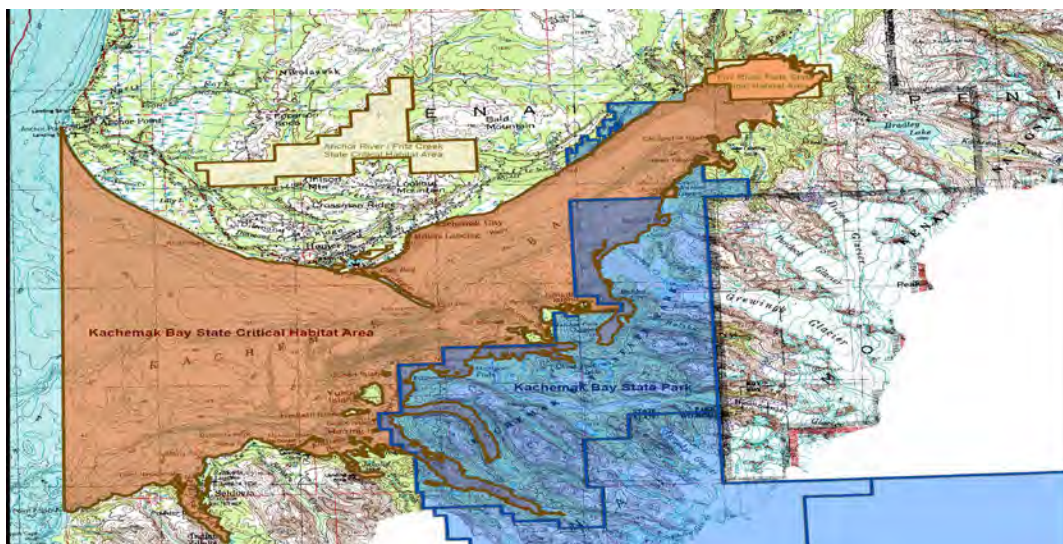
Please provide a structured oversight to examine and restrain any further liquidation of all species life stages of Kachemak Bays resources within overlapping legislatively designated Areas.

AS 41.21.990 Definitions

AS 41.21.140 Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park Established

AS 41.99.010. Fish and Game Management and Enforcement.

² 5 AAC 95.610 policy directive not followed



This juvenile crab picture (below) is on the front cover of the ADFG plankton sampling manual. This ADFG manual explains how wild fish have no priority except as feed for artificial hatchery fish.

“The goal of this zooplankton sampling program is to document the estuarine conditions at the time of fry release and to determine the optimal timing of release of salmon fry correlated with natural food availability.”

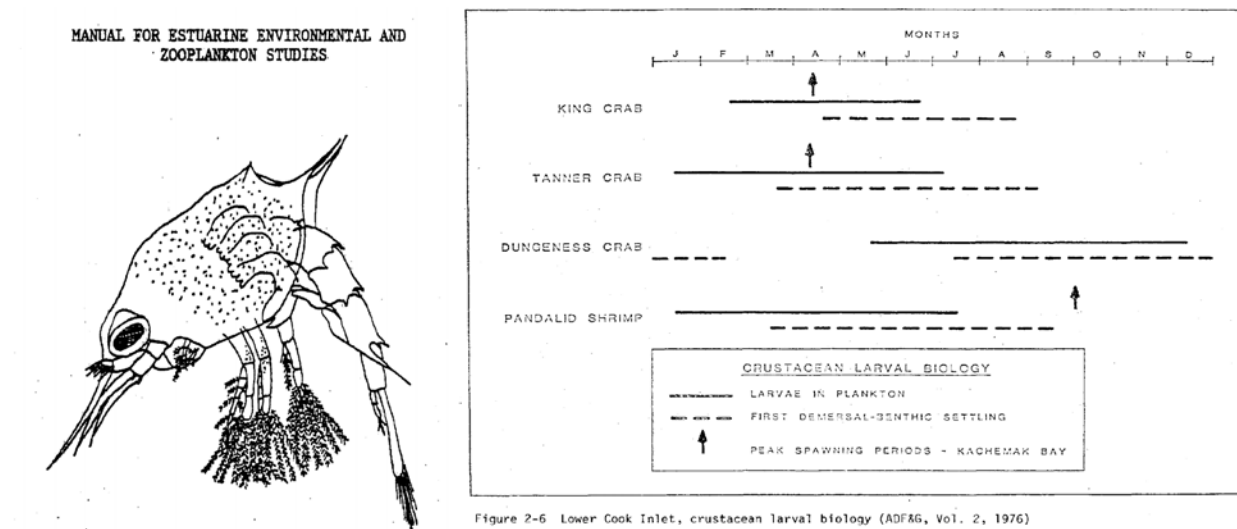


Figure 2-6 Lower Cook Inlet, crustacean larval biology (ADFG, Vol. 2, 1976)

Crustacean Larval Biology larvae in Plankton and First demersal-benthic settling with peak spawning periods in Kachemak Bay(right) is at the precise timing of pen fed hatchery smolt release with permitted capacity up to 250,000,000 hammering nearshore waters at critical spring timing of so many species. Our future valuable shellfish fisheries become the “natural food availability” A feedlot built for a failing business plan.



Perpetuating wild fish populations have been disregarded in these specifically designated areas of Lower Cook Inlet.^{3 4 5} Wild fish hold scant priority.

Inadequate inaccurate reporting of known wild fish masked in hatchery mixed stocks for a decade is not following policy.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Using a dangerous shifted baseline, of escapement goals, that appear lowered to accommodate declining abundance, are misread, bloated with hatchery fish.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?

A showcase of precautionary, sustainably managed high valued indigenous fisheries to serve future generations without adversely affecting natural stocks of fish in the state and under a policy of management which allows conservation and protection for naturally occurring stocks.

BACKGROUND: ADFG CLEAR REPORT ON STRAYING AND WILD STOCK ISSUES

"Large-scale straying of the enhanced salmon has negative implications on wild stock management. The department manages for wild salmon escapement goals

³ 5AAC 95.610 KACHEMAK BAY AND FOX RIVER FLATS CRITICAL HABITAT AREAS MANAGEMENT PLAN. The plan presents management goals and policies for the critical habitat areas and their resources which the department will use in determining whether ...activities are compatible with the protection of fish and wildlife...

95.610 GOALS All department management decisions in the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats critical habitat areas, whether affecting activities undertaken by the department, other agencies or the public, will be in accordance with these goals.

RECOGNIZE CUMULATIVE IMPACTS when considering effects of small incremental developments and action affecting critical habitat area resources.

MINIMIZE to reduce harmful effects to a level which does not have significant adverse impact on fish populations

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT AND POPULATION ENHANCEMENT AND REHABILITATION POLICY

As appropriate allow enhancement and rehabilitation of habitat of indigenous wildlife or fish species and enhancement of fish and wildlife populations where it furthers the management goals of Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas, is not at the expense of existing resource values (including diversity and abundance) and doesn't interfere with public use and enjoyment.

Priority should be given to encouraging rehabilitation of depleted fish and wildlife populations.

⁴ AS 41.21.990 ...where major values are in their natural geological, faunal, and floral characteristics, the purpose of which is directed primarily toward the preservation of its outstanding natural features...

⁵ AS 16.20.500-AS 21.690. Purpose. to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife.



based on aerial survey counts of fish in streams. All fish counted in streams are assumed to be wild stock fish.

The presence of a high proportion of stray hatchery fish in streams artificially inflates wild stock escapement estimates. Inflated wild stock escapement numbers may mislead management into believing that the escapement goals have been met.

The department then opens districts to harvest wild stock fish assumed to be excess to escapement goals. However, the escapement goal may not have been met because of the large number of hatchery strays in the aerial survey escapement estimates. Additionally, there are significant genetic concerns associated with hatchery strays interbreeding with wild stocks."

One of the department's greatest concerns are the implications to the genetic integrity of wild populations and to fishery management. Local adaptations among wild salmon populations have been demonstrated. Hatchery salmon are believed to become genetically distinct from the originating native population(s), and concern arises from the belief that the fitness of locally-adapted wild populations is reduced upon genetic integration with domesticated hatchery salmon.

5 AAC 21.369. Lower Cook Inlet Seine Fishery Management Plan When the Board of Fisheries authorized the use of power purse seines in the Cook Inlet salmon fishery, the board was concerned that the more efficient gear might allow the fleet to increase its harvest of Upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks. The department shall manage the seine fleet so that its efforts are directed on Lower Cook Inlet salmon stocks. The board recognizes that some incidental catch of Upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks will occur while the seine fishery is managed for Lower Cook Inlet salmon stocks.

Homer Charter Association

Board of Fisheries
Office of the Governor
[REDACTED]

November 12, 2023

Re: Homer Charter Association against Proposal 23

Dear Board of Fisheries members,

The Homer Charter Association (HCA) is a trade group based in Homer, Alaska, that represents guided recreational stakeholders in the Alaskan communities of the Lower Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak. The HCA is a pillar within the cooperative framework of fishers, fleets, and marine trade workers that make our region strong and our communities resilient. The HCA is writing in against our initial Proposal 23 that we submitted due to a change in our associations and members' stance on the current regulations.

The current Proposal 23 was originally written and decided back in April 2023 by the HCA board members. The current proposal aims to decrease the lingcod limit to one per angler per day rather than two per angler per day. Recently, ADF&G shared an analysis of the current lingcod harvest rate, which states the species is being harvested at sustainable levels under the current regulations. At our recent HCA general member meeting, this information was presented to our members, and we discussed the potential harms if the current Proposal 23 was implemented. Due to recent information provided by ADF&G and an HCA member vote, we have decided that HCA no longer supports our initial proposal and now supports the current status quo of two per angler per day.

We thank you for your consideration of our updated stance on the proposal, and if there are any additional questions, please contact the below email.

Thank you,

Avery Ault
President, Homer Charter Association
[REDACTED]



Homer Charter Association

Board of Fisheries
Office of the Governor
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

November 12, 2023

Re: Homer Charter Association supports raising the GHL under Proposition 9

Dear Board of Fisheries members,

The Homer Charter Association (HCA) is a trade group based in Homer, Alaska, that represents guided recreational stakeholders in the Alaskan communities of the Lower Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak. The HCA is a pillar within the cooperative framework of fishers, fleets, and marine trade workers that make our region strong and our communities resilient.

The HCA is writing to support raising the Lower Cook Inlet winter king salmon guideline harvest level (GHL) under Proposition 9 from 4,500 to 5,500.

Submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Proposition 9 seeks guidance in managing the Lower Cook Inlet winter king salmon fishery. The fishery has exceeded its current GHL every year since it was implemented in 2016. The existing GHL lacks scientific backing and is arbitrary. ADF&G analysis shows that king salmon harvests during the winter months are at and have been at sustainable levels. Consistent overages and ADF&G data support raising the GHL to 5,500 to bring it in line with historic and sustainable harvest levels.

The majority of anglers participating in the winter king fishery are locals and Alaska residents accessing the resource. Therefore, HCA supports raising the GHL to reflect current and responsible harvest levels and bring ADF&G management plan in line with data and usage.

We thank you for your consideration of our stance on the proposal, and if there are any additional questions, please contact the below email.

Thank you,

Avery Ault
President, Homer Charter Association
[REDACTED]



Homer Charter Association

Board of Fisheries
Office of the Governor
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

November 12, 2023

Re: Homer Charter Association against Proposal 18 as written

Dear Board of Fisheries members,

The Homer Charter Association (HCA) is a trade group based in Homer, Alaska, that represents guided recreational stakeholders in the Alaskan communities of the Lower Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak. The HCA is a pillar within the cooperative framework of fishers, fleets, and marine trade workers that make our region strong and our communities resilient.

The HCA is writing in against Proposal 18 as written.

The proposal from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) would implement separate bag limits for pelagic and non-pelagic rockfish. HCA members believe that separating the bag limits will lead to a substantial increase in non-pelagic rockfish takings. Many of our clients like to fish for a limit, which often consists solely of black rockfish or other pelagic varieties. Having a separate non-pelagic bag limit will increase pressure on those fish since more anglers and guides will specifically target non-pelagic species more frequently to catch a limit of rockfish.

HCA does support revising rockfish limits to align with other fisheries in the North Gulf Coast -- bag limit of 4 per day, 8 in possession, of which only 1 per day, 2 in possession may be non-pelagic -- as proposed in Proposal 18 from ADF&G and put forth by the HCA in Proposal 20. Current ADF&G data for Lower Cook Inlet Saltwater Rockfish show that harvest has increased in the recreational and guided-recreational fisheries, and is likely to continue to do so with more stringent limits and regulations on other fish species. Data also has shown declining average age in retained rockfish catch. Current harvest rates may be unsustainable. Long-term fisheries access should be prioritized given current data.

We thank you for your consideration of our stance on the proposal, and if there are any additional questions, please contact the below email.

Thank you,

Avery Ault
President, Homer Charter Association
[REDACTED]



PC102

Submitted by: Joshua Hoogerhyde

Community of Residence: Escanaba, Michigan

Comment:

I support Proposal 257. I strongly oppose Proposals 258 and 259. I believe these proposals should not be happening away from the areas they are intended for and should be heard at the Board of Fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska in 2025.

Proposal 257: Support With Amendments

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC103

Submitted by: Eugene Horvath

Community of Residence: Albany, OR

Comment:

I support proposal 256.

We have fished for 10 years in a row at the Togiak River Lodge and specifically on the Togiak River. I understand the balance and conservation of managing the fishery on this river. It is my personal experience as an avid fisherman and outdoorsman, that proposal 256 allow the sports fisherman the opportunity to fish and preserved the native fishery at the same time.

Real bate is truly needed to support the fishery.

It is the commercial fishery and the net draggers that are negatively effecting by catch and no monitoring from the state.

Thanks for your consideration,

Eugene Horvath

Proposal 256: Support



Submitted by: Erika House

Community of Residence: Craig, AK

Comment:

Oppose Proposal 259. Any proposals affecting Southeast Alaska should be taken up at the Board Meetings in Southeast Alaska, not outside the area!

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



November 10, 2023

Mr. John Wood
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries

Re: Opposing Proposal 259 and Southeast Alaska Proposals being heard outside of Southeast Alaska

Chairman Wood and Members of the Board,

It has come to my attention that there have been recent Proposals brought to you from the ATA about ending the last 3-year agreement for salmon retention in Southeast Alaska, so I am writing to express my displeasure with this recent development.

I support Proposal 257 but strongly disapprove of Proposal 258 AND Proposal 259.

I don't believe these decisions should be made away from the area that they are intended for and should be heard at the Board of Fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska in 2025 as originally planned. These regulations should be honored as drawn up and adhered to until the originally decided on timeline.

Sincerely,

Andrew Howland
Sales Manager

The Harp Group
Dba Waterfall Resort & Steamboat Bay Fishing Club



Chairman Wood and members of the Alaska State Board of Fisheries (BOF);

My name is Carter Hughes and I am a resident of Sitka. I have been employed in the Alaska commercial fishing industry since 1984. I have been a troller and longliner since 1988 and have owned my own troller since 1994. I currently sit on the Seafood Producers Cooperative (SPC) Board of Directors and have since 2014. I sat on the Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) Board of Directors from 1995 until 2010. I lived in Pelican Alaska in the 1990s and moved to Sitka in the 2000s. I have worked in the Alaska commercial fishing industry most of my adult life and primarily been a troller and small boat longliner for over 35 years. I am submitting these comments on Proposals 257, 258 and 259. I submit these comments on my own behalf.

I support a return to the original signed agreement from March 2022, RC 178. I understand that there were changes made by the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) in 2023 that must be addressed. That is what Proposal 257 is attempting to achieve in part. However, there were changes to the original signed RC 178 that were made by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) that were not part of the agreement that was signed by all the stakeholders at the BOF meeting in Anchorage in March 2022 that should be removed. In particular, **5 AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan, (b), (2)**, has had its language altered. The language "sport fish harvest ceiling" was changed to "harvest ceiling" by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG). I am including a copy of the original, signed RC 178, from March 2022 as a reference. The language change to **5AAC 47.055, (b), (2)** is unrelated to abundance index determining methodology changes made by the PSC earlier this year. I understand that there needs to be revisions to the parts that pertain to the abundance tiers. That is a separate issue. For this reason, I am putting a priority on supporting Proposal 259 (P 259). Now I will discuss the other two proposals.

I support Proposal 257 (P 257) as amended by the Sitka Advisory Committee (AC). There are four important amendments suggested by the Sitka AC.

1. The term average, which is used in **5 AAC 47.055, (b), (1)**, needs to be defined. Average for what, how many years? What is meant by average? How is an average determined without defined ranges? Two big issues that are not addressed when determining an "average" are the assumption that there will be as many years where the sport harvest will come under its allocation as above. The PSC just revised the Abundance Index (AI) determining methodology last year to lower the potential harvest of king salmon in Southeast Alaska. This is an ongoing shell game that has occurred at the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) for 30 years. The second unaddressed issue with an "average" is that one group, trollers, is static in size, their number is capped. The other group, sports, is growing in size due to the increase in nonresident participation. How does one apply an "average," an arithmetic mean, to a data set that has a dynamic and growing component? At the very least, a time range needs to be defined for the term "average."

2. The Sitka AC amended P 257 addresses in season management options that don't involve in season closures to the sport fishery. In season active management is absolutely necessary. I



don't want to see any closures to the sport fishery, but the nonresident annual limit should be variable when necessary to prevent a closure to the sport fishery. I can appreciate concerns that lodges and guides have concerning something as drastic as an in season closure. I'm sure those interests would be fine with an in season liberalization of nonresident annual limits if that was a tool available on years when the sport fishery seemed likely to fall short of its 20% allocation.

3. The original ADFG proposal does not address the language change discussed in paragraph 2 of my comments. The Sitka AC amended version of P257 addresses the language change issue.

4. Proposal 257 does address the changes made by the PSC changes made earlier this year. Those are important revisions to the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan (SAKSMP) that I support. Regardless of the abundance tier, or tier aggregate, the sport fishery should be managed to its 20% harvest ceiling, not the total harvest ceiling for Southeast Alaska. The Sitka AC clarifies that the sport fish harvest limit will be equal to the sport fish allocation (i.e. 20%) in all tier groups.

I support the Sitka AC amended version of P 257.

Proposal 258 deals with the issues that are addressed by the Sitka AC amended P 257. I support P 258. Probably the most streamlined decision that could be made would to pass the Sitka AC amended version of P 257. That would address P 258 and P 259.

Thank you Chairman Wood and BOF members for granting the agenda change request. Thank you all for reading my comments. I appreciate the fact that you have a very heavy work load sitting on the BOF. I also appreciate the fact that the BOF is an important part of the public process of crafting fishery regulations in the State of Alaska. The responsibility you bear is important and a great personal contribution on your part. The public process that is provided by the BOF is much preferable to an opaque administrative management method that does not include the public.

Carter Hughes
FV Astrolabe
Sitka

Submitted by Board Member Mitchell in cooperation with the Alaska Trollers Association, Southeast Alaska Guides Organization and the Territorial Sportsmen Incorporated. Prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Jan Foss ATA Rep.

SEAGO

Don Somerville TSI

March 20, 2022

Substitute language for proposal 82:

5 AAC 29.060(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

5 AAC 29.060. Allocation of king salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area.

(a) The department shall manage the commercial and sport king salmon fisheries in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area in accordance with the conservation and harvest goals of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, as implemented by the Pacific Salmon Commission.

(b) The department shall manage the sport and commercial net and troll fisheries in accordance with the annual harvest ceiling established by the Pacific Salmon Commission. During a directed king salmon fishery in District 8 and District 11, an allowable catch above the baseline harvest level will not be counted towards the annual harvest ceiling. The annual harvest allocation of the annual harvest ceiling for each fishery is as follows:

(1) purse seine fishery: 4.3 percent of the annual harvest ceiling;

(2) drift gillnet fishery: 2.9 percent of the annual harvest ceiling;

(3) set gillnet fishery: 1,000 king salmon;

(4) troll fishery: 80 percent, after the net fishery allocations in (1) - (3) of this subsection are subtracted from the annual harvest ceiling;

(5) sport fishery: 20 percent, after the net fishery allocations in (1) - (3) of this subsection are subtracted from the annual harvest ceiling[.];

(6) if the projected annual Southeast Alaska all-gear harvest is below the annual harvest ceiling, any remaining allocation from those gear groups listed in (1) - (5) of

this subsection may be allocated to the troll fishery beginning at a season date determined by the department and established by emergency order.

(c) When computing the harvest allocations under this section, the department shall take into consideration that the Pacific Salmon Commission's annual harvest ceiling includes a pre-treaty base level of 5,000 Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon and the risk factor for computing the Alaska hatchery contribution. Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon above the 5,000 fish base and the risk factor are excluded from the annual harvest ceiling. In determining each fisheries' allocation of the Pacific Salmon Commission's harvest ceiling, the department shall apportion the risk factor for computing the Alaska hatchery contribution and the 5,000 fish base into components for each fishery.

(d) For the purpose of calculating the king salmon harvest, the annual harvest period shall begin with the opening of the winter salmon troll season. For the purpose of calculating harvest performance for the king salmon fisheries under this section, the harvest in the sport and commercial net and troll fisheries will be applied to the cumulative harvest on an annual basis, as opposed to the harvest ceiling.

5 AAC 47.055 is amended to read:

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

(a) The commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, the king salmon sport fish bag and possession limits and all other necessary management measures based on the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery catch per unit effort (CPUE). The bag and possession limits and other management measures established by the commissioner will remain in effect until January 31 of the following year. If the new Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is not available by February 1, the bag and possession limits and other management measures for the remainder of the year will be based on the prior year's Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE, unless superseded by emergency order.

(b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to

(1) manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest of 20 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;

~~(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the sport fishery harvest ceiling;~~

(3) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; and

(4) if the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 3.8 and equal to or greater than 2.0; a resident bag limit of two king salmon 28 inches or greater in

length will be established in areas where conservation management measures for all anglers have prohibited king salmon retention, or closed to fishing for king salmon once they reopen;

(5) any projected unused balance in sport allocation may transfer to the troll fishery at a date determined by the department [PROVIDE STABILITY TO THE SPORT FISHERY BY ELIMINATING INSEASON REGULATORY CHANGES, EXCEPT THOSE NECESSARY FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES].

(c) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is equal to or greater than 20.5, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index greater than 2.2, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 69,000 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of [TWO KING SALMON IN MAY AND] one king salmon [IN OTHER MONTHS];

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(4) from July 1 through July 15 a nonresident annual limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(5) from July 16 through December 31 a nonresident annual limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(d) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 20.5 and equal to or greater than 8.7, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 2.2 and greater than 1.8, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 61,900 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon; [A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL LIMIT OF FOUR KING SALMON,] 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(4) from July 1 through July 15 a nonresident annual limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(5) from July 16 through December 31 a nonresident annual limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply to the one fish annual harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(e) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 8.7 and equal to or greater than 6.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index less than or equal to 1.8 and greater than 1.5, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 49,300 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon; [A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON,] 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(4) from July 1 through July 15 a nonresident annual limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply to the two fish annual harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(5) from July 16 through December 31 a nonresident annual limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply to the one fish annual harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(f) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 6.0 and equal to or greater than 3.8, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to

1.5 and greater than 1.2, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 37,900 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures [IN CONJUNCTION WITH WILD STOCK MANAGEMENT MEASURES]:

(1) a resident bag limit of two [ONE] king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon; 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual [TOTAL] harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(4) [(3)] from July 1 through July 15 [7], a nonresident annual [TOTAL] harvest limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 [July 7] will apply towards the two fish annual [TOTAL] harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon; 28 inches or greater in length any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(6) [(4)] from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon;

[(5) FROM JULY 8 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT TOTAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON; 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH TOTAL HARVEST LIMIT; A HARVEST RECORD UNDER 5 AAC 75.006 IS REQUIRED;

(6) IF THE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS THAT THE SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION IS GOING TO BE EXCEEDED, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, CLOSE SPORT FISHING BY NONRESIDENTS TO STAY WITHIN THE SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION; THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CLOSE SPORT FISHING BY RESIDENTS ONLY IF NONRESIDENT ANGLER CLOSURES ARE INSUFFICIENT TO REMAIN WITHIN THE SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION;

(7) IN THE HAINES AND SKAGWAY VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF CHILKAT INLET NORTH OF THE ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF SEDUCTION POINT, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF SECTION 13-C, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, SOUTHEAST OF A LINE FROM NISMENI POINT TO A POINT ON THE CHICHAGOF ISLAND SHORELINE AT 57° 35.59' N. LAT., 135° 22.33' W. LONG., A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(8) IN THE JUNEAU VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF SECTIONS 11-A, 11-B AND 11-C, DISTRICT 12. SECTIONS 14-B, 14-C, 15-B, AND 15-C, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF SECTION 11-D, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(9) IN THE PETERSBURG WRANGELL VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF DISTRICT 8, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 47.057(D), AND IN A PORTION OF DISTRICT 7, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, IN THE WATERS OF EASTERN PASSAGE WEST OF A LINE FROM A POINT ON WRANGELL ISLAND AT 56° 22.19' N. LAT., 132° 11.75' W. LONG., TO A POINT ON THE MAINLAND SHORE AT 56° 22.76' N. LAT., 132° 10.62' W. LONG., A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JULY 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF DISTRICT 5 NORTH OF A LINE FROM POINT BAKER TO A POINT ON THE SHORE OF KUIU ISLAND AT 56° 20.80' N. LAT., 133° 50.87' W. LONG., DISTRICT 6, DISTRICT 7 EXCLUDING THE WATERS OF EASTERN PASSAGE WEST OF A LINE FROM A POINT ON WRANGELL ISLAND AT 56° 22.19' N. LAT., 132° 11.75' W. LONG., TO A POINT ON THE MAINLAND SHORE AT 56° 22.76' N. LAT., 132° 10.62' W. LONG., DISTRICT 9 NORTH OF LINE FROM POINT ELLIS TO PATTERSON POINT, AND DISTRICT 10, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(10) IN THE KETCHIKAN VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF BEHM CANAL AND REVILLAGIGEDO CHANNEL AND THE CONTIGUOUS BAYS, BETWEEN A LINE FROM POINT EVA TO CACTUS POINT, AND A LINE FROM LUCKY POINT AT 55° 12.62' N. LAT., 131° 16.18' W. LONG., TO MIDDY POINT AT 55° 10.19' N., 131° 19.60' W.

LONG., TO BEAVER POINT AT 55° 05.25' N. LAT., 131° 14.57' W. LONG., AND FROM POINT ROSEN AT 55° 04.74' N LAT., 131° 10.87' W. LONG., TO QUADRA POINT AT 55° 05.14' N. LAT., 130° 59.07' W. LONG., A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM AUGUST 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF WEST BEHM CANAL AND THE CONTIGUOUS BAYS ENCLOSED TO THE NORTH BY A LINE FROM THE WESTERN ENTRANCE OF BAILEY BAY AT 55° 56.04' N. LAT., 131° 37.94' W. LONG., TO THE NORTHERN TIP OF HASSLER ISLAND AT 55° 54.28' N. LAT., 131° 37.80' W. LONG., AND A LINE FROM FIN POINT AT 55° 51.26' N. LAT., 131° 35.42' W. LONG., TO DRESS POINT AT 55° 51.15' N. LAT., 131° 33.75' W. LONG., AND TO THE SOUTH BY A LINE FROM INDIAN POINT AT 55° 36.87' N. LAT., 131° 42.07' W. LONG., TO MIKE POINT AT 55° 37.25' N. LAT., 131° 52.74' W. LONG.; A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM AUGUST 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(C) IN THE WATERS OF THE HERRING BAY SPORTFISH TERMINAL HARVEST AREA, WHICH INCLUDES THE WATERS OF NICHOLS PASS NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF DRIEST POINT, REVILLAGIGEDO CHANNEL NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF HARBOR POINT, AND TONGASS NARROWS SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF THE LEWIS REEF LIGHT, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(D) IN ALL REMAINING WATERS OF DISTRICTS 1 AND 2, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH FROM AUGUST 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31].

(g) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 3.8 and equal to or greater than 2.6, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 1.2 and greater than 1.0, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 25,800 treaty king salmon and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures [IN CONJUNCTION WITH WILD STOCK MANAGEMENT MEASURES]:

(1) a bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual [TOTAL] harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(3) from July 1 through July 7 [DECEMBER 31], a nonresident annual [TOTAL] harvest limit of two [ONE] king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by the nonresident from January 1 through June 30 [DECEMBER 31] will

apply toward the two fish annual [TOTAL] harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required;

(4) from July 8 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through December 31 will apply towards the one fish annual harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required [IF THE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS THAT THE SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION IS GOING TO BE EXCEEDED, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, CLOSE SPORT FISHING BY NONRESIDENTS TO STAY WITHIN THE SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION; THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CLOSE SPORT FISHING BY RESIDENTS ONLY IF NONRESIDENT ANGLER CLOSURES ARE INSUFFICIENT TO REMAIN WITHIN THE SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION;

(5) IN THE HAINES AND SKAGWAY VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF CHILKAT INLET NORTH OF THE ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF SEDUCTION POINT, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF SECTION 13-C, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, SOUTHEAST OF A LINE FROM NISMENI POINT TO A POINT ON THE CHICHAGOF ISLAND SHORELINE AT 57° 35.59' N. LAT., 135° 22.33' W. LONG., A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(6) IN THE JUNEAU VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF SECTIONS 11-A, 11-B, AND 11-C, DISTRICT 12, SECTIONS 14-B, 14-C, 15-B, AND 15-C, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF SECTION 11-D, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(7) IN THE PETERSBURG WRANGELL VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF DISTRICT 8, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 47.057(D), AND IN A PORTION OF DISTRICT 7, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, IN THE WATERS OF EASTERN PASSAGE WEST OF A LINE FROM A POINT ON WRANGELL ISLAND AT 56° 22.19' N. LAT., 132° 11.75' W. LONG., TO A POINT ON THE MAINLAND SHORE AT 56° 22.76' N. LAT., 132° 10.62' W. LONG., A

RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JULY 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF DISTRICT 5 NORTH OF LINE FROM POINT BAKER TO A POINT ON THE SHORE OF KUIU ISLAND AT 56° 20.80' N. LAT., 133° 50.87' W. LONG., DISTRICT 6, DISTRICT 7 EXCLUDING THE WATERS OF EASTERN PASSAGE WEST OF A LINE FROM A POINT ON WRANGELL ISLAND AT 56° 22.19' N. LAT., 132° 11.75' W. LONG., TO A POINT ON THE MAINLAND SHORE AT 56° 22.76' N. LAT., 132° 10.62' W. LONG., DISTRICT 9 NORTH OF A LINE FROM POINT ELLIS TO PATTERSON POINT, AND DISTRICT 10, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(8) IN THE KETCHIKAN VICINITY:

(A) IN THE WATERS OF BEHM CANAL AND REVILLAGIGEDO CHANNEL AND THE CONTIGUOUS BAYS, BETWEEN A LINE FROM POINT EVA TO CACTUS POINT, AND A LINE FROM LUCKY POINT AT 55° 12.62' N. LAT., 131° 16.18' W. LONG., TO MIDDY POINT AT 55° 10.19' N., 131° 19.60' W. LONG., TO BEAVER POINT AT 55° 05.25' N. LAT., 131° 14.57' W. LONG., AND FROM POINT ROSEN AT 55° 04.74' N. LAT., 131° 10.87' W. LONG., TO QUADRA POINT AT 55° 05.14' N. LAT., 130° 59.07' W. LONG., A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM AUGUST 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(B) IN THE WATERS OF WEST BEHM CANAL AND THE CONTIGUOUS BAYS ENCLOSED TO THE NORTH BY A LINE FROM THE WESTERN ENTRANCE OF BAILEY BAY AT 55° 56.04' N. LAT., 131° 37.94' W. LONG., TO THE NORTHERN TIP OF HASSLER ISLAND AT 55° 54.28' N. LAT., 131° 37. 80' W. LONG., AND A LINE FROM FIN POINT AT 55° 51.26' N. LAT., 131° 35.42' W. LONG., TO DRESS POINT AT 55° 51.15' N. LAT., 131° 33.75' W. LONG., AND TO THE SOUTH BY A LINE FROM INDIAN POINT AT 55° 36.87' N. LAT., 131° 42.07' W. LONG., TO MIKE POINT AT 55° 37.25' N. LAT., 131° 52.74' W. LONG.; A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM AUGUST 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(C) IN THE WATERS OF THE HERRING BAY SPORTFISH TERMINAL HARVEST AREA, WHICH INCLUDES THE WATERS OF NICHOLS PASS NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF DRIEST POINT, REVILLAGIGEDO CHANNEL NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF HARBOR POINT, AND TONGASS NARROWS SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF THE LEWIS REEF LIGHT; A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH FROM JUNE 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(D) IN ALL REMAINING WATERS OF DISTRICT 1 AND 2, AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.200, A RESIDENT KING SALMON BAG LIMIT OF TWO FISH 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH FROM AUGUST 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 31].

(h) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 2.6 and equal to or greater than 2.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 1.0 and greater than or equal to 0.875, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 20,600 treaty king salmon and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a [RESIDENT] bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a harvest record under 5 AC 75.006 is required [A NONRESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH, EXCEPT THAT FROM JULY 1 THROUGH AUGUST 15 NONRESIDENT ANGLERS MAY NOT RETAIN KING SALMON];

(3) from July 1 [JUNE 16] through December 31, a nonresident total harvest limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; any king salmon harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 [June 15] will apply towards the one fish total harvest limit; a harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required[;

(4) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 15, A NONRESIDENT TOTAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; A HARVEST RECORD UNDER 5 AAC 75.006 IS REQUIRED;

(5) IF THE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS THAT THE KING SALMON SPORT HARVEST ALLOCATION IS GOING TO BE EXCEEDED, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, ADJUST THE NONRESIDENT SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS SO THAT THERE ARE NO CLOSURES FOR RESIDENTS].

(i) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 2.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than 0.875, the all gear catch limit will be determined by the Pacific Salmon Commission, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the provisions specified in (g) and (h) of this section [AND NONRETENTION PERIODS OR OTHER RESTRICTIONS FOR RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT ANGLERS TO OBTAIN 20 PERCENT OF THE HARVEST REDUCTION FROM RESIDENT ANGLERS AND 80 PERCENT FROM NONRESIDENT ANGLERS].

(j) The commissioner may adopt regulations that establish reporting requirements necessary to obtain the information required to implement the management plan under this section.

(k) The commissioner may, by emergency order, establish that the nonresident harvest and annual limits for king salmon under this section do not apply in a hatchery terminal harvest area.

(l) the department shall manage the resident sport fishery so that there are no closures for residents, unless determined by the commissioner that additional harvest reduction to the resident bag limits is necessary to comply with the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

(m) the provisions of this section will not apply after March 31, 2025.

¹ Preparation of draft substitute language at the request of a Board member does not imply ADF&G support. The Department will state its position on the language during deliberation.



PC107

Submitted by: Jimmy Hunt

Community of Residence: Craig, Alaska

Comment:

I strongly support Proposal 257 and strongly OPPOSE 258 and 259

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC108

Submitted by: Robert Jahnke

Community of Residence: Ward Cove

Comment:

In southern southeast Alaska please regulate guided sport by stopping hook and release on our spring Kings and those of us that live here year round believe guided sport and resorts and lodges that make money off our fish are "commercial". Protect my family by not taking our fisheries away and giving them to the non-residents.



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I participate in the commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries in Cordova, Alaska. I firmly oppose Proposal 43.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.



Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Anna Jarvis

[Redacted Signature]

Cordova, Alaska



November 11, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I participate in commercial and sport fishing, in addition to seafood retail, in Homer, Alaska. I am strongly opposed to Proposal 43.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Sincerely,

Forest Jenkins



Homer, Alaska



Submitted by: Peter Jenkins

Community of Residence: Sherwood Oregon

Comment:

I wholeheartedly support proposal 256. As a guide on the Togiak for Togiak River Lodge , we are wholeheartedly in support of bringing the king salmon runs back from their past glory. A non-roe bate rule change would not negatively impact king salmon and would tremendously help us guide when targeting sockeye and silver salmon. Please consider adopting and approving proposal 256. Respectively Peter Jenkins

Proposal 256: Support



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I am tied to commercial fisheries in Clam Gulch, Alaska, and I stand strongly against Proposal 43. Salmon hatcheries provide salmon that support local processors. I need those processors to market the salmon we catch. The hatcheries support fishers and processors, who both pay borough property taxes, thus supporting local schools, south peninsula hospital, and service areas. Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) is financially dependent on hatcheries. CIAA has done a lot of scientific research beneficial for the drift fleet and upper Inlet set netters, such as operating the weirs which proved the sonar counter in the Yentna River was not accurate.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Sincerely,

Brent Johnson



Clam Gulch, Alaska

November 11, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I live in Cordova, Alaska, and participate extensively in fisheries, including commercial, sport, and subsistence fishing, as well as seafood retail. I stand firmly opposed to Proposal 43. Hatcheries help stabilize salmon runs and income for fishermen and the communities. The assertions in Proposal 43 are wildly exaggerated and full of assumptions that at this time are virtually impossible to corroborate. This proposal in one form or another has been overwhelmingly defeated at Board of Fish and should be again this time.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a



permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,



Eli Johnson



Cordova, Alaska



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I operate out of Ketchikan and am firmly opposed to Proposal 43. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.



Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
David Jones





November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I'm tied to sport, commercial, and subsistence fisheries, as well as charter guides and seafood retail, in Cordova, Alaska. I stand firmly against Proposal 43. Hatcheries are a stunning success story and need to be supported. Every sector from sport commercial personal use and subsistence all benefit from our hatcheries across the state.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a



demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Ken Jones



[REDACTED]

Cordova, Alaska



Submitted by: Eric Jordan

Community of Residence: Sitka, Alaska

Comment:

Sitka, AK

Nov. 13, 2023

Chairman Wood and BOF members,

I am writing to oppose proposals 36, 42, and 43. As a participant in Alaska's ocean ranching of salmon since helping found NSRAA in 1976, and been involved as an employee (briefly at founding) board member off and on since 1978, and currently elected as a troll representative I find these attacks on our ocean ranching programs mis-informed and mis-guided,

I am a life long salmon conservationist, having fought everything from clear cut logging to High Seas gillnetting, to ill advised mining projects, to trawl by-catch to name a few problems salmon face. I nominated the late great Senator Richard Eliason for his work to ban fin-fish farming, and to push through the strongest wild salmon priorities in the world through the Legislature, for the Wild Salmon Hall of Fame.

I read all kinds of salmon papers, including a recent one on the effects of pink salmon abundance on other salmon size and survival. In SE Alaska we have only minimum hatchery pink salmon hatchery releases and are still suffering from size issues at age in other salmon species.

Salmon survival and growth are critical issues to be researched and dealt with by everyone in Alaska. As a person who has spent 74 years on the waters of Alaska from the Yukon to Ketchikan I am deeply concerned for the future of salmon and other species. But proposals like these distract us from the reality of the changes in our salmon ecology and hurt rather than help us understand and adapt.

In any case, I urge the BOF to not only oppose these proposals but to admonish the proposers to be better informed and more considerate of everyones time before making these type of proposals.

Proposal 36: Oppose

Proposal 42: Oppose

Proposal 43: Oppose

Proposal 259: Support



Submitted by: Eric Jordan

Community of Residence: Sitka, Alaska

Comment:

Sitka, AK

Nov. 13, 2023

Chairman Wood and BOF members,

I am writing to support adoption of proposal 257 or 258, or, and preferably, 259. I have heard and read a lot about them at our Sitka F&G AC, the NSRAA Board, and countless conversations and communications with ADF&G staff, trollers, guides, and resident sport fishers.

In my previous comments on the ACRs 11,12,& 13 I used strong words (sacrosanct and malfeasance) to describe the action taken by ADF&G to delete “sport fishery” from the adopted regulation based on the RC signed by representatives of SEAGO, ATA, and Territorial Sportsmen. While I believe adoption of all three ACR’s for consideration by the BOF is the correct regulatory action to take, I still think the bigger issue of corruption of the BOF regulatory process by the ADF&G needs to be addressed by the BOF at some time.

I think the cleanest way to correct the changes made by omitting “sport fishery” is to simply re-insert it as suggested by ATA in 259. I voted with NSRAA unanimously to recommend that action.

Nevertheless, I also think it would be a good idea to address the issue of averaging and resulting deterioration of in-season management < of king salmon in the SE guided and non-resident king salmon sport fishery for both allocative and conservation interests of king salmon as recommended by our Sitka AC. However, after hearing BOF member Marit Carlson-Van Dort comment at our AC meeting, I understand the BOF may want to wait to take that more comprehensive action at the next full SE BOF finish meeting.

Patience and persistence are an internal part of my success as both a fisherman and as a fisheries management, sharing, and conservation activist. So is a measured response to relationship, environmental, mechanical, and political challenges. Be advised this is a very “measured” response to the “malfeasance” by ADF&G needing to be dealt with now by the BOF.

Thank you again for taking up all three ACR’s on this issue.

Eric Jordan

F/V I Gotta

Sitka, AK



PC117

Submitted by: Greg Kain

Community of Residence: Asotin, WA

Comment:

Re: Opposition to Proposal 259

Despite the claims that Proposal 259 makes, the changes in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan were not a misunderstanding. It was clearly understood by all parties at the time of signing. This is also clarified by the board as seen in the conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G.

I am opposed to Proposal 259. Any attempt to take up proposals make changes to the King Salmon Management Plan should be taken up at the 2025 BOF meetings in SouthEast Alaska.

Greg Kain

Kain's Fishing Adventures

Sitka, AK

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



Submitted by: Yekaterina Karankevich

Community of Residence: anchorage, ak

Comment:

Proposal 7: Banning of snagging should not include banning of spearfishing and swimming. This proposal outlines why snagging should be banned, then arbitrarily includes a spearfishing/swimmer ban at the end of the proposal with no evidence that this small subset of spearing sport fishermen and divers are causing any harm or danger to the king salmon populations or other people.

Recent PBS coverage of Alaskan spearfishing: <https://www.pbs.org/video/i-caught-the-worlds-largest-silver-salmon-with-a-pole-spear-eafami/>

I will refute the points made in proposal 7, as lumping spearfishing or diving in with snagging is a poor stance to take without evidence or merit.

1. Spearfishermen/women (spearos) bring tourist dollars to the local economy. Source: myself and the less than 100 people in entire the state who spearfish often travel to other communities to target specific fish runs.

Spearos from all over the world come to Alaska.

2. Spearfishermen, unlike snaggers, choose to engage in this much more challenging sport that produces fewer catches than traditional angling. On any given day that we spend swimming for hours in the murky cold water, we are lucky to catch one fish. We are happy with that, as it is a challenging sport on purpose.

3. Spearfishing allows one to pick a fish they know they want to keep before they shoot it, meaning that spearing causes almost no fish mortality that isn't going to be kept, unlike snagging. A single stagger will often pull dozens of salmon in various states of spawn before they keep one, mortally injuring others who have yet to lay eggs .

4. No boat has ever yet hit a spear fisherman or diver in the saltwater of the state or the Seldovia area. To think that spearos are in danger of boats and thus spear fishing should not be allowed is like saying that we should outlaw bowhunting because a rifle hunter could accidentally shoot a bowhunter if they are both in the same location. It is always the responsibility of the boater to look out for swimmers, other boats etc. I don't think you can even make diving or swimming illegal in salt water, as the proposal seeks to do. Source: In my experience spearing here, all sport fishermen have gotten along and moved out of each other's way, if needed. Spearos actually help sport fishermen (or i do anyway to establish good rapport) by telling them when I see a school moving in a certain direction so that they can cast their bait in the right direction.

5. No snagger has ever snagged a spearo by the throat or eye or any other body part in the state. If a snagger is purposefully trying to launch their hook at the diver or spearo, you have to ask yourself who needs to be responsible for where their hooks go. As a spearo, I am solely responsible for where my 15 feet of speargun range goes. The proposal to make spearing illegal due to the safety concern of the spear fishermen sounds quite moronic if I swap the parties to claim that snagging should be made illegal because my speargun could go off and stab a snagger, who is in hip waders in the water.

Swimmers, spearos and divers have coexisted with fishermen of all types for all of modern time. While I do not care if snagging is banned, as an avid spearo, I do not see any harm in continuing our weird niche sport that brings tourist dollars to Seldovia. It is unlikely that more than two dozen king are removed per season by all spearfishing activity in the area.

Proposal 7: Oppose



November 10th, 2023

John Wood
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries



Lower Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting (Nov. 28 - Dec 1, 2023)

RE: Proposals 258 and 259

Dear Chairman Wood and members of the Board,

I am writing to **oppose proposals 258 and 259.**

My name is McKinley Kellogg. I am a resident of Ketchikan and an owner/operator of my family's sportfishing business, Chinook Shores Lodge in Ketchikan. Our lodge operates from June 1st through October 1st, we offer both unguided rental boat packages, and charter fishing trips. We rent our boats to both non-residents and residents, including our local employees, who utilize our boats for access to sportfishing to fill their family's freezers.

I attended the March 2022 BOF meeting in Anchorage to give testimony regarding non-resident bag limits and the KSMP. I was present in the room during the negotiations mediated by Chairwoman Marit Carlson-Van Dort, and members McKenzie Mitchell and Gerad Godfrey.

I oppose proposal 259 on the basis that it disregards proper regulatory procedure, bypassing public comment period; and mischaracterizes the commonly understood intent and agreed upon purpose of RC178.

During the negotiations at the March 2022 BOF meeting it was made clear to everyone in the workshop that one of the purposes of RC178 was to remove in-season management for the sport sector. In-season management is uniquely challenging for sport businesses that have a duty to their clients to make good on fishing opportunities promised and booked pre-season. A common sentiment heard in public comment from sport businesses is that they would even consider giving up some quota if it meant stability in-season. Without stable bag limits, clients are hesitant to book in advance. This leaves sportfishing businesses scrambling to make sales.

In a good faith effort to address troll's concerns, it was negotiated by SEAGO that in lieu of in-season management in low abundance tiers, the sport sector would sacrifice historic quota from higher abundance tiers to pay back the troll fishery; AND that RC178 would be instituted on a trial basis with a sunset clause that allowed it to come up for debate again in 2025.



The new sport limits set in RC178 allowed for stability in-season to address the unique challenges of sportfishing businesses, gave special protections to resident anglers as requested by TSI, AND was analyzed by ADF&G staff to make sure these new limits, without in-season management for sport, would result in an average 80/20 split over time in favor of troll. Plus it maintained troll's privilege to mop up any unused quota from the sport sector at the end of the season.

As someone who was present in the room during these negotiations I can attest that it was commonly understood by everyone at the negotiating table that RC178 would do away with in-season management for the sport sector. That was why this proposal required special negotiations and mediation by three BOF members in the first place. Why would the sport sector agree to give up valuable quota to the troll fleet in high abundance years if we weren't getting anything in return?

After much deliberation it was signed by ATA in what I believed at the time to be a good faith effort and compromise. It is disheartening now to see troll representatives trying to push Proposal 259 forward just a year later and out of cycle, without proper protocol that would allow sport stakeholders to participate in such an important issue.

In archived audio that is public record, Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G further clarify before the vote that the purpose of RC178 for the sport sector was to provide stability by getting rid of in-season management, and that this purpose was understood by everyone who signed it (ATA, TSI, and SEAGO).

If Proposal 259 passes now it would create instability for the sportfishing sector that is uniquely damaging to sportfishing businesses. It would also mar the proper regulatory procedure, and painstaking efforts by stakeholders at the March 2022 meeting that resulted in RC178 being successfully negotiated and unanimously approved.

The sunset clause in RC178 was established to allow troll stakeholders to bring new proposals forward at the 2025 BOF cycle. If Proposal 259 passes now it would be a disservice to everyone involved in the 2022 meeting, and especially sportfishing stakeholders in Southeast Alaska who cannot attend the Homer meeting to give public comment.

I respectfully ask the Board to reject Proposal 259, and allow RC178 to continue to be implemented as intended, without in-season management for the sport sector, until it sunsets in 2025.

Sincerely,
McKinley Kellogg



Submitted by: Mark Glassmaker

Community of Residence: Soldotna

Comment:

Kenai River Professional Guide Association

On time written comments

Lower Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting

November 28 - December 1, 2023

Location: Homer – Land's End Resort

Proposal 1

Support

We believe the department is simply adding this regulatory action into the management plan based on the overall trend of low productivity for Cook Inlet king salmon stocks over the past decade. This provides for clear direction in the plan regarding early run stocks transitioning through the summer Upper Cook Inlet saltwater king salmon sport fishery when preseason projections require restrictions or closures on either the Anchor and/or Kenai Rivers.

Proposal 2

Oppose

Given the last decade of low abundance for both early and late run Kenai king salmon stocks as well as a downward trend in king salmon productivity Cook Inlet wide, we believe saltwater king salmon closures north of Bluff Point are warranted based on preseason forecasts which require restrictions or closures on either the Anchor and/or Kenai Rivers.

Proposal 3

Oppose

If restrictions or closures are enacted for the late run of king salmon on the Kenai River, harvest opportunity in the Upper Cook Inlet saltwater sportfishing should also be restricted or closed.

Proposal 4

Oppose

Although we support clear and concise demarcation lines, this proposal would open an estimated 22 miles of coastline that is currently closed to protect migrating Upper Cook Inlet king salmon stocks.

Proposal 1: Support

Proposal 2: Oppose

Proposal 3: Oppose

Proposal 4: Oppose



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I'm tied to seafood processing in Anchorage, Alaska, and I am strongly opposed to Proposal 43. Hatcheries in the lower Cook Inlet region and across Alaska are critically important to both fishermen (commercial and sport) and processors, especially in times of downturn, to help stabilize the situation for Alaskans that are dependent upon salmon for their living. Processors need the volume of salmon in order to stay viable and operating for all fisheries, and hatcheries were established in Alaska with significant and necessary restrictions in the form of the sustainable salmon policy and genetic policy. These are enhancement programs well supported by the state historically for the benefit of all Alaskans -- personal use, subsistence, sport, commercial. The research that is ongoing through the Hatchery Research Plan is critically important to pay attention to and understand prior to making any changes.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a



demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Sincerely,
Nicole Kimball

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, Alaska



PC122

Submitted by: Bryan Kirby

Community of Residence: Willow, AK

Comment:

As a charter captain I strongly oppose this. There is no scientific data that shows that the current level of harvest is unsustainable.

Proposal 23: Oppose



PC122

Submitted by: Bryan Kirby

Community of Residence: Willow, AK

Comment:

I do not support proposals 18 & 19 but could get behind 20 & 21 as a charter guide. If F&G thinks that a reduction is needed then start with a smaller number reduction and not make such a drastic change to the regulations that are not supported.

Proposal 20: Support Proposal 21: Support



PC122

Submitted by: Bryan Kirby

Community of Residence: Willow, AK

Comment:

As a sport fishing guide I have not seen a noticeable decline in quality size rockfish in fact over the last 5 years the average size rockfish that have been brought aboard have gone up. I believe that this is an unwarranted regulation.

Proposal 18: Oppose Proposal 19: Oppose



PC122

Submitted by: Bryan Kirby

Community of Residence: Willow, AK

Comment:

I support these proposals as a parent of a child who has taken part in this fishery it is a great opportunity and should not be more restricted than other open fishing.

Proposal 16: Support Proposal 17: Support



PC122

Submitted by: Bryan Kirby

Community of Residence: Willow, AK

Comment:

I support the option to give F&G the tools needed to manage the fishery and this plan has a public aspect which is a good thing

Proposal 13: Support



PC122

Submitted by: Bryan Kirby

Community of Residence: Willow, AK

Comment:

In an effort to try and conserve the king salmon adding the annual limit is a good idea.

Proposal 10: Support



PC122

Submitted by: Bryan Kirby

Community of Residence: Willow, AK

Comment:

This proposal does state that 98% of the fish caught where from waters outside of cook inlet. Why do we need to create a plan for fish that are not from our areas?

Proposal 6: Oppose



PC122

Submitted by: Bryan Kirby

Community of Residence: Willow, Alaska

Comment:

I oppose this proposal. There are many beaches open for fishing that will not have a possible impact on the King salmon returns.

Proposal 5: Oppose



PC123

Submitted by: Dylan Kline

Community of Residence: SOQUEL

Comment:

I Oppose Proposal 259 and any discussions outside Southeast Alaska

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



Phone: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]
www.kraa.org

To: John Wood, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Boards Support Section
[REDACTED]

November 13, 2023

RE: Lower Cook Inlet Finfish, November 28-December 1, 2023
Opposition to Proposals 34, 35, 36, and 41, 42, and 43

TO: Chair Wood and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association (KRAA) respectfully requests that the Alaska Board of Fisheries reject Proposals 34-36 and 41, and 42 at the upcoming Lower Cook Inlet meeting in Homer and Proposal 43 during the Upper Cook Inlet meeting later this winter. As a whole, the stated proposals once again lack coherence, have the potential to devastate hatchery programs to the point of inoperability, and offer no improvement on the ability of the Department to administer regulation or provide oversight to hatcheries.

- Proposals 34 and 35 offer no actual regulatory language or framework and would create only redundant guidance for the Department that already exists through the polices for Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries and that of Mixed Stock Fisheries.
- Proposal 36 calls upon no existing regulation governing limitation of operational flexibility for cost recovery activity and, though limited to Tutka Bay Lagoon Special Harvest Area could have implications for other aquaculture associations in the manner in which cost recovery activities may be conducted state-wide.
- Proposal 41 creates closed waters at the Tutka Bay Lagoon that, as delineated, would be hard to enforce. Alternate and more easily enforceable closed water designation is offered by ADF&G in an alternate proposal.
- Proposal 42 is allocative, and though we prefer to remain neutral on allocative matters, this proposal would severely impact Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association's ability to achieve cost recovery goals within the designated Special Harvest Area (SHA). KRAA does not support action that limits or interferes with an aquaculture association's ability to make decisions or achieve goals related to harvest within their designated SHAs. SHAs are established for the purpose of allowing for cost recovery activities and intended to be managed to allow the association to meet broodstock and cost recovery goals.



- Proposal 43, which will be heard but not deliberated at the LCI meeting offers no evidentiary support or basis for its claims, and the desired hatchery production reductions—amounting to a 75% reduction as written—would devastate the ability of the programs to operate with any cost effectiveness and likely result in the loss of many non-production programs.
- Proposal 43 is duplicated as Proposal 59 slated for the Kodiak meeting in January where it appears to be geared toward all of the state’s hatchery programs. Why the duplicative proposal, which will now be heard at *three* Board meetings during this cycle and ignores the fact that it has already been offered and rejected at least twice in the last 5 years? The proposal(s), and its contentions, in this new iteration, continues to rely on the same speculative “ocean ranching” thesis without accounting for the multiple variables that occur each year that impact food availability—ocean temperature, currents, mixing through storms, etc.—and also fails to address spatial distributions of salmon from different origins that appear to show limited or non-existent competition.

Kodiak Regional Aquaculture association asks the Board to review the previous emergency petitions, ACRs and proposals that have been summarily rejected by the Board of Fisheries since 2018. The pattern of the proposals for the 23-24 Board cycle is simply a continuance of the same and repeated efforts of a few individuals to assert their conviction that Alaska’s hatchery programs lack sufficient oversight and need to be curtailed. The assertions and implications that somehow hatchery operations have been given a “pass” on issues of sustainability, scientific defensibility, or rigorous oversight are simply unfounded. The public record from all of the meetings in which hatchery proposals have come before the Board reaching back five or more years have repeatedly affirmed the regulatory scrutiny of Alaska’s hatchery programs by ADF&G, the Board process, and the Regional Planning Teams as well as the Alaska Hatchery Research Program (AHRP). Moreover, and this is important, the international 3rd party certifiers for fishery sustainability, the Marine Stewardship Council and GAO Responsible Fisheries Management certification, frequently review Alaska’s hatchery programs and have found them sustainable.

Hatchery programs seem to be an easy target when folks are disappointed with a fishery return or outcome. How and when and how many fish return to a specific river system or region have a host of variables, many of which are outside the control of any decision maker or human action. Efforts to blame hatcheries by way of correlation, supposition, and biased opinion have not succeeded in making a substantive, defensible case against Alaska’s hatchery program. Moreover, proposed solutions are more about allocative outcomes than hatchery regulations within State guidelines.

Alaska hatchery operators understand our position within the context of Alaska’s fisheries, and accept that there will always be questions regarding hatchery operations because we work in a



dynamic biological environment. We have supported substantive science relative to the programs in Alaska such as the Prince William Sound straying study (AHRP) as well as marking hatchery releases and assessing spatial distribution of hatchery fish. We support ongoing efforts to acquire scientific information regarding hatchery impacts--information that is verified and acquired without a preconceived bias. Hatchery operators have also observed that the ebb and flow of wild stocks within the hatchery areas do not seem to be impacted, overall, by our programs. It's hard to refute that some of the largest wild salmon runs in Kodiak, Prince William Sound and S.E. Alaska have occurred while the current level of hatchery releases were present.

Furthermore, record returns to many wildstock and hatchery systems have occurred multiple times within even the recent 5-10-year period. These are the types of hard facts that do not seem to fit well into the anti-hatchery models of harm and correlation. Moreover, hatchery operators are aware of the importance of Alaska's hatcheries to the economy of coastal Alaska and dozens of Alaska communities. Many anti-hatchery advocates, as reflected in these proposals, discount or ignore the known harm that would occur to fishermen and coastal communities if their proposals were adopted and instead, based on speculative benefits that may or may not occur to other areas of Alaska, seek to reduce or effectively eliminate hatchery production.

It may be the case that with so many new Board members, it is difficult to recognize the redundancy of these proposals. However, we have seen similar efforts as ACR2 in 2018 and through a series of proposals at the previous LCI meeting in Seward, proposals in Southeast Alaska, and as Proposals 49-55 at the 2021 Prince William Sound Finfish and Shellfish meeting in Cordova. At that meeting, I simply re-submitted over 30 pages of written comment KRAA had submitted at previous meetings on the same topics and similar proposals. KRAA's comments represent just a fraction of the time and effort demanded of those who have been forced to respond to repetitive proposals and to defend the Alaska Hatchery Programs. I would again draw your attention to that record, but more importantly, I would ask the Board to recognize that, at each turn, the Board has rightly rejected this systematic effort to malign Alaska's hatchery programs and their underlying science, management, and oversight by ADF&G.

In summary, KRAA asks that you please reject proposals 34, 35, 36, and 41,42, and 43. Individually they have little merit or basis for adoption by the Board, and collectively they would do great harm to the viability of Alaska's salmon fisheries and coastal communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Tina Fairbanks
Executive Director



PC125

Submitted by: Cody Kreitel

Community of Residence: Anchorage

Comment:

Proposal 7 and Proposal 8

As someone who has frequently travelled to Seldovia for sportfishing, I disagree with the proposals to prohibit snagging in Seldovia Bay, Seldovia Harbor, and Seldovia Lagoon. The safety concerns raised by the author of the proposal are invalid in my opinion. Snagging is no more dangerous to other rod and reel fisherman and spearfisherman than any other method of rod and reel fishing. Additionally, snagging encourages more participation in this terminal fishery. The last few years of the fishery have, in my observation, provided a fun safe experience for all user groups. The proposals seem like an attempt by the author to limit use of the fishery by other user groups.

Proposal 7: Oppose

Proposal 8: Oppose



PC126

Submitted by: Kimberly Landeen

Community of Residence: Gustavus

Comment:

John Wood

Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries 1255 W. 8th Street



Re: Opposition to Proposals 259, Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

Chairman Wood and members of the Board,

My name is Kim Landeen. I am a year-round Alaskan resident along with my husband and two daughters in the southeast community of Gustavus. Our family makes our living operating and participating in the Guided Sport Fishing Fleet.

I am writing in opposition to Proposal 259 put forward by David Richey and Monique Wilkinson.

If Proposal 259 passes it would create instability for the sportfishing sector that is uniquely damaging to sportfishing businesses. Halibut size restrictions and allocations are constantly changing. This in and of itself is difficult to manage as we often are selling fishing trips one, two, and even three years in advance. This last year with a halibut day closure was especially difficult to explain to clients who had booked their trip when there were no halibut closures. Our saving grace was the ability to fish for king salmon on the closure day. Unstable king salmon regulations and emergency closures on top of that makes the guided sportfishing business model

incredibly difficult and threatens our viability. If I can't count on a regulation to stay the same even for one regulatory year, it is hard to have a business that sells fishing trips. When clients arrives, they are told they can't fish for the species they intended when booking and that definitely impacts sustainability and financial security for my family. Sportfishing requires a level of regulator stability that is removed if 259 is passed and puts into jeopardy a whole sector of fisherman/women.

I would also like to address the time and location of this proposal. I am a vested member of the fleet. An Alaskan resident who uses this fishery to provide for the needs of my family. It is wrong that the Board is willing to take up this proposal out of region and out of cycle. This makes travel to these meeting, closely following a national holiday, cost and time prohibited by those in southeast impacted by the decision of this proposal.

I am asking the Board to reject Proposal 259 and proceed without in-season management for the sport sector, until it sunsets in 2025 AS WAS AGREED UPON IN RC178 where it can then be rediscussed in a location that allows for community input and involvement.

Sincerely,

Kim Landeen.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I commercial fish in SE Alaska, and I stand strongly against Proposal 43.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.



Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
William Leese



PC128

Submitted by: Eric Lehm**Community of Residence:** Homer**Comment:**

Please see below

Proposal 1: Support With Amendments	Proposal 5: Support With Amendments	
Proposal 6: Support With Amendments	Proposal 7: Oppose	Proposal 8: Support
Proposal 9: Support With Amendments	Proposal 10: Oppose	Proposal 11: Support
Proposal 12: Support With Amendments	Proposal 13: Support	Proposal 14: Support
Proposal 16: Support With Amendments	Proposal 17: Support With Amendments	
Proposal 18: Oppose	Proposal 19: Oppose	Proposal 20: Support
Proposal 21: Support	Proposal 22: Oppose	Proposal 23: Support
Proposal 24: Support With Amendments	Proposal 25: Support	Proposal 26: Support
Proposal 27: Support	Proposal 28: Support	Proposal 29: Support
Proposal 30: Support	Proposal 31: Support With Amendments	
Proposal 32: Support With Amendments	Proposal 33: Support With Amendments	
Proposal 37: Support With Amendments	Proposal 38: Support With Amendments	



PC129

Submitted by: Mark Lemons**Community of Residence:** San Pedro, Ca**Comment:**

I support Proposal 257 and any proposed changes to SE Alaska fishing limits, they should be decided on and discussed in the location where they pertain to. I strongly oppose Proposals 258 and 259.

Proposal 257: Support	Proposal 258: Oppose	Proposal 259: Oppose



PC130

Submitted by: Timothy Lewis**Community of Residence:** Ketchikan**Comment:**

I support 257!

I oppose 258 and 259

Proposal 257: Support	Proposal 258: Oppose	Proposal 259: Oppose



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

As a southern Alaska purse seiner, I can't state enough how important salmon hatcheries are to our fishery. The presence of hatcheries takes fishing pressure off of wild stocks and spreads the fleet around. Without hatcheries, myself and my four crew members would find it hard to support our families.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a



demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
John Liddicoat





November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I am tied to commercial fishing and seafood processing in Alaska. I firmly oppose Proposal 43. I don't believe that hatchery produced salmon are reducing the wild salmon stocks. This is not a worthy offense against hatcheries. If you take away the production that the hatcheries provide, the farmed salmon operations will be cheering loud and clear, and it's common knowledge that farmed salmon operations deteriorate the environment they grow up in. There are many more negatives to farms for fish, but this is a subject to be considered, and there would be no doubt that they would replace that market share with their products.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

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Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.



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Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.



Sincerely,
Joe Lindholm





PC133

Submitted by: Mathew Lipscomb

Community of Residence: Lake Cormorant, MS

Comment:

I support Proposal 256 in its entirety.

Proposal 256: Support



November 11, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I'm tied to sport, commercial, and subsistence fishing in Cordova, and I stand strongly against Proposal 43. Hatcheries in Alaska help preserve a salmon lifestyle, and sustain many coastal Alaska communities. Hatchery salmon provide incomes for many families, and food for many more.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a



demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Sincerely,
Tyee Lohse

[Redacted Signature]

Cordova, Alaska



PC135

Submitted by: Jesseca Lowdermilk

Community of Residence: Seldovia, Alaska

Comment:

I support the ban of snagging in Seldovia Harbor and Lagoon per Fish and Game Proposal 7.

Proposal 7: Support



PC136

Submitted by: Matt Lower

Community of Residence: Homer, Alaska

Comment:

Proposal #29: Prohibit use of helicopters to transport anglers

Position: Strongly Support the banning of helicopters to transport anglers

I am a life long fly angler and understand the Steelhead stocks, much like King Salmon, are facing challenges. Fly fishing for Steelhead has increased in popularity and word has gotten out that our roadside streams offer a worthy pursuit for catching Steelhead.

Anecdotally pressure by foot has increased considerably, but these are anglers that get to know the fishery and work hard for access to get away from other anglers. This approach is fruitless when, after hours of getting away from other anglers, you're greeted by a helicopter landing next to you.

I support banning the use of helicopters for angling for the following reasons:

- a) Precedent: In Alaska, it is illegal to use a helicopter for big game hunting. These same standards should apply to angling.
- b) Fair Chase: Helicopters provide an unparalleled advantage for access. This experience robs the angler of the spirit of backcountry angling, and disturbs fish that are otherwise difficult to reach by anglers. These fickle fish need to be able to escape angling pressure.
- c) An even playing field: Access by helicopter is extremely exclusive. Those that are enjoying access via helicopter are wealthy individuals brought there by guide. Access by helicopter is simply an advantage that a large majority of residents will not get to enjoy. ADF&G has done a good job favoring resident opportunities over non-residents, and this case should be no exception.
- d) Impact on habitat: The areas that these helicopters are accessing are critical habitat for moose, bears, and other species. Helicopters are extremely disturbing to anyone and anything in the area. I am not a biologist, but I can only assume that the repeated presence of helicopters will impact moose behavior in areas of concentrated rutting activity, and impact hunting opportunities in areas that are otherwise difficult to access. Lastly, these helicopters use the same landing areas repeatedly, leaving scarring behind.

Thank you for hearing my plea to please ban the use of helicopters for angling, or at a minimum, for our lower peninsula streams. Helicopters were banned for big game hunting for good reason, and the board should follow suit for angling.

Thank you,

Matt Lowber

Proposal 29: Support



PC137

Submitted by: Gabriel Loyd

Community of Residence: Kihei, HI

Comment:

Hello I am a fishing guide at waterfall resort alaska. I support prop 257 and strongly oppose 258 and 259. These closures will negatively affect waterfall resort and its employees. Thank you.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC138

Submitted by: Jonathan Madison

Community of Residence: Kenai, AK

Comment:

Proposal 14: Support....let anglers harvest these surplus King Salmon 2 a day... additionally Hatchery King Salmon should not count towards the annual limit of 5 King Salmon in Cook Inlet per year this has been relaxed by EO in the past lets make it permanent.

Proposal 15: Support.... I agree with Jim this area holds a lot of hatchery king salmon and this would open up more opportunity to harvest these excess kings and spread the pressure out on this small system

Proposal 16, 17: Support.....I agree with Jim having fished the Kids day the last 6 years everything he says is accurate....besides the harbor on high tide the areas for youth anglers to target kings is limited to 3-4 spots expanding the area to the normal adult boundary will spread pressure out, give youth better opportunity, experience and boost catch rates.....isn't that the goal of this fishery?

Proposals 18, 19, 20, 21: Support.....West Coast Wide the reduction of rockfish fish species population has been well documented, it appears it has finally reached Cook Inlet and Resurrection Bay, we know what is causing the decline over fishing in areas that are reached on day trips from popular harbors. I won't get into who is killing more commercial fisheries, charter boats, or private boats, It is in the best interest of the species to reduce the bag and possession limits so we can at least slow down the decline.

Proposal 23: Oppose....too big of an area to close we aren't at that point yet of declines

Proposal 24: Support....No shortage of Spiny Dogfish.... regardless of limits people will not keep more spiny dogfish due to culinary preferences.

Proposal 29: Oppose....It is true that there is a group of helicopter anglers that are accessing upper deep creek on a regular basis for steelhead and these anglers do have an advantage over most other anglers and that is Money. However the fact that these anglers have the means of which to access this fishery easier than others doesn't mean we should ban that means because not everyone can afford a helicopter ride.

Proposal 31: Support....The sockeye salmon that are in the China Poot creek have already made it past the commercial fleet, they are hatchery fish that will not be successful spawners in the creek, it makes sense to extend the season dates to optimize the harvest of these surplus sockeye salmon for the residents of Alaska.

Proposal 32: Oppose....The sockeye that return to China Poot are hatchery and a non-native stock, these fish should not be included with Kasilof/Kenai annual personal use catch limits.

Proposal 33: Oppose.....It is true that the mouth of China Poot Creek can become a crowded, free for all, wild west type fishery with snagging hooks flying and boat congestion however moving the boundary will not alleviate this problem, those that chose to snag with a rod and reel will be displaced from the best fishing locations.

Proposal 43: Support.....It is time the State of Alaska reduces the number of pink salmon that are being released by hatcheries into the Pacific Ocean. Salmon ranching of pinks is flooding the ocean with too many salmon and other salmon species are being negatively affected by this. The mass salmon ranching efforts only benefit 1 main user group commercial fisherman as pink salmon are the least desirable species to catch and our Wild runs already provide more than enough opportunity to catch pink salmon. I understand that pink salmon are the cheapest and the best return for your dollar however at what cost To other species? To the wild genetics? The market further demands a reduction in supply as this past year many fish processors either paid very little or refused to buy pink salmon. Why are we producing all these pinks that are worth very little to nothing and at the same time causing irreversible ecological damage to wild runs of all Pacific salmon species?

Proposal 1: Support
Proposal 5: Support
Proposal 9: Oppose
Proposal 13: Oppose
Proposal 17: Support
Proposal 21: Support
Proposal 25: Oppose
Proposal 31: Support
Proposal 38: Oppose

Proposal 2: Support
Proposal 6: Oppose
Proposal 10: Oppose
Proposal 14: Support
Proposal 18: Support
Proposal 22: Oppose
Proposal 26: Oppose
Proposal 32: Oppose
Proposal 43: Support

Proposal 3: Support
Proposal 7: Support
Proposal 11: Support
Proposal 15: Support
Proposal 19: Support
Proposal 23: Oppose
Proposal 29: Oppose
Proposal 33: Oppose
Proposal 256: Support

Proposal 4: Support
Proposal 8: Support
Proposal 12: Oppose
Proposal 16: Support
Proposal 20: Support
Proposal 24: Support
Proposal 30: Support
Proposal 37: Oppose



Submitted by: Jonathan Madison

Community of Residence: Kenai, Ak

Comment:

Proposal 1: Do not support.....Alaska Fish and Game have been doing a good job managing the Fishery by Emergency Orders no need to permanently change the plan often times the fishing is shut down prematurely.

Proposal 2: Support: majority of the fish caught in this area are feeder kings and not spawning fish headed to Cook Inlet streams...closing this area is detrimental to the recreational fleet as this is one of the most productive areas to fish for king salmon year round and especially in May/June....if forecasts are low or runs are late than eventually meet escapements later in the season....its too late for anglers to recoup the loss of prime fishing time in this area

Proposal 3: Support ...If commercial set nets are allow to harvest King Salmon in this Area than the Recreational fleet should be allowed to harvest King Salmon as well.

Proposal 4: Support...Moving the boundary will do 2 things...It will allow anglers access to fish the most productive stretch of this area and also it will clear up the current boundary issues of Bluff Point....if you do not have good electronics/gps it is difficult to decipher exactly where the Bluff Point boundary is....a lot of time there is often 25-50 boats out there threading the needle on the boundary, there is to my knowledge no onshore physical marker...on the other-hand the Anchor Point boundary is clearly visible onshore and can be easily recognized by all vessels and law enforcement entities. Moving the boundary North to this spot is a good compromise when the fishery gets restricted: it closes most of the Upper Inlet to King Harvest to protect spawners but allows anglers continued access to the most accessible and productive King Salmon fishing grounds.

Proposal 5: Support.....The special closure areas around the mouths of Ninilchik, Deep Creek, Stariski Creek and Anchor River are in place to protect King Salmon....These areas should be open to Beach fishing 24/7 for halibut and other bottom fish species..rewrite the regulations to allow beach fishing for other species besides Salmon this change is long overdue as there is little to zero bycatch of salmon in these fisheries.

Proposal 6: Do not support....Issue #1 one who will pay and monitor for accurate catch counts you will need multiple fish checkers 7 days a week 8-12 hours a day checking boats in Homer and Seldovia Harbors.....#2 what is appropriate harvest level and what happens when that harvest level is meet? The guided charter fleet most likely will harvest 70-80% of this quota with non-resident guided anglers...how do you balance that with resident anglers/private boats....if the charter fleet uses up the catch quota mid-season resident anglers will suffer from opportunity for recreation and ability to acquire food throughout the entire summer..If a true hard cap quota was ever to be implemented it would need to be modeled after SE Alaska King Regulations where Non-residents have different bag limits, seasons or no seasons at all compared to Resident Anglers. There needs to be safeguards implemented so the quota would not be consumed by non-resident guided anglers and the priority should be placed on Resident angler harvest first.

Proposal 9, 10: Do not Support....Limiting the Winter Fishery in Homer to Sept 1-March 31 to an annual limit of 10 fish....first problem is the license year ends on Dec 31st so an angler will have harvested fish written down on one year that will carry over to the next year but is not required to carry that license on them after December 31st because its expired, this will cause issues for Enforcement knowing how many fish were harvested before Jan 1st of the current winter fishing season if checking someone after Jan 1st.

The 10 fish limit puts the burden of conservation on a very small group of local, non-guided residents who are boat owners that live in the Homer/Lower Kenai Peninsula area. Hypothetically speaking with a 2 fish limit a successful angler would reach their 10 fish limit in 5 fishing trips if they limited out each day. Due to the nature of this fishery 90% of the anglers targeting King Salmon in the winter are on Charter Boats, Charter boat winter anglers on average take 1 maybe 2 trips a year so this change would not affect a charter boat angler unless he was gonna take 6 or more trips during the winter period. In my opinion 90% of the king salmon are harvested by the Charter Fleet therefore this change what have no effect on they number of fish the Charter Fleet is harvesting. The other 10% of anglers are locals on private boats or Anchorage resident who moor or store their boats in Homer, of these anglers probable only 5% or less are going to take 5 or more trips out King Salmon fishing in the winter. This 5% represents 20-40 local "die-hard" winter king anglers living in the Homer area. It is unfair to put the burden of conservation on these local resident anglers because, they own their own boats, like to fish a lot for food and recreation, and have easier access to the fishery because the live in the area. I suggest if the desire is slow down the catch rate or reduce the harvest of King Salmon in the Winter King Season the following measures should be considered in order: Guides and Deckhands not allowed to retain/fish for King Salmon while clients on board, reduction of bag/season limits for non-residents, reduction of # of anglers on guided trips, reduce days of week guided king salmon trips allowed, reduce bag limit to 1 fish for everyone no annual limit.

Those making a profit off of the resource should carry the burden of conservation.

Proposal 11: Support....this works and is allowed in some Southeast Alaska Fisheries why not here?

Proposal 12: Do not Support....This is one user group from another fishery (Homer Charter fleet) attempting to impose unnecessary regulations and restrictions on user groups in a different fishery (Seward/Whittier/Valdez/Cordova King Salmon anglers guided and nonguided) that is based on social/economical reasons instead of science based.



Submitter: Ceri Malein
[REDACTED]
Phone No: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Submitted On: 13 November 2023
Subject: Comments on Finfish proposals

Proposal 257 Oppose

Proposal 257 bears no resemblance to the agreement accepted by BOF in March 2022 as RC 178 and little resemblance to ACR 11. The original signed agreement (RC178) clearly lays out harvest limits for the sport sector for each tier created by the Pacific Salmon treaty. It directed the Department to manage the sports harvest to not exceed the sports fishery harvest limit which is 20% after the net allocation has been deducted from the all gear quota. Proposal 257 only restricts the sports fishery to the entirety of the all gear harvest ceiling giving Sports full access to all of the SEAK Chinook Treaty allocation.

Accepting Proposal 257 means the agreement signed by all stake holders in March 2022 is voided. To quote SEAGO's action alert (11/9/23) *"There needs to be no confusion that taking up proposals out of cycle and out of the area being impacted is unacceptable as this circumvents the public process, limits stakeholders access to the board decision process, and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions. We are requesting that this proposal be taken up in cycle during the 2025 Southeast meeting. Those effected need the opportunity to attend the meeting in a location closer to home and be heard by the Board"*. I could not agree more. Negotiations of the King Salmon Management Plan should take place during the 2025 Southeast meeting, the proper time and location for this discussion to be held. Once RC 178 sunsets, not before, and not before restoring RC 178 as signed.

Proposal 258 Neutral

This proposal clearly stipulates that the 20% - 80% historic allocation must be retained.

I see nothing wrong in modifying the Sports King Salmon Management Plan to align with the 17 tier system which was new in March 2023 and was expanded from the 7 tier system created in 2019 by the Pacific Salmon Treaty. I believe this will be temporary as the 17 tier system is also an experiment which hasn't worked out. The SEAK King Salmon CPUE for sports and commercial was exceptional this year yet rumor has it that some entities in the Treaty process argue that Alaska's quota was too big. It appears more Treaty negotiations are expected this winter.

I disagree with staff comments that the, *"..management plan was not designed to achieve the annual allocation to the sports fishery in any given year but is intended to achieve the sport allocation on average"* I was in 'Room 9' on the afternoon of March 19 and morning of the 20th in the Anchorage Egan Center when negotiations on RC 178 were hashed out. After no definition was accepted for the term 'Averaging' SEAGO recommended "dropping averaging" and all others in the room agreed. Negotiations then went smoothly. Throughout RC 178 and 5AAC 47.055 harvest limits are clearly laid out for each tier backing up the phrase "sport fishery harvest ceiling".



For the Department to say in Staff comments on Proposal 258 that, “Developing sport fish management actions for small allocation changes between tiers is not practical” and is “out of the control of the department” worries me. Particularly as ADFG Department Commissioner who is also the Treaty Commissioner, agreed to the 17 tiers that now the sports department say they cannot manage. A 17,000 king salmon overage is not a small allocation change. Staff saying ‘out of control of the department’ begs the question of what, if anything, is in control of the Department. The management plan includes in-season management tools that allow adjusting bag limits and fishing time. This is permitted and laid out in 5AAC 47.055 and the original agreement, and is therefore totally in the “...control of the department”. It is concerning that ADFG says resource management is out of their control.

Proposal 259 Support

- Omission of the critical language “sports fishery” in 5AAC 47.055 needs correcting. If the change was intentional then it’s unlawful. In eliminating this language the BOF process was ignored, bypassed, and degraded.
- Removing the phrase “*sport fishery*” from “*sport fishery harvest ceiling*” in the management plan allowed uninterrupted out of state sports fishing which, in turn, eliminated in-season management.
- **Eliminating the phrase “sport fishery” prioritizes out-of-state sport Chinook harvest over all other harvesters.**

Although the current structure of the management plan establishes “*sport fish management actions at the beginning of the season*” Regulation 5AAC 47.055 (b)(2) also stipulates that the department must manage sports within the “sport fishery harvest ceiling”. **Contrary to ADFG’s statement**, “*Several components of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan would need to be revised as **the current plan is contradictory to the use of inseason management.***” Under the existing 5AAC 47.055 (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) (which Proposal 257 seeks to change) the commissioner is given authority to reduce or increase the nonresident bag limits, annual limits and also opening dates allowing for in-season management: The Commissioner “..**May by emergency order implement the following management measures...**”. He may also choose to be more generous or lenient in allocating bag limits and openings. In-season management is a practice on which Alaska’s well earned reputation rests and is a corner stone of all of Alaska’s **FISH** and **GAME** management.

ADFG statements claiming in-season management changes to sport harvest are not made to keep sport fisheries within allocation is untrue. Until 2020 sports fishing has always been managed in-season.

- i. Due to the expanding (unlimited) Commercial sports industry and the shrinking quota, in 2017 and 2019 non-residents were closed part of the season.
- ii. In 2008 non-residents were limited in-season to Chinook 48 inches or larger for most of the Summer. In effect very few Kings were retained during this semi-closed period.
- iii. In 2020 (Covid year) annual limits for non-residents were increased from 3 fish at the beginning of the year with 5 increases ending at 9 fish per non-resident starting on Jul 29. Mother nature and Fishing is unpredictable. That’s why it is called fishing, not catching.



Due to new Treaty restraints the SEAK Sports King Salmon Management Plan was brought before the BOF out of cycle in Jan 2019. The goal was to align Alaska Regs with the new Treaty agreement which no longer allowed “Alaska to average their harvest over time”. The newly introduced language in 2019 was important as the new Treaty (2018) introduced a hard cap to the SEAK King harvest with no carry over of underages. Overages have to be paid back the following year. This makes it impossible to manage one Chinook fishery to an average without impacting any of the other harvesters. Since the new Treaty agreement SE Alaska hasn’t caught their Chinook quota due to in-season management and abiding by the Treaty. Every year kings have been left on the table amounting to a total of 34,688 fish. If Chinook are always left how can everyone average as underages are now lost.

Interestingly, SEAGO supported an ADF&G out-of-cycle proposal asking for harvest limits for each tier at an Anchorage BOF Meeting (Jan 2019). Also interesting, at the **2022 BOF Meeting in Anchorage SEAGO requested the REMOVAL of the following language from 5AAC 47.055 (b) (5); “PROVIDE STABILITY TO THE SPORTS FISHERY BY ELIMINATING INSEASON REGULATORY CHANGES, EXCEPT THOSE FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES”.** **All signers of RC 178 agreed to this language removal.** The intent of dropping the language was to enable in-season management as historically practiced in Alaska and to align with the PST agreement. It was also at this 2022 meeting (not 2019 as ADFG stated) that Territorial Sportsmen Inc. asked that residents have priority. Trollers, who are mostly Alaska Residents, fully supported this. Contrary to ADFG claims until this time there was no language separation between Resident and Non-resident Sports except in daily bag limits and annual limits.

Regarding ADFG’s comment on Proposal 259 that *“the Commercial Troll fishery may receive increments or decrements in allocation if the sport fishery is under or over its allocation”*. This may be true in theory, in practice it’s not. For this to happen definitions of ‘Averaging’ are needed. A management plan is also needed when averages are not achieved (either under or over). Managing to an average was not the intent of the agreement (RC 178). According to the 17 tier system, **the SEAK 2023 Chinook harvest was at a relatively high Tier 9 out of 17 Tiers (above half on the scale) and still sport, with a harvest share of 29%, went over their harvest ceiling by 17K kings.** 15,000 were taken from the Trollers and 2,000 came from the gillnets. This reallocation away from commercial and to out-of-state harvesters was significant.

Since the advent of the ‘no in-season sport management’ thing (2022) the averaging theory has not worked out for Trollers. In 2022 trollers were 9,488 below their allocated quota. In 2023 trollers lost 15,578 from their quota to non-resident sport. That’s 25,066 fish under allocation during this ‘averaging’ period. Both of these years were above mid range on the SEAK King salmon quota scale. Since the new 2018 treaty agreement the two years trollers went over their allocated 80% were the outlying 2020 and 2021 pandemic years and before the 2022 RC 178 went into effect. The only reason Trollers went over in 2020 and 2021 was because the Department asked them to, in order to not leave fish on the table, which would have been negative at the treaty level. I don’t see another pandemic in the near future.

In low tiers more will be taken from the Troll allocation because the future dose not look bright for large quotas. Particularly in today’s Treaty negotiating climate. In 2023 the winter CPUE number, was 9.20 (supplemental PSC report 1, April 2023), which was the highest its ever been since the recent PST agreement. Based on the 2018 PST CPUE Model Sport would have been fishing in 2023 under (d) or a 61,000 harvest limit of kings instead of the new 2023 quota of of 37,280 or 23,720 fewer fish. The reason for this small quota is that PST folks didn’t believe that abundance was high so they redid the abundance formula. This Summer’s CPUE contradicted that misapprehension.



Allowing out-of-state residents to exceed their allocation has serious consequences.

- i. 75% of all SEAK sport harvest is by non-Alaskans. 85% of Commercial Trollers are Alaska residents, 30% are Tlingit/Haida tribal members. Removing “sport fishery harvest ceiling” gives non-residents priority access to King Salmon over Alaska residents. The Resident SEAK sport harvest share has been declining for more than 30 years (Overview of the Sport Fisheries for King Salmon in Southeast Alaska through 2020 Special Publication No. 21-10, Figure 3) attached).
- ii. The ‘language change error’ (taking out sport fishery harvest ceiling) contradicts 5AAC 29.060 which states that sports have a harvest ceiling of 20%.
- iii. The ‘language change error’ contradicts 5AAC 47.055 (c)(d)(e)(f)(g) and(h) of the SEAK Sports King Salmon Management Plan. The plan clearly lays out harvest limits introduced by SEAGO and TSI and accepted by BOF in January 2019. These harvest limits are part of the foundation of the 2022 agreement.

Managing in-season is not allocative, it is sustainable management, and is required by Alaska’s Sustainable Fisheries Policy, the Pacific Salmon Treaty, and has always been the management policy of ADF&G till now. As long as non-resident harvesters are permitted to take King Salmon from other gear groups, representatives of the commercial charter industry will feel no pressure and will always be a poor negotiating partner at Treaty. Alaska needs strong negotiating partners when sitting across the table from the pre-statehood Colonists who think they still own Alaska.

From: “Overview of the Sport Fishery for King Salmon in SEAK through 2020” ADF&G Special Publication 21-10.

EFFORT

TOTAL NUMBER OF ANGLERS

The total number of anglers fishing in SEAK has experienced an annual growth rate of 3.2% between 1984 and 2019 (Figure 3). The growth in the fishery can be attributed to an increasing number of nonresident anglers while a slight decreasing trend has been observed in the number of resident anglers. In 2019, 127,886 anglers fished in SEAK of which 75% (95,966) were nonresident anglers.

While the general trend has been growth, the annual number of nonresident anglers is influenced by outside factors affecting the visitor industry in SEAK. Notably during 2008–2011, a decline in nonresident angler participation was observed, corresponding with the nationwide economic trends of the Great Recession. Although data from the Alaska Sport Fishing Survey (commonly known as the Statewide Harvest Survey, SWHS) is not yet available for 2020, other indicators suggest a drastic reduction in nonresident anglers resulting from travel restrictions and other impacts of COVID-19.

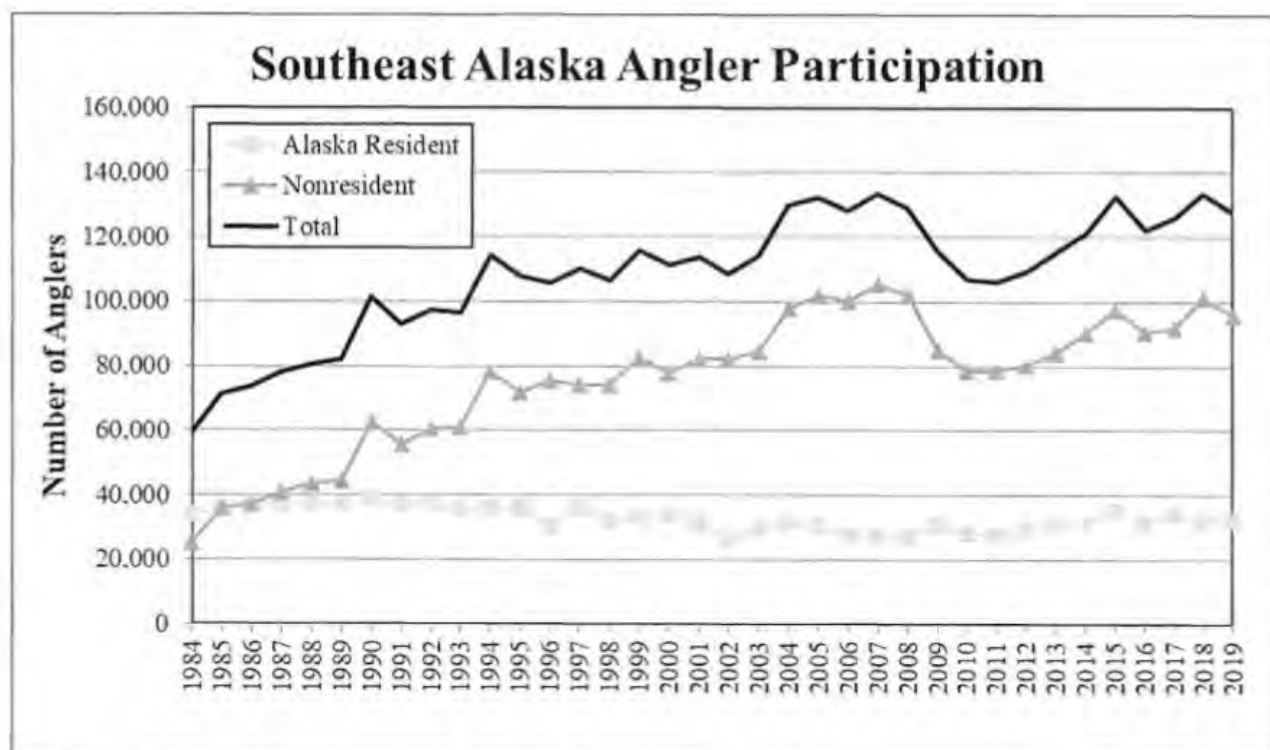


Figure 3.—Number of resident and nonresident anglers who fished in Southeast Alaska, 1984–2019 as estimated from the Alaska Sport Fishing Survey (i.e., SWHS; available at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/index.cfm?ADFG=main.home>).

Note: Angler participation estimates prior to 1996 can be found on the ADF&G Historic Statewide Harvest Survey Publications website at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/index.cfm?ADFG=main.historic>.

November 1, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Lower Cook Inlet Finfish
Sport Fisheries (Salmon, Trout, Herring)

RE: Proposal 29

To whom it may concern,

Maritime Helicopters, Inc. is in opposition of the Lower Cook Inlet Finfish, Sport Fisheries (salmon, trout, herring) Proposal 29 which would prohibit the use of helicopters to transport anglers to select Cook Inlet waters.

All steelhead fishing on the Kenai Peninsula Rivers is catch and release. The waters of Deep Creek, Anchor River, Stariski Creek, Ninilchik River and Kasilof River are all road-accessible via the Sterling Highway. There are less accessible portions of these rivers which can also be reached by foot or wading through water as most of these rivers have coinciding trail systems. There are even more remote fishing areas which are often only accessible by helicopter, fixed-wing aircraft, or boat.

By limiting access to these remote fishing sites via prohibition of helicopter use, the disabled and/or elderly would be excluded from fishing low intensity fishing areas. This proposal would eliminate equal access to the land. This would remove equal access not only for the disabled and/or elderly, but also for Alaskan residents and/or non-Alaska residents who wish to access remote fishing sites via helicopter.

Although helicopters (aircraft) produce noise, there are rules and regulations set by the Federal Aviation Administration to determine minimum safe altitudes for operating aircraft. A noise complaint from a nearby homeowner or irritable fisherman does not justify the prohibition of helicopters for fishing.

Grouping squirrels and steelhead into the same category is not an apples-to-apples comparison. In Alaska, one "may not take any game by using a helicopter for hunting or transporting hunters, hunting gear, game meat, trophies or any equipment used to pursue or retrieve game, EXCEPT helicopter use may be authorized to rescue hunters, gear, or game in a life-threatening situation" per the 2023-2024 Alaska Hunting Regulations. Steelhead are not considered game

animals in the state of Alaska, rather a species of fish. Since fish are not susceptible to the same hunting laws and regulations as game animals in Alaska, then why should helicopters be prohibited for fishing?

Although helicopters provide a unique advantage in that they can access more restricted areas one may not be able to reach by road or foot, this does not guarantee fishing success or automatically add pressure to fishing systems. Given the areas accessed by helicopter are more remote or secluded in nature, the angling pressure is lower than in high intensity fishing areas exploited by anglers on the road-system or on foot. Helicopters provide the chance to fish in untouched waters and can provide relief to high intensity fishing areas.

Many lodges and outfitters in Alaska who offer fly-out Heli-fishing packages or adventures work hand in hand with local guides and helicopter companies to ensure rivers are well rested between visits to help safeguard future expeditions. Per the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's website, "nearly all of the rainbow steelhead trout caught and released by anglers will survive if handled properly". Many of the heli-fishing outfitters on the Kenai Peninsula have a guide accompanying anglers. Guides encourage anglers to reduce stress on fish by following safe fishing practices and guidelines. Thus heli-fishing anglers are being supervised by a guide and therefore may be more likely to handle fish properly than a self-guided or novice angler. Conservation of the steelhead species is a top priority of most heli-fishing outfitters.

For the reasons stated above, Maritime Helicopters, Inc. opposes Sport Fisheries Proposal 29.

Very Respectfully,

Molly Wilmer

Molly Wilmer
Contracts Administrator
Maritime Helicopters, Inc.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

www.maritimehelicopters.com



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I'm part of the commercial and sport fisheries in the Clam Gulch/Ninilchik area. I strongly oppose Proposal 43. Lower Cook Inlet hatcheries produce tens of thousands of salmon for the general public to utilize for sport, food, commerce, employment, lifestyle etc. This is a benefit to all and there are no reliable scientific negatives to this hatchery salmon production.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a



demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
David Martin



Clam Gulch/Ninilchik, Alaska



Submitted by: Jake Martinson

Community of Residence: Olympia, Washington

Comment:

I support Proposal 257. I strongly oppose Proposals 258 and 259. I believe these proposals should not be happening away from the areas they are intended for and should be heard in cycle at the Board of Fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska in 2025.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I'm from Cordova, Alaska, and I commercial, subsistence, and sport fish. I strongly oppose Proposal 43. Hatcheries are important to me because they are part of my livelihood and many other Alaskans' livelihoods. Not only do hatcheries just employ Alaskans, but they employ people from all over the world. They help feed people all over the world healthy salmon, as opposed to farmed salmon which is becoming bigger and bigger all the time.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a



demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Brandon Maxwell



[REDACTED]

Cordova, Alaska



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I participate in commercial and subsistence fishing, as well as seafood retail, in Cordova, Alaska. I strongly oppose Proposal 43.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

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Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.



Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Sincerely,
Matthew Maxwell

[REDACTED]

Cordova, Alaska



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I commercially fish in Homer, Alaska, and I stand strongly against Proposal 43. I'm a 50 year Homer resident, in China Poot Bay. Remember in the years when this Harbor was full of seiners, and Homer was thriving with fishing. We all understand global warming and the changes. We also understand that we would like our young people to have an opportunity to Fish as we did. Everyone knows about the grain of the fleet and how expensive it is to get in. Lower Cook Inlet wanna be the cheapest and easiest for our young people. Help them!

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.

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Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a



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Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,

Barb McBride

[Redacted Signature]

Homer, Alaska



PC146

Submitted by: Char McClelland

Community of Residence: Anchorage

Comment:

I support Proposal 257 and any proposed changes to SE Alaska fishing limits and they should be decided on and discussed in the location where they pertain to. We strongly oppose Proposals 258 and 259.

This will probably put many small businesses out of business and at the very least decrease their business over multiple future years.

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC147

Submitted by: Patrick McCormick

Community of Residence: Eagle River

Comment:

I strongly support proposal 29.

I am the author of the proposal, and area E drift gillnet fisherman, a sport fishing guide and avid fly fisherman. I have been fishing lower peninsula streams for over 20 years. Helicopter use is inappropriate on the lower Kenai Peninsula and is vastly diminishing an already crowded, greatly diminished fishery.

I have hear numerous stories of people being hovered over, landed on, and forced off of their spots by outfitters with a helicopter. I personally cannot bear to fish deep creek any more because of the continual low flying helicopters.

The lower peninsula steelhead runs are a world class resource and deserve world class management.

Using a helicopter to fish for steelhead is the equivalent to using a helicopter to hunt sheep. The board of game would never support the use of helicopters to transport sheep hunting, even if it was biologically sustainable. I strongly encourage the board of fisheries to think along similar lines.

Thank you,

Patrick McCormick

Proposal 7: Support

Proposal 8: Support

Proposal 27: Support

Proposal 29: Support

Proposal 31: Support

Proposal 32: Oppose

Proposal 37: Support With Amendments

Proposal 43: Support With Amendments



PC148

Submitted by: Colin McCrossin

Community of Residence: Corpus Christi, TX

Comment:

I am a charter guide in Southeast Alaska writing to express my opposition to proposal 259. This meeting in 2023 is not the appropriate time and place to review the charter king salmon retention policy agreed upon by all parties in 2022. It was agreed to review the policy after three years at a meeting where all stakeholders would again be present. Objectives of the current policy duly agreed upon are uninterrupted sport fishing and the use of an average harvest limit of 20 percent over time which implies not annually. Proposal 259 seeks to negate these points at a place in which all stakeholders are not present.

Proposal 259 calls for inseason management which creates undue instability for the charter business without a corresponding benefit for the goal of resource management.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC149

Submitted by: Jerry McCune

Community of Residence: Cordova Alaska

Comment:

I oppose proposal 43 first there is no proof as suggested in the proposal to wild stocks .Commercial fishermen depends on hatchery stocks for their income , boat payments, family income. Allot fish is also provided by hatcheries for personal use and Sportfish.Also the hatchery have payments and budgets, and employ a lot of Alaskan employees. There a lot of miss information about ocean conditions and folks from outside telling us all kinds of things without stepping a foot inside Alaska or a Alaska Hatchery. I have fished for 65 years ,salmon runs have changed so some much over time. Sometimes there are huge wild runs and small Hatchery runs and it happens both ways .

Proposal 43: Oppose



PC150

Submitted by: Samuel McGree

Community of Residence: Duluth, Minnesota

Comment:

I support Proposal 257 and strongly oppose Proposals 258 and 259. I believe these proposals are not realistic for king salmon management and unfair for Sport fisherman of Southeast Alaska and this should be heard at the Board of Fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska in 2025.



November 10, 2023

John Wood
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries



Re: Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan, and out of cycle Proposal 259

Chairman Wood and members of the Board,

My name is Scott McKelvey and I am a board member with SEAGO (Southeast Alaska Guide Organization), that represents the sportfishing anglers of Southeast Alaska, as well as General Manager for Waterfall Resort, but am submitting this on behalf of myself. I have been involved the fishery outside of Prince of Wales Island for the last 32 years, with many years as a resident before having to move away during the winter months for personal family reasons. I still continue to be in Alaska May through September, This all said, I found myself privileged to be able to attend the 2022 Board of Fisheries meetings that were held in Anchorage. There was a lot of outcrying that was expressed when the Southeast Finfish meeting was moved from Ketchikan to Anchorage due to Covid concerns around Ketchikan. By moving this meeting to Anchorage, many felt it took away from the opportunity for them to attend and be personally involved. I know there was some opportunities for some people to call in via ZOOM, but it is not the same as being there in person. This was expressed by both the commercial user groups as well as the sportfishing communities. Now it appears with Proposals 257, 258, and 259, there is a possibility that this may happen again. To further complicate things, these proposals are also being considered "out of cycle" for the Southeast Alaska area. I believe the Southeast Meetings are being proposed for the end of January 2025. This is where these proposals belong, where they get the opportunity to be heard and spoken in regards to by those areas affected.

During the meetings in 2022, I was also fortunate enough to be involved in the side meetings between ATA (Alaska Trollers Association), Territorial Sportsmen (Representing the resident angling community), and SEAGO. There were also a number of representatives from ADFG sitting in on these closed door meetings, along with a few members of the Board that came in and out to check on progress on what would be known as RC178. It was agreed upon by all parties involved, and confirmed by signatures, that there would be a trial period of "rolling average" allocation between the troll industry and sport, with **NO** in-season management for the sportfishing community, with protections allowed for the resident angling community. **ALL** were in agreeance. This was also confirmed as the direction of things with the spoken testimony in front of the whole Board and all those in attendance, between past Board Member McKenzie Mitchell, ADFG Representative Patrick Fowler, and ADFG Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang, with all these items specifically mentioned and asked if anyone in attendance was opposed. Nobody spoke up as opposed. So now to hear that one user group



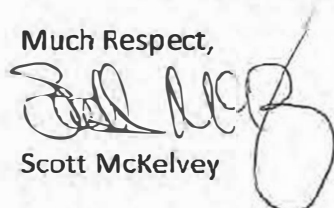
said this is not what they agreed to seems way off base and completely untrue, as there is definitive audio proof (plus wherever the signed document ended after submitted to the Board) to the contrary.

For these above reasons, I highly oppose Proposal 259 and recommend that RC178 be allowed to sunset as originally designed to happen at the 2025 Board of Fisheries meetings, where at that time proper analysis to see if this program worked as designed to keep a rolling 80/20 allocation average, as well as and as equally important be addressed in the areas affected in Southeast Alaska.

Lastly, in regards to Proposals 257 and 258, I would support Proposal 257 out of cycle ONLY because it was entered by ADFG for cleaning up wording in the regulation while not changing the actual regulation's meaning. Proposal 258 would be a mute point once the Department is allowed to clean up the wording mentioned in Proposal 257.

Thank you all for your time and consideration.

Much Respect,



Scott McKelvey

SEAGO Board Member

General Manager Waterfall Resort



Nov. 13, 2023

My name is Chuck McNamee. I began in the Sitka guided fishery in 1993 as a deckhand. Over the past 30 years I went from deckhand to captain to partner to sole owner in Angling Unlimited, a Sitka based full-service lodge and charter business. As my involvement has increased over the years, it has become clear of the importance of being involved in the BOF process to assist board members with difficult decisions and work together with other shareholders to come up with compromises when we can. I attended the 2022 Board of Fisheries meeting in Anchorage and was closely involved with the negotiations that resulted in the current King Salmon Management Plan. Nearly all board members involved are on the record thanking shareholders for putting in the extra time and effort to work out a compromise and plan that works for all, over time.

Despite the claims made in Proposal 259, there was no misunderstanding regarding changes in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan at the 2022 meeting. Those present worked hard to come up with a mutually beneficial agreement which was clearly understood by all parties at the time of signing. This is made clear by the board conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G. There was no misunderstanding at the time of the agreement and Proposal 259 reflects a lack of commitment by the troll fleet to the three-year process which I believe will work for all parties.

Taking up proposals out of cycle and far away from the area impacted sets an unacceptable precedent that circumvents the public process, limits stakeholder access to the board decision process, and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions. I feel it's important that any changes in the KSMP be taken up in-cycle in 2025 during the Southeast fin fish meeting.

In summary, I oppose proposal 259 and ask the board to address any changes to the King Salmon Management Plan during the 2025 Southeast meeting.

Sincerely,

Chuck McNamee



Dennis Meier
Tanaku Lodge



Board of Fish

We are opposed to Proposal 259 (formerly ACR 13) because it is disrupting the long-standing King Salmon management model. This will result in instability for the guided sportfishing fleet, mid-season emergency closures, and ultimately a fishery that is unpredictable for my business and for my clients. It is challenging enough to clients to our area with the lack of airlines flying into Juneau and limited flights that Alaska Airlines offers. We will lose significant amounts of clients if this is implemented.

Southeast fishing regulations are up for discussion every three years: but the Board of Fish moved forward an Agenda Change Request (ACR) during your October work session that alleges the current king salmon management plan doesn't reflect the intent of a stakeholder agreement signed by Southeast Alaska Guides Organization, Alaska Trollers Association, and Territorial Sportsman.

Proposal 259 says that there was no agreement to manage the sport fishery to hit an average target of 20% of the troll/sport allocation over time, but always intended the fishery would be managed to hit the target annually. This is despite the explicit clarification by the Board during the meeting that it would be manage on average. This yearly model could result in emergency closures, unstable fishing regulations, and a lack of confidence in the fishery by our clients.

There needs to be no confusion that taking up proposals out of cycle and out of the area being impacted is unacceptable as this circumvents the public process, limits stakeholders' access to the board decision process, and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions. We are requesting that this proposal be taken up in cycle during the 2025 Southeast meeting. Those of us affected need the opportunity to attend the meeting in a location closer to home and be heard by the board.

Despite the claims that Proposal 259 makes, the changes in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan were not a misunderstanding. It was clearly understood by all parties at the time of signing. This was explicitly clarified by the board as seen in the conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G.

Thank you,
Dennis Meier



Submitted by: Nick Mendoza

Community of Residence: Waterfall

Comment:

As a former commercial fisherman and licensed captain and guide in SE Alaska I support pop 257 and strongly oppose props 248 and 259, this is something that needs to be addressed at the board of fish meeting in SE Alaska in 2025 as originally proposed and not over 700 miles away from the subjected area. The biggest detriment to the biomass of pacific king salmon is factory trawling and the political bureaucracy and corruption behind it that allows it to continue to destroy multiple biomasses of fish and their habitats not to mention the take of 10 orcas so far this year. How many millions of dollars are lining the pockets of these corrupt individuals deciding who gets to fish for what and when. We all know that this is going to go whatever way YOU and your corrupt cronies want and that our voices don't mean anything to those reading these emails. I invite you all to open your minds, take off your blinders and look at the facts surrounding all of this. The treaty agreement proposed an assessment in 2025, while we all know you guys want to end the take of all wild king salmon for both trollers and sport fishermen alike but on the back end the NPFMC is allocating MORE bycatch for the Seattle based trawl fleet. Anyone who lets this happen is a threat to all wildlife, has no moral conscious, nor do they care about the future and generations to come. Local Fishing communities has always had sustainable ways of harvesting their biomasses, it wasn't until government started backing larger operations and putting dams in the fishes migratory paths that their numbers started to decline significantly. The biggest threat to these fish are government agencies operating under the disguise of caring about their future when they turn around and give their cronies in the Seattle based trawl fleet metric tonnage and bycatch by the tens of thousands. I have been asked to curb my opinion and words for this email, I highly suggest you read between the lines to know just where this true American That cares about the fisheries stands, I am only one man but there are thousands just like me who are sick and tired of the lies and mismanagement of our fisheries, breaking the treaty to have in season closures would just be one more example of that. for the record, the Seattle based trawl fleet had over 20,000 reported bycatch king salmon this year before a single charter operation in SE even dropped a line. These numbers are very easy to find, if I found them, you can too!. Also, get rid of the Seattle based trawl fleet and all the dams in these fishes path and watch them thrive once again, our hooks aren't even putting a dent in the biomass compared to the mismanagement of the trawl fleet and especially pinnipeds. Your mismanagement and feel good proposals like prop 132 in CA have led to this, fishermen back in the 90s warned of this, they were not listened to then and I am afraid we will not be heard once again. Yes to 257, no to 258 and 259

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC155

Submitted by: William Metivier

Community of Residence: Plymouth, Massachusetts

Comment:

I support Proposal 257. I strongly oppose Proposals 258 and 259. I believe these proposals should not be happening away from the areas they are intended for and should be heard at the Board of Fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska in 2025.

Thank you



PC156

Submitted by: John Meyer

Community of Residence: Salem, Oregon

Comment:

I support proposal 7: 1. In order to reestablish a timeframe for sports anglers to use non-snagging methods to harvest stocked kings returning to Seldovia slough and lagoon. 2. This would also support ADFG efforts to supplement Sportfishing opportunities with their hatchery king program which requires much time energy, manpower & money to help provide Sportfishing for kings while trying to protect returning wild kings. 3. Because kings are returning later and later (bright kings this year until early July) I would recommend a starting date for snagging of July 1st or at the earliest June 24 as it has been in the past. 4. Snagging methods such as big wtd treble hooks quickly harvest all the fresh returning kings & put other kings off the bite. This significantly reduces opportunities for sports fishermen to catch biting kings by methods designed to get them to bite.

I am against proposal 8

1. Many years June 15 is the middle of the king run. There are significant numbers of bright kings returning to slough & lagoon well beyond the 15th. This year bright fish were reported being caught into early July. I would recommend a starting date for snagging of July 1st which would give more sports anglers chance to catch biting kings by bite methods that haven't been snagged. Or at the earliest June 24 as it has been in the past. 3. This would also support ADFG efforts to provide hatchery fish for Sportfishing opportunities.

Proposal 7: Support
Proposal 16: Support

Proposal 8: Oppose
Proposal 17: Support

Proposal 14: Support
Proposal 29: Support

Proposal 15: Support



Submitted by: Scott Meyer

Community of Residence: Homer, AK

Comment:

Proposals 18, 19, 20, 21, 22.

I support the intent of these proposals to reduce rockfish harvest in the Cook Inlet--Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Rockfish fisheries in Southcentral Alaska are operating without an overarching harvest strategy based on estimates of stock biomass or harvestable surplus. Meanwhile, sport harvest is increasing, likely in response to declines in the halibut stock and restrictions on the charter halibut fishery. ADF&G is engaged in a multi-year process to develop a black rockfish stock assessment and a harvest policy that is based on biological information from the stocks, but the work is far from complete. The department's goal of stabilizing the harvest is prudent given that harvest is increasing, older rockfish make up a declining fraction of the spawning biomass, and a management strategy is still being formulated.

Of these proposals, I support Proposal 18 because:

- (1) Only Proposal 18 creates regulatory consistency between Cook Inlet and the North Gulf area (between Gore Point and Cape Fairfield). This is appropriate given that stocks of pelagic and nonpelagic species in the northern Gulf of Alaska are not yet defined.
- (2) Proposal 18 simplifies regulatory language by getting rid of the phrase "no more than (some) of which may be nonpelagic rockfish," and by setting daily bag limits equal to possession limits. The only reason for a higher possession limit is to allow greater retention on multi-day trips, but ADF&G information indicates that the vast majority of trips are single-day trips.
- (3) Proposal 22 would create a closed area for sport rockfish harvest during June and July, but personal use harvest would be allowed in portions of this area that are outside the boundaries of the nonsubsistence area described in 5 AAC 99.015(a)(3). In addition, commercial harvest would be allowed in this area for pelagic rockfish starting July 1 (5 AAC 28.310[d]). This area-specific closure would be unnecessarily complex and inappropriate given that seasonal fish movements and stock structure are not well understood.

Proposal 18: Support

Proposal 19: Oppose

Proposal 20: Oppose

Proposal 21: Oppose

Proposal 22: Oppose

Proposal 23: Support

Proposal 24: Oppose

Proposal 23

I support this proposal for the reasons listed. Restrictions on halibut and king salmon harvest have likely resulted in increased pressure on charter operators to provide clients with harvest of lingcod and rockfish. Additional restrictions are proposed for king salmon and rockfish, further increasing pressure to target lingcod. In addition, lingcod fisheries are operating without an overarching harvest policy that considers estimates of sustainable harvest based on biology of the stock or assessment of stock biomass. Therefore, similar to the rationale for lowering the rockfish bag limit (Proposal 18), lingcod harvest should be stabilized at a conservative level until the department has developed a comprehensive harvest policy and management strategy that involves all fisheries.

State of Alaska Board of Fisheries

Lower Cook Inlet Finfish, November 28 – December 1, 2023

Homer, Alaska

Hello Chairman Wood and Members of the Board of Fisheries,

My name is Malcolm Milne, I've been an Alaskan resident since 1995 and live near Homer. I own and operate the F/V Captain Cook, am an Area H Purse Seine Permit Holder and have participated in the Lower Cook Inlet seine fishery since 2010. I am currently a board member of Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and an Alternate member of the Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Thank you for considering my comments regarding the Commercial (salmon) proposals for the 2023 Lower Cook Inlet Finfish meeting.

Proposal 34 OPPOSED I concur with RC2 ADF&G Staff Comments

Proposal 35 OPPOSED I concur with RC2 ADF&G Staff Comments

Proposal 36 OPPOSED I concur with RC2 ADF&G Staff Comments

Proposal 37 SUPPORT The Homer AC submitted this proposal to allow additional gear types access to the cost recovery efforts of Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association. I support authorizing additional gear types for cost recovery in Lower Cook Inlet.

Proposal 38 SUPPORT The Homer AC submitted this proposal to allow additional gear types access to the cost recovery efforts of Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association. I support authorizing additional gear types for cost recovery in Lower Cook Inlet.

Proposal 39 SUPPORT with Amendments I generally concur with RC2 ADF&G Staff Comments with amendments based on Proposal 40 to be submitted in an RC.

Proposal 40 SUPPORT with Amendments I agree with parts of proposal 40 with amendments based on Proposal 39 to be submitted in an RC.

Proposal 41 SUPPORT with Amendments with language from proposal 39. I support the concept and rationale of this proposal but prefer the closed waters as suggested in Proposal 39

Proposal 42 OPPOSED I support the status quo. The proposal does not mention that at the December 2013 Lower Cook Inlet Meeting in Anchorage, Proposal 84 was adopted with amendments¹ and addressed the sunset clause that was previously adopted. Proposal 84 as carried went into regulation in 2014 as stated in RC2 ADF&G Staff Comments.

Proposal 43 OPPOSED I concur with RC2 ADF&G Staff Comments and support the status quo of allowing ADF&G professional biologists to determine appropriate hatchery levels. Additionally,

¹ <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo&date=12-08-2013&meeting=lci>



there seems to be a discrepancy in Proposal 43. The proposal states “Reduce hatchery , **production to 25%** of the year 2000 production as promised in 2000.” and the description “The hatchery management met with the Governor and proffered that if the Board would not take up the proposal they would reduce their **production by 25%.**”² These are obviously very different numbers. Either way, I still support the status quo.

Sincerely,

Malcolm Milne

Homer, Alaska

² <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2023-2024/proposals/43.pdf>



Misty Fjords Air & Outfitting, Inc.

www.mistyfjordsair.com



PC159

November 13, 2023

John Wood
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries



Re: Opposition to Proposal 259, Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

Despite the claims that Proposal 259 makes, the changes in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan were not a misunderstanding. It was clearly understood by all parties at the time of signing. This was clarified by the board as seen in the conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G. This is not a misunderstanding of the agreement, just a lack of commitment by the troll fleet to the three-year process.

There needs to be no confusion that taking up proposals out of cycle and out of the area being impacted is unacceptable as this circumvents the public process, limits stakeholders' access to the board decision process, and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions. We are requesting that this proposal be taken up in cycle in 2025 during the Southeast meeting.

In closing, I oppose proposal 259. I ask the board to address any changes to the King Salmon Management Plan during the 2025 Southeast meeting.

Sincerely,

David Doyon Jr.
Vice President
Misty Fjords Air and Outfitting, Inc.



John Wood
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries



Re: Opposition to Proposals 259, Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

My name is Chris Montanus and I'm a Regional Sales manager at Waterfall Resort and Steamboat Bay Fishing Club. I also handle floatplane logistics for both resorts. I'm a 23-year resident of Ketchikan, Alaska and have been involved in the aviation and sportfishing lodge industries the entire time.

I'm writing to express my opposition to proposition 259 based on the arguments below:

- *Despite the claims that Proposal 259 makes, the changes in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan were not a misunderstanding. It was clearly understood by all parties at the time of signing. This was clarified by the board as seen in the conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G. This is not a misunderstanding of the agreement, just a lack of commitment by the troll fleet to the three-year process.*
- *There needs to be no confusion that taking up proposals out of cycle and out of the area being impacted is unacceptable as this circumvents the public process, limits stakeholders' access to the board decision process, and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions. We are requesting that this proposal be taken up in cycle in 2025 during the Southeast meeting.*

In closing, I **oppose proposal 259**. I ask the board to address any changes to the King Salmon Management Plan during the 2025 Southeast meeting.

Sincerely,

Chris Montanus



Submitted by: Stephen Montanus

Community of Residence: Ketchikan, Alaska

Comment:

I oppose proposal 259. I ask the board to address any changes to the King Salmon Management Plan during the 2025 Southeast meeting.

Despite the claims that Proposal 259 makes, the changes in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan were not a misunderstanding. It was clearly understood by all parties at the time of signing. This was clarified by the board as seen in the conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G. This is not a misunderstanding of the agreement just a lack of commitment by the troll fleet to the three-year process.

There needs to be no confusion that taking up proposals out of cycle and out of the area being impacted is unacceptable as this circumvents the public process, limits stakeholders access to the board decision process, and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions. I am requesting that this proposal be taken up in cycle in 2025 during the Southeast meeting.



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I am part of the commercial fisheries in Homer, Alaska, and I firmly oppose Proposal 43. These hatcheries are critical to the continued success of our commercial fleet and integral to the overall community.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.



Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Evenn Moore

[REDACTED]

Homer, Alaska



November 12, 2023

Board of Fisheries
State of Alaska
c/o Board Support



Submitted by James Moore



Comments on proposal 257

Although I support the portion of proposal 257 that amends the language to align with changes made by the salmon treaty to the calculation of the all gear harvest limit, *I do not support* the language in 5 AAC 47.055 b(2) allowing sport harvest to continue without a ceiling. This issue is addressed by Proposal 259.

I can support proposal 257 with the following change: Add "sport fishery" to 5 AAC 47.055 b(2) to read

(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the **sport fishery** harvest ceiling.

I greatly appreciate the board taking up this important issue out of cycle, although I urge you to keep any further modifications to the King Salmon Management Plan to an absolute minimum. Naturally these should be addressed in SEAK.

I urge the board to consider all 3 King salmon proposals (proposal 257, 258, 259) as a whole, since they interrelated. It is necessary to make tier adjustments in Proposal 258 to fully align with the Pacific Salmon Treaty, not just 257.

Please see Proposal 259 and my comments on it for further discussion and context.

Comments on Proposal 258

I support proposal 258 and do not suggest any language changes.

Proposal 258 updates the King Salmon Management Plan to reflect the change from 7 to 17 tier system under the new All Gear Harvest limit under the Pacific Salmon Treaty. This is a necessary step to fully comply with the Changes made to the Pacific Salmon Treaty.



Comments on Proposal 259

Thank you for taking up ACR 13 and considering proposal 259 at the Lower Cook Inlet meeting. I support this proposal.

This proposal changes 5 AAC 47.055 (b) (2) back to the language the Board of Fish adopted in RC 178 at the March 2022 Board Of Fish Meeting. This language is found in 5 AAC 47.055 b(2).

(2) allows uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the **sport fishery** harvest ceiling.

I was "in the room" when RC 178 was negotiated and signed at the March 2022 Board of Fisheries Meeting. Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) and Territorial sportsmen are all on record saying they would not have signed RC 178 without this language in it. Every gear group and sector need limits on their effort. Trollers are mostly all Alaska residents (30% are indigenous residents). Unrestricted non-resident Chinook harvest could severely impact Alaskans living in mostly rural Southeast Alaska.

There is room for compromise, and we found it with RC178. We are trying it for 3 years. King Salmon is a finite resource that many groups depend on. It's important to conserve this precious resource and presently, non-resident sport is the only one not participating in that conservation.

I have been a power troller in SE Alaska for 53 years and I have seen lots of changes. Our troll fleet has been rationalized through Limited Entry. Our original unrestricted harvest has been drastically reduced through the International Pacific Salmon Treaty. Our time on the ocean for a directed King Salmon fishery has been reduced from an average 150 days to about a week or two. We have given up forever (albeit sometimes kicking and screaming), our best fishing times and areas to conserve our iconic King Salmon, yet there are still no limits to the unregulated allocative growth of the guided sports fishery except the availability of fish for them to harvest. *This growing industry has flourished in the vacuum created by our fleet's conservation efforts.* RC178 represented our willingness to accommodate the booking concerns of the charter sector during the early season by stabilizing the out of state bag limits for Kings until the other salmon species, especially Coho become available while maintaining the 80%/20% allocation. That was the agreement.

Much could be said about the terrible effects of the unexpected loss of this year's second King opening. The anticipated 4-day opening was suddenly reduced to one. A one day opening causes frustration and stress. A fisherman is forced to make an uninformed decision about where to fish. It's more like a high stakes game of "Battleship" than a profession. If, by chance, he misses the fish, there is no second chance- no time to locate the fish. Changing gear and area to target Kings could cost him income- or make his season. The former was my unfortunate lot last August despite 53 years' experience.

The Department made a drastic change to the agreement found in RC 178. Please, correct this by restoring the original language as suggested in Proposal 259.



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I am tied to commercial fisheries in Sitka, Alaska, and I oppose Proposal 43. I am a strong proponent of Alaska's Unique PNP and Regional Hatchery program, having participated in the formation of Alaska's first PNP back in the '70s' (CBAA), later to become NSRAA. I have seen and enjoyed the benefits of this successful, well managed program for nearly half a century. I serve on Boards of Directors for Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, Armstrong Keta Inc. (PNP), sometimes on Joint Regional Planning Team, as well as my industry group, Alaska Trollers Association. I have seen firsthand the care that is taken to assure protection of wild runs in the permitting of our projects, establishing production levels, locations etc. If anything the process tends toward over precautionary. But this is to be expected since ADF&G staff is tasked with protecting Alaska's wild salmon as first priority.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a



careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
James Moore

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of James Moore.

Sitka, Alaska



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I am tied to sport fishing in Alaska. I am firmly opposed to Proposal 43.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.

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Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Kenneth Morgan



PC165

Submitted by: Frank Murkowski

Community of Residence: Wrangell, Alaska

Comment:

I'm asking you to say no to Proposal 259, prior to the comment closure on Nov 13th. Proposal 259 sounds like a fire, as opposed to a fire drill, which is more often reactionary rather than well thought out.

Thank you,

Governor Frank Murkowski



Comments to Board of Fish for Lower Cook Inlet meeting

Concerning: Proposals 257 ,258, 259

First off, I want to thank the Board for your decision to bring to the table these Proposals.

INTRO: I'm John Murray, a resident of Sitka since 1978. I've also been a troller for that time period. I have been involved in working to keep trolling a viable means of livelihood and a strong economic driver in SE Alaska through the Board process, Sitka AC and serving on the Alaska Trollers Association board and as a troller.

GENERAL COMMENTS: I am trying to be cognizant of the Board's heavy workload with the two Cook Inlet meetings coming up. firstly. That is one reason I am not totally on board asking the Board of Fish to take up the weighty issues involved with the SE KSMP. There is also the public process question, so I will temper my comments with that in mind. But I'm still going to ask for something to be done.

I'm a great believer in fairness . When I look at this from that vantage point I see two things. I don't think trollers were treated fairly AFTER the Boards decision on RC 178. I wouldn't feel good about any gear group facing similar actions. I have been involved in many Board of Fish meetings and something like this has never come up before. It's perplexing to say the least. To be perfectly clear I find no fault with the Board process on this.

I also don't understand the Boards process for ACR's into Proposals very well. I did not see any guidelines on the BOF or Board Support websites for this process.. In all my time on the Sitka AC and before that time I have seen them taken up rarely or at all. So I'm kind of winging it .



I'd respectfully ask the Board to work on guidelines for ACR's into Proposals if that has not already been done.

"Much ado about nothing" One could take that POV, because there is only one more season (2024) until the SE KSMP sunsets 3 / 2025 after the BOF meeting 2025. The SE KSMP "core objectives" have been in place since the Board cycle 2003-2005 they seem to have worked right? There was a "compromise" struck with RC178 between the three parties right?

Because I feel no real "compromise" was struck with the changes made to RC178 after the fact. The troll reps and trollers present "INTENT" at the 2022 BOF meeting were for changes to the SE KSMP not a status quo. This was true with much of the written comments from a number of AC's and public written comments from the trollers perspective. The three main points trollers were after didn't come to fruition. Those being: 1) do away from "averaging" or using the trollers king allocation as a bank or buffer, 2) use of in-season management to control the Non Resident anglers and charters catch rate while protecting Resident anglers, 3) use of the objective (2) as written in RC178 "while not exceeding the sport fishery harvest limits".

Proposal 257 OPPOSED to as written.

This Proposal is basically STATUS QUO as far as the troll fleet goes. It is about what we came into the 2022 BOF meeting with. It doesn't really move the ONE IOTA for trollers I feel.

On the Positive side: SE KSMP- The objectives (3) very important for the Resident angler 4)



formalize what is already happening. It seeks to align language in SE KSMP with the PST. It does tidy up language also.

On the Negative side: because none of the three main points mentioned above would be incorporated in this Proposal, I feel it will have a detrimental effect on our fleet. For example in the 2023 season the sport catch (Charter fleet) exceeded their 20% allocation by 17,000 kings. This meant we had a one day second king opener instead of a 4 to 5 day opener. With a season like 2023 with all the market turmoil, King salmon prices for trollers were one of the highest priced species per pound caught in Alaska this year with the exception of king crab and spot shrimp. While in-season management could take place, it likely wouldn't be used much. Because it relies on 5AAC 47.055 SE KSMP - The objectives of the management plan under this section are to. (1) "attain an average" and (2) "while not exceeding the harvest ceiling."

The Proposal hangs its hat mainly on The objective.... (1) "to attain an average harvest of 20%"..., Trollers take all the risk in any medium to low Sport Management Tiers (f-h). I see many more of these Tiers in SE Alaska's future king salmon abundance. Please keep the Pacific Salmon Treaty in mind here. In 2008 - 15% 2018 -7.5% all gear chinook catch reductions of 22.5%. The pie is smaller and the way things look to many of us Alaska will continue to take yearly incremental hits during annual PST talks (see 2023) for example. Somehow Alaska was given a low all gear king number but the abundance was much higher. Go figure.

Lastly there is one important concept to realize from my POV. I have NO PROBLEM with the Resident anglers harvest of king salmon. The problem lies in THE TAIL (THE CHARTER INDUSTRY) IS WAGGING THE DOG(SE KSMP), Trollers are going along for a ride at the whims of the Charter Industry.



I can support the Sitka AC's amended language on Proposal 257 . It is a heavy lift but a lift forward from my POV.

Proposal 258 Support with amended language from the Sitka AC.

In the Proposal I see bridge language connecting the amended language with Tad Fujioka's Proposal. The amended language further defines Tad's original Proposal. I like the way this Proposal as amended integrates parts of the other two Proposals into one.

Proposal 259 Support.

I support putting " sport fishing harvest ceiling " back into 5AAC 47.055 SE AK KSMP(b) The objectives (2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt water for king salmon , while not exceeding the sport fishery harvest ceiling.

The problem I see with Proposal 259 is it didn't address language in the 5AAC 47.055 KSMP (b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to (1) manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest of 20%..... Because (1) was left unchanged I see a contradiction between (b) The objectives (1) and (2) adding" sport fishery harvest ceiling " back into objectives. Which one will the KSMP use ? Would adding" sport fishery" harvest ceiling be considered a hard cap and override (1) " attain an average"? I definitely could be missing something here. Please excuse me if I am interpreting this wrongly.

To be perfectly honest the revised RC178 " after the fact" could have just as well adjusted the language in KSMP - The objectives (1) to attain an average of 20 %. (2) but pulling " [sport fishery]" was used instead. Averaging was well discussed during the meeting that led to RC 178.



I cannot remember " sport fishery harvest limit " being addressed or even talked about at all during the meeting of the three parties.

Therefore I support the Sitka AC's amended language for Proposal 259. Or the Board adjusting language in The objective (1). To clear up any contrication or ambiguity.

Trollers in no uncertain terms asked for removal of " averaging" language from 5AAC 47.055 SE KSMP (b) The objectives (1)). We asked for its removal as it makes the troll king salmon allocation the " buffer or bank" for the sport fishery. (Charters). We are neither . We really wanted to get away from that concept and we also asked for in-season management strongly before and during the BOF meeting and in talks with the three parties ATA ,SEAGO and TSI.

I cannot think of another sport fishery anywhere on the West Coast or Alaska that uses another gear group's allocation as a "BUFFER OR BANK" for its overharvest / under harvest.

Also while in -season management isn't addressed in Proposal 259 directly .It would have to take place if it passes. The KSMP runs contrary to many sport fisheries on the West Coast and Alaska I believe. In that no in-season or very minimal in-season would take place in the management of sport king salmon harvest.

Because the Charter industry is growing and there are no limits on its growth, ie. limited entry.. Some sort of rational management needs to happen . We should not rely on the path of convenience and passive fishery management we have relied on in the past. A final note for those on the Board who aren't aware . The Charter industries catch percentage of the total sport harvest is close to two thirds of the sport allocation. They are very good at what they do, they have very high efficiency ,excellent boats and equipment. Fish on!



Sincerely John Murray





Submitted by: Todd Nacapuy

Community of Residence: Honolulu, Hawaii

Comment:

I am in support of proposal 256 to allow for baited non-roe hooks to be used to target Silvers and Sockeye salmon in the Togiak river. I've fished the Togiak for over a decade and I can assure you that the owners of the Togiak River Lodge, Jordan and Zack are committed to preserving the native King run and all species of salmon in the river.

They have instituted safe practices from catching all species of salmon and are constantly educating guest about the ecosystem of the area. Please accept my testimony in support of proposal 256.

Proposal 256: Support



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I am an area E fisherman in PWS/ Copper River. I reside in Seward, AK. I strongly oppose Proposal 43. Hatcheries help secure the future of salmon fishing for all fishermen and families that depend on salmon.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.



Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Jenny Nakao

[Redacted Signature]

Seward, Alaska



PC169

Submitted by: Riley Naylor

Community of Residence: Rapid City, SD

Comment:

I SUPPORT Proposal 257. I STRONGLY OPPOSE Proposals 258 and 259. Proposal

259 is in direct opposition to agreements made between ATA, SEAGO, Territorial Sportsman and ADFG during a January 2022 Board of Fisheries meeting. With all parties agreeing to keep current regulations through the end of the 2024 season. These proposals should be heard at the Board of Fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska in 2025.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC170

Submitted by: Darby Neil

Community of Residence: arroyo grande ,ca

Comment:

John Wood

Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries

1255 W. 8th Street



Re: Opposition to Proposals 259, Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

- Despite the claims that Proposal 259 makes, the changes in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan were not a misunderstanding. It was clearly understood by all parties at the time of signing. This was clarified by the board as seen in the conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G. This is not a misunderstanding of the agreement just a lack of commitment by the troll fleet to the three-year process.
- There needs to be no confusion that taking up proposals out of cycle and out of the area being impacted is unacceptable as this circumvents the public process, limits stakeholders access to the board decision process, and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions. We are requesting that this proposal be taken up in cycle in 2025 during the Southeast meeting.

People come from all over the USA to fish and catch king salmon in Alaska. It is deceitful for the state to commit to a season and then arbitrarily close the season after people have spent thousands of nonrefundable dollars, not to mention all the time that goes into planning and executing a trip. It is also a malicious way for the state to treat the business industry and the workers who are responsible for bringing hundreds of millions of dollars into the state.

In closing, I oppose proposal 259. I ask the board to address any changes to the King Salmon Management Plan during the 2025 Southeast meeting.

Sincerely,

Darby Neil

Fishing Guide

Steamboat Bay, Noyes Island, SE Alaska



PC171

Submitted by: Beaver Nelson

Community of Residence: Homer, Ak

Comment:

Proposal 34 OPPOSE

Weather conditions and survival of salmon in Kamishak Bay are so violently variable that even with a total closure of all fishing would not ensure escapement goals would be met every year. Kamishak is a feast or famine ecosystem dependent on favorable environmental conditions for good salmon production. Bear predation at McNeil falls has been documented to severely restrict escapement of chum salmon to the prime spawning area above the falls. Up to 80 bears at the falls takes over 50% of the escapement every year. There has been no commercial fishery on McNeil chums for years.

Proposal 35. OPPOSE

Fish and Game already manages for a wild fish priority in Kachemak Bay.

Proposal 36. OPPOSE

You cannot guarantee fish returns or fish price for hatchery or wild stocks.

Proposal 37. OPPOSE

Gillnets for cost recovery have proved impractical. Even in PWS seines are used rather than gillnets in Main Bay, a gillnet district. In Resurrection Bay chinook and coho sport fishing would be negatively impacted by use of gill nets. With seines these species can be released unharmed.

Proposal. 38. OPPOSE

See proposal # 37. Mixed gear types do not fish together in PWS cost recovery fisheries.

Proposal. 39. PARTIAL SUPPORT

Proposal 40 closures should replace the applicable portions of Proposal 39

Proposal. 40. SUPPORT

These proposed closures make more sense than closures proposed in 39, especially for the Kamishak Bay district.

Proposal 41. OPPOSE

This proposal would needlessly interfere with cost recovery and common property fisheries in Tutka Bay.

Proposal 42. OPPOSE

The fishery is presently managed to benefit common property (sport and commercial) and cost recovery fisheries.

Proposal. 43. OPPOSE

Wild Alaska salmon stocks have much bigger competition for food in the ocean with juvenile pollock and cod than with hatchery pink fry by orders of magnitude.



PC172

Submitted by: Jessie Nelson

Community of Residence: Homer, AK

Comment:

Proposals 34 & 35. OPPOSE

Submitted by Pioneer Alaskan Fisheries/Nancy Hillstrand

These proposals are words looking for a problem where none exists. If there is low escapement into McNeil River and other streams, look to the number of bears feeding on the salmon.

Proposal. 36. OPPOSE

Submitted by Pioneer Alaskan Fisheries, Nancy Hillstrand

PNPs in cooperation with Fish and Game cannot control environmental or market conditions to guarantee a certain return for cost recovery and common property. Every PNP does its best to produce salmon for all.

Concerning the hatchery loan program, the state originally seeded the fund some 40 years ago. This original amount has been repaid back to the state plus about 600-800 million dollars in interest to the general fund. A large portion of interest has been held and is available for current hatchery loans. So, no state money is being allocated annually.

Proposals. 37 & 38. OPPOSE

Submitted by Homer F &G AC

Mixed gear for cost recovery in PWS does not happen. It is all caught by seiners resulting in better quality .

Proposal. 41. OPPOSE

Submitted by Pioneer Alaskan Fisheries/Nancy Hillstrand

Fish and Game is tasked with determining suitable fishing grounds. There is no documented harm to the area by fishing vessels. There are many other boats that ply these waters.

Proposal. 42. OPPOSE

Submitted by Diane Dubuc

PNPs cannot control environmental and market conditions to guarantee a 50/50 split. Currently common property takes about 40% of the fish. By conducting more cost recovery in Resurrection Bay, the fishermen have more opportunity in Kachemak Bay. This proposal would greatly harm PNP's by affecting their financial abilities to operate.

Proposal 43. OPPOSE

Submitted by Fairbanks F&G AC

This proposal would devastate several coastal communities that rely on hatchery production of chums, pinks, coho and sockeye salmon. These fish are utilized by sport, subsistence, personal use and commercial people. They are provided by commercial fishermen at little cost to the public. Many, many people go to Seward to snag sockeye, go to China Poot to dipnet sockeye, go to Valdez for coho and pinks, etc. Thanks to recent studies the amount of pink salmon in the ocean is approximately .4% - yes, point 4 per cent. This is nearly insignificant and considering Russia releases 3 times as many as does Alaska. there is no biological basis for this proposal. It would do great damage to our state.



PC173

Submitted by: Thomas Nelson

Community of Residence: Homer, AK

Comment:

I would like to express my OPPOSITION to proposal 43, seeking to reduce hatchery production. This proposal has been submitted for years and has always been rejected. There is no proven empirical data to substantiate the claims, all salmon are a very small minority of the fish biomass in the North Pacific. Alaska hatchery pink salmon represent less than 1/2 a percent of the nektonic biomass. The assertions made are merely opinion, with very speculative, theoretical studies used as justification. The hatchery program is very important to coastal communities around Alaska providing subsistence, personal use, sport and commercial opportunities to harvest returning fish.

Proposal 33: Support

Proposal 34: Oppose

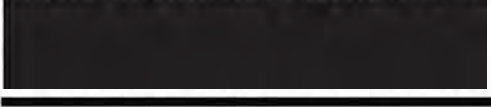
Proposal 35: Oppose

Proposal 36: Support

Proposal 37: Support

Proposal 38: Support

Proposal 41: Oppose

NORTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION, INC.


November, 13 2023

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
Alaska Board of Fisheries
RE: Opposition to Proposals 34, 35, 36, 41 & 43, Support for Proposal 259

Dear Chair John Wood and Board of Fisheries Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on salmon enhancement related proposals submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries for the 2023 Lower Cook Inlet Board of Fish meeting.

I am the General Manager of The Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association or better known as NSRAA. We are the regional aquaculture association for the northern portion of southeast Alaska and operate the areas salmon enhancement projects. My comments represent our 25 member board, and the fishermen they represent, made up of commercial salmon fishermen, with additional representation on our board by Sport, Subsistence, Processor, Municipal, Tribal Organizations, Conservation and interested persons from our region. Our board has broad representation from our region and at our Fall November 9th, 2023, meeting, our 25 member board passed a unanimous resolution, with no abstentions, **strongly opposing** proposals 34, 35, 36, 41 & 43. All these proposals are opposed by ADFG in their staff comments as well.

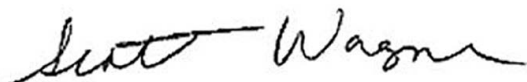
NSRAA **strongly** encourages the BOF to **oppose** proposals 34, 35, 36, 41 & 43. Proposals nearly identical to these proposals have been submitted multiple times over the years by the same proposers. Specifically proposal 43 has been submitted to the Board of Fish with virtually identical language a total of 7 times since 2003, in regions from Southeast to Prince William Sound, to Lower Cook Inlet. For 2 decades these proposals have not been acted upon by the Board of Fish and NSRAA encourages the board to continue to oppose proposal 43. These current proposals before you are the latest versions which take up tremendous time by ADFG and BOF staff, hatchery operators, processors, commercial salmon fishermen, and yourselves, the Alaska Board of Fisheries members.

Proposals 34, 35, 36, 41 & 43 are punitive in nature and do not attempt to address any allocation issue in the LCI Alaska area. The proposals, whether intentional or not, would have tremendous financial impacts for ADFG, hatchery operators and result in a reduction and likely elimination of most enhanced salmon production in the region.

NSRAA unanimously supports Proposal 259 which would reinsert the word "**Sport Fishery**" into the SE Alaska King Salmon Management Plan, as agreed to by stakeholders and the board, at the Anchorage-SE Alaska Region BOF meeting in 2022.

Once again thank you for the opportunity to comment and thank you for the work you do on behalf of the subsistence, sport, personal use, and commercial fisheries of the state.

Sincerely,

Scott Wagner
General Manager



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I port from Cordova, Alaska, and I participate in the commercial and subsistence fisheries. I stand strongly opposed to Proposal 43.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Sincerely,
Sam Nuzzi



Cordova, Alaska



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I commercial, sport, and subsistence fish from Cordova, Alaska. I stand strongly against Proposal 43. Alaska's Fisheries are valuable not only to communities like mine that exist because of them, but also to the identity of most Alaskans.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

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Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.



Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Tracey Nuzzi

[REDACTED]

Cordova, Alaska



United States Department of the Interior
Office of Subsistence Management



PC17

IN REPLY REFER TO:
OSM.23130

NOV 13 2023

John Wood, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Dear Chair Wood:

The Alaska Board of Fisheries will consider 43 proposals at its Lower Cook Inlet Finfish meeting from November 28 – December 3, 2023.

The Office of Subsistence Management (OSM), working with other Federal agencies, has reviewed these proposals and will not be providing specific written comments to this set of proposals. However, OSM believes that adopting proposals 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 34, 38, 42 and/or 256 may affect Federal subsistence fisheries and users. Most of these proposals involve fisheries that are outside of Federal jurisdiction but adoption of them may impact migratory resources returning to Federal public lands that rural Alaskans rely on for the opportunity to continue subsistence activities. Although we are not providing proposal specific written comments prior to the meeting, OSM may wish to comment during the meeting on items that impact federally qualified subsistence users.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on these important regulatory matters and look forward to continuing to work with the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Sincerely,

Sue Detwiler
Assistant Regional Director
November 13, 2023

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Interagency Staff Committee
Benjamin Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Art Nelson, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Mark Burch, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Administrative Record



PC178

Submitted by: Tom Ohaus

Community of Residence: Sitka, AK

Comment:

I am commenting in support of Proposal 257 and in opposition to Proposals 258 and 259.

The changes made in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan in 2022 did not result from a misunderstanding. The plan signed at that 2022 Board of Fish meeting in Anchorage was well understood by all parties and agreed to a s win-win for the troll fleet and the guided fleet. I've spoken to attendees of this meeting, looked at the public record, and heard comments from AC meetings that all support that the stakeholders present in 2022 understood and agreed to the King Salmon Management Plan we're currently operating under.

This fact is clarified by the board meeting conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G. What we see in Proposal 259 is a lack of commitment by the troll fleet to the three-year process which I firmly believe will work as designed if given the chance.

For Southeast Alaska stakeholders, taking up this proposal out of cycle and well out of our area short circuits our participation in the board process. It also limits the board's access to input from involved and impacted stakeholders, thus undermining its capacity to make a sound decision. This sets a very bad precedent and threatens to negatively impact faith in the board process.

I oppose proposal 259. I request we stick to tried and true board process. Take up this proposal in-cycle in 2025 during the Southeast meeting.

Sincerely,

Tom Ohaus

Angling Unlimited



Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC179

Submitted by: Richard Parrick

Community of Residence: Islamorada, FL

Comment:

I oppose initiative 259 and believe this issue should be discussed in S.E. Alaska only. Not Homer.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC180

Submitted by: Stephen Payton

Community of Residence: Seldovia

Comment:

I am writing in support of proposal 8 as written. And opposition to proposal 7.

I am speaking for myself but I am the secretary for the Seldovia Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Our local AC spent a lot of time reviewing this issue and putting together a sound proposal with lots of community input and support.

The department does not support this proposal due to the date but this date was selected with the communities support because of changes to this terminal king salmons run timing and release location. The kings return to Seldovia lagoon and stay instead of moving in and out with the tide. Staying in the brackish water of the lagoon causes them to turn sooner than they have historically. Moving the date up to the 15th allows sport fisherman plenty of time to fish with bait and lure but also gives the snaggers equal opportunity to harvest salmon before they turn.

Proposal 8 also includes details on specific areas to prohibit snagging.

I oppose proposal 7 because this was a proposal written by an individual and they wrote it to what suits them and not the community. I do not support including spear fishing in with snagging as spear fishers do harm and scare fish as snaggers do. A salmon can be hit with ten snaggers and keep swimming, meat ruined and spooks entire schools, where a spear fisherman does not spook schools of fish and have higher success rates of harvesting a fish that they target. They are less likely to have a fish escape if it hit.

I hope these comments are taken into consideration and the communities input is listened to.

Thank you.

Proposal 7: Oppose

Proposal 8: Support



PC181

Submitted by: Chris Perry

Community of Residence: Homer, Ak

Comment:

Hello Chairman Wood and members of the Board Of Fish, I want to thank you for giving me the oppurtunity to comment and for your reading and thoughtful consider of my comments on these proposals.

My name is Chris Perry. I am an Ak resident and have fished LCI and Kamishak bay for 39 years and drift gillnetted UCI for 25 years and also fished kodiak for 3 years.

I am commenting on proposals 31 through 43.

proposal 31 SUPPORT with amendments I support extending the end of season date to harvest surplus salmon that will go to waste otherwise. As long as this extension doesnt jepordize the pink and coho

escapement. I do OPPOSE the earlier opening date which directly effect the possible early cost recovery efforts to pay for the trails lakes projects. In recent years there has been an exponential increase in sport and personal use efforts on these fish and i consider that these fish are being allocated away from Cost recoery and commercial harvest by these harvests. A state resident can snag 6 fish AND dipnet 6 fish per day without any annual limits or reporting requirements.

proposal 32 SUPPORT with amendments I support this proposal in some respect . There needs to be a permit and reporting requiremnt for China Poot harvest so ADFG and CIAA can validate the harvest levels of this fishery.

proposal 33 SUPPORT

proposal 34 OPPOSE Kamishak management plan i ssupport the ADFG comments on opposition

proposal 35 OPPOSE

proposal 36 OPPOSE

proposal 37 and 38 OPPOSE gillnet use for Cost recovery in SHA. Set and drift gillnet's used for cost recovery fisheries will kill King, coho, and chum salmon that may jeopardize stocks of concern.

In the background discussion it states that it gillnets were used for cost recovery in Cook Inlet from 1991 through 2001. Gillnets were only used for cost recovery in UCI (not LCI) which is a gillnet only gear type Area. It also states in the background that cost recovery in Prince William sound is done with gillnets, this is not true. The volume of the fish that need to be taken for cost recovery if with gillnets may jeopardize the quality of the harvest and the monetary value cost recovery. Processors should be consulted on the prospects of gillnet caught CR fish before consideration of these proposals.

proposal #39 Support with substantial amendments

The intention of this proposal is for replacement of shoreside markers with GPS designated lines. There are several areas described in this proposal where the new GPS line has been moved as much as 2 1/4 miles seaward of the old marker lines with no biological or overharvest reasons.

Iniskin Bay has had a GPS line designating the regulatory line for many years ,since 2013, which duplicated the shoreside markers that had been used since 1970s. To my knowledge there has never been an over harvest in this area that has jeopardized escapement goals or the SEG. The width of the river at the old gps markers at low low water is approximately 400 feet and should not be closed due to 5 AAC 39.290.

Bruin bay is another bay where the new GPS line is over 2 miles seaward of the existing shoreside markers that had been in place for more than 40 years. Again I don't believe there has been any documented over harvest at Bruin bay in those 40 years.

These areas are very difficult to fish due to very shallow, rock strewn and large tidal swings with extreme weather patterns. These areas are often open 24/7 and on large salmon returns there is no possible way to prevent over escapement..

I don't believe the current area manager is aware of the exact locations some of the old shoreside markers in many areas and has chosen arbitrary GPS numbers. It is against ADFG regulations to assume that old markers become irrelevant if not removed and cannot be replaced with a closed water definition in 5AAC 39.290. If old shoreside markers exist it is legal to fish up to the old markers.

There were many years of research and much consideration done when placing the old shoreside markers and I believe those locations cannot be changed without BOF consideration of biological reasons for movement of these markers this proposal should be amended to include the GPS line in regulation for Iniskin bay that has been used since approximately 2013 and 40 plus years of shoreside markers.

this proposal should be sent back to ADFG for review and verification of old marker locations, many of which still exist.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important proposal which has become a marker movement issue instead of a verification of existing lines issue.

proposal 40 SUPPORT I am completely supportive of GPS lines for regulatory areas. This proposal is most importantly verifying where the markers have always been in China Poot bay for the common property Sockeye fishery.

proposal 41 OPPOSE there is no CIAA cost recovery done at the head of Tutka bay as wrongly stated in the discussion. ADFG can open and close these areas by EO when there are extra fish for common property harvest.

proposal 42 OPPOSE the management plan for Trail lakes has worked very well over the years. ADFG has the ability to open and close the cost recovery and common property fisheries when appropriate. A more important issue in Resurrection Bay is the potential overharvest by the sport snagging fishery when there are low escapement levels. there are days when there are in excess of 400 people per tide fishing in the river snagging 6 fish each with no requirement for report of harvest or annual limit.

proposal 43 OPPOSE



PC182

Submitted by: Caylen Phegley

Community of Residence: Forks, Wa

Comment:

I support proposal 256

Proposal 256: Support



PC183

Submitted by: Ryan Pitcher

Community of Residence: Pocatello, Idaho

Comment:

I have guided in Alaska for over 20 years and am submitting my support for proposal 256. The sport fishing industry brings financial support to Alaska's communities, increases environmental awareness, and facilitates a stewardship of Alaskan resources. The blanket band on bait and scents negatively impacted the sport angler experience for non-King salmon species on the Togiak River. Proposal 256 provides a reasonable rule adjustment while still protecting King salmon. I am in support of protecting King salmon and believe sport, commercial, and subsistence fishing regulatory changes are important as long as they are applied to all user groups.

Proposal 256: Support



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I participate in the commercial fisheries in Homer and Halibut Cove. The hatcheries in Alaska and Lower Cook Inlet provide jobs and livelihood for myself along with many of my family and friends. I have been a seiner for 11 years, starting in Lower Cook and moving to the sound in recent years. I am strongly opposed to Proposal 43.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a



demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Sincerely,
Brooke Poirot

[REDACTED]

Halibut Cove/Homer, Alaska



Submitted by: Ryan Pollard

Community of Residence: Craig, AK

Comment:

- Despite the claims that Proposal 259 makes, the changes in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan were not a misunderstanding. It was clearly understood by all parties at the time of signing. This was clarified by the board as seen in the conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G. This is not a misunderstanding of the agreement just a lack of commitment by the troll fleet to the three-year process.

- There needs to be no confusion that taking up proposals out of cycle and out of the area being impacted is unacceptable as this circumvents the public process, limits stakeholders access to the board decision process, and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions. We are requesting that this proposal be taken up in cycle in 2025 during the Southeast meeting.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I'm from Juneau, and I participate in the commercial, sport, and public use fisheries. I strongly oppose Proposal 43. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Sincerely,
Chad Poppe



Juneau, Alaska



Submitted by: Lance Preston

Community of Residence: Sitka

Comment:

Chairman Wood, and members of the Board of Fish,

I am writing to support proposal 259.

I have commercially trolled for salmon every summer since 1993. I have been a troll skipper and have resided in Sitka since 2001. I have sat on the Seafood Producer's Cooperative Board of Directors since 2013.

After the livelihoods of the troll fishing community were threatened all winter and spring by a disingenuous lawsuit brought on by the Wild Fish Conservancy, and after a stay was granted at the 11th hour by the Ninth Circuit Court allowing the chinook harvest to ultimately proceed, we didn't have long to breathe a collective sigh of relief before learning to our amazement that the State of Alaska, our actual co-defendants in the lawsuit, via the Department of Fish & Game, had unilaterally decided to change the King Salmon Management Plan with an administrative stroke of the pen and reallocate 17,000 of those chinook we'd been so briefly happy to potentially harvest! ADF&G's explanation for willfully altering RC 178, an agreement officially signed at the March 2022 BOF meeting, is another disingenuous rationale for taking chinook away from trollers and handing them to someone else, in this case the guided sport sector and non-resident sport anglers. I guess we'll just have to remain vigilant. In the meantime we certainly appreciate the BOF agreeing to reexamine the regulatory language of the SE Sport King Salmon Management Plan.

Thank you for serving on the Board of Fish,

Lance Preston

Proposal 259: Support



Prince William Sound
Aquaculture Corporation
DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE SALMON FISHERIES
FOR ALASKA AND THE WORLD



PC188

November 13, 2023

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section



Submitted via online comment form and email: [REDACTED]

RE: PWSAC opposes Proposals 35, 36, and 43

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries Members:

The Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) is a regional nonprofit hatchery organization operating four salmon hatcheries in Prince William Sound (PWS) and one on the Gulkana River, raising all five species of Pacific salmon for harvest in subsistence, sport, personal use, and commercial fisheries. Founded in 1974, PWSAC was initiated by local fishermen to support the region's serious financial distress following several years of low salmon abundance. Today, PWSAC is Alaska's largest hatchery organization, employing 54 full-time staff members and approximately 75 seasonal workers with an annual operating budget that exceeds \$14 million, funded by salmon enhancement taxes and cost recovery fish sales. PWSAC is governed by a diverse board of 45 members who represent over 750 commercial salmon fishing permit holders, and thousands more stakeholders who benefit from PWSAC production, including commercial fishermen, sport fishermen, subsistence fishermen, personal use fishermen, PWS municipalities, Alaska Native organizations, scientists, and salmon processors.

Proposal 35 – AAC The Kachemak Bay Wild Fish Priority Management Plan

Proposal 35 seeks to add unnecessary regulation in an area where ADF&G already has clear regulatory framework to manage for both wild and hatchery-produced salmon.

The department currently has 5 AAC 39.222 *Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries* developed and adopted by the board in 2000. Additionally, CIAA works collaboratively with the ADF&G fisheries managers and scientists annually regarding the impacts of salmon enhancement through the Regional Planning Team (RPT), Annual Management Plans, and the permitting process established in regulation. Hatchery interactions with other salmon species are carefully considered annually as new information is available. Regular and continued periodic evaluation is conducted for consistency with statewide policies and regulations, focusing on the protection of naturally spawning wild salmon, genetics, fish health, and disease. This model has been and remains an enviable model of sustainable fisheries unparalleled anywhere in the world.

PWSAC understands and believes ADF&G currently has the tools necessary to reduce harvest of natural salmon should the department determine it necessary to protect Kachemak Bay wild salmon stocks. This is why **PWSAC opposes Proposal 35.**

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FOR ALASKA AND THE WORLD**



www.pwsac.com

**Proposal 36 - 5 AAC 36.372 Tutka Bay Lagoon Salmon Hatchery Management Plan**

Proposal 36 seeks to stipulate a set percentage of enhanced salmon returns be provided to the common property.

The *Tutka Bay Lagoon Salmon Hatchery Management Plan* has no requirement mandating that a percent of their salmon be harvested in common property fisheries.

CIAA cost recovery goals and activities are developed annually by the hatchery operator and approved by the department. The department then works with CIAA to employ management strategies within waters of the Tutka Bay SHA, as well as other hatchery subdistricts listed in 5 AAC 21.372 *Tutka Bay Lagoon Salmon Hatchery Management Plan* to ensure achievement of broodstock and cost recovery goals and manage common property fish surplus to hatchery needs.

The BOF setting a rigid percentage of fish available to cost recovery or common property fisheries usurps aquaculture association boards fiscal and fiduciary responsibility to ratify annual operating budgets and corresponding cost recovery goals. **PWSAC strongly opposes Proposal 36.**

Proposal 43 –5 AAC 40.820. Basic Management Plan

Proposal 43 looks to reduce hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 production by amending the *Cook Inlet Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan*. This proposal has also been copied and submit as Proposal 59 for the 2024 Kodiak meeting demonstrating clear intent to apply this statewide if adopted at a regional level.

This proposal in similar form has asked the board to reduce hatchery eggtakes on at least three other occasions. With unsubstantiated claims, each time the board has rejected the proposal that would dramatically affect fishermen's small businesses, families, as well as sport, subsistence, and personal use programs across large regions of Alaska.

ACR 2 – Submitted by Virgil Umphenour at the October 2018 BOF Work Session sought to cap statewide private non-profit salmon hatchery egg take capacity at 75% of the level permitted in 2000 (5 AAC40.XXX). **Failed 2-5 (Public comment was 11 in favor and 116 opposed)**

Proposal 54 – Submitted by Virgil Umphenour at the December 2021 PWS/Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Finfish/Shellfish meeting sought to amend the PWS Management and

Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan to specify hatchery chum salmon production by reducing to 24% of year 2000 levels. **Failed 0-6 (Public comment was 5 in favor and 94 opposed)**

Proposal 55 – Submitted by Virgil Umphenour at the December 2021 PWS/Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Finfish meeting sought to amend private-non-profit hatchery permits to decrease allowable hatchery production to 75% of year 2000 levels. **N/A 6-0 (Public Comment was 4 in favor and 102 opposed)**

The assertion of over-production of hatchery fish is not supported by Ruggerone and Irvine (2018) or the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission who provides the best available data on numbers and biomass of hatchery

**DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE SALMON FISHERIES
FOR ALASKA AND THE WORLD**

P. [REDACTED] F. [REDACTED]



and natural origin adult (mature) and juvenile (immature) salmon. PWS pink production for example has been relatively stable since 1990, 30+ years. Estimates for the years 1990-2015, PWS adult and juvenile hatchery pink salmon biomass average 7.32% of the total pink salmon biomass in the North Pacific Ocean. When the adult and juvenile chum and sockeye salmon biomass are included for the same timeframe, PWS adult and juvenile hatchery pink salmon biomass is estimated to average 1.62% of the annual total biomass for these three salmon species in the North Pacific Ocean. The vast majority of pink salmon in the ocean at any given time are of natural origin.

PWSAC continues to support constant scientific review and evaluation of the Alaska Salmon Hatchery Program and supports the current laws and regulations that guide it. PWSAC also supports the iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators, and stakeholders. In the absence of compelling data or analysis supporting a reduction for conservation reasons, any significant changes need to be thoroughly examined by hatchery board members for hatchery needs and consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Over the last 40 years the Alaska Salmon Hatchery Program has been a huge success in helping rebuild Alaska's salmon stocks from the historic lows of the 1970s. The program has provided hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity across the state since its inception and fed billions of people across our globe.

It is important to note that hatchery associations, ADF&G staff, and BOF members have spent considerable time and money addressing repeat proposals. Author and word changes have not brought any new or substantive information to the table. There is no supporting data that suggests these repeat proposals would help the intended stakeholders but it is clear a proposal such as 43 would definitely hurt many more in the process.

PWSAC **opposes Proposals 35, 36, and 43** and would respectfully ask that **the board reject Proposals 35,36, and 43** any other request to reduce hatchery production. We look forward to working with Board of Fish members to answer any questions they have and help inform the public process during the meeting.

Sincerely,

Geoff Clark
General Manager/CEO

DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE SALMON FISHERIES
FOR ALASKA AND THE WORLD

P. [REDACTED] F. [REDACTED]



PC189

Submitted by: Erik Pullman

Community of Residence: Homer, AK

Comment:

The collapse of multiple fisheries across the state combined with our lack of understanding to the cause of these changes argues for erring on the conservative side of any proposed rule change.

Proposal 6: Support

Proposal 7: Support

Proposal 8: Support



PC190

Submitted by: Neal Quigley

Community of Residence: Milton, WA.

Comment:

Being able to target non king salmon with bait adds better options and opportunity for paying nonresident fishers

Proposal 256: Support



PC191

Submitted by: David Richey

Community of Residence: Sitka, AK

Comment:

Nov. 13, 2023

Chairman Wood and members of the Board of Fish:

Re: Proposal 259, which I resoundingly support.

What Proposal 259 seeks: To restore the unanimously agreed-upon language of RC 178 (passed unanimously by BoF, as-is with no amendments) that was subsequently altered by ADF&G when it codified RC 178 into 5AAC 47.055 regulatory language.

by David Richey, co-author (with Monique Wilkinson) of Proposal 259

Thank you all for agreeing to hear our concerns before the Board of Fish (BoF). Your time and consideration in this thorny matter is very much appreciated.

Upon discovering that Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) shunted more than 15,000 kings from commercial trollers' rightful share of allocated treaty fish to the charter/sports sector this summer, I was alarmed. And bewildered. And shocked.

It had been a very challenging year already for trollers with the WFC lawsuit hanging like a Sword of Damocles over our heads, and now we were to lose 15,000+ kings from our rightful share of treaty fish? Because ADF&G had not done its job? How did this happen?

A signed agreement, RC 178, was deliberately and meaningfully violated by ADF&G. Why? No one seems to know. I try very hard not to impute motives onto others, but rather look to demonstrable actions from which conclusions may be drawn.

And what is clear is this: RC 178, a hard-won agreement signed by Territorial Sportsmen, Inc. (TSI), Southeast Alaska Guides Organization (SEAGO), and Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) -- and then codified by ADF&G into (we thought) the sacrosanct regulatory language of 5AAC 47.055 -- had two critical words unknowingly (by trollers) deleted by ADF&G after RC 178's unanimous BoF passage: "sport fishery".

Specifically: RC 178, the authorized agreement the three parties unanimously signed (TSI, SEAGO, ATA), contained the following language (with the critical words bracketed and in caps for emphasis; I apologize, could not get bold or underline formatted):

(b)(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the [SPORT FISHERY] harvest ceiling;

The language ADF&G codified into 5AAC 47.055 regulatory language, however, appeared thus:

(b)(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the harvest ceiling;

Quite an omission. The difference in ADF&G deliberately excising the words "sport fishery" from the agreed-upon language? Enormous.

To paraphrase Twain, the difference between codifying all of the agreed-to words in a compact as opposed to most of them is like the difference between lightning and a lightning bug. To be hyperbolic merely to underscore an essential point: Imagine if the Constitution were (merely) stripped of the Bill of Rights? Think anybody'd eventually notice? And maybe have a problem with that?

The deliberate excisement of the words "sport fishery" from RC 178 effectively endowed charter/sports with an unagreed-to freeroll. It meant that, should ADF&G elect to, it need not take action as mandated by RC 178 to manage charter/sports to their harvest ceiling (using in-season management to take decisive action to maintain the integrity of the historic 80/20 split).

Rather ADF&G could simply manage to the all-gear quota and call it a day, with the consequent "heads-I-win-tails-you-lose" asymmetric advantage bestowed upon charter/sports -- to the obvious and foreseeable detriment of trollers.

The effect of ADF&G's inaction? Allocative percentages in 2023, thanks to ADF&G's willful blindness and Sgt. Schultz "I-know-nothink!" refusal to act as prescribed in the original, unadulterated language of RC 178,

translated from an 80/20 prescribed split into a 71% allocative share for trollers, and a 29% sport share (after deductions for nets, of course); and further, of particular note to resident anglers: of the 29% allocative share for sports, north of 80% of *that* went to the charter sector (i.e. SEAGO constituents) who are overwhelmingly out-of-state users.

And here I must say in all candor: My beef is emphatically not with resident anglers or TSI. I consider TSI and resident anglers generally to be responsible stewards of the king resource who, just like trollers, have willingly and repeatedly shown their true colors (tho we all grumble) by submitting to reductions in our quota share and fisheries management initiatives in the interests of rebuilding stocks and for the prudent conservation of the king resource.

What sticks in the craw for resident harvesters: The charter industry is (willfully) like the Wild West, with burgeoning unlimited participation overtaxing the carrying-capacity of the king resource, and (seemingly) no self-governing will to make limited entry happen (for their own good if not for everyone else's), lax USCG requirements despite being entrusted with the safety of civilians, no contribution to the 3-percent fish tax trollers pay every single year on all our landings, no prescribed length of season, and virtually unlimited opportunity for charters to Hoover up kings on outside waters *before* the vast majority of resident anglers (or trollers for that matter) even get a crack at them -- often to the detriment of stocks-of-concern. Every king (every fish!) trollers catch is documented and taxes are paid to the common weal of all. We have limited entry. We are proven responsible stewards of the resource, and like resident sport anglers, we overwhelmingly live here (85% Alaskan residency; 30% of our colleagues are Tlingit/Haida tribal members). We are proud of these facts.

And despite all that, my biggest objection in this specific matter is not even with charters! I mean, can you blame them for catching kings far in excess of their allocation if ADF&G allows it? No, it is not charters doing it, but rather ADF&G *permitting it to occur* with which I object.

For some inexplicable reason, ADF&G has deliberately created a permission structure wherein they have granted themselves plausible deniability for NOT acting -- despite ADF&G having a proven record of enacting and enforcing effective in-season management for charter/sports. And yet, this year, ADF&G did not employ its characteristic nimble in-season management with respect to the charter/sports fishery, predominantly because the removal of critical language from the agreed-to RC 178, which enabled ADF&G to shrug its shoulders and say "Oops." instead of monitoring, planning and acting as required otherwise.

One objection that I anticipate you may hear, a LOT, from SEAGO representatives that I wish to address beforehand is this: Patrick Fowler, Regional Fisheries Management Coordinator for ADF&G, testified at the BoF meeting in Anchorage in March of '22, and, after checking his notes for one last by-the-way point, informed BoF members that ADF&G would manage the sport fishery without in-season management in '23 and without change, even if the sport fishery exceeded its allocation parameters.

Yes, this is true. Mr. Fowler did say that in public testimony.

But the crux of the biscuit, esteemed board members, is that Mr. Fowler curiously deigned to unburden himself of this contradictory violation of RC 178 *after* public testimony was no longer permitted -- and therefore the ability of anyone (like TSI, like ATA!) -- to object to this preposterous statement had already (conveniently) closed.

In other words, Mr. Fowler just happened to drop a destructive bomb after it was too late for anyone to effectively disarm or defuse it.

To quote Ron Sommerville of TSI directly from his notes:

"NO ONE [emphasis in the original] proposed that in-season restrictions would not apply to non-residents [i.e. charters]. Had that been clearly enunciated at that meeting, we would never have signed the agreement. To have left the guided fishery [charters] unregulated would have been insane."

Insane, indeed. Quite so. Neither would ATA (or trollers generally) have consented to such an absurd logical fallacy.

So permit me to say: If anyone cites Mr. Fowler's testimony, it is indeed accurate that he made a statement to the effect I have described. But Mr. Fowler's testimony, while technically true in a "he-said-those-words-all-righty" sense, lack context, and so are insufficient and wildly contradictory to the understanding of the agreement as signed. Never would RC 178 have been signed under the erroneous impressions Mr. Fowler imparted (without fear of contradiction) to members of BoF.

Locks keep honest people honest. Proposal 259 simply eeks the restoration of the unanimously agreed-to language in RC 178, nothing more. Trollers are seeking fairness and adherence to our agreements. I would like to think ADF&G could act as a fair and impartial broker in this process as well.

David Richey, co-author, Proposal 259

Proposal 259: Support



PC192

Submitted by: Jeffrey Richey

Community of Residence: South Lake Tahoe, CA

Comment:

I strongly urge you to support 256. As a fishing guide on the Togiak River since 2014, I have seen the kings decline dramatically and feel a roe ban is an excellent idea.

In an attempt to keep customers happy, I'm recent years we have developed a very exciting sockeye fishery with prawns fished on jigheads under floats.

Because fish cannot swallow the jig under bobber rig, it has minimal impact on other species but allows us to target sockeye quite successfully.

Thanks for your consideration on this issue.

Proposal 256: Support



PC193

Submitted by: Evan Rintacutan

Community of Residence: Pacifica, Ca.

Comment:

Despite the claims that Proposal 259 makes, the changes in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan were not a misunderstanding. It was clearly understood by all parties at the time of signing. This was explicitly clarified by the board as seen in the conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G.

The conversation between the Commissioner and Patrick Fowler can be found here on the ADF&G official audio record of the meeting in question. The proposal deliberations begins at 1:10:07 with Patrick Fowler introducing the Proposal and the conversation mentioned above happening between 1:19:11-1:22:14.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC194

Submitted by: Vivian Rojas

Community of Residence: SELDOVIA, AK

Comment:

Proposal 8- I support the changes to have the Seldovia harbor, slough and lagoon closed to snagging through June 15. There is no reason why snagging should be open year round in this area. It only harms the intent of the enhanced king salmon fishery as a sport fishery. There is a point in the terminal fishery that the kings stop biting and can only be caught by other means, therefore the June 15th date. Historically, snagging opened June 24, but the kings now tend to stay in the lagoon earlier in the season and begin to turn sooner. Moving the snagging up 1 week would potentially provide fresher king salmon to catch.

Proposal 6- I support the concept of Proposal 6 to create a management plan and harvest guidelines to continue a sustainable LCI fishery for the future as the area is being heavily fished.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Proposal 6: Support

Proposal 8: Support

Proposal 9: Support

Proposal 10: Support

Proposal 20: Support



PC195

Submitted by: Matthew Romaine

Community of Residence: Craig Ak

Comment:

Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm regards to proposal 259 changes made out of cycle will without a doubt affect my family's stability. If there were to be mid season closures on Chinook Salmon I feel it would alienate regular and prospective client bookings and have a direct financial affect on our communities on SEAK.

Thank you in advance for this consideration.

Matthew Romaine

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC196

Submitted by: Brett Rossback

Community of Residence: Albany Oregon

Comment:

On proposal 256, the professionals that fish this area are conscientious and ecology minded. They follow the law and only harvest to their limits and never more. They need to use bait and they will not abuse the use of bait.

Proposal 256: Support



PC197

Submitted by: Paul Roth

Community of Residence: Homer, AK

Comment:

PROPOSAL 39.

I will support proposal 39 if 2 amendments are made to it. If the amendments are not made I oppose proposal 39.

There are 2 parts of proposal 39 that need to be amended for very important reasons.

The first one that needs to be amended is (3) Waters of Iniskin Bay.

Iniskin Bay already has in regulation closed waters defined by Lat and Long. They were strategically placed where the old physical closed waters markers were placed. They have been at this location for around 40 years. The new lat and long line is far from the location of the physical markers we are trying to replace. There is no biological reason to move these markers. The fishery has been effectively managed by emergency order. Part (3) must be removed from this proposal in order for me to support it.

The second part that needs to be amended is (10) waters of Bruin Bay.

Bruin bay for 40 years has has physical closed waters markers placed by ADFG. They were strategically placed to manage the run to prevent overfishing and at the same time prevent over escapement. I agree that the old markers should be replaced with Lat and Long lines but the lines proposed by ADFG are over 2 miles offshore from where the markers were that they are supposed to be replacing. Proposal number 40 has the proper Lat Long lines for Bruin Bay located as close as possible to where the ADFG Regulator markers were placed over 40 years ago. In order for me to support proposal 39 part (9) must be amended to

(9) waters of the Bruin Bay inshore of a line from 59° 22.59' N. lat., 154° 08.43' W. long., to
59° 22.43' N. lat., 154° 07.03' W. long.

The intention of replacing these old physical markers was to place the Lat Long in the same location that the markers were in - Not to move the closed boundary 2 miles offshore for no biological reason.

Proposal 34: Oppose	Proposal 35: Oppose	Proposal 36: Oppose	Proposal 37: Support
Proposal 38: Support	Proposal 39: Support With Amendments		Proposal 40: Support
Proposal 41: Oppose	Proposal 42: Oppose	Proposal 43: Oppose	



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I port from Cordova, Alaska, and I commercial, sport, and subsistence fish. I strongly encourage you to oppose Proposal 43. I believe hatcheries help the overall economy of Alaska. They create jobs at the hatcheries. They increase fishing in areas where wild fish are not sufficient enough for the fishing fleets we have.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a



careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Sincerely,
Justin Ryan

Cordova, Alaska



I support proposal 257 and oppose 258 and 259. I've worked in Alaska now for ten years and depend on that part of my income to support my family. Proposal 259 would hurt me and my family as well as others in an already unstable economy. There was a commitment made and to change now would be unacceptable and needs to be heard in the Southeast 2025 meeting. I depend on my clients and I'm sure Alaska depends on the tourism fishing brings economically. Allowing proposal 259 will hurt Alaska economically and families who depend on income from clients. Thank you for hearing my voice Tony Saldivar.



SALMON HATCHERIES FOR ALASKA

November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

As advocates for Alaska's hatchery programs and private nonprofit hatcheries, we express our unwavering support for the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) and the invaluable programs these entities uphold for the entire southcentral region and its diverse user groups. We strongly urge the Board of Fisheries to reject **Proposals 34-36, 41, and 43** due to the potential harm to salmon fisheries and coastal economies across the southcentral region and the consequential decline in hatchery production that will result if these proposals were implemented.

The Alaska hatchery program is a testament to our commitment to increasing salmon abundance, enhancing fisheries, and safeguarding wild stocks. Fisheries enhancement projects, integral to our programs, are rigorously evaluated and permitted by the Department of Fish & Game to ensure minimal negative impact on natural production. We must recognize that our fisheries enhancement efforts aim to supplement, not replace or displace, natural production. The Alaska salmon hatchery program exemplifies one of the most successful public-private partnership models in Alaska's history. CIAA hatcheries serve as vital infrastructure that significantly benefits local communities, the economy, and harvesters.

In opposing Proposal 43, we echo the concerns raised by the Department of Fish and Game, emphasizing key points that warrant the Board's careful consideration:

Regulatory Authority: The Board's limited authority over hatchery production must be exercised judiciously, considering the nuanced statutory framework and the department's primary role in permitting and regulating hatchery operations.



Iterative Process: The established iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators, and stakeholders ensures that hatchery egg take levels are carefully determined, reflecting a balanced approach that safeguards wild salmon stocks.

Conservation Concerns: The proposal lacks demonstrated conservation benefits and may disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and the conservation goals crucial for the region.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner's directive since 2019 exemplifies proactive departmental oversight, indicating a commitment to maintaining equilibrium between hatchery production and conservation goals.

Lack of Evidence: The absence of compelling evidence supporting the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels raises questions about the basis and potential impact of the proposal.

Historical Production Levels: Historical context underscores that the proposed reduction to 25% would significantly limit hatchery operators' ability to meet production potential without clear conservation benefits. Adopting proposal 43 would reduce CIAA pink salmon egg takes by 75%.

Comprehensive Planning: Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations.

Public Input and Participation: The transparency in the hatchery permitting process, including public input through hearings and comment periods, underscores the importance of well-informed decision-making.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks a clear link to the well-being of wild salmon stocks.

Department's Opposition: The Department of Fish and Game opposes the proposal, citing the lack of evidence supporting the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels and emphasizing the importance of a well-founded decision-making process.

In conclusion, we implore the Board to consider the collective voices of stakeholders, including those deeply invested in Alaska's hatchery program. The decisions made at this juncture hold far-reaching implications for the sustainable management of our fisheries, the well-being of diverse user groups, and the continued success of the Alaska salmon hatchery program.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter, and we trust that your decisions will reflect a commitment to the responsible and sustainable management of Alaska's invaluable fisheries and support the vital role Alaska's hatchery programs play in our fisheries. We are reaching out to each of you this month before the board meeting in Homer to offer our time to meet, discuss, and answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



Dean Day
Executive Director
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association



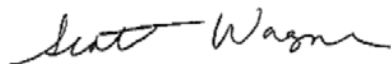
Tina Fairbanks
Executive Director
Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association



Mike H. Wells
Executive Director
Valdez Fisheries Development Association, Inc.



Geoff Clark
Interim General Manager
Prince William Sound Aquaculture Association



Scott Wagner
General Manager
Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Assoc.



Susan Doherty
General Manager
Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Assoc.



Submitted by: Luis San Diego

Community of Residence: Snohomish, Wa

Comment:

Opposition to Proposals 259, Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

A) Introduction: Name. Operating Port. Role in the operation (owner, manager, skipper, crew etc.)

B) Simply Address the below 2 talking points.

- Despite the claims that Proposal 259 makes, the changes in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan were not a misunderstanding. It was clearly understood by all parties at the time of signing. This was clarified by the board as seen in the conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G. This is not a misunderstanding of the agreement just a lack of commitment by the troll fleet to the three-year process.

- There needs to be no confusion that taking up proposals out of cycle and out of the area being impacted is unacceptable as this circumvents the public process, limits stakeholders access to the board decision process, and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions. We are requesting that this proposal be taken up in cycle in 2025 during the Southeast meeting.

- Alaska needs its sports fishing tourism to continue as it help communities small and large

In closing, I oppose proposal 259. I ask the board to address any changes to the King Salmon Management Plan during the 2025 Southeast meeting.

Sincerely,

Luis San Diego

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC202

Submitted by: Troy Sandera

Community of Residence: Seldovia Ak

Comment:

I am commenting on proposal & 7, and agree that snagging and spear fishing should NOT be allowed from the Seldovia marina to the lagoon. I personally bring family, friends and clients to Seldovia to fish Kings from the bridge to the lagoon. Some of the comments in proposal # 7, I've personally experienced. I watched two guys from out of town come in and snag seven king in about 20 minutes while I was sport fishing with my family, needless to say the kings weren't biting our lures. And another time, I had to give a spear fisherman a ride back from the lagoon back to the marina in my skiff because he was so exhausted and fatigued from fighting the current back. I propose we go back to the way it was prior to.

Proposal 7: Support



PC203

Submitted by: Mark Schaefer

Community of Residence: Pierre SD

Comment:

It makes no sense to take up the proposals out of cycle and out of the location areas affected. This does not allow for fair opportunities for all parties involved to be represented and heard. Also after listening to audio transcripts from the 2022 Board of Fisheries Meeting regarding this subject, there can be no confusion over what was signed and agreed to by all parties. For these reasons, you cannot support proposal 259.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC204

Submitted by: Kelly Scheffer

Community of Residence: Ketchikan, AK

Comment:

I fully support Proposal 257. I strongly oppose Proposals 258 and 259. I believe these proposals should not be happening away from the areas they are intended for and should be heard at the Board of Fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska in 2025.



PC205

Submitted by: Guy Schoenborn

Community of Residence: Columbus, Montana

Comment:

Hello, I am a fishing travel booking agent based in Montana. I have fished at Togiak River Lodge a couple times and know the fishery quite well. I guided in Alaska for seven years. I believe that proposal 256 will benefit the sockeye and coho fishery and not be a big factor in the king fishery. Please support Proposal 256.

Proposal 256: Support



PC206

Submitted by: Chad Schwegel

Community of Residence: Craig ak

Comment:

I support Proposal 257. I strongly oppose Proposals 258 and 259. I believe these proposals should not be happening away from the areas they are intended for and should be heard at the Board of Fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska in 2025.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



Seafood Producers Cooperative



Dear Chairman Wood and members of the Board of Fisheries:

Seafood Producers Cooperative **supports proposal 259 and the Sitka AC amendments to proposals 257 and 258** to reaffirm the long-standing 80%/20% annual allocation of king salmon between the troll and sport sectors. SPC is the oldest fisheries co-op in North America. We specialize in troll and longline fish in SE Alaska. Unlike other processors owned by large multi-national corporations, our co-op structure means that we return most of our profits to our 400 fishermen-owners at the end of each year and keep only minimal financial reserves. While this is beneficial for our fishermen-owners, it leaves SPC more vulnerable than most other processors to unexpected loss of access to our key resources. As our members are primarily trollers, king salmon is a critical species for us. King salmon fillets are among our highest margin products. When the WFC lawsuit threatened to stop the troll king fishery this past July, ATA knew that they could count on SPC to be the first major donor to the legal effort to fight the lawsuit.

While our quick contribution (and those from numerous other processors, communities, hatchery organizations, business, and fishermen) helped to convince the 9th Circuit Court to save the July king opener from the WFC, the August king quota was cut by over 60% due to overharvest by the sport sector. The sudden and unexpected loss of these kings that we had counted on, and the inefficiencies inherent to last-minute changes may well end up causing us to post an operating loss for the entire year. Given our cooperative structure, this directly impacts our fisherman-owners and local communities while also hindering our ability to remain competitive in the industry in future seasons.

In addition to the money that the co-op lost by not being able to process the kings that were caught by the sport sector, each of our troller members also lost out on these fish. Neither individual trollers, nor troll buyers like SPC can afford to regularly lose out on king salmon, especially in the lower quota years when prices are highest. In a year when we run out of king salmon, our disappointed customers turn to farmed salmon or some other alternative. In the next good year, they don't come back. Instead, we have to re-invest in finding replacement customers. Allowing large, uncontrolled overages in the sport fishery as occurred in 2023 exacerbates this situation. Restoring the long-standing annual 80%/20% allocation as agreed to by SEAGO, ATA and TSI in RC178 via passage of proposal 259 or the Sitka AC amendments to proposals 257 and 258 will provide SPC, our members, and our customers with king salmon that we can all count on. Without this protection SPC will continue to be vulnerable to sudden re-allocation of king salmon and our 80-year-old cooperative could be rendered insolvent. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely, Norman Pillen-President, Seafood Producers Cooperative

Tad Fujioka-Chairman of the Board, Seafood Producers Cooperative



Seawind Aviation, Inc.



PC208

November 13, 2023

John Wood
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries

Re: Opposition to Proposals 259, Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

My name is Lesley Kamm, and my husband, Steve Kamm and I own and operate Seawind Aviation, Inc. in Ketchikan, Alaska for the past 20 years. We operate year-round to service fishing hatcheries, flightseeing tours and local charters, hunting trips & fishing lodges. Flying to fishing lodges is a large part of our business in the summer months. Some of the lodges we fly to include El Capitan Lodge, Boardwalk Lodge, Waterfall Resort, Steamboat Bay Fishing Resort, Alaska Dreams, Tree Tops Lodge and Sea Otter Sound Lodge located on Prince of Wales Lodge.

I am writing to express my opposition to proposition 259 based on these arguments below:

Despite the claims that Proposal 259 makes, the changes in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.005 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan was not a misunderstanding. It was clearly understood by all parties at the time of signing. This was clarified by the board as seen in the conversation between Commission Doug Vincent Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G. This is not a misunderstanding of the agreement just a lack of commitment by the troll fleet to the three-year process.

There needs to be no confusion that taking up proposals out of cycle out of the area being impacted is unacceptable as this circumvents the public process, limits stakeholder's access to the board decision process, and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions. We are requesting that this proposal be taken up in 2025 during the Southeast meeting.

In closing, I oppose proposal 259. I ask the board to address any changes to the King Salmon Management Plan during the 2025 Southeast meeting.

Kind regards,

Lesley Kamm
Seawind Aviation, Inc.



PC209

Submitted by: Chris Sessions

Community of Residence: Kodiak, Alaska

Comment:

In recent years sport anglers have figured out how to target sockeye using bait prawns and jigs and actually get them to bite consistently. This method is a refreshing change from past methods of lining or legally snagging sockeyes.

Proposal 256: Support



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of Pages: 11

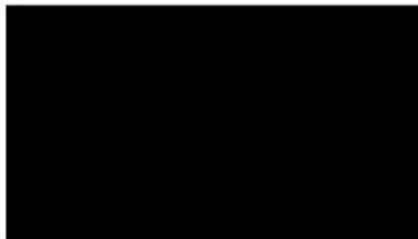
Attention to: CHair Person: Marit Carlson-Van Dort
Subject: Alaska board of fisheries / Kenai
Fax: [REDACTED]

Date: 10-11-2023 04:31:10 P
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October 11, 2023

To: Alaska Board of Fisheries



Attn: Chairperson Marit Carlson-Van Dort,

I attended the City of Kenai Council meeting on October 4th, 2023. I asked the Council members if they would support a request to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) at their upcoming Worksession, to consider changing the location of the Upper Cook Inlet Regulatory meeting, currently scheduled for Anchorage, to instead, move the meeting to the Kenai/Soldotna area.

They Council members responded that because of the late request they would be unable to submit a current resolution or written support letter as they would have to had prior notice. However, they individually supported all of the community's present efforts to have the meetings convene in the local area. They reiterated all their past extensive efforts to request the BOF to change their scheduling policy and suggested that I re-submit the previous resolutions and support letters.

Many added that the City's support to have the BOF convene in the Kenai/Soldotna area has not changed. They did comment that conditions on the Kenai River have changed and decisions made at the State level may definitely reflect on their actions.

Therefore, as suggested, I am submitting past City of Kenai documents to support the need for the BOF to address this vital issue.

Thank you,

Paul A. Shadura II





Sponsored by: Mayor Gabriel and City Council Members
Suggested by: Council Member Molloy

CITY OF KENAI

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, ENCOURAGING THE STATE OF ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES TO RESCIND THEIR JANUARY 18, 2019 DECISION TO MOVE THE UPPER COOK INLET 2020 FINFISH MEETING TO ANCHORAGE DUE TO THE LACK OF ADEQUATE PUBLIC NOTICE AND PROCESS.

WHEREAS, in March of 2018 the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) considered and passed Board Policy 2018-289-FB by a vote of 4-2 at their Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, and Miscellaneous Shellfish meeting, establishing a rotating schedule of the Upper Cook Inlet Finfish (UCI) meeting between the communities of Kenai / Soldotna, Palmer / Wasilla, and Anchorage beginning with Kenai / Soldotna in 2020, Palmer / Wasilla in 2023, and Anchorage in 2026; and,

WHEREAS, prior to considering Board Policy 2018-289-FB, the public was adequately noticed 35 days prior to the vote through the Boards Supplemental Notice of Regulatory Actions to Be Taken on February 2, 2018; and,

WHEREAS, the BOF held their Arctic / Yukon / Kuskokwim Finfish meeting from January 15 -- 19, 2019 in Anchorage; and,

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, January 15, the BOF Chairman, Reed Morisky, stated that they would be discussing the UCI meeting location later in the meeting; and,

WHEREAS, on Friday, January 18, the BOF voted 4-3 to move the UCI 2020 meeting to Anchorage; and,

WHEREAS, adequate public notice was not provided prior to the vote, the action was inconsistent with past BOF practices, and it did not meet the requirements of the Open Meetings Act; and,

WHEREAS, this action has the potential to erode the public trust in the BOF process; and,

WHEREAS, all Alaskans deserve consistency, openness, legal compliance, and transparency when engaging with their government during any deliberative decision making process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA:

Section 1. That the Kenai City Council encourages the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries to rescind their January 18, 2019 decision to move the Upper Cook Inlet 2020 Finfish meeting to Anchorage due to the lack of adequate public notice and process.

**Resolution No. 2019-10**

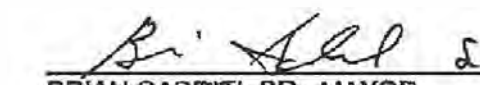
Page 2 of 2

Section 2. That rescinding the decision to move the Upper Cook Inlet 2020 Finfish meeting to Anchorage will help restore the public's trust in the Board of Fisheries and their processes.

Section 3. That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Mike Dunleavy, Board of Fisheries Chair, Reed Morisky, Board of Fisheries Members, and the Board of Fisheries Executive Director, Glenn Haight.

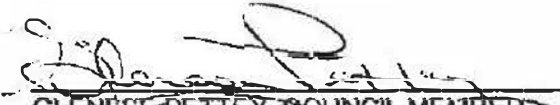
Section 4. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon passage.

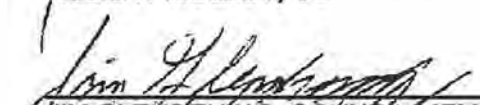
PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, this 6th day of February, 2019.


BRIAN GABRIEL SR., MAYOR

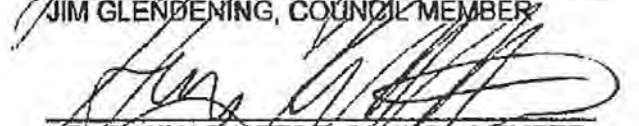

TIM NAVARRE, VICE MAYOR


ROBERT MOLLOY, COUNCIL MEMBER

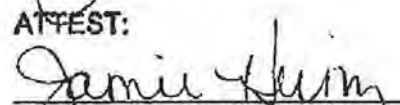

GLENISE PETTEY, COUNCIL MEMBER


JIM GLENDENING, COUNCIL MEMBER


ROBERT PETERKIN II, COUNCIL MEMBER


HENRY KNACKSTEDT, COUNCIL MEMBER

ATTEST:


Jamie Heinz, CMC, City Clerk





January 25, 2019

Chairman Reed Morisky
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Board Support Section

Dear Chairman Morisky and Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries:

We are deeply disappointed in the action taken by the Board of Fisheries (Board) on January 18, moving the location of the Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) 2020 Finfish meeting without reasonable public notice, and after being assured by the Board Chair that no action would be taken. Given the legitimate and numerous concerns with the public process, we encourage the Board to rescind that decision and re-schedule the issue to be considered at a later date. Regardless of the outcome of the eventual vote, we hope Board members recognize the need to reassure all Alaskans in the fairness of the public process. Addressing the location of the 2020 UCI Finfish meeting at a future date would also allow the Board to consider the decision within the context of the current policy establishing rotating meeting locations. This policy, 2018-289FB¹, was not referenced in the Board's action last week and we presume is still in effect.

We recognize that the UCI Finfish meeting location is a perpetual topic for discussion, that comes up every cycle. However, several stark differences exist with how this most-recent vote was handled. When the Board revisited the 2020 UCI Finfish meeting location in early 2018, it was added to the agenda for the March meeting², and included in the *Supplemental Notice of Regulatory Actions to be Taken*³. This notice was published February 2nd, which was 35 days ahead of the vote and well before the cut-off for providing on-time written comments. Members of the public did provide written comments in the Board packet, and attended the meeting to speak to this issue in-person. The public also had access to the written proposal that was to be voted upon (referenced in the policy as RC50), before the Board ultimately approved the policy by a 4-2 vote.

Prior to the meeting last week, there was no advance notice given to the public that this item would again be revisited. No document was posted on the meeting website as a proposal. This topic wasn't published in the original *Notice of Proposed Changes*, and a *Supplemental Notice* was not issued. And

¹ Policy 2018-289-FB, adopted March 9th, 2018

² Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, and Miscellaneous Shellfish, held March 6-9 2018, Anchorage.

³ https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2017-2018/supp_notice_final.pdf



even the Miscellaneous Business Agenda, posted on the website as RC70, fails to identify this topic as an action item.

Nonetheless, after learning via text message about the Chairman's Intent to bring the 2020 UCI Finfish meeting location up for a vote, and despite not knowing exactly when the vote would occur, Kenai Mayor Brian Gabriel, Soldotna City Manager Stephanie Queen, and Kenai City Manager Paul Ostrander drove to Anchorage to attend the meeting in person. Knowing that there would be no opportunity for public comment directly to the Board, the group hoped to talk to individual members during breaks to learn what was being considered. During a morning break, the Board Chair informed the City delegation that no vote would be taken that day – a position he reiterated to the City officials when the Board broke for a lunch recess. He indicated that a teleconference would be scheduled to address the issue, and that public notice would be given and public comments taken. The City delegation left the meeting in reliance on the Chair's assurances, and was already back in Soldotna when we learned that the Board did in fact approve a motion to relocate the 2020 UCI Finfish meeting after returning from lunch.

When the audio was posted online later that evening, we were able to listen to the deliberation and decision. In justifying the decision to move ahead with a vote despite concerns raised about the lack of public notice, it was noted that the agenda states that it is subject to change. The statement Board Chair Morisky made on Tuesday, that "there's been an interest expressed in discussing the Upper Cook Inlet meeting location and so...that will likely happen near the end of this meeting⁴" was referenced. When pressed to explain why the motion was being made at that particular time, in the middle of other unrelated agenda items on Friday afternoon, Board Member Jensen explained that Friday was his last day of availability and he wanted to vote on this particular item. We note that had this action item come up during the 'Miscellaneous Business' section of the agenda on Saturday, Mr. Jensen's personal schedule would have prevented him from voting, and the motion to move the meeting back to Anchorage may have lacked sufficient votes to pass.

We believe these actions cannot be considered "reasonable" public notice, as required by law. If items can be added to the agenda without specific prior notice (and not even posted as an update to the meeting agenda after the fact), and then brought to a vote at any point in the meeting, the public would essentially be required to attend every Board meeting in its entirety just to make sure that no issue of interest was unexpectedly added, considered, and voted on. In a multi-day meeting, which in this case was scheduled to discuss completely unrelated matters, we find this expectation unreasonable. In a practical sense, this version of "reasonable" notice serves the same function as no notice at all.

We work in government, and are familiar with Alaska's laws designed to guarantee public notice and access to decision-making. And we understand that public processes require flexibility so we can effectively deal with business at hand. But standard practices exist, to allow boards to have flexibility in conducting their business, without leaving the public in the dark. We know the Board of Fisheries can do better. Public notice in this case was insufficient, inconsistent with past Board practices, and does not meet the requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

Adhering to customary policy and procedures for adding and considering new agenda items, and providing reasonable notice, would not only better serve the public but Board members as well. In our conversations with Board Members during breaks in the meeting on Friday morning, it was clear that

⁴ Audio available on meeting website. See AYK Finfish meeting, Chair Morisky 2:26:43 PM Tuesday, Jan. 18th



there was confusion as to what the Board was potentially reconsidering. One Board member believed that the policy to rotate communities was still in place, and that the Board was simply reconsidering which community should go first. Another Board member was apparently unaware of the rotating policy entirely, telling us that the Board had never adopted a policy that set rotating meeting locations. Without any packet materials to provide the background, nor comments from staff or the public, we feel the Board's decision was made in haste, and without access to all the relevant information.

Furthermore, we feel that the policy adopted by the board in March 2018 to rotate the location of the UCI Finfish meetings, is a thoughtful solution to the sensible goal of providing access for all Alaskans impacted by the Board's decisions. It doesn't require the Board to designate one 'best' meeting location. Instead, it recognizes that stakeholders are significantly spread out geographically, and experience different personal sacrifices and expense to attend the two-week long UCI Finfish meeting. The difference between a 45-minute commute versus a 2 hour and 45-minute commute, for many Alaskans, means the difference between being able to participate or not. The rotating policy gives favorable access to Anchorage/Mat-Su residents by keeping the meetings within an hour drive most of the time (two out of every three cycles), while also bringing the meeting to the Kenai Peninsula to afford KPB residents the same opportunity once every nine years.

The Board's decision on Friday, to proceed with a vote to relocate the UCI 2020 Finfish meeting despite the concerns raised at the time, has the potential to erode public trust in this important process moving forward. Alaska's Open Meeting Act was designed not only for the public, to ensure they have access to deliberative processes and government decision-making, but also to benefit government decision-makers by hearing from residents who have knowledge, experience and valuable perspectives to offer. We expect that the Board will recognize the significance of the errors made last week, and take corrective actions to remedy them.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Queen, City Manager
City of Soldotna

Mayor Charlie Pierce
Kenai Peninsula Borough

Paul Ostrander, City Manager
City of Kenai

Cc: The Honorable Governor Mike Dunleavy
John Jensen
Orville Huntington
Alan Cain
Israel Payton
Robert Ruffner
Fritz Johnson
Glenn Haight



Sponsored by: Mayor Brian Gabriel
Vice Mayor Tim Navarre
Council Member Robert Molloy
Council Member Glenese Pettey
Council Member Jim Glendening
Council Member Mike Boyle
Council Member Henry Knackstedt

CITY OF KENAI

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-61

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING, SCHEDULED FOR 2020 TO CONSIDER UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH ISSUES BE HELD ON THE CENTRAL KENAI PENINSULA.

WHEREAS, Upper Cook Inlet finfish are a vital and long-standing component of the City of Kenai economy and community; and,

WHEREAS, all City of Kenai residents are impacted by Upper Cook Inlet finfish fisheries either directly or indirectly; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries Upper Cook Inlet Finfish regular meeting has not been held on the Kenai Peninsula since 1999; and,

WHEREAS, City of Kenai residents and businesses benefit from informed science based fisheries management, strategies and practices; and,

WHEREAS, sound management, strategies and practices are developed by transparent processes, accessible public meetings and user participation, knowledge and representation; and,

WHEREAS, conducting the Alaska Board of Fisheries regular meetings concerning Upper Cook Inlet finfish exclusively in Anchorage instead of rotating locations between Anchorage and the Kenai Peninsula greatly hampers public participation by City of Kenai residents due to the substantial expense and burden of attending multi-day meetings in Anchorage; and,

WHEREAS, all users of public resources are entitled to reasonable access to public meetings and processes concerning matters affecting their economy, livelihood and lifestyle; and,

WHEREAS, holding the 2020 Alaska Board of Fisheries Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting on the Kenai Peninsula would improve the amount of testimony about local traditional knowledge to the board, which is a great resource for the Board of Fisheries; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the residents and visitors to both the Kenai Peninsula and the Anchorage area to maintain healthy well-managed salmon stocks and provide opportunities and access for diverse user groups; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA:



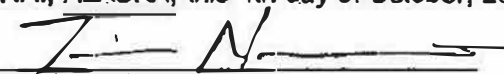
Resolution No. 2017-61
Page 2 of 2

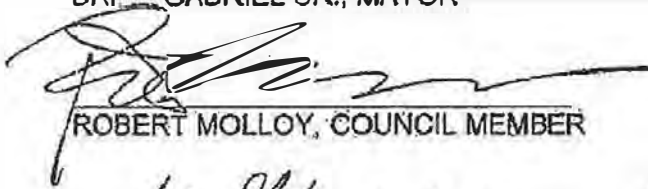
Section 1. That the Alaska Board of Fisheries is respectfully and strongly urged to schedule its full Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting of 2020 and future such meetings on the Kenai Peninsula on a semi-regular basis.

Section 2. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, this 4th day of October, 2017.


BRI GABRIEL SR., MAYOR

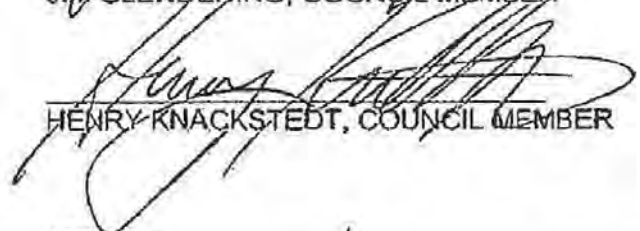

TIM NAVARRE, VICE MAYOR


ROBERT MOLLOY, COUNCIL MEMBER


GLENESSE PETTEY, COUNCIL MEMBER


JIM GLENDENING, COUNCIL MEMBER


MIKE BOYLE, COUNCIL MEMBER


HENRY KNACKSTEDT, COUNCIL MEMBER

ATTEST:


Jamie Heinz, City Clerk





**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
CITY OF KENAI
CITY OF SOLDOTNA**

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2018-001

**A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA
BOROUGH AND COUNCILS OF THE CITY OF KENAI AND THE CITY OF SOLDOTNA,
REQUESTING THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES TO ADOPT A POLICY TO ROTATE
THE REGULAR UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH MEETINGS BETWEEN THE THREE
PRINCIPAL COMMUNITIES OF KENAI/SOLDOTNA, PALMER/WASILLA, AND
ANCHORAGE**

WHEREAS, Upper Cook Inlet finfish issues are vitally important to, and directly impact residents, municipal governments and communities on the Kenai Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, many local residents and businesses of the Kenai Peninsula depend on, participate in, and are otherwise affected by decisions made by the Board of Fisheries with regard to subsistence fisheries, sport fisheries, commercial fisheries, personal use fisheries and conservation measures in Upper Cook Inlet; and

WHEREAS, when making informed decisions regarding finfish issues in Upper Cook Inlet, the Board of Fisheries should consider the comments and interests from residents of the Kenai Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, the costs and travel time to attend meetings outside the Kenai Peninsula pose a significant burden to local residents, limiting participation and the Board of Fisheries' ability to benefit from local knowledge; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries has not held a regular Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting on the Kenai Peninsula since 1999 despite numerous requests that it do so; and

WHEREAS, holding the meeting on the Kenai Peninsula would show local residents, businesses and communities that the Alaska Board of Fisheries listens, cares about, and understands the local impacts of its decisions; and

WHEREAS, there are local quality venues of sufficient size with advanced technologic capabilities to host public meetings, as well as exceptional lodging and dining opportunities on the Kenai Peninsula.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AND THE COUNCILS FOR THE CITY OF KENAI AND CITY OF SOLDOTNA:

SECTION 1. That the Alaska Board of Fisheries is respectfully and strongly urged by the Kenai Peninsula municipal governments representing their constituents to adopt a policy to rotate the Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings between the three principal communities of Kenai/Soldotna, Palmer/Wasilla, and Anchorage.

SECTION 2. That this Joint Resolution be forwarded to Governor Bill Walker, Senator Peter Micciche, Representative Gary Knopp, Representative Paul Seaton, Representative Mike Chenault, Governor's Chief of Staff Scott Kendall, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Sam Cotton, Alaska Board of Fisheries members John Jensen, Reed Morisky, Orville Huntington, Alan Cain, Israel Payton, Robert Ruffner, Fritz Johnson, Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director Glenn Haight.

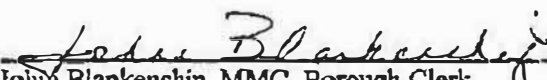


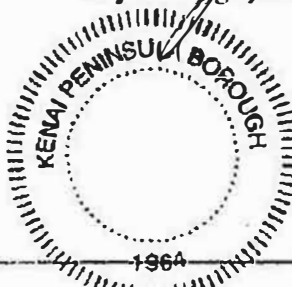
SECTION 3. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon approval by the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly and the participating city councils.

APPROVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 20TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2018.

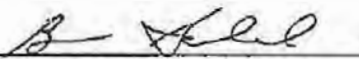

Wayne H. Ogilvie, Assembly President

ATTEST:

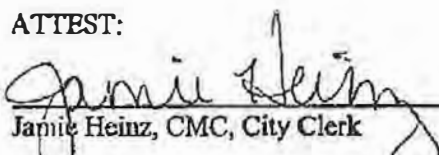

John Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI THIS 7TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2018.

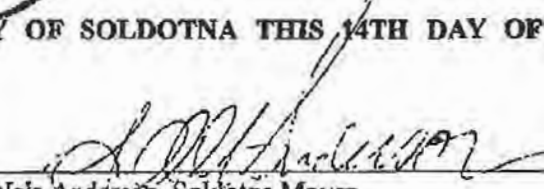

Brian Gabriel, Sr., Kenai Mayor

ATTEST:


Jamie Heinz, CMC, City Clerk



APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOLDOTNA THIS 14TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2018.


Neils Anderson, Soldotna Mayor

ATTEST:


Michelle M. Sauer, MMC, City Clerk





PC211

Submitted by: Darin Shigeta

Community of Residence: Honolulu, Hawaii

Comment:

Having fished the Togiak River on myltiple occassions, I am in favor of allowing bait to be used.



PC212

Submitted by: Adam Shoen

Community of Residence: Bellingham, WA

Comment:

Adam Shoen- General Manager, Steamboat Bay Fishing Club, Noyes Island, SE AK

Despite the claims that Proposal 259 makes, the changes in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan were not a misunderstanding. It was clearly understood by all parties at the time of signing. This was clarified by the board as seen in the conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G. This is not a misunderstanding of the agreement just a lack of commitment by the troll fleet to the three-year process.

There needs to be no confusion that taking up proposals out of cycle and out of the area being impacted is unacceptable as this circumvents the public process, limits stakeholders access to the board decision process, and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions. We are requesting that this proposal be taken up in cycle in 2025 during the Southeast meeting.

In closing, I oppose proposal 259. I ask the board to address any changes to the King Salmon Management Plan during the 2025 Southeast meeting.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC213

Submitted by: Leslie Sigman

Community of Residence: Ripley, TN

Comment:

I strongly support this proposal. I believe the changes made in the past year were overly restrictive as to the use of bait on the Togiak Rliver. Unless concessions are made, I do not plan to make a return trip to fish this river. I believe that everyone in my group feels the same way. This is an expensive trip and totally eliminating the use of bait makes is a no go for me.

Proposal 256: Support



November 13, 2023

Mr. John Wood, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Boards Support Section
[REDACTED]

RE: Silver Bay Seafoods Comments on Proposal 43

Dear Chairman Wood and Board of Fisheries Members:

Silver Bay Seafoods is a vertically integrated, fishermen-owned seafood processing company with several operations throughout Alaska. Silver Bay's operations in Southeast, Prince William Sound and Kodiak in particular benefit greatly from the fishery enhancement programs, as do their communities and residents. **We oppose proposal 43.**

We support Alaska's outstanding hatchery program, which is rooted in strong scientific methodology and is built upon precautionary principles and sustainable fisheries policies to protect wild salmon populations. This program has demonstrated nearly 50 years of sustainable enhanced production to supplement our wild stocks, providing economic opportunity and food security to all users. A [McDowell Group report](#) identifies the economic contribution in 2018 of Alaska's salmon hatcheries to be 4,700 jobs, \$218 million in labor income, and \$600 million in total economic output.

Hatchery production is managed through a rigorous public permitting process which involves many stakeholders and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) experts from multiple disciplines. ADF&G opposes proposal 43 on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Significant investments have been made in Alaska's salmon hatchery program and associated research to provide for sustainable salmon harvests and to bolster the economies of coastal communities while maintaining a wild stock priority. In particular, the work of the Alaska Hatchery Research Project continues to provide information to show how these enhanced stocks interact with wild salmon. The team of scientists collaborating on this project are well



respected and have broad experience in salmon enhancement, management, and wild and hatchery interactions. The science is extensive, so thorough that there wasn't enough time for it to all be presented during the recent hatchery committee meeting in October. The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

We ask you to continue to support the existing public RPT process and to work with the hatchery community, ADF&G, and industry leaders to further your understanding of the importance of the Alaska salmon hatchery program to all Alaskans.

Respectfully,

Abby Fredrick



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I'm from Sitka, and I strongly oppose Proposal 43. As a life long commercial fisherman in the SE region, I can testify to the ever increasing importance of hatcheries to our local salmon fisheries. Over the last 2 decades, the hatchery produced component of our salmon catch has brought a much needed increase in ex vessel volume/income. As more of our wild runs are diminished by the combined forces of habitat degradation and climate change, hatcheries provide the only path to economic stability in virtually all of our fisheries here in SE.

Sincerely,
John Skeelee



Sitka, Alaska

November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I participate in sport and subsistence fisheries in Valdez and the Prince William Sound. I strongly oppose Proposal 43.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.



Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Jason Smilie

[Redacted Signature]

Valdez, Alaska



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I participate extensively in the Cordova fisheries, from commercial, sport, subsistence, and public use fisheries to seafood retail. I oppose Proposal 43. Without these hatcheries and others like them, our fisheries die, then our oceans die, then the economy, then eventually we die in the end. It's important to supplement fish to sustain a healthy population for fisheries to continue.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

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Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

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Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Mackenzie Smith



[REDACTED]

Cordova, Alaska



PC218

Submitted by: Steve Smythe

Community of Residence: Littlerock Wa

Comment:

The Sockeye fishery would be a very exciting fishery using bait and can be targeted at different locations in the river than where the kings typically are found!

Proposal 256: Support



Ron Somerville
For Territorial Sportsmen, Inc.



October 23, 2023

Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish & Game



Dear Board of Fisheries:

This is in response to the proposed ACR's 11-13 scheduled for the upcoming meeting in Homer in November, 2023.

I was representing the Territorial Sportsmen, Inc. (TSI) at the last Board of Fisheries meeting in Anchorage on the SE king salmon management plan. The meeting produced an agreement between the Trollers, TSI, and Seago. TSI's goal, from the beginning was: (1) to protect the resident king salmon fishing opportunities without further restrictions; (2) support maintaining the 80% trollers and 20% sport fisheries allocation of our quota; (3) if restrictions were necessary to stay within our quota then the nonresident harvest would be restricted first; (4) by the end of June the Department should be able to advise the charter industry and non-residents of additional projected restrictions like bag limit and season modifications or closures which would or could be applied; and (5) if the sport fish quota was exceeded, the guide industry (non-residents) would be responsible for paying it back the next year.

The data suggests that the non-resident harvest had already taken our entire sport fish quota by the middle of June while the resident fishery for kings was closed for most of the region. This certainly simplifies the potential options for controlling the non-resident harvest.

Since the non-resident sportsmen harvest 80%+ of the kings taken in outside waters and they harvest 70%+ of the king salmon taken within the region, placing other restrictions on residents is insane and unfair. Especially considering that the king salmon fishing in SE is, for all practical purposes a subsistence fishery which has generally been closed until the middle of June. In addition, everyone at the negotiating meeting agreed that residents should be the last user group affected by further sport fishing restrictions. **No one** proposed that in-season restrictions would not apply to non-residents. Had that been clearly enunciated at that meeting we would



never have signed the agreement. To have left the guided fishery unregulated would have been insane.

At first, I refused to sign the agreement but, after talking to the Commissioner, he convinced me that residents would not be negatively impacted. However, no one ever indicated that the sport fishing quota would be exceeded and the trolling industry would absorb the over-harvesting by the non-resident sport fishermen. We would have never agreed to that interpretation.

From our perspective, the ACR's could help fix this dilemma. ACR 13 could just be amended to clarify that the language stating "allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon (and add) **for residents.**"

As we stated in Anchorage, the king salmon management plan should make it clear that over harvesting by either the trollers or the sport fishermen should be separated and recovered the next year. In the sport fishing category, the over harvest should be deducted from the allowed non-resident harvest the next year.

We are amazed at the opposition from the Department for our request to protect the resident king fishery. The only thing we can conclude is that the Department is either unwilling or unable to manage the non-resident harvest.

One last point. We pointed out at the Anchorage meeting that a sport fishing over-harvest of king salmon was inevitable with no in-season options available for the Department. We certainly did not believe that the over-harvest of kings would be as high as 15,000 plus fish the first year. Obviously, there was a larger abundance of kings this year. Records indicate that since the pandemic the number of new boats entering into the guided fishery has increased about 5% -10% per year. We assume that will continue or increase if this issue is not addressed. However, if the Board does not fix this now, we will have even more new charter boats next year with predictably a larger over-harvest of kings and a larger more established guided/non-resident fishery.

Thank you for considering my comments on behalf of TSI.

Sincerely

Ron Somerville



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of Pages: 11

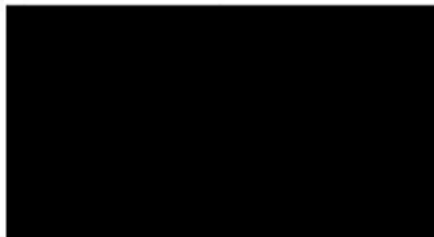
Attention to: Chair Person Marit Carlson-Van Dort
Subject: Alaska Board of Fisheries Kenai
Fax: [REDACTED]

Date: 10-11-2023 04:41:48 P
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October 11, 2023

To: Alaska Board of Fisheries



Attn: Chairperson Marit Carlson-Van Dort,

The SOuth K-bch. Independent Fishermen's (SOKI) is a community ad hoc organization that addresses the concerns of those East Side Set Net (ESSN) fishermen who harvested salmon in the south K-beach/Kasilof River statistical area. We have historically harvested the salmon stocks bound for the Kasilof River and Tustumena Lake systems. We are in the Kasilof district and many of us work in the confines of the alluvial plane.

We are very supportive of the efforts to have the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) come down to the Kena Peninsula to hear directly from the families who fish these waters. We feel that we have been denied access to the BOF regulatory process and with the current restrictions and closures in place we find it near impossible to be testify, partake in the committee process and be available to address modifications to current regulations, management policies and new proposed changes. The costs to participate for a 14-day period in Anchorage is clearly impossible to comply with.

We are offering the board a review of the Final Report – Ombudsman Investigation, Department of Fish and Game, Board of Fisheries, J2019-0374, August 29, 2019 for reference to recommendations and some background to previous attempts to devise a workable solution to the meeting location process in the south-central/Cook Inlet management area.

Please review and consider a current solution to this long-standing issue.

Thank you,

Christine Brandt

Spokesperson for SOKI





Final Report - Ombudsman Investigation
Department of Fish and Game, Board of Fisheries
J2019-0374
August 29, 2019

The Alaska State Ombudsman provides this final public report of the investigation of complaint J2019-0374, pursuant to AS 24.55.200.

Introduction

In May 2019, the Ombudsman received a confidential complaint about the Board of Fisheries (Board). The complaint alleged that the Board violated the Open Meetings Act when it voted to change the location of the 2020 Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) Finfish meeting at its January 2019 meeting.

The Ombudsman notes that the location of the UCI Finfish meeting has been a long-standing source of interest for stakeholders. The Board has held the meeting in Anchorage for at least the past 20 years. The Ombudsman specifically notes that this complaint does not address the substantive issue of where the meeting is held. That decision is properly left to the discretion and authority of the Board. Rather, this report concerns the process used by the Board to reach its decision.

Allegation

The Ombudsman investigated the following allegation

Contrary to law: The Board of Fisheries violated the Open Meetings Act by failing to provide reasonable and consistent notice of its intention to consider the location of the 2020 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting at its January 2019 meeting.

Assistant Ombudsman Kate Higgins investigated this complaint. She provided notice of the complaint to Board of Fisheries Executive Director Glenn Haight on May 23, 2019. The



Ombudsman provided a confidential preliminary report of her findings on July 22, 2019. The Board responded on August 15, 2019.

Based on a preponderance of the evidence,¹ the Ombudsman found the allegation *justified*.²

Statutory Authority

AS 44.62.310 provides in relevant part:

(e) Reasonable public notice shall be given for all meetings required to be open under this section. The notice must include the date, time, and place of the meeting and if, the meeting is by teleconference, the location of any teleconferencing facilities that will be used. Subject to posting notice of a meeting on the Alaska Online Public Notice System as required by AS 44.62.175(a), the notice may be given using print or broadcast media. The notice shall be posted at the principal office of the public entity or, if the public entity has no principal office, at a place designated by the governmental body. The governmental body shall provide notice in a consistent fashion for all its meetings.

(f) Action taken contrary to this section is voidable. A lawsuit to void an action taken in violation of this section must be filed in superior court within 180 days after the date of the action. A member of a governmental body may not be named in an action to enforce this section in the member's personal capacity. A governmental body that violates or is alleged to have violated this section may cure the violation or alleged violation by holding another meeting in compliance with notice and other requirements of this section and conducting a substantial and public reconsideration of the matters considered at the original meeting...

AS 44.62.312 lays out the State of Alaska's policy regarding how government should conduct "the people's business:"

(a) It is the policy of the state that

(1) the governmental units mentioned in AS 44.62.310(a) exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business;

(2) it is the intent of the law that actions of those units be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly;

¹ The standard of proof used to evaluate all ombudsman complaints is "preponderance of the evidence:" if the evidence indicates that, more likely than not, the administrative act took place and the criticism of it is valid, the allegation should be found justified.

² A complaint is "justified" if the investigation establishes that the administrative action complained of occurred and the Ombudsman determines that criticism of the administrative action is valid. See ALASKA STATE OMBUDSMAN POLICY 4060.03, Findings.



(3) the people of this state do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies that serve them;

(4) the people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know;

(5) the people's right to remain informed shall be protected so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created;

(6) the use of teleconferencing under this chapter is for the convenience of the parties, the public, and the governmental units conducting the meetings.

(b) AS 44.62.310(c) and (d) shall be construed narrowly in order to effectuate the policy stated in (a) of this section and to avoid exemptions from open meeting requirements and unnecessary executive sessions.

Background

The Board generally schedules its future meetings on a rolling cycle during its annual October work sessions.³ The notices for these meetings generally indicate that the meetings are non-regulatory in nature and include the following types of items for consideration: election of officers, board committee reports, future board meeting schedules, and administrative issues.⁴ At its October 2017 work session, the Board voted 4-3 to hold the 2020 UCI Finfish meeting in Anchorage.⁵ This meeting was publicly noticed in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.⁶

³ E.g. Alaska Board of Fisheries, Tentative Agenda for October 15-16, 2018 Work Session, (Sept. 28, 2018), <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2018-2019/ws/agenda.pdf>; Alaska Board of Fisheries, Tentative Agenda for October 17-19, 2017 Work Session, (Oct. 12, 2017), <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2017-2018/ws/agenda.pdf>; Alaska Board of Fisheries, Tentative Agenda for October 18-20, 2016 Work Session, (Oct. 17, 2016), http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2016-2017/worksession/agenda_worksession_2016.pdf.

⁴ E.g. Alaska Board of Fisheries, Notice of Public Meeting (Sept. 17, 2018), <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2018-2019/ws/notice.pdf>; Alaska Board of Fisheries, Notice of Public Meeting (Sept. 7, 2017), <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2017-2018/ws/notice.pdf>; Alaska Board of Fisheries, Notice of Public Meeting (Sept. 14, 2016), http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2016-2017/worksession/worksession_notice.pdf.

⁵ See Alaska Board of Fisheries, Preliminary Summary of Actions October 17-19, 2017 Work Session (Nov. 8, 2017) at 6, www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2017-2018/ws/spa.pdf. See also Alaska Board of Fisheries Meeting Audio Recording 10-19-17 at 1:19:16 PM.

⁶ See Alaska Board of Fisheries, Notice of Public Meeting (Sept. 7, 2017), <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2017-2018/ws/notice.pdf>.



The issue came up again at the Board's January 2018 Southeast and Yakutat Shellfish and Finfish meeting. At that meeting, then-Board Chairperson John Jensen suggested that the Board table the discussion until its upcoming March meeting to allow for public notice and interested parties to comment.⁷ The Board agreed, and on February 2, 2018, the Board issued a supplemental notice for its March 2018 meeting specifically adding the location of the UCI Finfish meeting to the meeting agenda, along with several other items.⁸

The Board met on March 6-9, 2018 for its Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, and Miscellaneous Shellfish meeting. On March 9, the Board discussed the location of the 2020 UCI Finfish meeting.⁹ After some discussion, the Board adopted a policy, with a vote of 4-2, to rotate the location of the UCI Finfish meeting between Kenai/Soldotna, Anchorage, and Palmer/Wasilla every meeting cycle, with the 2020 meeting to be held in Kenai/Soldotna:

The board recommends future boards rotate the Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting between the three principle communities of Kenai/Soldotna, Palmer/Wasilla, and Anchorage. This policy contemplates the meeting will rotate between these three communities throughout its 3-year meeting cycle. The board recommends holding the 2020 meeting in Kenai/ Soldotna, the 2023 meeting in Wasilla/Palmer, and the 2026 meeting in Anchorage.¹⁰

This decision was not simply a change in location from the previous decision, made at the October 2017 meeting, to hold the meeting in Anchorage. It resulted in the adoption of a formal policy to address stakeholders' interests in having the meeting in communities other than Anchorage.

⁷ See Alaska Board of Fisheries, Preliminary Summary of Actions January 11-23, 2018 Southeast and Yakutat Shellfish and Finfish Meeting at 17,

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo&date=01-11-2018&meeting=sitka>.

⁸ The notice was titled "Supplemental Notice of Proposed Changes in the Regulations of the Alaska Board of Fisheries," despite being limited to the addition of ten (10) agenda items to the March 2018 meeting, of which the UCI Finfish Meeting location was one. See Alaska Board of Fisheries, Supplemental Notice of Proposed Changes in the Regulations of the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Feb. 2, 2018),

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2017-2018/supp_notice_final.pdf.

⁹ See Alaska Board of Fisheries, Preliminary Summary of Actions March 6-9, 2018 Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, Misc. Shellfish, and Supplemental Issues Meeting at 5,

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2017-2018/state/soa.pdf>.

¹⁰ Alaska Board of Fisheries, Policy Regarding the Location of the Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting, 2018-289-FB (adopted Mar. 9, 2018), <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/findings/2018-289-FB.pdf>.



At the January 15-19, 2019 Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish meeting, the subject of the 2020 UCI Finfish meeting location was raised again. On the first day of the meeting, Chairperson Reed Morisky announced that the Board would likely be considering the meeting location near the end of the meeting.¹¹ On January 18, Chairperson Morisky brought up the issue and asked for a motion.¹² Board member Jensen moved to relocate the 2020 UCI Finfish meeting back to Anchorage.¹³

The Board discussed the issue at length and received advice from Assistant Attorney General Seth Beausang. Mr. Beausang advised the Board that, because this was not a regulatory matter, the Board simply needed to consider whether it had provided reasonable notice, consistent with the Board's past practice as required by the Open Meetings Act.¹⁴ Board member Robert Ruffner voiced his opinion that the Board's consideration of the UCI Finfish Meeting location did not comply with the Open Meetings Act.¹⁵ He noted that the matter was outside the usual scope of issues addressed at Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim regional meeting.¹⁶ He also noted that Chairperson Morisky announced the addition of the UCI Finfish Meeting location to the agenda after the opportunity to sign up for public comment at the January 2019 meeting had passed.¹⁷

Mr. Ruffner additionally voiced concerns that the Board Chairperson had, during a break, advised several interested parties, including the mayor of the City of Kenai, that the Board would not be taking up the meeting location.¹⁸ Based on that assurance, the stakeholders left the meeting.¹⁹ Mr.

¹¹ See Alaska Board of Fisheries Meeting Audio Recording, Jan. 15, 2019, at 2:26:50 PM, http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/swf/2018-2019/avk_audio/index.html?mediaBasePath=/Meeting%2001-15-19%20BOF%20%28Jan-15-19%205-15-49%20PM%29&title=Meeting%2001-15-19%20BOF#.

¹² See Alaska Board of Fisheries Meeting Audio Recording, Jan. 18, 2019, at 1:46:37 PM, http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/swf/2018-2019/avk_audio/index.html?mediaBasePath=/Meeting%2001-18-19%20%28Jan-18-19%205-00-15%20PM%29&title=Meeting%2001-18-19#.

¹³ *Id.* at 1:47:27 PM.

¹⁴ *Id.* at 1:49:17 PM.

¹⁵ *Id.* at 1:59:22 PM.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*



Ruffner described this as “patently unfair” to Kenai/Soldotna stakeholders who had made the effort to attend this meeting.²⁰

Chairperson Morisky admitted on the record that he had done this, stating:

Yes, I did speak with the Kenai official and he expressed that if it looked like we weren’t going to take this up, he wanted to leave. And the conversation we had at the time was that it looked like weren’t going to take this up at the meeting. So, I take full responsibility for that, there was no intent to mislead. He left and circumstances changed, and I apologize for that but we’re here now and we’re going to vote on this.²¹

The Board then voted 4-3 to move the 2020 UCI Finfish meeting back to Anchorage, contradicting the policy it had adopted in March 2018.

During a June 13, 2019 telephonic interview with Assistant Ombudsman Higgins, Chairperson Morisky was unable to describe what or how “circumstances changed” between the time that he advised the Kenai mayor that the Board would not be considering the meeting location and that afternoon when he raised the issue for consideration.²²

Analysis

The Ombudsman evaluates complaints objectively and bases her findings upon the preponderance of the evidence. This means the evidence must show that it is more likely than not the agency made a mistake before we can make a critical finding or recommendation to the agency.

Allegation: The Board of Fisheries violated the Open Meetings Act by failing to provide reasonable and consistent notice of its intention to consider the location of the 2020 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting at its January 2019 meeting.

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ *Id.* at 2:06:57 PM.

²² Telephone Interview by Assistant Ombudsman Kate Higgins with Reed Morisky, Chairperson, Alaska Board of Fisheries, (June 13, 2019)..



AS 44.62.310(e) requires that state agencies provide “reasonable” and “consistent” public notice of its meetings. In this case, it is undisputed that the Board provided notice of its January 2019 meeting. The notice, however, did not include the 2020 UCI Finfish meeting location on the agenda. The question is whether the notice was sufficient to alert the public that the Board would be considering the UCI Finfish location at that meeting, and whether the notice provided was consistent with the Board’s past practices.

The evidence showed that the Board usually discusses and decides on future meeting dates and locations during October work session meetings that are publicly noticed. In this case, the 2020 UCI Finfish location was reconsidered several times after it was originally set for Anchorage at the October 2017 work session. It first came up at the January 2018 Southeast Shellfish and Finfish meeting, but then-Board Chairperson Jensen tabled discussion for lack of notice satisfying the requirements of the Open Meetings Act. The matter was publicly noticed for the March 2018 meeting, at which the Board considered and voted to move the meeting to Kenai/Soldotna.

Board Chairperson Morisky raised the issue at the January 2019 meeting, apparently *sua sponte*. No prior notice was given to the public that the issue would be on the agenda. Mr. Morisky simply announced on the first day of the meeting that the Board would take it up “near the end” of the meeting. Chairperson Morisky relied on the “subject to change” language in the agenda as reasonable notice for the addition of the UCI Finfish Meeting location to the meeting agenda.²³

This sort of notice is insufficient to meet the “reasonable notice” standard set in the Open Meetings Act. It only served to alert those individuals already at the meeting of the reconsideration of the UCI Finfish meeting location. Considering that the January 2019 meeting was for Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish issues, it is unlikely that many individuals interested in the UCI Finfish location would have been present to hear the Chairperson’s statement.

Despite the paucity of the notice given of the addition of the UCI Finfish meeting location to the January 2019 meeting, interested members of the public managed to learn of the change and travel more than 100 miles to attend. Then, the Board Chairperson by his own admission told representatives from the Kenai/Soldotna area that the matter wouldn’t be taken up – only to

²³ *Supra* n. 12 at 2:01:32 PM.



introduce the matter for a vote later the same day, after they had gone. This not only violates the spirit and the letter of the Open Meetings Act, it brings into question whether the Board Chairperson and members acted in good faith.

The Board's decision to take up the issue of the 2020 UCI Finfish meeting location at the January 2019 meeting was inconsistent with its past practice. When the Board decided to take up this exact same issue, just a year earlier, it tabled discussion when it became apparent that the Board had not met the public notice requirements of the Open Meetings Act. The Board properly decided to wait until the next scheduled meeting to take up the issue, specifically to allow for public notice.

The Ombudsman also points out that the decision made at the January 2019 meeting was not simply a scheduling decision. The Board revisited a matter that had been discussed, voted upon, and reduced to a formal policy not even a year prior: to rotate the UCI Finfish meeting among the three major Cook Inlet communities. The Board did this without any meaningful notice that the Board was intending to take action contrary to board policy.

Therefore, based on the preponderance of the evidence, the Ombudsman finds that the Board violated the Open Meetings Act when it raised and voted to change the location of the 2020 UCI Finfish meeting on January 18, 2019 because it did not provide reasonable notice, consistent with its past practices.

Proposed Recommendation

Recommendation 1: The Board should cure the violation in accordance with AS 44.62.310(f) by reconsidering its decision at a publicly noticed meeting.

AS 44.62.310(f) provides that an agency can cure a violation "by holding another meeting in compliance with notice and other requirements of this section and conducting a substantial and public reconsideration of the matters considered at the original meeting." The Board can cure the violation in one of two ways. The Board can hold a stand-alone meeting to reconsider the 2020 UCI Finish meeting location, with reasonable and proper advance public notice. Alternatively, the



Board can issue a supplemental notice, as it did for its March 2018 meeting, adding the 2020 UCI Finfish location to its already-scheduled October 23-24, 2019 work session meeting.

Board's Response

In his August 15, 2019 response to the Ombudsman's preliminary report, Chairperson Morisky agreed to implement the recommendation by holding another vote at its October 23-24, 2019 work session meeting. He also committed to reviewing the policy, adopted in March 2018, of rotating the UCI Finfish meeting between the Anchorage – Kenai/Soldotna – Palmer/Wasilla areas to “determine if it holds any future viability.”²⁴

Conclusion

The Ombudsman appreciates that the Board intends to implement her recommendation at its upcoming October meeting and to review its policy regarding the UCI Finfish meeting location to determine if it wishes to retain or revoke it. The Ombudsman recognizes that the decision to set a meeting location may be, in some circumstances, a purely ministerial action. However, in this instance, the Board itself has noted that “one of the most divisive issues it faces almost every year is not a regulatory subject, but rather where to hold the Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting.”²⁵ As such, the Board should exercise increased diligence to ensure that its decisions on this issue are beyond reproach, to include strict adherence to the Open Meetings Act.

²⁴ See Appendix A, Board's Response, August 15, 2019.

²⁵ *Supra* n.10.



Email: [REDACTED]

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Website: <http://www.seafa.org>

November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries

Alaska Board Support



Submitted via Board of Fish electronic portal

RE: Comments for the Lower Cook Inlet Board of Fish Meeting

Dear Chairman Wood and Board Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on behalf of the membership of Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA). We represent our approximately 325 members involved in Southeast Alaska salmon (gillnet, troll, & seine) crab, shrimp and longline fisheries, halibut & sablefish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska and some of our members are involved in the gillnet fishery in Prince William Sound.

PROPOSALS 34, 35, 36, & 43 OPPOSE

SEAFA opposes these 6 anti-hatchery proposals that are trying to undermine the Alaska Hatchery system. While the proposals are specific for the most part to Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) programs the intent is to set a precedent to undo the hatchery programs. The hatchery program has a robust public process through ADF&G internal review, the Regional Planning Teams, the regional Comprehensive Salmon Plans, annual reviews and reports. Implementation of these proposals would likely hamper the Departments ability to effectively manage both hatchery and wild stock returns and impair the ability of private non-profit hatchery association to retain adequate stocks to meet program goals to fund the programs, maintain broodstock and provide significant opportunity to users of the resource. Hatchery programs provide an important need to focus effort on hatchery stocks and minimizing effort on wild stocks that are in need of protection, are considered a stock of concern. Wild stocks labeled stocks of concern have associated action plans which take into account the flexibility of protecting one stock but still providing fishing opportunities on the enhanced stocks.



Proposal #34 & #35 OPPOSE: These two proposals are opposed by ADF&G, are similar to ones submitted and considered last year during the Prince William Sound meeting. The Department believes the *Policy for the Management of Mixed Stock Fisheries* and the *Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries* provides the Department with appropriate guidance as well as any Stock of Concern action plans in the area.

Proposal #36 OPPOSE: This proposal seeks to limit the amount of cost recovery at one site, this undermines a commonly used method to take a high amount of cost recovery in one spot, leaving other areas for common property fishing opportunities. There are currently policies and regulations in place providing authority for hatchery operators to determine cost recovery goals. These goals are sometimes listed in the Comprehensive Salmon Plans as well as in the Annual Management Plan that is agreed upon yearly by the operator and ADF&G. In addition, there is a regulation that states once hatchery salmon enter the Special Harvest Area they are no longer subject to common use and no longer available exclusively to the common property fishery.

Proposal #43 OPPOSE: SEAFA opposes this proposal. A version of this proposal has come before the board every cycle for awhile now and still does not present any compelling evidence for the need to limit hatchery permitted levels. The ADF&G staff comments (RC2) has an excerpt from the Dept of Law that points out that the Board of Fish most likely does not have this authority but the authority rests with the Commissioner of ADF&G to fundamentally change hatchery production levels. Hatcheries are permitted through a public iterative process involving the public, hatchery operators and ADF&G. The proposal does not provide any compelling or scientific evidence to justify the reduction of hatchery production (pink salmon in this proposal). We continue to oppose this attempt to have the Board of Fish circumvent the comprehensive planning, public input and participation in the hatchery permitting process and the ability for the Commissioner to act in the face of conservation concerns.

PROPOSALS 257, 258 & 259 SUPPORT:

SEAFA supported accepting ACR 11, now proposal #257 and ACR 13, now Proposal #259 at the October work-session. Proposal #257 and Proposal #258 are both addressing the changes necessary to update the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan*. While it is necessary to update the plan based on changes to the Pacific Salmon Treaty, it is difficult to determine if there is unconditional support for ADF&G's proposal #257 since they are planning to submit an RC with further regulatory language.

Proposal #259 would amend the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* and address the change that occurred when the wording “sport fishery” was dropped in the writing of the regulation. This significantly changed the intent of the agreement that was reached at the SE Board of Fish meeting in 2022, between the Alaska Troller Association, Territorial Sportsmen and Southeast Alaska Guides Organization working with Board Member Mitchell. This agreement was submitted as RC 178 that was agreed upon and adopted by the Board of Fish. This agreement ([RC178](#)) used typical method of marking new text bold and underlined and [IN CAPITAL] language to be deleted. The language that was in RC 178 5 AAC 47.055 (b) and the previous regulation was “(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the sport fishery harvest ceiling;”, section (b)(2) was not changed by being bold and underlined nor was it specifically addressed in staff comments as it was not one of the changes being made or agreed upon. When the regulations were actually published the words “sport fishery” was removed so it now reads 5AAC 47.055 (b)(2) “allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the harvest ceiling;” which has a different meaning.

**PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND ROCKFISH CONSERVATION EMERGENCY PETITION
ADOPTED BY THE BOARD AT THE OCTOBER WORKSESSION**

We understand that the Board of Fish might be considering a board generated proposal to adopt a permanent regulation during this cycle. We believe that a better route would be to wait until next year during the regular Board of Fish cycle for consideration of this proposal and in the meantime adopt a work group to look into rock fish conservation.

Sincerely,



Kathy Hansen
Executive Director



November 13, 2023

John Wood
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Re: Proposals 257-259, Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

Chairman Wood and members of the Board,

Southeast Alaska Guides Organization (SEAGO) is a non-profit trade organization with a mission to promote the tradition of sport fishing in Southeast Alaska through reasonable regulations that ensure the long-term sustainability of our businesses and fish resources.

SEAGO **supports Proposal 257** by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game that seeks to align language in the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan (KSMP) with the new multivariate pre-season model for SEAK chinook abundance.

SEAGO **opposes Proposal 258**.

SEAGO **opposes Proposal 259** which purports to correct an error between Board intent and implementation of the 2022 iteration of the KSMP where we believe no error exists and therefore the proposal does not meet the criteria for out of cycle ACRs.

Rationale

Proposals 257 and 258

The KSMP language needs editing to reference the new multivariate model now used to pre-estimate SEAK chinook abundance. The changes are as simple as proposed by the department in 257. The sport fishery is still held accountable to the 17 allocations of the new model when computing average harvest to achieve a 20% share of allocation with troll after net-gear subtractions which renders Proposal 258 moot.

Proposal 259

The proposal alleges that changes in the Alaska Administrative Code in Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan and application of the plan to the sport fishery over the past two years goes contrary to the negotiated agreement between stakeholders and Board intent when passing RC178 in March of 2022. The authors contend that the removal of the phrase "sport fishery" going from the RC to statute removed an intended directive for inseason management of the sport fishery and inflated 2023 sport harvest and therefore qualifies to be addressed out of cycle.



The language change was not a departure from intent.

SEAGO was directly involved in the 2022 negotiations and present for Board deliberations on the resulting RC178 authored by Member McKenzie Mitchell. The theme of the management is to use static 3-2-1 annual limits for non-resident sport anglers across all abundance levels calculated to produce sport underages directed to troll in high abundance which would offset overages absorbed by troll in low abundance.

This arrangement was used between troll and sport in versions of the KSMP through 2002. The very nature of the strategy requires on-average management to attain a 20% allocation to sport over time. If inseason management had been the theme of the negotiations, the Board and stakeholders already had a basis for it in Proposal 82 for which RC178 was substituted. Nor would SEAGO have consented to artificially constraining non-resident sport harvest in high abundance with no prospect for gains somewhere else.

The following transcript excerpts of the 2022 Board deliberations on RC178 clarify intent:

(time stamps reference [audio archive](#))

1:12:09

McKenzie Mitchell:

“This was a cooperative effort between the Alaska Trollers Association, Southeast Alaska Guides Organization, and Territorial Sportsmen Incorporated, to, I guess, develop a King salmon management plan that allows for a resident priority, as well as an 80/20 allocation managed at an average between the troll and sport fishery.”

1:19:11-1:22:14

Patrick Fowler:

“So, one other point I want to make, bring to the board's attention, just to clarify. So this would manage the sport fishery with, with no in-season management. So these bag and possession limits that I've announced would be maintained throughout the season, even if the department projects that the allocation of the sport fishery would be exceeded, or if there would be remaining allocation on the table that would be transferred to the troll fishery.”

Doug Vincent-Lang:

“So getting to that last point, it's my understanding, correct me if I'm wrong, that the bag and possession limits that you came up with for the sport fishery are largely designed around a 20/80 split. So, to keep it within the 20% allocation for the sport fishery. That was your best estimate as the manager, that that's what it would take. Now we could go over and under and there's, there's ways to deal with that, but that was designed to, to keep it at 20% is my understanding.”

Patrick Fowler:

“Yes, sir. Mr. Commissioner. So, the one major change is that the individual tiers we expect to exceed allocation in the lower tiers and fall short of allocation in the upper tiers. And you are correct that over time, the department projects, if history were to repeat itself, that this would result in roughly 80/20



allocation. So, so any given year the sport fishery could exceed its allocation or fall under the allocation. But over time, yes, the intent is to stay with that 80/20. And that's what these management provisions are. The department agrees with the concept that this will maintain that roughly 80/20 allocation."

Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang:

"And then for, for management purposes under my EO authority I'm not to take action to correct an overage or an underage in the sport fishery, as you said, but that that would be paid back at, through the amount of time I EO open, EO open for the troll fishery to stay underneath the annual allocation by the, the treaty allocation."

Patrick Fowler ADF&G

"That is correct. I think the intent of this collaboration between the, the user groups here is that the troll fishery would act as the buffer that if the sport fishery was to overharvest its allocation that the troll fishery, the late summer troll fishery, would be reduced to absorb that, so the Alaska all gear catch limit would not be exceeded."

Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang:

"And then finally, I think it's the intent, the way I read this is that if there are fish left on the table through all the different user groups that I have the ability to emergency order, open up the troll fishery during the months of August and September to soak up some of that if I so wish."

Patrick Fowler:

"Yes sir. That is Correct."

Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang:

"And that's, that's the desire to any of those additional fish that would be left over would go to the troll industry."

Patrick Fowler ADF&G

"Correct."

1:22:57

John Wood.

"I just want to thank Member Mitchell for moving this through as she did, but I'm going to assume that those three signatures on there means they agree to everything that's in this. And if not, throw a tomato or something to get my attention right now."

(No tomatoes were thrown; either by fellow Board members or stakeholders in attendance)

-End Transcript-

To allay fears of how this management concept might play out, SEAGO proposed to sunset changes made by RC178 which effectively established a probationary period after which stakeholders could reconvene and review the plan's performance.



Deviations from allocation in the sport fishery for the first two years of the three-year agreement have been larger than historic norms in both directions. They were also based on different indexes. The sport fleet fell 15,112 fish short of allocation in 2022 based on Troll CPUE. It exceeded allocation by a preliminary 17,107 fish in 2023 based on the new Multivariate Model for a two-year average of 1,995 chinook above allocation- not far from the mark.

Taking up Proposal 259 or amending 257 or 258 with allocative adjustments to the current KSMP during the Lower Cook Inlet meeting in Homer at the end of the month ignores Board criteria for adopting ACRs and circumvents public process.

The Board received stakeholder and legislative comments prior to the 2022 Southeast Finfish meeting regarding the proposed change of venue from Ketchikan to Anchorage. Of the thirty-eight comments submitted, all but two strongly urged the board NOT to make the change, citing logistics and cost that reduce ability to participate in the process.

Louise Stutes, former chair of House Fisheries, stated it this way in her comment submission:

"The guiding principles behind the board's local advisory committee structure and the public testimony process are to provide fishery stakeholders maximum access to the board and provide board members the opportunity to hear concerns from stakeholders.

Moreover, local input and maximum access to the resource are implicit to "common use" provisions in the Alaska Constitution. Moving meetings out of the area being impacted is contrary to these principles and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions."

We respectfully ask the Board to adhere to the 2022 intent of changes made to the KSMP and hold any discussion of management elements outside tier alignment to the normal Southeast meeting cycle slated for just over a year from now in Ketchikan.

Sincerely,

Forrest Braden, Executive Director- SEAGO

Additional Background

From the time the Southeast sport king salmon fishery was brought under management in 1984 it has been managed to hit its allocation on average, over time, and not inseason. The fishery is expected to exceed or fall short of an annual allocation at times, but over time deviations cancel each other out and the fishery hits its target. A long history with this management approach proves it works.

Trying to manage to a fixed sport allocation percentage inseason is fraught with problems. By projections, it leaves a cripplingly small number of chinook for the sport fishery in low abundance and results in an often unharvestable number of fish in high abundance.



Specifically, inseason sport management to a fixed percentage:

- undermines core sport fishery objectives of stable and uninterrupted fishing
- strips the fishery of reasonable harvest opportunity in low abundance
- creates a projected unharvestable surplus in high abundance
- fosters needless liberalization of angler opportunity in high abundance, creating expectations that can't be satisfied across all abundance levels
- substantially increases management burden by having to constantly assess sport harvest inseason and constantly revise regulation inseason to hit the target
- promotes conservative management that must err on the side of sport underharvest
- will cause the sport fishery to fall short realizing 20% of the combined troll/sport allocation over time

On-average management has been the longstanding backbone of providing reasonable sport opportunity. Prior to a new provision in the 2019 Pacific Salmon Treaty annex, annual overages and underages in SEAK all-gear harvest washed out over time and allowed for sport overages and underages to do likewise. The new payback provision ignores underharvest and penalizes overharvest of the SEAK annual quota and prevents on-average sport management that is tied to the treaty.

SEAGO's conceptual goal during 2022 KSMP negotiations with troll and resident sport stakeholders was to revert to pre-2003 chinook management when troll and sport were once coupled to meet their combined annual treaty allocation¹. Under that arrangement troll absorbed sport underages and overages by increasing or decreasing its summer harvest. The 2022 discussion and subsequent agreement reached by stakeholders and embodied by RC178 was based on that framework.

The agreement established conservative seasonal bag and annual king limits for non-residents across abundance levels that targeted an on-average sport percentage of 20% of the combined troll/sport allocation without the use of inseason management. Resident access was protected in the arrangement. The plan also specifically redirected any annual all-gear underages to troll for additional harvest opportunity which projected troll would be made more than whole over time.

¹"Prior to 2003 the troll fishery was managed "to harvest the difference between the all-gear catch limit less the net allocation and projected sport harvest. Cumulative sport harvest above the sport fishery allocation came out of the troll allocation and were to be paid back in future years by not implementing more liberal regulations in the sport fishery, and the cumulative number of fish not harvested (underage) was applied as an offset against excess harvests in prior or future years." - **Special Publication No. 21-10, Overview of the Sport Fisheries for King Salmon in Southeast Alaska through 2020: A Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, pg. 13**

CC: Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner of Fish and Game
Israel Payton, Director of Sport Fish
John Wood, Member- Alaska Board of Fisheries
Judy Lum, Southeast Sport Fish Regional Supervisor
Patrick Fowler, Southeast Sport Fish Regional Fisheries Management Coordinator



SSRAA

Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc.

P: [REDACTED] F: [REDACTED]

November 14, 2023

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
Alaska Board of Fisheries

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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RE: Proposal 43 – 5 AAC 40.820. Basic Management Plan

Chairman John Wood, Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments for proposals submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) at the 2023 Lower Cook Inlet Finfish meeting. The Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) respectfully provides the following comments for the board's consideration **in opposition to Proposal 43.**

[Proposal 43 –5 AAC 40.820. Basic Management Plan](#)

The language in this proposal to cap the pink salmon production at 58.75 million eggs, is essentially the same as a 75% reduction of 2000 level. Because a similar proposal has been submitted for the 2024 Kodiak meeting (Proposal 59), but for ALL hatchery production, SSRAA is compelled to respond to this proposal as it is a stepping stone to affecting all hatcheries.

Similar proposals have been submitted numerous times in various forms, and have been repeatedly rejected by the Board and the public; ACR2 (October 2018 BOF Work Session), Proposals 54 and 55 (December 2021 PWS/Upper copper/Upper Susitna Finfish/Shellfish meeting).

For hatchery operators to continually have to address the same unsubstantiated claims is frustrating and a waste of resources and time; not only the operators, but for ADF&G and the BOF. The process for permitting hatcheries and their production has numerous opportunities for input and debate prior to the Commissioner granting authorization. To use such arbitrary numbers to assign as production is not only short-sighted, it is arrogant, and a slap in the face to the numerous stakeholders, agencies, and processes that thoroughly vet and regulate hatchery production.

SSRAA would like to thank the Board of Fisheries for the opportunity to provide comment on this proposal, and we would respectfully request that **the board reject Proposals 43, and any other request to reduce hatchery production.**

Respectfully,

General Manager



PC224

Submitted by: Patrick Speranza

Community of Residence: homer, ak

Comment:

I'm writing in support of proposal 29, lower cook inlet - to ban helicopter access to steelhead in these rivers. The pressure on the fish in the lower rivers is intense and growing; fish that manage to escape this are now being molested in their most vulnerable time, preparing to survive the freezing shallow waters of the upper reaches. All other salmonoids are spared from harassment in the upper stretches, and the steelhead should be as well. Access is so limited that prohibiting fly-ins should be sufficient to protect the spawners.

Proposal 29: Support



PC225

Submitted by: Suzanne Springer

Community of Residence: arizona

Comment:

Proposal #256, I am in favor of. I like to fish for Sockeye and being able to return to using prawns, a non roe bait, would be great.

Proposal 256: Support



To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Silas Stardance, and I am a full-time Charter Captain operating in both Alaska and Oregon. I have been running a Charter Boat in Southeast Alaska since 2015. I am writing this letter to express my concern regarding a growing trend in the management of Chinook Salmon Regulations.

The frequent implementation of emergency closures and low limits has been significantly impacting our business. The unpredictable nature of fishing regulations has continued to hinder our operations. This instability in fishing regulations has had a notably negative effect on our out-of-state clientele. Given that our business primarily relies on out-of-state anglers, the reduction in limits for the retention of King Salmon has directly impacted our ability to serve our clients.

On a more positive note, I would like to express my strong support for Proposal 257. This proposal represents a significant step towards enhancing the conservation of Chinook Salmon, which is essential for the long-term health and sustainability of our fisheries. I believe that the measures outlined in Proposal 257 are necessary for the protection and preservation of our valuable salmon populations.

I am particularly troubled by Proposals 258 and 259, as they seem to completely undermine the management strategies for Southeast Alaska. Proposal 259, in particular, appears to be out of cycle and should not be considered without due consideration within the intended areas. It is crucial that Proposal 259 be discussed at the Board of Fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska in 2025, where its impact and relevance can be appropriately addressed.

The unpredictability and seemingly adverse impact of these proposals on our business and the broader industry are deeply concerning. As a stakeholder directly affected by these regulations, I strongly urge a comprehensive evaluation of the implications of these proposals on the region's fisheries and the associated businesses.

Sincerely,

Silas Stardance



PC227

Submitted by: Heidi Matz

Community of Residence: Portland, OR

Comment:

Heidi Matz - Organization Steamboat Bay Fishing Resort

I support Proposal 257 and any proposed changes to SE Alaska fishing limits and they should be decided on and discussed in the location where they pertain to, at the proper time 2025 Southeast meeting. Taking up proposals out of cycle and out of the area being impacted is unacceptable.

I strongly oppose Proposals 258 and 259.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC228

Submitted by: Joel Steenstra

Community of Residence: Craig, AK

Comment:

I am opposed to proposal 259. This proposal needs to be taken up in 2025 in Southeast Alaska when there can be a complete public process and stakeholders have a better opportunity to weigh in. To take it up out of cycle and out of Southeast Alaska circumvents the public process.



PC229

Submitted by: Bradley Steuart

Community of Residence: Bountiful

Comment:

Vote for#257

Vote against #258 and 259



PC230

Submitted by: Bradley Steuart

Community of Residence: Bountiful

Comment:

257, 258, 259

I submitted for an organization, but I realized that because I am now a past owner of the lodge, I perhaps should have voted for myself. So, please disregard the first one if applicable.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC231

Submitted by: Brett Stillwaugh

Community of Residence: Wrangell

Comment:

Being A local year round resident commercial troller operating and living in Wrangell Alaska for the last 35 years , I support ACR 13 (259). I testified at the 2022 BOF meeting in Anchorage . The outcome of the negotiations agreed upon by ATA, SEAGO, and TERRITORIAL SPORTSMEN are not what ended up being in the salmon regulations. The wording has been altered resulting in the charter (sport) industry substantially going over their king salmon allocation . Basically pulling it from other gear groups . In my discussions with ADF&G , they have talked of averaging this over several years and it will even out . My issue with this is that the troll industry is 85% local resident owned and operated , while the charter industry is not . In the low abundance years we need more fish to sustain us not less . ADF&G some how believes the charter industry will not survive under low abundance years and plan to take fish from us to shore up the charter industry while we the residents have to figure out how to survive the low abundance years . The unprecedented growth of the charter industry needs more fish and they want it from other users . They refuse any kind of limited entry to slow their growth.

I oppose ACR 11 (257) as it is written as this is allocative in nature . It will give the charter (sport) industry unlimited access to all SEAK gear groups King salmon allocation , and removes in season management from the charter(sport) sector. Without in season management there is a chance of going massively over their 20% allocation reducing the resident trollers , and other gear groups allocation . On average 80% of the SEAK sport allocation is taken by charter operations , 20% is caught by resident sport fishers . I believe every gear group should stay within there king salmon allocation each year , and any group going over should be required to pay or reduce there take the following year ,to bring them into compliance .

Proposal 257: Oppose

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Support



Submitted by: Will Stoll

Community of Residence: Tacoma, wa

Comment:

I support Proposal 257. I strongly oppose Proposals 258 and 259. I believe these proposals should not be happening away from the areas they are intended for and should be heard at the Board of Fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska in 2025.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I participate in commercial, sport, and public use fishing in Homer. I am strongly opposed to Proposal 43. Hatcheries provide healthy food, jobs, sporting opportunities, fish tax, tourism, local industry, omega 3, and lots of other positive things.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.



Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Ivan Stonorov

[REDACTED]

Homer, Alaska



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I participate in commercial fishing in Homer and Whittier, and I strongly oppose Proposal 43. Reducing the hatcheries will impair every user group. Alaska/everyone should be supporting our beautiful and world-leading hatcheries.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.



Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,

Jordan Stover

[Redacted Signature]

Homer/Whittier, Alaska



PC235

Submitted by: Jim Stubbs

Community of Residence: Anchorage, Alaska

Comment:

I will be commenting on: Proposals 13,14,15,16 & 17

Proposal 1: Oppose

Proposal 2: Oppose

Proposal 3: Oppose

Proposal 4: Support

Proposal 5: Support

Proposal 6: Support

Proposal 7: Support

Proposal 8: Oppose

Proposal 9: Oppose

Proposal 10: Oppose

Proposal 11: Support

Proposal 12: Support

Proposal 13: Support

Proposal 14: Support

Proposal 15: Support

Proposal 16: Support

Proposal 17: Support



PC236

Submitted by: Elaine Taddei

Community of Residence: Seldovia, Alaska

Comment:

Proposal #6,7,8 as a whole. I live at the head of Seldovia Lagoon very near the planting area. I have watched larger boats tie up for the summer in our tiny lagoon bringing up to 6 people to snag and catch 20 times their limit over the course of 6-10 days. The fish have been so spooked no one else besides the boats that are high out of the water can snag more or less catch is impossible. They cast so far out with their lines the small kayakers or canoers are in danger of getting hooked. We have seen the larger charter boats come next to shore where the fishermen were at and start snagging and ran them out. There is no presence of Fish and Game so it basically seems like a free for all. I supported planting the fish because I support the subsistence part and of course the town will benefit from the tourism. It is not a good area for anyone fishing from the shore as well. At high tide above the 17' waterline, it is private property which creates the problem of people lounging on our decks, picnicking in our yards, and trash on our beaches. We have had people try to take our small boats from our yards and snag next to our children playing and swimming on the beach. Also the the closest restroom is a mile into town so they defecate behind the trees in our yards and leave the trash from that. I feel the area needs to be closer to town and facilities where there is better access to manage the fishery. I know this is not in the proposals but I felt it needed to be heard.



Submitted by: William Taylor

Community of Residence: Taylor, MS

Comment:

As a sportsman that I have supported Alaskan fish/ wildlife for a long time I believe that this proposal is critical to a well-maintained fishery. I would respectfully ask that, although the board has made a decision previously that they admit that sometimes new information comes along, and you're allowed to change your decision. I run a business. I run a pharmaceutical biomedical company, as well as a finance company in Wall Street, and I can assure you that I make mistakes and have to re-assess my proposals all the time. So respectfully gentlemen, I would ask that you re-consider the proposal and adopt the following proposal. Thank you.

Proposal 256: Support



November 13, 2023

John Wood
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries



Re: Opposition to Proposals 259, Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

Chairman Wood and members of the Board,

My name is Allen Landeen. I am a year-round Alaskan resident along with my wife and two daughters. I am the General Manager of Taylor Charters- An operation of 8 guided vessels and multiple lodges based in the southeast community of Gustavus. We operate mid may-mid September.

I am writing in **opposition to Proposal 259** put forward by David Richey and Monique Wilkinson.

If Proposal 259 passes it would create instability for the sportfishing sector that is uniquely damaging to sportfishing businesses such as the one that I manage. Halibut size restrictions and allocations are constantly changing. This in and of itself is difficult to manage as we often are selling fishing trips one two and even three years in advance not knowing what the upcoming size and possession limit for halibut will be. This last year with a halibut day closure was especially difficult to explain to clients who had booked a trip when there were no halibut closures, and our saving grace was the ability to fish for king salmon on the closure day. Unstable king salmon regulations and emergency closures on top of that makes the guided sportfishing business model incredibly difficult and threatens my business viability. If I can't count on a regulation to stay the same even for one regulatory year, it is hard to have a business that sells fishing trips that when the clients arrives, they are told they can't fish for what they booked the trip intending to fish for. Sportfishing requires a level of regulator stability that is removed if 259 is passed and puts into jeopardy a whole sector.

I would also like to address the time and location of this proposal. I am a vested member of the fleet. An Alaskan resident who uses this fishery to provide for the needs of my family. It is wrong that the Board is willing to take up this proposal out of region and out of cycle of those impacted by these decisions. If the sport fishing fleet had concerns about a regulation we didn't like, we would not be given an emergency meeting when the commercial fleet was not expecting it. Thankfully SEAGO is working hard to contact us or who knows what else will be snuck in the back door without us knowing. How else could this be interpreted?

I am asking the Board to reject Proposal 259 and proceed without in-season management for the sport sector, until it sunsets in 2025 AS WAS AGREED UPON IN RC178 where it can then be rediscussed in a location that allows for community input and involvement.

Sincerely,
Allen Landeen.
Resident of Gustavus and participant in the Guided Sport Fishing Fleet



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I'm a part of commercial and sport fisheries, seafood processing and retail, and charter guides in Ketchikan, Alaska. I stand against Proposal 43.

Although the current proposal before the BOF speaks specifically about hatcheries in the Lower Cook Inlet, there is a growing group of people who would like to see Alaskan hatcheries disappear and see Cook Inlet as the place to start making that happen. Commercial, sport and subsistence fisheries now heavily depend on hatchery production. Over the years, many anti-hatchery proposals have been submitted to the BOF and up to now, have not received serious consideration by the BOF. If the BOF is inclined to drastically alter its direction regarding salmon enhancement, additional time and energy should be invested in the public process to ensure that stakeholders are a) aware of the Board's desire to make a major shift in direction; and b) allow adequate vetting of the consequences of such action. I used to sit on the school board and major policy changes received two readings (i.e. the first reading to notice the public of a potential shift in policy direction and the second reading to provide ample opportunity for the public to comment.)

I encourage the Board to oppose Proposal 43, but if there are merits to the proposal that the Board feels inclined to take action on, I would encourage the Board to widen the scope of its public outreach and be proactive in soliciting additional input before a final decision is made.

Thank you for your consideration and service as part of the Board of Fish.

Sincerely,

Russell Thomas



Ketchikan, Alaska



Submitted by: Allen Tigert

Community of Residence: Anchor Point, AK

Comment:

I support proposal 29 to prohibit helicopter access to Deep Creek and Anchor River for fishing purposes.

The Anchor River and Deep Creek are the most significant steelhead fishing destinations accessible by road for Alaskans. Traditionally, Alaska residents have hiked upstream from roads to access and enjoy the solitude and wild environments upstream from the road system.

Recently, however, a lodge has been taking guests who are mostly rich non-resident anglers upstream on both rivers and landing them to fish on a daily basis. This has several negative effects.

First, residents who have traditionally hiked and fished these upper reaches are finding that these areas no longer provide the solitude and wilderness feeling that they have enjoyed for years through their willingness to hike upstream. Hiking upstream for several hours only to find a helicopter with rich out of state people fishing in a 'secret' hole is a very disappointing and anger inducing situation. There is a significant economic barrier for most residents in purchasing helicopter access to the upper rivers. Residents of Alaska are losing an area which traditionally provides an escape from our mechanical civilization so that out of state rich people can fish remotely without the effort of walking there.

Second, there are biological concerns. These steelhead have encountered intense pressure from ever increasing numbers of steelhead fishers in the lower river. Many of the fish are hooked and landed, some several times on their passage through this area.

The historic very low fishing pressure upstream from the roads provides an area for these fish to recover so they can overwinter and spawn effectively. This respite is being destroyed by daily fishing pressure from helicopter transported fishermen.

There are already concerns over steelhead escapement numbers in these creeks and the additional pressure of fishing from these people is likely reducing the reproduction success of these steelhead populations.

For these reasons I fully support proposal 29.

Allen Tigert

Proposal 29: Support



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I'm from Cordova, Alaska, and I strongly oppose Proposal 43. We rely on salmon hatcheries in the Prince William Sound for our livelihood and to feed our family. We are just one of many families that make their living commercial fishing for hatchery salmon across the state of Alaska. Hatchery salmon are also integral to personal use, subsistence, and sport fishing interests around the state. If you decrease hatchery production, all user groups suffer the consequences and will see a dramatic reduction in salmon available to them.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a



permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,



Malani Towle



Cordova, Alaska



John Wood
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries

Re: Opposition to Proposals 259, Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

My name is Michelle Trimmer manager at Kain's Fishing Adventures, Inc operating out of Sitka Alaska.

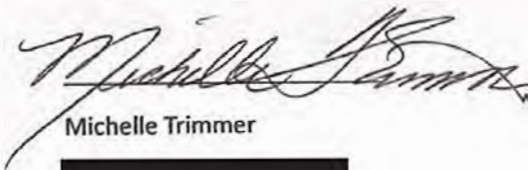
As I personally attended the Board of Fish Meeting in Anchorage in March of 2022, I find this claim by the troll fleet to be preposterous.

Despite the claims that Proposal 259 makes, the changes in the Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan were not a misunderstanding. It was clearly understood by all parties at the time of signing. This was clarified by the board as seen in the conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of ADF&G. This is not a misunderstanding of the agreement just a lack of commitment by the troll fleet to the three-year process.

There needs to be no confusion that taking up proposals out of cycle and out of the area being impacted is unacceptable as this circumvents the public process, limits stakeholders' access to the board decision process, and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions. We are requesting that this proposal be taken up in cycle in 2025 during the Southeast meeting.

In closing, I oppose proposal 259. I ask the board to address any changes to the King Salmon Management Plan during the 2025 Southeast meeting.

Sincerely,



Michelle Trimmer



John Wood
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries



Opposition to Proposal 259, Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

Hello,

My name is Cameron Trippel and I am a regional sales manager at Waterfall Resort and Steamboat Bay Fishing Club, both based in Ketchikan. I have called Ketchikan my summer home for each of the past two years and have made many friendships with local Alaskans and fishing charter workers.

I am writing to express my opposition to Proposition 258, and Proposition 259 in particular, explained through the arguments below:

- Contrary to what Proposal 259 is arguing, the changes in *Alaska Administrative Code Section 5AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* were not a misunderstanding. All understood them when it was signed. It was a lack of communication by the trolling fleet to the 3-year process. This is supported by the board in the conversation between Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Patrick Fowler of Alaska Department of Fish & Game.
- I feel it is unfair that Proposal 259 be approved out of cycle and at a location outside of Southeast Alaska in an area that will not be directly impacted by its outcome.
- Alternatively, I request that this proposal should be taken up in 2025 during the Southeast Alaska meeting.

In conclusion, I oppose Proposal 258 and strongly oppose Proposal 259. I ask that the board address any changes to the King Salmon Management Plan during the meeting in Southeast Alaska in 2025.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Best,

Cameron Trippel



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I port from Whittier, Alaska, and I participate in commercial, sport, and subsistence fishing, I am strongly opposed to Proposal 43.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

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Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.



Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Nathan Tueller

[Redacted Signature]

Whittier, Alaska



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I'm part of the commercial and sport fisheries in Homer, Alaska, and I strongly oppose Proposal 43. Hatcheries are crucial to helping our salmon runs and harvests more consistent returns. More consistent returns benefit everyone in the communities surrounding the hatcheries, from sports fishermen, to commercial fisherman, to fish processing plants, to all the businesses that provide services to those groups.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a



demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Colten Tutt



[REDACTED]
Homer, Alaska



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries
[REDACTED]

Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
[REDACTED]

Re: Lower Cook Inlet- Commercial Salmon- **OPPOSE Proposals 34, 35, 36 and 43**

Chair Wood, Board Members, and Commissioner Vincent-Lang:

United Fishermen of Alaska is the oldest and largest trade organization for commercial fishermen in the State of Alaska. UFA has engaged with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), the State Legislature, and the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) regarding Alaska's hatchery programs for more than 40 years. Alaska's hatchery program is a world-class example of conservative and strategic integration of enhanced stocks with wild stocks.

Alaska's hatchery program is regularly evaluated and reviewed in periodic program evaluations for each association by ADF&G, undergoes permit review and annual reporting, and is subject to public process through the Regional Planning Team process and Comprehensive Salmon Plan updates in each region. Additionally, the hatchery associations have supported ongoing studies related to straying and genetics which will help ADF&G and the regional planning teams assess whether programmatic changes are necessary (note that the studies are currently ongoing and final results are not yet available). The best time for these hatchery programmatic discussions is at the Board's Hatchery Committee meeting and during the Board's statewide meeting based on completed studies and known scientific information.

The proposals targeting hatchery programs for the Lower Cook Inlet meeting are unnecessary, do not propose useful improvement to regulations, and in some cases are simply repetitive. In addition, implementing some of these proposals would likely hamper ADF&G's ability to effectively manage both hatchery and wild stock returns, and would impair the ability of the aquaculture association to achieve operational goals and/or provide funding for hatchery production, evaluation efforts, and non-production programs. **Therefore, UFA opposes proposals 34, 35, 36, and 43.**

- Proposal 34 seeks to create a *Kamishak Bay Purse Seine Fishery Management Plan* to structure guidelines in regulation to ensure wild fish priority in mixed stock fisheries to surrounding river



systems.” This proposal offers no specific regulatory change, would achieve no improvement on existing regulation, and fails to recognize existing policies which guide fisheries management for the prioritization of wild stocks. This proposal and Proposal 35 mirror proposals already rejected by the Board during the 2021 Prince William Sound meeting in Cordova.

- Proposal 35 asks the Board to create a *Kachemak Bay Wild Fish Priority Management Plan*. The proposer provides no clear rationale or framework and fails to acknowledge existing policies and guidance that already establish priority for wild stocks. Furthermore, creation of any such plan would not likely change management of the enhanced fisheries in Kachemak Bay.
- Proposal 36 seeks to limit the proportion of returning adult hatchery salmon that may be harvested within the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery Special Harvest Area for cost recovery by Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association. To meet fiduciary obligations, aquaculture association boards require flexibility to select and prioritize cost recovery opportunities for the organization. These decisions usually vary over time, and the inability to meet financial objectives due to the proposal language could lead to funding shortfalls for projects that are not centered on commercial production. These projects include personal use, sport and subsistence projects (China Poot, Resurrection Bay, etc.) as well as research, habitat monitoring/improvement, and work on invasive species investigation/management (elodea, pike, etc.). It is not uncommon for one project or return to bear a greater proportion of an association’s operational expenses; and that proportion in a given year can vary widely based on price, average weight, and magnitude of return.
- UFA opposes Proposal 43. UFA opposed this proposal at the Board’s Work Session in 2018 (where it appeared as ACR2) and at the Prince William Sound meeting in 2021 (where it appeared as Proposal 55). UFA opposes Proposal 43 for the same reasons it opposed the previous proposals aimed at the same end. There is no definitive record to support the contentions in Proposal 43, and aquaculture associations have been outspoken in their opposition to all iterations of this proposal and clearly articulated the devastating impacts it would have on all of the hatchery programs state-wide.

The Board has consistently continued to defer decision-making and oversight of hatchery programs to the Commissioner and ADF&G. UFA encourages the Board to continue in this vein by rejecting Proposals 34, 35, 36, and 43.

Thank you for your consideration of UFA’s comments regarding changes to hatchery management plans, operational decision-making and production. We look forward to continued dialog and learning opportunities for the Board and public at future meetings of the Board’s hatchery committee.

Regards,

Matt Alward
President

Tracy Welch
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association • Alaska Trollers Association
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Area M Seiners Association • At-sea Processors Association • Bristol Bay Fishermen's Association
Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association • Bristol Bay Reserve • Cape Barnabas, Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United • Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Freezer Longline Coalition • Fishing Vessel Owners
Assn • Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Crab Alliance Cooperative • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • Kodiak
Seiners Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Northwest Setnetters Association • Petersburg
Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owner Association • Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast
Alaska Herring Conservation Alliance • Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance • Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners
Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • United Catcher Boats • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
Valdez Fisheries Development Association



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game



Re: Lower Cook Inlet- Commercial Salmon- SUPPORT Proposals 258 & 259

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 37 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and the federal fisheries off Alaska's coast. **UFA supports proposal 258 (formerly ACR 12) and proposal 259 (formerly ACR 13), which were accepted at the Board of Fisheries Work Session and will be deliberated at the Lower Cook Inlet Meeting.**

Proposal 258 would amend the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan to align with changes adopted by the Pacific Salmon Commission to maintain the troll and sport fishery allocations. The Pacific Salmon Commission has changed the process that they use to determine the SE all-gear harvest limit to one which now has 17 tiers. When the Board of Fisheries updated the SEAK King Salmon Management Plan in 2022, it was assumed that the 7 tier system that has been used for years would remain unchanged. In order to maintain the 80/20 split which was agreed upon by user groups at the 2022 Board of Fisheries meeting, the 7 tiers referenced in 5 AAC 47.055 should be updated to reflect the 17 possible sport harvest limits. This proposal is not intended to be allocative, but rather, is intended to maintain the 80/20 split between commercial troll and sport. UFA supports amending the SEAK Salmon Management Plan to align with changes adopted by the Pacific Salmon Commission and maintaining the troll and sport fishery allocations that were agreed upon at the previous BOF meeting.

UFA also supports proposal 259, which would amend the SEAK Salmon Management Plan, so the sport fishery doesn't exceed the annual sport fishery harvest ceiling. The intent of proposal 259 is to address a critical omission of verbiage in regulation from what was agreed upon in RC



178 at the 2022 BOF meeting. The Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan changed sport fishery management actions, including the allowance of a no inseason management regime. The result is the unintentional liberalization of the sport fishery king salmon harvest and is contrary to Alaska's Sustainable Fisheries Policy. By omitting the words "sport fishery" from the regulation, the result is the removal of the management guideline of the historic 80/20 split and effectively, the 20% cap on sport fish Chinook harvest. Under the existing language, the sport fishery would likely exceed its allocation more often and by a greater amount, requiring reduced harvest in other SE Alaska king salmon fisheries. UFA supports amending the SEAK King Salmon Management Plan so that the language agreed upon during the negotiations at the 2022 BOF meeting is accurately reflected in regulation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Regards,

Matt Alward
President

Tracy Welch
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association • Alaska Trollers Association
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Area M Seiners Association • At-sea Processors Association • Bristol Bay Fishermen's Association
Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association • Bristol Bay Reserve • Cape Barnabas, Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United • Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Freezer Longline Coalition • Fishing Vessel
Owners Assn Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Crab Alliance Cooperative • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture
Association • Kodiak Seiners Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Northwest
Setnetters Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owner
Association • Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Herring Conservation Alliance • Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance • Southeast
Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners
Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • United Catcher Boats • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
Valdez Fisheries Development Association



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

November 12, 2023

RE: Rockfish Restrictions
Submitted Electronically

Chairman Wood and Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) requests that any further action regarding gear restrictions related to rockfish, either statewide or specific to Prince William Sound (PWS) be addressed in-cycle. Further, we ask you charge Prince William Sound stakeholders to create a Task Force to help develop workable solutions to address the issue now and at an in-cycle meeting.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) filed an emergency petition to close state waters to commercial fishing with specific gear types out of concern for rockfish, and the Board of Fish (BOF) passed an action on Friday the 13th of October temporarily giving ADF&G the requested powers. This emergency petition can be extended or renewed which will provide time to develop any permanent changes within a normal, scheduled board cycle meeting.

The authority requested by Commissioner Vincent-Lang (and granted temporarily by the BOF) is immensely controversial and may have far reaching impacts on the commercial fishing sector and commercial fishing dependent communities throughout Alaska. If the emergency longline fishing closures in Prince William Sound (PWS) are made permanent, they would cause severe economic hardship for the small boat longline fleet operating out of PWS communities.

Stakeholders and the public deserve ample time to respond to controversial proposals that are as potentially allocative and impactful as this one. A board-generated proposal passed at this point would likely be brought to the Kodiak meeting in January, which is an inappropriate time and place for this discussion. Traveling to Kodiak from Cordova or Homer is expensive and time-consuming, and this issue should be addressed in-cycle at a meeting location within the PWS region. Further, more comprehensive data on rockfish populations, GHFs and commercial harvest will help determine the extent of the conservation concern. Additionally a more robust outreach to the Halibut IFQ fleet could go a long way toward alleviating the problem. The petition came as a surprise to the commercial fishing sector and in our opinion is simply too soon to already be converting it into a board-generated proposal.

Before permanent regulatory changes are made, we would like to see the establishment of a rockfish conservation Task Force made up of fish biologists and representatives of the fishing fleets. A Task Force would help state and industry collaborate to voluntarily reduce harvest now and form practical proposals for the future that can be brought to a normal, scheduled BOF cycle meeting.

In summary, a proposal to permanently grant EO authority to ADF&G for groundfish simply does not meet the Criteria for Development of Board-Generated Proposals as printed in the Commonly Used Regulations and Policies of the BOF¹.

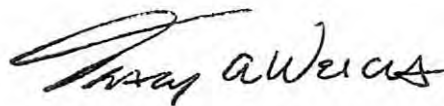
- 1.) It is deeply controversial whether this is in the public's best interest. A rockfish conservation Task Force first needs to work out the most practicable ways to protect rockfish.
- 2.) There is no urgency in considering the issue, as the emergency powers granted to ADF&G can be extended, or another emergency petition considered.
- 3.) The current process of normal board cycle proposal submittal is better suited for discussion of this item.
- 4.) Having this discussion at the Kodiak BOF meeting on January 9th would not create a reasonable and adequate opportunity for public comment. Traveling to Kodiak in the middle of winter is difficult for everyone and the holidays are a challenging time for stakeholder groups to prepare comments and organize testimony. Furthermore, putting a proposal as controversial as this into the Kodiak meeting would diminish opportunity for public comment on the issues of vital importance to Kodiak.

For all of the above reasons, UFA is urging all BOF members to vote against any board-generated proposals delegating EO authority to ADF&G for the purpose of rockfish conservation. The commercial fishing sector is ready to participate in a rockfish conservation Task Force to find better ways for protecting rockfish in state waters.

Regards,



Matt Alward
President



Tracy Welch
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association • Alaska Trollers Association
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Area M Seiners Association • At-sea Processors Association • Bristol Bay Fishermen's Association
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Southeast Alaska Herring Conservation Alliance • Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance • Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast
Alaska Seiners • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • United Catcher Boats • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
Valdez Fisheries Development Association

¹ Board of Fish Criteria for Board-Generated Proposal, from:

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static-f/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2018-2019/common_used_policies.pdf

1. Is it in the public's best interest (e.g., access to resource, consistent intent, public process)?
2. Is there urgency in considering the issue (e.g., potential for fish and wildlife objectives not being met or sustainability in question)?
3. Are current processes insufficient to bring the subject to the board's attention (e.g., reconsideration policy, normal cycle proposal submittal, ACRs, petitions)?
4. Will there be reasonable and adequate opportunity for public comment (e.g., how far do affected users have to travel to participate, amount of time for affected users to respond)?



UNITED SOUTHEAST ALASKA GILLNETTERS

USAG'S MAIN PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT, SERVE AND ENHANCE SOUTHEAST ALASKA'S COMMERCIAL GILLNET FISHERY

On Time Comments Board of Fisheries Lower Cook Inlet 2023

Proposal 34- **Oppose.** The 2016 McNeil River Stock of Concern Action Plan, Management of Mixed Stock Fisheries, and the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries, are adequate tools to achieve established escapement goals. The department has shown a propensity in the past to exceed proposed action in Action Plans should it be necessary to achieve escapement goals.

Proposal 35- **Oppose.** We are of the opinion that ADFG has the tools necessary to successfully manage for wild stocks, which, in our experience, has always been their priority. We would also note that since this proposal does not contain specific measures to be undertaken, it would likely not change current management, given that wild fish are the priority.

Proposal 36- **Oppose.** This proposal would likely result in CIAA being unable to meet broodstock and cost recovery goals, which, over time, would reduce the amount of common property fish available in the fishery, thereby reducing its value to both the industry and the state.

Proposal 41- **Oppose.** We feel that if there is a necessity to closed area in Tutka Bay, the area closed should be in consultation with ADFG and stakeholders.

Proposal 43- **Oppose.** We think that any alteration to any hatchery permit should be subject to the public process in place at the Regional Planning Team, to discuss the scientifically sound benefits or detriments of any particular alteration, for consideration by the Commissioner of Fish and Game. As you know by now, there is some question as to the Board of Fisheries authority regarding hatchery permits and/or altering them. Board of Fisheries action on this proposal could set a precedence that would require BOF review of all permits in the state, usurping the RPT process. RPT's meet twice annually, while BOF meets once every three years per region. This would make for longer or



more meetings than are currently scheduled. It's our perception that the BOF has enough on its plate allocating fisheries resources and should leave permitting to the current process.

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters is a non-profit fishery advocacy group dedicated to the preservation and economic viability of the SEAK drift gillnet fishery. We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Max Worhatch", is positioned below the word "Respectfully,".

Max Worhatch, Executive Director



November 12, 2023

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
Alaska Board of Fisheries

RE: Proposal 35 – 5 AAC 21.XXX The Kachemak Bay Wild Fish Priority Management Plan
RE: Proposal 36 – 5 AAC 36.372 Tutka Bay Lagoon Salmon Hatchery Management Plan
RE: Proposal 43 – 5 AAC 40.820. Basic Management Plan

Chairman John Wood, Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments for proposals submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) at the 2023 Lower Cook Inlet Finfish meeting. The Valdez Fisheries Development Assoc., Inc. (VFDA) respectfully provides the following comments for the board's consideration **in opposition to Proposals 35, 36, and 43:**

Proposal 35 – 5 AAC The Kachemak Bay Wild Fish Priority Management Plan

Proposal 35 seeks to create a wild fish priority management plan for Kachemak Bay salmon because of the author's perception that existing conservation structures do not adequately protect them. Alaska's natural salmon resources have guaranteed priority by the *Alaska Constitution Article VIII, Section 4*, mandating management of all wild salmon under the sustained yield principal. Other directives, such as *5 AAC 39.222 Policy for Sustainable Salmon Fisheries* and *5 AAC 39.220 Policy for the Management of Mixed Stock Fisheries*, provide strong guidelines to further buttress this constitutional mandate. In addition, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has broad regulatory authority to set time and area restrictions to further reduce the harvest of wild salmon in common property and cost recovery fisheries to ensure escapement as necessary.

The author espouses that because some measure of wild stocks are harvested in LCI common property and hatchery cost recovery fisheries, it justifies the need for an area specific conservation plan. Interceptions of wild salmon are common in mixed stock fisheries throughout the state, and this factor is managed quite effectively by ADF&G in-season to ensure escapement goals are met. It should be noted that neither pink, chum, or sockeye salmon stocks are currently recommended as a stock of concern for Kachemak Bay as stated in the *ADF&G Memorandum on LCI Stock of Concern Recommendations (September 20, 2023)*.

VFDA does not support the creation of area specific conservation plans that create additional and unnecessary regulation. We feel strongly that ADF&G currently has the tools necessary to reduce the harvest of natural salmon should ADF&G determine it necessary to protect Kachemak Bay wild salmon stocks. **For these reasons, VFDA opposes Proposal 35.**

Proposal 36 - 5 AAC 36.372 Tutka Bay Lagoon Salmon Hatchery Management Plan

Proposal 36 seeks to insert the following language into 5 AAC 21.372 which would stipulate Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association:

“produce revenues from the harvest and sale of returning fish that are at least equal to the costs of hatchery operation and operate efficiently so that at least 50% of the fish are harvestable by common property fisheries”



VFDA does not support the promulgation of regulation within individual hatchery management plans that stipulate a set percentage of enhanced salmon returns be provided to the common property. Variabilities in returns, budgets, and prices that associations receive for cost recovery sales do not lend themselves to rigid contribution mandates. If adopted as written, Proposal 36 will have a destabilizing effect on CIAA. The process by which annual operating budgets and corresponding cost recovery goals are set is an internal process best left to the boards of directors of individual hatchery associations and not the BOF. In addition, the submission of Annual Management Plans to Regional Planning Teams provides opportunity for comment by the public and various user groups on hatchery production, financial plans, and efficiency of operations.

Adoption of Proposal 36 would set a dangerous precedent by which the financial requirements of an aquaculture association would be subjected to the political process of the BOF every three years. This action would effectively usurp the fiduciary role of aquaculture association boards. **For these reasons, VFDA opposes Proposal 36.**

Proposal 43 –5 AAC 40.820. Basic Management Plan

As submitted, this proposal would apply to the *Cook Inlet Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan*, capping pink salmon production to 25% of 2000 levels. This is not a 25% reduction from current permitted capacities, but a 75% reduction. Because it has been copied and submitted as Proposal 59 for the 2024 Kodiak meeting, it most assuredly is intended to be applied to all Alaska's hatchery permits statewide if adopted on a regional level.

The intent and principals of Proposal 43, which requests the reduction of hatchery egg take permits by direct board action, have been submitted similarly as ACR's and proposals to the board at least three times prior. Each time they have been soundly rejected by the board as shown:

ACR 2 – Submitted by Virgil Umphenour at the October 2018 BOF Work Session. Sought to cap statewide private non-profit salmon hatchery egg take capacity at 75% of the level permitted in 2000 (5 AAC40.XXX). **Failed 2-5 (Public comment was 11 in favor and 116 opposed)**

Proposal 54 – Submitted by Virgil Umphenour at the December 2021 PWS/Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Finfish/Shellfish meeting. Sought to amend the PWS Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan to specify hatchery chum salmon production by reducing to 24% of year 2000 levels. **Failed 0-6 (Public comment was 5 in favor and 95 opposed)**

Proposal 55 – Submitted by Virgil Umphenour at the December 2021 PWS/Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Finfish meeting. Sought to amend private-non-profit hatchery permits to decrease allowable hatchery production to 75% of year 2000 levels. **N/A 6-0 (Public Comment was 4 in favor and 102 opposed)**

The Fairbanks AC has now resubmitted these same failed proposals in the 2023/2024 board cycle. Nothing has changed, other than the author of the proposal. Proposal 43 continues to rely on an unsubstantiated claim of an agreement by the hatchery operators to reduce hatchery production. The proposers have not provided any record of any such agreement showing hatchery operators agreeing to these draconian measures.

The blanket statements of overproduction, and the impacts of hatchery pink salmon on the marine environment, are unsubstantiated as well. As before, the proposer provides no new scientific evidence to support these claims and fails to recognize that pink salmon egg takes of Cook Inlet hatcheries are currently under permitted capacities for recent years. Prince William Sound hatchery production of pink salmon, the largest in the state, has remained relatively stable for decades, experiences strong returns of natural pink and other species of salmon and consistently achieves required escapement goals. Production of hatchery pink salmon equates to approximately 15% of the overall abundance of pink salmon in the North Pacific, using



Adoption of Proposal 43 will cause significant harm to CIAA, capping its pink salmon production at levels that are unsustainable; this will likely have an effect on not just the commercial fisheries, but sport, subsistence, and personal use as programs for other species dry up for lack of funding. As ADF&G stated in *ADF&G RIR No. 5J23-06 Staff Comments* on the proposal, this reduction of permitted capacity,

“ is not likely to result in improved productivity of western Alaska or Cook Inlet salmon stocks.”

I would respectfully point out that hatchery operators have spent considerable time and money addressing these short-sighted attempts to reduce hatchery production and damage Alaska's economy. The BOF and ADF&G have also spent considerable resources addressing and deliberating these matters, most recently at the 2021 PWS Finfish meeting where the proposer failed to submit public comment or attend in support of their proposals.

For these reasons and for reasons stated in our many comments submitted over the years for proposals of this nature, VFDA is opposed to Proposal 43 and we strongly urge the board to reject it.

VFDA opposes these proposals because of the potential they have to create unnecessary regulation and significantly harm not only Cook Inlet hatcheries, but other salmon enhancement programs statewide. The State of Alaska has invested heavily in its hatchery programs through its fisheries enhancement loan program and has a vested interest in the long-term viability of our programs and the benefits fisheries enhancement provide coastal communities and all that depend on them.

For decades, the BOF and the Commissioner of ADF&G have successfully managed Alaska's hatcheries under two general principles; that the Board allocate returns of adult salmon and the Commissioner administer hatchery permits. This understanding has served Alaska and the resource well because authorizations for hatchery permits are rigorously vetted through robust analysis and sound scientific principles, both considering a wide range of effects.

The board's previous and consistent decisions to deny requests to amend hatchery permits is proper and we urge this current Board of Fisheries to observe the historic record when considering repeated requests by the public for direct board intervention to limit or reduce hatchery production.

VFDA would like to thank the Board of Fisheries for the opportunity to provide comment and perspective on these proposals. **We would respectfully request that the board reject Proposals 35, 36, 43, and any other request to reduce hatchery production.** Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike H. Wells".

Mike H. Wells
Executive Director



Submitted by: Benjamin Van Alen

Community of Residence: JUNEAU

Comment:

I support the Lower Cook Inlet Proposals 34, 35, 36, 37, 41, 42, and 43.

I oppose Lower Cook Inlet Proposals 15 and 38.

Please think about the ecologic and economic impacts of Alaska's salmon hatchery program.

Perhaps make an exhaustive list of all the ways hatchery salmon can help wild salmon. Or, make a list of all the locations in the world with healthy and sustainable harvests of wild and hatchery salmon.

If, and when, these lists prove too exhausting to make, take a breath, and your clean sheet of paper, and make a list of factors limiting the abundance of salmon, or, all critters for that matter.

You will recognize that: 1) the abundance of all biota is always limited by the carrying capacity not the numbers of young (i.e., seeds, eggs, babies); 2) the environment is already full of locally adapted biota; and 3) that the carrying capacity is sustained by the recycling of the nutrients from biotic wastes and decomposition.

In applying these "Laws of Ecological Sustainability" to salmon we recognize that it takes spawners to make spawners. That the production and productivity of wild salmon is maintained by their spawning and dying and fertilizing thousands of natal streams, lakes, rivers, and estuaries. Salmon abundance is limited more by the adult spawners that die than the poor egg-to-fry.

Now justify why Alaska's hatchery industry should consume public resources to release billions of babies when Nature will make more adults for free? Why continue to allow billions of hatchery salmon to join in the ecosystem potluck without bringing a dish?

Since there is no such thing as a free lunch there is no ecologic or economic niche for hatchery salmon in the management of Alaska's fisheries.

See attached pdf of a presentation titled "Wild, Natural, Sustainable... or Hatchery?" for more information on why hatchery releases should be reduced or curtailed.

Proposal 15: Oppose

Proposal 35: Support

Proposal 36: Support

Proposal 37: Support

Proposal 38: Oppose

Proposal 41: Support

Proposal 42: Support

Proposal 43: Support

Wild, Natural, Sustainable... or Hatchery?

Benjamin Van Alen [REDACTED]

Alaska AFS, Fairbanks, March 2023



PC249



Question Everything



PC249

- Wild, Natural, Sustainable
- Hatcheries and Ecological Overshoot
- Recommendations
 - Close hatcheries
 - Maintain distribution and abundance of wild spawners and their habitats
- And, if time, some data and observations

Correlation or Causation?



PC249

- Industrial hatchery introductions
- Declining runs:
 - Salmon
 - Herring
 - Eulachon
- Exceptions?
- Anywhere?

...and **how** can
a hatchery fish
help a wild one?

Hatchery releases up

Wild & Hatchery down

Hatchery fish swim with wild fish and must...



PC249

- increase competition
- decrease growth
- increase predation
- decrease survivals
- increase straying
- decrease fitness
- increase harvest pressure
- decrease management precision

On **Wild** fish

You need to question
Hatchery interaction?
Only one ocean



Eli Sheakley, Hoonah Indian Association fisheries technician

Hatchery "Ocean Ranching"



PC249

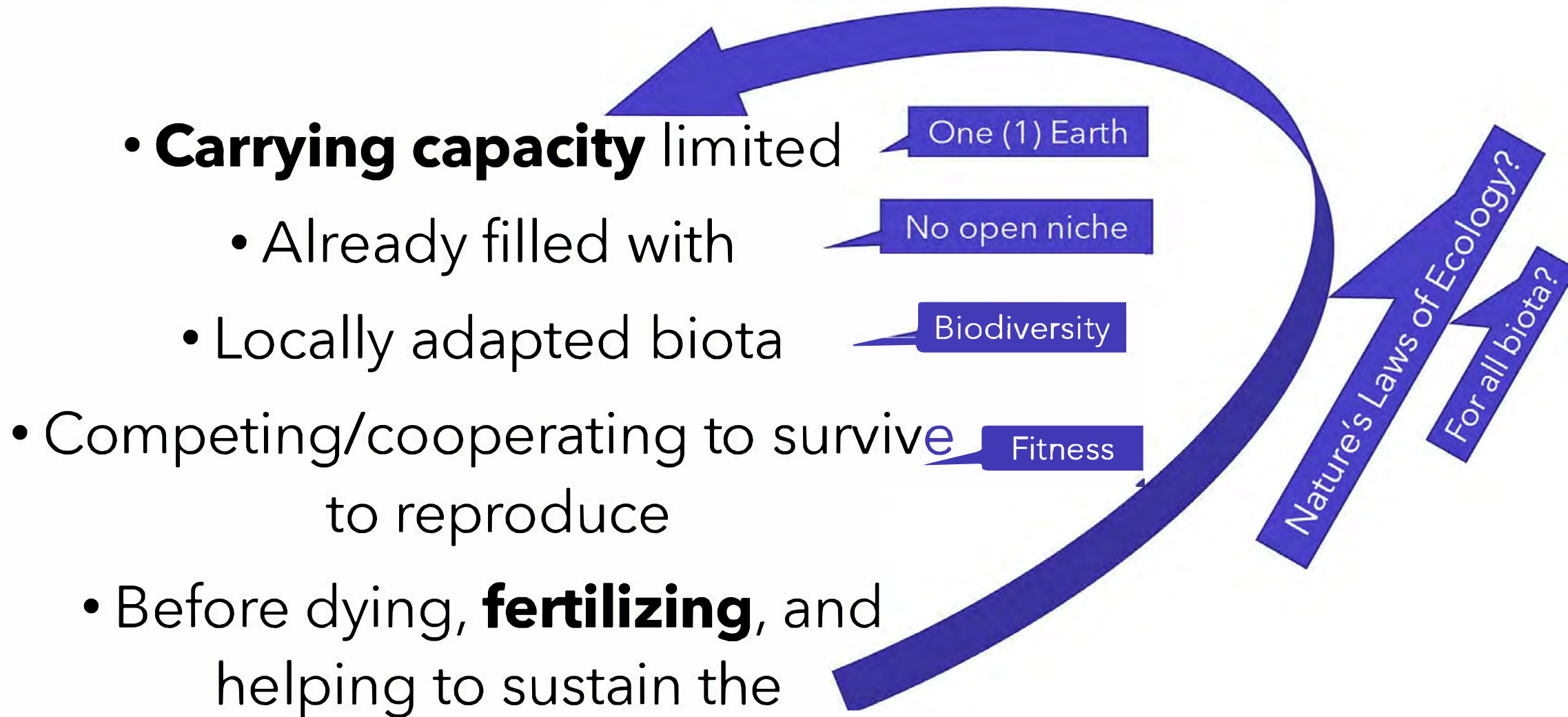


...so what's Ecologically wrong with letting billions of super-sized hatchery fish swim **wild** each year?

Ecology of Wild, Natural, Sustainable?



PC249



Abundance is limited by:



PC249

- **Carrying capacity**
(competition for space,
water, food, and survival)

not

- **Reproductive capacity**
(i.e., numbers of eggs or
seeds)

for

- **All Biota**



Photo credit: Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association

Carrying capacity,
the kitchen not the bedroom,
for every critter

It's the spawners that die, not the poor egg-to-fry

Carrying Capacity

Want more sheep? Get a bigger, more productive, field



PC249



To grow plants or animals we've had to...

- **Control the Environment**

- Control/remove what is already there
- Grow locally adapted seed/stock
- Limit seeding/stocking rates
- Manage
 - Feed
 - Water
 - Medicate
 - Pests
 - Wastes
- Fertilize*

*Is reliance on synthetic fertilizers sustainable?



We eat cultivated food*



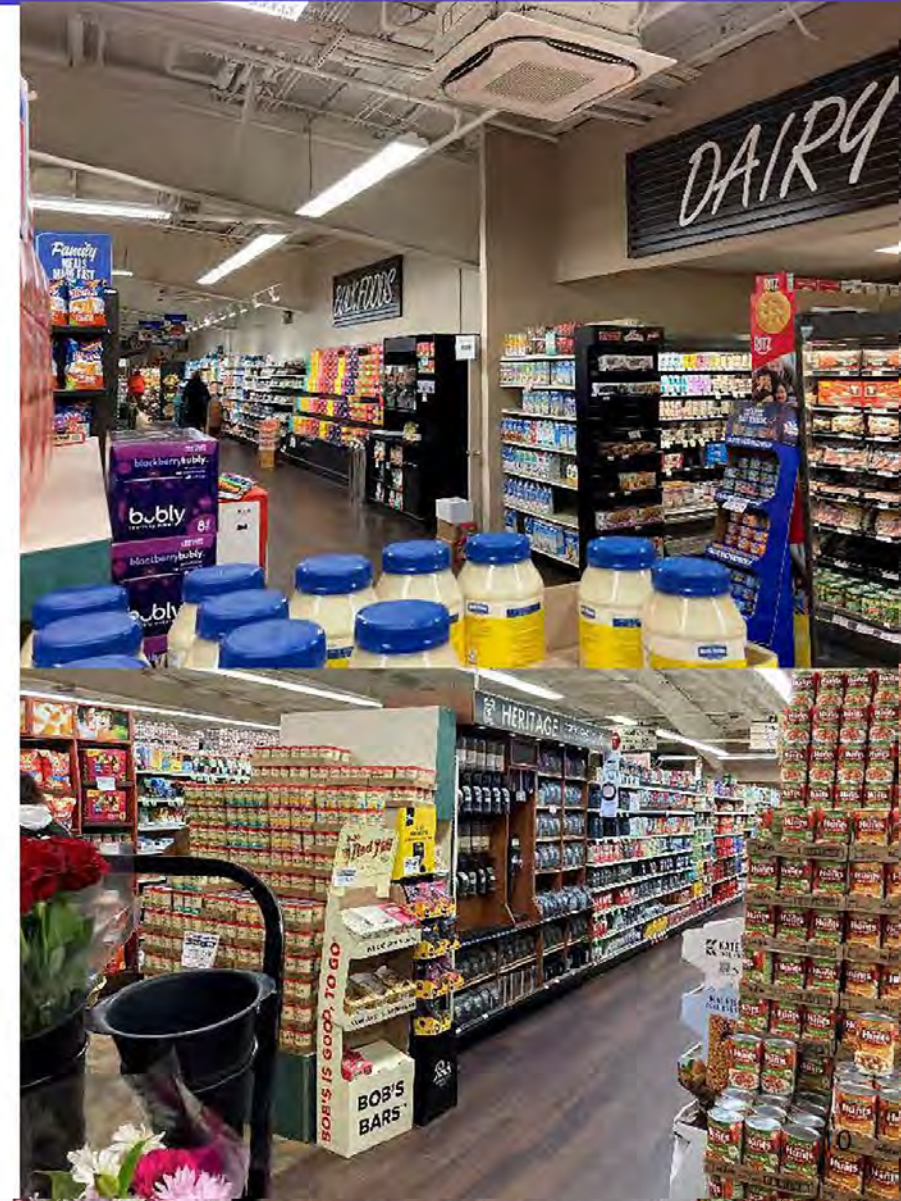
PC249



Definition:
Agriculture/Aquaculture
Breeding, rearing, and
harvesting animals and plants
in **controlled environments****

*what nearly all 8 billion people on Earth
mostly eat

**the Mighty Pacific is not a "controlled
environment"

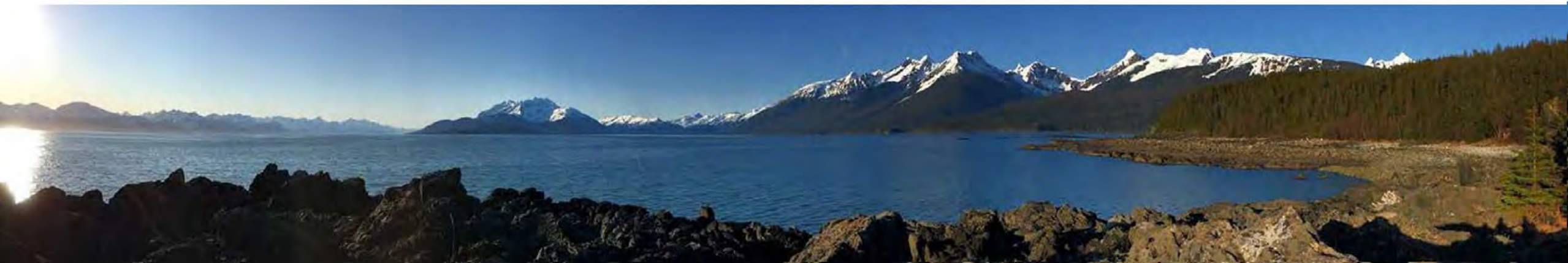


Nature, Human Nature, and Hatcheries



PC249

- The **Ocean is Nature** (a wild and **uncontrolled** environment)
- Why assume:
 - A huge open niche for billions of hatchery babies?
 - Simply release more to harvest more?
 - Hatchery production, not, wild reduction?
 - Can get something for nothing?
 - Because the Ocean is big and complicated?



We can fill the carrying capacity



PC249

- With wild fish
or
- Hatchery fish
BUT
- It is the **nutrient cycling** of wild fish that helps maintain the carrying capacity

Wild fish are
dying for more



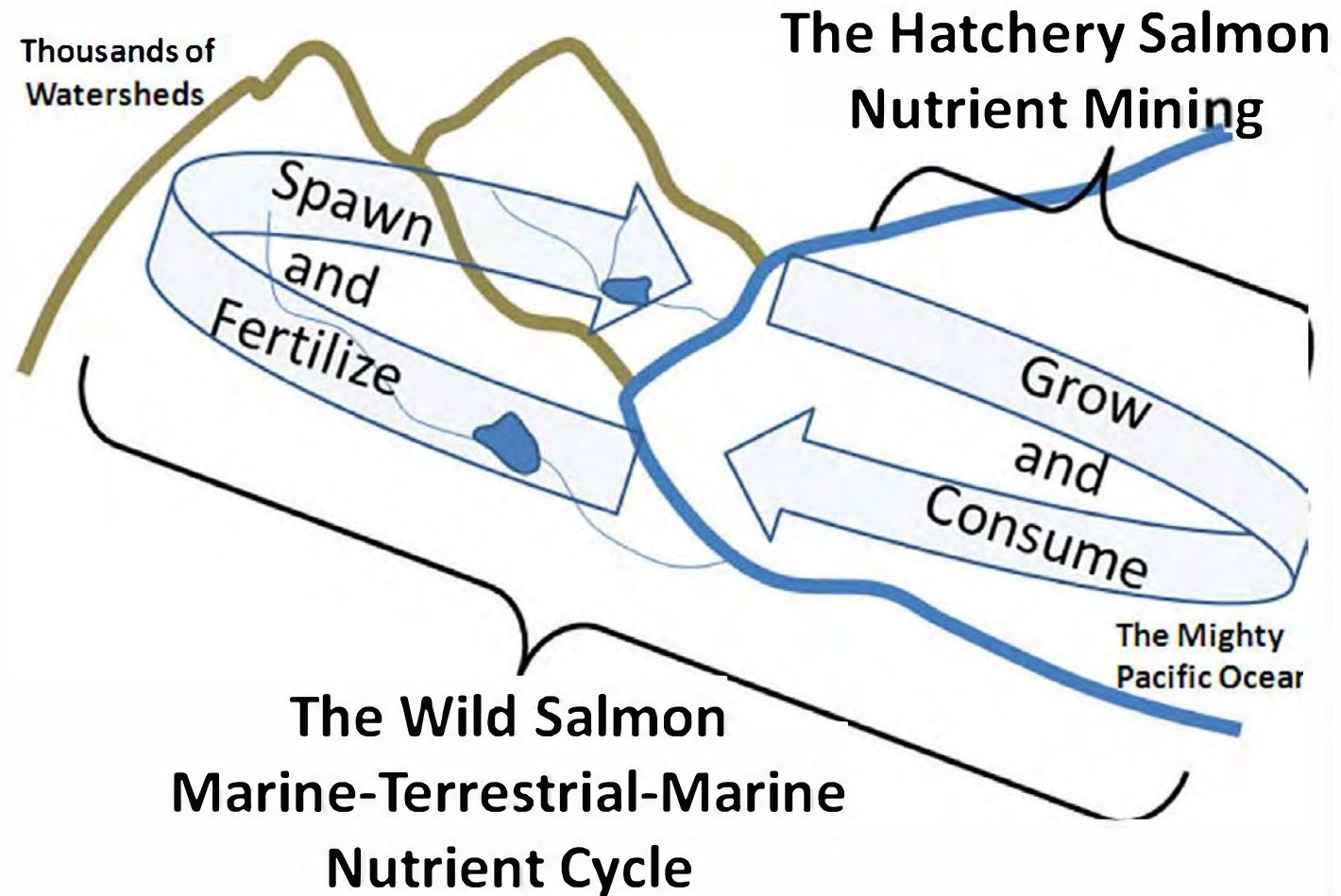
Eli again, 10-years later

Hatchery Nutrient Mining



PC249

- The put-and-take of hatcheries
- Directly mines nutrients
- Lowers carrying capacity
- Early marine survival bottleneck?



Ecological Overshoot (and collapse)



PC249

Biota using ecosystem resources faster than they are being recycled

- i.e., Open Ranching or Ocean Ranching
 - the grazing of introduced animals that mine more nutrients than they recycle
- Where has this proven
 - Sustainable?, Ecological?, Profitable?

We have allowed hatchery fish to elbow their way into the ecosystem potluck without bringing a dish

The unsustainable problem

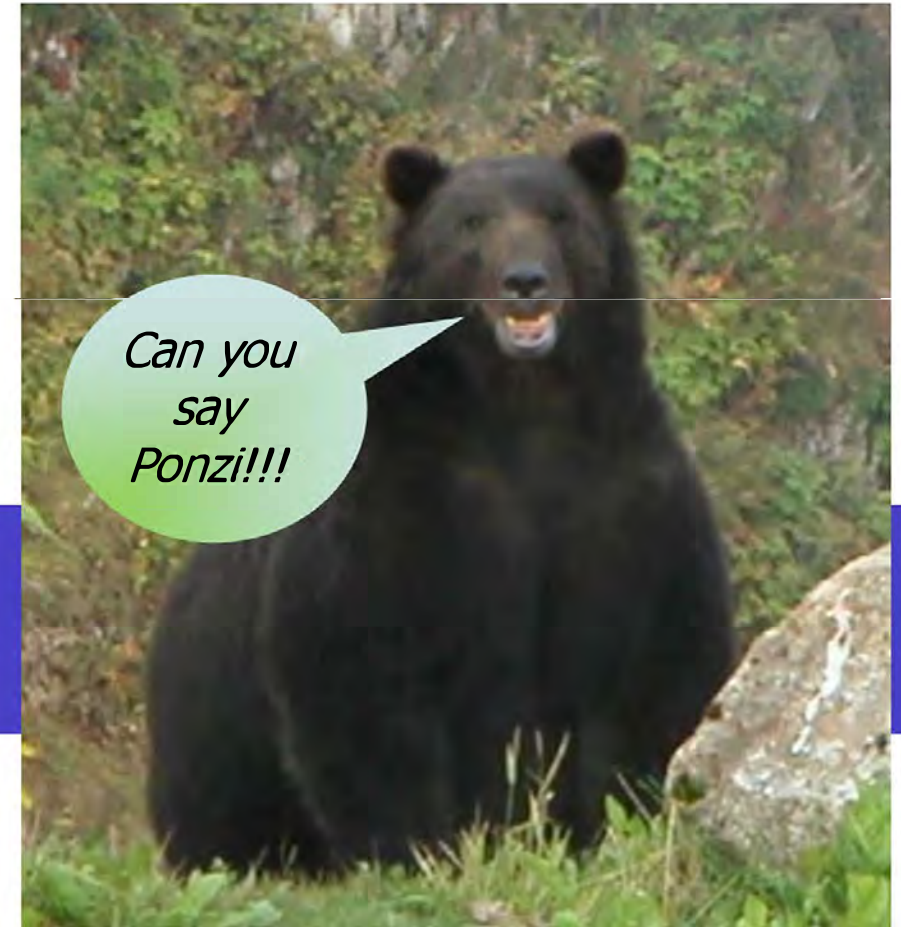


PC249

- Hatchery releases put wild and hatchery fish in direct competition for declining resources

The sustainable solution

- Close hatcheries
- Manage for spawners and habitat



What if mega hatchery releases continue...



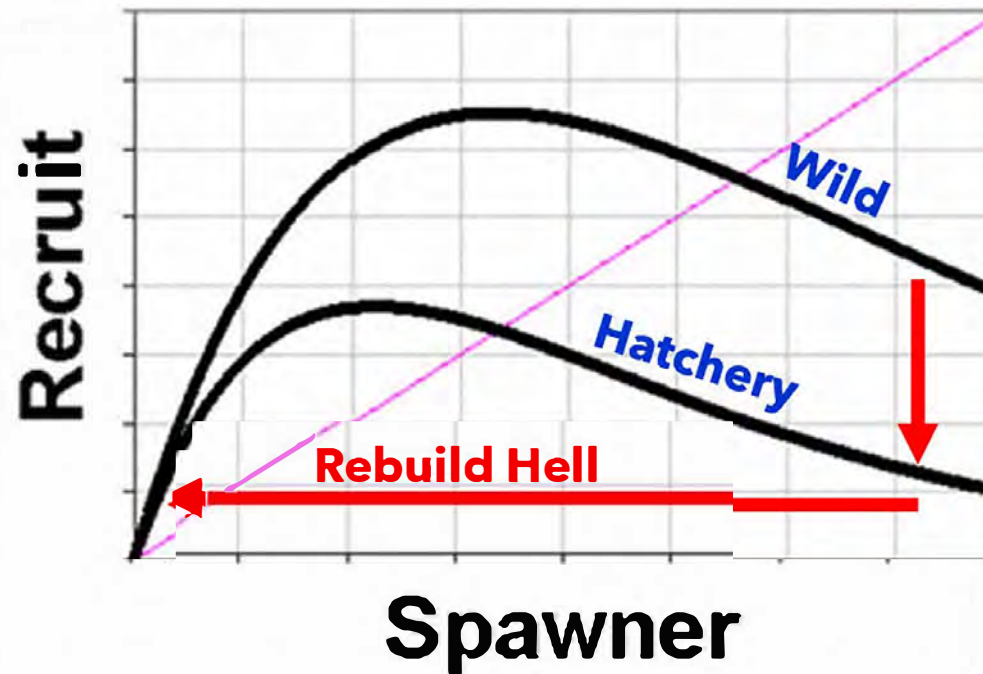
PC249

- Reduced ocean productivity
- Reduced fish production
- Reduced biodiversity, fitness
- Increased ecologic risk from
 - Hatchery problems
 - Water supply, disease outbreak, fitness
 - Climate changes, zoonosis
- Fatter whales, thinner wallets



Mega hatchery overshoot...

- Reduce productivity
- Extreme threshold variability
- Collapse
of wild
stocks
- Rebuild
Hell



In summary, Ocean Ranching is...

- Not what happens Naturally
- Supplants wild production
- Not sustainable
 - Ecologically
 - Financially
 - Legally
- Must be curtailed
- For a healthy ecosystem
- And abundant salmon, herring, eulachon...

Why will doing something in nature, different from nature, be better than nature?

Best to spend some hatchery savings



PC249

- On assessment and management of wild stocks

(i.e. counting fish at remotely monitored video weirs)



"If 10% of the money spent on hatcheries was spent on basic stock assessment of wild fish we'd have more fish and a management program to maintain them."
(what I heard Dr. Brian Riddell, CDFO, say years ago)

Sad sustainability



PC249

- Hatchery – always having another bay to exploit
- Fisheries – always having another stock to exploit
- Humans – always flushing nutrients out of the nutrient cycle

*Anybody want to Save the World
and be an Effluentologist when
they grow up?*

Observe and question...

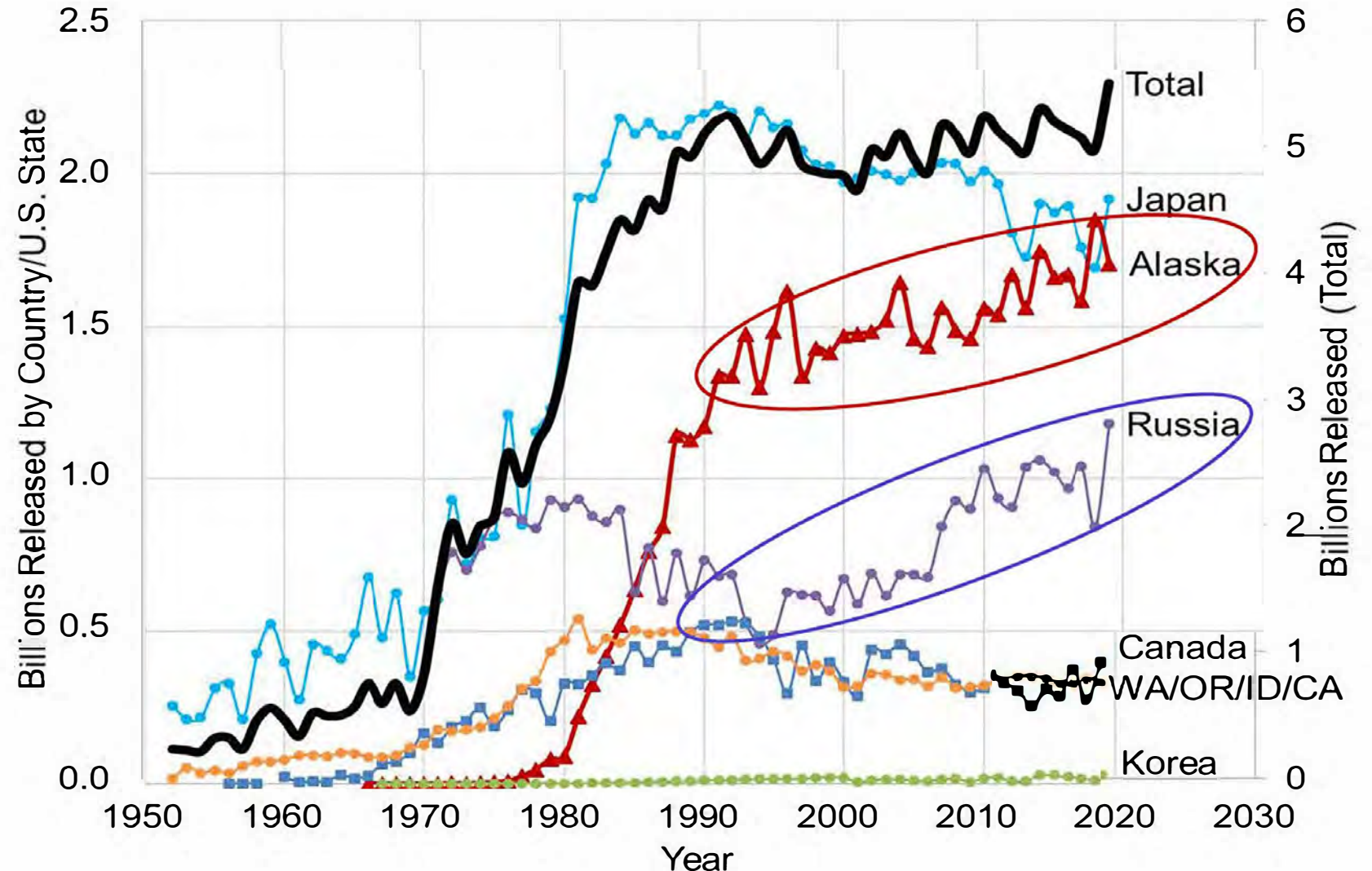
Huge hatchery releases in the North Pacific



PC249

- Releases since 1989:
 - Significantly* up
 - Alaska
 - Russia (especially since 2006)
 - Significantly* down
 - Japan
 - Canada
 - WA/OR/ID/CA

*Spearman's rho rank correlation trend test $\alpha=0.05$

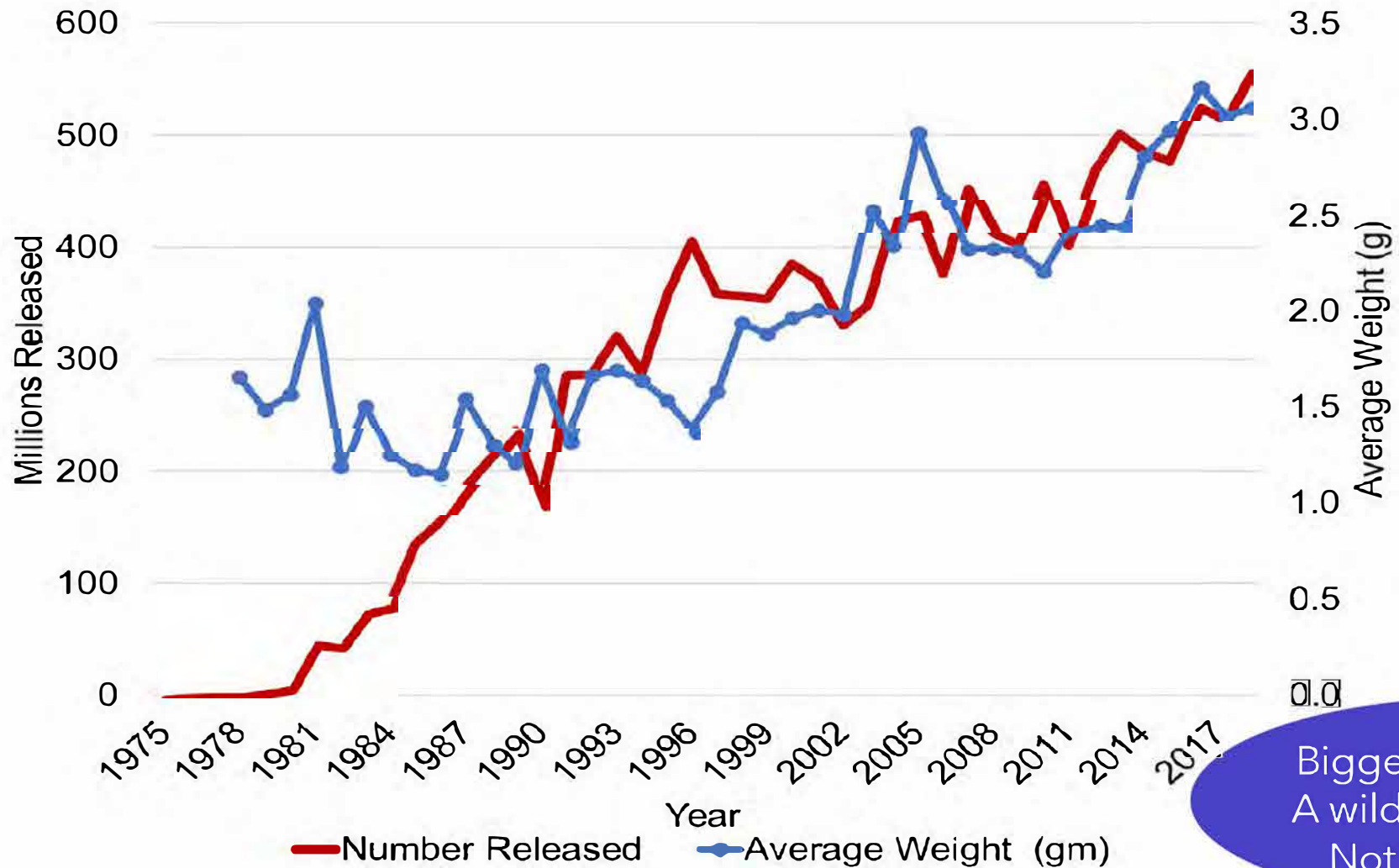


SE Alaska Chum Release effort

To have a survival advantage over wild fish?



PC249



Bigger more better?
A wild stock priority?
Not in our ocean

Hidden Falls Hatchery Chum

Boom and Bust

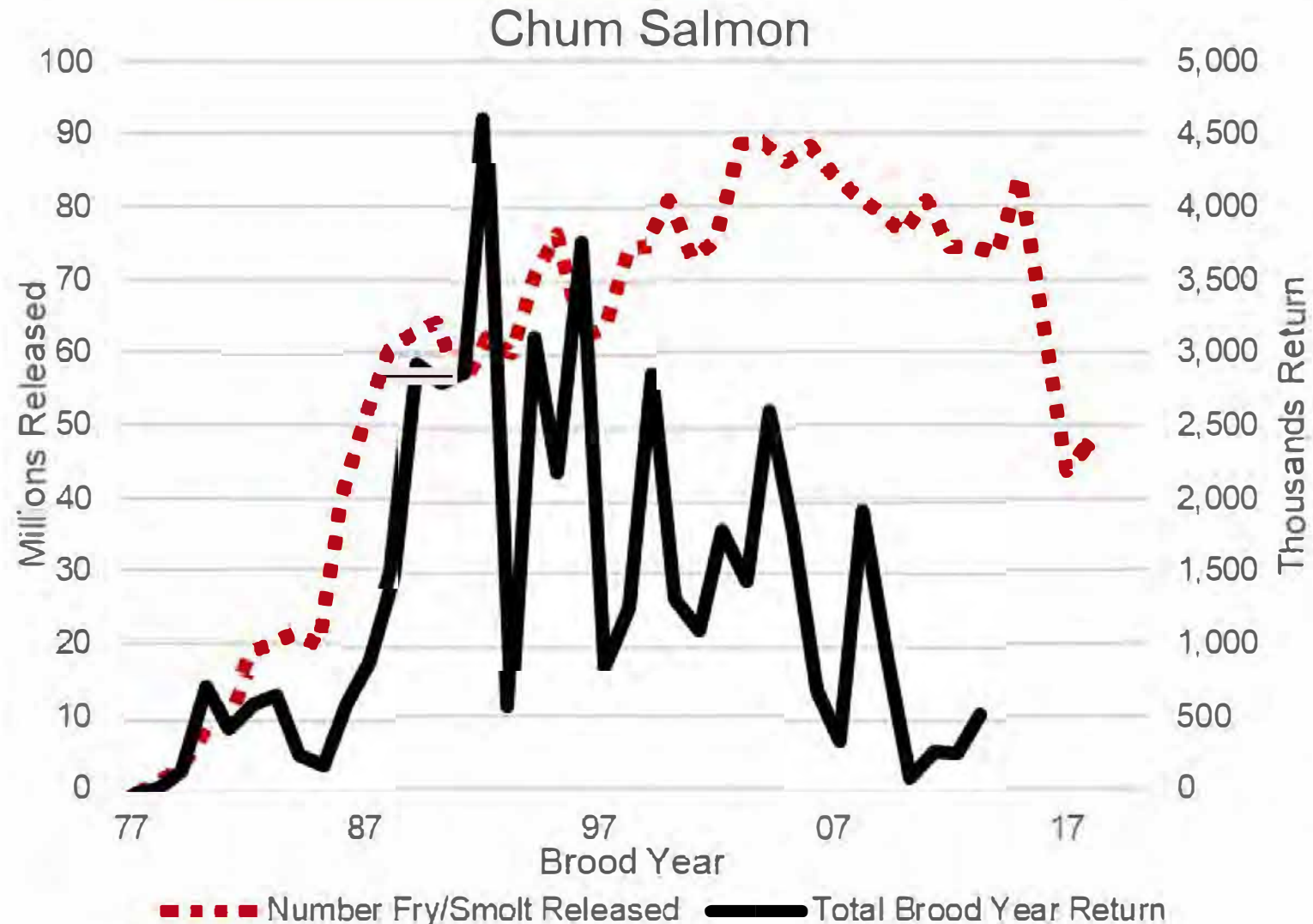


PC249

The biggest in SE Alaska

The biggest in SE Alaska

- A pattern?
 - Returns Peak then
 - Returns highly variable and declining and now
- Challenges meeting Brood Stock and Cost Recovery goals despite
- Huge Releases



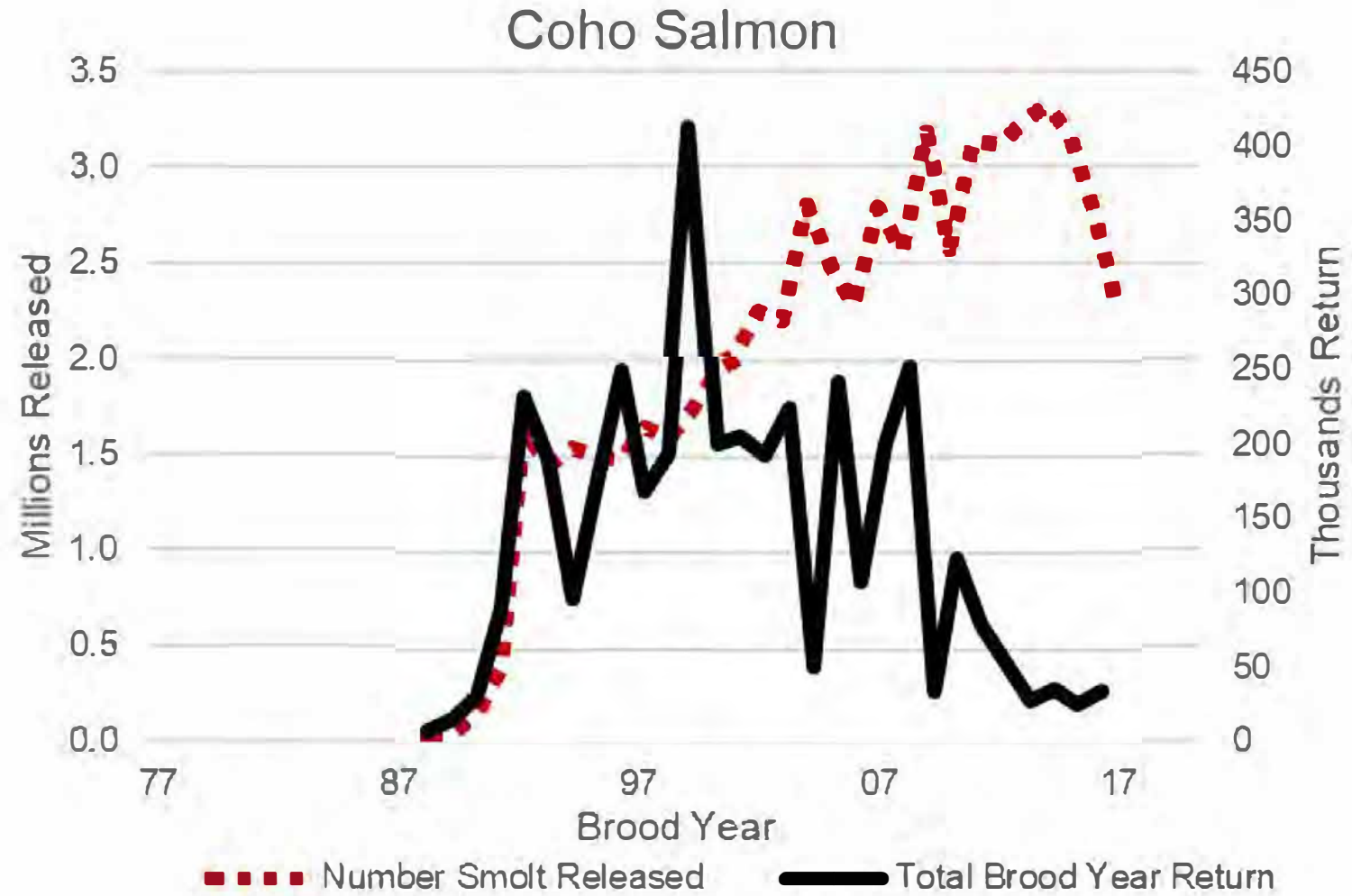
Hidden Falls Hatchery Coho

Boom and Bust



PC249

- A pattern?
 - Returns Peak then
 - Returns highly variable and declining and now
- Challenges meeting Brood Stock and Cost Recovery goals despite
- Huge Releases



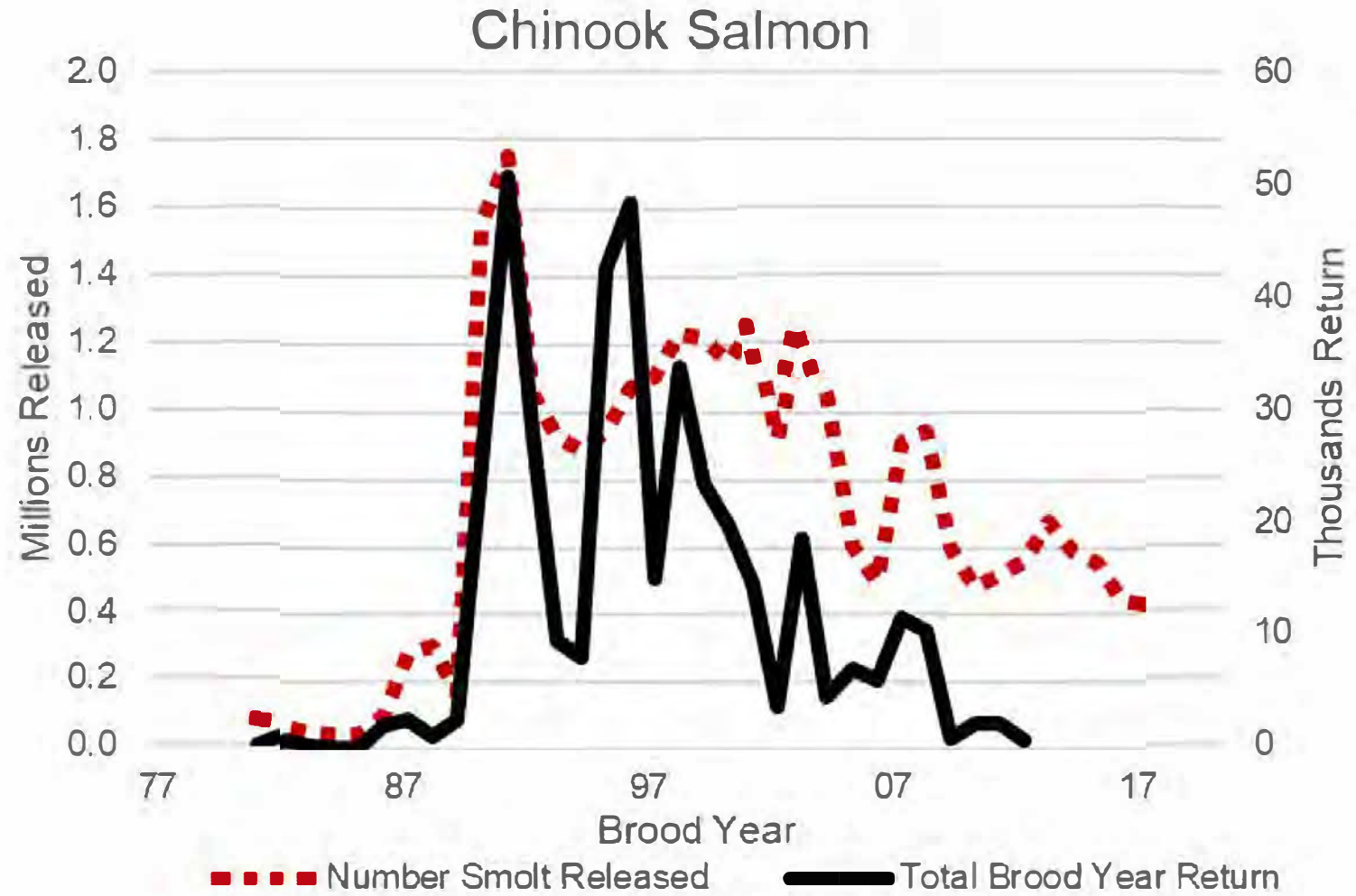
Hidden Falls Hatchery Chinook

Boom and Bust



PC249

- A pattern?
 - Returns Peak then
 - Returns highly variable and declining
 - and
 - Challenges meeting Brood Stock and Cost Recovery goals despite
- Huge Releases



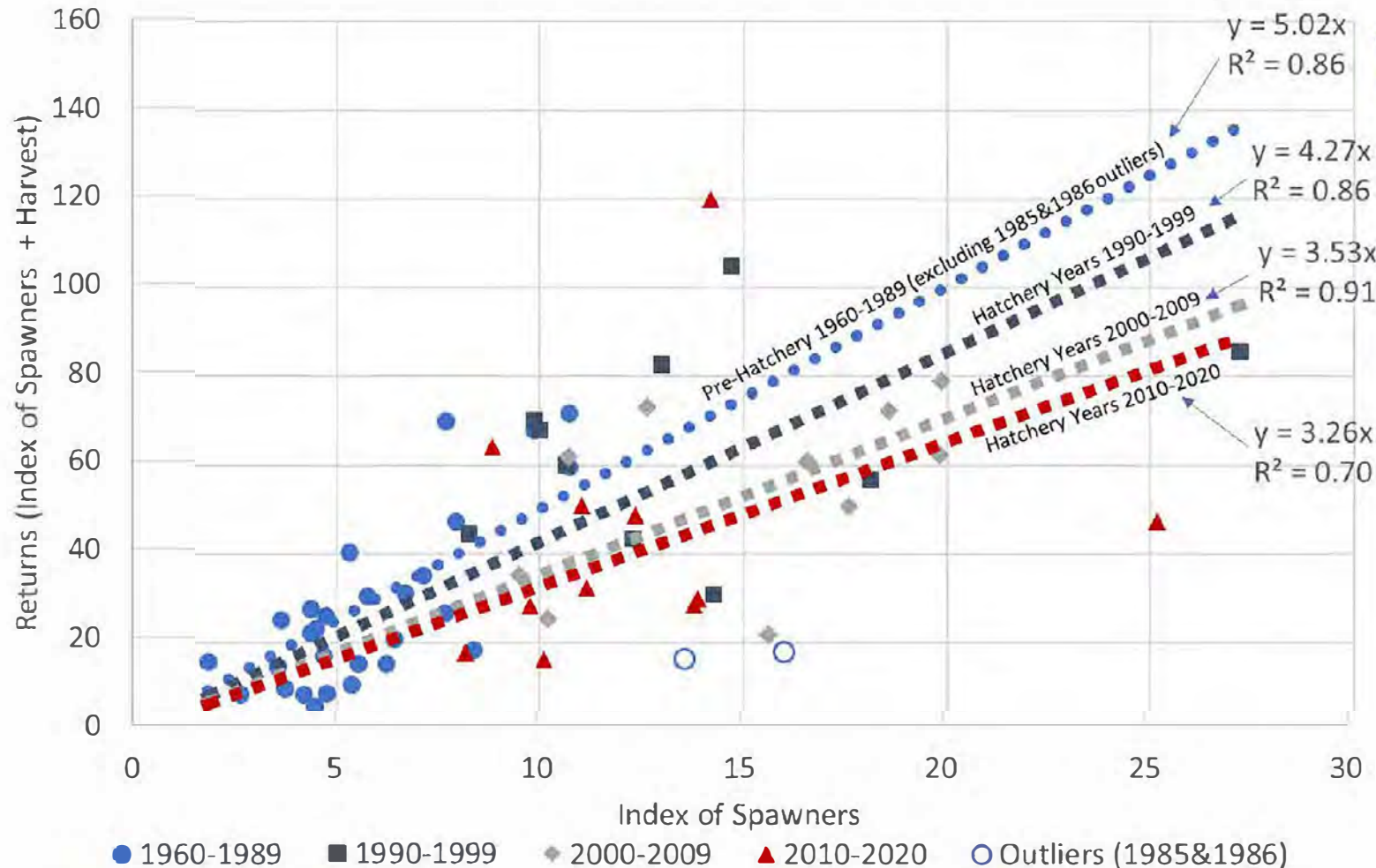
SEAK Pink Return-per-Spawner post-hatchery decline in productivity?



PC249

Southeast Alaska Pink Salmon Return-per-Index Spawner

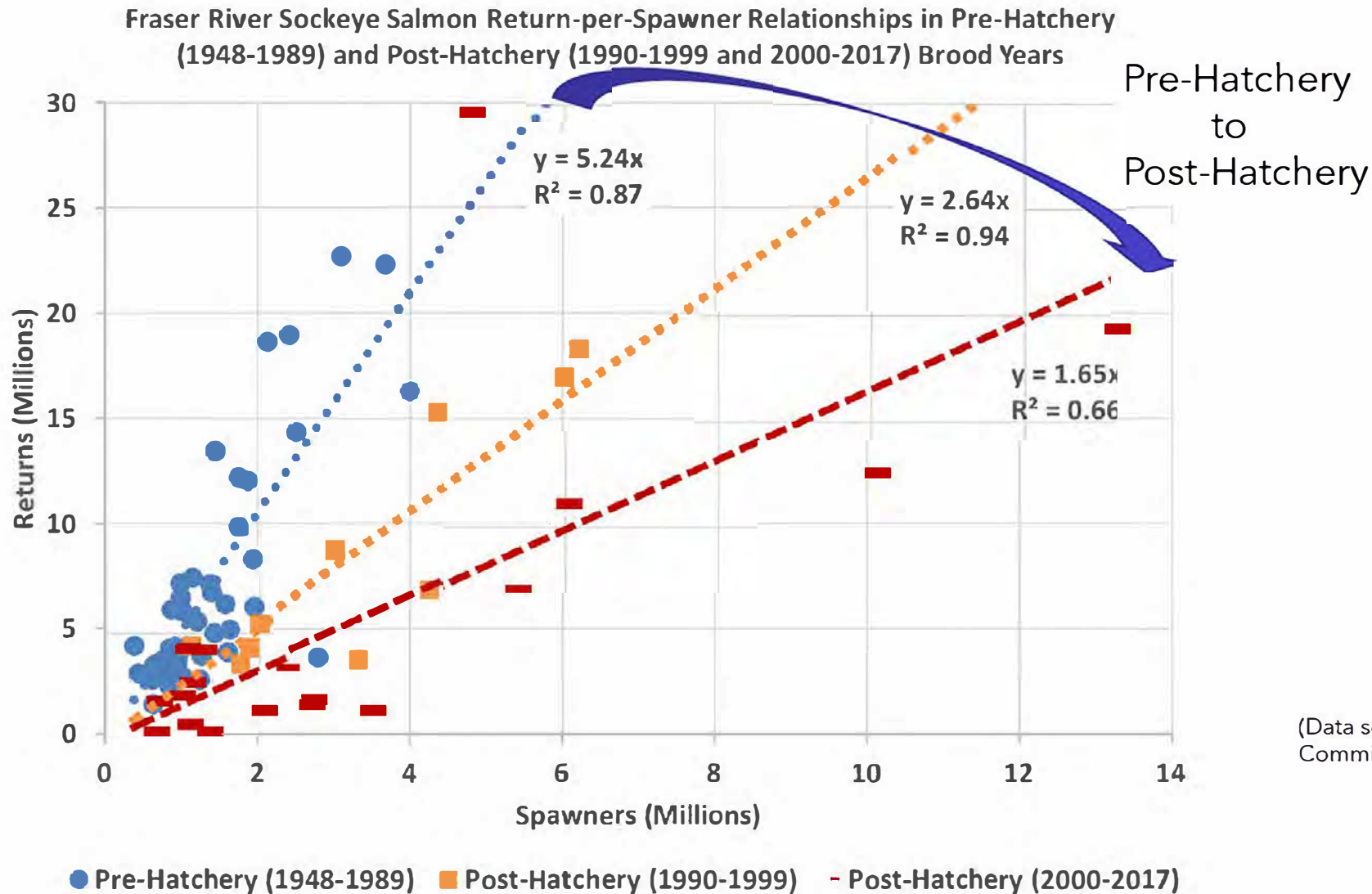
By time period - 1960-1999 ex. 1985&1986, 1990-1999, 2000-2009, and 2010-2020



Pre-Hatchery
to
Post-Hatchery?

(Data source: ADFG,
February 2023)

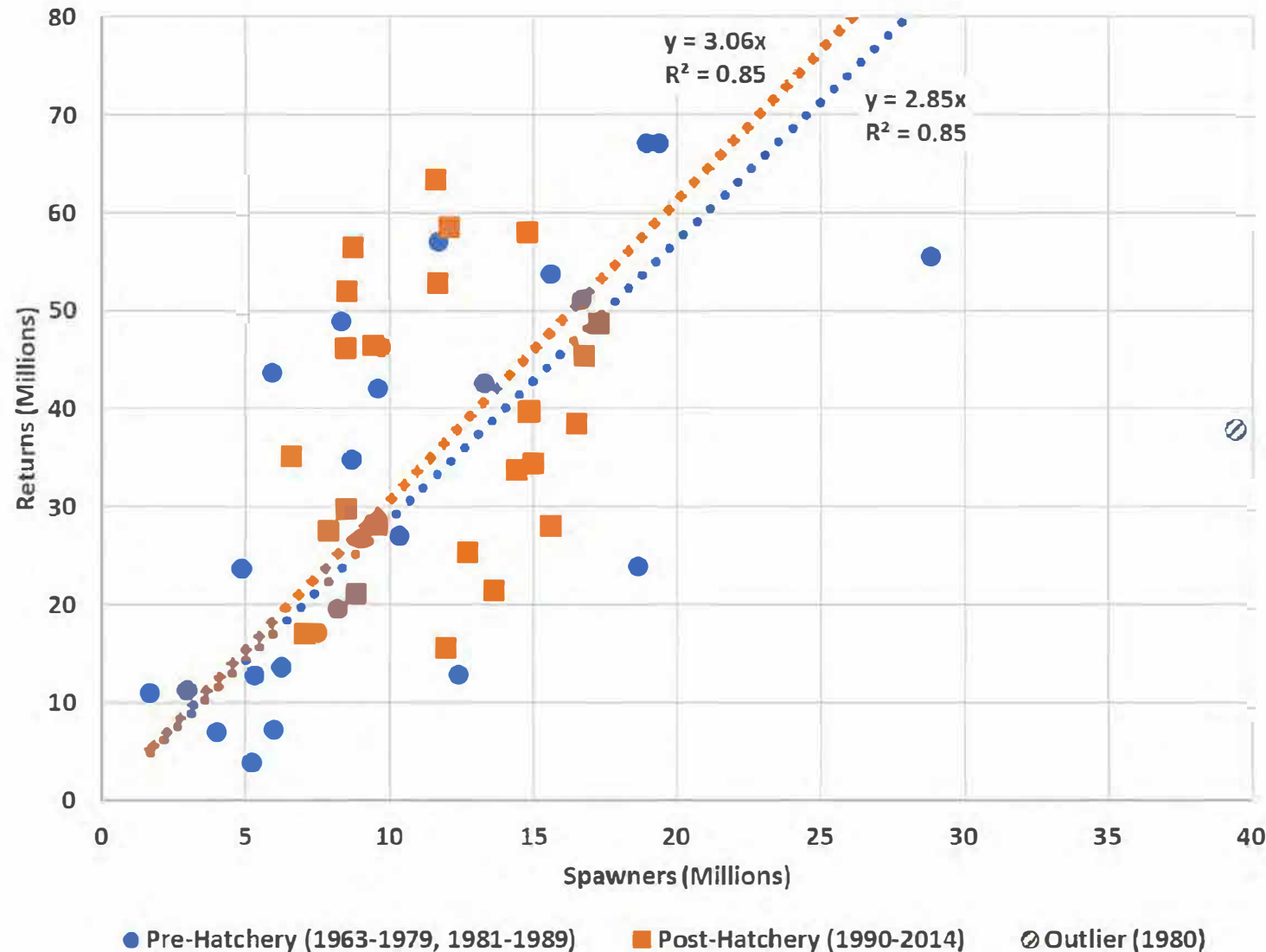
Fraser R. Sockeye Return-per-Spawner hatcheries and big post-hatchery decline



(Data source: Pacific Salmon Commission, February 2023)

Bristol Bay Sockeye Return-per-Spawner

no hatcheries and no post-hatchery decline (ex. 1980 outlier)



Data source: ADFG,
February 2023

Management Priorities?

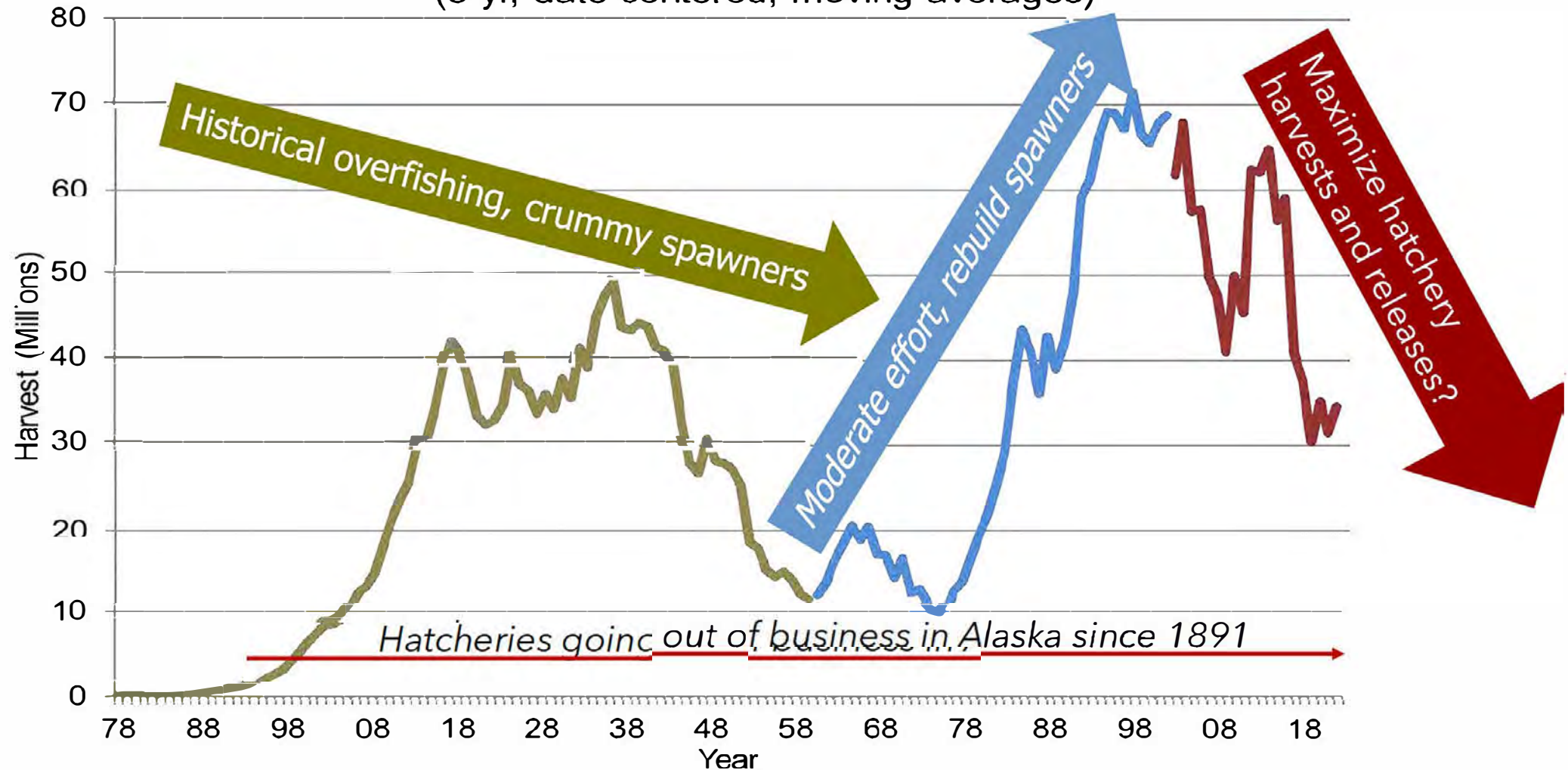


PC249

Industry to Biology to Industry? Case Pack to Escapement to Hatchery?

Total Salmon Harvest, Southeast Alaska, 1878-2021

(5-yr, date centered, moving averages)





PC249

Thanks for your carrying capacity!



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I commercial, sport, and subsistence fish in Ninilchik, Alaska, and I firmly oppose Proposal 43. I have a multi level interest in seeing LCI hatcheries succeed. Also, I have friends from all of the state that come to Homer and Seward to catch hatchery for their freezer. The success of Cook Inlet Aquaculture is of utmost importance. Thousands of Alaskans depend on fish from CIAA to benefit their family's for food and income. The State should do everything possible to help CIAA be successful including, forgiveness of loans, annual contribution, and favorable regulations.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a



permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.

Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,



Rod Van Saun



Ninilchik, Alaska



Submitted by: Roderic Van Saun

Community of Residence: Ninilchik, AK

Comment:

LCI 34 Strongly Opposed and curious why Nancy Hilstrand hides behind a business name.

LCI 35 Strongly Opposed

LCI 36 Strongly Opposed and curious why Nancy Hilstrand hides behind a business name?

LCI 37 In Favor however unsure how a drift net would catch enough to justify doing cost recovery in any of those locations.

LCI 38 Opposed as Set Nets tend to leave permanent anchors which would be dangerous obstructions for seine fisheries when common property opens. If this were to say no permanent anchors such as rebar or old boat anchors I would support it. So Support with Amendment: Every anchor must be completely removed daily on completion of fishing.

LCI 39 Support with Amendments I generally concur with RC2 ADF&G Staff Comments with amendments based on Proposal 40 to be submitted in an RC.

LCI 40 Support with Amendments I agree with parts of proposal 40 with amendments based on Proposal 39 to be submitted to RC.

LCI 41 Support with Amendments with language from proposal 39. I Support the concept and rationale of this proposal but prefer the closed waters as suggested in 39.

LCI 42 Strongly Opposed

LCI 43 Strongly Opposed

Proposal 34: Oppose	Proposal 35: Oppose	Proposal 36: Oppose	Proposal 37: Support
Proposal 38: Support	Proposal 39: Support With Amendments		
Proposal 40: Support With Amendments		Proposal 41: Support With Amendments	
Proposal 42: Oppose	Proposal 43: Oppose		



Submitted by: Eileen Van Wyhe

Community of Residence: fairbanks

Comment:

As the director of the Waterfall Foundation a nonprofit charity that has been raising money for breast cancer care in Alaska for the last 30 years through a charity fishing event in South Eastern Alaska, We are an absolute NO on proposal 259. Thank you, Eileen Van Wyhe

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC253

Submitted by: Stephen Vanek, Jr

Community of Residence: Ninilchik

Comment:

I have been on the RPT for Cook Inlet since it was founded. We were initially tasked to increase salmon production in Cook Inlet. I worked on the first 20 year plan. Also on the 2nd twenty year plan. Hatcherys were a big part of the plans. They were to provide salmon to areas that had no salmon and were to provide enhancement opportunities for streams that needed a boost in production. That is still what the hatcheries are for. They need to be supported. They are important for commercial fishing and they provide excellent opportunities for sport and personal use fishermen.



PC254

Submitted by: Jeffrey Villapando

Community of Residence: San Pedro, Ca

Comment:

I strongly feel these meetings should be held in southeast, Alaska, where these regulations are imposed on us. Having these meetings anywhere else makes no sense, and raises is a red flag amongst us in the fleet.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC255

November 13, 2023

John Wood

Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries

Re: Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan, and out of cycle Proposal 159

Chairman Wood and members of the Board,

By way of introduction, my name is Michael Vite. I, along with my business partner, Peter Dumon, own and operate Waterfall Resort Alaska and Steamboat Bay Fishing Club. As an active member in SEAGO it has been brought to my attention that there are three proposals being voted on out of cycle at the end of the month:

- Proposal 257
- Proposal 258
- Proposal 259

For the sake of clarity: I strongly oppose Proposals 258 and 259. I believe these proposals should not be happening away from the areas govern and should be heard at the Board of Fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska in 2025.

RC178 was decided and agreed to during the 2022 meetings and confirmed by signatures that there would be a trial period of rolling average allocation between the troll industry and sport, with NO in-season management for the sport fishing community while also guaranteeing protections for the resident angling community.

Lastly, in regards to Proposals 257 and 258, I would support Proposal 257 out of cycle ONLY because it was entered by ADFG for cleaning up wording in the regulation while not changing the actual regulation's meaning.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Much Respect,

Michael Vite

Owner/Operator – Waterfall Resort Alaska and Steamboat Bay Fishing Club



PC256

Submitted by: Kylie Vroman

Community of Residence: Ephrata, WA

Comment:

Support for proposal 256:

I have had the pleasure of guiding on the Togiak River and experiencing this incredible salmon fishery for 5 seasons. I support the balance that can be achieved by using non-roe bait for targeting coho and sockeye, as these methods have proven effective for anglers and decreased fish mortality. Use of non-roe bait provides increased opportunity in the fishing industry for anglers who may experience balance or mobility issues by providing them with safer alternatives to the cast-and-retrieve method associated with fishing artificial lures. The proposal supports the interests of the local Togiak residents, sport anglers, and the sustainability of the fishery and ecosystem. Thank you for taking proposal 256 into consideration.

Proposal 256: Support



PC257

Submitted by: Nicholas Walsh

Community of Residence: Anchorage, AK

Comment:

I support Proposal 257. I strongly oppose Proposals 258 and 259. I believe these proposals should not be happening away from the areas they are intended for and should be heard at the Board of Fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska in 2025. I believe Proposals 258 and 259 would be devastating to the local communities and their economies.

CHINOOK SHORES LODGE

— Ketchikan, Alaska

Email: [REDACTED]

November 10, 2023

John Wood
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries

Re: Proposals 257, 258, 259, Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

Chairman Wood and members of the Board,

My name is Jeff Wedekind, my family and I own and operate Chinook Shores Lodge in Ketchikan, AK where I've been a permanent resident since 1989.

I Support Proposal 257 from the ADFG to update the King Salmon Management Plan to align with changes made by the Pacific Salmon Commission in 2023, without changing management tiers, prescriptions, or other allocative components prior to the plan's sunset clause in 2025. The KSMP is scheduled for review at the next SE Finfish Meeting in Ketchikan, at which time allocative components can be changed with stakeholder participation. I do not support Proposal 258 because Proposal 257 addresses those concerns.

I do not support Proposal 259 as it falsely claims that allocative changes to the KSMP at the March 2022 BOF SE Finfish meeting in Anchorage, specifically the "no in-season management of sport caught king salmon" clause, was not intended or agreed upon at that meeting. Allocative changes to the Southeast KSMP based on misunderstandings should not be considered at an out-of-cycle meeting located in Homer, where the stakeholders involved cannot attend.

I personally attended the SE Finfish meeting in March 2022 and was present at the Troll-Sport workshops during final negotiations between the Alaska Trollers Association, SEAGO, and Territorial Sportsmen Inc. In the final stakeholder meeting we were encouraged by Marit Carlson-Van Dort (chair) and McKenzie Mitchell not to leave the room until we could agree upon a king salmon management plan that would preserve the historical 80/20 average harvest of king salmon between commercial trollers and sport fishermen. McKenzie Mitchell stayed and guided us through the meeting and drafted the language that we all agreed upon and signed. I have included the tier / bag limit and annual limit chart with framework notes that was agreed upon at that workshop meeting.

A simple review of the agreement that was signed should be enough to toss this bogus proposal out. There are also transcripts and audio of what was said during board deliberations which further identifies, "no in-season management" was an element of the agreement.

The fact that non-resident static bag limits were agreed upon in the upper abundance tiers versus taking advantage of more liberal limits to reach 20%, gives good indication of the intent of the agreement to abolish in-season management to achieve an 80/20 averaged split over time.

CHINOOK SHORES LODGE

— Ketchikan, Alaska

Email: [REDACTED]

I respectfully ask the board to honor the agreement made at the 2022 SE Finfish meeting. Allocative changes should only be made as scheduled at the next SE Finfish meeting in Ketchikan where stakeholders can participate and have access to the board as designed. It was unfortunate the 2022 SE Finfish meeting was held in Anchorage, many could not attend this meeting. To consider allocative changes to the KSMP, based on misunderstandings, at an out of cycle meeting in Homer would be a disservice to the affected stakeholders in SE Alaska.

Sincerely,



Jeff Wedekind
President, Chinook Shores, Inc.

Troll/Sport conceptual agreement.

								Simulated	Simulated
								Mean Est	Mean Est
<u>Res Bag Limit</u>	<u>Tier</u>	<u>Allocation</u>	<u>Avg. Harvest Est.</u>	<u>Jan 1 - June 30</u>	<u>July 1-7</u>	<u>July 8-15</u>	<u>July 16-Dec 1</u>	<u>Sport%</u>	<u>Troll%</u>
3	Tier 7 (c)	345,071	51,415	1/3	1/2		1/1	14.9%	85.1%
3	Tier 6 (d)	309,384	46,340	1/3	1/2		1/1	15.0%	85.0%
2	Tier 5 (e)	246,391	44,335	1/3	1/2		1/1	18.0%	82.0%
2	Tier 4 (f)	189,393	38,740	1/3	1/2		1/1	20.5%	79.5%
1	Tier 3 (g)	129,220	30,440	1/3	1/2	1/1	1/1	23.6%	76.4%
1	Tier 2 (h)	102,781	24,210	1/3	1/1			23.6%	76.4%
TBD	Tier 1 (i)		TBD	TBD					
Adjusted up per resident sport request.					Adjusted down per troll request.				

Framework:

- Estimated sport and troll percentages are projections of harvest share using the bag and annual sport limits listed at each tier based on ADFG analysis. They are not percentages that are being managed to.
- The sport fishery is not being managed in season to an allocation.
- Residents will not be closed, unless for conservation purposes only.
- Any combined underage from the net-gear fisheries will split 80% to troll for harvest, and 20% to sport for harvest. Troll will harvest all of these fish in the late season opener in August but Sport will get credit for the allocation increase to their sector.
- Any combined overage from the net-gear fisheries will be deducted from troll in season.



PC258

Submitted by: Marcus Weiner

Community of Residence: Battle Ground, WA

Comment:

I support Proposal 256. I think it is the right solution on the Togiak, and allows anglers to better target sockeye and silvers, while protecting king salmon.

Proposal 256: Support



November 12, 2023

John Wood
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries



Re: Proposals 257, 258, & 259 Southeast King Salmon Management Plan

Chairman Wood and members of the Board:

My name is Theresa Weiser. I have been a lodge owner/operator since 1990 in Sitka, Alaska and live in Sitka year-round, employing an average of 45 employees currently each season. All seven of my boats were built in Sitka. We take pride in contributing to the local economy by buying locally over the years, as well as the tax revenues generated for the city. We really appreciate having seasonal stability with the King Salmon regulations in the last couple of years - meaning no in-season management changes, which has really helped to retain customers and sustain business, despite the many other regulations and reductions in sportfish catch over the past few years.

I am in support of Proposal 257, which is presented by ADF&G and is their version to align language in the King Salmon Management Plan with the newer pre-season model for SE Alaska Chinook abundance.

I am opposed to Proposals 258 and 259.

The SE Alaska King Salmon Management Plan is complex and involves regulatory processes in both domestic and international venues. It has been an ongoing challenge over the years for ADF&G to manage King Salmon harvests for both the trollers and the sportfishing gear groups to keep this resource managed to their respective allocations, while still addressing the concerns of each gear group. There has been a lot of hard work and time put in by all involved over the years from the very first allocation decision back in 1993, to where we are now.

There was an agreement signed earlier this year between Alaska Trollers Association, Territorial Sportsmen and SEAGO, that kept the sport fishery away from in-season management changes. According to the agreement, the recreational/sports sector allocation would be managed on an average basis, with the understanding that in some years, the sector would exceed its allocation, while in other years, it would harvest less than its allocation. When the recreational/sport sector exceeds its allocation, the commercial winter king fishery allocation would be decreased by the same amount, as happened this year. Conversely, during years when the recreational/sport sector doesn't reach its full allocation, the



commercial winter king fishery allotment would be increased by the same amount, which occurred in 2022.

I oppose Proposal 259 because it would essentially rescind the agreement signed earlier this year and mandate the recreational/sport sector allocation be managed on an annual basis, meaning the sector could not exceed its allocation in any given year. The implications of adopting Proposal 259 are:

- In-season management would be required, which ADF&G has already testified (before the agreement was signed) that it would be difficult to accomplish given that it doesn't have the capacity to acquire the necessary data in time to make informed decisions.
- Mid-season closures may be implemented in the event the recreational/sport sector catch approaches its allocation limit.

It only seems reasonable to ask the Board of Fisheries to keep the process of treating the SE Alaska King Salmon Management Plan in the same vein as it has done in the past, by addressing concerns at the regular SE Alaska Board cycle every three years.

The next SE Alaska Finfish Board of Fisheries Meeting will be held Jan. 28–Feb. 9, 2025 for Southeast AK and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish in Ketchikan, (with Comment Deadline being January 14, 2025.) The 2025 SE Alaska Finfish Board cycle would be the correct time to address any concerns and/or changes to the King Salmon Management Plan. Making changes by taking up proposals for the SE Alaska area, out of our area in mid-winter, and out of cycle for SE Alaska Finfish, is not acceptable and feels like an unnecessary circumvention of the public process, as well as limiting stakeholders' access to the Board decisions' procedures.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Board to: **Take No Action – or – Vote NO on Proposals 258 & 259** in light of their potential negative impact on the charter industry and in turn, local economies. I would ask the Board to make decisions for the greatest good. This is not a time to be picking winners and losers. All communities of SE need all the jobs and income they can get.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments. We look forward to further discussions at the upcoming Board of Fisheries meeting in SE Alaska in 2025.

Sincerely,

Theresa Weiser

Owner / Operator

Alaska Premier Charters, Inc. dba Wild Strawberry Lodge

██████████ ██████████



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game



RE: Board Generated Proposal for Rockfish Conservation

Chairman Wood and Members of the Board of Fisheries,

It is my understanding that the Board of Fisheries will introduce a Board Generated Proposal granting the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) permanent regulatory authority to close state waters to commercial fishing for the purpose of rockfish conservation. **I would respectfully ask the board not pass this proposal when presented.**

I support the department's efforts to protect rockfish as they are generally considered a long lived and slowly maturing species. However, as I stated in my attached comments (RC32) submitted for the BOF October 12, 2023 work session, I question the actual need for such conservation measures, particularly for Prince William Sound (PWS).

As I stated previously, the average rockfish harvest over the prior ten-year time period (2013-2022) was 122,961 lbs of the annual 150,000 lbs rockfish GHL. The average rockfish GHL was only exceeded in five of those ten years. In 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, the GHL was not achieved in the commercial fishery. When one looks at the longer 20-year time interval (2003-2022), for harvest data within both the Inside and Outside districts of the PWS management area, the GHL was only exceeded those same five years in the past 20-year period.¹ Table 2 of the ADF&G management report clearly shows that over time, the commercial fishery in PWS is generally living within the GHL.

The emergency petition the board granted at its October 12th work session, provided a temporary emergency order allowing closure of the longline fisheries in PWS in five statistical areas for the remainder of 2023. I would note that the department's closure resulted in the removal of the most traditionally productive areas in the sound for halibut fishing.

Before granting permanent regulatory authority to close fisheries, there is significant work and stakeholder engagement ADF&G can do to bring an awareness to commercial fishermen to reduce the overharvest of rockfish. Communicating to the fleet which statistical areas are showing high rates of harvest, rather than simply asking fishermen to avoid areas of high rockfish concentration, would give fishermen the ability to work with ADF&G in-season by changing fishing practices. Improving communication with those who are involved in fisheries such as Pacific Halibut, about state regulations on rockfish management is an important first step for those involved in federal fisheries.

Regulations for trip limits and full retention found in 5AAC 28.265 may be in conflict with each other. With the current bycatch caps in the sound and required forfeiture of rockfish overages to the state, there is no monetary incentive for fishermen to bring in any more rockfish than currently allowed as bycatch. However, with the full retention required under 5AAC 28.265, these fish must be retained and landed.

Extended closures of areas will have a huge impact on the small boat commercial fleet. PWS is home to many fishermen, such as myself who has fished PWS exclusively for nearly four decades. Closing

¹ ADF&G Fisheries management Report No. 21.03 Prince William Sound Area E Ground Fisheries Management Report, 2017-2020, Table 2

large areas of the sound and telling fishermen to go harvest halibut in federal waters is not reasonable or safe. Like many others, I have a small vessel (33 feet). Because of this I have a vested interest in working with ADF&G to preserve my fishing access to the sound. I would recommend that ADF&G work with CDFU and other fishermen to address the departments concerns before permanently granting regulatory authority to close fishing area.

Finally, the intended schedule for hearing a proposal and its proposed deliberation in Kodiak does not support strong public participation, given the location and cost to attend. If the board chooses to generate a proposal, I would respectfully ask that it be added to an upcoming work session or the 2024 PWS Finfish meeting. There is no hurry to rush a proposal through given the ability of the department to request another emergency petition or an extension of this existing one until then.

For all of these reasons, I am urging all BOF members to vote against a board generated proposal delegating permanent regulatory authority to ADF&G for the purpose of closing fishing areas for rockfish conservation. Let's give industry the opportunity to collaborate with ADF&G to fix this issue first.

Sincerely



Mike Wells



October 12, 2023

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
Alaska Board of Fisheries



RE: ADF&G Emergency Petition on Rockfish Bycatch

Chairman Wood, members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries;

My name is Mike Wells and I am a commercial halibut longliner who fishes exclusively in Prince William Sound, and have done so since approximately 1984. Over the last 40 years, I have participated in halibut, sablefish and pacific cod longline and pot fisheries and directed mechanical jig fisheries for rockfish in the sound.

I am writing these comments today with very short notice, after becoming aware of ADF&G's Emergency Petition and requested action by the Board of Fish to delegate authority to the Commissioner under 5 AAC 28.050 Lawful Gear for Groundfish, to close areas to commercial fishing with specific gear types by emergency order just yesterday. You will find these comments submitted as RC, because there was no opportunity to address this petition through the regular public comment period.

Given the date of Commissioner Vincent Lang's letter to Chairman Carlson Van-Dort of October 6th 2023, it is clear that this emergency petition was submitted well after the public comment period closed on September 27th for the Board's scheduled work session. It appears that there has been no public process on a petition that will have far reaching implications on the small boat commercial fishermen of Prince William Sound and elsewhere.

I would like to bring to the board's attention a few items for consideration:

This emergency petition seeks to promulgate regulation to close areas of Prince William Sound to directed commercial fishing because the 2023 rockfish GHL has been exceeded. The department is concerned that further rock fish harvests will occur given the remaining halibut season. While this is true, to date the total recorded catch of commercial rockfish for all fisheries has only exceeded the GHL by 8% or 12,000 pounds. When one looks at the average rockfish harvest over the previous ten-year time period (2013-2022) the average rockfish GHL was only exceeded in five of those ten years. In fact, in five of those years, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, the GHL was not achieved in the commercial fishery. Over the entire ten-year period, considering the ups and downs of the fishery, the average harvest was 122,961 lbs of the annual 150,000 lbs rockfish GHL. I have attached a table from the ADF&G website showing these figures.



I would also like to point out that the emergency petition only seeks to close areas for commercial fisheries. The petition and the concerns listed within the commissioner's letter does not address the harvest and potential overharvest of rockfish in PWS by the sport and guided sport fishery. Having lived and worked there most of my life, it is clear to everyone in the sound that the unchecked influx of recreational fishing provided by the completion of the Whittier tunnel is beginning to have an effect on the sound. In addition, guided sport operators have had to broaden their targeted species to rockfish and even squid to book full trips given restrictions on halibut bag limits. Any conservation measures to limit the harvest of rockfish in the sound or elsewhere in Alaska must be shared by all user groups.

I would respectfully challenge the departments long held statements that the rockfish population is slow growing, extremely localized and in eminent danger of collapse. I believe the GHL table for state managed fisheries in PWS speaks for itself. How can rockfish species, subjected to commercial fishing methods of pot, longline and trawl gear, along with guided sport and uncontained sport fishing pressure even remain at harvestable levels given this theory? When in fact, the attached GHL table shows an increasing harvest from 2017 to 2023. I would suggest that the rockfish stocks in the sound are relatively stable, are replenished from outside the sound and potentially even on the increase. Possibly the department should consider reevaluating its GHL because of evidenced harvest abundance before requesting authority to close areas of PWS to federally managed fisheries.

I commend ADF&G for its efforts to conserve this important resource. However, I respectfully **oppose the adoption of ADF&G Emergency Petition on Rockfish Bycatch**, for the following reasons:

- The petition has not been fairly noticed to the public and those that will be affected.
- The data does not show an immediate conservation need
- The emergency petition does not address the totality of rockfish harvesting by all user groups in PWS.
- Closing areas to commercial fishing, which concentrates harvest effort in open areas rarely leads to a net gain for conservation. This was most recently evidenced by the departments effort to restart the PWS tanner crab fishery.
- I would strongly recommend that ADF&G form a work group to include the user groups to look at the rock fishery in PWS and come up with recommendations that reasonably address the Commissioners concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely

Mike Wells



From web page ADF&G/ PWS/Groundfish/Harvest - dated October12, 2023

Prince William Sound Rockfish

Guideline harvest level (GHL) and Harvest are round weight in pounds.

Year▲▼	GHL	State Managed Harvest
2023	150,000	162,138
2022	150,000	196,843
2021	150,000	142,136
2020	150,000	82,234
2019	150,000	71,976
2018	150,000	56,452
2017	150,000	59,714
2016	150,000	161,510
2015	150,000	152,128
2014	150,000	157,458
2013	150,000	149,161
2012	150,000	113,877
2011	150,000	118,755
2010	150,000	104,901

There is no directed rockfish fishery - retained as bycatch to other directed groundfish and halibut fisheries.

Includes black and dark rockfish from federal waters. Mandatory retention required for all rockfish in PWS.



Submitted by: Samuel Werner

Community of Residence: Anchorage, Alaska

Comment:

Proposal 7:

Banning of snagging should NOT include banning of spearfishing and swimming. This proposal outlines why snagging should be banned, then arbitrarily includes a spearfishing/swimmer ban at the end of the proposal.

The facts:

Number of spearfishers/swimmers injured by snagging in Alaska: 0

Leading cause of morbidity from snagging related injuries in Alaska: Ocular injuries

Average number of Alaskans blinded by snagging injuries each year: 4

Standard spearfishing/swimming equipment: Protective goggles.

It is absurd to lump spearfishing (a method for fish harvesting that has been used for thousands of years) into this proposal on snagging regulation. It limits an Alaskan's right to harvest fish for their families and is being suggested based on a vague safety concern that is not supported by data. If ADFG and this proposal was truly concerned about safety, it would be geared to address the ocular injuries associated with snagging.

Source: I am the surgeon who repairs eyes damaged by snagging hooks.

Another fact: This proposal mentions "some divers". Are we to interpret this proposal as limiting an Alaskan's right to swim in these waters? Alaskans have just as much right to swim in those waters as a boat. This proposal would limit an Alaskans access to utilize a public waterway and ADFG can expect a lawsuit.

Source: Countless lawsuits in this state establish precedent that Alaskans can access and utilize public waterways (including swimming).

Again, this proposal arbitrarily included spearfishers and swimmers without consideration of the data regarding morbidity/mortality of Alaskans or their rights to access public waterways. The author of the proposal should likely edit their proposal to remove this poorly considered inclusion, or it will be strongly opposed and litigated by the general public.

Proposal 7: Oppose



PC262

Submitted by: Steven West

Community of Residence: LA GRANDE, OREGON

Comment:

Proposal 256 - I am writing this comment in Support of Proposal 256

Waterways like the Togiak River year have been impacted by the ever shrinking salmon numbers, especially the king salmon. And professional guides and outfitters have suffered enough with these shrinking salmon runs. Making it harder for them to catch fish and retain their customers is not the answer.

The problem causing shrinking salmon runs has nothing to do with the bait they are using. And Alaska Game and Fish Dept would be better served working on the true problems like the massive trawlers that throw thousands of King Salmon bi-catch overboard each year. And while Ocean conditions are a growing problem, there are other ways to make a much larger impact to improve salmon numbers without affecting the professionals who are trying to scratch out a living fishing on the rivers.

Proposal 256: Support



PC263

Submitted by: Kandice Whitaker

Community of Residence: Fallon

Comment:

Hello, my name is Kandice Whitaker

I support Proposal 257. I absolutely oppose Proposals 258 and 259. I believe these proposals should not be happening away from the areas they are intended for and should be heard at the Board of Fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska in 2025.

These proposals should be decided on and discussed in the location where they pertain to.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose

Dear Board of Fisheries Members,

Nov. 14, 2023
PC264

Please support Proposal 258 and Proposal 259..

Being one of many commercial trollers in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat area, trolling is our family business and primary source of income.

In the summer months we target all salmon species near our homeport of Sitka, Alaska. King salmon is the salmon species we not only target in the summer fishery but also during the winter and spring fisheries. These winter, spring, and summer King salmon seasons are substantial fisheries to not only the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat commercial trolling fleet but also to their local communities. King salmon specifically, is an important resource for our family since it makes up 50% of our income. In addition to being a significant portion of the trolling fleets year-round income, it also directly benefits the remote and urban communities of the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat areas through year-round economic stimulation.

During the 2023 summer fishing season, the sport sector exceeded its harvest limit of King salmon. The overharvesting of King salmon by the sport sector had a major impact on the commercial trolling fleet. The exceeded sport quota of King salmon was deducted from the troll fishery quota, in effect, reducing the troll quota by nearly 10%. This deduction gave the troll fleet less time to fish and fewer King salmon to catch. Which, as a result, created less income for the troll fleet therefore reducing the revenue generated for communities throughout the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat area.



Proposal 258 and Proposal 259 work together to conservatively manage the sport sector. Primarily, the sport sector would avoid exceeding their annual harvest limit and the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat troll fishery would retain its allocated quota. These proposals would require the department (ADF&G) to adjust regulations accordingly through inseason management. Inseason management should be of utmost importance to the department as the sport sector continues its unlimited growth.

It is imperative to protect and maintain not only Alaska's King Salmon resource but the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat area troll fishery as well. By supporting Proposal 258 and 259 we can avoid further year-round economic decline to the local Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat communities and the commercial troll fleet.

Thank you for your consideration!

Monique Wilkinson
Southeastern Alaska Troller



PC265

Submitted by: Glenn Wilks

Community of Residence: craig

Comment:

“ We oppose Proposal 259. Proposals affecting Southeast Alaska should be taken up at Board Meetings in Southeast Alaska, not somewhere else, earlier and outside this area. Keep it local.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC266

Submitted by: Jessica Williams

Community of Residence: Merritt island, Florida

Comment:

256

Proposal 256: Support



November 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries



Dear Board of Fisheries,

I live in Wasilla, Alaska. I sport fish and participate in business that relies on the fisheries. I firmly oppose Proposal 43. Hatcheries help to maintain a sustainable resource for all user groups.

Opposition to Proposal 43 is grounded in the fundamental need to protect the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and sustainable hatchery production in the Lower Cook Inlet and around the state. Reducing hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 levels, as proposed, is short-sighted, will have a significant economic impact, and fails to acknowledge the public process and scientific evaluation, which highlights the complexity and nuance involved in determining hatchery production levels. The purpose of the proposal may be conservation, but the potential unintended consequences necessitate a more comprehensive and informed approach. Opposing Proposal 43 is essential to safeguarding the integrity and viability of hatchery operations and the broader ecological health of the Lower Cook Inlet region. Please review the following reasons why the Board should oppose and reject Proposal 43.:

Regulatory Authority: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game asserts and we agree that the Board's limited authority over hatchery production is limited and cannot effectively veto fundamental department policy decisions for which there is specific statutory authority. Any action constraining the department's ability to permit a hatchery operation could be viewed as incompatible with the statutory scheme.

Iterative Process: Hatchery-permitted egg take levels are established through an iterative process involving department staff, hatchery operators and stakeholders. The proposed and arbitrary reduction of permitted capacity lacks clear evidence supporting that any positive impact on wild salmon stocks will occur, and no compelling reason or scientific evidence has been presented to justify the reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels.

Conservation Concerns: ADF&G opposes the proposal on the grounds that hatchery operations are permitted to minimize impact on wild salmon stocks, and the commissioner can amend a permit if conservation concerns arise. The proposed reduction in egg take levels lacks a demonstrated conservation benefit and could disrupt the delicate balance between hatchery production and wild salmon populations.



Department Oversight: The Commissioner, since 2019 has not allowed increases in the permitted number of pink and chum salmon eggs, reflecting the department's proactive approach to managing hatchery production. This demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining a careful balance between hatchery production and conservation goals without the need for external regulatory intervention.

Lack of Evidence: No definitive evidence has been presented in the proposal to support the proposed reduction in permitted pink salmon egg take levels. The absence of compelling data or analysis supporting the reduction for conservation reasons undermines the proposal's basis and raises questions about its potential impact.

Historical Production Levels: ADF&G provides historical context, noting that the reduction to 25% of 2000 levels as proposed would cap Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association egg take levels at 58.75 million pink salmon eggs, significantly lower than current permits of up to 235 million pink salmon eggs. This reduction could hinder the ability of the hatchery operator to meet its production potential, affecting its financial position without any clear conservation benefits.

Comprehensive Planning: Each salmon enhancement region has a Comprehensive Salmon Enhancement Plan outlining production goals by species and time. The proposal overlooks the existing planning framework. Any changes to egg take levels should be made within the context of comprehensive planning to ensure the continued sustainability of salmon populations and production needs.

Public Input and Participation: ADF&G underscores the transparency in the hatchery permitting process, with permits and plans being subject to public input through public noticed meetings and comment periods. Any significant changes, such as proposed reductions, should involve a thorough examination of hatchery needs and must consider stakeholder input to ensure a well-informed decision.

Risk to Wild Salmon Stocks: The proposal's focus on reducing hatchery production to address alleged over-production lacks any clear link to the impact and well-being of wild salmon stocks. A rigorous scientific approach that considers the broader ecosystem dynamics and ensures conservation concerns truly exist, must be demonstrated before adversely affecting sustainable hatchery practices.

Sincerely,
Shawna Williams

[REDACTED]

Wasilla, Alaska



Submitted by: Burton Williams

Community of Residence: Waterfall, Alaska

Comment:

There needs to be no confusion that taking up proposals out of cycle and out of the area being impacted is unacceptable as this circumvents the public process, limits stakeholders access to the board decision process, and undermines the board's ability to make sound decisions. We are requesting that this proposal be taken up in cycle during the 2025 Southeast meeting. Those effected need the opportunity to attend the meeting in a location closer to home and be heard by the Board.

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



To Alaska Board of Fisheries
RE: Lower Cook Inlet Proposals

My name is Josh Wisniewski. I am a commercial fisherman and a subsistence fisherman. My livelihood is directly affected by proposals being taken up during this meeting. I am a Cook Inlet set net permit holder. I fish in the Barabara subdistrict of Lower Cook Inlet here in Kachemak Bay, and am therefore directly impacted by proposals related to salmon management and hatchery production in this proposal. I also fish cod in the open access State parallel fisheries in Cook Inlet and I am impacted by allocative cod proposal 28.

I support groundfish proposal 27 and I oppose groundfish proposal 28. I support salmon proposals 36, 37, 41, 42

I support proposal 27 that seeks to change the opening of the State, open access Sable fish fishery to April 15 concurrent to the opening of the Prince William Sound Sable fish fishery. Opening this fishery concurrent with the Prince William Sound fishery would contribute to greater local participation in the fishery. Many boats that participate in the Cook Inlet Pacific Cod Pot fishery would already be configured for pot fishing and would be ready to shift to that fishery as the Pacific Cod fishery would likely have just completed near this time. Concurrently boats that also fish salmon during the summer cannot currently participate in this fishery based on the current season opening in July. If the fishery opened earlier boats can participate prior to configuring for salmon fishing which supports fleet diversification. I would personally benefit from this fishery opening in April, because it would open a spring fishing opportunity prior to salmon fishing.

I oppose proposal 28. that seeks to reallocate Pacific Cod from the jig sector in order to support retention of cod harvested in the Sable fish fishery. I oppose the reallocation of fish from a directed fishery to address bycatch in another fishery. The jig fishery is the most accessible open access fishery in the Cook Inlet management area, ideal for entry-level operations. Reallocating those fish to be retained as bycatch would in essence gut the jig fishery. The jig fishery takes place in the spring summer and fall. The request to reallocate fish not harvested by July would detrimentally and potentially irrevocably impact the opportunity for small boats to have access to the jig fishery, and for small boats to retain gear flexibility. For example, if we had a year where our salmon fishery collapsed I have the opportunity to pivot, put my jigging machines on and try to fish for cod. Concurrently on a year where I am struggling to catch my halibut quota having the flexibility to jig for cod fish and retain my halibut I can keep fishing. Reallocating those fish takes away that opportunity from me and for others to participate in it. Maintaining the jig allocation is essential for small boats. Removing that fishing opportunity would have a detrimental impact on spring and fall fishing opportunities and fleet diversification. I strongly urge the Board to **NOT** adopt proposal 28.



I support salmon proposals 36, 37, 41, 42,

Overview of support for Salmon Proposals:

As a Lower Cook Inlet set net fisherman I along with all Cook Inlet (AREA H) salmon permit holders pay an aquaculture enhancement tax to support Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA). CIAA In has not proved to be a successful in supporting fishing opportunity and revenue for all of the permit holders who pay into it. Currently it is in debt \$19,000,000 and over past decades has only reached cost recovery objectives a limited number of times to say nothing of the lack of financial benefit for the permit holders who pay for it. Of all of the Area H permit holders that pay for CIAA's operations, only the Lower Cook Inlet seine fleet has the opportunity to benefit from the enhancement tax all Cook Inlet area permit holders pay for. The drift fishery only occurs north of Anchor Point and thus receive not benefits from their aquaculture tax, and the majority of Cook Inlet area set net fishermen also fish north of Anchor Point in the Upper Inlet management area yet pay for enhancement and personal use fisheries in Lower Cook Inlet. The small number of set net fishermen that fish in the Lower Inlet, including myself, only fish in limited areas and do not have enhanced beneficial fishing opportunity or allocation from CIAA. In other fishing areas, all of the permit holders that pay for aquaculture enhancement have access and opportunity to participate in common property fisheries: in Southeast Alaska trollers, seiners and gillnetters all benefit from paying aquaculture taxes and in Prince William Sound both seiners and gill netters benefit from paying an aquaculture enhancement tax. There are allocative disputes between the different gears types to be sure, but all sectors are not required to pay a tax to support fisheries they don't benefit from or are excluded from participating in.

Thus, we have both a basic equity issue in Cook Inlet with 99% of permit holders subsidizing a fishery for 1% of area H permit holders in addition to issues that CIAA is not even achieving basic cost recovery needed. Resulting in a huge debt burden on all Area H permit holders for no in-common fishing benefit. I have participated in our Lower Cook Inlet seine fishery and have friends who are permit holders and want them to be successful in their fishery. However, that should not be at the expense of all other permit holders, particularly given the failure of CIAA to consistently provide viable fisheries. We are paying to help CIAA exist solely to achieve their cost recovery goals and to carry an increasing debt burden. It is for these reasons and others I support proposals seeking changes in Lower Cook Inlet salmon management both to prioritize protecting the genetic diversity of our Lower Inlet wild stocks and wild fish fisheries and to reduce the debt burden on Area H permit holders who pay for yet do not benefit from CIAA hatchery operations. No proposal is ever perfect. However, I believe these proposals seek to move the needle and address issues and challenges in Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Management.

I hope that review and discussion of these proposals and taking them up in the Committee of the Whole process will open space and opportunity for divergent perspectives to engage with the challenges and inequities in Lower Cook Inlet management in a manner that benefits salmon, and in turn, our collective Lower Cook Inlet commercial salmon fisheries.

**Proposals:**

I am generally in support of proposal 36. As a Lower Cook Inlet set net fisherman I contribute to financing CIAA's Tutka Bay hatchery. Like 99% of the AREA H fleet I receive no benefit from production, or opportunity to participate in the Tutka bay lagoon pink salmon fishery. Set net fisheries in Kachemak Bay in Lower Cook Inlet target harvest migratory wild sockeye salmon as they pass through Kachemak Bay. Our market is wild sockeye and coho. Lower Cook Inlet set netters do not benefit from Tutka Bay lagoon pink salmon production. In fact, hatchery pink salmon plug my nets and prevent valuable sockeye and coho from entering it, effectively stalling fishing and marketability of catch.

Even if CIAA adheres to the condition's objectives and goals of their existing permit in terms of providing a commercial harvest this is still an exclusively a purse seine fishery for 1% of Area H permit holders with a low level of participation by that fleet. The 99% of permit holders paying for this production do not receive any financial benefit or opportunity to participate in this fishery which is outside of the area open for the drift fishery or where set netting is permitted. I support this proposal that CIAA production should support an in-common fishery though I am excluded from it and do not receive benefit from pink salmon production, because at the very least hatchery production should at very least support some fishery.

That said, pink salmon returns and harvest rates have not improved and generally appear to have declined over the past decades, as has the level of participation by Lower Cook Inlet seine permit holders. Suggesting, that returning to priority wild fish pink salmon fishery would appear to be more cost effective since the past 30 years upwards to 90% of Tutka Bay Lagoon fish are taken for cost recovery and CIAA has accumulated a large debt burden

I am generally in support of Proposals 37 and 38 which would allow drift gillnet and set gill net fishermen to participate in cost recovery fisheries in Lower Cook Inlet. While I support these in principle I do not view them as having any real tangible benefits to the drift or set net fleets. Set and drift gill net fishing is are inefficient and labor intensive cost recovery fishing methods for cost recovery fisheries and would not result in tangible economic benefit to potential participants relative to the level of effort. Were additional areas where set net fishing was allowed in Lower Cook Inlet to open up for an in common fishery, that could have potential benefit for some Cook Inlet area set net fishermen. As written I do support these proposals as a good faith effort to create some opportunity for drift and set net fishermen, however I do not believe that they will achieve that goal.

I am in support of proposal 41 that seeks to reduce impacts in the headwaters of Tutka Bay, in particular. This delta is a valuable rearing, spawning, reproductive concentration habitat as designated ADFG. The Tutka Head End, and Southern Glacier Creeks that flow into the head of Tutka Bay are nominated ADFG anadromous waters that contribute wild coho, chum, pink salmon to the collective Kachemak Bay mixed stock fisheries.

I am generally in support for proposal 42. As a fisherman who pays for CIAA out of my salmon enhancement tax I receive no benefits from CIAA production. I see no benefit in paying for



enhancement for the sole purpose of cost recovery and brood stock to support continued production to solely to support cost recovery. That makes no sense. Regional Aquaculture Associations were formed to support commercial fisheries for the permit holders that pay for their operations. Creating fish solely to harvest them to support creating them is not the purpose of a regional aquaculture association. Therefore, I support proposal 42.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my on time comments in support of proposals 27, 36, 37, 41, 42. Thank you for considering my comment in opposition to proposal 28.

Thank you for your service to Alaska on the Board of Fisheries.

Josh Wisniewski
F/V Sable



PC270

Submitted by: Kimberly Womack

Community of Residence: Little Rock, Arkansas

Comment:

257

258

259

Proposal 257: Support

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC271

Submitted by: Wayne Wu

Community of Residence: Long Beach, CA

Comment:

I support Proposal 257. I strongly oppose Proposals 258 and 259. I believe these proposals should not be happening away from the areas they are intended for and should be heard at the Board of Fisheries meeting in Southeast Alaska in 2025.

You are invited to change the basic wording, but try to make a definite point of Opposing 258 AND 259, while leaving in how these proposals should be decided on and discussed in the location where they pertain to.

Proposal 257: Support With Amendments

Proposal 258: Oppose

Proposal 259: Oppose



PC272

Submitted by: Dennis Zadra

Community of Residence: Cordova, Alaska

Comment:

I am strongly oppose to Proposal 35 and Proposal 43. Both of these Proposals are based on the assumption that hatchery production is detrimental to wild stock salmon, but there is no real evidence to support this. The hatchery system has been around for a long time and is critical to the commercial industry.

Proposal 35: Oppose

Proposal 43: Oppose
