

PROPOSAL 194 – 5 AAC 28.650. Closed waters in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area.

Close all waters of Unalaska Bay to commercial fishing for groundfish with pelagic trawl gear, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting, and be heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting*):

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...

(b) The waters of Unalaska Bay are closed to groundfish fishing with pelagic trawl gear, [as follows:] **south of a line from Cape Kalekta at 54° 00.50' N. lat., 166° 22.50' W. long. to Cape Cheerful at 54° 01' N. lat., 166° 40' W. long.**

[(1) FROM JUNE 10 THROUGH AUGUST 31, SOUTH OF A LINE FROM CAPE KALEKTA AT 54°, 00.50' N. LAT., 166°, 22.50' W. LONG. TO CAPE CHEERFUL AT 54°, 01' N. LAT., 166°, 40' W. LONG.];]

[(2) BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1 UNTIL THE CLOSURE OF THE PARALLEL BERING SEA WALLEYE POLLOCK 'B' SEASON, SOUTH OF A LINE FROM CAPE KALEKTA AT 54°, 00.50' N. LAT., 166°, 22.50' W. LONG. TO A POINT NEAR HOG ISLAND AT 53°, 55.42' N. LAT., 166°, 34.25' W. LONG. TO A POINT IN BROAD BAY AT 53°, 55.42' N. LAT., 166°, 38.80' W. LONG.; FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH, "PARALLEL BERING SEA WALLEYE POLLOCK 'B' SEASON" MEANS THE PARALLEL SEASON CONDUCTED FROM JUNE 10 THROUGH NOVEMBER 1]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Since 2002 large-scale trawling in tiny Unalaska Bay has unacceptably impacted an area traditionally used by subsistence, sport, and smaller non-trawl commercial fishers and hunters. Trawlers have harvested approximately four million pounds annually of pollock from Unalaska Bay over the past ten plus years. The State of Alaska opens these waters to trawling from September 1 to November 1 as a parallel fishery to the eastern Bering Sea catcher vessel pollock fishery that is managed by NMFS. There is no cap on what amount of the B season pollock trawl quota can come out of Unalaska Bay and in 2004 nearly 12 million pounds was harvested. No research has

been done to understand the local pollock biomass, its abundance or what a sustainable harvest level may be. The huge trawl nets used to prosecute this fishery are putting excessive pressure on a sensitive area already fully utilized by local fishers and hunters. Based on observations made by local residents it appears fish and game are being scattered and or driven from the bay coincidentally as this trawl fishery is happening. It has become nearly impossible for local fishermen and hunters to feed their families and small commercial vessels are increasingly required to leave the safety of Unalaska Bay in order to make a living. The subsistence salmon, halibut, herring and crab fisheries and sea mammal hunting has been very poor in recent years and the local tanner crab fishery has remained closed since 2010. Most of the trawling occurs when other user groups are using the bay during the summer and fall dislocating the smaller boats out of the safety of the bay into the Bering Sea, endangering lives, in order to find fish and game and avoid gear conflicts (loss). Habitat destruction will occur where trawl gear touches the bottom. This proposal will allow fish and game to recover and return to areas closer to our community enabling us to be able to continue harvest and process our local resources. We considered limiting all commercial fishing vessels under 35 feet lengths, but so few of them bother fishing inside the bay and their impacts are not nearly that of the trawl vessels. Trawlers are large vessels that are built to handle the stormy weather of the Bering Sea. They did not historically fish in Unalaska Bay and restricting them from these waters would alleviate many problems.

PROPOSED BY: Unalaska Native Fisherman’s Association (EF-C15-128)

PROPOSAL 195 – 5 AAC 28.640. Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area Sablefish Management Plan. Update logbook requirements for Aleutian Islands state-waters sablefish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.640(g) is amended to read:

(g) An operator of a vessel fishing for sablefish in the Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaskan Peninsula Area shall maintain an accurate logbook of all fishing operations for each type of gear used [EACH VESSEL OPERATOR SHALL OBTAIN AND COMPLETE A LOGBOOK PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR ALL FISHING ACTIVITY IN THE WATERS OF ALASKA UNDER THIS SECTION. THE LOGBOOK MUST BE ON BOARD THE VESSEL AT ALL TIMES AND COPIES OF EACH LOGBOOK PAGE CORRESPONDING WITH AN ADF&G FISH TICKET FOR SABLEFISH MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF LANDING].
The following requirements apply to a logbook under this subsection:

(1) a logbook must

(A) include the date, specific locations of harvest by latitude and longitude, type and number of gear, average depth, and hours fished for each set of gear;

(B) include, for the target species, the round weight of fish retained and discarded;

(C) be updated within 24 hours after midnight local time on the day of operation;

(D) be retained, with its original pages, for a period of two years by the owner or operator of the vessel;

(E) be kept on board the vessel while operating gear, during transits to or from a port of landing, and for 14 days after landing sablefish;

(F) be made available to a local representative of the department upon request;

(2) a copy of each logbook page described in this subsection corresponding with an ADF&G fish ticket must be submitted to the department within seven days of the landing;

(3) a person may not make a false entry in the logbook described in this section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Existing sablefish fishery logbook regulations for the Aleutian Islands District of the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area do not specify logbook entries must be true and accurate or logbook pages must be retained; this has caused enforcement difficulty. The proposed sablefish logbook requirements will improve the department's ability to accurately track fishery harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-055)

PROPOSAL 196 – 5 AAC 27.655. Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery Allocation Plan. Change the date fishermen using purse seine gear may access the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring gillnet allocation from July 25 to July 20, as follows:

I would like the board to change the rollover date from July 25 to July 20. I suggest the board use the current language and just change the date from the 25 to the 20 of July. This would still give any one the opportunity to fish, but if there is no effort by the 20, the seiners could harvest the remaining quota.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2001 the board allocated 7% of the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring quota to be harvested by gillnet only, and then increased that number in 2004 to 14%. The intent of this change from an all seine fishery was to give the small local Dutch Harbor fleet an opportunity to catch the herring. 2001 through 2005 there was effort and there were landings. Since 2005 there has been no effort or no landings by the gillnet fleet. The regulation now states that the uncaught gillnet quota does not roll over into the seine quota until the 25 of July. The fishery opens July 15. The seiners usually have their portion of the quota caught by the 20 of July and it does not make economic sense for the vessels, or the processors to wait until the 25 of July to catch the roll over gillnet quota. The result being in the last 10 years most of the gillnet portion of the quota has gone unharvested.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Evich (EF-C15-052)

PROPOSAL 197 – 5 AAC 01.410. Fishing seasons. Clarify when commercial salmon fishing license holders may subsistence fish for salmon in the Alaska Peninsula Area, as follows:

5 AAC 01.410(a) is amended to read:

- (a) In the Alaska Peninsula Area, salmon may be taken at any time, except
 - (1) in those districts and sections open to commercial salmon fishing, **a commercial salmon fishing license holder may not subsistence fish for** salmon [MAY NOT BE TAKEN] during the 24 hours before and 12 hours following a commercial salmon fishing period; **a commercial salmon fishing license holder may subsistence fish for salmon during a commercial salmon fishing period;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations restrict the general public from fishing during the 24 hours before and 12 hours following a commercial salmon fishing period. This restriction was likely intended to prevent the sale of subsistence salmon during commercial salmon fishing periods. Modification of this regulation would allow those members of the general public who do not possess a commercial salmon fishing license to subsistence fish for salmon during periods that commercial salmon fishing license holders are restricted. Additional language to this regulation will also provide clarity to commercial salmon fishing license holders as to when they may legally subsistence for salmon during commercial salmon fishing periods. Regulatory language from the Chignik Area (5 AAC 01.485) was used as precedence for the amended regulatory language provided.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-059)

PROPOSAL 198 – 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, annual limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area; and 5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area. Require non-retention of king salmon in the Sandy River, as follows:

Non-retention of sport caught king salmon in the Sandy River from origination to salt water, using only unbaited single-hook, artificial lure or artificial flies year round.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Retention of sport caught Chinook Salmon on the Sandy River. Increased sport fishing pressure and retention of unknown populations of Chinook salmon on the Sandy River could negatively impact the stock.

PROPOSED BY: Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association & Nelson Lagoon Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-030)

PROPOSAL 199 — 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, annual limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area. Amend the freshwater bag limit provisions for salmon species other than king salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 65.020(a)(2) is amended to read:

(2) other salmon, **20 inches or greater in length**, 5 per day, **10** [5] in possession; **less than 20 inches in length, 10 per day; 10 in possession**.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? General regulations for bag and possession limits of any-sized salmon other than king salmon in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area (APAIA) are unnecessarily restrictive and inconsistent with general sport regulations in the adjacent Kodiak Remote Zone (Kodiak Area). Overall angler effort levels in APAIA are among the lowest in the state and currently there is no conservation concern due to sport fishing for stocks where general bag and possession limits apply. Most APAIA fishing locations are remotely located. Increasing the possession limit from 5 to 10 fish for salmon 20 inches or greater in length other than king salmon will allow anglers at remote locations to retain two bag limits prior to processing their catch. Establishing a freshwater bag limit of 10 salmon less than 20 inches in length will increase opportunity for anglers to harvest male ‘jack’ salmon, from both natural and enhanced populations of landlocked salmon. Increasing the possession limit to 10 salmon and establishing a bag limit of 10 fish less than 20 inches in length will also align general regulations for APAIA with those currently in place for the remainder of the Kodiak Area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-044)

PROPOSAL 200 — 5 AAC 65.051. Waters closed to sport fishing in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area. Close Swanson Lagoon and its tributaries to sport fishing for sockeye salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 65.051(5) is amended to read:

(5) Swanson Lagoon and its tributaries are closed to sport fishing for **sockeye** salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2013, the Swanson Lagoon sockeye salmon run was designated a ‘Stock of Concern’ by the department and the Alaska Board of Fisheries under provisions of the *Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries* (5 AAC 39.222.). Other salmon stocks present in the Swanson Lagoon drainage are currently considered sustainable by department. This proposal would limit the closure of the sport fishery to sockeye salmon only, and allow anglers to target other salmon species that may be present.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-045)

PROPOSAL 201 – 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, annual limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area. Reduce the possession limit for coho salmon in Illiuliuk Creek, as follows:

5 AAC 65.020(c) is amended to read:

(c) In the salt waters and all freshwater drainages of Unalaska Bay, [EXCLUDING THE ILLIULIUK RIVER DRAINAGE,] the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is five fish per day, five in possession, of which no more than two fish may be coho salmon and two fish may be sockeye salmon.

5 AAC 65.020(f) is repealed:

(f) **Repealed** / / [IN ILLIULIUK CREEK (ALSO KNOWN AS TOWN OR UNALASKA CREEK), DOWNSTREAM FROM ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED AT THE CHURCH HOLE, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR COHO SALMON IS TWO PER DAY, FOUR IN POSSESSION].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would align the regulations within the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutians Islands Area for Unalaska Bay salmon fisheries. The above amended provisions would clarify and standardize the other salmon bag and possession limits within the Unalaska Bay fresh and salt waters. All current regulations applicable within Unalaska Bay would remain in effect under this proposal except the possession limit for Illiuliuk Creek drainage coho salmon which would be reduced from 4 to 2 in possession.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-046)
