

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
LOWER COOK INLET FINFISH
NOVEMBER 28–DECEMBER 1, 2016**

PROPOSAL 2 – 5 AAC 21.200. Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections. Establish and define the Port Graham Section and English Bay Section in the Port Graham Subdistrict, as follows:

5 AAC 21.200(d)(1) is amended to read:

(1) Port Graham Subdistrict: all waters east of the longitude of Point Bede at 151° 59.40' W. long., and south of the latitude of Point Pogibshi at 59° 25.47' N. lat.;

(A) Port Graham Section: all waters north of a line from 59° 22.25' N. lat., 151° 59.40' W. long. to 59° 21.39' N. lat., 151° 55.25' W. long.;

(B) English Bay Section: all waters south of a line from 59° 22.25' N. lat., 151° 59.40' W. long. to 59° 21.39' N. lat., 151° 55.25' W. long.;

What is the issue that you would like the board to address and why? English Bay and Port Graham sections in the Port Graham Subdistrict are not established and defined in regulation. This has resulted in some confusion among stakeholders regarding the boundaries of these sections.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-122)

PROPOSAL 3 – 5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters. Amend waters closed to commercial salmon fishing in the Kamishak District and Outer District of Lower Cook Inlet, as follows:

5 AAC 21.350(e) is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

(e) Kamishak Bay District

(6) waters of Akumwarvik Bay inshore of a line from a point at 59° 03.31' N. lat., 154° 11.24' W. long., to a point at 59° 02.82' N. lat, 154° 10.18' W. long., to a point on the west shore at 59° 02.32' N. lat., 154° 07.08' W. long.;

(7) waters of the Douglas River area inshore of a line from 59° 03.78' N. lat., 153° 46.09' W. long., to a point at 59° 03.95' N. lat., 153° 45.09' W. long.

5 AAC 21.350(f)(12) is amended and a new paragraph is added to read:

(f) Outer District

(12) waters of the East Nuka Subdistrict east of a line from a point north of the entrance to McCarty Lagoon at 59° 32.76' N. lat., 150° 20.20' W. long. to a point offshore of the entrance of McCarty Lagoon at 59° 32.45' N. lat., **150° 21.50' W. long.** [150° 21.00' W. LONG.] to a point south of the entrance of McCarty Lagoon at 59° 31.90' N. lat., 150° 21.00' W. long.;

...

(14) waters of the Nuka Island Subdistrict off of the Petrof River west of a line between a point at 59° 20.84' N. lat., 150° 50.30' W. long. and a point at 59° 21.37' N. lat., 150° 50.30' W. long.

What is the issue that you would like the board to address and why? In Lower Cook Inlet waters closed to commercial salmon harvest are defined using a variety of methods. In addition to being specified in regulation, closed waters have historically been identified using physical signs or markers, as well as on maps distributed by the Homer area Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) office. Given the widespread availability of Global Positioning System technology, the department has ended its regulatory marker program in this area.

The proposal identifies waters in the Kamishak and Outer districts that have historically been closed to commercial salmon fishing. These closed waters were previously only identified with markers. The public, enforcement, and department all benefit from clearly defined closed waters with Global Positioning System coordinates.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-124)

PROPOSAL 4 – 5 AAC 28.360. Cook Inlet Sablefish Management Plan. Clarify procedures for obtaining and submitting log sheets for the Cook Inlet commercial sablefish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.360(b) is amended to read:

(b) An operator of a vessel participating in the Cook Inlet sablefish fishery shall obtain **sablefish log sheets** [AND COMPLETE A SABLEFISH LOGBOOK] provided by the department **at the time of registration**. The vessel operator must have the **log sheets** [LOGBOOK] on board the vessel at all times and must submit to the **department’s office in Homer completed corresponding log sheets within 10 days after each landing of sablefish** [DEPARTMENT EACH LOGBOOK PAGE THAT CORRESPONDS WITH EACH ADF&G SABLEFISH FISH TICKET].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Although the current regulation requires submission of completed logbooks, it does not specify the timeline when logbooks are due. A similar regulation as proposed exists for the Prince William Sound sablefish fishery as defined in 5 AAC 28.272(f) which requires that log sheets must be received within 10 days after each landing at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) Cordova office. The Cook Inlet sablefish fishery is managed out of the department’s Homer office and timely receipt of log sheets is necessary for corroboration of harvest and effort data. Typically, fishermen delivering to a processor will submit log sheet(s) to industry staff when completing the fish ticket and the buyer will submit the log sheet with the fish ticket to the department. This practice works well since it is specified in regulation that fish tickets are due to the department within 7 days of landing (5 AAC 39.130(c)). However, it is still the fisherman’s responsibility to submit the log sheet and for those fishermen that do not submit their log sheets to a buyer, a clear deadline needs to be specified in regulation for when log sheets are due to the department. This proposal seeks to implement a 10-day deadline following a sablefish landing when log sheets are due to the department’s office in Homer for vessels participating in the Cook Inlet sablefish fishery.

Other proposed changes in the regulatory language are to clarify that log sheets are provided by the department, rather than “logbooks”, and that these blank log sheet pages may be faxed, e-mailed, or copied to replenish a fisherman’s supply. Additionally, there may be multiple fish tickets issued for a single landing if there is more than one permit being used and/or more than one species being targeted (e.g., a combination Pacific cod and sablefish trip). However, log sheets correspond to a single landing, and therefore the proposed amended language clarifies that distinction.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-126)

PROPOSAL 5 – 5 AAC 28.365. Cook Inlet Rockfish Management Plan. Clarify procedures for obtaining and submitting log sheets for the Cook Inlet commercial rockfish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.365(e) is amended to read:

(e) An operator of a vessel participating in the Cook Inlet directed rockfish fishery shall obtain **rockfish log sheets** [AND COMPLETE A ROCKFISH LOGBOOK] provided by the department

at the time of registration. The vessel operator must have the **log sheets** [LOGBOOK] on board the vessel at all times the vessel is participating in the Cook Inlet directed rockfish fishery. **The vessel operator must submit to the department's office in Homer completed corresponding log sheets within 10 days after each landing of directed rockfish.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Although the current regulation requires completion of logbooks, it does not specify where and when to submit completed logbooks. A similar regulation exists for the Prince William Sound sablefish fishery as defined under 5 AAC 28.272(f) which requires that log sheets must be received within 10 days after each landing to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) office in Cordova. There is a similar proposal to require log sheets for the Cook Inlet sablefish fishery to be submitted to the department's Homer office within 10 days after each landing. The Cook Inlet directed rockfish fishery is managed out of the Homer office and timely receipt of log sheets is necessary for corroboration of harvest and effort data. Typically, fishermen delivering to a processor will submit log sheet(s) to industry staff when completing the fish ticket and the buyer will submit the log sheet with the fish ticket to the department. This practice works well since it is specified in regulation that fish tickets are due to the department within 7 days of landing (5 AAC 39.130(c)); however, it is still the fisherman's responsibility to submit the log sheet. Many participants in the directed rockfish fishery are catcher-sellers and complete their own fish tickets and therefore do not submit their log sheets to a separate buyer, further necessitating that a clear deadline is specified in regulation for when log sheets are due to the department. This proposal seeks to implement a 10-day deadline following a directed rockfish landing, when log sheets are due to the department's office in Homer, for vessels participating in the Cook Inlet directed rockfish fishery.

Currently, at times, staff has needed to track down fishermen well after their landings have occurred in an attempt to collect missing logs, and this has caused concern that logs might be filled out inaccurately. Other proposed changes in the regulatory language are to clarify that log sheets are provided by the department, rather than "logbooks", and that these blank log sheet pages may be faxed, e-mailed, or copied to replenish a fisherman's supply. Additional proposed language clarifies that log sheets correspond to a single landing, and therefore the time frame for submission follows that landing.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-128)

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Extend the fishing season for Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River, and Stariski Creek from October 31 through November 30, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 56.122(a)(2), (5), (6), and (10) to change the season closing date for Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River and Stariski Creek from October 31 to November 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide more opportunity for steelhead fishing on Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River and Stariski Creek. Fishing pressure is very light by late October. Although these waters often freeze up by early November,