

**Alaska Board of Fisheries
Teleconference**

August 1, 2012

Meeting Summary

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) met by teleconference on August 1, 2012, for the purpose of discussing several emergency petitions dealing with Upper Cook Inlet salmon fisheries, including the Northern District salmon stocks and the harvest of late-run king and sockeye salmon bound for the Kenai River. Six of seven board members were present. Public listen-only teleconference sites were available at Kenai, Homer, Wasilla, Anchorage, and Juneau. The audio of the meeting was streamed on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game website.

The first petition considered requested the board to take measures to conserve northern-bound salmon stocks. The board thoroughly reviewed the salmon return numbers and projections, the management plan stipulations, and the emergency orders issued by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) to open and close some of the fisheries. A number of concerns were expressed by the board including conservation and escapement of salmon stocks, management decisions by the ADFG, and harvest opportunities in the various fisheries. In conclusion, the board did not support a finding of emergency as defined in the Joint Board Petition Policy. The board then took no action on the other two petitions that dealt with the Northern District salmon stocks.

In regards to the petition requesting continued restriction on the harvest of late-run king salmon returning to the Kenai River, the board raised similar issues and concerns as the previous discussion. Board members expressed the importance of conservation of Chinook but also for the impact on the users by the restrictions. Board members noted that ADFG had considerable discretion to address conservation under the existing regulations based on inseason data. The board did not support a finding of emergency for the petition.