

## Alaska Board of Fisheries Committee Summary

# COMMITTEE B

**Sport Fisheries  
March 22, 2013**

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### Board Committee Members:

1. Reed Morisky, \*Chair
2. Vince Webster
3. Orville Huntington

### Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff Members:

1. Tom Brookover – Deputy Director, Sport Fish
2. Matt Miller – Regional Management Coordinator, Sport Fish
3. Robert Chadwick – Regional Management Coordinator, Sport Fish
4. Tom Taube – Regional Management Coordinator, Sport Fish
5. Tom Vania – Regional Management Coordinator, Sport Fish
6. Brian Marston – Area Management Biologist, Sport Fish
7. Daryl Lescanec – Fishery Biologist, Sport Fish
8. Lisa Olson – Deputy Director, Subsistence
9. Charles Swanton – Director, Sport Fish
10. Al Cain – Enforcement Liaison

### Alaska Wildlife Troopers

1. Tory Oleck

### Alaska Department of Law

1. Mike Mitchell

### Advisory Committee Members:

1. Mike Crawford – Kenai/Soldotna AC
2. George Heim – Cooper Landing AC
3. Dianne Dubuc – Seward AC
4. Greg Brown – Juneau/Douglas AC
5. Don Fox - Kodiak AC
6. Kim Elliot – Sitka AC

7. Casey Mapes -Yakutat AC
8. Scott Crowther - Anchorage AC

Public Panel Members:

1. Kevin Delaney – Kenai River Sportfishing Association
2. John Lamont – Self
3. Neil Dewit – Self

Federal Subsistence Representative:

1. None

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The Committee met March 22, 2013 at 11:10 a.m.–12:00 p.m., and 1:35 p.m.–2:24 p.m.

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PROPOSALS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE WERE: (10 total) 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235.

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**PROPOSAL 226 – 5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area; 5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area; 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area; 5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area; 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area; and 5 AAC 75.012. Sport Shark Fishery Management Plan.** Update regulations to accurately reflect changes to the statewide *Sport Shark Fishery Management Plan* which allowed for an increased bag and possession limit of spiny dogfish shark and no annual limit requirement.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- There is an overabundance of spiny dogfish and we should harvest as many as we can.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** Consensus to support.

**PROPOSAL 227 – 5 AAC 75.003. Emergency order authority.** Provide the department with emergency order (EO) authority to restrict sport proxy fishing.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- For 2012, of 3,883 proxy permits issued; 28 were issued for blind beneficiaries, 459 were 70% disabled, and 3,417 were 65 or older.
- If used, restriction would apply to a specific species for a specific water body.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Amend proposal to apply only to proxies issued for beneficiaries who are disabled.
- Beneficiaries who receive these fish really value these fish.
- Restricting proxy fishing would provide minimal reduction in harvest.
- Just close the fishery if it gets down to a level that would require restricting proxy fishing.
- Another tool for the department's tool box.
- Would not prevent a proxy fisher from fishing another area that is still open.
- Would add additional complexity to regulations for minimal effect.
- Beneficiaries have the same right to these fish as other anglers.
- Proxy regulations were amended at a previous statewide board meeting to tighten up reporting and recording requirements.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 228 – 5 AAC 75.995. Definitions.** Prohibit the practice of “high grading” by anglers.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- This would closely align state bag limit definition with the federal halibut bag limit definition.
- Trooper discretion is used in defining “immediately” when releasing fish.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Provides additional clarity for sport fishing guides to explain to clients why they cannot high-grade fish.
- High-grading has been seen to occur in some fishing derbies.
- High-grading is unethical.
- Concern over strict enforcement of the definition of “immediate” by other agencies.
- In a catch-and-release fishery, would this be a problem if someone held the fish for a picture.
- Need to be very clear on the definition of “immediate”. Maybe add language such as “before resuming fishing” or “before leaving the fishing area”.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** Consensus to support.

**PROPOSAL 229 – 5 AAC 75.006. Harvest record for finfish with an annual limit.** Specify harvest record reporting requirements for additional sport fishing licenses and harvest records.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- Under sport fishing guide regulations, the guide is responsible for a client violation. A violation regarding an additional license issued to a client is highly unlikely to apply to the guide unless the guide was the vendor who issued the first license.
- Gives enforcement officers a slightly better tool to enforce annual limit recording requirements.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Enforcement of the recording of annual limits is already difficult and this would not make it any better.
- Concern was expressed that a guide would be subject to a violation that his client committed without his knowledge.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** Consensus to support.

**PROPOSAL 230 – 5 AAC 75.005. Possession of licenses, stamps and harvest record.** If duplicate licenses are issued, ensure that the section for season or annual limits is removed from duplicate.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Punishes the honest angler.
- Needlessly reduces fishing opportunity to anglers who accidentally lose their fishing license.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** Consensus to oppose.

**PROPOSAL 231 – 5 AAC 75.995. Definitions.** Define the term “compensation”.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- State prosecutor has some difficulty with cases because compensation is not defined.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Will prevent abuse from luxury yachts fishing Sitka waters.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** Consensus to support.



**PROPOSAL 232 – 5 AAC 75.026. Use of sport-caught fish as bait.** Clarify the use of sport-caught fish as bait.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Would like to amend the proposal to include pink salmon but understand this would be an area-specific proposal, not a statewide proposal.
- Would like to see species that are prohibited for bait under commercial regulations also be listed under sport regulations.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** Consensus to support.

**PROPOSAL 233 – 5 AAC 75.022(d). Freshwater sport fishing.** Create an exemption for the use of footgear with felt soles for the disabled or handicapped fisherman.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- People don't know there is an avenue available to receive a disability exemption.
- Prohibition of felt soles is an important conservation measure to prevent spread of invasive species.
- There are good alternatives available as replacement for felt soles.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** Consensus to oppose.

**PROPOSAL 234 – 5 AAC 75.020. Sport fishing gear.** Ban use of lead weights in fresh and salt waters of Alaska in sport fisheries.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- No studies on lead fishing weights supporting negative effects on wildlife.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** Consensus to oppose.

**PROPOSAL 235 – 5 AAC 75.0XX. New Regulation; 5 AAC 75.005. Possession of licenses, stamps and harvest record.** Establish mandatory reporting system for sport fisheries statewide.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- Department is working on electronic reporting and licensing.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Burden to anglers to record their harvest out in the field.
- Burden on the department to collect and record this data.
- Difficult to remember sport harvest at the end of the year through Statewide Harvest Survey.
- Concerned about small systems that might not be accurately assessed.
- Double reporting of harvest may occur between guided logbooks and individual angler reporting.
- Guide logbooks already capture harvest of guided fishing.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.