

Cook Inlet Recreational Fishermen

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November 29, 2016

RC 010

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
C/O BOARD SUPPORT SECTION
PO BOX 115526
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5526

Re: Support for Amended Proposals 19 through 27, inclusive

Dear Glenn Haight, Executive Director,

WHEREAS, Cook Inlet Recreational Fishermen timely submitted a set of proposals in April of 2016. They were included in the published version of the Board's proposal book as proposal numbers 19 through 27, inclusive.

SUBSEQUENTLY, Staff Comments have been received along with comments of Advisory Committees and others. In early November, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game issued a Progress Report on Genetic and Coded Wire Tag Mixed Stock Analysis of Chinook Salmon Harvested in Cook Inlet Marine Sport Fishery, 2014-2016. In addition, a typographical error was discovered in a proposal's explanatory (not statutory) text.

IN RESPONSE to the valuable input obtained through various comments and discussions on the proposals, as well as the (albeit preliminary) data presented in the Department's Progress Report, CIRF respectfully seeks to PROPOSE AND SUPPORT AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS of some of its proposals in efforts to reduce the Board's workload while significantly broadening the base of support for the proposals as amended/modified.

The amended/modified proposals, below, remain consistent with the intent of the proposals as originally filed and seek only to clarify, simplify, and consolidate proposals in accordance with Staff Comments and Advisory Committees input and in consideration of recently disclosed data.

THEREFORE, CIRF respectfully PROPOSES AND SUPPORTS the following amended proposals and encourages the Board to ADOPT THE PROPOSALS AS AMENDED:

Modifications/amendments are shown as draft regulatory language (when possible) applied to the originally submitted proposals.

PROPOSAL 19: (AMENDED)

5 AAC 58.060(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 Lower Cook Inlet during the winter, which occurs from September 1 ~~August 10~~ [OCTOBER 1] through March 31.

Note: This modification is supported by ADF&G.

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(Continued)

PROPOSAL 20: (CANCELLED):

5 AAC 58.060(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 Lower Cook Inlet during the winter, which occurs from October 1 through ~~April 30~~ [MARCH 31].

PROPOSAL 21: (TO BE COMBINED WITH PROPOSAL 23)

PROPOSAL 21: (AS ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED)

5 AAC 58.022 **Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area** (a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of this section, the following are the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and special provisions for finfish and shellfish in the Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area: (1) king salmon: may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag and possession limit of two fish; no size limit; an annual harvest limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, except the "annual harvest limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length" requirement shall not apply to the Lower Cook Inlet recreational troll king salmon fishery south of Anchor Point Light (59°46.14' N. lat.),

PROPOSAL 23: (AS ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED. To Be CANCELLED Pending Acceptance of Combination with Proposal 21)

5 AAC 58.022 **Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area** (a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of this section, the following are the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and special provisions for finfish and shellfish in the Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area: (1) king salmon: may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag and possession limit of two fish; no size limit; an annual harvest limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, except as provided in (c) of this section; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006, except a harvest record shall not be required for king salmon harvested in the Lower Cook Inlet recreational troll king salmon fishery south of Anchor Point Light (59°46.14' N. lat.),

PROPOSAL 21 as AMENDED: (COMBINED WITH PROPOSAL 23)

5 AAC 58.022 **Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area** (a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of this section, the following are the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and special provisions for finfish and shellfish in the Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area: (1) king salmon: may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag and possession limit of two fish; no size limit; an annual harvest limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, except the "annual harvest limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length" requirement shall not apply to the Lower Cook Inlet recreational troll king salmon fishery south of Anchor Point

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Light (59°46.14' N. lat.), except as provided in (c) of this section; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006, **except a harvest record shall not be required for king salmon harvested in the Lower Cook Inlet recreational troll king salmon fishery south of Anchor Point Light (59°46.14' N. lat.),**

Note: Proposals 21 and 23 were originally submitted separately in effort to comply with the Board's "one issue per proposal" requirement. Staff Comments revealed the department opposed these proposals because the harvest record requirement works in concert with the annual limit. Combining these proposals will earn greater support and overcome the department's objections.

PROPOSALS 22 and 24:

- **Clarification and Correction of Typographical Error**

Somewhere between the submission of these proposals and issuance of the proposal book, the text and headings of these proposals became shuffled. It is acknowledged it is our responsibility to identify any errors and inform the Board staff. Unfortunately, a number of factors were at play and we accept responsibility.

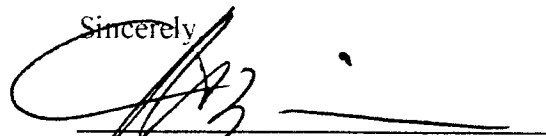
The errors involve identical proposals that differed only slightly. One version applied to Alaska residents only. The other version applied to both residents and non-residents.

The "residents only" versions did not gain any support and CIRF seeks to clarify that none of these proposals distinguish between residents and non-residents.

With this understanding and modification, **proposals 22 and 24 are REQUESTED CANCELLED.**

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely



Peter Zimmerman
CIRF spokesperson