

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

KACHEMAK BAY TRAWL SHRIMP MANAGEMENT PLAN

#79-45-FB

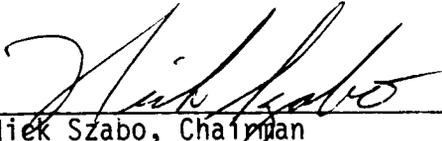
The Alaska Board of Fisheries recognizes that shrimp stocks in the Kachemak Bay area of Cook Inlet are a discrete stock and should be managed as a separate entity from other Gulf of Alaska shrimp stocks.

Based on historic catch information and relative abundance index surveys, the Kachemak Bay shrimp stocks experience normal population fluctuations. These populations appear to be able to sustain the historic annual harvest of 5,000,000 pounds when the catch occurs in equal portions throughout the year from June through March.

The Kachemak Bay shrimp fishery is comprised of two major species, pink (P. borealis) and humpy (P. goniurus) shrimp. Humpy shrimp do not become available to the fishery in most years until fall which further necessitates a prolonged harvest period and split seasons.

The following management strategies should be used when regulating this fishery:

1. Weekly catch rates should remain consistent with historic levels. These rates should be set to provide that fishing will occur over several weeks during each season. It is anticipated that the number of weeks fished will be a minimum of nine (9) weeks during each of the three seasons and that the minimum weeks fished during a fishing year may total 27.
2. Seasons should be set to insure that the harvest is allocated throughout the year to utilize all segments of the stocks and species as they become available to the fishery.
3. Daily fishing periods will be set insofar as possible to balance day and nighttime hours of fishing if applicable to harvest different stocks or accommodate various fisheries.
4. Management by guideline harvest levels should be conservative until adequate data base is established to justify a substantial increase in the guideline harvest level.
5. Areas closed to trawl shrimp fishing should remain substantially the same with the possibility that further area closures may be enacted to protect juvenile rearing shrimp or congregating females during the egg hatch period.



Nick Szabo, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Adopted: April 5, 1979
Anchorage, Alaska

VOTE: