

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
#81-82-FB

POLICY STATEMENT ON HAND TROLLING

see also #19-55A-FB,
#19-57-FB

Population growth in Southeastern Alaska is intensifying competition among subsistence, commercial and recreational fishermen for king and coho salmon stocks. These stocks are in a depressed condition, and adequate spawning escapements have not been achieved in recent years. The salmon handtroll fishery has historically been a primary user of these salmon stocks. As a result, the Board of Fisheries is adopting a long-term policy for handtroll management. This policy rests on the following considerations:

- 1) The handtroll fishery has historically been a part-time, noncompetitive commercial fishery. Its participants used gear homemade from readily available local materials. Locally constructed boats were either hand-propelled or powered by very small engines. The fishery was conducted in inshore areas adjacent to the participants' home communities. The returns from handtrolling generally supplemented a subsistence lifestyle or the fixed income of elderly people. Handtrolling also provided a wholesome way for young people to contribute to the family income.
- 2) In 1973 the Alaska Legislature enacted legislation limiting entry into Alaska's commercial fisheries. The Legislature recognized the unique lifestyle that characterized handtrolling and specifically excluded it from those fisheries designated as requiring limited entry.
- 3) Major purposes of Alaska's limited entry legislation were to promote efficiency of harvest and to generate a sufficient rate of economic return to increase investments in vessels and gear. In practice the system has created a high cash value in entry permits, requiring a large investment to enter a limited fishery and encouraging increased capitalization of vessels and gear for efficient competition and adequate return on investment.
- 4) Conservation of Southeastern Alaska king and coho salmon stocks has become increasingly more difficult in recent years. The utilization of these stocks by subsistence and recreational fishermen, powertrollers, gillnetters, and seiners as well as by handtrollers has required very restrictive regulation. Despite restrictive measures the stocks are depressed, and adequate spawning escapements have not been achieved in any systems for kings and many systems for cohos.
- 5) Management of Alaska's fishery resources requires that preferences among beneficial uses be considered while maintaining a sustained yield. A fair and equitable allocation system must avoid unjustified displacement of users. If handtrolling were to be

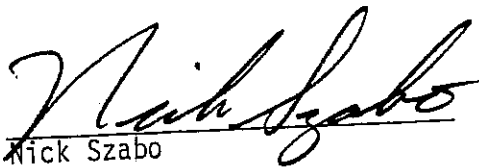
placed under the limited entry system, a maximum limit of 600 permits would be necessary to maintain the existing balance among various users. However, limiting the handtroll fishery to 600 permits would eliminate the lifestyle opportunity many people have enjoyed. The high investment required to enter the fishery would prohibit many people previously dependent on its supplemental returns from participating in the fishery.

Therefore, in order to insure the conservation and sustained yield of Alaska's fishery resources, to promote the development of its beneficial fishery uses and to maximize the benefits to the public, it is the policy of the Alaska Board of Fisheries that:

- 1) The handtroll fishery should be managed to preserve its unique historical character and to allow the large numbers of people dependent on handtrolling's supplemental returns to continue to participate in the fishery.
- 2) The limitation of entry into the handtroll fishery would not offer any significant conservation benefits and would be inconsistent with the current social and economic needs of the people of Southeastern Alaska.

ADOPTED: Juneau, Alaska
January 16, 1981

VOTE: 7/0


Nick Szabo
Chairman