

Meeting began at 7 pm at the Cooper Landing community building on Bean Creek Road.

Members Present: George Heim, Kyle Kolodziejski, John Pearson, Gerald Neis, William Shuster

Members Absent Excused: Ed Holsten, Robert Gibson, Mike Adams, Dr James Givens (resigned)

Members Absent Unexcused: Billy Coulliette, Erick Fish

Elections were held with the following results: Robert Gibson, Bill Shuster and Alex Kime were elected to serve three year member seats. Mike Adams was moved to serve as an Alternate.

Lower Cook Inlet BOF proposal comments

| # | Action Requested | AC Vote to Support or Oppose, any amendments and committee discussion |
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| 43 | PROPOSAL XX - 5 AAC 28.36X. Cook Inlet Area State-Waters Groundfish Trawl Management Plan; 5 AAC 28.46X. Kodiak Area State-Waters Groundfish Trawl Management Plan; and 5 AAC 28.53X. Chignik Area State-Waters Groundfish Trawl Management Plan. Create state-waters groundfish management plans for trawl vessels less than 58 feet in the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Chignik, Lower Cook Inlet, and Kodiak Finfish meetings.)</i> | 0-6 Oppose Concern of king by-catch was expressed. Would a trawl fishery be sustainable in Cook Inlet? This would be another impact on halibut – we have recently heard discussion of limiting halibut harvest to one per person. Whatever comes up out of that net comes up dead. |
| 44 | 5 AAC 28.36X. Cook Inlet Area Pollock Management Plan; 5 AAC 28.46X. Kodiak Area Pollock Management Plan; and 5 AAC 28.53X. Chignik Area Pollock Management Plan. Create state-waters walleye pollock management plans for Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Chignik, Lower Cook Inlet, and Kodiak Finfish meetings.)</i> | 0-6 Oppose Same comments as Proposal 43 |
| 45 | 5 AAC 28.4XX. New Section; 5 AAC 28.5XX. New Section; and 5 AAC 28.5XX. New Section. Require 100 percent observer coverage on groundfish trawl vessels in state-waters of the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Chignik, Lower Cook Inlet, and Kodiak Finfish meetings.)</i> | 6-0 The committee opposed trawling fishing in Cook Inlet, but if there was such a fishery, it should have 100% observance coverage. |
| 46 | 5 AAC 58.0XX. New Section. Allow party fishing in Cook Inlet saltwater sport fisheries. | 5-1 Support Little kids need help hooking their fish. It is already abused to a certain extent. Some of the senior citizens also get exhausted very quickly. Doesn't believe it is going to impact the overall fishery. The guided vessels are getting hammered on and the non-guided vessels are also doing this. The sooner people get their fish, the sooner they can move off the good spots. One member stated the only way he can fish is by proxy and you can't harvest halibut by proxy. There should be some age for |

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| | | children (a person could bring an infant on a boat in order to get two more fish). Someone would also have to be watching the infant rather than fishing. |
| 47 | 5 AAC 56.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area; 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 59.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area; 5 AAC 60.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area; 5 AAC 61.110. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Susitna River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 62.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area. Prohibit use of barbed hooks while sport fishing for salmon in Cook Inlet fresh waters. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)</i> | 0-6 Oppose This is crazy. If the issue is mortality, barbless or not there is no difference. Would be tempted to amend to pertain only to rainbow trout, which this committee has proposed in the past. If you are going to catch and release (not many people do that) they should use barbless hooks to allow easier release. This is too broad in where they are trying to apply this regulation. |
| 48 | 5 AAC 56.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 57.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 58.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 59.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 60.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 61.XXX. New Section; and 5 AAC 62.XXX. New Section. Designate all waters where catch-and-release fishing occurs on salmon as single, unbaited, barbless-hook waters. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)</i> | 0-6 Oppose This is also too broad. Doesn't believe 95,000 kings were caught and released in Cook Inlet and don't know where those numbers came from. |
| 49 | 5 AAC 56.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 57.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 58.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 59.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 60.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 61.XXX. New Section; and 5 AAC 62.XXX. New Section. Establish criteria to designate waters in Cook Inlet as single, unbaited, barbless hooks waters. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)</i> | Same comments as Proposal 48. |
| 50 | 5 AAC 56.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 57.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 59.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 60.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 61.XXX. New Section; and 5 AAC 62.XXX. New Section. Prohibit catch-and-release fishing for coho salmon in all Cook Inlet fresh waters. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)</i> | Final vote on amended proposal 0-6 Opposed AMENDMENT: applied to the lower portion of the stream only Vote on the amendment – 5 - 1 The mortality decreases the further upstream the fish go. The fish are more vulnerable when they first enter the system. If this was applied to the lower 10-20 mile portions of the streams it would make more sense. The sockeye season is worse than this of people hammering the fish. There needs to be some ability to catch and release for fish that are getting spawned out. If people can only catch two fish, as soon as they get their 2 nd fish, they move off the area, allowing others to fish. Would support lower 20 miles on the Kenai (it will vary depending on the river system). There's more information needed for where to apply this and would look to the manager's to determine that. |

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| | | The issue is too complicated. |
| 51 | 5 AAC 58.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish. Prohibit catch-and-release fishing for coho salmon in the Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. | 0-6 Oppose Don't know of a study that establishes mortality of salt water catch and release fishing. Would tend to believe it would be a lower number. There is such a high predator/prey in the salt water, if you put an exhausted fish back in the water, they are more likely to become food for another fish. Silver salmon derby is another point – how would they continue doing that? If they are hatchery fish, they don't really have a problem. |
| 52 | 5 AAC 56.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 57.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 59.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 60.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 61.XXX. New Section; and 5 AAC 62.XXX. New Section. Prohibit catch-and-release fishing for salmon in all Cook Inlet fresh waters. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)</i> | Same comment as Proposal 50 |
| 53 | 5 AAC 56.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Prohibit anglers who are releasing a fish from removing the head of a fish out of the water. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)</i> | 1-5 Oppose This committee submitted a similar proposal for rainbow trout that was not approved. Practicality doesn't work. Don't want to see people get ticketed when they are trying to do the right thing to release a fish. Discussion about the mortality if the head doesn't come out of the water. People that regularly fish are better at releasing and more organized for those picture opportunities – the weekend warriors are the ones that create a problem. Planning is important. |
| 54 | 5 AAC 56.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 57.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 59.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 60.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 61.XXX. New Section; and 5 AAC 62.XXX. New Section. Prohibit sport fishing in major spawning areas where spawning fish are present in Cook Inlet salmon waters. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)</i> | 0-6 Oppose That would be the entire Russian River and almost all of the Upper Kenai. |
| 55 | 5 AAC 56.124. Harvest record required; annual limits for the Kenai Peninsula Area; 5 AAC 57.124. Harvest record required; annual limits for the Kenai River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 58.024. Harvest record required; annual limits; 5 AAC 59.124. Harvest record required; annual limits for the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area; 5 AAC 60.124. Harvest record required; annual limits for the Knik Arm Drainages Area; 5 AAC 61.124. Harvest record required; annual limits for the Susitna River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 62.124. Harvest record required; annual limits for the West Cook Inlet Area. Decrease Cook Inlet king salmon annual limit to two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, of which only one can be from the Kenai River. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)</i> | 0-6 Oppose This may actually make sense. Not sure if it would hurt the guides. Those that may fish a couple of days may be hurt. Concern that this could cause an increase of catch and release fishing. |

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| 56 | 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Decrease the Cook Inlet saltwater king salmon bag and possession limit to one king salmon and reduce the annual limit to two king salmon. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)</i> | 0 – 6 Oppose This proposal asks that a king not be removed at all from salt water, which would be impossible to release. |
| 57 | 5 AAC 56.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 57.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 58.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 59.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 60.XXX. New Section; 5 AAC 61.XXX. New Section; and 5 AAC 62.XXX. New Section. Limit amount of sport-caught fish that may be exported to 100 pounds of fillets. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)</i> | 0-6 Opposed What if you are a family of seven. This is too limiting. |
| 71 | 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area and 5 AAC 58.060. Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan. Decrease the Lower Cook Inlet winter saltwater king salmon bag and possession limit to one fish, and establish an annual limit of two king salmon. | This makes no sense. |
| 75 | 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Change the lingcod sport fishing season to begin on June 1 instead of July 1. | 0-1-5 Oppose Would like the opportunity to fish for lingcod while they are fishing for kings. Is there a biological reason why it is closed till July 1? Thought that was why it was closed through June. Don't support pending halibut harvest bag limit that may be reduced and lingcod will get pounded if that happens. |
| 79 | 5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters. Close waters to commercial fishing within one statute mile of the terminus of any anadromous fish stream in Cook Inlet as measured from mean lower low tide, not mean high tide. <i>(This proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)</i> | 3-0-3 Support During low tide there would only be a couple of water flows sufficient to allow fish, so they could easily be corked. |
| 81 | 5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations; 5 AAC 21.332. Seine specifications and operations; and 5 AAC 27.410. Fishing seasons for Cook Inlet Area. Establish various management measures to address decline in returning king salmon to Cook Inlet, including requiring net gear be certified as avoiding king salmon interception and closing commercial herring fisheries. <i>(The finfish aspects of this proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet meetings. The king and Tanner crab aspects of this proposal will be considered during the Statewide king and Tanner Crab meeting.)</i> | This is complicated. There are some really good ideas and generally there is a concern of the king salmon stocks. |

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| 84 | 5 AAC 21.373. Trail Lakes Salmon Hatchery Management Plan. Create a management plan for Trail Lakes Salmon Hatchery to determine harvest priorities within the special harvest area (SHA); describe the location of the Bear Lake, China Poot and Hazel Lake, Tutka Bay Lagoon, and Kirchner Lake SHAs; and define fishing seasons within the SHAs. | This would allow a procedure for cost recovery. The committee would prefer to see some actual language of a plan so they would know what they are voting on. It would make sense to have a plan. |
| 85 | 5 AAC 21.376. Resurrection Bay Salmon Management Plan and 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Prohibit sport fishing in Resurrection River until the Bear Lake sockeye salmon broodstock goal is met. | This should be shared among all user groups, not just sport fish groups and prohibit until the broodstock goal is met, but perhaps when it is projected to be met. |

Next meeting the committee will review Upper Cook Inlet BOF proposals for comments will be prepared at a meeting December 14, December 28th or January 4th at 10 am.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.