

ALASKA LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE/SUBJECT FILES 8672

2355 SCOMM 99 HOUSE SPEC. WORLD TRADE. . RELATIONS, 1995-1996 650

member lay Board has.

MR. TRIEN was also concerned that a three member Board could be run by just two people. He thought it was insulting that commercial fishermen and anyone with a commercial interest is excluded and other people with self serving interests are not excluded.

Number 422

DREW SPARLIN JR. said he has been involved in the Board of Fisheries process for many years. He said this bill is interrupting the Board process. There is a consensus of minds working together right now to solve issues between many groups. No one is being excluded. This bill would allow only special interest groups to gain control over State-wide management.

Number 370

RICHARD ANDREW, Ketchikan fisherman, opposed SB 49. He said he couldn't think of anything to add to what had already been said.

ROYCE RANNIGER, Ketchikan commercial fisherman, opposed SB 49. He said it's heavily weighted down with politics. We have the last great fishery in the United States. The responsibility is awesome and it should be managed accordingly. Any Board can only be effective if it represents all the interests which it governs.

MR. RANNIGER suggested that the Boards of Fisheries and Game should be as far removed from the political arena as possible. Treat it like the Supreme Court, he said, with life-time appointments. The Board makeup would be from all user groups in each area and when a member quits or retires, a replacement must come from that area and group.

Due to the vastness of our State, there should be two separate Boards of Fisheries and Game, a Northern Board and a Southeast Board, he concluded.

Number 337

KEN DUCKETT said he served nine years on a local Advisory Board. He is a long-time commercial fisherman and resident of Ketchikan. He is adamantly opposed to SB 49 for all the reasons the Committee has heard. He said the people who use the resource are the ones who are most concerned with preserving it.

ANDY RAUWOLF, President of the Herring Coalition, opposed most of this bill. The Board of Fisheries does need some overhauling, but a three-member Board is not the answer. After sitting in on the last few Board meetings, he thought there was too much power generated among people who are unfamiliar with specific areas of Alaska. He thought it advisable to give each local Advisory Committee a vote on the proposal affecting their area. He thought this would generate a lot more public interest on the local level. Six or eight Advisory Committees in a specific area would make the Board of Fisheries pay more attention to what they are recommending. He has seen Advisory Committee recommendations totally ignored by the Board of Fisheries, he added.

KRIS NOROSZ, Petersburg Vessel Owners Association, opposed SB 49. They support the present system of a seven-member lay Board, although it's not without its problems. Historically, it has served the State quite well. The Governor's Transition Team on Fisheries fully supported the lay Board and made some excellent recommendations for improvement to the present system. One of the recommendations is in HB 141 which would allow for a change in the dates in terms of Board members. This would help depoliticize the confirmation process by holding confirmation hearings prior to the

appointee making any Board decisions. A professional Board would lack the important knowledge and experience of Alaska's fishing industry. This would alienate the public and erode the credibility of the Board.

The present Board system needs more funding to insure greater participation by local Advisory Committee chairmen at the Board meetings and to provide increased staff support for the Local Advisory Committee and the public.

Number 263

OSCAR DYSON, 48 year Alaskan commercial fisherman, opposed SB 49, because it wouldn't be any better than what we have. Looking at the historical record of management, we still have good healthy runs of fish and he would not want to endanger that with a Board that doesn't have knowledge of the fisheries.

VIRGINIA ADAMS, Vice President of the Northwest Setnetters Association, said she had been a commercial fisherman for 20 years and was very much against this bill. She spent many years gaining the knowledge to fish in a number of fisheries and she personally would like individuals on the Board who have knowledge of commercial fishing.

AL BURCH said he started fishing in 1946 and then the population was 146,000. We are now at 600,000. He has spent 13 years on the Board of Fisheries. In the early days when we had a small population, they addressed all problems of fish, game, and trapping. He said the people who serve now should get a medal for all the flack they take. One suggestion he had was to form a third Board to take some of the pressure off the people. He said he knew most of the people who testified today and they represent thousands of years of accumulated fishing experience - a corporate memory.

He urged that they kill SB 49 in Committee.

Number 221

BRUCE SCHACTLER, Area K Seiners, said there has been so much testimony against this bill, that there isn't anything left to say. He wrote a letter last week and pointed out that the Legislative Research Agency has not been able to find a Board like Senator Pearce is proposing. It doesn't exist anywhere in the United States or Canada. He didn't see any reason for Alaska to be the guinea pig when we have the best resource in the nation.

MR. SCHACTLER said the problem comes from the Governor not appointing the right people and from people in the Legislature that threaten the public with lack of funding for the most needed program in the State unless their people get put on the Board.

MIKE MILLIGAN, Kodiak, said he was concerned specifically with going to a three-member Board. He thought it would be a big mistake. The thing that has made this country great is our ability to compromise and to build consensus in the times of controversy. Going to three members would disenfranchise vast segments of Alaska. The second problem is with no vested interest in the fisheries. He thought having a vested interest in the resources is what still gives us the fish to fight over.

RALPH LOHSE, Cordova commercial/sport/commercial sport fisherman, opposed SB 49 and supported HB 141. He said the current Board process gives all people with a direct interest a say in the management. That is what good government is all about. It also makes for good resource management. It should be left as it is; it has worked in the past; it will work in the future.

MR. LOHSE asked why there was only one user group that was excluded

from the Board in SB 49. He said they needed as much representation as anybody else.

Number 92

CHARLES DEVILLE, Cordova fisherman, was dead-set against SB 49, because he wants to be represented on the Board by fishermen. He thought commercial fishermen could also represent subsistence and sport fishermen, but he didn't see how sport fishermen can represent commercial fishermen.

DENNIS RANDA, President, State Council of Trout Unlimited, said last year the Council took a position on the Board of Fisheries which they thought was flawed and was not responding to the social and economic needs of people across the State of Alaska. He said that politics has been the art of compromise and there hasn't been much compromise between sport and commercial users on the Board of Fisheries.

MR. RANDA said he was on the Knowles/Ulmer Transition Team and they did agree that the Board process wasn't working, but that they didn't want a professional Board. He noted that the Board continually uses historical uses as a priority in allocation without regard for social or economic considerations.

TAPE 95-14, SIDE A

BEN ELLIS, Executive Director, Kenai River Sport-Fish Association, said they prefer the current lay Board structure being maintained. If Governors and lawmaker continue to appoint and confirm Board members who have direct conflicts of interest and would eventually be "conflicted out," the Board could very easily come to a grinding halt. So he supported the concept behind the bill, but not the bill itself. With the growing emergence of non-commercial users in

the State, conflict over the allocation must be addressed in a positive form. There must be a level playing field where decisions are made which are in the best interests of all Alaskans. If that cannot be accomplished by a lay Board, maybe some form of SB 49 is the answer.

He commended Senator Pearce for addressing the issue in this bill.

Number 54

THEO MATTHEWS, Executive Director, United Cook Inlet Drift Association, opposed SB 49. They support the current lay Board process. The proposal in SB 49 would not produce any better results than are made now. Their primary objection is going to a three-member Board. He said there would be even more battles over confirmation, because there will be a smaller "pot" to work with - two people could dictate any outcome.

This process does not recognize the inherent conflicts that non-commercial users have. For people concerned with reallocation, no Board process is going to be fair until they get what they want.

MR. MATTHEWS suggested they get better pay for the current Board members. They need adequate staff for the current Board members and they also need a historian, because too often Board members don't know what deliberations went into the original regulations. They need better representation by the Advisory Committees. He emphasized that better pay, better staff, and better participation has been curtailed by this Legislature as they cut funding over the years.

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Number 129

SENATOR LEMAN thanked everyone for their participation and

Senate Resources
Subcommittee

adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Sec. 16.05.221. Boards of fisheries and game. (a) For purposes of the conservation and development of the fishery resources of the state, there is created the Board of Fisheries composed of seven members appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session. The governor shall appoint each member on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of action of the board, and with a view to providing diversity of interest and points of view in the membership. The appointed members shall be residents of the state and shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation or geographical location of residence. The commissioner is not a member of the Board of Fisheries, but shall be ex officio secretary.

(b) For purposes of the conservation and development of the game resources of the state, there is created a Board of Game composed of seven members appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session. The governor shall appoint each member on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of action of the board, and with a view to providing diversity of interest and points of view in the membership. The appointed members shall be residents of the state and shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation or geographical location of residence. The commissioner is not a member of the Board of Game, but shall be ex officio secretary.

Members of the Board of Fisheries or Board of Game serve staggered terms of three years and until a successor is appointed. An appointment to fill a vacancy in the membership of the Board of Fisheries or Board of Game shall be made in the same manner as the original appointment and for the balance of the unexpired term. (§ 3-101, SLA 1975; am § 118 ch 218 SLA 1976; am §§ 1, 2 ch 121 SLA 1977)

dp

SENATE RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE
Anchorage LIO
February 25, 1995
1:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Loren Leman, Chairman
Senator Lyman Hoffman

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Drue Pearce, Vice Chairman

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

SENATE BILL NO. 49

"An Act relating to the Board of Fisheries; and providing for an effective date."

PREVIOUS ACTION

SB 49 - See Resources minutes dated 2/20/95 and Resources Subcommittee minutes dated 2/24/95.

WITNESS REGISTER (via teleconference)

Geron Bruce, Legislative Liaison
Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526

POSITION STATEMENT: Stated support of the citizen lay board from the Administration.

Jerry McCune
United Fishermen of Alaska
211 Fourth Street
Suite 211
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Opposed SB 49, but recognized the system needed improvements.

Mike Wells, Commercial Fisherman
Valdez Advisory Board Member
P.O. Box 989
Valdez, Alaska 99686

POSITION STATEMENT: Opposed SB 49.

Don Daniels, Commercial Fisherman
P.O. Box 930
Valdez, Alaska 99686

POSITION STATEMENT: Opposed SB 49.

ACTION NARRATIVE

TAPE 95-15, SIDE A

#SB49

SRES - 2/25/95

SB 49 RESTRUCTURE BOARD OF FISHERIES

Number 001

CHAIRMAN LEMAN, in the Anchorage Legislative Information Office, called the Senate Resources Subcommittee meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and introduced SB 49 as the only order of business before the subcommittee.

GERON BRUCE, Legislative Liaison for the Department of Fish and Game, stated that the Board of Fisheries provides a cost effective manner in which to utilize local knowledge and industry expertise in the regulatory process. Duplicating such knowledge and expertise with a staff effort would prove difficult. Another difficulty would be the social and economic issues the Board of Fisheries currently faces; a professional board would face such issues as well. He felt that most would agree that the system of resource management in Alaska has done a good job with conservation. The problem seems to be the social and economic issues regarding resources. In conclusion, Mr. Bruce said that the Administration supports the citizen lay board while recognizing the need for possible improvements.

SENATOR LEMAN suggested that Mr. Bruce forward any recommendations regarding possible venues for improvement in the process. He commented that the approach in HB 141 would probably achieve consensus. GERON BRUCE said that he would forward any suggestions. Mr. Bruce noted that the Administration supports HB 141 and would be working on some changes to that legislation.

SENATOR HOFFMAN inquired as to Mr. Bruce's comments regarding the suggestion of adding two members to the Board in order to improve its composition. GERON BRUCE recognized that adding two members could offer a broader representation of Alaska. The idea is worthy of review and consideration.

SENATOR HOFFMAN mentioned the concept of creating three regional fish boards in order to alleviate the current board's inability to address issues every year. The Board can only speak to issues every three years while the board's members serve from two to three years. GERON BRUCE noted that this idea has been before the legislature in the past. The main disadvantages to such a proposal would be the cost and the inability of the three boards to address issues that span the jurisdiction of all three. Mr. Bruce

presented another possibility; a Board historian could compile a record of the issues before the Board of Fisheries and the manner in which they have been handled up to date.

SENATOR LEMAN reiterated that Mr. Bruce should offer any suggestions regarding improvements to the Board of Fisheries. He indicated that he intended to use SB 49 as a vehicle, modifying to include those portions that will achieve consensus. GERON BRUCE appreciated the introduction of SB 49 because it provides a forum to discuss these issues.

JERRY McCUNE, United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA), stated that all 22 member groups of UFA oppose SB 49. He explained that the UFA would like to continue the current Board of Fisheries comprised of lay citizens. Currently, the Board of Fisheries is comprised of seven governor-appointed members who are subject to confirmation by the Alaska legislature. He noted that many states envy this structure.

Mr. McCune recognized that the system could use some improvements. He suggested following the change in dates and terms of board members as specified in HB 141. He also suggested returning the local advisory groups to the process in which the board addresses issues. There is controversy regarding the board's conflict of interest. He proposed discussing the conflict of interest issue and reviewing the possibility of amending the ethics act. He emphasized that if the committee would be willing to finance a professional board, then there should be money available for more staff and research. In conclusion, Mr. McCune pointed out that the increased usage along with the increased population has increased allocation conflicts. The best system would benefit all users of this resource.

SENATOR LEMAN inquired as to Mr. McCune's knowledge regarding other states' with professional board of fisheries. JERRY McCUNE said that he would forward that information to him. Mr. McCune thanked Senator Pearce for offering this legislation. UFA offered its assistance in working on the system.

SENATOR LEMAN informed everyone that he understood that Senator Pearce realized this legislation would probably not pass as is, but that it could be used as a vehicle to address necessary Board issues.

MIKE WELLS, commercial fisherman and member of the Valdez Advisory Board, opposed SB 49. He emphasized that SB 49 discriminates against commercial fishermen, processors and marketers of Alaska's fishery resources by not allowing their input on the Board. Their input would be denied by SB 49, but their access and usage of this resource would be affected by the board's decisions. He explained that a professional board is a contradiction in terms; how can a board member be a professional if the legislation mandates that the member have no knowledge of the issues before the board. The Board

should not be changed.

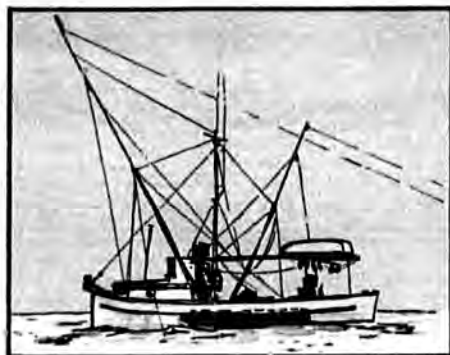
SENATOR LEMAN noted that SB 50 proposes a similar structure to the Board of Game.

DON DANIELS, commercial fisherman, opposed SB 49. He stated that the reasons for opposition had been identified well.

SENATOR LEMAN thanked all those who testified and those who had listened. He said that when Senator Pearce returned the subcommittee would discuss SB 49 further. He reminded everyone that written testimony was welcomed.

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There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.



Alaska Trollers Association

130 Seward St., No. 505
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-9400
(907) 586-4473 Fax

March 22, 1995

**Representative Ramona Barnes
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99811**

Dear Representative Barnes:

The Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) opposes HB 149, which seeks to change the Board of Fisheries (Board) from a lay board to a professional board.

The state's practice of appointing Board of Fisheries members with experience in Alaska's fisheries has produced a superior fishery management program recognized coastwide. Importantly, the lay board process fosters an atmosphere of cooperation between those with a vested interest in the resource, fishermen and the state.

We stress that there is no substitute for personal experience when it comes to the development of industry regulations. However, we also acknowledge the Board of Fisheries process could be improved with some relatively minor adjustments. For instance:

- The Governor could make a greater attempt to balance Board appointments according to the statutory references "knowledge and ability in the field of action"; and, "providing diversity of interest and points of view". Alaska's fisheries are complex and diverse, and, while each fishery can't be represented, past experience has shown that a complementary mix of gears and regions can be achieved. Broad knowledge amongst Board members produces better deliberation of the issues at hand.

March 22, 1995

HB 149

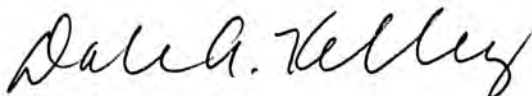
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- Board confirmations should take place prior to members serving, to reduce constituent pressure on the legislature to remove appointees based on votes relative to one or two high profile issues.
- Criteria must be established under the Ethics Act to fairly define "significant" conflict of interest, so individuals with a working knowledge of Alaska's fisheries can continue to fully participate in the Board process. The expected financial gain or loss of an individual in a fishery of 1500 permit holders would be quite different than another in a fishery of 50 permit holders. The current recusal process identifies each member's personal interests. Past chairmen have generally been good at excusing members from questionable votes, often at the request of the member themselves. Also, it should be pointed out that board members have often voted against their personal interest for conservation or fair-sharing purposes.

Finally, HB 149, as written, does not appear to consider the economic interest of the guided sportfishing industry. The State of Alaska has failed to develop a limited entry program for charterboats. The guided sportfishing industry is booming in Southeast Alaska, as evidenced by the explosive growth in the number of charterboats (225 in 1986 to 730 in 2/95). We question whether the your description of "vested economic interest" includes charterboat operators and guides.

ATA believes a lay-Board of Fisheries process helps to ensure conservation of the resource and reasonable regulations for small business operators. We encourage you to vote no on HB 149.

Sincerely,



Dale A. Kelley
Executive Director

"I'M OF THE OPINION"

Fishery management basically occurs on four levels. The first level is when the resource is numerous and only limited numbers of people take it. No management or limitations are needed on harvest.

The second level of resource management occurs when the use level reaches such proportions that, in order to perpetuate the fish run, it is necessary to limit catch (rather than participants). The second level usually occurs with commercial exploitation which adversely impacts the reproductive capacity of the resource.

The third level of management involves a prohibition against commercial take and reserves the resource to personal consumptive and recreational uses. As population increases and users increase, restrictions on gear use are applied (such as hook and line only) to assure a wide distribution of the catch.

The fourth level of management involves total prohibition of any catch in order to preserve the resource. This occurs when the resource becomes so limited that it is incapable of sustaining any harvest. At this point, it has become like a museum piece, to be seen but not used.

Support Sustained Yield: Habitat #(1) Resource #(2) Users #(3)

**Sam E. McDowell
National Director
Izaak Walton League of America
336 East 23rd Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99503**

#(1) B

(1) UPPER COOK INLET HISTORICAL SALMON RECORDS

and

'I'M OF THE OPINION'

by

SAM McDOWELL

(2) POPULATION OF BOROUGHs and CENSUS OF UPPER COOK INLET --
1980 - 1994.

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

MATANUSKA SUSITNA BOROUGH

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

(3) (1992) SALES RECORD OF ALASKA SPORT FISHING LICENSES
PLEASE NOTE: CHILDREN UNDER AGE 16 AND RESIDENTS OVER 60
WHO RECEIVED FREE LICENSES NOT LISTED.

(4) NORTHERN COOK INLET KING SALMON HARVEST GRAPH -- 1893 -1993

(5) HISTORICAL HARVEST RECORDS OF COOK INLET SALMON: IN NUMBERS
OF FISH AND BY SPECIES -- 1893 - 1994

(6) KING SALMON HARVEST RECORD OF UPPER COOK INLET NORTHERN
DISTRICT ORIGIN -- 1969 - 1993

(7) UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL SALMON HARVEST;

JANUARY 1 - JUNE 30

JULY 1 - August 15

AUGUST 16 - DECEMBER 31

CONCERNED ALASKANS, THE HOUR IS LATE AND THE TIME IS NOW TO
CHANGE THE UPPER COOK INLET MANAGEMENT PLAN PRIORITY TO PERSONAL
CONSUMPTIVE AND RECREATIONAL USE.

HAVE A GOOD DAY.

Sam E. McDowell
SAM McDOWELL

NATIONAL DIRECTOR
IZAACK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA
336 EAST 23RD AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503

Table 2.1

**Population for Boroughs and Census Areas
by Labor Market Regions: 1980, 1990, 1991**

(2)

Labor Market Area	July 1, 1991 Population Estimate	Census Count		Change		Average Annual Rate of Change	
		April 1 1990	April 1 1980	April 1 1990 to July 1 1991	April 1 1980 to April 1 1990		
STATE OF ALASKA	570,300	550,043	401,851	20,257	148,192	2.89	3.11
Anchorage/Matanuska-Susitna Region	277,710	266,021	192,247	11,689	73,774	3.44	3.22
Anchorage Borough	237,216	226,338	174,431	10,878	51,907	3.75	2.59
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	40,494	39,683	17,816	811	21,867	1.62	7.61
Gulf Coast Region	66,493	64,063	43,569	2,430	20,494	2.98	3.81
Kenai Peninsula Borough	42,242	40,802	25,282	1,440	15,520	2.77	4.70

CERTIFICATION OF 1994 MUNICIPAL POPULATIONS

Under the authority vested in me by AS 29.60.020, AS 29.60.150, and AS 29.60.370, I, Remond Henderson, Acting Commissioner of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, do hereby certify the population of each municipality as of July 1, 1994, as shown on the attached "1994 Municipal Population Certification."

12/15/94

Date

Remond Henderson

Remond Henderson
Acting Commissioner

→ 345,765

Municipality of Anchorage

→ 248,296

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

→ 50,058

Kenai Peninsula Borough

→ 44,411

(3)

Sales of Alaska Sport Fishing Licenses, by Location of Sale
and by Residency Class of the License, 1992.

Licenses Sold

Location of Sale	Resident	Nonresident	Total
Southeast Alaska	26,599	61,738	88,337
Glennallen Area	1,730	1,503	3,233
Prince William Sound	3,445	4,847	8,292
Cook Inlet Area	117,953	111,746	229,699
Kodiak Island	4,862	5,135	9,997
Bristol Bay/Alaska Pen.	3,375	8,040	11,415
Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim	24,260	14,660	38,920
Outside Alaska	21	847	868
Total	182,245	208,516	390,761

Sales of Cook Inlet Area Sport Fishing Licenses, by Location
of Sale and by Residency Class of the License, 1992.

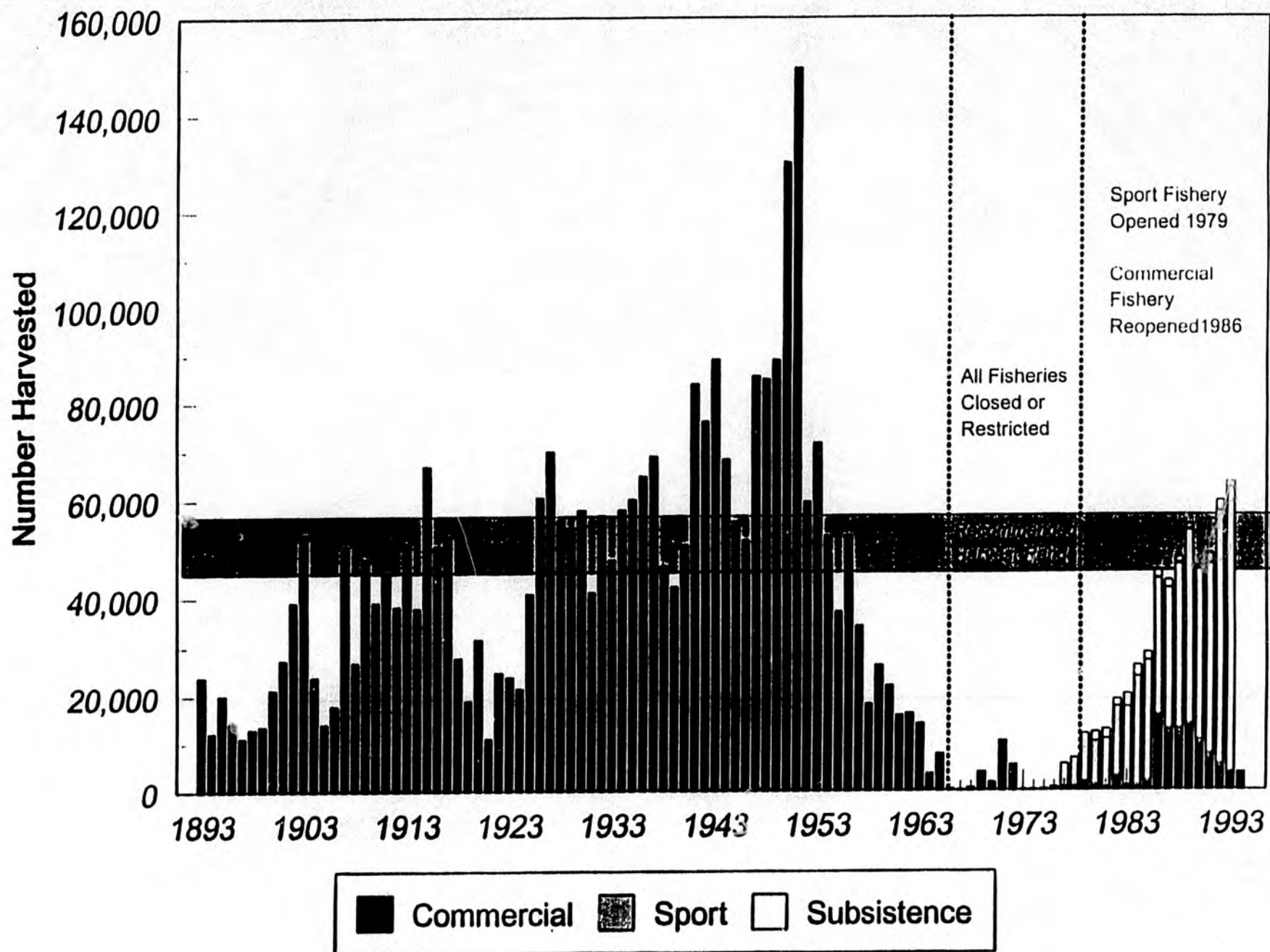
Licenses Sold

Location of Sale	Resident	Nonresident	Total
Knik Arm Drainage	15,245	7,550	22,795
Anchorage Area	73,295	56,215	129,510
East Susitna Drainage	1,559	2,536	4,095
West Cook Inlet- West Susitna Drainage	92	406	498
Kenai Peninsula	27,762	45,039	72,801
Total Cook Inlet Area	117,953	111,746	229,699

(4)

(4)

NCI King Salmon Harvests



(5)

Table 1. Historical harvest of Cook Inlet salmon in numbers of fish and by species (1893-1982). 1/ (continued)

Date	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1941	104,822	1,293,234	359,224	715,211	272,345	2,744,836
1942	95,180	1,540,185	644,823	965,507	400,989	3,646,684
1943	111,381	1,468,279	279,852	1,457,161	301,899	3,618,572
1944	85,210	1,939,932	256,621	1,815,441	258,840	4,356,044
1945	69,202	1,556,713	329,828	1,367,950	305,901	3,629,594
1946	64,281	1,474,473	581,374	1,338,731	383,563	3,842,422
1947	106,804	1,473,973	443,879	681,731	279,227	2,985,614
1948	105,996	2,035,306	408,079	1,660,147	439,314	4,648,842
1949	111,281	2,153,213	279,701	443,003	238,646	3,215,844
1950	162,942	2,642,374	351,366	1,132,164	463,507	4,752,353
1951	187,511	2,481,170	271,384	408,454	290,478	3,638,997
1952	74,469	1,502,491	222,949	2,232,630	444,592	4,477,131
1953	89,429	1,489,972	224,280	546,116	533,661	2,883,458
1954	65,325	1,234,607	334,129	2,451,499	773,710	4,859,270
1955	46,495	1,059,079	174,292	1,230,014	313,906	2,823,786
1956	65,309	1,294,799	203,772	1,786,557	869,583	4,220,020
1957	42,647	667,753	127,080	305,566	1,207,889	2,350,935
1958	22,847	495,947	241,556	2,465,450	596,038	3,821,838
1959	32,723	634,728	107,162	94,590	408,332	1,277,535
1960	27,539	948,040	314,153	2,023,252	776,079	4,089,063
1961	19,778	1,185,079	119,397	337,394	405,221	2,066,869
1962	20,270	1,172,079	358,051	4,960,030	1,149,841	7,661,051
1963	17,632	958,101	203,876	234,052	525,537	1,939,198
1964	4,622	990,709	462,114	4,287,378	1,402,419	7,147,242
1965	9,751	1,426,352	154,481	139,561	344,521	2,074,666
1966	9,606	1,867,447	295,248	2,584,985	661,818	5,419,104
1967	8,035	1,409,106	180,455	407,717	382,282	2,387,595
1968	3,500	1,200,146	474,733	2,863,634	1,194,248	5,736,265
1969	12,471	815,040	101,585	236,474	331,045	1,496,615
1970	8,465	768,946	284,849	1,400,923	1,024,987	3,488,170
1971	19,838	659,032	105,197	428,495	475,631	1,688,193
1972	16,174	937,621	83,167	657,239	705,559	2,399,760
1973	5,339	699,234	106,747	633,586	783,074	2,227,980
1974	6,769	524,588	206,639	534,636	418,148	1,690,780
1975	4,918	706,878	227,950	1,399,061	972,627	3,311,432
1976	11,317	1,722,290	211,926	1,393,188	520,628	3,859,349
1977	15,009	2,152,567	195,471	1,846,008	1,379,011	5,588,066
1978	19,049	2,778,071	225,889	2,041,659	645,477	5,710,145
1979	14,976	988,832	277,416	3,059,516	873,385	5,214,125
1980	14,219	1,643,079	285,883	2,676,133	464,302	5,083,616
1981	13,326	1,549,490	495,926	3,403,390	1,172,642	6,634,774
1982	21,936	3,391,114	840,829	1,342,170	1,631,853	7,227,902
1983	20,634	5,049,733	516,322	70,327	1,114,858	6,771,874
1984	10,062	2,106,714	449,993	617,452	680,726	3,864,947
1985	24,088	4,060,429	667,213	87,828	772,849	5,612,407
1986	39,240	4,787,982	756,830	1,299,360	1,134,173	8,017,585
1987	39,661	9,500,186	451,404	109,801	349,139	10,450,191
1988	29,060	6,834,342	560,022	469,972	708,573	8,601,969
1989	26,742	5,010,698	339,201	67,430	122,027	5,566,098
1990	16,105	3,604,064	500,634	603,630	351,197	5,075,630
1991	13,535	2,177,576	425,724	14,663	280,223	2,911,721
1992	17,171	9,108,340	468,911	695,859	274,303	10,564,584
1993	18,719	4,754,698	306,822	100,918	122,767	5,303,924
1994	19,640	3,526,353	567,411	521,697	292,370	4,927,471

Table 1. Historical harvest of Cook Inlet salmon in numbers of fish and by species (1893-1982). 1/

Date	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1893	30,000	170,000	34,000	0	0	234,000
1894	15,500	406,840	19,000	0	0	441,340
1895	25,199	324,277	0	0	0	349,476
1896	18,076	309,863	27,600	37,800	0	393,339
1897	14,083	354,800	28,000	0	0	396,883
1898	16,389	551,168	83,412	0	0	650,969
1899	17,102	558,529	54,890	0	0	630,521
1900	26,683	585,309	20,000	0	0	631,992
1901	34,319	482,406	8,967	5,591	0	531,283
1902	49,013	710,280	54,864	79,246	0	893,403
1903	66,023	564,189	58,968	0	0	689,180
1904	30,073	489,348	23,800	0	0	543,221
1905	17,668	95,547	0	0	0	113,215
1906	22,420	225,506	93,485	64,100	0	405,511
1907	62,944	460,620	177,276	6,420	0	707,260
1908	33,774	670,774	94,936	375,140	0	1,174,624
1909	59,624	582,562	88,350	3,740	0	734,276
1910	49,028	840,187	79,702	217,666	1,318	1,187,901
1911	55,845	1,249,154	87,909	70,665	749	1,464,322
1912	47,866	1,194,888	70,567	1,661,874	121,628	3,096,823
1913	63,652	1,369,196	81,484	10,926	10,813	1,536,071
1914	47,554	1,472,829	188,341	1,255,798	39,905	3,004,427
1915	83,793	1,860,684	122,028	19,308	27,833	2,113,646
1916	62,895	1,699,323	209,978	1,682,672	128,322	3,783,190
1917	65,499	1,659,907	60,776	54,286	78,468	1,918,936
1918	34,886	1,668,394	251,151	712,231	108,200	2,783,862
1919	23,801	943,694	172,855	43,447	54,333	1,238,130
1920	39,563	1,314,916	302,353	445,524	97,541	2,199,897
1921	13,946	983,625	20,519	4,717	42,409	1,065,216
1922	31,030	860,019	199,923	637,405	74,389	1,802,766
1923	29,911	1,099,465	142,926	39,146	23,481	1,344,929
1924	27,012	1,056,090	187,656	752,016	36,755	2,059,529
1925	51,033	1,510,861	198,146	11,828	15,064	1,786,932
1926	75,620	1,999,720	353,173	586,054	118,455	3,133,022
1927	87,404	1,459,068	387,746	251,866	59,380	2,245,464
1928	69,885	1,172,959	522,509	568,052	101,086	2,434,491
1929	67,694	1,049,851	184,858	376,863	134,601	1,813,867
1930	72,317	917,882	498,475	1,022,679	99,630	2,610,983
1931	51,402	805,526	328,294	472,221	62,628	1,720,071
1932	70,931	1,131,958	374,976	441,125	64,749	2,083,739
1933	59,281	1,336,135	187,972	118,187	57,245	1,758,820
1934	72,379	1,815,267	251,260	929,992	91,319	3,160,217
1935	75,075	1,355,787	170,438	430,540	161,424	2,193,264
1936	81,062	2,390,281	328,496	852,924	264,909	3,917,672
1937	85,982	1,581,183	215,700	487,692	148,869	2,519,426
1938	57,663	2,425,253	213,804	848,733	191,328	3,736,781
1939	52,726	2,334,904	163,010	319,312	231,645	3,101,597
1940	63,016	1,648,952	478,096	2,604,235	280,831	5,075,130

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Doug Vincent-Lang, Alaska Dept. Fish & Game, Division of Sport Fish
 November 28, 1994
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Breakdown of king salmon harvests of NCI origin, 1969-1993.

Year	<u>Commercial Harvest</u>			<u>Sport Harvest</u>					<u>Total</u>	<u>Subsistence Harvest</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>
	<u>NCI</u>	<u>Kustatan</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Knik</u>	<u>Susitna</u>	<u>WCI</u>	<u>Marine</u>	<u>Anchorage</u>			
1969	2,904	1,023	3,927								3,927
1970	1,460	393	1,853								1,853
1971	9,598	896	10,494								10,494
1972	4,913	565	5,478								5,478
1973	170	76	246								246
1974	169	69	238								238
1975	129	172	301								301
1976	457	235	692								692
1977	565	207	772	207	3,994	473		52	4,726		5,498
1978	666	221	887	140	2,925	478	2,400	0	5,943		6,830
1979	1,714	159	1,873	800	7,066	98	2,035	0	9,999		11,872
1980	993	174	1,167	646	7,518	34	818	26	9,042	1,936	12,145
1981	725	43	768	1,466	6,926	192	1,356	0	9,940	2,002	12,710
1982	2,716	391	3,107	1,666	10,636	147	1,918	0	14,367	1,565	19,039
1983	933	163	1,096	1,255	12,420	1,185	1,416	2	16,278	2,750	20,124
1984	1,004	214	1,218	2,057	16,534	1,833	2,008	74	22,506	2,354	26,078
1985	1,890	211	2,101	1,889	17,986	2,029	2,924	61	24,889	1,720	28,710
1986	15,448	308	15,756	1,524	21,971	2,378	1,929	33	27,835	1,523	45,114
1987	12,701	176	12,877	2,476	21,953	1,477	2,436	485	28,827	1,552	43,256
1988	12,836	123	12,959	2,916	25,109	1,695	3,023	663	33,406	1,474	47,839
1989	12,731	1,144	13,875	4,341	29,126	2,290	2,693	950	39,400	1,314	54,589
1990	9,582	1,084	10,666	2,002	26,848	2,097	3,163	457	34,567	797	46,030
1991	6,859	925	7,784	2,277	30,890	762	3,410	1,169	38,508	2,100	48,392
1992	4,554	964	5,518	3,969	39,874	1,213	4,229	2,448	51,733	2,218	59,469
1993	3,277	424	3,701	3,602	44,023	2,019	5,668	3,041	58,353	1,247	63,301
1994	3,185	450	3,635	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	

UCI-CSH.XLS

UCI Salmon Commercial Harvest

Period: January 1 - June 30

							KS,RS,SS	
Year	KS	RS	SS	PS	CS	Total	# Del.	Total
69	8,432	49,775	30	3,096	300	61,633	1,338	58,237
70	2,924	19,786	283	133	111	23,237	1,195	22,993
71	15,937	11,289	10	339	85	27,660	1,135	27,236
72	10,132	23,148	86	77	183	33,626	1,007	33,366
73	528	7,369	11	1,683	192	9,783	320	7,908
74	254	5,797	7	16	39	6,113	178	6,058
75	539	10,967	21	1,372	105	13,004	333	11,527
76	1,499	28,845	30	35	303	30,712	442	30,374
77	1,456	85,919	31	4,825	1,109	93,340	670	87,406
Mean	4,633	26,988	57	1,286	270	33,234	735	31,678
78	2,554	111,777	1,181	967	9,528	126,007	1,097	115,512
79	4,356	93,424	870	1,592	6,883	107,125	1,381	98,650
80	2,096	82,593	135	25	1,125	85,974	915	84,824
81	1,681	151,647	675	1,105	3,210	158,318	1,858	154,003
82	5,556	48,372	332	33	14,538	68,831	1,270	54,260
83	2,886	39,604	578	51	1,431	44,550	493	43,068
84	1,415	54,773	2,510	96	7,670	66,464	630	58,698
85	2,335	33,672	947	609	4,321	41,884	629	36,954
86	16,656	85,859	12,947	165	9,372	124,999	1,534	115,462
87	13,517	144,420	593	2,225	1,867	162,622	1,980	158,530
88	12,454	90,280	1,540	209	7,515	111,998	1,016	104,274
89	14,962	23,058	20	142	234	38,416	815	38,040
90	10,818	38,048	131	29	6,192	55,218	1,572	48,997
91	7,774	25,302	7	6	41	33,130	689	33,083
92	5,717	78,954	434	150	708	85,963	1,633	85,105
93	4,018	90,240	90	48	1,910	96,306	1,331	94,348
94	3,635	11,220	167	36	744	15,802	274	15,022
Mean	6,614	70,779	1,362	440	4,546	83,742	1,125	78,755

UCI-CSH.XLS

UCI Salmon Commercial Harvest

Period: July 1 - August 15

								KS,RS,SS
Year	KS	RS	SS	PS	CS	Total	# Del.	Total
69	3,904	642,257	86,856	29,637	253,294	1,015,948	7,003	733,017
70	5,326	712,393	262,859	805,672	760,073	2,546,323	10,813	980,578
71	3,692	624,640	81,083	34,831	289,995	1,034,241	4,169	709,415
72	5,899	856,431	71,264	624,792	617,012	2,175,398	7,897	933,594
73	4,597	662,589	92,343	324,454	660,082	1,744,065	8,442	759,529
74	6,262	490,679	172,936	479,782	391,381	1,541,040	8,145	669,877
75	4,130	673,171	187,330	334,847	939,222	2,138,700	8,289	864,631
76	9,307	1,634,773	184,197	1,230,284	454,166	3,512,727	10,697	1,828,277
77	13,271	1,965,640	173,477	548,713	1,179,074	3,880,175	12,914	2,152,388
Mean	6,265	918,064	145,816	490,335	616,033	2,176,513	8,708	1,070,145
78	14,642	2,507,863	186,243	1,649,543	553,695	4,911,986	12,042	2,708,748
79	9,339	828,546	240,379	71,219	592,378	1,741,861	9,734	1,078,264
80	11,692	1,489,841	259,083	1,784,000	387,308	3,931,924	11,014	1,760,616
81	10,553	1,286,734	458,640	125,930	825,358	2,707,215	12,882	1,755,927
82	15,302	3,207,507	670,805	785,693	1,384,807	6,064,114	16,510	3,893,614
83	17,731	5,007,581	488,369	70,219	1,104,912	6,688,812	16,916	5,513,681
84	8,639	2,049,144	408,228	615,627	664,907	3,746,545	11,520	2,466,011
85	21,729	4,013,266	584,956	86,986	757,896	5,464,833	16,965	4,619,951
86	22,566	4,695,634	716,448	1,298,320	1,117,417	7,850,385	17,808	5,434,648
87	26,107	9,351,198	405,738	107,303	323,712	10,214,058	21,396	9,783,043
88	16,587	6,740,127	506,498	467,171	692,474	8,422,857	23,306	7,263,212
89	11,771	4,984,776	289,494	67,158	120,493	5,473,692	15,047	5,286,041
90	5,274	3,558,292	447,159	595,530	338,758	4,945,013	17,606	4,010,725
91	5,745	2,139,293	346,322	14,492	259,513	2,765,365	10,778	2,491,360
92	11,446	9,019,379	423,477	693,861	266,780	10,414,943	25,673	9,454,302
93	14,694	4,659,700	280,980	100,607	118,912	5,174,893	20,837	4,955,374
94	16,624	3,533,944	538,855	519,986	296,140	4,905,549	17,769	4,089,423
Mean	14,144	4,063,107	426,569	532,567	576,792	5,613,179	16,341	4,503,820

UCI-CSH.XLS

UCI Salmon Commercial Harvest

Period: August 16 - December 31

Year							KS,RS,SS	
	KS	RS	SS	PS	CS	Total	# Del.	Total
69	69	181	15,382	721	17,702	34,055	428	15,632
70	95	668	13,083	11,395	18,501	43,742	938	13,846
71	136	374	19,543	454	36,949	57,456	643	20,053
72	55	245	9,583	3,705	12,908	26,496	604	9,883
73	69	140	12,066	47	7,299	19,621	515	12,275
74	80	709	27,182	3,932	5,420	37,323	914	27,971
75	131	979	44,407	281	17,011	62,809	1,073	45,517
76	59	532	24,468	26,409	15,333	66,801	908	25,059
77	104	1,200	23,471	652	96,052	121,479	1,050	24,775
Mean	89	559	21,021	5,288	25,242	52,198	786	21,668
78	103	1,781	31,769	37,932	8,556	80,141	682	33,653
79	43	2,415	23,917	171	51,096	77,672	751	26,405
80	43	1,818	16,712	23,725	2,065	44,363	402	18,573
81	6	896	25,096	129	4,974	31,101	291	25,998
82	50	4,720	128,859	19,694	34,541	187,864	862	133,629
83	54	5,320	38,565	166	17,308	61,413	495	43,939
84	8	2,797	39,255	1,729	8,149	51,938	529	42,060
85	24	13,491	81,310	233	10,632	105,690	1,034	94,825
86	143	14,546	36,329	13,054	10,772	74,844	799	51,018
87	37	4,568	45,073	273	23,560	73,511	617	49,678
88	99	11,934	77,448	23,442	21,946	134,869	1,118	89,481
89	9	2,864	49,687	130	1,300	53,990	459	52,560
90	55	12,313	70,479	37,213	7,928	127,988	1,073	82,847
91	16	12,981	79,395	165	20,669	113,226	871	92,392
92	8	10,007	45,000	1,848	6,815	63,678	640	55,015
93	7	4,758	25,752	263	1,945	32,725	327	30,517
94	1	22,228	41,545	459	2,416	66,649	466	63,774
Mean	42	7,616	50,364	9,449	13,804	81,274	672	58,021

Studies show size of fish shrinking, as well as the runs

SEATTLE (AP) — With dwindling salmon runs, hatchery fish were seen as a way to save the industry. But fisheries officials now are worried the trend to hatchery fish may have created another problem — smaller salmon.

Bob Turner, director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, said the state already is reassessing its hatchery production and major changes will be forthcoming.

The state has begun assuring a wider genetic diversity in hatchery fish. And officials say it will consider cutting hatchery production, changing gillnet mesh size and letting more wild fish spawn to compensate for their smaller size.

"We've got to look at ways to try to stop the decline and move the size back up," said Rich Lincoln, manager of ecological services for the state agency.

In the past decade or so, the average size of salmon returning to five Washington hatcheries shrank by 11 percent to 27 percent. In the run with the sharpest declines, average fish weight dropped from more than 6 pounds to less than 4 1/2.

There is strong evidence that salmon sizes have been decreasing for decades across the run of the North Pacific Ocean — from waters off California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia through the Gulf of Alaska to seas off Russia and Japan.

The newest evidence comes from unpublished research by state Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist Steve Phelps, who found shrinkage in all of the six Washington hatchery coho runs he studied.

The average salmon from Washington's Puyallup Hatchery weighed 27 percent less in 1991 than in 1980, Phelps said. Fish size in other hatchery runs dropped by 25 percent, 24 percent, 19 percent, 11 percent and 1 percent.

The number of eggs per female salmon also declined because smaller fish carry fewer eggs. Over a 30-year period, the mean egg production per female dropped from roughly 2,500 to 1,500 at the state's Puyallup and George Adams hatcheries, Phelps said.

Another recent study found shrinkage in 45 out of 47 salmon runs harvested in commercial fisheries from California to Japan. That study was released late last year by Brian Bigler, biologist for Seattle-based Wards Cove Packing Co., and biologist John Helle of the National Marine Fisheries Service's Juneau, Alaska, laboratory.

The study found weight declines varying from 40 percent in British Columbia pink salmon to barely detectable losses in some sockeye.

Bigler contends the ocean is being overgrazed.

"The amount of salmon-sustaining resource in the North Pacific Ocean is being strained," Bigler said in an interview with the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Though causes are debated, biologists tend to blame human action, mainly fishing techniques that skim off the big fish and overgrazing of the ocean by billions of hatchery fish.

2-3-95

Idaho Fish, Game chief quits to begin Lake Iliamna-area fish guiding service

By DAN GALLAGHER
Associated Press Writer

SALMON, Idaho — With Idaho's salmon runs played out and its wildlife managers under siege, Norm Guth is leaving for a sportsman's paradise in Alaska.

The 56-year-old Salmon-area outfitter and Idaho Fish and Game Commission member says bureaucratic intrusion is making it increasingly difficult to make a living in the Idaho backcountry.

"Regulation in Idaho controls everything so we can't grow or expand."

So Guth and his two sons have purchased 60 acres near Lake Iliamna, about 50 miles from Anchorage.

His first glimpse of nearby Cook Inlet delighted him after years of watching Idaho's migratory fish runs decline.

"We didn't see thousands of salmon, we saw millions of salmon," Guth said.

The Guths will offer fishing on four streams choked with migrating salmon. When those adult spawners die their remains are eaten by zooplankton that in turn feed monster trout.

That kind of opportunity is all too rare in Idaho, despite efforts by a Fish and Game Commission created in 1938 to keep political meddling out of wildlife issues.

But the last days of Guth's 12 years on the panel have been spent defending its charter from often-bitter partisan challenges.

"Our responsibility is to protect, perpetuate and preserve the fish and wildlife resources of the state," he said. "It doesn't mean protecting logging, mining or other activities."

His last commission meeting is in early March.

When he moves north, Guth will leave behind an outfitting tradition started by his father along the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in 1942.

He took up the float trip and fishing business in 1953, and it was his rafts that carried President Jimmy Carter down the wild river in 1978.

Guth was appointed to the Fish and Game Commission by Gov. John Evans; then reappointed by Gov. Cecil Andrus. His district used to extend from the Nevada border to Salmon. And even when it was divided and the southern portion given to a new commissioner, Guth still was responsible for the sprawling country of Lemhi and Custer counties in central Idaho.

But wrangling over his remote lodge in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness has been a far larger frustration.

Environmentalists challenged a Forest Service decision to grant Guth a lease he exchanged for

some mining claims to build the lodge. He said it was impossible to house clients in tents during the cold months they fish for steelhead on the main Salmon River.

The dispute continues, and the years of conflict have taken their toll.

"I had an immune system disease about five years ago," Guth said. "The stress of the appeal may have triggered it."

Guth said he will face no sales tax in Alaska, and his bill for licenses and permits will drop from upwards of \$30,000 to about \$300.

He also will be away from complaints about the Fish and Game Commission, even though Guth praised new Republican Gov. Phil Batt's decision to back away from a mid-January call for all six commissioners to submit resignations.

Batt had said he wanted to have the option of replacing the commissioners over complaints that they were running a renegade state agency out of touch with Idaho sportsmen. But he later apologized and started an effort to build a better working relationship with the Department of Fish and Game.

"In my book, it took a real big man to do what he did," Guth said. "He has my respect and gratitude for what he did there. When I was just appointed, I had the same people land on me."

MAR 13 1995

Walter Riley
P. O. Box 11052
Anchorage, Ak., 99511

March 10, 1995

Re: Suggested ways to
improve Fish Board process

Ken

Commissioner Frank Rue
Fish and Game Department
P. O. Box 25526
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Commissioner Rue:

The Fish Board is:

- (1) Receiving too much information for its own good.
- (2) Fish Board not utilizing information correctly.
- (3) Fish Board is ignoring facts presented by poor people of the Yukon, Kuskokwim and Norton Sound areas.
- (4) Majority of Fish Board is biased toward Area M policies and commercial fishermen.
- (5) Reorganization of fish biologists - Bristol Bay and North of False Pass should be under the same biologist.
- (6) Shorter tenure for Area M biologists, need to transfer after 4-5 years; biologist becomes biased for Area M fisheries and fisher persons.
- (7) Fish Board has become too cumbersome for making hard decisions relating to conservation of fish resources.
- (8) It seems only three board members are conservation advocates - they are from Bethel, Bristol Bay and Interior.
- (9) Increasing salmon conservation and production would help Yukon, Kuskokwim, Norton Sound people to be self-sufficient.
- (10) Increasing salmon production for subsistence and commercial harvest would lessen welfare costs, thereby lessen domestic violence, child abuse and help create family unity.
- (11) Need new procedures for solving salmon allocation issues, rather than maintaining the status quo, thus beneficial to poor areas of the State of Alaska.
- (12) Some spawning areas and lakes are becoming sterile and needs to be restored; habitat restoration and stream clearance is needed to increase production of fish.
- (13) The State cannot afford to lose cash crop opportunities. Resource must be maintained for all Alaskans for generations to come.
- (14) All fish board members should be able to vote - representation is lost to fishermen of Area M and Bristol Bay. U.S Constitution requires equal representation under the law.

Sincerely yours,

Walter Riley
Walter Riley

CC: Gov. Tony Knowles	Senator Drue Pearce	Larry Engels
Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer	Rep. Gail Phillips	Jeff Koening
Dr. David C. Harrison		

March 6, 1995

Senator Pearce
State Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Ken
MAR 10 1995

Dear Senator Pearce;

I am a member of the Board of Game though I am not writing as a representative of that body but rather as an individual. I am not sure of the protocol in my writing to legislators about SB 50 therefore I am writing to you and will ask that you handle my opinions in an appropriate manner.

I believe there is merit to considering having professional members on the Board of Game. There is plenty of work which we should be doing; meetings with interested people to help craft regulations which are responsive to the various publics and which will continue to conserve our wildlife (eg. the Brown Bear working group in the Juneau area; Seward Peninsula residents and affected agencies working on a Muskoxen Management Plan; 40-mile Caribou Management Plan, etc.). By attending meetings of the Advisory Committees and of the Federal Regional Councils members of the BOG can more directly address the concerns and needs of the Alaskan public and help make this period of "dual management" as easy as possible for those people effected by both state and federal regulations. Members could then use information gained from attending these meetings in making state regulations.

My fear, however, is that a professional board of three people would be viewed as, and may in fact become, bureaucrats. To preclude this and to maintain a strong public voice in the system I would suggest that there also be four public members who would only attend regulatory meetings. If the consideration is cost perhaps the split could be 2 professional members and 3 public members. In either case the combination of professional members and public members would enable the BOG to work more closely with the public on a regular basis and at the same time to retain the public's direct input into the regulatory process.

Thank you for considering my comments. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Anne K. Ruggles

Anne K. Ruggles
P. O. Box 82950
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

phone: 474-3755

Kodiak Salmon Work Group
710 Mill Bay Road
Kodiak, AK. 99615
Ph.: 907-486-9379/Fax: 486-9374

AR 09 1995

*Ken
fy.
Bd of Fish*

February 28, 1995

Dear Legislator

Pearce

Recently, there have been serious concerns expressed on the part of Mat-Su and Cook Inlet sportfish interests that Kodiak fishermen were somehow linked to the recent ADF&G decision to limit fishing in the Susitna and Deshka river systems.

Please find enclosed, several ADF&G graphs, and a report written by the Kodiak Salmon Work Group which was submitted to the Board of Fisheries recently. This packet provides factual information concerning Kodiak's catch history, and is validated by ADF&G statistics.

We hope you take the time to read this information, as it will prove invaluable as you continue to learn about Alaska's salmon industry. Our livelihoods depend on sound ADF&G data and we intend to ensure that decisions which affect us are made using all available information.

We are always available to answer any questions regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Lacey Berns

Lacey Berns
Coordinator
Kodiak Salmon Work Group

KODIAK SALMON FISHERIES IN RELATION TO SUSITNA-DESHKA CHINOOK

Is Kodiak a new and expanding chinook fishery? No. Catches have gone up since 1988 but effort, gear, and fishing time have remained relatively constant. Chinook are a very small part of Kodiak's salmon fishery. They comprise between 1/10th to 3/10th percent (.001-.003%) by number and about one percent by value of the catch. Kodiak fishermen do not target Chinook salmon and there is no directed fishery for chinook salmon in the Kodiak Management Area.

Fishing time closures in the '70's and early '80's were used to rebuild Kodiak's depressed sockeye runs. These closures also greatly benefited Kodiak's two natural chinook runs (See Figure 1/Chinook Escapement). Kodiak chinook mostly return five years after the parents spawn. Graphing catches with escapements shows that our increased catches followed five years after achieving record escapements. (See attached Figures 1, 2, 3 graph regarding catch and escapement.)

Chinook catches in Kodiak, do not suggest that a new area, time period, or fishing pattern is responsible for catch amounts. The Southwest and Northwest Kodiak districts have the highest catches, which is to be expected because our chinook producing rivers are in these districts. The setnet fishery has had increased chinook catches as well as the seine fishery. The setnet increase is proportional to the increase in the seine fishery. Since setnet gear is stationary and is confined to just part of the Kodiak Management area, the proportionality of the increase in chinook catches is strong evidence that the only change is an increase in the abundance of chinook.

Chinook abundance has been affected by the huge increase in hatchery releases of chinook. A catch sampling program in Kodiak in 1994 found that 38% of the commercial catch was of hatchery origin. The increased releases correlate closely with Kodiak's increased catches. A portion of these new, released feeder kings, introduced into the Gulf of Alaska, were bound to show up in Kodiak catches and increase catch amounts. (See Figure 4, West Coast King Salmon Releases)

Kodiak chinook are smaller on average than Cook Inlet chinook. Recent average weights in the Kodiak catches of twelve to fourteen pounds is the expected weight of a mixture of returning mature Kodiak chinook at approximately twenty pounds or less and smaller feeder chinook of predominately hatchery origin. This average catch weight does not reflect an increased catch component of larger "Cook Inlet" chinook.

Media reports have claimed a link between Kodiak catches of Cook Inlet sockeye and alleged interception of Cook Inlet chinook salmon. During the time period that Cook Inlet sockeye are occasionally known to be present in Kodiak waters, July 6th-25th, the long-term average percentage of the Kodiak chinook harvest is forty percent of the total yearly harvest. In 1992, Kodiak experienced the all-time highest catch of Cook Inlet sockeye. The 1992 percentage of the Kodiak chinook harvest caught between July 6th to 25th was only 24%, well below average. This demonstrates that Kodiak chinook harvests are not associated with incidental catch of Cook Inlet sockeye. (See Figure 5)

Are there missing chinook in the Northern Cook Inlet? No. Escapements must be added to catches to calculate the "total" return to Northern Cook Inlet (NCI). Total NCI return numbers indicate that there has not been a precipitous decline in chinook stocks. 1993 was the fourth best total chinook return to NCI since 1979. Nevertheless, escapement goals were not met and sports fishermen claimed there were "missing chinook." The entire time period from 1985 to 1993 has shown consistently high total returns. It is important to note that the **sport harvest of NCI chinook has quadrupled** over the last decade. In the same time period the NCI commercial harvest has significantly declined. The **rapidly expanding sport harvest** has increased to the point that there are no longer enough fish to meet escapement goals. (See Figure 6)

The Deshka-Susitna chinook problem cannot be solved by Kodiak finfish management restrictions. An extremely small number of the chinook caught in Kodiak could possibly be of NCI origin. Chinook are caught in Kodiak over most of the island, throughout the entire summer by all gear types. No regulatory action, short of total closure of our fishery, would reduce the incidental catch of chinook.

The Deshka-Susitna chinook situation was a campaign issue in 1994 and is continuing to influence fisheries issues in the legislature. As often

happens in life and politics, a lack of accurate statistical data has led debate away from the real issue. A close look at what is known by the Department of Fish and Game about the Kodiak salmon fishery, Kodiak chinook stocks, Kodiak chinook catch information, and the total return to Northern Cook Inlet demonstrates that the Kodiak Management Area salmon fishery is not impacting the Northern Cook Inlet chinook fishery.

Sincerely,

Lacey Berns

Oliver Holm

Bruce Schactler

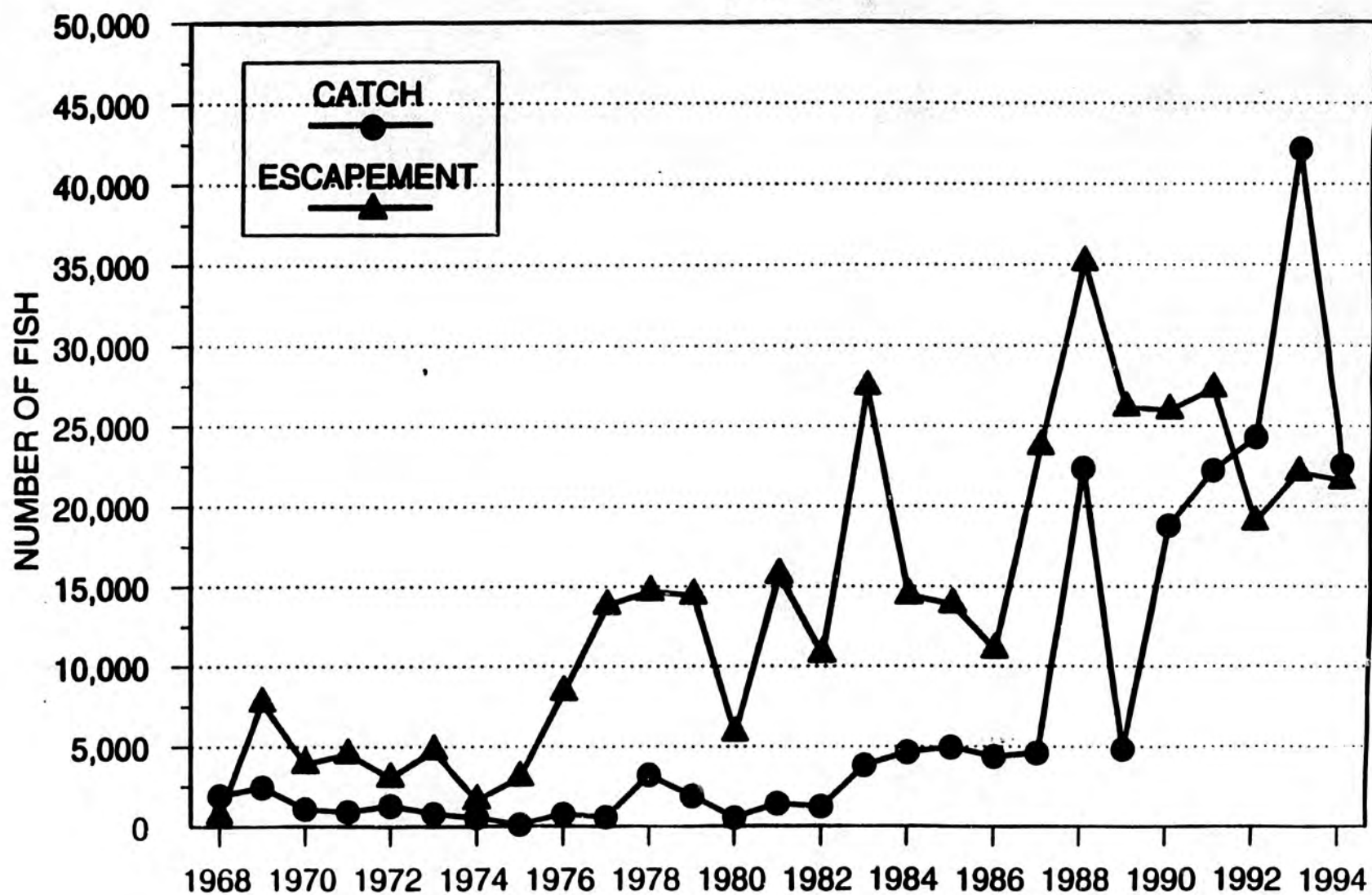
Members, Area K Seiners Association

KODIAK MANAGEMENT AREA
CHINOOK SALMON CATCH & ESCAPEMENT
1968 - 1994

	CATCH	ESCAPEMENT
1968	1,936	703
1969	2,469	7,752
1970	1,089	3,900
1971	920	4,524
1972	1,300	3,049
1973	800	4,762
1974	545	1,622
1975	101	3,059
1976	766	8,411
1977	585	13,824
1978	3,228	14,677
1979	1,905	14,441
1980	529	5,850
1981	1,418	15,720
1982	1,238	10,773
1983	3,839	27,445
1984	4,657	14,429
1985	4,970	13,876
1986	4,381	11,046
1987	4,612	23,744
1988	22,374	35,152
1989	4,851	26,131
1990	18,806	25,972
1991	22,233	27,306
1992	24,299	19,013
1993	42,199	22,113
1994	22,575	21,591

Record Catches Followed Five Years After Record Escapements

KODIAK MANAGEMENT AREA CHINOOK SALMON CATCH & ESCAPEMENT 1968 - 1994



Kodiak Weir Counts Show Dramatic Increase In Kodiak Chinook Stocks

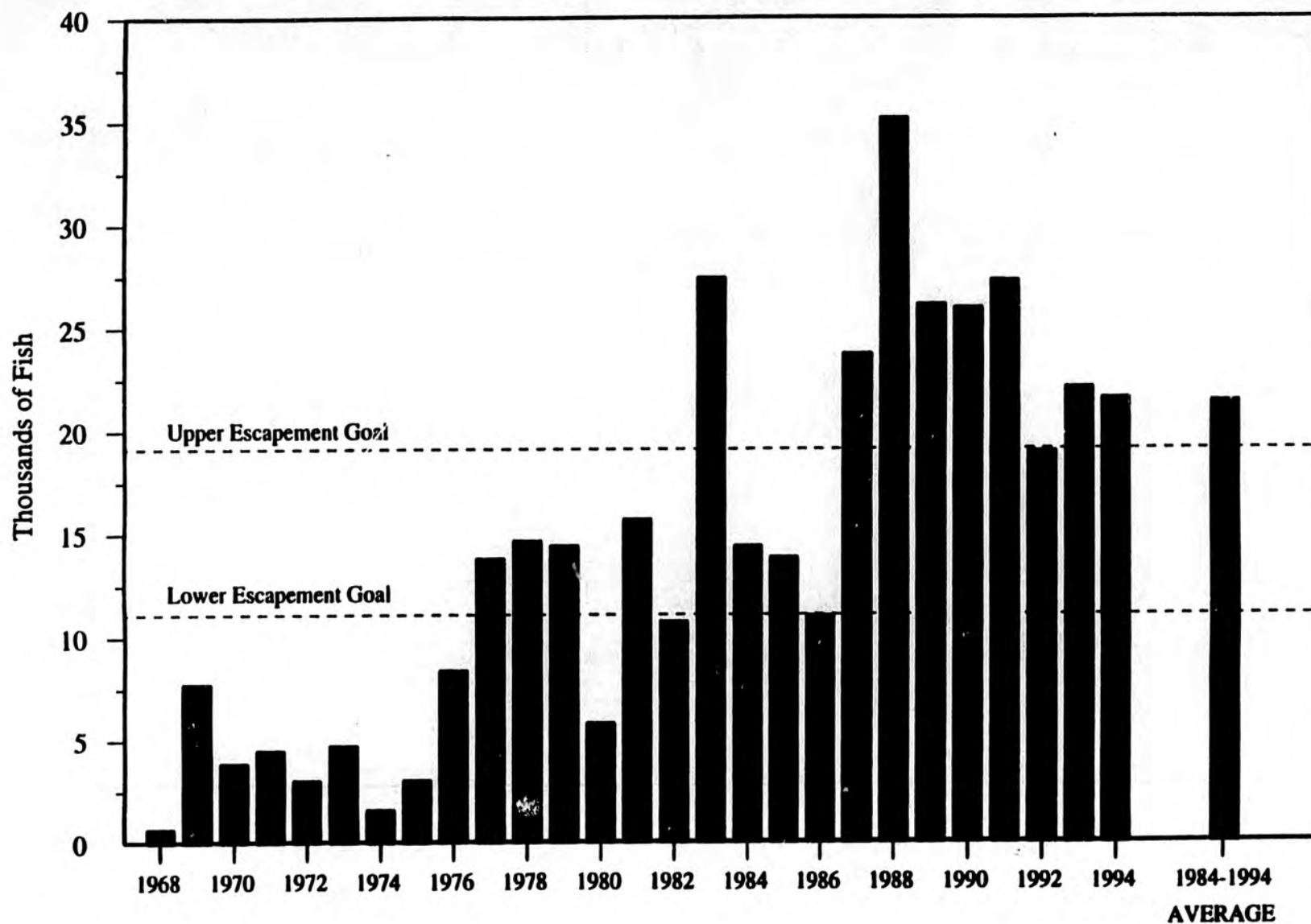
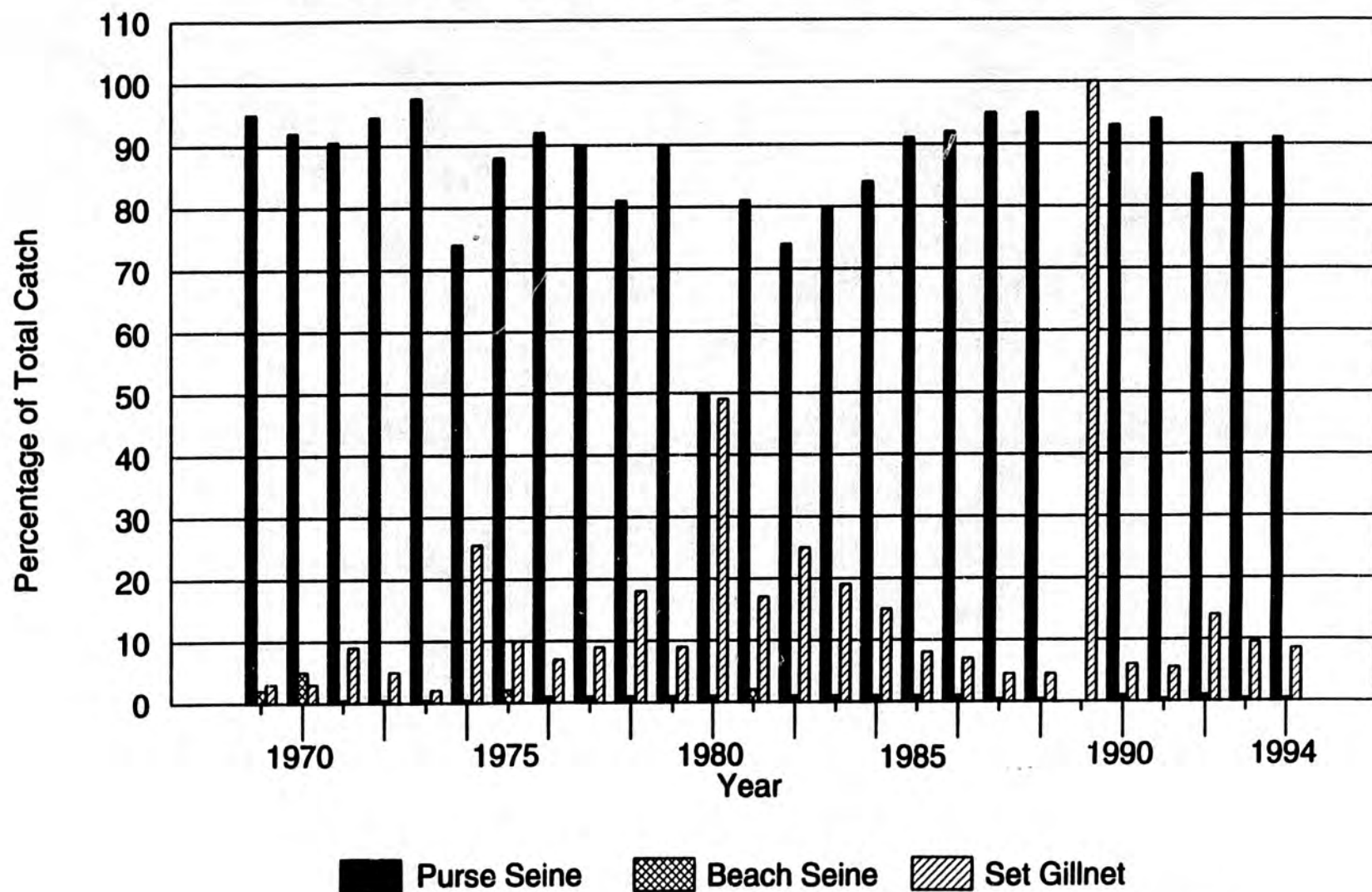


Figure 10. Chinook salmon escapement in the Kodiak Management Area, 1968-1994.

NO RECENT INCREASE IN SEINE PERCENTAGE OF CHINOOK HARVEST

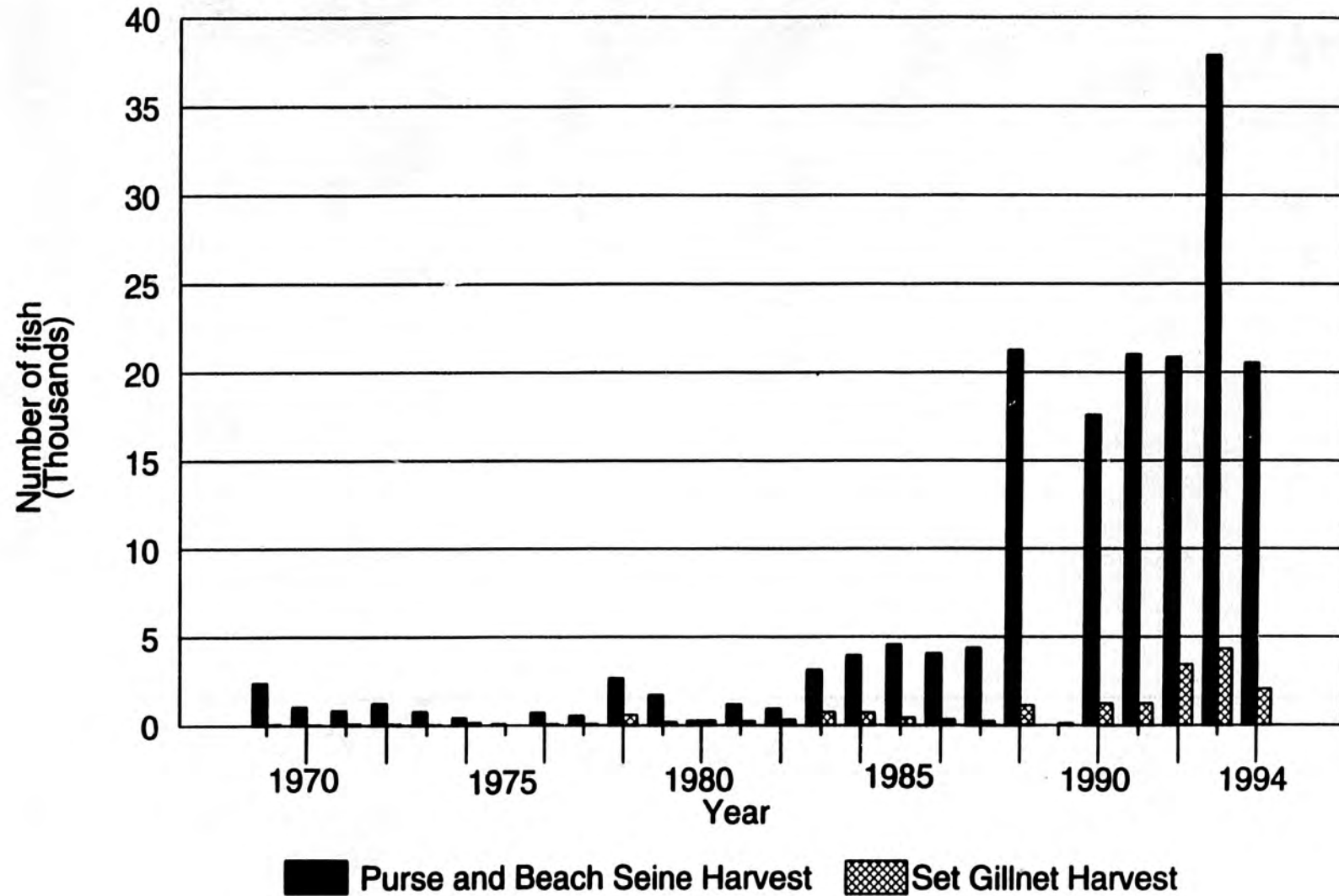
Percentage of Chinook Salmon Harvest By Gear Type Kodiak Management Area 1969-1994



Note: Fishery closures in 1989 due to the Exxon Valdez oilspill.

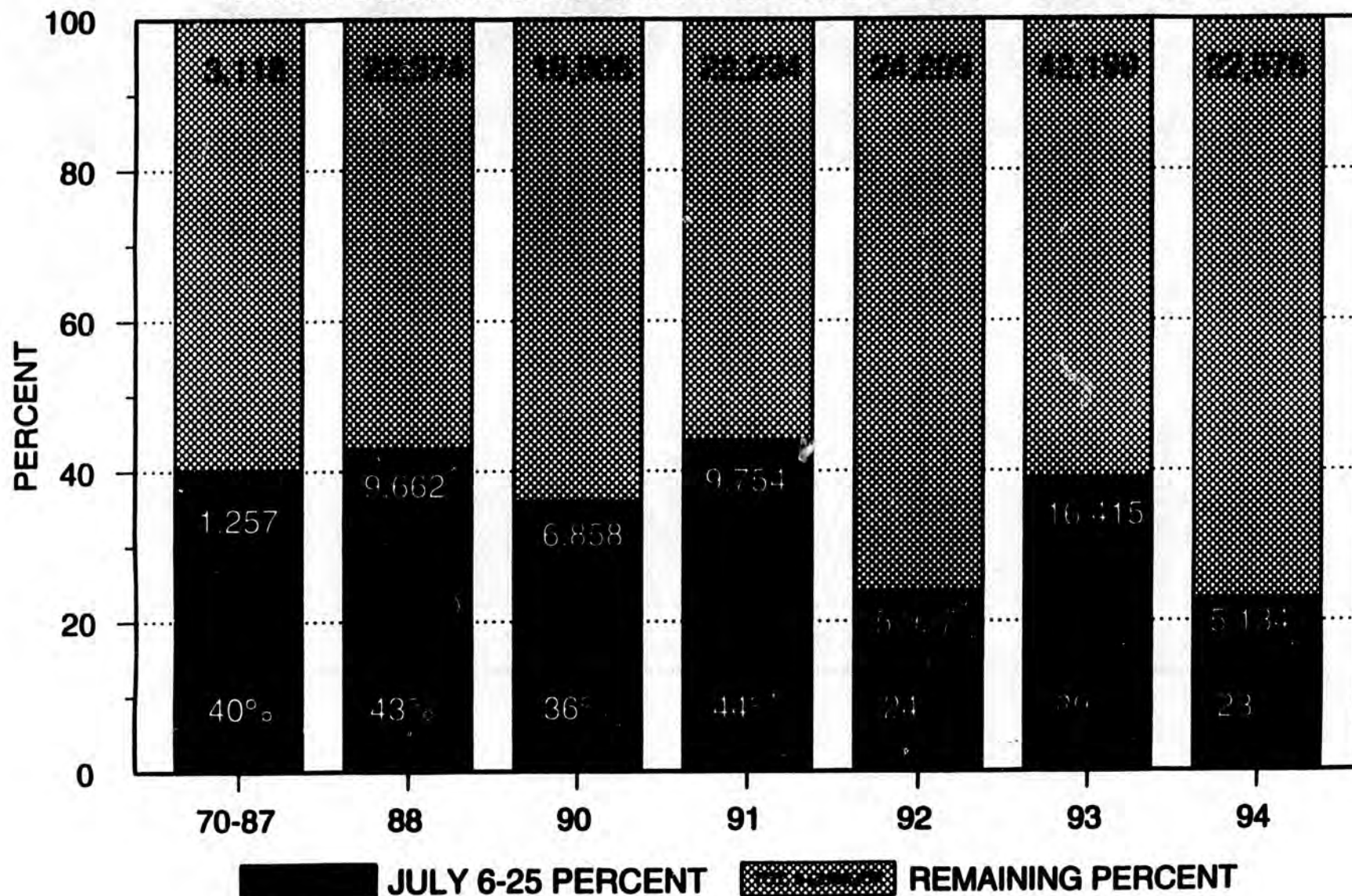
SETGILLNET HARVEST ROSE ALONG WITH SEINE HARVEST

Chinook Salmon Harvest By Gear Type Kodiak Management Area 1969-1994



1992 WAS YEAR OF HIGHEST COOKINLET SOCKEYE BYCATCH
 YET BELOW AVERAGE JULY CHINOOK PERCENTAGE
 KODIAK MANAGEMENT AREA

PERCENTAGE OF THE ANNUAL CHINOOK SALMON HARVEST
 WHICH OCCURED DURING THE TIME PERIOD JULY 6-JULY 25



WEST COAST KING SALMON RELEASES 1984-1991

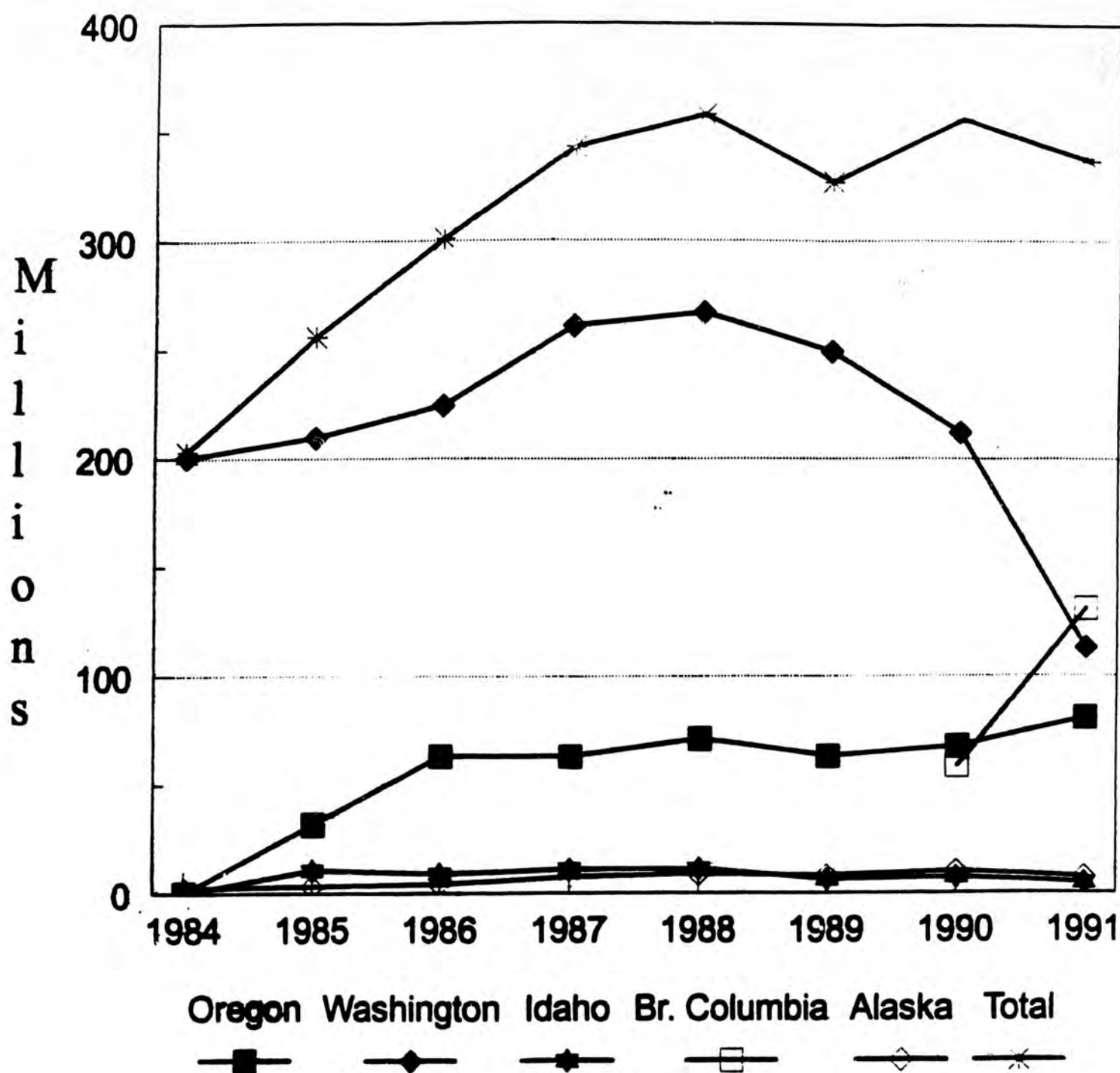


figure 2. Juvenile king Salmon releases from west coast hatcheries excluding California, 1984-89 data not available for British Columbia

CHINOOK RETURNS TO NORTHERN COOK INLET 1979 TO 1994

Year	escapement	total harvest	total return	exploitation rate
1979	46,006	+ 12,057	=58,063	21%
1980	no count	+ 12,179		
1981	10,262	+ 13,361	=23,623	57%
1982	39,016	+ 19,531	=58,592	33%
1983	60,073	+ 20,426	=80,499	25%
1984	55,345	+ 26,901	=82,246	33%
1985	60,885	+ 31,050	=91,935	34%
1986	52,353	+ 47,059	=99,412	47%
1987	48,990	+ 44,842	=93,832	48%
1988	72,126	+ 49,373	=121,499	41%
1989	32,085	+ 57,565	=89,650	64%
1990	50,925	+ 47,504	=98,429	48%
1991	40,137	+ 49,530	=89,667	55%
1992	36,413	+ 60,990	=97,403	63%
1993	31,825	+ 65,620	=97,445	67%
1994	21,065	not available yet		

Figures from Alaska Department of Fish and Game tables in the October 1994 report to the Board of Fisheries titled:

Northern Cook Inlet Chinook Salmon 1995 Season Outlook and Management Strategy

AN ALASKAN ADVENTURE

CHINOOK CHARTERS

TOM RAMISKEY

428 Tower • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 • 907-225-9225

MAR 06 1995

March 1, 1995

Representative Pete Kelly
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Kelly,

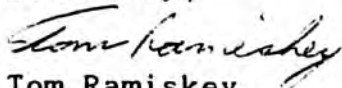
There is considerable merit to HB 165 in as much as it would ensure regional representation and diversity of resource use on the Board of Fisheries. Obviously, this is not and has not been the case with the Board of Fisheries.

However, this bill could intensify the discord between user groups within a specific region and could polarize the various regions. It also could further politicize appointment to the Board. It is not difficult to imagine a variety of scenarios as say: southeast and southcentral get sport fishing appointees which leaves no sportfishing appointee for the interior; or western and southcentral get commercial appointees and interior and Arctic get sportfishing appointees which leaves southeast with the option of personal use or subsistence. These types of scenarios can develop and will most likely intensify political pressure between regions and user groups.

I have been a proponent for a professional Board of Fisheries for sometime and I have submitted a letter of support for SB 49 to Senator Drue Pearce. I have enclosed a copy for your reference as several of the points are pertinent to HB 165.

I think that the professional Board concept of SB 49 combined with the regional representation requirements of HB 165 Section 1.(1) would de-politicize the Board of Fisheries and would be in the best interest of the State. I realize that commercial users will use the same old argument that knowledge of the fishery is essential to the Board in order to keep from losing their control. Expertise in the fishery may have been important to the development of fishery resources but it is irrelevant and often biased in allocation decisions.

Sincerely,



Tom Ramiskey

cc: Representative Cynthia Toohey

Senator Drue Pearce, President of the Senate



Alchemist Inc.

March 1, 1995



Allen Austerman

907-465-4956

Dear Sir,

I am sorry it is even necessary to write this letter. This is in response to printed letters by various people and the sport fishing caucus, pertaining to the Cook Inlet Sport Fishing group's claims of unfair treatment. It amazes me that these people actually believe their own rhetoric. They start by complaining about blame being laid on them for poor returns to the Deshka River starting in 1991. Their next statement blames Kodiak and Chignik for the decline of said escapement due to an expanded seine fishery. What pure crap! The number of commercial entry permits was set in the late seventies and has not significantly changed! The only user group to show a large increase in numbers is the sport fishing group in Cook Inlet. ADF&G records show that current management programs, in general, have shown a steady improvement in salmon production for the state (barring outside influences, like oil spills and late plankton blooms etc.). This whole business with Cook Inlet is nothing more than greed and trying to focus the blame for its own problems somewhere else. While asserting that a large number of Kings caught in Kodiak were bound for Cook Inlet, they admit there is no proof for that allegation. Yet, they want you to manage the fisheries based on their fears and accusations instead of on the experience and knowledge of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game regional managers. And if you won't do what they tell you to, you will be fired. Isn't that nice? How about a little reality check here?

It seems to me that all salmon have tails and they swim any where the currents, winds, and food sources take them. In their travels they may meet up with salmon from other areas and even other countries. A few may even travel with each other for a while. In fact, any salmon can, and probably does, transit any fishing area on its way home to spawn (Gee, how many of Kodiak's salmon are caught in other areas?). Anyway salmon have been traveling like this for millions of years.

Let me make a couple of points about the managing of our fisheries.

1. All commercial fishermen have entry permits and, when delivering their fish, all of the fish are counted and weighed by species. Makes it pretty easy to enforce rules and keep tabs on what is being caught.

2. Please tell me how easy it is to monitor 220,000 ? plus sport fishermen who don't deliver the fish and thereby prove their catch is within legal limits on species, size, and/or numbers. It makes management and enforcement virtually impossible!

Let's take an honest look at the reality of the two different user groups.

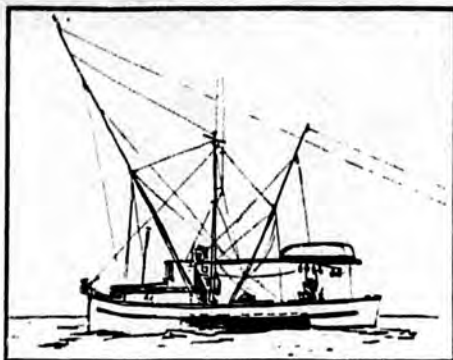
With commercial gear type management, you get an accurate count of who, where, when, what kind, and how much is caught. It makes management and enforcement possible.

With sport fishing you don't have an accurate method of telling who, when, where, how much, or even if they have a license! The probability for error, because of the easy access, egress and lack of controls, is unacceptably high. Their claims are nothing more than smoke and mirrors trying to focus attention elsewhere, rather than focusing on where and what the problems really are.

Sincerely,

Dave Mann

SO1K565450



Alaska Trollers Association

130 Seward St., No. 505
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-9400
(907) 586-4473 Fax

February 15, 1995

Senator Loren Leman, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Leman:

The Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) opposes SB 49, which seeks to change the Board of Fisheries (Board) from a lay board to a professional board.

The state's practice of appointing Board of Fisheries members with experience in Alaska's fisheries has produced a superior fishery management program recognized coastwide. Importantly, the lay board process fosters an atmosphere of cooperation between those with a vested interest in the resource, fishermen and the state.

We stress that there is no substitute for personal experience when it comes to the development of industry regulations. However, we also acknowledge the Board of Fisheries process could be improved with some relatively minor adjustments. For instance:

- The Governor could make a greater attempt to balance Board appointments according to the statutory references "knowledge and ability in the field of action"; and, "providing diversity of interest and points of view". Alaska's fisheries are complex and diverse, and, while each fishery can't be represented, past experience has shown that a complementary mix of gears and regions can be achieved. Broad knowledge amongst Board members produces better deliberation of the issues at hand.

February 15, 1995

SB 49

Page 2

- Board confirmations should take place prior to members serving, to reduce constituent pressure on the legislature to remove appointees based on votes relative to one or two high profile issues.
- Criteria must be established under the Ethics Act to fairly define "significant" conflict of interest, to allow individuals with a working knowledge of Alaska's fisheries to continue to fully participate in the Board process. The expected financial gain or loss of an individual in a fishery of 1500 permit holders would be quite different than another in a fishery of 50 permit holders. The current recusal process identifies each member's personal interests. Past chairmen have generally been good at excusing members from questionable votes, often at the request of the member themselves.

Finally, SB 49, as written, does not appear to consider the economic interest of the guided sportfishing industry. The State of Alaska has failed to develop a limited entry program for the guided sportfishing industry, and we question whether it currently fits the sponsor's description of "vested economic interest".

ATA believes a lay-Board of Fisheries process helps to ensure conservation of the resource and reasonable regulations for small business operators. We encourage you to vote no on SB 49.

Sincerely,



Dale A. Kelley
Executive Director



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 112
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907/586-2820
Fax: 907/463-2545

**Testimony on SB 49
Restructure of the Board of Fisheries
before the
Senate Resources Subcommittee Meeting**

February 24, 1995

All 22 member groups of United Fishermen of Alaska oppose SB 49 on the grounds that we would like to maintain a Board of Fish comprised of lay citizens.

Currently, the Board of Fish is comprised of seven members appointed by the Governor and are subject to confirmation by the Alaska State Legislature. This structure is the envy of many other states. However, as with any other Board, the system is not perfect. Therefore, we would like to make the following suggestions to improve the Board of Fisheries process.

House Bill 141, just recently introduced, would change the dates and terms of Board of Fish members and would allow for confirmation of a Board member prior to serving on the Board. In our opinion, this would bring forth many more candidate applications of persons interested in serving on the Board of Fish. The present system of confirmation encourages many possible candidates not to apply because serving before being confirmed causes too many problems.

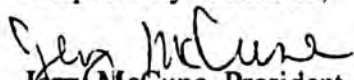
In the past, Local Advisory Committees played a large role in the Board of Fish. They settled some issues before the Board of Fish met and provided a local knowledge of their region for the Board of Fish. Advisory chairs should be at the Board of Fish meetings to give the local feeling on issues when asked for by the Board of Fish.

Conflict of interest needs to be discussed by the State and solved as applied by the Department of Law to the Board of Fish. United Fishermen of Alaska would like to have an investigation on an amendment to the Ethics Act to insure that Board of Fish members can take part on issues in fisheries they are involved in but where no significant conflict exist.

If the State of Alaska is willing to spend money on a Board of Fish professional board, there should be monies available to provide more staff and research dollars to the Board of Fish.

There will always be allocation battles but, some day, we have to realize even Alaska holds only so much resource pie for everyone to split up.

Respectfully submitted,


Jerry McCune, President
United Fishermen of Alaska

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Crab Coalition • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Trollers Association • Area K Seiners Association
Bering Sea Fishermen's Association • Bristol Bay Driftnetters Association • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association
North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Peninsula Marketing Association
Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owners Association
Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Seiners Association • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
United Cook Inlet Drift Association • Western Alaska Cooperative Marketing Association

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters

204 N. Franklin, Suite 2
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-5860

February 15, 1995

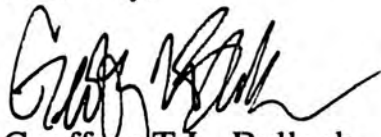
The Honorable Drue Pearce
President, Alaska State Senate
Room 111, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Pearce:

Thank you for taking the time to look at the Alaska State Board of Fish through your Senate Bill 49. As you know last year one of our members, Kay Andrew, was not confirmed by the legislature in her bid for a seat on the Board.

As I understand it, this bill will be referred to a sub-committee of the Senate Resources Committee. If possible, we would like to be involved in following this legislation and providing any information you might need from either our Association or Kay Andrew.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey T.L. Bullock", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Geoffrey T.L. Bullock
Executive Director

**KODIAK LONGLINE
VESSEL OWNERS' ASSOCIATION**



326 CENTER AVENUE, P.O. BOX 135
KODIAK, ALASKA 99615
(907) 486-3781 FAX (907) 486-2470

HALIBUT • SABLEFISH • PACIFIC COD • CRAB

February 22, 1995

Senator Loren Leman,
Chairman Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
Fax #: (907) 465-3810

RE: SB 49 Restructure Board of Fisheries

Dear Senator Leman:

The members of the Kodiak Longline Vessel Owners' Association would like to comment on SB49 regarding a restructure of the Board of Fisheries.

We have been working within the board process on issues dealing with crab in Alaska for several years and have often been both concerned and frustrated by the amount of time and energy the board has been able to invest in these issues. While we feel that there is a need for modification to the board process, we disagree with the manner in which this legislation proposes to do so.

We strongly oppose the creation of a professional board. Such efforts will not be in the best interests of the resource or Alaska and will become highly political. It is very important that the board continue to be composed of laypersons so that their decision making process will be tempered by experience within and knowledge of the industry.

Our proposal to the Knowles transition team supported the creation of a separate board for management of groundfish and shellfish. We believe the creation of a separate board would allow board members to devote more attention to the issues.

Our association will continue to participate in any discussions and comment on any proposed legislation regarding a restructure of the Board of Fisheries. This is an issue of concern to us and we would appreciate being notified of any revisions to SB49. We appreciate your consideration of our comments and look forward to continuing dialogue concerning this issue.

Sincerely,



Robert Wurm
President

CC:

Drue Pearce
Steve Frank
Rick Halford
Robin Taylor
Georgianna Lincoln
Lyman Hoffman

X-SB49A

TOTAL P.02



Ken
FEB 20 1995

February 13, 1995

COOK INLET SPORTFISHING CAUCUS
3620 PENLAND PARKWAY
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508
(907) 276-2222 FAX (907) 278-0896

*The Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor
State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001*

Dear Governor Knowles:

The attached letter to Frank Rue of February 6th, co-signed by 27 members of the legislature, speaks for itself. The entire Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan, as adopted in 1978, has been pieced, patched and had many band-aids attached to it. Either the Board of Fish, the Legislature, or someone must attempt to totally re-vamp this old fashioned out-dated plan.

The legislators who signed this letter are to be commended for their actions in understanding the needs of tens of thousands of their constituents. We ask you to call upon the powers of your office and take whatever steps are necessary to save the King Salmon Fishery of the Mat-Su Valley and possibly direct the Board of Fish to have an emergency session review to correct the situation before it's too late, before this wonderful run of king salmon is gone forever. Future generations of Alaskans will either condemn or praise us for the actions that we take now.

One suggestion would be to direct the Department of Fish and Game to follow the lead of you, Governor Knowles, and the 37 legislators who stated in our pre-election survey that they would support allocating \$270,000 of the King Salmon Stamp fund (which is funded by sportfishing license fees) for use by the Department in researching why the Susitna King Salmon returns have declined so rapidly.

Sincerely,

Bob Penney

Phil Cutler

Bruce Knowles



Alaska State Legislature

1

Official Business

February 6, 1995

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

COMMISSIONER FRANK RUE
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
P.O. BOX 25526
JUNEAU AK 99811-5526

Dear Commissioner Rue,

As you are well aware, the sport fisheries in the Susitna Valley are going to have heavy restrictions, including closures, placed on the king salmon fisheries this summer. These closures will cause enormous economic hardship on the local economies, as well as negative effects on other area river systems. Yet we, as sportsmen recognize that protecting the resource must take precedence over all other priorities!

Recent news articles have unfairly laid blame on over fishing by sport fishers as the primary cause of poor returns (in spite of the fact that the spawning escapement for the parent years of these poor returns were fairly large and should have produced sizable runs). The poor returns in the Deshka River began in 1991 and have continued to decline ever since. These declines correspond directly with recent expansion of the Kodiak and Chignik seine fisheries. The Kodiak fishery has increased its king catch from an annual average of 1500-3000 fish prior to expansion, to over 40,000 kings in 1993. Most certainly, a large number of these fish are bound for Cook Inlet. Other probable interceptors of Susitna-bound fish include the Northern District setnet fishery, the growing sport fishery off of Deep Creek, as well as the Western & Kustatan setnet fishery in the Central District. Likewise, the off-shore Trawl fisheries are taking enormous amounts of Kings, as well as other fish stocks, through incidental by-catch. While recognizing that this fishery takes place outside of your jurisdiction, it does have a severe negative effect on other fisheries and needs to be addressed.

While there is a great deal of speculation as to the actual cause of these declining runs, there are very few actual known facts. The N.C.I. tagging study certainly will provide critical information as to what fisheries are impacting these stocks; however, this information is still 3-5 years out. Quite simply, we cannot afford to wait to initiate protective measures to shield these extremely weak runs. Certainly, both the sport and commercial fisheries should be equally restricted.

Currently, A.D.F.&G. Comm. Fish. Div. plans to go ahead with the first opening for the Northern District setnet fishery. Although historically this opening has harvested approximately 2000-4000 kings, given that the sport fisheries will not be allowed to share in this harvest, we believe this places an unfair burden of responsibility upon the sport fishing community. Furthermore and most importantly, this may be 2000-4000 fish that we cannot afford to sacrifice. The conservative approach would be to see how the run materializes and then if run strength allows, issue commercial openings.

Additionally, we strongly believe that the Northern District setnet fishery, the Deep Creek sport fishery, the Central District Eastside setnet fishery, along with the expanding Kodiak seine fishery should be severely restricted or suspended until we have solid scientific information allowing these intercept fisheries to exist.

The declining king returns of late is of utmost concern to all residents and business owners in south-central Alaska. Not only is sport fishing critical to the local economy, it is a large part of the unique lifestyle that makes us Alaskans. We ask that A.D.F.&G. take whatever measures are necessary to protect and rebuild the king runs as quickly as possible and that these restrictions be distributed equally amongst all who harvest these stocks.

Respectfully,

Jason H. Hines
Samuel Hines

Vic Kohring

Lyda Green

Scott Ogan

John Sanders

Ira Pearce

Don Conley

Frank Foster

Scott Lee

Can Bando

Tom Buis

Kirk Halford

Pete Cobb

Al Vazny

Norman Kolesky

Mike Miller

Terry Norton

Gene Thomaalt

Tim Kelly

Best Hay

San Russell

Joseph

Bumpy Davis

Beverly Masek

Tay Brown

Ly Elin

Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus
3620 Penland Parkway
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
(907) 276-2222

September 8, 1994

QUESTIONNAIRE

Q:1 BACKGROUND The Alaska Department of Fish and Game currently lacks a program to ascertain the large decline in returning king salmon in the Susitna drainage. This information is vital during the fishing season to help meet escapement goals and provide maximum sportfishing to anglers. The new King Salmon Stamp, funded by sportfishermen, now raises over two million dollars a year.

YES NO

☒

☐

Q:1 WILL YOU HELP SEE THAT \$270,000 IS FUNDED TO STUDY THIS PROGRAM, POSSIBLY FROM REVENUES GENERATED BY THIS KING SALMON STAMP?

Q:2 BACKGROUND Three of the seven members of the present Board of Fisheries have been appointed as sportfishermen; four as commercial fishermen.

YES NO

☐

☐

Q:2 DO YOU AGREE THAT THREE OR MORE MEMBERS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE SPORTFISHERMEN APPOINTMENTS?

100% of Legislative Candidates that responded to questionnaire answered yes!



SEN. PEARCE

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE ELDON MULDER
DISTRICT 23 MULDOON-FT. RICHARDSON

- CHAIR -
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

- CO-CHAIR -
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

- CO-CHAIR -
MILITARY AFFAIRS FOR
ANCHORAGE CAUCUS

February 15, 1995

Karl Kircher President
Kenai Peninsula Fisherman's Association
34824 Kalifornsky Beach Road Suite E
Soldotna Alaska 99669

Dear Karl,

In response to your letter dated February 14, 1995 regarding a letter dated February 6, 1995 to Acting Commissioner Frank Rue.

I thank you for pointing out the typographical error on Page 2, Paragraph 2 where I mistakenly used the word Eastside instead of Westside. I assure you that this was completely unintentional. As I stated in Page 1, Paragraph 2, the probable interceptors of Susitna bound king salmon included the following; The Kodiak and Chignik seine fisheries, the Northern District setnet fishery, the Deep Creek sport fishery, the **Western & Kastatan setnet fisheries in the Central district.**

I hope that this clarifies the situation and that we can work together in the future to ensure an expedient recovery of the Susitna Valley king salmon resources.

Sincerely,

Representative Eldon Mulder

cc: Commissioner Frank Rue
All Signators



KENAI RIVER SPORTFISHING, INC.
P.O. Box 1228 • Soldotna, AK 99669
(907) 262-8588 • Fax (907) 262-8582

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

TO: OFFICE OF SEN DRUE PEARCE

Attention: KEN ERICKSON DATE 2/20/95

RE: SB 49 Mailed copy to follow: YES ☐ NO ☒

From: BEN ELLIS

We are sending a total of 3 page(s) including this transmittal. Please contact us at (907) 262-8588 if you encounter any problems receiving this transmission. Our fax number is (907) 262-8582.

Dear Ken,

Here is an advance copy of my testimony today on SB49.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Ben", written in a cursive style.

Dedicated to Preserving the Greatest Sportfishing River in the World, the Kenai.

Legislative Research Agency

Alaska State Legislature



130 Seward Street, Suite 218
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2196

Phone: (907) 465-3991
Fax: (907) 463-3351

June 23, 1994

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Drue Pearce

FROM: Maria Gladziszewski
Legislative Analyst *MG*

RE: Professional Fish & Game Boards in Other States
Research Request 94.215

You asked if other states operated fish and game boards with full-time, paid board members. Experts with whom we spoke were unable to confirm the existence of any full-time professional boards in other states or Canada.¹ Most states operate fish and wildlife commissions or boards similarly to Alaska with part-time commissioners appointed by the governor. Attached are a few pages from the *State Wildlife Law Handbook* regarding the appointment procedures and qualifications for state wildlife commissioners.

Fish and wildlife experts at the National Conference of State Legislatures report that no state operates full-time professional fish or game boards. According to Sandra Wolfe, the Secretary/Treasurer of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, none of their member states (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming) operate a full-time professional board. In addition, Ruth Musgrave, author of a 50-state survey of state wildlife laws, *State Wildlife Law Handbook* published by the Center for Wildlife Law at the University of New Mexico, did not find any full-time professional boards during her research.

I hope this information is useful for your purposes. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have additional questions.

¹We spoke with representatives from the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and the Center for Wildlife Law at the University of New Mexico.

State Wildlife Laws Handbook



Center for Wildlife Law

at the

Institute of Public Law
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico

(505)

Ruth S. Musgrave, J.D. and Mary Anne Stein, Ph.D., J.D.

with contributions from

Karen Cantrell, Ph.D., J.D.; Sara Parker, J.D.; and Miriam Wolok, J.D.



Government Institutes, Inc.

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Introduction
Tables 1-3. Director, Commissioner and Commission:
Appointments and Qualifications

There is considerable variation in how the fish and wildlife director, commission, commissioners, and various agency advisory board members are chosen. We recommend that qualification requirements such as various types of examinations, qualifications by experience or training, representation from various state interest groups (sportsmen, farmers, ranchers, commercial fishermen, conservation groups, geographic location, etc.), and mixing members by age, sex, and ethnicity in commission and advisory board composition be imposed by all states. Limitations on the number of members allowed to be from the same political party may be desirable. Ideally, appointments would not be tied to one political party by Governor appointments. Criteria such as written exams, physical exams and interviews for hiring department leaders and conservation officers are a good idea (see New Mexico, South Carolina and others).

Some states provide that although the Governor appoints Commission members, they must be selected from a list of eligible candidates, so that at least some expertise can be guaranteed in those who are appointed. Other states expressly set up commissions and advisory boards to allow input from competing interests, and thus are able to mediate and discuss the concerns of such interests. Examples include Colorado's Habitat Partnership Council which consists of representatives of agriculture, wildlife and rangeland management interests, designed to resolve rangeland forage issues; the Hawaii Natural Area Reserves System Commission, whose members have academic degrees in wildlife or marine biology, botany, forestry, ecology, resource management, biogeography, zoology, or geology; the Indiana Heritage Trust Program committees, whose membership include various organized hunting and fishing, environmental and other groups; and the New Mexico Fish and Game Commission, which must have one farmer/rancher member whose land contains at least two species for which the state requires a license to hunt or fish, and one member with demonstrated involvement in wildlife and habitat protection.

Every state has experts in many relevant areas, and such expertise should be utilized to the benefit of fish and wildlife agencies. There are many excellent examples in the state summaries of required qualifications, representation of different state interests, and inclusion of persons with widely differing backgrounds. Maine mandates that the Commissioner shall review other states' provisions for developing good relationships between hunters and landowners and implement similar programs with emphasis on courtesy and responsibility for private lands.

Tables 1-3 give a rough outline of appointment qualifications of the director, commissioner and commission members. In states with no director, but rather a "secretary" of a natural resources department, such secretary was treated as a director for purposes of this table.

Table 1. Director of Agency: Appointment and Qualifications

State	Governor Appointed	Appointed by Commission or Other	Submitted from List	Legislative Approval	Gubernatorial Approval	Serves at Pleasure of Commission	Academic/ Experience Qualification	Knowledge/ Interest Qualification	Other Qualification
AK	Not applicable								
AL		*			*				
AR	No statute information								
AZ		*					*		
CA	*				*				
CO		*							*
CT	Not applicable								
DE	*								
FL		*							
GA	Not applicable								
HI		*							
IA	*			*			*	*	
ID							*	*	
IL	Not applicable								
IN		*							*
KS	*			*			*		*
KY	Not applicable								
LA	*				*				
MA		*				*	*	*	
MD	Not applicable								
ME	Not applicable								
MI		*							
MN	Not applicable								
MO		*							
MS	*		*	*			*		
MT	*			*					

* Commission establishes qualifications.

* Director serves at the pleasure of the governor.

* Director shall be appointed as provided by law.

Table 1. Director of Agency: Appointment and Qualifications (continued)

State	Governor Appointed	Appointed by Commission or Other	Submitted from List	Legislative Approval	Gubernatorial Approval	Serves at Pleasure of Commission	Academic/ Experience Qualification	Knowledge/ Interest Qualification	Other Qualification
NC							†		
ND	*				†				†
NE	Not applicable								
NH	* †						†	†	
NJ	*				†		†		
NM	No statute information								
NV	†		†				†	†	
NY	Not applicable								
OH	No statute information								
OK		†							
OR		†							
PA		*							
RI				†					
SC		†							
SD	Not applicable								
TN		*	†				†		
TX		†				†			
UT	Not applicable								
VA		†							
VT	Not applicable								
WA	†						†	†	†
WI	Not applicable								
WV	†						†	†	†
WY	*				†				

* Governor and Council jointly appoint Director.

† Governor shall seek recommendations from the Commission on the qualifications, skills and experience necessary for the position.

* Must be at least age 30.

Table 2. Commissioner: Appointments and Qualifications

State	Governor Appointed	Legislative Approval	Appointed from Within Commission	Serves at Pleasure of the Governor	Academic or Experience Qualification	Knowledge or Interest Qualification	Other Qualification
AK						*	
AL	*						
AR	Not applicable						
AZ	Not applicable						
CA							* ¹
CO	Not applicable						
CT	*	*			*		
DE	* ²						
FL	*	*	*				
GA	Not applicable						
HI	Not applicable						
IA	*	*			*	*	
ID	*		*			*	
IL	Not applicable						
IN	*						
KS	*	*		*	*		
KY					*	*	* ³
LA	Not applicable						
MA	No statute information						
MD	*	*		*	*		
ME	*	*			*		
MI	Not applicable						
MN	*						
MO	Not applicable						
MS	*		*		*		

¹ The president of the Commission may be a member ex officio of the Migratory Bird Conservation created by the Federal Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

² Secretary appointed, but Governor approved

³ Commission appoints Commissioner

Table 2. Commissioner: Appointments and Qualifications (continued)

State	Governor Appointed	Legislative Approval	Appointed from Within Commission	Serves at Pleasure of the Governor	Academic or Experience Qualification	Knowledge or Interest Qualification	Other Qualification
MT	Not applicable						
NC					*		
ND	Not applicable						
NE	*		*		*	*	
NH	Not applicable						
NJ	*	*		*	*		
NM	Not applicable						
NV	*		*		*		
NY	*	*		*			
OH	No statute information						
OK	Not applicable						
OR	*		*				*
PA	Not applicable						
RI	Not applicable						
SC	*	*					
SD	Not applicable						
TN	Not applicable						
TX	*	*					
UT	Not applicable						
VA	Not applicable						
VT	*						
WA	Not applicable						
WI	Not applicable						
WV	Not applicable						
WY	Not applicable						

* May not hold office in sports or commercial fishing organization or have ownership or direct interest in a commercial fishing business

* Appointed pursuant to the provisions of 10-2851.

Table 3. Commission Members: Appointments and Qualifications

State	Governor Appointed	Geographic Selection	Legislative Approval	Must be Mixed Party	Academic or Experience Qualification	Knowledge or Internal Qualification	Other Qualification
AK	Not applicable						
AL	Not applicable						
AR	No statute information						
AZ	*	*		*	*		
CA	Not applicable						
CO	*	*		*			
CT	Not applicable						
DE	Not applicable						
FL	*		*				
GA	*	*	*				
HI	*		*				
IA				*		*	*
ID	*	*		*		*	
IL	Not applicable						
IN	* ¹				*		
KS	*	*		*	*		
KY	*	*		*		*	*
LA	*	*	*				
MA	*	*					*
MD	Not applicable						
ME	Not applicable						
MI	*	*	*		*		
MN							
MO	*		*	*		*	

¹ Cannot hold any other state or federal office

² Governor appoints 5 of 12 positions.

³ Vacancies are filled by appointment by the Governor from a list of five names submitted by the sportsmen of each wildlife district.

⁴ The Governor appoints one member from 3 candidates submitted by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Appalachian Mountain Club and Trustees of Reservations.

Table 3. Commission Members: Appointments and Qualifications (continued)

State	Governor Appointed	Geographic Selection	Legislative Approval	Must be Mixed Party	Academic or Experience Qualification	Knowledge or Interest Qualification	Other Qualification
MS	*	*			*		
MT	*	*	*				*
NC	Not applicable						
ND	Not applicable						
NE	*	*		*	*	*	
NH	*	*		*	*	*	
NJ	*		*			*	*
NM	*	*	*	*	*		
NV	*	*			*		
NY	Not applicable						
OH	*		*	*		*	*
OK	*	*	*				
OR	*	*	*				*
PA	*	*	*				
RI	Not applicable						
SC	*		*				
SD	*	*	*	*	*		
TN	*	*	*			*	*
TX	*		*				*
UT	*	*	*	*		*	

* At least one member must be experienced in the breeding and management of domestic livestock.

* Appointed and approved by the Governor and Council.

* Six farmers and six sportsmen, one of whom serves as Chairman.

* At least two shall be engaged in farming as their principal means of support.

* May not hold office in sports or commercial fishing organization or have ownership or direct interest in a commercial fish processing business.

* Includes Commissioners of Environment and Conservation and Agriculture; strives to have one person at least 60 years old and at least one person of a racial minority.

* All nine members must be from the general public; members or spouses may not be employed by a business entity regulated by the Department or received funds therefrom, may not own or control more than a 10% interest in such business entity, or use/receive a substantial amount of tangible goods, services or funds from the Department, and may not be registered lobbyists on behalf of a profession related to the operation of the Commission, nor be employees or paid consultants of a statewide association in the field of conservation or outdoor recreation.

Table 3. Commission Members: Appointments and Qualifications (continued)

State	Governor Appointed	Geographic Selection	Legislative Approval	Must be Mixed Party	Academic or Experience Qualification	Knowledge or Interest Qualification	Other Qualification
VA	•	•	•				
VT	•	•	•				
WA	•		•			•	• ^a
WI		• ^b					
WV	•	•	•		•		
WY		•		•		•	

^a Shall not hold other office, must represent a balance reflecting all aspects of wildlife management

^b No person may be appointed, or remain a member, who receives a significant portion of income directly or indirectly from permit holders or applicant of permits issued by the Department.

REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR
ON THE BOARD OF FISHERIES

Board of Fisheries Review Committee
February 23, 1988

STATE OF ALASKA

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
DIVISION OF AUDIT & MANAGEMENT SERVICES

P.O. BOX AM
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0199
PHONE: (907) 465-3568

February 22, 1988

The Honorable Steve Cowper
Governor of Alaska
Pouch A
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Governor Cowper:

As Chairperson of the Board of Fisheries Review Committee, I have the pleasure of submitting to you our report with its recommendations. In choosing committee members, you succeeded in selecting persons who are highly knowledgeable of the fishing industry in the State of Alaska and with a great concern to improve its regulatory processes. I believe that the given recommendations represent sound advice which will eliminate many of the problems currently associated with operations of the Fisheries Board.

Sincerely,

s/c A. Mathisen
Ale A. Mathisen, Chairman
Board of Fisheries Review
Committee

OM/lmy/jcb
om760/dams7

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1. INTRODUCTION

The effective management of Alaska's fisheries resources is a matter of considerable public concern. Many state residents depend on the harvest of fish stocks for subsistence needs, while commercial fishing is one of the most important segments of the Alaskan economy.

The regulatory system designed and implemented by the Alaska Legislature upon statehood was purposely crafted to provide substantial opportunities for fishermen and other interested members of the public to participate in the regulatory process. This was largely in response to a legacy of federal management, resource depletion, and special-interest bias during the territorial period.

Over the years this commitment to open participation has become an integral part of the regulatory process which the public strongly supports. To quote from the 1987 Senate Advisory Council report on fisheries management:

"It is difficult to emphasize just how strongly many believe that 'participatory democracy' is the essence of Alaska's fisheries management regime. They speak very critically of other systems, such as Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans and of the management agencies in California and Washington as bureaucracies which limit or essentially exclude public involvement. The legacy of territorial days during which Congress and federal regulators routinely ignored the concerns of local fishermen is strong."

While public participation is an essential part of the regulatory process, in recent years the virtually unlimited opportunity for such participation, combined with ever-increasing complexity of fisheries issues, has created an almost impossible working situation for the board. To again quote from the Senate Advisory Committee report:

"...many fishermen, past and present board members, and others expressed the conviction that some action to either control the agenda or to enhance the ability to cope with the workload was necessary. They referred to the present system as verging on chaos."

In response to public concern, Governor Cowper appointed a nine-member review committee in October 1987 to evaluate the structure and procedures of the Board of

Fisheries and to recommend changes necessary to facilitate effective management. Members of this committee are:

Ole Mathisen (Chair)	Pete Schaeffer
John Garner	Larry Edfelt
John White	Hank Pennington
Cheryl Sutton	Don Mitchell
Dick Jacobson	

Staff Assistance and support from the Office of the Governor was provided by John Halterman and Sam Stoker. This report was drafted by Sam Stoker based on the committee's deliberations.

In his charge to the committee, the governor instructed the members to address the following questions:

- a. Is the present system of fisheries regulations well suited to meet the challenges posed by an increasing complex utilization of valuable resources?
- b. Is the current Board of Fisheries regulatory process fair, efficient, and responsive? If not, what changes should be made to make it so?
- c. Does the current process integrate all available data, including the most recent biological information, economic considerations, and state fisheries policy, in considering regulatory decisions? If not, what changes are required?
- d. How should board members be selected? Should they represent different gear groups, geographic areas, or knowledge and expertise? What other qualifications should be considered? Should membership to the board require divestiture of a personal economic interest in fisheries regulations? Should membership be a full-time paid occupation?
- e. Does the current process provide for sufficient input from all user groups and regions without discrimination or bias, and does the process promote orderly and efficient review of regulatory proposals? If not, what improvements can be made?

On November 6-13, 1987, the committee met in Anchorage for initial deliberation and for receipt of public testimony through a statewide teleconference. On February 4-5 the committee reconvened in Juneau to finalize its discussion and recommendations. The content of these hearings and deliberations are summarized in the following report.

2. IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEMS

The number and diversity of problems, real or perceived, which have been attributed to the board and its processes over the years are myriad and nearly all-inclusive. Many of the present problems with the board derive from the increasing value of the resource, consequent competition for that resource, acknowledgement and definition of competitive user-groups, and better organization and lobbying pressure on the board from these user groups.

The following outline of problems and suggestions relating to the board is summarized from written comments received by the Governor's Office, a recent public teleconference in Anchorage, deliberations of this committee, and recent reports from the Board of Fisheries and the Senate Advisory Council.

a. Policy:

- o Inadequacy of statewide fisheries policy, resource assessment documents and area management plans for use by the board.

b. Regulatory Process:

- o Relationship of the board to relevant agencies.
 - (1) ADF&G
 - (2) Local advisory committees and regional councils
- o Accountability and documentation.
- o Criteria and guidelines for regulatory decisions.
- o Reliability, applicability and consistency of information supplied to the board.

c. Structure of and appointment to the board:

- o Full-time "professional" versus part-time "lay" board concept.
- o Creation of regional boards.
- o Division of boards by resource category.
- o Process of and criteria for appointment to the board.

- o Conflict of interest and special interest bias by board members.
 - (1) divestiture of financial interests
 - (2) disclosure of financial and other interests
- d. Staff support for the board.
- e. Proposal submittal and review.
 - o Length of board meeting.
 - o Criteria for submittal and screening of proposals.
 - o Role of advisory committees and regional councils.
 - o Public access to the regulatory process
 - o Level of autonomy and authority of advisory committees and regional councils.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

The following were approved by the committee as recommendations to the governor. Many of these recommendations may also apply to or affect the Board of Game.

3.1 Policy:

(a) To a large extent the Board of Fisheries has been delegated the task of regulating the take of fish stocks without specific guidance in the form of comprehensive fisheries policy adopted by the legislature, which has the authority and responsibility to provide such guidance, pursuant to Article 8, Section 2 of the Alaska Constitution. The committee recommends therefore that the legislature and the governor develop more specific fisheries policy in order to direct and assist the Board of Fisheries in its decision making process.

(b) Objectives of the board should be to prepare, in cooperation with staff of the Department of Fish and Game, resource assessment documents (RADS) and develop and implement area management plans (MPs) for geographic areas which represent ecological systems or entities in so far as such can be defined by available data. The timing and priority for development of these RADs and MPs should be consistent with state fishery policy as defined by the legislature and/or the governor. Biological data contained in the RADs and MPs should have confidence limits or at least degrees of reliability clearly delineated so that all parties understand the biological risks associated with particular management and allocation decisions by the board. Ultimately, all regulatory proposals should be offered as amendments or revisions to management plans and considered against the objectives of those plans.

RADs and MPs should be updated on a biannual basis to incorporate new information, and should be made available to all segments of the regulatory system. Management plans should be promulgated for the purpose of developing both short-term and long-term sustained harvest and allocation policy addressing subsistence, commercial, sport and personal use needs as well as incidental catch.

The authorship of RADs and MPs and amendments to them should be noted and dated.

3.2 Regulatory Process

(a) The committee supports the board's return to a two-year cycle for proposal submittal and review, by alternate area, except as otherwise provided for.

(b) The board should address each section of the regulations as advertised, and should provide timely and public notification in the event of reconsideration or change of schedule.

(c) The location of board meetings should be determined by the board, based upon considerations of cost and efficiency, with the provision that adequate and timely notification of such decisions be made public.

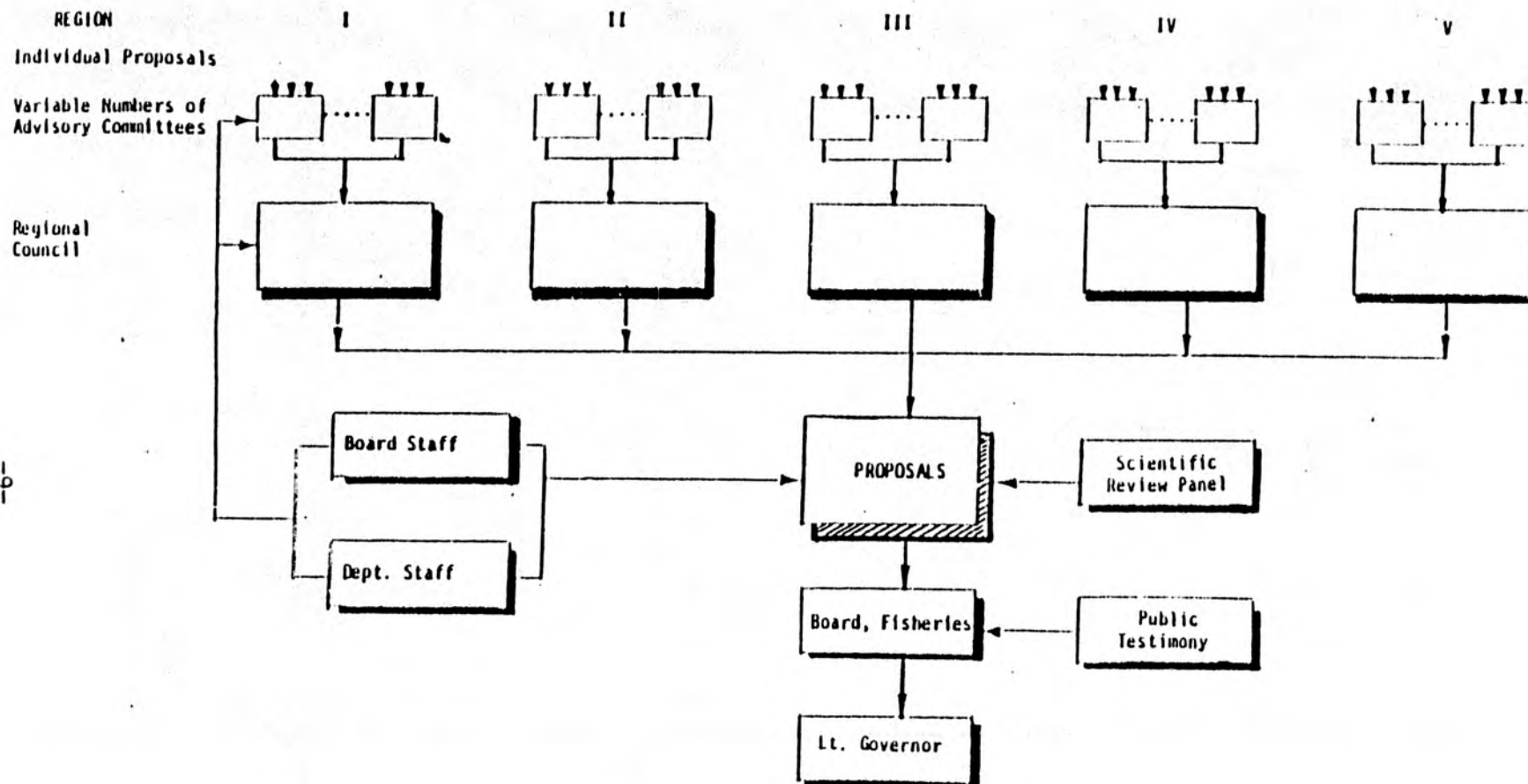
(d) In addition to the biannual cycle for proposals by area, all regulatory proposals should be submitted sufficiently in advance of board meetings to accommodate adequate review according to an established schedule similar to the following:

<u>Finfish</u>		<u>Shellfish</u>
January 1	Department proposed RADs and MPs should be published and distributed	January 1
February 1	deadline for submittal of proposals	May 1
March 1	deadline for publication and distribution of proposals	June 1
March 15	deadline for submittal of written comments relating to proposals, and meetings of Local Advisory Committees to discuss RADs and MPs	June 15
April 15	deadline for written comments on RADs and other proposals	September 15
May 15	meetings of regional councils for debate and comment on proposals	October 15
September 1	regional council meetings to review proposals for which new information has been acquired, with participation by the board and Department staff	November 1
October 1	deadline for submittal of recommendations by the regional councils	February 1
November 1	Board meeting	March 1

3.3 Appointment to the Board:

(a) The governor should appoint persons to the board who concur with and agree to implement state fishery policy. Such persons are expected to be knowledgeable and

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
Flow Chart of Regulatory Process



experienced concerning aquatic renewable resources and their uses in Alaska.

3.4 Structure and Composition of the Board:

(a) After lengthy deliberation the majority view of the committee was that a full-time professional board is not necessary at this time and that the present lay board system should be retained. Other recommendations relating to this decision are as follows:

(b) Board of Fisheries appointments should be salaried, part-time positions within the state employee system.

(c) Appointment to the board should not require divestiture of financial interests in fisheries or fishery-related businesses. Board members, however, should not hold concurrent positions as officers or directors, paid or unpaid, of professional fisheries organizations.

(d) Members of the Board of Fisheries should be required to provide full public disclosure of interests, financial or otherwise, in fisheries related businesses or organizations. The board's current abstention policy should be maintained.

(e) Any member of the Board of Fisheries convicted of a violation of fish and game regulations should be subject to automatic removal. A minority of the committee felt a board member should be removed only for an intentional violation.

3.5 Ex parte Communication:

(a) Members of the Board of Fisheries may not have ex parte communication relating to regulatory proposals during meetings of the Board of Fisheries which they are attending, including periods of recess. Board members have the obligation to inform the public of this prohibition if improperly approached, and to disclose such approaches as soon as the board reconvenes. Failure to do so should be considered grounds for automatic removal of the board member. A minority of the committee felt that automatic removal was too severe.

In recognition of limitations which this places on the board and the public for information exchange, the committee recommends that chairpersons of advisory committees be allowed to participate in deliberation of issues relating to their areas at the discretion of the Board chairperson.

3.6 Documentation:

(a) The Board should provide written documentation which identifies evidence in the

administrative record upon which it relied in arriving at all decisions, along with a summary of reasons for such decisions. This administrative record should also include the voting record of board members on each decision.

3.7 Support Staff

(a) The executive director of the Board of Fisheries should be a partially exempt position, and should be hired and fired by mutual consent of the Board of Fisheries and the Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game.

(b) The board should prepare and submit its own budget to the Governor for staffing and annual expenses.

(c) A professional staff, serving exclusively the board, should be hired and fired by the executive director of the board and should consist of partially exempt positions within the state employee system.

(d) Staff needs of the Board of Fisheries, as determined by its executive director, should be consistent with the recommendations of this report and the statutory duties of the board. The committee recognizes the need for both full and part-time staff to provide biological and socioeconomic advice as required.

(e) In addition to salaried staff, there should be appointed a non-salaried scientific review panel representing socioeconomic as well as biological, statistical and oceanographic areas of expertise. Funding for travel and expenses should be provided as necessary by the Board of Fisheries.

3.8 Criteria and Policy for Allocation:

The board should regulate personal use, subsistence, sport and commercial fisheries for long-term sustained utilization and with sufficient regulatory stability to facilitate efficient management and fair and reasonable utilization of such resources. In this context it is recognized that changes in biological, ecological, social and economic conditions may necessitate corresponding changes in allocation among the various user groups. In order to facilitate rational decisions by the board affecting such allocation, it is recommended that the following policy and criteria be adopted:

Management plans and regulations which allocate fishery resources among personal use, sport and commercial interests should:

- o Be based on the best scientific information available and be calculated to achieve conservation of the resource addressed,
- o Be designed to achieve fair and reasonable opportunities for the taking of fishery resources by user groups identified in the plan or regulation, be based on the best social and economic information available, and be consistent with sustained yield management and subsistence priorities as established by the legislature. Such plans and regulations should take into consideration natural fluctuations in resource standing stock and should be reasonably enforceable.

If the Board of Fisheries determines that it is necessary to restrict opportunities for the taking of fisheries resources, decisions should be based upon the following factors as appropriate to each particular decision:

(a) Ecological considerations, including:

- o The biological stock description of the resource addressed and,
- o Factors affecting the carrying capacity of the region or area for the resource addressed.

(b) Economic impact, including:

- o Losses or benefits which may accrue to relevant user groups,
- o An assessment of the dependency of affected users on the resource for their livelihood,
- o Alternative fishery resources available to affected users, and the cost to the affected user for switching to the alternative resource,
- o The importance of the affected fishery to state, local and regional economies.

(c) Social impact, including:

- o The history of the affected fishery and historic levels of utilization by various user groups,

- o The capacity of the area in terms of physical facilities available to resource users,
- o The importance of the fishery for personal use by local residents,
- o The importance and capacity of the affected fishery for providing recreational opportunities to residents and non-residents.

3.9 Future Actions:

(a) The committee recommends that the governor continue this evaluation process, either through this committee or a new committee. It is particularly important that representatives of Local Advisory Committees, Regional Councils, and the Board of Fisheries be included in such further evaluation in order to better define the role and responsibility of the advisory committees and regional councils in the regulatory process.

(b) Some of the preceding recommendations of the committee will require legislative action. Members of the committee could be available to assist in the drafting and review of such legislative proposals.

4. DISCUSSION

The following discussion relates by topic to recommendations presented earlier in this report.

4.1 Policy:

The committee agreed that a major problem in arriving at either conservation or allocation decisions derives from the fact that the state has no well-defined and comprehensive fisheries policy in place and that resource assessment documents (RADs) and area management plans (MPs) are often deficient or non-existent. The committee strongly recommends that the board, the department, the administration, and the legislature make every effort to develop a coherent statewide fisheries policy as soon as possible in order to provide structure and guidelines for the formulation and submittal of management plans and proposals, and to provide focus and direction to the board.

It is the committee's recommendation that the board be provided with adequate staff, independent of the department, in order to effectively review and summarize for the board relevant information received from the department and other sources, to work with the department in the formulation of RAD's and MP's, and to inform the department as to informational needs of the board. The board should, with the help of its staff and the department, construct over time a record of stock statuses for all major species, and should work with the department to summarize RAD's and MP's on file for use by the board, the advisory committees, and the regional councils. Whenever lacking, the board and the department should cooperate in formulating RAD's and MP's as consistent with the priorities of state fisheries policy, and should establish better sustainable yield estimates, with confidence limits, for major stocks and species whenever possible.

It is also the recommendation of the committee that the board and the department interact closely with each other and with the local advisory committees and regional councils as appropriate for formulation of resource assessment documents (RADs), area management plans (MP's) and regulations. In this regard it is recommended that representatives of the department and the board attend and participate in meetings of advisory committees and regional councils whenever possible and appropriate. The department should also make sure that RAD's and MP's are made available to the board, advisory committees, and regional councils for use in evaluation and deliberation of regulatory proposals.

4.2 Regulatory Process: