

LDIR#047
COOK INLET
KING SALMON
1972

ay Portrays Salmon Plight

ly for the stream before 1960, but indications are that thousands of fish may have spawned in the gravel beds near Anchorage. It is a certainty that thousands of Kings did. With an abundance of fish and seemingly inexhaustible runs, it is of little wonder that the violation of conservation laws was commonplace.

During the rush for defense in World War 2, Anchorage experienced a tremendous population and construction boom. With the completion of the Alcan Highway, thousands of new residents settled in the Territory.

The increased fishing pressure was no more dramatically displayed than on downtown Ship Creek. With increased Commercial fishing and sport fishing, it wasn't long until the resource was damaged. Open seasons with no creel limits, open disdain for conservation laws, and wanton stream robbing, soon reduced the mighty runs to a mere trickle.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, then responsible for the resource recommended that the Sh... protected... Commerc...

recommendation was made in 1957, but not fully implemented until 1960, the year of the first stream count. The closure was in many persons opinion too late. The damage was done.

The first stream count in Ship Creek revealed that a total of eighty King Salmon had returned to spawn, down from countless thousands! Ship Creek, while possibly the hardest hit, was not alone. The fifties saw the greatest years of salmon harvest. Since 1960

returning Kings began, the Department released 166,870 smolt Kings obtained from the Green River in Washington.

During the Spring of 1967, 63,850 smolt of Ship Creek origin were released, along with 474,516 smolt of Green River stock. The fish before being released were fin clipped for identification purposes.

Once released the smolt migrate downstream toward the sea. The King spends one to four years in salt water before returning to spawn.

Wed., June 14, 1972 Daily News

Sport fisherman replies on kings

By W. E. SCHOENEBERG

The Cook Inlet commercial setnetters as the record clearly shows harvest over 98 per cent of all commercially caught king salmon in Cook Inlet and, as the record further shows the Cook Inlet king salmon have been depleted far below the maximum sustained yield.

Setnetters refused to take notice of this critical depletion until the early 1960s after the catch fell off from the peak of 187,000 caught in 1951.

AND WHEN the commercial closure went into effect it was in name only.

Commercial fishermen harvest incidental kings, that are caught in their gear, so in essence they only changed the name of the game. The kings are still going to market, business as usual.

By contrast the sports fishermen didn't have incidental kings that were caught while fishing for species.

IN 1971 commercial set-

Alaska Forum W.E. Schoeneberg

The battle over inlet kings continues today in Alaska Forum.

The guest writer is W.E. Schoeneberg, director of the Izaak Walton League. He is answering a recent Alaska Forum which featured statements by Ray Osborne, secretary of the Cook Inlet Fishermen's Association. Osborne's comments appeared May 31.

Pinks 1961-70 ...	8,394,000
Chum 1961-70 ...	4,363,000
Total	25,957,000
Kings 1961-70	115,000

NOW MR. OSBORNE try dividing 115,000 kings, by the total ten-year catch that is left. That number happens to be 25,957,000.

If I can add that comes out to a 10-year average of .0045 of kings.

only caught 4,797 kings. Now that may not seem like many but when they represent the last of the few remaining kings in the northern district it means an astronomical figure to the rest of the sportsmen and other interested people of Alaska.

Forty-six commercial fishermen in the northern district persist in killing off a serious depleted brood stock, and the



EXTINCTION PERHAP

identified angler displays a 20

Fish, Game Decision Tomorrow

By DENNIS COWALS
Times Staff Writer

The chairman of Alaska's 10-man board of fish and game today told the Times he expects to reach a decision sometime tomorrow on the controversial questions posed this week in two days of hearing by Cook Inlet's commercial and sportsfishermen who have both laid claim to dwindling stocks of king salmon.

"By late Wednesday I think we should have it all finished up," board chairman Oscar Dyson of Kodiak said.

Nearly 40 people, commercial and sportsfishermen, have offered their views to the board since the hearings began yesterday.

Alaska's commissioner of fish and game, James W. Brooks, who, for two days has sat back and listened as an impartial observer, declined to predict the shape of the regulations that will govern both fisheries, but said he believed, "The board will want to see the quickest possible restoration of these depleted stocks."

He doubted that the board would completely ban the taking of king salmon and instead suggested that some "token utilization" is necessary.

Cook Inlet's commercial fishermen yesterday cast their nets over the board's defending their profession as an alternative to welfare and suggesting that the inlet may hold enough king salmon for them and sportsfishermen both.

"We are always blaming the sportsfishermen and they are always blaming us," said Mrs. Lottie Edelman, secretary-treasurer of the Kenai Peninsula's Fisherman's Association, and herself a setnetter for 38 of her 56 years along with her husband and two children. Like other commercial fishermen who

Ask Delay On Fishing Of Salmon

By DENNIS COWALS
Times Staff Writer

Like sharks circling a wounded whale, Anchorage sportsfishermen today closed in on the Alaska Fish and Game Board and chewed away at its proposal to open next year's Cook Inlet king salmon season on June 25.

Leading the sportsmen's groups that want the season opened on July 1 for a period of 10 years in order to revitalize the inlet's dwindling king salmon resources was Sam McDowell, director of the local Izaak Walton League chapter. McDowell said, "We feel that there should be at least a 10-year moratorium to rebuild the runs."

McDowell told the 10-member panel, eight of whom are commercial fishermen of one species or another, that \$250,000 spent on stream rehabilitation since 1966 has been wasted because of overfishing by commercial groups in the inlet.

The league's Anchorage president, William Schoenberg, charged that commercial fishermen have, since 1946, overexploited Upper Cook Inlet's salmon resources and further said the "king salmon fishery has been

(See Page 4, Col. 3)

Sportsmen Ask Fish Board For Opening Date Of July 1

(Continued From Page 1)

totally destroyed by Cook Inlet setnetters to the point of near extinction."

Schoenberg said catch statistics compiled by Department of Fish and Game biologists since World War II have proven that the inlet's king salmon population has declined dangerously. Between 1946 and 1955, Schoenberg said, commercial fishermen in the inlet's northern district averaged more than 100,000 king salmon a year. That average fell to a little more than 26,000 during the period covering the next 10 years. And, from 1966 to 1970, the average annual king salmon catch declined still further, he said, to 8,000 fish.

In 1972, Schoenberg said, 731 inlet setnetters gleaned more than 98 per cent of the catch, and took 19,762 king salmon. By comparison, Schoenberg pointed out that 23,900 area sportsfishermen took only 1,264 fish.

McDowell said the league tried, without success, to have the board approve later opening dates in 1970 and in 1971. "In 1970," he said, "we had 1,400 kings that escaped into Ship Creek." But with the continuation of early commercial season openings, McDowell said, "the escapement dropped from 1,700 to 200." Only a handful of salmon appeared this year, he said.

Pointing out that the inlet yielded 187,012 king salmon to commercial netmen in 1951 and only 19,762 last year

McDowell denied commercial fishermen's allegations that sportsfishermen were to blame for the inlet's declining king salmon populations.

Moving the season opening from June 25 — the board's proposed opening date — to July 1 for a period of at least 10 years would allow biologists to rebuild the king salmon runs. The seven-day delay won't hurt commercial fishermen, McDowell said, because the large runs of red salmon — the mainstay of the inlet fishery —

don't come until late July. On July 21 this year, McDowell said, commercial fishermen took more than 355,000 red salmon.

"If we close the commercial fishery down until July 1, they'll still get 95 per cent of the fish," McDowell said.

The hearings, moved to Anchorage from Kodiak as a result of pressure from sportsmen's groups concerning the inlet king salmon question, will resume tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. in Carpenter's Hall.

While sportsfishermen blamed the board's predilection toward early salmon openings and commercial fishermen for the decline in king stocks, at least one commercial fisherman found something else to fault.

Martin West, a part-time fisherman and construction worker, said, beluga whales are to blame. "For every salmon that's poached, the belugas are eating thousands. The Department of Fish and Game, instead of guarding the streams, should be chasing the belugas away," West said.

Mitchell said the men were in good spirits that morning. She also testified that she heard Jonz call for flight weather, and that he told her "it isn't good." She said Jonz planned to fly "straight to Juneau" and then head back to Fairbanks, his home.

Albert Cominsky, a national weather service meteorologist, told the jury weather along the route from Anchorage was "poor." He detailed conditions along the path, citing temperatures and sea conditions for the jury.

After the hearing recessed, Tyner said she expects testimony to conclude shortly after court convenes at 9 a.m. today. After that, the jury will retire to reach a verdict in the case. That action, while uncertain, is expected to come sometime today.

Pegge Begich, children returning here Saturday

Mrs. Nick Begich, who will seek the Democratic nomination for her husband's U.S. House seat if the missing congressman is declared dead, will return to Alaska with her six children Saturday.

Pegge Begich said Monday she will remain in the state to campaign until

then return to school in McLean, Va.

Mrs. Begich said she would travel around the state to visit friends and gain support for the nomination.

Meanwhile, other announced candidates remained on the sidelines while a presumptive death hearing was in progress for Begich and two others missing on a plane trip from Anchorage to Juneau Oct. 16.

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon Monday disclosed he will seek extension of wage-price controls beyond their April 30 expiration date and will freeze new hiring and promotions as well as pay increases for executives in the federal government.

Treasury Secretary George P. Shultz made known the long-awaited presidential decision on continuation of the wage-price control system now slightly more than a year old. But the secretary said consultations will begin immediately to determine how the control system will be changed.

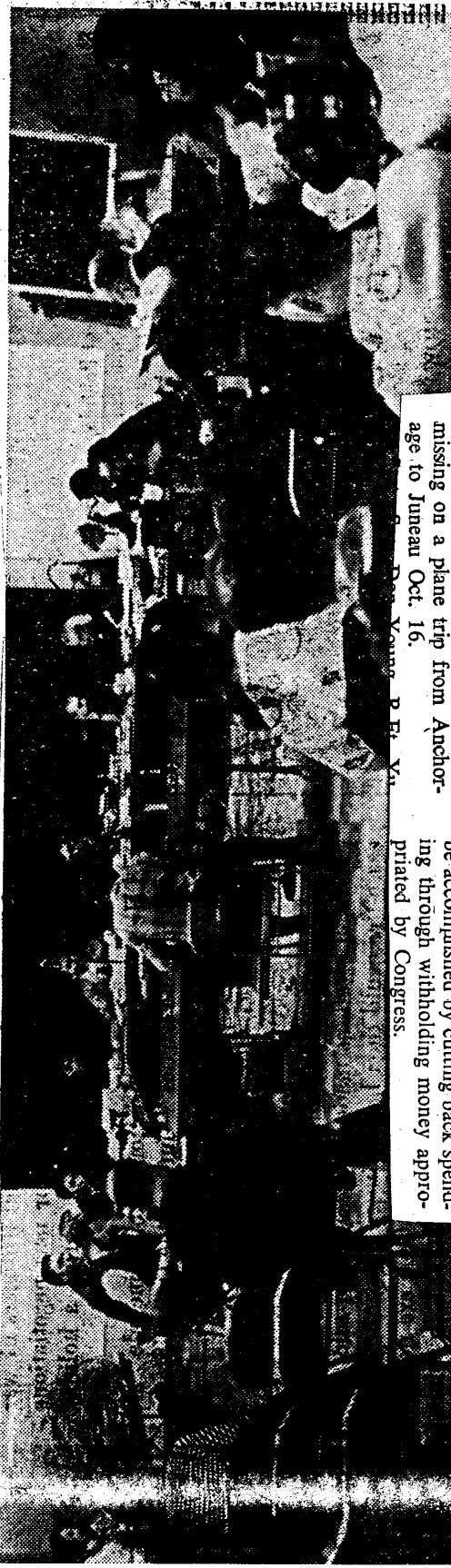
THE SERIES of consultations will be held with people from labor, management, Congress and the agencies which control wages and prices from day to day, Shultz told reporters at the White House.

Nixon has also decided that he can, and is determined to, hold federal spending in the current fiscal year to \$250 billion, Shultz said. This would be accomplished by cutting back spending through withholding money appropriated by Congress.

nied by very substantial cuts in White House staff.

Shultz said the freeze on p ceases for federal executives a not only to the executive branch to Congress and to the federal judiciary as well. He said it would last through 1973.

The freeze on executive pay made possible because Congress made a commission to study the freeze. Shultz said the President has asked the commission to make a report by 30 of next year and any salary increases would be contained in the



Inlet salmon are protected

By RUTH EDMONDSON

Daily News Special Correspondent

In a decision they "hated very much," the Alaska Board of Fish and Game decided in favor of two controversial proposals Tuesday in order to protect depleted stocks of king salmon in Cook Inlet.

Despite protests from commercial fishermen, the 10-man jury voted to close Cook Inlet to commercial fishing north of the Forelands until July 1 this season. The Central District will open June 25.

DESPITE PROTESTS from freshwater anglers, the board voted to adopt sport fishing proposal No. 35: All freshwater drainages north of the Forelands are closed to king salmon fishing.

King fishing in streams will be permitted on the Kenai Peninsula south of the Forelands area, including Kasilof River, Kenai River and Deep Creek.

Commissioner of Fish and Game, James W. Brooks, explained that the board decision was based entirely on the depletion of king salmon stocks. "Everyone has to sacrifice a little," he said. However, Brooks said he anticipated a rather dramatic increase in the number of king salmon caught by sports fishermen. The increase would be due to a recent discovery and appreciation of the sporting challenge to salt-water fishing for kings on the Peninsula.

THE MOVE to restrict fishing on Cook Inlet king salmon came within hours after the close of a two-day public hearing in Anchorage. Sports and commercial fishing interests testified — some 45 people — and staff biologists and management people spoke for a half day before the board's decision.

Brooks said, "The board hated very much to make these moves, but they are faced with the charge of restoring the

salmon runs." The head of the Department of Fish and Game said that king salmon in Cook Inlet were showing classic signs of resource depletion, such as low escapement and small catch.

The tough stance shown by the board will be tested again when a special meeting is scheduled in Anchorage to consider changes in the Bristol Bay fishing regulations. Slated for mid-January, this public hearing is expected to repeat some of the same fisheries stew served up in Cook Inlet.

ACCORDING TO Brooks, the Bristol Bay drainages next year are expected to get the smallest return ever of salmon in the history of catch records.

One delegate from Bristol Bay spoke about local fisheries problems. Dean Paddock, a former biologist for the Dept. of Fish and Game, said, "What you are faced with in Cook Inlet is what we will be faced with in Bristol Bay. Our runs are declining also. There is a possibility that the decline in Cook Inlet is not related to abuses by either commercial or sports fishermen."

Paddock, a fishing guide and representative of the Bristol Bay Native Association, said that high seas fishing by the Japanese took 700,000 kings and silvers from the Bering Sea last year. Whether the home stream of these fish was Cook Inlet, Bristol Bay or some other Alaska area was unknown, Paddock said.

Scientific data is needed to back up Alaska claims to Alaska fish, Paddock said. "There's been no tagging, and we know very, very little about high routes of the king salmon." Unless some urgency was expressed by sport and commercial fishermen, he predicted "The fish will be gone by the time we get around to basic research. I would like some sports fishing effort to get high seas fishing stopped."

Later King Salmon Season Will Empty Every's Nets

Ivan Every has watched the late spring runs of Cook Inlet king salmon swim past his nets for six years.

With the help of his children, he runs his set nets out into the inlet during the legal Monday and Friday fishing periods of 12 hours at a time.

The adoption of new king salmon regulations by the Alaska Board of Fish and Game will probably limit his take to a handful of king salmon. Testifying before the 10-man board which yesterday set a June 25 opening date for the season in Every's central district, he said the most king salmon he ever caught after June 20 numbered seven in any one of his six seasons as a Kenai Peninsula commercial fisherman.

Fishing, he says, "is just a seasonal deal, that's it."

Every, a 42-year-old homesteader came to Alaska 16 years ago, says he went into the fishing business even though he decided "it wasn't much good."

He says, "I bought out three separate fish families but I cut the gear in half. Instead of fishing 18 nets, I fish nine."

Every says, "I thought where three families couldn't make it, maybe one could."

Making it, in seasons that run from June through October, consists of earning \$4,000 or \$5,000 a year from fishing. The bulk of his catch is red salmon, Every says, which bring about \$2 a piece. King salmon, four times as heavy as reds or the still smaller pinks, are worth about \$15 each.

During the season, five of his six children help tend his nets. The situation is typical of many other set netters, and Every thinks that state statistics counting 731 set netters could actually be cut in half when children, who must hold licenses if they handle the

thumb," Every says. "If I didn't have my family to help, I wouldn't have made it."

Like some fishermen, Every blames beluga whales for at least part of the decline in the King Salmon stocks. Autopsies of the white whales which are frequently seen in the inlet have shown their stomachs to sometimes contain as many as a thousand young salmon.

"There are a lot more whales now than there used to be," he says. "Nobody's shooting them anymore. As our economy gets better, the natives aren't utilizing the whales. Nobody's shooting at them and nobody's using them. They're eating fish."

Like other fishermen, Every has to find other work during the winter season. He works in the waste treatment plant at what was formerly Wildwood Air Force Station, but the base has since been taken over by native groups for use as a job training center.

"I'd rather fish if I could," he says, "but I can't."

The late start of the salmon season — Every and others wanted to begin June 8, but the board set June 25 as the date — will mean that virtually all the king salmon bound for the Susitna River system's spawning grounds will have swum past Every's nets, and those of other set netters again.

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS CONCERNING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AMONG PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Notice is hereby given that the State Personnel Board and the Department of Labor, acting as the State Labor Relations Agency, have adopted the below summarized regulations, pursuant to AS 44.62.250, as emergency regulations in Title 2 of the Alaska Administrative Code to Implement AS 23.40.070 - AS 23.40.260. 2AAC 10.010 - 2AAC 10.220 were the subject of public hearings in Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks and written public comments were sought until October 11. The emergency regulations are effective as of October 24. Copies of the full text of the proposed regulations can be obtained by writing the Director of Personnel, Division of Personnel, Department of Administration, Pouch C, Juneau, Alaska or the Commissioner of Labor, Department of Labor, Box 1149, Juneau, Alaska or by personally picking up copies at the Anchorage Field Office of the Division of Personnel, 121 W. 4th Avenue, Anchorage or at the Division of Personnel Trailer 2, 803 W. 8th St., Juneau. The topics covered by the emergency regulations are as follows:

Article 1. Certification

- 2AAC 10.010. Place of filing of documents. Provides that documents shall be submitted to the Director of Personnel for state employees and to the Commissioner of Personnel for state employees and to the Commissioner of Labor for non-state employees and that documents submitted before the effective date of these regulations shall not be considered.
- 2AAC 10.020. Petition for certification of public employee representative. Sets forth the information required in a certification petition and the showing of interest necessary.
- 2AAC 10.030. Petition for decertification of public employee representative. Sets forth the information required in a decertification petition and the showing of interest necessary.
- 2AAC 10.040. Petition for certification by public employer. Sets forth information required in a public employer petition.
- 2AAC 10.050. Petition for clarification of unit or amendment of certification. Sets forth information requirements for clarification or amendment petition.
- 2AAC 10.060. Investigation of petition. Provides for initial investigation of petition by labor relations agency.
- 2AAC 10.070. Posting notice of petition. Requires petition to be posted in work areas and sets 15 day limit for objections or interventions.
- 2AAC 10.080. Intervention. Requires 10 per cent showing of interest for intervention.
- 2AAC 10.090. Hearing. Provides for hearing on representation issue including appropriateness of the bargaining unit.
- 2AAC 10.100. Conduct of hearing. Provides hearing is investigatory, who may appear, and sets standard of evidence.
- 2AAC 10.110. General criteria for bargaining units. Provides certain classes of persons may not be in the same bargaining unit.
- 2AAC 10.120. Consent elections. Provides interested parties may waive hearings and agree upon a consent election.
- 2AAC 10.130. Recognition by mutual consent. Provides employer and employee organization may under certain conditions agree to a recognition of the employee organization.
- 2AAC 10.140. Notice of hearing. Provides for 10 day notice of hearing to interested parties.
- 2AAC 10.150. Voting eligibility and voting roster. Provides only permanent and probationary employees are eligible to vote.
- 2AAC 10.160. Election procedures. Provides for challenge system.
- 2AAC 10.180. Objections concerning election. Provides for objections within five days of tally of ballots and for hearing of objections.
- 2AAC 10.190. Certification of election results. Self-explanatory.
- 2AAC 10.200 Runoff election. Provides for runoff where no selection on ballot receives majority of the votes cast.
- 2AAC 10.210. Organizational activities. Provides for operating only on free time of employees and on premises given to employer.
- 2AAC 10.220. Definitions. Defines terms "appointed official, confidential employee, permanent and probationary employee and supervisor."

Western Aleutian Islands king crab area: an area, excluding waters of Alaska, bounded by a line beginning at 50 degrees 45' N. lat., 179 degrees 15' W. long.; then westerly to a point at 52 degrees N. lat., 172 degrees E. long.; then north to a point at 53 degrees 30' N. lat., 172 degrees E long.; then east to a point at 53 degrees N. lat., 179 degrees 15' W. long.; then south to the point of beginning at 50 degrees 45' N. lat., 179 degrees 15' W. long.; the following regulations apply in this high seas area: secs. 710(a)(3), 710(b)(2), 710(d), 710(e), 730(a), 730(b), 730(d), 750, and 792 of this chapter and 5 AAC 39.105(a), 5 AAC 39.105(d)(10), 5 AAC 39.105(d)(11), 5 AAC 105(d)(16), 5 AAC 39.110(a), 5 AAC 39.110(b), 5 AAC 39.120(a), 5 AAC 39.120(c), 5 AAC 39.120(d)(2), 5 AAC 39.120(d)(3), 5 AAC 39.120(d)(4), 5 AAC 39.120(e), 5 AAC 39.150, 5 AAC 39.195, 5 AAC 39.620(b), 5 AAC 39.620(c), 5 AAC 39.620(e), 5 AAC 39.620(g), 5 AAC 39.625(a)(2), 5 AAC 39.625(a)(3), 5 AAC 39.625(b), 5 AAC 39.630, 5 AAC 39.635, 5 AAC 39.634 1/2, 5 AAC 39.975, 5 AAC 39.997. Authority: AS 16.10.190

PART II

The Board of Fish and Game will adopt, amend or repeal, or take no action, on the proposed changes in regulations as listed in the following informative summary:

- 1. IN THE ARCTIC-YUKON-KUSKOKWIM AREA:
 - (a) open the commercial salmon fishing season in subdistrict 4 of the Kuskokwim district two periods after the opening in subdistrict 1;
 - (b) decrease the weekly fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound district;
 - (c) provide that after July 31, the weekly fishing periods during the commercial salmon fishing season in sub-district 1 of the Kuskokwim district shall be opened and closed by emergency order;
 - (d) prohibit the operation of more than one fishwheel at any given time by each licensee during the commercial salmon season in the Yukon district and prohibit fishwheels for commercial salmon fishing in subdistricts 1, 4 and 5 of the Kuskokwim district;
 - (e) eliminate salmon gill net mesh size restrictions prior to June 25 in subdistrict 1 and prior to June 28 in subdistrict 2 of the Yukon district and prior to June 26 in subdistrict 1 of the Kuskokwim district; permit the use of gill nets of any mesh size during the open salmon season in subdistricts 4 and 5 of the Kuskokwim district;
 - (f) prohibit the obstruction by salmon gill nets of more than one-half the width of any waterway;
 - (g) close to commercial salmon fishing waters outside of one nautical mile from the mouth of Black River in the Yukon district;
 - (h) redefine the boundary of waters closed to salmon fishing at Napakiak;
 - (i) clarify the application of subsistence fishing permits for whitefish and suckers;
 - (j) prohibit subsistence fishing during commercial salmon fishing closed periods in subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound district;
 - (k) to the listed drainages of the Tanana River, add Hess Cr., Bay River and Dall River and close these drainages and within 500 yards of their confluences with the Tanana River to all subsistence fishing except for whitefish and suckers which may be taken by permit;
 - (l) relax subsistence fishing time restrictions in subdistrict 1 and above Napakiak in the Kuskokwim district.
- 2. IN THE BRISTOL BAY AREA:
 - (a) redefine the boundaries of the Igushik and Snake River sections of the Nushagak district, and the Kivchak and Naknek sections of the Naknek-Kivchak district, and the Naknek-Kivchak district;
 - (b) close the Ugashik district to salmon fishing during the period June 23 through July 17;
 - (c) repeal salmon gill net mesh size restrictions;
 - (d) establish a maximum aggregate of salmon gear by district and provide for apportioning that gear among the number of salmon fishing registrants and provide that individual salmon gear quotas may be pooled;
 - (e) redefine the waters closed to salmon fishing in the Nushagak district;
 - (f) redefine the waters closed to salmon fishing in the Igushik section of the Nushagak district.
- 3. IN THE BERING SEA SHELLFISH AREA:
 - (a) establish open seasons for clams, scallops and shrimp;
 - (b) specify the allowable number and

- the seasons and close specified areas to shrimp trawling;
- (o) establish a year-around season for shrimp fishing with beam trawls with a 2 inch mesh size and beam less than 40 feet;
- (p) increase the area open to scallop fishing from July 15 through March 31;
- (q) provide that dungeness crab pots, buoys or floats be identified by the department registration number of the vessel fishing the gear;
- (r) delete shrimp quotas and quota periods;
- (s) provide for two major shrimp fishing districts with quotas and quota periods and provide for quota carry over;
- (t) impose additional restrictions when salmon may be taken for subsistence purposes;
- (u) delete the provision that unfilled shrimp quotas carry over into the following quarter.

4. IN THE COOK INLET AREA:

- (a) divide Cook Inlet into two salmon management areas;
- (b) enlarge the Northern district;
- (c) change the opening and closing dates for salmon fishing in the Northern, Central and Southern districts;
- (d) open the salmon fishing season in the Eastern district by emergency order or open the season earlier;
- (e) adjust the dates of the weekly salmon fishing periods in the Northern and Central districts;
- (f) enlarge the weekly salmon fishing periods in the Northern and Central districts;
- (g) increase the weekly salmon fishing periods for gill nets in Chinikna Bay;
- (h) provide that the salmon fishing periods after August 1 in the Central district are adjusted by the number of fish tickets received daily;
- (i) reduce the area open to salmon beach seining and drift gillnetting in Chinikna Bay;
- (j) clarify when salmon drift gill nets may be used in the Eastern district;
- (k) prohibit the operation of mobile salmon gear within a specified distance of set gill nets or set gill net beaches;
- (l) adjusting the date for seven-inch mesh size of salmon set gill nets;
- (m) decrease the maximum permissible length of salmon drift gill nets operated by each licensee;
- (n) increase the number of licensees who may operate a set gill net;
- (o) restrict the operation of offshore set gill nets and in the Central district prohibit drift gill netting within one mile from mean low water;
- (p) provide a manner of identifying the operator of a salmon drift gill net and specify the location of set gill net markers;
- (q) increase the minimum operating distance between salmon set gill nets;
- (r) specify the manner of display of salmon drift gill net vessel identification numbers;
- (s) establish waters closed to salmon fishing in Chinikna Bay and in Mud Bay;
- (t) provide that all salmon stream termini other than those listed under CLOSED WATERS be posted;
- (u) define a high seas area adjacent to king crab registration area H and specify that the regulations pertaining to king crab, tanner, crab, shrimp and scallops which are in effect in the territorial waters of king crab registration area H are also applicable within the defined adjacent high seas area;
- (v) reduce the seasons for tanner crab fishing and shrimp fishing with trawls;
- (w) establish an area closed to shrimp fishing with trawls northwest of a line from Coal Point to the northeast tip of Glacier Spit;
- (x) establish an area closed to tanner crab, dungeness crab and shrimp fishing in Kachemak Bay;
- (y) change the quotas and quota periods for shrimp;
- (z) adjust the opening dates for subsistence salmon fishing in the Northern, Central and Southern districts;
- (aa) increase the minimum mesh size for subsistence smelt gill nets.

5. IN THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA:

- (a) adjust the opening of the salmon fishing seasons in the Bering River, Eshamy, Coghill and Unakwik districts;
- (b) open a portion of Port Wells in June;
- (c) establish a salmon fishing season in the Montague district and other districts as otherwise specified;
- (d) provide for the weekly salmon fishing period in the Copper River and Bering River districts open at a later time of day after September 1;
- (e) delete references to set gill net spec-

- and weekly fishing periods on M
 - (x) increase the salmon gill net section 15C;
 - (y) establish a new salmon fishing season in proposed section 15D 15;
 - (z) prohibit set gill net salmon
 - (aa) permit salmon gill net depths and mesh sizes according to dates in the districts open to gill net fishing;
 - (ab) permit salmon gill nets tried aboard the vessel on the trolling for salmon;
 - (bb) adjust the salmon gill net depths and mesh sizes according to dates in the districts open to gill net fishing;
 - (cc) repeal set gill net specific operation;
 - (dd) provide that salmon drift be marked by a flag on the outer a large float every 500 feet on line;
 - (ee) repeal the regulation concerning the minimum distance between gill nets;
 - (ff) establish a minimum distance between salmon seine boats while the seine;
 - (gg) provide that emergency ordinations or reductions of waters closed to salmon fishing do not apply to trolling;
 - (hh) change the boundaries of waters closed to salmon fishing to Tomb Bay, Paul Bight and McKenzie Inlet, Nossuk Bay, Wrangell Nar, Red Bluff Bay, Eliza Harbor, Port den, Pybus Bay, Spasski Bay, and shore Creek;
 - (ii) establish waters closed to salmon fishing in Clover Pass;
 - (jj) prohibit the use of purse seine all bays in northern Southeastern Alaska;
 - (kk) prohibit salmon net fishing 3 to 5 miles of small communities;
 - (ll) set aside 3 miles for a old pic from the Ketchikan, Myers Chuck v from three islands to the north of Misery Island;
 - (mm) repeal the minimum legal size of king salmon;
 - (nn) amend the sablefish fishing season and establish quotas for sablefish;
 - (oo) permit the retention of salmon taken incidentally while halibut fishing with long lines;
 - (pp) provide that herring quotas established by emergency regulation repeal existing quotas;
 - (qq) establish a herring gill net fishery in Gambler Bay, in Port Houghton, Pybus Bay, in Hood Bay, in Tenaklet and in Idaho Inlet;
 - (rr) amend or establish herring gill net fishing in districts 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 or portions of these districts;
 - (ss) provide for a bait and sac roe harvest in district 3;
 - (tt) extend the registration date for harvest of herring spawn on Macrobrachium;
 - (uu) provide that herring spawn may be artificially deposited on a substrate when the herring used for this purpose is from a quota district and would count against quota available;
 - (vv) establish waters closed to salmon fishing in district 1 and provide for a closed season;
 - (ww) prohibit the use of nylon gill net for taking salmon for subsistence purposes.
- ### 12. AQUATIC PLANTS
- (a) specify that aquatic plants may be transplanted.
- ### 13. IN THE GENERAL PROVISIONS
- (a) change the registration area requirements for salmon net fishing;
 - (b) establish a registration area for shrimp fishing west of Cape Kumli provide registration, licensing, operation transfer and late registration operations;
 - (c) provide that set net skiffs may one legal limit of gear for each listed on the vessel license;
 - (d) provide that commercial trolling vessels use gear permanently attached to the vessel;
 - (e) add the Bering Sea Shellfish to the areas where clam gear may be operated;
 - (f) provide that razor clams may be taken for bait purposes in any area means;
 - (g) restrict the area where tanner crab pots may be stored during closed crab seasons and specify pot storage requirements;
 - (h) provide that the weekly salmon fishing period in the Copper River and Bering River districts open at a later time prior to the opening of the king salmon;
 - (i) establish a minimum legal size

Alaska salmon pack 2nd lowest of century

Final statistics on the 1972 Alaska salmon pack show a total of 1.72 million cases packed, the second lowest harvest since the turn of the century.

Only 550,839 cases of red salmon, the "pay-day" fish, were packed and less than half these fish were netted in Bristol Bay. The bulk of the sockeyes came from other regions such as Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet with the inlet racking up 101,000 cases.

BUT THE red pack is somewhat misleading in that a trend to freeze processing has developed and 2.5 million pounds were processed in this fashion. That is roughly equivalent to 35,000 cases of 48 one-pound cans.

The red salmon pack is reportedly the third lowest in this century. But it may be somewhat encouraging that the Southcentral Alaska harvest was higher, possibly indicating success in Department of Fish and Game efforts to restore a waning fishery.

Reflecting the poor catch are rising wholesale prices at warehouses in Seattle.

Recent quotations are \$57 for a 48-pound case of reds and \$44.50 a case for pink salmon. Brokers are reporting a reluctance of packers to sell in the hope that prices will go even higher.

The high salmon prices combined with leaping costs of such fish as halibut and tuna are helping pull up the prices of bottom fish, a largely unexploited Alaska resource because of the low market value.

Investigation Will Determine Best Use Of Inlet King Salmon

OCT 12 1972

By GORDON FOWLER
Times Sports Writer

November 9th and 10th will be "red-letter" days as far as Cook Inlet king salmon are concerned as for the first time in Alaskan history a special Senate investigation committee will be in Anchorage to review facts and hear testimony to determine exactly what is the highest and best use of the Cook Inlet king salmon.

"Battle-lines" are currently being drawn up in anticipation of the confrontation between commercial and sportfishing interests as the longtime struggle between king salmon users in Cook Inlet appears headed for what may be a conclusive showdown.

Hayden Kaden, Juneau, will head the special Senate investigating committee which after much controversy and witnessing a rapid decline in recent years of Cook Inlet king salmon runs agreed to hold this special investigation following two-years of exhaustive evaluation by the Anchorage Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America representing thousands of Alaskan sportfishermen.

The November hearings will be open to the public and pro-commercial voices are expected to be out in force trying to prolong the complete closure of Cook Inlet salmon set-netting which sportfishermen claim is responsible for the disgraceful depletion of the runs.

Sportfishermen are banning together and the investigation started by the Anchorage Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America has snowballed into the first real "unified" effort in Cook Inlet history to stop what the Izaak Walton League has called, "The disgusting commercial depletion of one of the world's greatest sportfisheries—the Cook Inlet king salmon."

The November

investigating committee from Juneau has been delegated the responsibility to hear testimony and review all facts and figures regarding the Cook Inlet king salmon and arrive at what is the highest and best use for the fish. Their recommendations are then to be presented to the Senate for a final determination of laws to be passed regarding the future use of Cook Inlet king salmon.

The Anchorage Chapter of the Izaak Walton League has stressed the belief that the budding Cook Inlet salt water king salmon sportfishery will blossom into a world renowned sport fishery worth millions of dollars to the economy of the state and accomplish the goals that Governor Egan outlined for the tourist industry after his 1971 trip to Japan.

At that time the Governor was quoted as saying the tourist industry in Alaska will be developed into one of Alaska's most valuable industries and records clearly show that 42 per cent of all

tourists that visit Alaska do so to participate in sportfisheries.

Izaak Walton League Director, Sam McDowell, states, "This deplorable commercial depletion must be halted at once or wind up costing the state millions of dollars in lost revenue and eventually lead to total and final destruction of already badly depleted king salmon runs."

According to McDowell, the two early opening commercial dates which were allowed in Cook Inlet in 1971-72, clearly shows that commercial depletion is going to totally destroy Cook Inlet king salmon runs in their entirety unless halted before the scheduled June '73 opening.

"In reviewing escapement and catch figures in recent years, one cannot deny that the early openings served as nothing more than another devastating blow to already struggling king salmon runs," McDowell says.

Records show that in 1971, a total of 23,277 king salmon pun-

ch cards were issued to anglers and that figure was somewhere around 25,000 in 1972 indicating the rapid growth in popularity of Cook Inlet king salmon by sportfishermen. The Izaak Walton League has projected a sportfishery second to none and equal to the fabulous bill fishing south of the border if Cook Inlet king salmon is managed as a sportfishery instead of commercially.

Board Delays Salmon Takes

By DENNIS COWALS
Times Staff Writer

The Alaska Board of Fish and Game late yesterday cast a regulatory plague on the houses of Cook Inlet's commercial and sportsfishermen both, hoping that the cure — effectively a ban on king salmon fishing north of the forelands — will be less distasteful than the disease, namely a sharp decline in king salmon stocks that some argue point the way to possible local extinction.

Closed next year to sport fishing are all freshwater king salmon streams north of the forelands, the points of land 60 miles southwest of Anchorage that pinch the waist of the inlet into alopsided coke-bottle shape. But at the same time, the 10-man board voted to delay the opening of the northern inlet's salt water commercial fishery until July 1. And by that date, fish and game biologists calculate, 83 per cent of the inlet's king salmon have reached safety of spawning streams.

Board chairman Oscar Dyson of Kodiak, a 58-year-old commercial crab and shrimp fisherman who got his start in 1946 as a Cook Inlet king salmon fisherman, said, "The board felt it must take meaningful action and these were the proposals they thought were best."

But rebuilding the king salmon runs which yielded more than 100,000 fish annually to commercial fishermen in the early 1950s and have since fallen off to 8,000 a year will take time, Dyson said. "You would almost think that you would have to have a couple of cycles to show whether we're doing a job or not," he said. A couple of cycles for Cook Inlet's king salmon, which run in five-year periods, could mean a 10-year interruption or complete ban

of Fish and Game, James Brooks, doubts whether fishermen will be told to keep their hooks and nets dry that long. "Most of our biologists believe a significant improvement would be detected before that time," he said. But Brooks said, "There is still a serious question whether the stocks could be restored to their very high levels of productivity."

Dyson whose experience on the fish and game board dates back to statehood days and continuous appointments under the Democratic administrations of Gov. William Egan thinks the inlet's northern king salmon runs may need more help than the board can give it. "Sometimes, when a fishery gets down so low, it needs man-made help," Dyson said. "It may need added help such as a hatchery," he said.

Sportsmen, unhappy that the board declined to allow them even 500 king salmon from the spawning streams of the heavily fished Susitna River drainage, will still be allowed to fish for kings south of Kenai in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers and in Deep Creek.

Sam McDowell, a spokesman for the Izaak Walton League, said he considered the board's rulings "fair" to both sides.

He predicted that sportsmen will begin turning to salt water when they go after kings. This year, more than 2,200 were caught off the Kenai Peninsula while only 1,200 were taken with hook and line from northern streams that will now be closed.

Commissioner Brooks takes a "wait and see" attitude so far as future regulations on the inlet's king salmon. The fish will be given a chance to