



Fish News

March 20, 2015

Actions of interest - Alaska Board of Fisheries Statewide Meeting - March 17 - 20, 2015 in Anchorage

By Ernie Weiss, AEB Natural Resources Director

Below, in the order they were addressed, are several proposals from the recent Statewide Shellfish Board of Fisheries meeting, of interest to Aleutians East Borough local fishermen.

Proposals 263, 264 - Would have modified the length of drift and set gillnets.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

- These proposals were among several proposals on which the Board decided to take no action, that were submitted out of cycle or otherwise did not meet the call.

Proposal 277 - Board generated proposal to consider optimum escapement goals for Bristol Bay sockeye salmon. Substitute Language found in [RC 32](#).

CARRIED 6-0.

- Bristol Bay escapement goals are adjusted seasonally based on first hit of sockeye at Unimak, then based on the Port Moller Test fishery.



The Alaska Board of Fisheries took up several proposals of interest to Aleutians East Borough local fishermen at the recent Statewide Shellfish meeting in Anchorage March 17 - 20, 2015.

Proposal 236 - To establish an earlier season closure for the Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, and Aleutian districts' commercial Dungeness crab fisheries, was amended from a closure date of Nov 1 to Oct 31.

CARRIED 6-0.

- This proposal changed the closure date from Dec 30 to Oct 31 to prevent lost gear and 'ghost fishing'; the season still opens May 1.

Proposal 268 – Reduce the size of exploitable legal male Tanner crab from 5.5 to 5.0 inches carapace width in the Bering Sea bairdi Tanner crab harvest strategy for the purpose of calculating total allowable catch in waters east of 166° W long. in the Bering Sea District.

CARRIED 6-0.

- Harvesters are already allowed to take crab as small as 4.8 inches; knowing the harvest strategy allows managers to better estimate the biomass and accurately set the TAC.

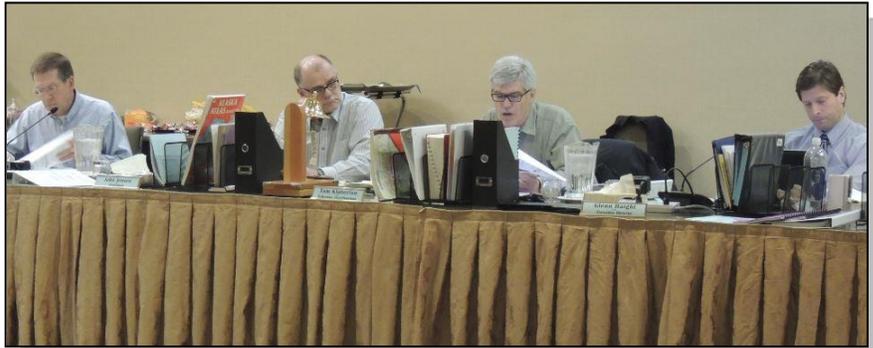
Proposal 276 - Redefine the method used to determine maximum overall length of salmon purse seine vessels. Substitute language to define an 'anchor roller' found in [RC 64](#), amended to take effect April 15, 2017.

CARRIED 4-2.

- Opponents of this proposal estimate many AEB '58 foot' vessels will require extensive work to retrofit & come into compliance.

Proposal 44 from the 2013-2014 meeting cycle – To create state-waters walleye pollock management plans for Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas.

NO ACTION TAKEN.



A full meeting summary will be posted on the Board of Fisheries March 17 – 20, 2015 meeting page within two weeks.

- Commissioner's permits continue to be available for experimental pollock seine fishing.
- Final report from the pollock workgroup to be posted on the Board website soon.
- Board will announce a new call for proposals specific to pollock, to be considered at the March 2016 Statewide Finfish Board of Fisheries meeting.

Look for a full Meeting Summary to be posted on the Board of Fisheries March 17-20, 2015 [meeting page](#), within 2 weeks.

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