Fishery Management updates

This has been an extremely busy time for Alaska fishery management meetings. Literally every week and every other weekend since early February has been occupied by Board of Fisheries meetings, North Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings or Joint Board of Fish and Game meetings.

Now that that meeting season has relaxed a bit, we’ll take this opportunity to report on some of the fishery management decisions over the past 3 months.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council, February 4-11 2019:
- No final actions due to the Government Shutdown.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Alaska Peninsula/Chignik BSAI Finfish meeting February 21-27, 2019
- Proposal 136, amended using substitute language found in Record Copy (RC) 131, realigned the set net schedule in June. Set-netters will begin June 6th with a 64-hour opening, then start again with the other gear groups on June 10th. This plan will increase the amount of closure windows with NO gear in South Pen waters by 72% in June.
- Proposal 138, with substitute language found in RC 128, seiners will be prohibited from fishing in the Dolgoi area in June, the area in our region with the highest composition of Chignik-bound stocks.
- Proposal 151, amended using substitute language found in RC105, will increase fishing opportunities in the Western District of the Chignik Management Area.
- Proposal 156 repeals the minimum size requirement for set gillnets in the South Alaska Peninsula Area.
- Proposal 157 amended using substitute language found in RC 111, will allow 2 sets of set gillnet gear to be transported under certain conditions.
- Proposal 159 amended using substitute language found in RC 137 changes the season start date for the Dutch Harbor food & bait herring purse seine fleet.
- Proposal 160 allows long line pot gear to be used in the South Alaska Peninsula sablefish state-waters fishery.

Alaska Peninsula/Chignik BSAI Finfish meeting summary found [here](#).

**Alaska Board of Fisheries Statewide Finfish meeting March 9-12, 2019**
- Proposal 163 amended using substitute language found in RC 39 will prohibit the intentional waste or destruction of subsistence-caught fish.
- Proposal 166 amended using substitute language found in RC 37 will require rockfish to be released at depth.
- Proposal 168 amended using substitute language found in RC 38 indicates purse seine and tow line specifications.
- Proposal 179 amended using substitute language found in RC 27 adopts a new Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest strategy.
- Proposal 180 amended using substitute language found in RC 33 establishes a commercial state-waters Tanner crab fishery in the Western Aleutian Islands.

Statewide Board of Fish meeting summary found [here](#).

**Joint Board of Fisheries & Game meeting on Advisory Committees March 21-25, 2019**
- Proposal 16 will expand the functions of the advisory committees to encourage the involvement of youth and elders.

Joint Board meeting summary found [here](#).

**North Pacific Fishery Management Council April 1-8, 2019**
- Final Action on agenda item C1 IFQ medical, beneficiary lease transfer provisions.
- Final action on agenda item C2 to require full retention of rockfish species by all fixed gear CVs in the BSAI and GOA.
- Final action on agenda item C3 to restrict mothership deliveries by trawl cod CVs in the BSAI.
- Agenda item C7 an initial review of an analysis to raise the observer fee for vessels in the partial coverage category.
- Agenda E1 Staff Tasking item to limit access to the BSAI parallel fishery.

NPFMC April newsletter will be published [here](#) when available.

**Governor Dunleavey Fishery Management nominations and appointments**
On March 7th Governor Dunleavy announced his nominations for Alaska seats on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. The nominees are:
- Cora Campbell – President and CEO Silver Bay Seafoods
- Nicole Kimball – Vice-president Alaska Operations Pacific Seafood Processors Association
The US Secretary of Commerce must confirm the nominations, expected by June. The announcement for the Governors NPFMC nominations can be found [here](#).

On April 1st Governor Dunleavy announced his appointees for the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game. The Board of Fish nominees are:

- Israel Payton – reappointment for 2nd term
- Marit Carlson-Van Dort – strong family ties in Chignik
- Gerard Godfrey – former Kodiak area fisherman
- Karl Johnstone – former Board of Fisheries Chair

The appointees must be confirmed by a majority of the Joint Legislature, expected to consider the appointees this coming week. The announcement of the Governor’s appointees for Boards of Fisheries and Game can be found [here](#).

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