



Board of Fish 2022/2023 Cycle Begins

The Alaska Board of Fisheries began this cycle as usual in a Work Session, including consideration of Agenda Change Requests (ACRs) and one emergency petition. The Board also received reports on salmon escapement goals and stocks of concern.

Of the 20 ACRs, ADFG staff comments (RC2) showed only 4 ACRs met the Board's criteria for accepting an ACR. The Board accepted just 3 of those ACRs and scheduled consideration of all 3 ACRs at the January 2023 AYK meeting due to the relatively light agenda at that meeting. ACR 1 would implement a pot gear limit of 500 pots on the North Peninsula Dungeness crab fishery and includes an overall cap of 10,000 pots. All the public comment letters on ACR 1 supported the 500 pot limit but did not support the 10,000 pot cap. The Board previously implemented a dungy vessel pot limit of 500 pots for the South Peninsula and a 750 pot limit per vessel in the Kodiak district at the March 2022 meeting.



(Left to right) Board of Fisheries Executive Director Art Nelson (taking picture on phone), Members John Wood, Märit Carlson-Van Dort, John Jensen, McKenzie Mitchell, Mike Heimbuch, Tom Carpenter and David Weisz.

The ADFG staff report on the Chignik sockeye salmon biological escapement goal (BEG) received a lot of attention, as the Department has decided to move from two separate early run and late-run escapement goals to a single Chignik Sockeye escapement goal of 450,000 – 800,000. It is still unclear how the new goal will impact management,

not only for the Chignik Management Area, but also for the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) plan in the AEB and the Cape Igvak plan in Kodiak, that are tied to Chignik escapement.

The Nelson Lagoon Advisory Committee submitted an emergency petition to the Board that was considered at the work session. The 2022 Nelson Lagoon total sockeye salmon return was about 157,000 fish and was the lowest total return (harvest and escapement combined) since 1974. The Board did not find that an emergency exists, in part because proposals that address this issue (Proposals 120 & 128) will be considered at the February 2023 meeting.

Pacific Cod

The 2-day Board of Fish Work Session October 25 & 26 was followed by the 2-day Pacific Cod regulatory meeting October 27 & 28. Much of the attention and public testimony was focused on Proposal 6 submitted by CDQ groups that would modify the formula for the guideline harvest level (GHL) of the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHSD) Pacific Cod State-waters fishery. The Board action on Proposal 6 amended RC16, adjusted how the GHL percentage can increase to a maximum of 15% of the federal Bering Sea subarea allowable biological catch (ABC), and included a new step-down provision. The DHSD GHL will be 12% in 2023 and will go down one percent after 2 consecutive years of not harvesting at least 90% of the set GHL. By the same token, the GHL can increase 1% (up to a maximum 15%) after 2 consecutive years of fully harvesting the GHL by at least 90%.

The Board passed 4 ‘housekeeping’ proposals submitted by the ADFG – Proposals 1, 7, 8 & 10. And also adopted Proposal 2 with substitute language found in RC17, amending the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan. The Board took no action on proposals 3, 4 & 5, and the Board failed Proposal 9 that would’ve removed registration exclusivity for state-waters jig fisheries.



Public attendees at October 2022 Board of Fisheries Pacific Cod meeting.

The October 2022 meetings were the first for the new members Mike Heimbuch of Homer, Tom Carpenter of Cordova and David Weisz of Wasilla. They joined returning members McKenzie Mitchell of Fairbanks and John Wood of Willow, as well as John Jensen of Petersburg who was reelected vice-chair, and Märít Carlson-Van Dort who was reelected Chair. The terms of 3 members: Jensen, Mitchell and Heimbuch, expire in June 2023.

Proposals for the 2022/2023 Board of Fisheries meeting cycle can be found [here](#). Printed

copies of the February 2023 Aleutian Islands/Alaska Peninsula/Chignik meeting proposals can be picked up at the Anchorage AEB office or request a copy from eweiss@aeboro.org.

Tanner Crab Fisheries

Bering Sea crab fishermen and communities took a huge hit this fall when both the Bering Sea Snow Crab and the Bristol Bay Red King Crab seasons were closed for 2022/2023. A small bright spot is Tanner Crab with seasons in both the Eastern and Western Bering Sea, and State GHL fisheries in the Kodiak, Chignik and South Peninsula Districts.

Crab Season	BB R King Crab	Snow (Opilio)	EB Bairdi (Tanner)	WB Bairdi (Tanner)
2015/2016	9,974,000	40,611,000	11,272,000	8,396,000
2016/2017	8,469,000	21,570,000	-	-
2017/2018	6,601,000	18,961,000	-	2,500,200
2018/2019	4,308,000	27,581,000	closed	2,439,000
2019/2020	3,797,000	34,019,000	-	-
2020/2021	2,648,000	45,000,000	closed	2,348,000
2021/2022	CLOSED	5,600,000	CLOSED	1,100,000
2022/2023	CLOSED	CLOSED	1,163,000	850,000

Individual fishing quota (IFQ) for Tanner crab in the Eastern Bering Sea is 1,046,700 lbs, community development quota (CDQ) 116,300 lbs. For the Western Bering Sea, IFQ is 765,000 lbs and CDQ is 85,000 lbs. These fisheries open October 15, 2022 and close March 31, 2023.

State Tanner crab season	Kodiak	Chignik	South Peninsula
2010	700,000	-	500,000
2011	1,490,000	600,000	2,300,000
2012	950,000	700,000	1,620,000
2013	660,000	-	230,000
2014	-	-	-
2015	-	-	-
2016	-	-	-
2017	-	-	-
2018	300,000	-	-
2019	615,000	-	-
2020	400,000	-	-
2021	-	-	-
2022	1,100,000	200,000	500,000
2023	5,800,000	400,000	1,100,000

For the State Tanner fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska, the total Kodiak District guideline harvest level (GHL) is 5,800,000 divided by section: Eastside 4,000,000, Southeast 950,000, Southwest 850,000. Chignik District GHL is 400,000. The South Peninsula District is a total of 1,100,000 with 525,000 in the Eastern Section and 575,000 in the Western Section. The Kodiak, Chignik and South Peninsula Tanner crab fisheries open January 15, 2023. For Chignik and South Peninsula, vessels should be 58 ft and under, 20 pot limit in the South Peninsula, 30 pot limit in Chignik. The charts above show historical total quotas and GHLs in pounds for these fisheries.

AEB Fishermen Meetings

The AEB Natural Resources Department has scheduled two fishermen meetings before years end. For AEB fishermen traveling to Seattle for the Pacific Marine Expo, we will

host a meeting at the Renaissance Hotel at 6th & Madison. Refreshments at 9AM, meeting from 10AM to noon November 17th. Attendees who wish to stay at the Renaissance Hotel during the Expo can get a discounted rate using the promo code **K6Y** at www.renaissanceseattle.com.

Our traditional end-of-the-year Winter Fisheries meeting with fishery management and enforcement agencies will be held by Zoom at 10AM on December 20th. Zoom link to be published later. We expect to schedule other meetings in conjunction with the December North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting and during Board of Fisheries meetings in Anchorage.

For AEB Fishermen traveling to Anchorage for the February Board of Fish finfish meeting, there is an Aleutians East Borough block of rooms discounted rate at the Captain Cook Hotel February 19-25, 2023 at this link [Aleutians East Borough](#) using the code **AEB23**. It is not too early to book your room – rooms are limited.

You are reading FISH NEWS, published quarterly by the Aleutians East Borough to help keep the lines of communication open among Alaska's commercial fishing interests. If you would like to have FISH NEWS delivered to you via e-mail subscription, send an e-mail message to ltanis@aeboro.org. For more information about our fisheries, our people, and our communities, please visit us at www.aleutianseast.org, www.aebfish.org and find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/AleutiansEastBoroughAlaska>

and

<https://www.facebook.com/AEBfish>

