

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
Charge to Stikine King Salmon Fishery Workgroup
2005-241-FB

Purpose: The objective of the Stikine King Salmon Fishery Workgroup is to develop an abundance based management plan to guide management of commercial and sport fisheries that target Stikine River Chinook salmon in District 8.

Membership: The Stikine King Salmon fishery Workgroup will consist of two gillnetters, two trollers, two sport charter, two unguided sport, one member from the Wrangell Advisory Committee and one member from the Petersburg Advisory Committee. The workgroup will consist of similar numbers of people from the communities of Petersburg and Wrangell selected by the board from nominations submitted through the Department of Fish and Game by each group or organization. Board member John Jensen will be the board liaison to the Stikine workgroup. Final membership will be submitted to the board prior to the first workgroup meeting.

Workgroup members will attend meetings at their own expense. The Department of Fish and Game will assist the group by providing a meeting space and any requested information about the fisheries or effects of proposed regulations.

Specific issues to be considered in the management plan include:

1. Develop guidelines for the commercial gillnet and troll fisheries to harvest Stikine king salmon surplus to escapement goals, at various abundance levels. Guidelines should include season opening dates and opening time for the commercial fisheries.
2. Determine sport fishing regulations to be implemented at various abundance levels to utilize harvestable surplus of Stikine king salmon. Options include bag limits, size limits, annual limits, methods and means, time and area closures, and differential regulations between charter and unguided anglers as well as residents and nonresidents.
3. Reduce conflicts between commercial and sport fisheries utilizing time and area restrictions. Guidelines for commercial fisheries should include specific days of the week openings could occur, maximum number of fishing days allowed any week, if and when a "derby closure" should occur the week before Memorial Day, areas that should be closed and the times and dates of these closures.
4. Reduce incidental mortality of steelhead in the commercial fishery utilizing time and area restrictions, and gear modifications. Guidelines for commercial fisheries should include minimum gillnet mesh sizes allowed, and increasing closed waters around key steelhead systems.

The workgroups recommendations will be presented to Board of Fisheries at the Southeast Finfish meeting in Ketchikan, January 22-February 1, 2006.

Dated: October 13, 2005
Girdwood, Alaska



Art Nelson, Chair

Vote: 6 - 0 - 1
(Andrews absent)