



Alaska Board of Fish adopts controversial proposal in split votes

On Friday May 1st, 2026, the Board of Fisheries met virtually, with no public testimony allowed, to consider 4 proposals that the Board had generated at the end of the last regularly scheduled meeting – the Statewide Finfish meeting in March 2026. The first 3 proposals were adopted unanimously.

- [Proposal 189](#) to adopt a policy on Traditional Knowledge into regulation, was amended with substitute language found in [RC3](#) and passed 6-0, since Member Irwin was recused due to her aunt submitting a comment letter in support.
- [Proposal 190](#), to adopt a Yukon River King Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan into regulation, was adopted 7-0.
- [Proposal 191](#) to adopt a Yukon River Fall Chum Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan into regulation, was adopted 7-0.

[Proposal 192](#) to replace commercial set gillnet opportunity in the Kenai River Late-run King Salmon Stock of Concern Plan with a newly established set beach seine gear type, was amended with substitute language found in [RC4](#), published after the written comment deadline. All votes related to Proposal 192 were split votes of 4-2 or 2-4, with Member Wood ruled conflicted.

Proposal 192 is controversial. Of on-time public comments submitted with an opinion on Proposal 192, 76 comments were opposed and just 8 were in support. There were 6 Advisory Committee comments; of the 3 that mentioned Proposal 192 all 3 were opposed. At least 6 Record Copies (RCs) submitted were also opposed to Proposal 192/RC4.

Member Wood did not voluntarily recuse, but Chair Carlson-Van Dort ruled Wood conflicted due to the ‘value of his permit’. Member Carpenter objected, but the conflict was upheld 4-2. With the recent passage of [HB 33](#), Member Wood was still able to engage in deliberations, but not vote on the proposal.

Member Carpenter moved to postpone consideration of the controversial Proposal 192 until the following cycle when Cook Inlet proposals would normally be considered, but the motion failed 2-4.

Member Chamberlain motioned for an amendment to Proposal 192/RC4, adopted 4-2, and the final amended proposal was adopted 4-2.

The Board also needed to consider an emergency petition to rescind their previous action on [Proposal 186](#), substitute language in [RC161](#), that will reduce commercial salmon fishing opportunity with drift gillnet gear in the Central District of the Cook Inlet Area. The Board did not find that an emergency existed but did reopen the call for proposals for the next meeting cycle, but *only* for Upper Cook Inlet proposals, until 11:59 pm May 7th.

Judge Grants Motion in AEB et al v. SOA Board of Fisheries

The Aleutians East Borough, CAMF, Area M Seiners and the Native Village of Unga (Plaintiffs) were granted a motion for expedited consideration for preliminary injunction in the case against the Alaska Board of Fisheries. A preliminary injunction would prevent the new restrictive regulations for the South Alaska Peninsula Salmon fishery from going into effect this season, and maintain status quo rules from 2025, that allowed the fishermen's adaptive management program to avoid chum salmon to continue.

According to the Judge's ruling, the Board's opposition to the motion was due May 7th, with plaintiffs reply due May 12th, however the Judge granted the Board request of an extension of time for the Board reply until May 20th. Any requests for oral arguments are due May 14th and any oral arguments would be scheduled no later than May 25th. The Judge will rule on the motion by June 1st.

The complaint against the Board of Fish focuses on actions taken by the Board at their February Chignik/Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting, and asserts that several members should have been conflicted from voting on issues that will severely restrict South Peninsula June Salmon Fisheries. The actions at issue: Proposal 127, adopted by a vote of 4 to 3, severely reduces June fishing hours. Proposal 126, also adopted by a vote of 4-3, reduces available fishing area by adding most of the fishing area between King Cove and Sand Point to the Southeastern District Mainland plan, which is dependent on Chignik harvest and unlikely to open before July 25th.

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