Board of Fish Holds Special Meeting Regarding Moving P. Cod Proposals to Earlier Meeting

By Ernie Weiss, AEB Natural Resources Director

The Alaska Board of Fisheries held a special meeting by teleconference today to discuss moving Pacific Cod proposals from the Alaska Peninsula/BSAI/Chignik finfish meeting agenda in February & March 2016, to be considered at an earlier meeting in December 2015.

The state Pacific cod fisheries are ongoing in February and March, and considering any state Pacific cod proposals during that time period is a conflict for cod fishermen and for ADFG groundfish managers.

The Board voted unanimously to move the Pacific Cod proposals slated for consideration at the AK Pen/BSAI/Chignik meeting scheduled for Feb 23 – March 3, 2016, up to the Bristol Bay meeting scheduled for November 30 – December 7 2015. The Board also voted to move 2 days from the AK Pen meeting to the Bristol Bay meeting. Both meetings are scheduled to occur in Anchorage.

The 2 meeting days will most likely be added to the end of the Bristol Bay meeting, extending it until Dec 9th. Since the meeting would then conflict with the beginning of the December North Pacific Fishery Management meeting, the Pacific cod proposals may be considered at the start, on November 30th & December 1st.
The Board received 10 letters of public comment on the issue, and nine of the letters were in support of the making the change. This meeting was the first for newly appointed Board Member Robert Mumford, a former Alaska State Trooper with service in Sand Point Alaska.

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**ADF&G to Hold Pre-Season Fishery Stakeholder’s Meeting in Sand Point On May 29th**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will be conducting a pre-season fishery stakeholder’s meeting at the Aleutians East Borough building in Sand Point at 6 p.m. Friday, May 29th. AEB will teleconference the meeting to King Cove, False Pass and to the AEB office in Anchorage. The purpose of this meeting is to provide all interested parties an opportunity to discuss the upcoming salmon season with ADF&G staff.

Topics covered will include:

- 2015 salmon outlook
- 2015 management strategy
- 2015 department test fishery
- Other topics as time permits

For more info, contact the Sand Point Fish and Game office at (907) 383-2066.