Alaska Sport Fisheries
Sport Fishery Management
Sport Fishery Business

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What is Sport Fishing?

It’s not:

- Commercial fishing
- Subsistence fishing
- Personal use fishing
Who are sport fishermen?

• About 70% of Alaska households have sport fishermen.

• Half million angling licenses.

• More than half of angling licenses in Alaska are held by non-residents

• Totals static but visitor licenses increasing, so resident participation must be on decline
Economic Value of Sport Fishing to Alaska

- Three percent of Alaska jobs and payroll direct result of sport fishing. (1993 data)

- A 1999 ISER study showed value at $736M based on $550M expenditures and $186M “net economic value” – willingness to pay.

- Resident expenditures - $341M, non-res - $199M
  48% of res expenditures: share of vehicle costs
  41% of non-res: trip costs (guides, charters)
Another view of economics

- American Sportfishing Association estimates $640M on fishing trips and equipment in Alaska (from 2001 survey)
- Generated 11,064 jobs, $238M in wages and salaries
- Extended effect of $950M in spending
- Economic growth estimated 9% annually
Geography of Alaska Sport Fishing
Geography of Sport Fishing

• >40% trips to ten most popular sites (Incl. Kenai R., Homer, Seward, Juneau, Ktn. PoW)
• King salmon – 25% of effort, Red and silver – 13% each, trout and halibut – 8% each
• 14% of trips in winter – mainly trout, DV
Geography of Sport Fishing

- Two-thirds of spending in Southcentral
  Two-thirds of SC spending by residents
- 20% in Southeast
  Visitor slightly higher than resident
- 10% of spending in the Northern region
  and 8% in Southwest, nearly all by visitors
How are Sport Fisheries Managed?

- ADFG and the Board of Fisheries
- NMFS ("NOAA Fisheries") and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
- Land managers: USFWS, NPS, USFWS, Native corporations, etc.
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

Department Role

Board of Fisheries Role
ADFG Mission

- Protect, maintain and improve...resources
- Manage their use and development in best interest of the economy and well-being of the people and state
- Consistent with sustained yield
ADFG “Guiding Principles”

• Provide greatest long-term opportunities
• Provide public “accessibility” and encourage public involvement in decisions
• Build working env based on mutual trust
• Maintain highest standards of sci integrity
• Foster professionalism in staff
Sport Fish Division

- Mission: Protect and improve state’s recreational fishery resources
- Core values:
  Management for sustained yield
  Based on scientifically sound assessments
  Diverse utilization
  Informed and involved public
  Staff exude professionalism
  Area offices and local or area-based mgt.
Division of Sport Fish

- Annual budget approx $30M
- Nearly all user-pay (no General Fund)
- Licenses, stamps, fuel and equip taxes
- Three regional offices
- Total staff of 162 perm, 242 seasonal
Division of Sport Fish
Core Activities

- Stock assessment
- Management
- Hatchery production
- Access development and maintenance
- Habitat assessment
- Information and education
- Enforcement
- Planning and Survey
Division of Sport Fish
Strategic Plan

Goals:

1. Sustain Rec fishing opportunities while optimizing social and economic benefits
2. Conserve, manage, improve…habitats
3. Foster a public that is consistently informed and involved in recreational fisheries
4. Recruit, develop, empower and retain a diverse, dedicated, motivated, empowered, and effective workforce.
The Sport Fishing Industry
The Business of Sport Fisheries Services

• Charterboats
• Fishing guides
• Lodges
• Tackle and equipment
• Transportation
• Lodging and food services
• Groceries and fuel
…and much more
Legal Requirements

- Sport fish guide license and/or guide business license
  - fishing license
  - first aid
- Business license
- Insurance
- Coast Guard master or “six pack”
- Vessel safety equipment
- Vessel registration and ADFG registration
- (saltwater logbook)
- (halibut moratorium eligibility)
- (land use authorization, local area registrations)
Marketing and Customer Services

- Highly competitive field
- Expensive advertising
- High repeat rate for quality operators
- Many marginal operators, high turnover
- Trend to integrated offerings
Current Issues in Sport Fisheries

- Hatcheries
- Access
- Kenai River conflicts and guide regs
- Cook Inlet commercial/sport conflicts
- Southeast king salmon limits
- Subsistence/personal use controversies
Current Issues: Halibut Charter Management

- The license moratorium (limited entry)
- Halibut catch shares
Future questions?

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