

On October 24, 2019, at the Board of Fisheries Work Session, the Board voted to disband this committee by unanimous consent (7-0).



**Alaska Department of Fish and Game**

**Board of Fisheries**

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## **ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**

### **CHARGE STATEMENT FOR A REVIEW OF ROD AND REEL GEAR**

#### **2018-292-FB**

At its 2018 Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, the Alaska Board of Fisheries' (board) heard testimony on Proposal 21 which sought to allow the fishing with a hook and line attached to a rod or pole when subsistence fishing in a discrete portion of the Bristol Bay drainage. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game recommended the board take no action and instead set the subject aside for a broader detailed review.

As provided by the department, the gear (rod and reel) is unique because it is a defining characteristic of the sport fishery and directly tied to sport fishing specifically in statute. Rod and reel as subsistence gear is also allowed in some regions of the state in accordance to with subsistence patterns of use. Eligibility, licensing/permitting requirements, and other regulations differ between subsistence and sport fisheries. Where rod and reel is allowed in both sport and subsistence fisheries, these different rules can create confusion and compliance issues. Revenue generated from the sale of sport fishing licenses is used as match to leverage Dingell-Johnson funds, and used directly by the department for conservation, research and management in Alaska. A widespread use of the gear type in subsistence fisheries could reduce that funding and substantially change the character of sport fishing in Alaska. The Department of Public Safety also informed the board that increasing rod and reel use in subsistence fisheries could lead to an increase in fines and penalties levied on users.

As a result of this discussion, the board is creating a temporary committee to review the subject and its statewide implications. Further, the board determined it would issue a finding and potentially establish criteria when reviewing proposals specific to these requests.

The committee, with Members Huntington and Payton, will provide an update and potentially a recommended proposal at the board's 2019 Lower Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting.

Vote: 5-2  
December 2, 2018  
Dillingham, Alaska

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Reed Morisky, Chair  
Alaska Board of Fisheries