

The Nelson Lagoon only has comments on the following proposals.

Proposal 197. This proposal modifies the allowable set and drift gillnet gear from 70 meshes to 45 meshes in the Northern District of Alaska Peninsula.

The committee supports this proposal, even though it understands that ADFG opposes it since it reduces harvesting power which might lead to a concern for overstatement of sockeyes into local systems (Ilnik, Meshik, Sandy and Bear). But, Nelson Lagoon advisory committee believes there is too much harvesting power on the Nelson Lagoon stocks along the outside waters of the North Alaska Peninsula, and some modification must be done.

Proposal 198. Close the North side of Cape Seniavin and Nelson Lagoon on August 15.

The committee supports this proposal. Historically, along the North Alaska Peninsula there was only one major Coho fishery; within Nelson Lagoon. Nelson Lagoon fishermen are concerned that if new Coho markets are developed by other Area M fishermen, they will increase Coho harvest along the outside coast and impact Nelson Lagoon Coho stocks as currently occurs with Nelson Lagoon sockeye stocks. The harvesting power is there on the outside coast if ever they ever develop markets for Coho and decide to use their catching power.

APICDA has invested significant funds constructing a processing facility that would focus on late run Coho within Nelson Lagoon. To date they have not been able to run the plant, as they are working with bureaucracy to acquire appropriate certification process. The community and APICDA were attempting to protect their investment with this proposal.

Proposal 199. Close the North side of Cape Seniavin until July 15. The advisory committee supports this proposal that seeks to return regulations on the North Alaska Peninsula to the status they were 15 years ago. The committee does not know what exact opening date which would bring back the balance between outside harvest and harvest within Nelson Lagoon that used to exist. But opening the outside area on June 20 has upset the historic balance in harvest between the outside fishery and Nelson Lagoon on the Nelson Lagoon sockeye stock.

Proposal 200. Established a sockeye fishery in the Cinder River section between June 20 and July 31 in the area outside of the Cinder River Lagoon. The committee takes no action of this proposal.

Proposal 206. Proposal modifies the Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan - time and area management - to provide guidelines to the department on the management of the interception of Nelson Lagoon and Bear River sockeye caught in the OPH, outer Ilnik and Three-Hills sections. It proposes concurrent closures of 96 hours within a seven day period within these three sections.

The committee supports this proposal as a means to bring a more balanced harvest sharing between Nelson Lagoon and Area M fishermen on the outside coast.

Proposal 207. Proposal modifies the Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan - time and area management - to provide guidelines to the department on the management of the interception of Nelson Lagoon and Bear River Coho salmon caught in the OPH, outer Innik and Three-Hills sections. It proposes concurrent closures of 96 hours within a seven day period within these three sections.

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