

PROPOSAL 103 – 5 AAC 07.367. District 4 Salmon Management Plan. Amend the Kuskokwim Area District 4 Salmon Management Plan to include District 5, as follows:

5 AAC 07.367 is amended to read:

5 AAC 07.367. District 4 **and 5** Salmon Management Plan. (a) The objective of the District 4 **and 5** Salmon Management Plan is to maintain a level of sustained yield which will provide for subsistence needs, the long-term economic health of the commercial and sport fishing industries, and recreational opportunities, in the **districts** [DISTRICT] and freshwater systems flowing into the **districts** [DISTRICT].

(b) The District 4 commercial salmon fishery is to open before June 16.

(c) When the catch of king salmon in the commercial fishery is less than 50 percent of the catch of king and sockeye salmon combined, the department shall manage, to the extent practicable, the commercial salmon fishery based on the strength of the sockeye salmon return.

(d) Commercial salmon fishing periods are established by emergency order. The department shall allow at least one fishing period per week, unless a severe conservation problem develops.

(e) When a closure of the commercial salmon fishery is required, the department shall decide, on or before the 10th day of the closure, whether to close the sport fishery to the taking of the species of the biological concern and whether additional management actions on the sport fishery are needed.

(f) During times of king salmon conservation, the commercial fishery in District 5 may be restricted to that portion of Goodnews Bay east of a line from ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately two miles south on the seaward side of the entrance of Goodnews Bay to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately two miles north on the seaward side of the entrance of Goodnews Bay and west of a line from Big Beluga to Little Beluga.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently the department uses elements of the *District 4 Salmon Management Plan* to manage District 5 salmon resources for sustained yield. Including applicable aspects of the *District 4 Salmon Management Plan* to manage District 5 will make fisheries management strategies clearer to fishermen in District 5. The District 5 fishing area has been reduced in the past by emergency order to conserve king salmon while directing the harvest at sockeye salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F15-022)
