

PROPOSAL 145

5 AAC 33.372. District 1: Nakat Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Allow commercial salmon fishing with purse seine gear in the Nakat Inlet Terminal Harvest Area, as follows:

(a) This management plan provides for the terminal area common property harvest of hatchery-produced coho and chum salmon in the Nakat Inlet Terminal Harvest Area and distributes the harvest between the **purse seine**, troll and drift gillnet fleets.

(b) The department, in consultation with the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA), shall manage the waters of Nakat Inlet north of Surprise Point at 54_49.10' N. lat. and west of 130_42.75' W. long. from June 1 through November 10 to distribute the harvest of hatchery-produced coho and chum salmon. Fishing will be open continuously to troll gear and drift gillnet gear from June 1 through November 10, **unless the gillnet fleet is above their allocation range for the most recent five year rolling average; at which time openings for purse seine will occur one day a week for 12 consecutive hours starting at 6am.** unless closed earlier by emergency order.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Seine access to the Nakat Terminal Harvest Area (THA) was removed from regulatory language when the seine fleet was above their target allocation range. Flexibility in managing the THA has proven over time to be the only immediately effective way to attempt to balance allocation imbalances, especially within the net fleets. At the time this agreement was reached it was believed that “additional production” could address these issues; that assumption has proven to be inaccurate. The gillnet harvest value has averaged 155% of their mid-point allocation range over the last 10 years while the seine fleet is below their lower allocation range. This action would give additional fishing opportunity to the seine fleet in the Nakat THA only when the gillnet fleet is above their allocation range.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS)

(EF-F17-090)
