

Overview of the Wood River Special Harvest Area

Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Oral: RC 3; Tab 9



Wood River Special Harvest Area (WRSHA) Synopsis

🐟 Origin

🐟 First use and modification 1997

🐟 2001 Changes

🐟 2009 Changes

🐟 2012 Changes

🐟 Proposals for 2018





In the beginning 1996

- 🐟 WRSWA created to protect Nushagak River coho salmon
- 🐟 Area defined
- 🐟 Concurrent openings
- 🐟 Set gillnets must be within 250 feet of terrestrial vegetation line
- 🐟 Subsistence closed in WRSWA

First used 1997

- 🐟 Emergency regulation to protect Nushagak River sockeye salmon
- 🐟 Wood River vs. Nushagak River
- 🐟 Allocation 74% drift gillnet; 26% set gillnet
- 🐟 Concurrent openings
- 🐟 Reduce foregone harvest



1997 Nushagak Sockeye

- 🐟 Formalize regulation to protect Nushagak River sockeye salmon
- 🐟 Allocation same as district but separate
- 🐟 Nushagak River sockeye salmon projected below 340,000 escapement
- 🐟 Increase economic opportunity
- 🐟 Used while commercial district open in some cases

2001 District or WRSHA

- 🐟 Nushagak Section closed when WRSHA open
- 🐟 Nushagak River sockeye salmon OEG
- 🐟 3:1 Wood River to Nushagak River ratio
- 🐟 Nushagak River sockeye salmon projected below 340,000 escapement
- 🐟 Increase economic opportunity and reduce foregone harvest

2009 Surplus Escapement

- 🐟 WRSMA not used since 2002
- 🐟 Reduce foregone harvest after 2006 record run
- 🐟 Subsection c(3) surplus Wood River escapement
- 🐟 Concurrent openings
- 🐟 Gear allocations same as district but accounting independent

2012 Be Like Naknek

- Separate gear openings
- 3 drift gillnet; 1 set gillnet allocation for WRSWA only openings (district closed)
- Naknek no surplus escapement provision
- For surplus escapement openings gear type that is behind all harvest combined
- Set gillnets can fish away from vegetated shoreline

2018 Proposals

- 🐟 Repeal subsection c(3) surplus harvest option (Proposal 38)
- 🐟 Concurrent openings for surplus harvest after July 17 (Proposal 39)
- 🐟 WRSHA lottery for first four (Proposal 40)





Questions