

PROPOSAL 146

5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Close portions of the Northern District to commercial fishing for salmon when escapement goals are not met for two consecutive years, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 (n): If the escapement goal for the Bear or Nelson Rivers is not met for two consecutive years from June 20 through July 31, the department shall manage the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections to conserve Bear River and Nelson River sockeye salmon stocks by allowing the passage of sockeye salmon from the northeast to the southwest of the Northern District as described in this subsection. Notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 09.320, from June 20 through July 31, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, establish fishing periods for the Bear River and Three Hills Sections and that portion of the Ilnik Section between the longitude of Unangashak Bluffs at 159° 10.25' W. long., and the longitude of Three Hills at 159° 49.45' W. long., during which the waters that are between the three-mile seaward boundary line, described in 5 AAC 09.301, and a line that is one and one-half miles shoreward of the three-mile seaward boundary are closed for one 24-hour period during a seven-day period. The waters located to the southwest of the open waters where a 24-hour closure has occurred will have sequential closures that allow fishing only in the waters out to the one and one-half mile line described in this subsection for the first 24 hours of an open fishing period. When the department is assured that the escapement goal will be met for the river that did not meet the escapement goal for two consecutive years, then the rolling closures will no longer be in effect.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To provide protection for the Nelson and Bear Rivers in the management of the Northern District fishery. If the escapement at Nelson or Bear Rivers is not met for two consecutive years, management action will be taken from Unangashak Bluffs in the Ilnik Section, as well as the Three Hills, and Bear River Sections to conserve stocks by implementing rolling closures.

PROPOSED BY: Nelson Lagoon Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-053)
