



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF ALASKA WILDLIFE TROOPERS
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Chairman Reed Morisky
Board of Fisheries

Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT), comments on Kodiak finfish proposals:

PROPOSAL 45 – 5 AAC 64.005. Description of the Kodiak Area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would create a new saltwater boundary for the Kodiak Road Zone (KRZ) that would use lines between fixed points of land as the regulatory area boundary instead of a continuous distance from the shoreline of the KRZ.

AWT COMMENTS: The KRZ includes all waters within 1 mile of the shoreline of Kodiak and Spruce Islands east of a line from Crag Point in the north to the westernmost point of Saltery Cove in the south. This area has more restrictive regulations because of its proximity to the city of Kodiak and surrounding road system. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers **SUPPORT** this proposal. The current boundary can be difficult to identify, especially along jagged sections of shoreline found within KRZ. Adoption of this proposal would provide anglers and enforcement with well-defined boundaries using Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates which can be easily displayed on most GPS units. GPS technology has been vetted through the Alaska Court System and has been found to be reliable and accurate. Nearly all vessels used for sport fishing in the KRZ are equipped with GPS equipment. Even anglers using vessels without GPS equipment will likely find the proposed boundaries easier to identify using visual reference to points of land as opposed to judging a distance from shore.

If adopted it should be made clear in the final regulatory language that the boundary is defined by a line between coordinates and any reference to geographic names is for reference only.

PROPOSAL 62 – 5 AAC 18.355 Reporting requirements and 5 AAC 18.360 Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Axel S. Kopun

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Prior to July 9, this proposal would require commercial salmon fishing vessel operators to report to department staff prior to fishing and check out upon leaving the Cape Igvak Section.

AWT COMMENTS: The Alaska Wildlife Troopers are **OPPOSED** to this proposal as written. Should the board decide that some sort of notification or registration is warranted in the Cape Igvak Section, a process more enforceable than a radio or telephone call, as suggested by the proposer, will need to be implemented. In other areas of the state area registration is required. For example, Bristol Bay commercial salmon regulation, 5 AAC 06.370, explains in essence that, a CFEC permit holder must register for an area before fishing. Registration can be completed by submitting a signed form to Fish and Game or can be completed online. The registration can also be done by an agent, normally an employee of the processor, of the permit holder. This process is enforceable, there is a record that can be used as evidence, and the legal responsibility for registration is with the permit holder. A telephone or radio call to Fish and Game would put the burden of documenting the registration on Fish and Game not on the permit holder, and verifying the identity of the permit holder, over the phone or by radio, would be difficult.

Further, adoption of this proposal would increase regulatory complexity while providing minimal benefit. The proposer is concerned that salmon taken in the Cape Igvak Section is being under reported. Under current statute and regulation providing false information on a fish ticket, or omitting certain required information from a fish ticket is a crime, see AS 16.05.690(b) and 5 AAC 39.130.