

PROPOSAL 66

5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.

Create a Kodiak Area Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

This proposal addresses the harvests of Cook Inlet and other non-local salmon stocks in the Kodiak Area. If this proposal is adopted, it will create a new Kodiak Area Management (umbrella) Plan.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The solution we propose is to modify the existing management plans to minimize harvest of Cook Inlet and other non-local salmon stocks. This proposal is to apply to the Seine Fishery. The new salmon umbrella management plan includes the following concepts:

1. 5 AAC 18. New Kodiak Area Salmon Management Plan.

(a) Provides the department long-term direction in the management of non-local salmon stocks and local salmon stocks. Divisions within the department must receive long-term direction in order to accomplish their mission and plan management, research, administrative and other programs. Kodiak and Cook Inlet stakeholders should be informed of the long-term management objectives of the Board of Fisheries (board) for the management development and conservation of both Kodiak, Cook Inlet and other non-local stocks (adopted from 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan).

(b) The purpose of this new Kodiak Area Salmon Management Plan is to allow traditional fisheries to be conducted on Kodiak Area salmon stocks, while minimizing directed harvest of Cook Inlet and other non-local salmon stocks. The board recognized that some incidental harvest of other stocks has and will occur in this area while the seine fishery is managed for local Kodiak Area salmon stocks. The board intends, however, to prevent a repetition of the nontraditional harvest pattern which occurred during 1988, and many years since.

(c) This new umbrella plan will cover the last week of June and four weeks in July. Week will remain as currently defined in 5 AAC 21.359 (i) For the purposes of this section, “week” means a calendar week, a period of time beginning at 12:00:01 a.m. Sunday and ending at 12:00 midnight the following Saturday. Seasonal limit is defined as the total for these weekly periods, not the entire Kodiak Management Area salmon season. For example: The weeks would have been outlined as below:

2017

Week 1: June 25 thru July 1

Week 2: July 2 thru July 8

Week 3: July 9 thru July 15

Week 4: July 16 thru July 22

Week 5: July 23 thru July 29

2018

Week 1: June 24 thru June 30

Week 2: July 1 thru July 7

Week 3: July 8 thru July 14

Week 4: July 15 thru July 21

Week 5: July 22 thru July 28
2019

Week 1: June 23 thru June 29

Week 2: June 30 thru July 6

Week 3: July 7 thru July 13

Week 4: July 14 thru July 20

Week 5: July 21 thru July 27

(d) The following weekly and seasonal harvest/catch limits for sockeye salmon will apply:

District/Management Plan Weekly Seasonally Week #

5 AAC 18.360 Cape Igvak Not addressed in this proposal

5 AAC 18.361 Alitak District 5,000 20,000 1 – 4 (New)

5 AAC 18.362 Westside Kodiak 12,500 50,000 1 – 4 (New)

5 AAC 18.363 North Shelikof Strait

- 5 AAC 18.363 (b) Afognak/Shuyak/Mainland 3,750 15,000 2 – 5 (Current)

- 5 AAC 18.363 (c) SW Afognak 12,500 50,000 2 – 5 (Current)

5 AAC 18.364 Crescent Lake Coho Not addressed in this proposal

5 AAC 18.365 Eastside Afognak Not addressed in this proposal

5 AAC 18.366 Spiridon Bay Sockeye Not addressed in this proposal

5 AAC 18.367 Eastside Kodiak 5,000 20,000 1 – 5 (New)

5 AAC 18.368 North Afognak/Shuyak Island – Included in North Shelikof Plan

5 AAC 18.369 Mainland District – Included in North Shelikof Plan

5 AAC 18.375 Foul Bay Terminal Harvest Area Not addressed in this proposal

5 AAC 18.376 Waterfall Bay Terminal Harvest Area Not addressed in this proposal

5 AAC 18.377 Settler Cove Terminal Harvest Area Not addressed in this proposal

5 AAC 18.378 Malina Creek Terminal Harvest Area Not addressed in this proposal

Special Note: This umbrella plan does not specifically address 5 AAC 18.360 Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan or the special harvest area or cost recovery areas.

(e) It is intended that when the weekly harvest/catch limit is projected, or actually achieved, salmon fishing will stop for the remainder of the week or be restricted inside bays and headlands.

(f) The fishery will remain open during normal fishing periods until the harvest meets, or is projected to meet, the weekly harvest/catch limit. When the weekly harvest/catch limit is met, the department shall restrict the fishery by Emergency Order to .5 nm inside a headland to headland line or to a terminal harvest area (to be defined).

(g) It is intended that the weekly harvest/catch limits of salmon harvested will apply to the seasonal catch limit. For example: Area XX has a 5,000 weekly harvest/catch limit and the actual harvest/catch is 10,000 (10,000 - 5,000 = 5,000) so the additional 5,000 in surplus harvest will be applied towards the seasonal harvest limit.

(h) It is intended that no weekly fishing time will be initiated or given when there is less than 15% of the seasonal harvest/catch limits are remaining. All fishing will be inside bays or headland lines.

For example: Area XX has 4 weekly harvest/catch limits of 5,000 and a 20,000 seasonal harvest/catch limit. At the end of Week 3, if the total harvest has been 17,500, then in Week 4, there will be no fishing time allowed outside of bays or headland lines.

Special Note: The concern is that in Week 4 or 5, both the weekly and seasonal harvest/catch limits will be greatly exceeded with no accountability to the biological and ecological detriment of Cook Inlet and other non-local salmon stocks.

Special Note: 5 AAC 18.364(b)(3) North Shelikof Strait Area. When the harvest exceeds 15,000 sockeye salmon, the department shall restrict the fishery by emergency order to waters of...However, in this area, there have been harvests in excess of 100,000 sockeye salmon. In the future, the sockeye salmon harvest needs to comply with the 15,000 fish limit.

Current management practices are not using the best science or management practices to develop escapement goals, management plans or brood tables for Kodiak, Cook Inlet or other areas when as much as 30% of the harvestable surplus remains unaccounted for or unassigned to a particular salmon stock(s).

- The burden of conservation (stocks of concern) with this new Kodiak Area Salmon Management Plan will be accurately or fairly applied.
- The Sustainable Salmon Policy implementation of the sharing of the conservation burden will be followed.

Clearly, the Board, in December 1989, intended to minimize the harvests of Upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks. It was only recently, as the result of genetic testing and analysis, that the real magnitude of the harvest of Cook Inlet and other non-local salmon stocks in the Kodiak Management Area became known.

The issue of Kodiak harvesting hundreds of thousands of Cook Inlet and other non-local stocks will continue, all leading to increased conflicts, inappropriate biological assessments (escapement goals), economic stress, perhaps inappropriate management plans and inappropriate use of Emergency Order authority.

The Kodiak harvesting of Cook Inlet and other non-local stocks was recognized by ADF&G and the board as a problem in 1988. The board held an out-of-cycle meeting in December of 1989 in Kodiak to specifically address the Kodiak harvests of Cook Inlet salmon. At that time, ADF&G and the board had limited experience and information as to the extent, magnitude, location and timing of the harvest of these Cook Inlet salmon stocks. Now, years later, with the aid of genetics, we - know much more about the timing, locations, extent and magnitude of the harvests of the Cook Inlet origin salmon stocks. This proposal is a first opportunity to look at the harvests of Cook Inlet stocks in the Kodiak Management Area.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association

(HQ-F19-078)
