

Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan (2 proposals)

PROPOSAL 136

5 AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan.

Open two additional inlet-wide fishing periods per week between July 24 and August 15 in even-numbered years, as follows:

5 AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan. (a) The purpose of this management plan is to allow for harvest of surplus pink salmon in the Upper Subdistrict for set gillnet and drift gillnet gear. Notwithstanding 5 AAC 21.310(B)(2)(C)(iii), from **July 24** [AUGUST 11] through August 15, the commissioner **shall** [MAY], by emergency order, open a commercial pink salmon fishery in an even-numbered year for [UP TO] two **additional** [REGULAR] 12-hour fishing periods **inlet-wide per week** if the commissioner determines that sockeye salmon escapement goals in the Kenai **or** [AND] Kasilof Rivers **will be** [ARE BEING] achieved and coho salmon run strength is sufficient to withstand additional harvest.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? By July 20-22 in even numbered years, there are multiple surpluses of pink salmon stocks available.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (HQ-F19-080)

PROPOSAL 137

5 AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan.

Repeal and readopt the *Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan* to manage for commercial priority and 40–70% exploitation rate, as follows:

Delete 5 AAC 21.354 [(a) (b) (c) (1) (2)] Replace with: **(a) The department shall manage the Cook Inlet pink salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses to provide an economic yield from the harvest of these salmon resources based on abundance. The department should strive for a harvest rate in the accepted 40% to 70% range for exploitation.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current pink salmon management plan does not allow the managers the flexibility to manage for harvesting the pink salmon harvestable surplus. Literally tens of millions of pinks are not allowed to be harvested under the current management plans. Under the current management plans less than 2% of the pink salmon runs are harvested. ADF&G data shows the Cook Inlet has had even year returns of up to 40 million pinks. That is a lot of food and economic resource not being utilized.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-097)
