

December 2, 2021

Chairwomen Märit Carlson-Van Dort
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Michael Bowen - Comments on 2021 Prince William Sound Finfish Meeting

Proposal 43 – Support

Proposals 47, 48 and 58 Oppose

There has been a lot of public testimony at this meeting by the seine gear group stating that the **Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan** is working fine and there is no need to open it up to changes or modifications. Yet the Northwest and Alaska Seine Association has three proposals that would do exactly that.

Proposal 47 & 48 submitted by the Northwest and Alaska Seine Association explicitly asks for changes in the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan. It requests that the plan be changed by having the department manage the Eshamy and Coghill districts to reduce the harvest of stocks bound for other districts. Both of these drift gillnet districts are historic wild stock fisheries. When enhanced salmon production was being developed it was agreed that some enhanced fish would be caught in these historic fisheries and that the interception would not interfere with the management of these fisheries. The Dept is mandated to manage for wild stock escapement.

Proposal 58 submitted by the Northwest and Alaska Seine Association explicitly asks for changes in the **Armin F. Koernig Salmon Hatchery Management Plan**. If this proposal were to be adopted it would be in conflict and violation of the **Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan**.

See section

(2) Southwestern District:

(A) the district is closed to salmon fishing before July 18, except within the Armin F. Koernig Hatchery Special Harvest Area and Terminal Harvest Area which may be opened for the harvest of enhanced salmon stocks returning to the Armin F. Koernig salmon hatchery and where, to the extent practical, the department shall manage to reduce the harvest of stocks bound for other districts;

(B) on or after July 18, based on the strength of pink salmon stocks, purse seine fishing periods may be opened by emergency order;

This language to reduce the harvest of stocks bound for other districts was added at the last BOF meeting in 2007. The Southwestern District is closed prior to July 18 because that's historic date that fishing on wild stocks could begin. It's in the **Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan** to allow early run timing wild and enhanced stocks to make it to their intended districts and users. Both the Port Chalmers and the Armin F. Koernig Hatchery Special Harvest Area and Terminal Harvest Area early chum fisheries are enhanced

early chum salmon remote releases not historic wild stock fisheries and should be managed to reduce interception of wild and enhanced salmon stocks bound for Northern PWS Districts.

Thank you,