

PROPOSAL 144

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Amend the *Post-June Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to allow for fishing periods starting August 1 in the Southeastern and South Central Districts, as follows:

After July 31, if the department’s preseason South Alaska Peninsula total pink run forecast is above 3 million fish, the department may give two 36-hour openers per week starting August 1 in the Southeastern and South Central Districts. The department would still have inseason emergency order authority and discretion to adjust fishing time and area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The South Peninsula pink salmon fisheries are an important economic piece of the overall fishing activity in the region. In 2021, the total pink salmon harvest was 16.9 million fish and roughly \$15.3 million dollars in exvessel value. With additional information for department managers and improved regulatory structure, there is room to maximize opportunity in this fishery.

The department assesses the pink salmon index runs for South Alaska Peninsula with aerial surveys and catch information. Due to inclement weather conditions in August, the department often is unable to conduct consistent aerial stream surveys to assess local pink salmon escapement goals on the South Alaska Peninsula. The department could use a consistent fishery in early August to ascertain the strength of local pink and chum runs.

The department publishes a South Alaska Peninsula pre-season pink run forecast with an 80% confidence that the actual run will fall within their preseason forecast. If the board were to authorize a consistent early August fishery based on the preseason forecast, the harvest data could better inform managers of the inseason run strength when aerial surveys are not possible.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Manos

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