

PROPOSAL 54 – 5 AAC 06.359. Egegik River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Close by the Egegik District Special Harvest Area to commercial salmon fishing for five days during times of high intercept fishing, as follows:

5 AAC 06.359.X is amended to read:

The commissioner shall close the Egegik District outer line, according to the coordinates of the Egegik District Special Harvest Area, during a 5 day period when the interception of sockeye salmon stocks migrating through the Egegik District are the highest.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue I would like the board to address is the interception of sockeye salmon stocks within the Egegik District. The proposal reduces the unwarranted allocation of harvest from the Naknek/Kvichak and Ugashik terminal fisheries to Egegik interception fishery. This allocation has a particularly direct impact on set net fishers in the Naknek/Kvichak and Ugashik districts due to the inability to move sites. It is already the intent of Fish and Game to keep interception rates low. A regulation exists (5 AAC 06.359(c)(3)) stating that in an effort to reduce interception of sockeye salmon migrating through the Egegik District bound for Naknek, Kvichak and Ugashik River systems, the commissioner may close the Egegik District outer line if "interceptions of Naknek, Kvichak, or Ugashik sockeye stocks within the Egegik District have been documented by past studies and in season indicators".

I believe that the results of the Western Alaska Sockeye Salmon Identification Project presented at the Bristol Bay Finfish Board of Fisheries meeting in Naknek 2012 show the rates of interception in different districts at different times and can be used to help reduce those interception rates in the Egegik District. If nothing changes, interception will continue at rates that are unnecessarily high.

PROPOSED BY: Eric Meyer (EF-C15-071)
