

PROPOSAL 124 – 5 AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan. Amend the *Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan* to remove or lower the daily harvest triggers, as follows:

I would like to see the 50,000 pink salmon triggers in the CIPSMP go away. This most likely won't happen. So I would like to see the triggers lowered to 25,000.

The regulation would read something like this:

CIPSMP (b), the daily harvest of pink salmon in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery exceeds 25,000 [50,000] fish or the cumulative harvest.... The second pink salmon commercial fishing period will occur only if 25,000 [50,000] or more pink salmon and no more than 2,500 coho salmon are harvested in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery during the first pink salmon commercial fishing period.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue here, is lack of harvest opportunity of pink salmon in the ESSN fishery. There are literally millions of pink salmon, heading to the Kenai River that are virtually unharvested. There is very little opportunity, in the ESSN fishery to target these pinks.

In the CIPSMP there are two 50,000 fish triggers that equate to one or at best two additional days to harvest these pinks. These triggers occur after August 6 on even years. Many fishermen in the ESSN fishery, and more so in the Kasilof section, quit fishing earlier than the regularly scheduled closing date. It is very hard for the remaining setnetters to hit the 50,000 pink trigger that opens the pink fishery for one more period.

The fishermen that do stay and fish for pinks, are curtailed from further fishing, due to lack of participation, and therefore not hitting the 50,000 trigger. The fishermen that do target pinks, even with a smaller price than other species, can make good money. This pink fishery is very important economically, especially when sockeye runs to the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers are fair to poor.

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