

PROPOSAL 159

5 AAC 33.XXX. New Section.

Prohibit the use of all aircraft used to locate salmon or direct commercial fishing operations during open commercial salmon fishing periods in the Southeastern Alaska Area, as follows:

Use of [UNMANNED] aircraft unlawful.

In the Southeastern Alaska Area, during an open commercial salmon fishing period, a person may not use an [UNMANNED] aircraft to locate salmon for the commercial taking of salmon or to direct commercial fishing operations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Ban the use of all aircraft as “spotter planes” during the commercial salmon fishing period.

Currently aircraft is being used to evade law enforcement and spot fish in closed areas, such as creeks and estuaries. The aircraft then communicates the location of salmon in closed areas to vessels. The vessels then dispatch personal watercraft (jetskis) to herd the fish from closed areas into open areas, where they are illegally harvested. This would make the regulation for Southeast align more closely with other salmon fisheries, such as Prince William Sound Area.

PROPOSED BY: John M. Johanson

(EF-F17-061)

PROPOSAL 160

5 AAC 33.350. Closed waters.

Allow commercial fishing for salmon in waters near selected streams in Boat Harbor, Anita Bay, Deep Inlet, and Nakat Inlet Terminal Harvest Areas up to a straight line between the seaward extremities of the exposed tideland banks, as follows:

add new section (q) the AWC streams within the following terminal harvest areas (THA) listed below will remain open to commercial salmon fishing up to a straight line between the seaward extremities of the exposed tideland banks, or as marked by ADF&G regulatory markers; the provisions of 5 AAC 39.290 do not apply.

Boat Harbor - AWC stream #115-10-10500

Deep Inlet – AWC streams #113-41-10390; #113-41-10380; #113-41-10370; #113-41-10360

Anita Bay – AWC Streams #107-30-10800 (Brad Creek); #107-30-10810; #107-30-10836; #107-30-10840; #107-30-10900; #107-30-10780; #107-30-10760

Nakat – AWC Streams #101-11-10220 (Eagle Creek); #101-11-10230 (Folly Creek); #101-11-10250; #101-11-10270 (Muskeg Creek) #101-11-10290; #101-11-10330; #101-11-10370 (Nakat Creek); #101-11-10390 (Sockeye Creek); #101-11-10410

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In Southeast Alaska, in the terminal harvest areas (THA) for the drift gillnet fleet there are streams listed in the Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC) for the presence of salmon (not spawning or rearing) that we would like clarified that these streams are exempt from 5 AAC 39.290, 500 yard requirement. Instead as in

Kodiak as per 5 AAC 18.350 (8) Closed Waters, these streams listed below would remain open to commercial salmon fishing by drift gillnet gear up to a straight line between the seaward extremities of the exposed tideland banks of the streams and creeks. This will help clarify that within the terminal harvest areas some of which are extremely small that Enforcement can not give a ticket for being close to a stream mouth, as these streams are not important for the spawning or rearing of any salmon species and the conduct of gillnet fisheries in these areas has not harmed any wild stocks within the THA.

When 5 AAC 39.290 was changed several cycles ago, it has become very difficult to determine the closed areas that the 500 yards pertains to, particularly section (3) which states “over the beds or channels of fresh water of streams or rivers of this state”.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen’s Alliance & United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
(HQ-F17-069)

PROPOSAL 161

5 AAC 33.350. Closed Waters.

Update commercial salmon fishery closed waters coordinates in Whitewater Bay, as follows:

5 AAC 33.350(m)(13) is amended to read:

(13) Whitewater Bay: waters within a line from Point Caution to 57°[50°] 15.62’ N. lat., 134° 36.79’ [.42] W long.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The closed waters description for Whitewater Bay in regulation is in error.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-118)
