

PROPOSAL 166

5 AAC. 33.366. Northern Southeast seine salmon fishery management plans.

Allow a weekly commercial fishery targeting pink salmon with purse seine gear in District 12, as follows:

To allow a index fishery similar to the pt. Augusta index fishery, to occur weekly. This fishery needs to occur at the north eastern portion of stat area 112-16, with 1/2 mile stretch of beach up to 1/2 mile offshore off beach.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow better access to fish data for north bound pink salmon in northern southeast, stat area 112-16.

We currently rely on test fish data and it's my belief a directed index fishery would supply better data for the management of this area.

PROPOSED BY: Stan Savland

(EF-F17-092)

PROPOSAL 167

5 AAC 33.350. Closed waters.

Close waters beyond one half mile from shore in Districts 12 and 14 to commercial fishing for salmon with purse seine gear, as follows:

(m) District 12:

...

(16) waters beyond 1/2 mile of the shoreline in sub-districts 112-14 and 112-16 during any seine openings

...

(o) District 14:

...

(10) waters beyond 1/2 mile of the shoreline in sub-districts 114-25 and 114-27 during any seine openings

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would address the need to allow for the harvest of pink salmon in the Icy Straits and northern Chatham Straits areas while allowing for the passage of other stocks through the fishing area. The Icy Straits and Northern Chatham Straights areas are known to be an area containing many mixed stocks that are traveling to river systems such as the Taku, Chilkat and Chilkoot. Only allowing seine fisheries to be persecuted within 1/2 mile of the shoreline would allow for the department to direct the fishing effort toward the targeted species, pink salmon, while other stocks can pass through this area where stock composition can be hard to determine. This change would be particularly helpful in years when a system such as the Chilkat is tracking below the escapement goal for a species, like sockeye, but there is large return of pink salmon needing to be harvested.

PROPOSED BY: William Prisciandaro

(EF-F17-099)

PROPOSAL 168

5 AAC 33.350. Closed waters.

Close certain waters of Districts 12 and 14 to commercial salmon fishing with purse seine gear, as follows:

(m) District 12:

...

(16) waters in sub-districts 112-14 and 112-16 would be closed to seine fishing

...

(o) District 14:

...

(10) waters in sub-districts 114-25 and 114-27 would be closed to seine fishing

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal asks the department to close seine fishing in the Icy Straits and Northern Chatham Strait areas for conservation of Chinook salmon. This area is known to be a travel corridor for both juvenile and adult Chinook stocks from many river systems. During 2017 and most likely continuing, restrictions have been placed on subsistence, commercial and sport fisheries in areas to the north of the Icy Straits and Northern Chatham Straits while no restrictions have been placed on commercial seine fisheries in this area to help conserve Chinook stocks. Chinook salmon returns to the Chilkat and Taku Rivers have missed escapement goals multiple times over the last decade and conservation measures like this are necessary to allow Chinook salmon to rebound from many years of low returns. It is in the best interest of all that we help Chinook stocks now so that we can have a healthy fishery in the future that can be enjoyed by everyone.

PROPOSED BY: Ryan Cook

(EF-F17-101)
