

**PROPOSAL 103**

**5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.**

Reduce the bag and possession limit for coho and sockeye salmon in the salt waters and freshwater drainages of Cold Bay, as follows:

This proposal seeks to add a special provision to the bag and possession limit for coho salmon and sockeye salmon in the salt waters and freshwater drainages of Cold Bay. The new proposal would read 5 AAC 65.022 (f) In the salt waters and all freshwater drainages of Cold Bay, the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is five fish per day, five fish in possession, of which no more than two fish may be coho salmon and two fish may be sockeye salmon. If enacted, this regulation would be bracketed by similar special provisions for Unalaska Bay (5 AAC 65.022 (e)) and Kodiak Island (64.022 (2) (a)).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Historically, Mortensen's Lagoon has been the main salmon fishing spot for sport and subsistence fishers. However, between 2018 and 2021 Mortensen's has failed to reach its escapement goal for sockeye salmon and corresponding low catch rates have shifted fishing pressure to systems on the north side of Cold Bay (e.g. Kinzarof Lagoon and the outlet of Swan Creek). These north side systems are small, turbid, and difficult to survey to obtain an index of escapement leading to management concerns about the long-term sustainability of harvest in these systems. Additionally, under 5 AAC 01.425 (6) ADF&G closes subsistence fishing for salmon in the waters specified in 5 AAC 09.350 and 5 AAC 39.290 (e.g. Kinzarof Lagoon and within 500 yards of the Swan Creek outlet) during an open commercial salmon fishing period (which can overlap greatly with the prime subsistence fishing time in August). However, no regulations currently exist to exclude sport fishers from harvesting fish in these same areas which has led to conflict between user groups.

**PROPOSED BY:** Candace Nielsen

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