

*East Side Management (4 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 57**

**5 AAC 06.364. Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan.**

Repeal set and drift gillnet allocations in the Naknek-Kvichak District, as follows:

This proposal is to repeal Allocation in the Naknek-Kvichak District, and manage the way it was before allocation was implemented.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Under the allocation plan that was developed, the allocation between Set and Drift was set at 84% Drift and 16% Set. Of which is divided equally between the Naknek Setnetters and Kvichak Setnetters. Until several years ago the allocation between percentages was kept close. Then the percentage of Set Allocation started to rise, to as much as 30% several years ago. In 2021 the Set percentage reached 47%. When the allocation between Set and Drift was implemented we thought ADFG was required to keep the harvest close to those percentages, but the N/K management has not been doing that the last several years. It had not been managed to allocation, so why even have allocation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Randolph Alvarez (EF-F22-014)

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**PROPOSAL 58**

**5 AAC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.**

Provide increased commercial salmon fishing opportunity in the Naknek River Special Harvest Area, as follows:

5 AAC 06.360

**(i) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, the NRSHA when the Naknek River escapement exceeds the mid-point of the escapement goal range and is projected to exceed the upper end of the escapement goal range.**

**(A) Fishing periods may open concurrently with fishing periods in the Naknek Section and the Naknek-Kvichak District, except that, drift gillnet fishing periods may close one hour before high tide.**

**(B) Fish harvested in the NRSHA shall be delivered prior to fishing the Naknek Section or the Naknek-Kvichak District.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

**NRSHA open concurrent to Naknek and/or N/K openings**, which increases fishing area and reduces escapement. This proposal addresses over escapement of sockeye salmon in the Naknek River.

**The situation as it currently exists:** The Naknek River has experienced over escapement in recent years due to increasing runs, and unusual fish-movement patters in which the fish swim through the Naknek Section and “magically” appear in the Naknek River with an express ticket to the spawning grounds. In such instances over 1,000,000 fish have eluded fishermen and swam up the

river during a “push” of fish, even though the Naknek Section was open for fishing when the fish swam through the district. Currently fishermen are allowed to fish in the Naknek River Special Harvest Area (NRSHA) only as a conservation measure to protect the Kvichak River stocks, and are not allowed to fish with consideration of catching a push of fish that are in the river.

**Situation if this proposal were enacted:** When fish are “sneaking past” the fleet and winding up in the river in abundance, the NRSHA may be opened concurrently with the Naknek Section or Naknek/Kvichak district openings. This will allow for those fish to be caught, and not go up the river to add to the over-escapement tally. Since the in-river fishery will close one-hour prior to high tide, this proposal will allow for the orderly and unobstructed flow of traffic on the Naknek River for tug-and-barge, and salmon tendering activities. .

**PROPOSED BY:** Matt Marinkovich (HQ-F22-010)

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**PROPOSAL 59**

**5 AAC 06.365. Egegik District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan.**

Repeal provisions directing the department to avoid continuous fishing with set gillnet gear in the Egegik District, as follows:

5 AAC 06.365 Egegik District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan

...

[(g) IN THE SET GILLNET FISHERY, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MANAGE, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE EGEGIK DISTRICT TO AVOID CONTINUOUS FISHING WITH SET GILLNET GEAR.]

Remove the entire line item.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In the set gillnet fishery, the department shall manage, to the extent practicable, the Egegik District to avoid continuous fishing with set gillnet gear.

Due to this line item, the set net fisherman had (in previous seasons) been required to set AND pull set gillnet gear each and every tide. This again, requires two sets and two pulls each and every day fishing periods were allowed.

In removing this, would give flexibility to the biologists to allow continuous fishing with set gillnet gear at their discretion.

**PROPOSED BY:** Michael A Duta (EF-F22-011)

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**PROPOSAL 60**

**5 AAC 06.366. Ugashik District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Set and Drift Gillnet Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan.**

Align the Ugashik District fall fishing schedule with the Naknek-Kvichak District and Egegik District fall fishing schedules, as follows:

Abolish current Ugashik fall fishing schedule.

Add Ugashik to the current regulation regarding the fall fishing schedule for Naknek/Kvichak, Egegik. Assimilate all 3 Eastside districts together.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In Ugashik, the current fall schedule is after Aug 1st, it opens Thurs 9am until Mon 9am. I propose changing the fall schedule to align with Naknek/Kvichak, and Egegik which is a Mon 9am until Sun 9am, starting on July 17. Implementation shall only occur if the minimum escapement goal has been reached as of July 17.

Why? the current regulation often results in the end of the Ugashik fishery for a given season. Markets leave when there are gaps in fishing time while other districts are open (Kvichak, Egegik) The result is local Ugashik fishers have missed opportunities for fall fishing due to markets not coming to the district, while both of the other Eastside districts are fishing. By assimilating Ugashik with Kvichak and Egegik's fall fishing schedule, it will level the field of opportunities for all fishers.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ken Dunsmore

(EF-F22-020)

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