RC 2

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STAFF COMMENTS ON COMMERCIAL, SPORT, AND SUBSISTENCE REGULATORY PROPOSALS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE–GROUPS 1–2 FOR

KODIAK FINFISH AND GROUNDFISH

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING KODIAK, ALASKA

January 9-12, 2024



Regional Information Report No. 4K23-13

The following staff comments were prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) for use at the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting, January 9–12, 2024, in Kodiak, Alaska. The comments are forwarded to assist the public and board. The comments contained herein should be considered preliminary and subject to change as new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral public testimony presented to the board.

Product names used in this publication are included for completeness and do not constitute product endorsement. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game does not endorse or recommend any specific company or their products.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

The following acronyms and abbreviations, and others approved for the Système International d'Unités (SI), are used without definition in the following reports by the Divisions of Commercial Fisheries, Sport Fish, and Subsistence: All others, including deviations from definitions listed below, are noted in the text at first mention, as well as in the titles or footnotes of tables, and in figures or figure captions.

Weights and measures (metric)		General		Acronyms	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative		Acceptable Biological Catch	ABC
deciliter	dL	Code	AAC	Alaska Board of Fisheries	board
gram	g	all commonly accepted		Alaska Department of Fish	department
hectare	ha	abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs.,	and Game	/ADF&G
kilogram	kg		AM, PM, etc.	Amount Necessary for	
kilometer	km	all commonly accepted		Subsistence	ANS
liter	L	professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D.,	Alaska Wildlife Troopers	AWT
meter	m		R.N., etc.	Biological Escapement Goal	BEG
milliliter	mL	at	@	Central Gulf of Alaska	CGOA
millimeter	mm	compass directions:		Coded Wire Tag	CWT
		east	E	Commercial Fisheries Entry	
Weights and measures (English)		north	Ν	Commission	CFEC
cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s	south	S	Cook Inlet Aquaculture	
foot	ft	west	W	Association	CIAA
gallon	gal	copyright	©	Customary and Traditional	C&T
inch	in	corporate suffixes:		Department of Natural	
mile	mi	Company	Co.	Resources	DNR
nautical mile	nmi	Corporation	Corp.	Demersal Shelf Rockfish	DSR
ounce	oz	Incorporated	Inc.	Emergency Order	EO
pound	lb	Limited	Ltd.	Guideline Harvest Level	GHL
quart	qt	District of Columbia	D.C.	Gulf of Alaska	GOA
yard	yd	et alii (and others)	et al.	Global Positioning System	GPS
		et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	Individual Fishing Quota	IFQ
Time and temperature		exempli gratia		Local Area Management Plan	LAMP
day	d	(for example)	e.g.	Lower Cook Inlet	LCI
degrees Celsius	°C	Federal Information		Mean Low Water	MLW
degrees Fahrenheit	°F	Code	FIC	Mean Lower Low Water	MLLW
degrees kelvin	K	id est (that is)	i.e.	No Data	ND
hour	h	latitude or longitude	lat or long	National Marine Fisheries	
minute	min	monetary symbols		Service	NMFS
second	s	(U.S.)	\$,¢	National Oceanic and	
		months (tables and		Atmospheric Administration	NOAA
Physics and chemistry		figures): first three		Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon	NDFL
all atomic symbols		letters	Jan,,Dec	North Pacific Fishery	
alternating current	AC	registered trademark	®	Management Council	NPFMC
ampere	А	trademark	TM	Optimum Escapement Goal	OEG
calorie	cal	United States		Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	PSR
direct current	DC	(adjective)	U.S.	Prince William Sound	PWS
hertz	Hz	United States of		Prior Notice of Landing	PNOL
horsepower	hp	America (noun)	USA	Private Nonprofit Salmon	
hydrogen ion activity	pН	U.S.C.	United States	Hatchery	PNP
(negative log of)			Code	River Mile	RM
parts per million	ppm	U.S. state	use two-letter	Special Harvest Area	SHA
parts per thousand	ppt,		abbreviations	Sustainable Escapement Goal	SEG
	‰		(e.g., AK, WA)	Trail Lakes Hatchery	TLH
volts	V			Upper Cook Inlet	UCI
watts	W			Western Gulf of Alaska	WGOA

REGIONAL INFORMATION REPORT NO. 4K23-13

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STAFF COMMENTS ON COMMERCIAL, SPORT, AND SUBSISTENCE REGULATORY PROPOSALS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE–GROUPS 1–2 FOR

KODIAK FINFISH AND GROUNDFISH

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING KODIAK, ALASKA

January 9-12, 2024

by Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Sport Fish, Research and Technical Services 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518–1565

December 2023

ABSTRACT

This document contains Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) staff comments on Commercial, Sport, and Subsistence regulatory proposals for Kodiak finfish and groundfish. These comments were prepared by the department for use at the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, January 9–12, 2024, in Kodiak, Alaska. The comments are forwarded to assist the public and board. The comments contained herein should be considered preliminary and subject to change as new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral public testimony presented to the board.

Keywords: Alaska Board of Fisheries (board), Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department), staff comments, regulatory proposals, fisheries, Kodiak Management Area

This document should be cited as follows:

ADF&G (Alaska Department of Fish and Game). 2023. Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff comments on Commercial, Sport, and Subsistence regulatory proposals, Committee of the Whole—Groups 1–2 for Kodiak finfish and groundfish Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, January 9–12, 2024, in Kodiak, Alaska. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Regional Information Report No. 4K23-13, Anchorage.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) administers all programs and activities free from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. The department administers all programs and activities in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility please write:

ADF&G ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042, Arlington, VA 22203

Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW MS 5230, Washington DC 20240

The department's ADA Coordinator can be reached via phone at the following numbers: (VOICE) 907-465-6077, (Statewide Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) 1-800-478-3648, (Juneau TDD) 907-465-3646, or (FAX) 907-465-6078

For information on alternative formats and questions on this publication, please contact: ADF&G, Division of Sport Fish, Research and Technical Services, 333 Raspberry Rd, Anchorage AK 99518 (907) 267-2517

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

ABSTRACT	i
Summary of department positions on regulatory proposals for Kodiak Area Finfish and Groundfish; Kodiak, Alaska, January 9–12, 2024	, iv
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE—GROUP 1: KODIAK AREA SUBSISTENCE, KODIAK SPORT FISHING, KODIAK AREA GROUNDFISH, KODIAK AREA HERRING (15 PROPOSALS)	, 1
Kodiak Area Subsistence (1 proposal)	1
PROPOSAL 58 – 5 AAC 01.525. Waters closed to subsistence fishing.	1
Kodiak Archipelago Sport Fisheries (8 proposals)	6
PROPOSAL 44 – 5 AAC 64.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish	6
PROPOSAL 46 – 5 AAC 64.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish	9
PROPOSAL 47 – 5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special	10
provisions for the Kodiak Area and 5 AAC 64.051.	10
provisions for the Kodiak Area	14
PROPOSAL 49 – 5 AAC 64.060. Kodiak Area Saltwater King Salmon Management Plan.	18
PROPOSAL 50 - 5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special	
provisions for the Kodiak Area and 5 AAC 64.070. Kodiak Area Rockfish Management Plan.	23
PROPOSAL 51 – 5 AAC 64.030. Methods, means, and general provisions-Finfish.	27
Kodiak Area Commercial Groundfish (4 proposals)	29
PROPOSAL 52 – 5 AAC 28.406. Kodiak Area registration; 5 AAC 28.410. Fishing seasons for Kodiak Area; AAC 28.430. Lawful gear for Kodiak Area; 5 AAC 28.432. Groundfish pot storage requirements for Kodiak Area: and 5 AAC 28.4XX. New section.	5
PROPOSAL 53 – 5 AAC 28.430. Lawful gear for Kodiak Area; and 5 AAC 28.432. Groundfish pot storage	
requirements for Kodiak Area.	34
PROPOSAL 54 – 5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.	
PROPOSAL 55 – 5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.	43
Kodiak Area Herring (2 proposals)	45
PROPOSAL 56 – 5 AAC 27.510. Fishing seasons and periods for Kodiak Area PROPOSAL 57 – 5 AAC 27.510. Fishing seasons and periods for Kodiak Area; 5 AAC 27.525. Seine specifications and operations for Kodiak Area; and 5 AAC 27.535. Harvest strategies for Kodiak Area	45
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE-GROUP 2: KODIAK AREA COMMERCIAL SALMON (15 PROPOSALS).	52
Mainland District Management Plan (1 proposal)	
PROPOSAL 60 – 5 AAC 18 369 Mainland District Salmon Management Plan	52
Alitak District Management Plan (1 proposal)	57
DDODOSAL 61 5 AAC 18 261 Alitak District Salmon Management Dan	
Coor Cillest Specifications and Operations and Spine Specifications and Operations (5 proposals)	
DECODESAL (2 5 A A C 19 220 Current Specifications and Operations (5 proposals)	02
PROPOSAL 62 – SAAC 18.330 Gear PROPOSAL 63 – 5 AAC 18.331 Gillnet Specifications and Operations	62
PROPOSAL 64 – 5 AAC 18.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.	70
PROPOSAL 65 – 5 AAC 18.332. Seine specifications and operations.	71
PROPOSAL 66 – 5 AAC 18.332. Seine specifications and operations	72
Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan (8 proposals)	73
PROPOSAL 67 – 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan	73
PROPOSAL 68 – 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan	77
PROPOSAL 69 – 5 AAC 18.320. Fishing Periods and 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management	
Plan	82

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

PROPOSAL 70 - 5AAC 18.320. Fishing Periods, 5 AAC 18.330. Gear, 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Saln	non
Management Plan, and 5 AAC 18.366. Spiridon Bay Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.	86
PROPOSAL 71 – 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan	93
PROPOSAL 72 – 5 AAC 18.320. Fishing Periods and 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management	
Plan.	98
PROPOSAL 73 – 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan	100
PROPOSAL 74 - 5 AAC 18.330. Gear and 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan	102

Summary of department positions on regulatory proposals for Kodiak Area Finfish and Groundfish; Kodiak, Alaska, January 9–12, 2024

Proposal No.	Department Position	Issue
58	N	Establish waters closed to subsistence fishing outside the mouths of Danger and Cold creeks.
44	0	Prohibit multiple hooks in Kodiak Island fresh waters.
45	0	Prohibit bait and multiple hooks in Kodiak Island fresh waters.
46	0	Allow snagging as a legal method for sockeye salmon in Kodiak Island fresh waters.
47	S	Repeal areas closed to snagging and sport fishing in the Kodiak Area.
48	S	Modify the bag and possession limit for coho salmon in the Miam, Sacramento, and Saltery drainages.
49	Ν	Modify the Kodiak Area Saltwater King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan.
50	S	Modify provisions of the management plan for rockfish in the Kodiak Area.
51	О	Prohibit commercial transporters from sport or subsistence shellfish fishing while transporting clients.
52	Ν	Establish new Kodiak Area commercial sablefish fishery.
53	Ν	Allow groundfish pots to be longlined in the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
54	Ν	Amend state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level rollover criteria for pot and jig gear.
55	Ν	Amend state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level rollover criteria for pot and jig gear.
56	Ν	Modify the fishing season and periods for the Kodiak Area to increase opportunity for harvesting herring.
57	N	Modify herring seine gear, fishing season and periods, and herring sac roe harvest strategy to increase herring harvest.
60	Ν	Modify the Mainland District Salmon Management Plan to increase fishing opportunity.
61	0	Restrict commercial salmon fishing in the Inner Dog Salmon Flats Section.
62	0	Increase commercial salmon fishing opportunity for set gillnet permit.
63	Ν	Allow permit stacking in the set gillnet salmon fishery.
64	N	Modify gillnet specification and operations to increase the allowable size of hooks.
65	Ν	Prohibit the use of aircraft to locate salmon for the commercial taking of salmon or to direct commercial fishing operations in the Kodiak Management Area.
66	Ν	Increase purse seine length on the Kodiak Management Area.
67	0	Restrict commercial salmon fishing in the Inner Ayakulik Section.
68	0	Restrict commercial salmon fishing in the Inner Karluk Section.
69	О	Amend the Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan to implement commercial salmon fishing periods for setnet permit holders to increase harvest opportunity.
70	0	Modify the Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan to establish an allocation between gear groups.

N = Neutral; S = Support; O = Oppose; NA = No Action; WS = Withdrawn Support

Summary of department positions on regulatory proposals for Kodiak Area Finfish and Groundfish; Kodiak, Alaska, January 9–12, 2024 (Continued)

Proposal No.	Department Position	Issue
71	Ν	Modify the Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan to allow the department more flexibility for fishing periods in the Outer Karluk Section.
72	Ν	Modify the Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan to increase fishing opportunity in the Southwest Afognak Section.
73	О	Modify the Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan to increase fishing opportunity.
74	Ν	Modify fishing districts and sections, gear, and Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan to increase fishing opportunity.

N = Neutral; S = Support; O = Oppose; NA = No Action; WS = Withdrawn Support

<u>COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE—GROUP 1:</u> KODIAK AREA SUBSISTENCE, KODIAK SPORT FISHING, KODIAK AREA GROUNDFISH, KODIAK AREA HERRING (15 PROPOSALS)

KODIAK AREA SUBSISTENCE (1 PROPOSAL)

PROPOSAL 58 – 5 AAC 01.525. Waters closed to subsistence fishing.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Christofferson.

<u>WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?</u> This would establish subsistence closed waters near the outlets of Danger and Cold Creeks within Kazakof (Danger) Bay.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> Currently there are no saltwater areas closed to subsistence fishing within Danger Bay. All freshwater systems of Afognak Island, which includes Danger and Cold Creeks, are closed to subsistence fishing. There is no subsistence salmon harvest limit.

The area in the vicinity of Danger and Cold Creeks is closed to commercial salmon fishing. Waters closed to commercial salmon fishing extend approximately two miles further out into Danger Bay than the proposed subsistence closed waters.

There are no closed waters to sport fishing gear within Danger Bay. The bag and possession limit for salmon (other than king salmon) is five per day, 10 in possession.

There is a positive customary and traditional use determination for salmon and other finfish, except for steelhead and rainbow trout, in the Kodiak Area. The board has found that 26,800-44,700 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?</u> Adopting this proposal would cause confusion and be difficult to implement as the coordinates provided are incorrect. This would reduce the area available within Danger Bay to harvest subsistence salmon. Additionally, this proposal would create a refuge for milling salmon which may increase the escapement of salmon into both Danger and Cold Creeks.

BACKGROUND: Within Danger Bay, there is no annual salmon harvest limit for Alaska residents who obtain a Kodiak salmon/herring/crab subsistence permit. The department does not have subsistence harvest data specific to the proposed closed waters. However, permit data reported as Kazakof/Danger Bay has been documented every year that data is available, 1995-2022 (Table 58-1). The recent 10-year average reported subsistence harvest is four king, 18 sockeye, and 101 coho salmon. Recent household harvest surveys conducted in Port Lions and Ouzinkie for the 2022 study year documented use of the proposed closed area for salmon fishing.

Aerial and foot surveys have been conducted regularly on Big Danger Creek (Danger Creek, stream #252-332) and intermittently on the other three salmon streams in the immediate area of the proposed closed waters; unnamed stream (stream #252-332), NE Danger Cr. (Cold Creek, stream #252-331) and Old Beaver Cr. (stream #252-334). The recent 10-year average of peak number of coho salmon observed in all creeks combined is 1,319 (Table 58-2). The peak number of coho salmon observed each season is considered a conservative estimate, and the actual number of fish is likely higher due to survey conditions and survey timing.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. Because this proposal closes waters to subsistence fishing for salmon, the board should consider whether reasonable opportunity is still provided if this proposal is adopted. If the board adopts this proposal the board may wish to consider, for clarity and to aid enforcement, alternative closed waters coordinates.

<u>COST ANALYSIS</u>: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a nonsubsistence area? No.

2. Is this stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? The board has determined under 5 AAC 01.536(a) that salmon in the Kodiak Area, except that portion described in 5 AAC 18.200 are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence.

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has established an ANS of 26,800 - 44,700 salmon.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

	Number of salmon							
Year	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total		
1995	0	20	10	4	2	36		
1996	0	41	114	0	0	191		
1997	4	42	171	23	10	405		
1998	0	0	160	0	0	410		
1999	0	197	24	11	0	392		
2000	0	0	249	6	10	497		
2001	1	15	87	0	0	368		
2002	22	0	77	26	0	228		
2003	23	70	292	5	2	517		
2004	23	0	165	0	0	580		
2005	5	89	342	21	0	645		
2006	7	0	261	5	0	730		
2007	2	91	489	7	0	862		
2008	3	0	186	0	0	778		
2009	0	0	89	20	0	298		
2010	0	18	48	0	0	175		
2011	0	21	72	0	0	159		
2012	0	0	80	6	0	179		
2013	2	80	32	3	0	203		
2014	23	0	30	0	0	170		
2015	2	28	23	0	0	106		
2016	1	6	100	0	0	160		
2017	1	0	225	0	0	333		
2018	12	45	114	0	0	397		
2019	0	0	68	0	0	239		
2020	0	24	233	0	0	325		
2021	0	0	120	0	0	3//		
2022	0	0	60	0	0	180		
Recent 10-year Average								
2013-2022	4	18	101	0	0	123		
species comp	3%	15%	82%	0%	0%	100%		
Averages - Previous Deca	ades:							
2010-2019	4	20	79	1	0	104		
2000-2009	9	27	224	9	1	269		
Average - Overall								
1995–2022	5	28	140	5	1	179		

Table 58-1.-Reported subsistence salmon harvest in Kazakof/Danger Bay, 1995-2022.

		Peak num	ber of coho salmon		
Year	Big Danger Cr. 252-332	252-336	NE Danger Cr. 252-331	Old Beaver 252-334	Total
1995	0	a	0	а	0
1996	0	0	200	а	200
1997	0	а	250	а	250
1998	0	а	0	а	0
1999	1,500	а	5,000	а	6,500
2000	1,500	a	200	а	1,700
2001	1,000	a	0	a	1,000
2002	0	а	а	а	0
2003	0	a	0	a	0
2004	1,500	100	800	0	2,400
2005	1,200	а	а	а	1,200
2006	0	a	0	a	0
2007	1,000	а	135	а	1,135
2008	0	а	а	а	0
2009	4,000	а	100	0	4,100
2010	4,200	a	а	a	4,200
2011	0	0	170	70	240
2012	650	3	а	а	653
2013	300	a	1,800	110	2,210
2014	95	a	400	a	495
2015	150	a	800	25	975
2016	0	a	0	a	0
2017	100	a	350	a	450
2018	1,750	a	460	а	2,210
2019	800	a	650	82	1,532
2020	400	a	a	a	400
2021	800	100	1,500	а	2,400
2022	300	a	130	а	430
Recent 10-year Average	ge				
2013-2022	470	100	677	72	1,319
Averages - Previous De	ecades:				
2010-2019	805	2	579	72	1,457
2000–2009	1,020	100	176	0	1,296
Average - Overall					
1995–2022	759	41	588	48	1,436
^a No survey					

Table 58-2.–Peak yearly coho salmon observations for creeks within the Northeast arm of Danger Bay, 1995-2022.

^a No survey



Figure 58-1.- Map of proposed waters closed to subsistence fishing in Danger Bay.

KODIAK ARCHIPELAGO SPORT FISHERIES (8 PROPOSALS)

PROPOSAL 44 – 5 AAC 64.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would prohibit the use of multiple hooks (more than one single hook or treble hooks) for sport fishing in fresh waters of Kodiak Island.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There are no special or general regulations specific to single hooks in the Kodiak Area, therefore statewide provisions apply for fresh waters: multiple hooks are allowed with a hook size of less than ½ inch between the point and shank.

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?</u> Prohibiting multiple hooks would require anglers that use multiple hooks in fresh waters to purchase new lures or re-fit their existing lures with a single hook. Prohibiting the use of multiple hooks would likely reduce landing rates by an unknown amount. Reduced landing rates would result in either anglers fishing longer in order to achieve their bag limit for salmon, or a reduced harvest. Reduced hooking mortality or any other benefit derived from the use of single hooks would be difficult to assess, although some savings of fish may occur.

<u>BACKGROUND:</u> Many standard lures designed for freshwater use come with "treble" hooks and are used in nearly all freshwater sport fisheries in the Kodiak Area. Many manufacturers now include a single hook with new lures; however, "treble" hooks are still commonly used.

When releasing fish not intended for harvest, a single hook can provide a quicker hook release than multiple hooks, but only with the use of proper release methods. Currently anglers can use single hooks if they prefer, and many do. In addition, the department, by emergency order (EO), has restricted gear to single hooks in specific fisheries to reduce hooking mortality. This has been done when warranted for king salmon in the Ayakulik and Karluk Rivers and occasionally for coho salmon fisheries in the Kodiak Road Zone.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal. This proposed gear restriction is over a large area with no biological or conservation need. The department promotes best practices for releasing fish, including minimizing handling time by various means, through education and outreach.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Many anglers would be required to purchase new lures with single hooks or new hooks to replace multiple hooks that are common on most lures designed for freshwater use. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

PROPOSAL 45 – 5 AAC 64.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would prohibit use of multiple hooks (more than one single hook or treble hooks) and the use of bait while sport fishing in all freshwaters of Kodiak Island, including stocked lakes and streams.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> There are no special or general regulations specific to single hooks in the Kodiak Area, therefore statewide provisions apply for fresh waters: multiple hooks are allowed with a hook size of less than ½ inch between the point and shank. The use of bait is allowed throughout the Kodiak Area year-round except within the Kodiak Road Zone (KRZ) from November 1 through April 30. Bait is allowed year-round in all stocked lakes and in Chiniak and Barry Lagoons.

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?</u> Prohibiting multiple hooks would require anglers that use multiple hooks in fresh waters to purchase new lures or re-fit their existing lures with a single hook. Prohibiting the use of multiple hooks would likely reduce landing rates by an unknown amount. Reduced landing rates would result in either anglers fishing longer in order to achieve their bag limit for salmon, or a reduced harvest. Reduced hooking mortality or any other benefit derived from the use of single hooks would be difficult to assess, although some savings of fish may occur.

Restriction of the use of bait would eliminate the use of bait in two highly popular fisheries: the enhanced and natural runs of coho salmon to Kodiak Island waters and the 17 lakes stocked with rainbow trout by the department. There would be reduced angler catch rates, especially for young and inexperienced anglers; reduced harvest of many species; and an increase in time it takes for anglers to harvest a limit of fish, possibly creating more crowded fishing areas. Mortality would be reduced by an unknown amount.

BACKGROUND: Many standard lures designed for freshwater use come with "treble" hooks and are used in nearly all freshwater sport fisheries in the Kodiak Area. Many manufacturers now include a single hook with purchases of new lures; however, "treble" hooks are still universally used.

When releasing fish not intended for harvest, a single hook can provide a quicker hook release than multiple hooks, but only with the use of proper release methods. Anglers can use single hooks if they prefer, and many do.

The use of bait is highly popular among anglers in many freshwater fisheries in the Kodiak Area, and bait is primarily used in several specific fisheries. Anglers target all species of salmon, Dolly Varden, and rainbow trout with bait. The majority of anglers fishing with bait, however, target coho salmon and stocked rainbow trout.

Current bait restrictions in the KRZ were implemented to conserve resident populations of rainbow trout and overwintering populations of steelhead. Other bait restrictions in the Kodiak Area occur by EO for specific fisheries, primarily king salmon in remote areas. The use of bait and multiple hooks has been restricted on both the Karluk and Ayakulik Rivers on numerous occasions since 2006 to conserve returns of king salmon in times of low abundance as well as occasionally in KRZ coho salmon fisheries. The use of bait is highly effective in king and coho salmon and trout fisheries.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal. Adoption of this proposal would provide little biological or conservation benefit. The department promotes best practices for releasing fish, including minimizing handling time by various means, through education and outreach. Bait restrictions have and will be implemented in specific drainages by EO and the department will continue to monitor fisheries to determine if restrictions on harvest and tackle are needed.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Many anglers would be required to purchase new lures with single hooks or new hooks to replace multiple hooks that are common on most lures designed for freshwater use. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

PROPOSAL 46 – 5 AAC 64.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would allow snagging as a legal means of harvesting sockeye salmon in Kodiak Island fresh waters.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Statewide, it is unlawful to intentionally snag or attempt to snag any fish in fresh water. Fish unintentionally hooked elsewhere than in the mouth must be released immediately. "Snag" means to hook a fish elsewhere than in the mouth.

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?</u> This would allow sockeye salmon to be retained after being snagged. This would improve angler efficiency and increase the sport harvest of sockeye salmon by an unknown amount. Retention of sockeye salmon that were snagged would not be mandatory although release of other unintended species that were snagged would be, so snagging mortality could still occur. Catch-and-release mortality of sockeye salmon and non-target species may increase by an unknown amount.

BACKGROUND: Snagging has been illegal in the fresh waters of Alaska since before statehood. The majority of sockeye salmon sport fisheries occur in fresh water with an average of 85% of sockeye salmon harvest in the KMA coming from fresh waters in the last ten years according to the SWHS. The majority of the harvest occurs by using a "flossing" technique. This common sport fishing technique for sockeye salmon uses a weight located on the line above the hook which is intentionally drifted into the mouth of a fish so that when the angler pulls the lure or fly hooks the fish in the mouth. Proficiency at flossing can vary and frequently fish are unintentionally snagged.

Snagging is prohibited in fresh waters statewide, however, snagging is permitted in salt waters in most areas. The department promotes best practices for releasing fish, including minimizing handling time by various means, through education and outreach.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal. Snagging has been illegal in all fresh waters of Alaska since before statehood and the department continues to oppose the practice in fresh waters. Snagging in fresh water could result in increased injury to salmon and nontarget fish species and would complicate the enforcement of snagging for other species. The overall impact on sockeye salmon populations if this proposal was adopted is unknown.

<u>COST ANALYSIS</u>: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

<u>PROPOSAL 47</u> – 5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area and 5 AAC 64.051. Waters closed to sport fishing in the Kodiak Area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

<u>WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?</u> This would increase the area of Monashka Creek open to sport fishing and allow snagging in Monashka Bay.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> All waters west of a line from Termination Point to Miller Point (Figure 47-1) are closed to the snagging of fish from May 1 – July 5; and the east bank of Monashka Creek is closed year-round to sport fishing between the Monashka Highway Bridge and ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 100 yards downstream (Figure 47-2).

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?</u> This would open the entire Monashka Creek intertidal zone to sport fishing and allow anglers to fish from the side of the creek that is currently closed. In addition, this would remove snagging restrictions in Monashka Bay to simplify regulations in the area. This would increase opportunities for anglers to harvest hatchery coho salmon in Monashka Creek and hatchery king salmon in Monashka Bay.

BACKGROUND: The Monashka Creek drainage was previously used as a brood source for the Kodiak Road Zone (KRZ) king salmon stocking project. Regulations pertaining to snagging and closed waters in the creek were originally implemented to protect king salmon returning to Monashka Bay for use in broodstock collection while still allowing some opportunity for harvest of king salmon in the creek. However, due to poor returns in Monashka Creek, alternate brood sources and stocking locations have been utilized since 2016. In 2023, king salmon were released at Monashka Creek to allow for sport harvest; however, broodstock collection will not occur from returning fish. Due to previous stocking efforts, there are intermittent king salmon returns to Monashka Bay. No other salmon species return to Monashka Bay streams until after the snagging closure season; therefore, allowing snagging of fish from May 1 to July 5 would not create a conservation concern and would simplify sport fishing regulations for the area.

Monashka Creek has been stocked with coho salmon regularly in recent years and has become one of the most popular sport fishing locations in the KRZ due to ease of access and relatively large returns. In 2020, regulations were revised to reduce closed waters in Monashka Creek to accommodate crowding issues and allow for greater access to coho salmon in the creek. Upstream of the intertidal zone, Monashka Creek is extremely small and closed to sport fishing, which allows for some undisturbed natural spawning in the creek. Fishing closures on the east bank of Monashka Creek were related to previous king salmon stocking efforts and brood stock collection but are not a conservation concern for current stocking efforts or local fish populations in the area. Harvest estimates for Monashka Creek are only available for 2017 and 2020 and were 354 and 196 coho salmon, respectively. The Monashka Creek coho salmon run is counted annually by foot survey during spawning and ranged from 19 to 679 fish in the last 20 years (Table 47-1).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.



Figure 47-1.–Map of existing waters closed to snagging in Monashka Bay.



Figure 47-2.-Map of existing closed waters of Monashka Creek.

Year	Count
2003	45
2004	84
2005	282
2006	238
2007	185
2008	19
2009	132
2010	37
2011	36
2012	300
2013	679
2014	230
2015	100
2016	75
2017	66
2018	210
2019	46
2020	102
2021	384
2022	80

Table 47-1.–Foot surveys of Monashka Creek coho salmon, 2003–2022.

<u>PROPOSAL 48</u> – 5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

<u>WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?</u> This would increase the bag and possession limit for coho salmon 20 inches or greater in length, in the Miam, Sacramento, and Saltery Cove drainages to 2 fish year-round.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> In the Miam, Sacramento, and Saltery Drainages, from September 16 – December 31, the bag and possession limit for coho salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, is 1 fish. From January 1 – September 15, the bag and possession limit in these drainages for coho salmon greater than 20 inches in length is 2 fish.

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?</u> Removing the differential seasonal bag limit within these less accessible drainages will increase coho salmon angling opportunities for the duration of the sport fishery. Harvest of coho salmon will increase by an unknown amount in these three drainages.

BACKGROUND: Current regulations for Kodiak Road Zone (KRZ) coho salmon runs were established in 2017 to conserve coho salmon while maintaining sport fishing opportunity, because many of these drainages have small runs and relatively high angler effort. Thirteen of the major KRZ drainages with coho salmon populations are easily accessible by highway vehicle. Three drainages—Miam, Sacramento, and Saltery—require backcountry travel and are accessed primarily via all-terrain vehicle (Figure 48-1). Additional trip planning and preparation is necessary to access the Sacramento River because beach travel is only possible during low tides.

Nine of the highway accessible drainages are monitored by foot survey during the spawning season in October and November, and returns to the Buskin River are assessed with a floating weir in August and September. Returns to Saltery Creek are assessed with a weir until mid-August; however, few coho salmon are counted. Due to the remoteness of the Miam, Sacramento, and Saltery Cove Drainages, surveys are conducted infrequently, and sport fishing effort directed at coho salmon in the drainages is low given other fishing opportunities that provide easier access.

In the Kodiak Road Zone, prior to September 16, the bag and possession limit for coho salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, is 2 fish. Angler harvest is generally concentrated at the major roadaccessible drainages, particularly once the bag limit is reduced to 1 fish after September 15. Stocked coho salmon returns to Monashka and Mill Bays and Mission Beach have become some of the most popular sport fishing locations in the KRZ due to ease of access and relatively large returns, and the bag limit remains at 2 fish after September 15.

Harvests of coho salmon are assessed through the SWHS. Sacramento and Miam Drainages are included in "Other Road System streams". Recent 10-year coho salmon harvests in the KRZ (excluding Buskin River) ranged from 2,562 fish to 15,037 fish and averaged 7,342 fish (Figure 48-2). Harvest of Buskin River coho salmon have ranged from 934 fish to 5,388 fish and averaged 2,776 fish (Figure 48-2). Due to access limitations and abundant coho salmon sport fishing opportunities in other, less remote KRZ drainages, this proposal will not create conservation concerns but allow for increased angler opportunity where it is available.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

<u>COST ANALYSIS</u>: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.



Figure 48-1.-Map of KRZ drainages with coho salmon sport fisheries. Sacramento, Miam, and Saltery drainages.



Figure 48-2.-Estimates of coho salmon harvests from the SWHS in the KRZ, 2013–2022.

Source: Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS) estimates from the Alaska Sport Fishing Survey database [Intranet]. 1996–present. Anchorage, AK: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish (cited September 2023). Available from: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/.

<u>PROPOSAL 49</u> – 5 AAC 64.060. Kodiak Area Saltwater King Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Charter Association.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Reduce the bag and possession limit of king salmon from May 15 through July 31 to one fish with a five fish annual limit for fish over 20 inches from April 1 through August 31.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> Current regulations establish a bag and possession limit of two king salmon in the salt waters of the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) with no annual limit. There is a management plan for the saltwater king salmon sport fishery of the KMA that sets a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 11,000 king salmon excluding fish harvested in Monashka Bay. The plan describes management options the board will consider that could restrict the fishery if the GHL is exceeded, with the goal of stabilizing king salmon harvest. These options are prioritized and include reduction of the nonresident king salmon bag and possession limit to one fish; prohibiting sport fishing guides from retaining king salmon while clients are on board; allowing harvest of only fish over 28 inches; and reduction of the resident bag and possession limit to one fish.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This would reduce the harvest of king salmon by reducing the bag limit from May 15 – July 31 as well as imposing an annual limit from April 1 – August 31 for all anglers. Harvest opportunity would be significantly reduced during the peak saltwater fishing season in the KMA and during the general time frame that many Gulf of Alaska king salmon runs are returning to their natal streams.

BACKGROUND: King salmon fishing in the salt waters of the KMA is one of the most popular sport fisheries in the area in terms of both participation and harvest. Harvest occurs throughout the area but much of the harvest and effort occurs near the City of Kodiak in Chiniak Bay and nearby surrounding areas (Figure 49-1). Other areas of significant effort include the areas around Old Harbor, Afognak Island and Uyak Bay. Anglers target king salmon primarily by trolling and harvest occurs year-round, though most fishing effort occurs from May through September with peak fishing effort occurring from mid-July through August. A management plan aimed at stabilizing growth experienced in this fishery in the 1990's was established in 2002 by the board at the request of the Kodiak AC and a king salmon working group designated to provide recommendations on management options for the saltwater king salmon fishery in the KMA. The management plan originally prescribed a GHL of 8,000 king salmon as reported by the SWHS but excluded harvest in Monashka Bay. It was amended in 2008 to a GHL of 11,000 king salmon, excluding fish taken in Monashka Bay. Prior to adoption of the original management plan in 2002, the KMA had a bag limit of three king salmon, of which two had to be greater than 28 inches.

The current GHL has been exceeded once, in 2021, and management actions have not been taken in the sport fishery since the adoption of the current version of the plan in 2008. Since 2003, king salmon harvest on average has only increased slightly, with the 2013-2022 average harvest being 8,474 fish and the average harvest from 2003-2012 being 8,410 fish (Table 49-1). In the last ten years, harvests have varied significantly between years, ranging from 6,647 fish in 2019 to 11,673 in 2021. Harvest of king salmon by nonresidents varies significantly as well but has averaged 57% of the harvest from 2013-2022 (Figure 49-1). This is similar to the previous 10-year average (2003-2012) that was also 57% of the king salmon harvest being attributed to nonresidents. The percentage of harvest by nonresidents in the last 10 years has ranged from 32% in 2020 to 76% in 2019. While participation and harvest can vary significantly from year to year, the size and scope of the fishery has remained stable overall in the last 20 years. Guided harvest accounts for a significant portion of the overall king salmon harvest and has averaged 3,243 fish from 2013-2022 but has ranged from 1,687 fish in 2012 to 5,203 in 2022 (Figure 49-2).

While KMA saltwater king salmon regulations are more liberal than Lower Cook Inlet king salmon regulations, the KMA saltwater king salmon fishery is not managed based on any local stocks given the distance of these stocks from the primary areas of harvest as well as the mixed stock nature of the fishery. Genetic stock identification studies conducted during mid-May to mid-September from 2014-2016 indicate that about 14% of the KMA saltwater king salmon sport fishery harvest is of Gulf of Alaska origin (Table 49-3). No genetic data has been collected from the winter king salmon fishery harvests. Management targets established by the board are allocative in nature and were not intended to target management of a specific stock but rather keep the fishery from expanding. Anglers in the KMA primarily encounter immature king salmon feeding and rearing in their natural migration through the Gulf of Alaska. This also makes king salmon fishing in the area unpredictable as the presence of these fish can change rapidly as they adjust to shifting oceans conditions in the area.

The only wild king salmon runs in the KMA are the Karluk, Dog Salmon, and Ayakulik Rivers on the Southwest end of Kodiak Island, approximately 100 miles from the City of Kodiak by water (Figure 49-1). These runs have seen chronically low returns recently and Karluk and Ayakulik king salmon have been designated stocks of management concern. There are no management concerns with the saltwater king salmon fishery in regard to these runs, however, since the bulk of the harvest takes place a considerable distance from these rivers and management measures imposed in the fishery to protect KMA wild stocks would be considered ineffective. Since 2002, there have been stocked returns of king salmon to the Kodiak Road Zone (KRZ) from a king salmon stocking program that are caught in the fishery. Returns and locations of returns vary between years with fluctuating fish production, but stocking locations include streams in Monashka, Kalsin, Middle and Womens Bays. Adult king salmon are harvested inriver but also in the salt waters of these bays and to a smaller degree in the broader Chiniak Bay area.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

<u>COST ANALYSIS</u>: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.



Figure 49-1.-Map of the KMA with area of majority of king salmon fishing effort highlighted.

	KMA Harvest			KMA Harvest Excluding Monashka Bay				
	Resident	Nonresident	Total	% Nonresident	Resident	Nonresident	Total	% Nonresident
2003	4,258	3,766	8,024	47%	4,258	3,766	8,024	47%
2004	4,383	5,404	9,787	55%	4,383	5,404	9,787	55%
2005	2,996	5,282	8,278	64%	2,984	5,282	8,266	64%
2006	4,023	6,310	10,333	61%	4,023	6,294	10,317	61%
2007	4,449	6,177	10,626	58%	4,436	6,015	10,451	58%
2008	5,290	4,118	9,408	44%	5,259	4,079	9,338	44%
2009	4,190	4,583	8,773	52%	4,155	4,544	8,699	52%
2010	1,762	3,446	5,208	66%	1,682	3,446	5,128	67%
2011	2,766	3,725	6,491	57%	2,733	3,725	6,458	58%
2012	2,194	4,982	7,176	69%	2,042	4,879	6,921	70%
2013	3,770	4,682	8,452	55%	3,605	4,682	8,287	56%
2014	2,489	5,560	8,049	69%	2,489	5,544	8,033	69%
2015	2,552	4,157	6,709	62%	2,503	4,059	6,562	62%
2016	6,246	3,253	9,499	34%	6,232	3,253	9,485	34%
2017	3,548	7,517	11,065	68%	3,506	7,334	10,840	68%
2018	3,605	3,485	7,090	49%	3,605	3,444	7,049	49%
2019	1,587	5,060	6,647	76%	1,587	5,060	6,647	76%
2020	5,191	2,486	7,677	32%	5,191	2,412	7,603	32%
2021	4,883	6,790	11,673	58%	4,806	6,643	11,449	58%
2022	2,676	5,336	7,880	67%	2,657	5,308	7,833	67%
03-12 Average	3,631	4,779	8,410	57%	3,596	4,743	8,339	58%
13-22 Average	3,655	4,833	8,474	57%	3,618	4,774	8,379	57%

Table 49-1.-SWHS saltwater king salmon harvest by residents and non-residents in the KMA, 2003–2022.

Source: Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS) estimates from the Alaska Sport Fishing Survey database [Intranet]. 1996–present. Anchorage, AK: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish (cited September 2023). Available from: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/.

	Harvest	Release	% Nonresident
2006	5,051	303	91%
2007	4,994	280	93%
2008	3,736	591	77%
2009	2,365	280	90%
2010	1,969	318	91%
2011	2,466	144	92%
2012	3,076	186	92%
2013	1,687	285	92%
2014	2,915	343	93%
2015	2,707	84	91%
2016	2,061	65	91%
2017	4,423	296	92%
2018	2,412	164	93%
2019	3,563	160	93%
2020	2,316	107	89%
2021	5,147	267	93%
2022	5,203	601	93%
13-22 Average	3,243	237	92%

Table 49-2.-Guided logbook harvest and release of king salmon in KMA salt waters, 2006–2022.

Source: Saltwater Logbook Database (Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish. 2006 to present. Accessed September 2023. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential. Contact Research and Technical Services for data requests.]).

Table 49-3.–Genetic stock identification results for KMA king salmon sport harvests, 2014–2016.

				14-16
Reporting Group	2014	2015	2016	Average
Russia	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Eastern Bering Sea	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.2%
North Alaska Peninsula	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Chignik	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Kodiak	1.6%	5.0%	3.9%	3.5%
Cook Inlet	0.9%	1.7%	0.0%	0.9%
Copper	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Southeast Alaska/Northeast Gulf of Alaska	6.8%	10.6%	11.8%	9.7%
British Columbia	46.1%	36.0%	46.3%	42.8%
West Coast US	44.1%	45.3%	36.9%	42.1%

Source: Shedd, K. R., M. B. Foster, M. Wattum, T. Polum, M. Witteveen, M. Stratton, T. H. Dann, H. A. Hoyt, and C. Habicht. 2016. Genetic stock composition of the commercial and sport harvest of Chinook salmon in Westward Region, 2014–2016. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Manuscript Series No. 16-11, Anchorage.

<u>PROPOSAL 50</u> – 5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area and 5 AAC 64.070. Kodiak Area Rockfish Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

<u>WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?</u> Amend the Kodiak Area rockfish management plan to include language specific to management of additional rockfish species besides black rockfish and remove redundant regulations and incorrect language in the possession limit for rockfish described in the management plan.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulations establish a bag limit of five rockfish with 10 in possession in the Kodiak Management Area (KMA), of which only two may be nonpelagic species with four in possession and only one may be a yelloweye, with two in possession. Within Chiniak and Marmot Bays, the total rockfish bag limit is three fish with six in possession and the same nonpelagic and yelloweye limits. In 2020, the board adopted a rockfish management plan for the KMA that established a guideline harvest range of 0-26,000 black rockfish. In addition, the board directed the department to manage the sport fishery to harvest within this range as well as for individual management districts for sustainable harvest of black rockfish recognizing that both sport and commercial fisheries are fishing the same rockfish populations. Management actions in the sport fishery are implemented according to a set of criteria that includes implementing annual limits, restricting nonresident bag limits, reducing the rockfish bag limit in a specific area and restricting resident bag limits if needed.

The department has issued EOs restricting the nonresident harvest from 2021 through 2023 based on the guidance in this management plan and with the aim to provide for sustainable harvests of black rockfish in the areas of the highest effort in the KMA. The nonresident bag limit for rockfish was reduced to three fish with six in possession for much of the eastside of Kodiak and Afognak Islands (Figure 50-1) by these EOs and the nonpelagic and yelloweye bag and possession limits remained the same.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This would remove language from the management plan regarding rockfish bag and possession limits and move the special provisions for the Chiniak and Marmot Bay areas to a new section to correct the inconsistent and redundant language in the plan but also simplify both the plan and KMA sport fishing regulations. Currently, the plan includes the special provisions for Chiniak and Marmot Bays, but also repeats areawide bag limits for rockfish and incorrectly states the possession limit for rockfish. The rockfish regulations for the KMA and for the Chiniak and Marmot Bays would not change per regulations previously established, however, the management plan would more clearly address potential changes in bag limits that would be enacted by EO by the department preseason or inseason.

This would also add language to the management plan purpose statement that would recognize potential impacts, as well as harvest opportunity, on other species of rockfish that could occur when management actions are taken to reduce black rockfish harvest. There is currently harvest opportunity available for other pelagic species besides black rockfish; however, little is known about the populations of these species and potential effects of management actions on these species should be taken into account. To date, management actions regarding pelagic rockfish have been entirely focused on sustainable harvests of black rockfish.

BACKGROUND: The Kodiak Area Rockfish Management Plan was adopted at the 2020 Kodiak board meeting. With this management plan and along with the department's Statewide Rockfish Initiative (SRI) and annual black rockfish management planning meetings in Kodiak, management tools and strategies continue to be developed given the continually growing base of knowledge regarding rockfish in the KMA. Recent management actions taken by EO in the KMA are the culmination of many years of efforts made to understand sustainable harvest rates for black rockfish in the SMA that include: a hydroacoustic abundance survey, relatively new methods for estimating harvest in the sport fishery, and more recently, inseason harvest tracking for sport harvest of black rockfish in three of the six management districts of the KMA: Afognak, Northeast and Eastside (Figure 50-1). The department has issued EO's restricting nonresident harvest in each of these three districts from 2021-2023 as these are areas of concern with growing sport harvest sthat are causing total removals to meet or exceed the best-known sustainable harvest thresholds. Management strategies such as these are discussed annually at preseason black rockfish meetings in Kodiak with sport and commercial fisheries divisions to attempt to be proactive in providing harvest opportunity but also maintaining sustainable harvest levels.

Harvest strategies aimed at conserving black rockfish should recognize potential impacts to angler behavior in targeting other species, as well as the harvest of black rockfish. Coinciding with decreased bag limits, the percentage of black rockfish harvested in the sport fishery has been increasing according to dockside sampling data collected in the Port of Kodiak and illustrates changing behavior as a response to management actions (Table 50-1). Currently available rockfish data allows for more precise management of individual species and responses to changes in angler behavior and impacts to other species and harvest opportunities on other rockfish species should be considered in current management practices.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

<u>COST ANALYSIS</u>: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.



Figure 50-1.–Map of the KMA showing area of bag limit reduction for non-residents enacted in 2021–2023 EO's, Chiniak and Marmot bays and rockfish management districts.

					% Black
Year	Northeast	Eastside	Afognak	Total KMA ^a	Rockfish
2013	10,856	2,198	1,581	16,744	56.4%
2014	12,651	3,385	2,804	21,596	75.2%
2015	16,217	3,172	3,583	25,543	67.9%
2016	18,816	3,415	2,858	27,790	65.2%
2017	6,753	4,458	3,031	17,125	74.1%
2018	12,775	3,707	3,958	23,595	75.2%
2019	15,861	6,697	8,203	36,806	79.6%
2020	7,078	1,353	5,001	16,841	75.2%
2021	14,272	2,947	3,575	25,487	88.1%
prelim 2022	16,717	3,482	6,082	26,281	96.0%
prelim 2023	13,441	3,222	6,761	23,424	82.8%
13-22 Average	13,200	3,481	4,068	23,781	75.3%

Table 50-1.-Harvest of black rockfish in Northeast, Eastside and Afognak districts of the KMA, 2013–2023.

a. Totals for 2022-2023 only include Northeast, Afognak and Eastside districts.

Source: Polum, T., M. Witteveen, and K. Krueger. In prep. Report on selected sport fisheries of the Kodiak Management Area, 2013–2022. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 23-XX, Anchorage.

PROPOSAL 51 – 5 AAC 64.030. Methods, means, and general provisions-Finfish.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve.

<u>WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?</u> This seeks to restrict commercial transport vessels from engaging in sport or subsistence fisheries while transporting nature viewers or hunters in the Kodiak Management Area (KMA).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There are currently no regulations regarding sport or subsistence fisheries specific to hunting transporters, nature viewing, or ecotourism related activities in the Kodiak Area. Many vessels participating in these activities are, however, registered charter guides and are regulated by all pertinent State of Alaska sport fishing regulations as well as Federal charter halibut regulations. The only regulations specific to guides and guided anglers in the KMA beyond registration and logbook requirements are that statewide shellfish regulations prohibit an owner, operator or employee of a lodge, charter vessel or an enterprise that furnishes food, lodging or sport fishing guide services from providing shellfish to a client or guest of those services unless the shellfish was taken with gear deployed and retrieved by the client or guest, the gear is marked with client or guests name and address and the shellfish is to be consumed by the client or guest or in the presence of the client or guest. Additionally, the captain or crew members of a charter vessel may not set or retrieve their own gear while that vessel is being chartered.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This would restrict vessels transporting hunters or wildlife viewers from also participating in sport or subsistence fisheries while the clients are on board. Harvest opportunities in these fisheries would be eliminated for individuals on these vessels engaging in hunting or ecotourism type activities. Many vessels in the KMA transport hunters in the fall after the fishing season either as selfcontained, boat-based accommodations for the hunters or as transportation in conjunction with land-based accommodations, however, many of these vessels are also registered charter vessels that are licensed and complete saltwater logbooks in conjunction with each trip. These businesses would be prevented from allowing their clients or guiding their clients in sport or subsistence fisheries while hunters are on board. To a lesser degree, there are boat-based ecotourism charters that operate primarily during the summer months for bear viewing and other nature viewing opportunities and many charter fishing vessels offer wildlife viewing as part of their services during the fishing season, particularly on days when halibut fishing is closed. An unknown number of dedicated wildlife or nature viewing vessels are also licensed charter vessels, and they would likewise be restricted from allowing their guests to participate in sport or subsistence fisheries during these trips. A majority of this activity that specifically markets nature viewing opportunities occurs in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area, however, and vessels affected by this regulation for the KMA would more likely be City of Kodiak based charter vessels who incorporate whale and bird watching as part of their regular charter activities.

BACKGROUND: There is no information available for the number of vessels participating in sport or subsistence fisheries in conjunction with transporting hunters or nature viewers or other ecotourism and harvest of fish related to these activities is also unknown. Transporter licenses are issued through the Department of Commerce Community and Economic Development and sport fish guide and business registrations and saltwater logbooks are issued by the department; however, there are no requirements linking the two types of licenses or ways of tracking vessels engaged in both activities. There are a number of hunting transport vessels in the KMA and many of these vessels are registered charter vessels. It is unknown how many engage in fishing while

they are transporting hunters, but many of them do offer this as an additional activity to hunting while on board. It is also unknown how many nature viewing or ecotourism vessels operate in the KMA, though a number of boat-based bear viewing opportunities exist in the vicinity of Katmai National Park during the summer. In the KMA, many charter vessels offer wildlife viewing as part of their charter services but also as a dedicated trip during times when cruise ships are in port or other opportunities are limited such as when halibut is closed.

All harvest anglers participating in sport or subsistence fisheries on board vessels transporting for hunting or nature viewing would be managed by current sport and subsistence fishing regulations specific to the area they are in. Sport fishing regulations in the KMA are generally conservative and the department can restrict harvest opportunities by EO in either fishery as needed for conservation purposes.

<u>DEPARTMENT COMMENTS</u>: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal for conservation purposes and is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of the proposal.

<u>COST ANALYSIS</u>: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.
KODIAK AREA COMMERCIAL GROUNDFISH (4 PROPOSALS)

PROPOSAL 52 – 5 AAC 28.406. Kodiak Area registration; 5 AAC 28.410. Fishing seasons for Kodiak Area; 5 AAC 28.430. Lawful gear for Kodiak Area; 5 AAC 28.432. Groundfish pot storage requirements for Kodiak Area; and 5 AAC 28.4XX. New section.

PROPOSED BY: Dia Kuzmin.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Establish a new Kodiak Area state-waters commercial sablefish fishery with a guideline harvest level (GHL) set at 0.5% of the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) sablefish total allowable catch (TAC). As proposed, this fishery would be modeled on the *Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area Sablefish Management Plan* (5 AAC 28.640) which defines pot (single or longline), longline, and mechanical jigging machine as legal gear. The season would be open September 1 through December 31, or until the GHL is achieved.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There are no directed or parallel sablefish fisheries inside state waters of the Kodiak Area. Sablefish may only be retained as bycatch to other commercial groundfish or halibut fisheries and is limited to 1% of the directed groundfish or halibut on board a vessel. Groundfish pot gear may not be longlined in the Kodiak Area.

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?</u> Given the limited history of sablefish fishing inside state waters around Kodiak the effects of this proposal are largely unknown. Based on CGOA sablefish TACs set from 2014 through 2023, 0.5% of the CGOA sablefish TAC would have resulted in an average annual Kodiak Area state-waters sablefish GHL of 69,000 pounds (Table 52-1).

The federal CGOA sablefish TAC is fully harvested most years. The adjacent Cook Inlet Area state-waters sablefish fishery GHL is also based on approximately 0.5% of the CGOA TAC. Reallocating an additional 0.5% of the sablefish TAC to a Kodiak state-waters sablefish GHL would result in a 0.5% decrease in federal IFQ sablefish fishing opportunity. Average exvessel value for sablefish delivered to Kodiak based processors in 2022 was \$3.51 per pound. From 2013 through 2022, an average of four vessels participated in the adjacent Cook Inlet Area state-waters sablefish fishery, harvesting 26,955 pounds (39% of the GHL) annually. Based on assessment of available habitat, expected harvest rates in Kodiak Area are projected to be lower than Cook Inlet, potentially resulting in forgone harvest if annual GHLs are not fully taken. Unharvested GHL cannot be reallocated to the federal fishery within a season. In the Aleutian Islands District statewaters sablefish fishery, federal sablefish individual fishing quota (IFQ) holders can concurrently participate in the federal fishery (3-200 nmi offshore) and state-managed fishery (0-3 nmi offshore); whereas in the Cook Inlet (CI) and Prince William Sound (PWS) areas state-waters sablefish fisheries, federal sablefish IFQ holders may not participate in both federal and state fisheries during the same trip. Within all existing state-waters sablefish fisheries, harvest inside state waters by federal sablefish IFO holders is deducted from both the state-waters GHL and the federal TAC.

A new open access state-waters sablefish fishery would most benefit vessels that currently do not participate in the federal IFQ fishery. The department anticipates most new entrants would use either longline gear or longline slinky pot gear should this proposal be adopted. Additional longline gear in state waters may increase bycatch and discard of nontarget halibut and groundfish species.

The State of Alaska does not have an established at-sea groundfish observer program so any additional sablefish fishing activity inside state waters would be largely unmonitored and discarded groundfish and halibut would be undocumented. Current Kodiak Area groundfish regulations largely prohibit longline and bottom trawl gear inside state waters to minimize bycatch of nontarget species. The board recently adopted regulatory changes intended to stabilize sport and commercial harvests of Kodiak Area black rockfish in response to potential overexploitation of rockfish close to the City of Kodiak. Introducing a new source of commercial bycatch by developing a new longline fishery in close proximity to black rockfish habitat could further exacerbate concerns about overharvesting localized rockfish stocks.

The proposed season dates (Sep 1–Dec 31) directly overlap with the federal CGOA Pacific cod B season for both pot and longline gear. As proposed, it is unknown if new entrants would target state-waters sablefish during a directed fishery or retain sablefish as a secondary target concurrent to the parallel Pacific cod fishery. Given the small proposed GHLs, inseason management measures and the amount of state/federal regulatory coordination needed to support a new sablefish fishery would likely vary depending on whether sablefish are targeted during directed fisheries or primarily taken as a secondary target.

BACKGROUND: Five state-waters sablefish fisheries occur in Alaska (Chatham Strait, Clarence Strait, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, and the Aleutian Islands). State-waters sablefish fisheries were initially established to coordinate with implementation of the federal sablefish IFQ management program and only occur in areas with known historical catch and sablefish habitat.

It is unknown if sufficient sablefish abundance exists within state waters to prosecute a fishery. From 2013 through 2022, sablefish bycatch in Kodiak Area state waters with pot, longline, and jig gear (including discards at sea), averaged 4,694 pounds annually. Sablefish abundance is not specifically surveyed or assessed inside state waters around Kodiak Island. Mature sablefish are typically found in deep water (150–1,500 m) along the continental slope, shelf gullies, and fjords. Little of this habitat occurs within state waters around Kodiak. Currently, sablefish abundance across the CGOA is high, likely resulting in higher-than-average nearshore abundance of juvenile sablefish in recent years (Table 52-1). Results from the departments large-mesh trawl survey indicate that sablefish found within state waters of the Kodiak Area are typically smaller, juvenile fish while larger, mature fish are found offshore in federal waters (Figures 52-1 and 52-2); only 14% of all sablefish caught during the large-mesh survey are caught in state waters.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal but notes that bycatch of some groundfish could increase at a time when other fisheries are being restricted to address groundfish conservation concerns. Substitute language is necessary prior to adopting this proposal and should include board intent on establishing a directed versus secondary target sablefish fishery. The department additionally recommends prohibiting concurrent participation in federal IFQ and state-managed sablefish fisheries during the same trip (similar to Cook Inlet and PWS) to assist enforcement and accurate catch accounting.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery, beyond initial start-up costs. The department would incur additional direct costs related to managing this new fishery (e.g., dockside sampling, inseason management, fish ticket processing, etc.).

		0.5% of CGOA
	COUATAC	TAC
Year	(pounds)	(pounds)
2004	16,093,580	80,468
2005	15,983,350	79,917
2006	14,043,302	70,217
2007	13,646,474	68,232
2008	12,125,300	60,627
2009	11,000,954	55,005
2010	9,942,746	49,714
2011	10,449,804	52,249
2012	12,698,496	63,492
2013	12,213,484	61,067
2014	10,319,733	51,599
2015	10,269,027	51,345
2016	8,869,106	44,346
2017	9,951,564	49,758
2018	11,371,327	56,857
2019	11,415,419	57,077
2020	14,208,647	71,043
2021	17,760,258	88,801
2022	21,968,839	109,844
2023	21,871,837	109,359
2004–2023 avg.	13,310,162	66,551
2014–2023 avg.	13,800,576	69,003

Table 52-1.–Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) sablefish total allowable catch (TAC), by year, 2004–2023.



Figure 52-1.–Number of sablefish caught, by length, in Kodiak Area large-mesh trawl surveys, 2019–2023.



Figure 52-2.–Kodiak Area large-mesh trawl survey station grid and state-waters (3 nmi) boundary line.

<u>PROPOSAL 53</u> – 5 AAC 28.430. Lawful gear for Kodiak Area; and 5 AAC 28.432. Groundfish pot storage requirements for Kodiak Area.

PROPOSED BY: Dia Kuzmin.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Allow collapsible 'slinky' groundfish pots to be longlined in the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery is an open access fishery with exclusive registration requirements. The guideline harvest level (GHL) is based on 12.5% of the annual Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) Pacific cod allowable biological catch (ABC). Legal gear is restricted to either pot or jig gear; the GHL is allocated equally between the two gear types (50% each). The jig gear fishery opens January 1, and the pot gear fishery opens 7 days after the closure of the federal/parallel Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) pot gear A season. Pot gear vessels are limited to operating no more than 60 pots prior to September 1. Groundfish pot gear may not be longlined.

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?</u> Smaller vessels unable to efficiently operate traditional 'hard' pot gear may benefit from this proposal. The department expects this proposal would result in new entrants into the pot gear fishery, most likely vessels that currently participate in the federal <50ft hook-and-line (HAL) Pacific cod sector. Increased participation could result in shorter, more competitive seasons, limiting the proportion of catch available to traditional hard pot gear participants.

Longlined collapsible pot gear can be deployed and retrieved faster than traditional pot gear but catch rates of slinky pots are likely lower, due to their smaller size, compared to traditional pot gear, so the effect on individual vessel and overall fishery catch rates is unclear. However, an increase in the overall number of vessels participating in the fishery has the potential to reduce department management precision, which could lead to GHLs being over or underharvested more frequently.

As proposed, traditional rectangular, cone, and pyramid groundfish pots would still not be allowed to be longlined in the Kodiak Area. Assuming the current 60 pot limit applies to slinky gear, it is unknown how much additional gear would be used in the fishery and to what extent gear conflicts would increase with use of longline gear during a time of year when little longline gear is historically present. Bycatch interactions associated with a new gear type are also largely unknown.

BACKGROUND: Since inception of state-waters Pacific cod fisheries in 1997, the Kodiak Area pot gear GHL allocation has been fully harvested in all but two seasons (2001 and 2017; Table 53-1). The jig gear GHL has been fully harvested in 10 out of 27 seasons. The pot gear season typically occurs during February and March and is relatively fast paced. From 2014 through 2023 an average of 19 pot gear vessels annually participated in the fishery and seasons averaged 21 days in length during years when the GHL was achieved (Table 53-1). To date, there is no documented use of slinky pots in the Kodiak state-waters Pacific cod fishery.

From 2018 to 2023, an average of 27 vessels participated in the CGOA <50 HAL Pacific cod sector fishery. During that time period, the average closure date of the federal <50 HAL fishery was February 22 compared to the state-waters fishery pot gear closure on March 6. This timing would generally provide sufficient time for federal HAL participants to transition into the state-waters pot gear fishery should opportunity become available.

Collapsible pots are a relatively new gear innovation that gained popularity in commercial federal individual fishing quota (IFQ) and state-waters sablefish fisheries to help mitigate catch loss due to whale depredation. Collapsible pots are cylindrical, composed of a helical spring frame, with tunnel entrances on each end (Figure 53-1). They are lightweight, making them easier and safer to deploy than traditional pot gear; they also use less deck space when stored on deck due to their collapsible design, making them well suited for smaller vessels. Collapsible pots are also less expensive to purchase than traditional pots. As a result, the new pot type has gained popularity, and their use has spread to other groundfish fisheries.

In January 2023, the board adopted regulation allowing groundfish pots to be longlined in the Prince William Sound (PWS) state-waters Pacific cod fishery. The PWS fishery is structured such that longline gear is allocated 85% of the GHL and a combined pot/jig gear allocation receives 15% of the GHL. In 2023, longline vessels harvested the longline GHL allocation and then switched to slinky pot gear to harvest the pot/jig gear allocation, resulting in the full GHL being harvest for the first time since inception of the fishery.

Traditional pot gear used to target Pacific cod are large, heavy rectangular, cone, or pyramid pots that are fished in a 'single' pot configuration, with a buoy attached to each individual pot. Collapsible pots are too light to fish in a single pot configuration and are generally anchored and longlined to avoid gear loss. The use of collapsible pots was unforeseen when the prohibition on longlining Pacific cod pots in the Kodiak Area was adopted.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery, beyond initial start-up costs for vessel that opt to use slinky gear. Approval of this proposal would not result in increased direct costs for the department

			GHL	Harvest	% of GHL
Year	Vessels	Landings	(pounds)	(pounds)	harvested
1997 ^a	38	243	4,249,410	5,769,129	135.8%
1998 ^a	47	310	4,057,608	6,070,139	149.6%
1999 ^a	77	471	5,860,989	8,492,710	144.9%
2000	69	481	6,000,707	5,748,334	95.8%
2001 ^a	34	236	5,325,542	3,591,049	67.4%
2002 ^a	33	212	4,365,153	7,436,013	170.3%
2003	42	149	3,995,878	4,959,262	124.1%
2004	47	161	4,932,843	5,823,605	118.1%
2005	51	162	4,563,155	3,977,835	87.2%
2006	41	169	5,218,480	4,883,637	93.6%
2007	33	182	5,218,480	5,157,212	98.8%
2008 ^a	37	341	5,222,338	8,506,792	162.9%
2009	38	138	4,343,244	4,141,054	95.3%
2010	36	173	6,757,444	7,061,573	104.5%
2011	46	190	7,415,248	8,132,657	109.7%
2012	45	196	7,845,701	7,477,802	95.3%
2013	34	242	6,791,340	6,689,382	98.5%
2014 ^a	28	233	7,316,583	9,176,488	125.4%
2015	30	236	8,449,216	8,300,600	98.2%
2016	36	184	6,794,647	6,834,008	100.6%
2017	25	177	6,087,452	3,737,195	61.4%
2018	10	35	1,118,559	1,137,175	101.7%
2019 ^a	16	60	1,056,417	1,755,259	166.2%
2020 ^a	7	32	757,522	836,213	110.4%
2021	10	53	1,881,626	1,897,975	100.9%
2022 ^a	16	71	2,721,579	3,283,698	120.7%
2023	16	48	2,043,389	2,175,067	106.4%
1997–2023 avg.	35	192	4,829,280	5,298,217	109.7%
2014–2023 avg.	19	113	3,822,699	3,913,368	102.4%

Table 53-1.–Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod pot gear effort, guideline harvest level (GHL), and harvest, by year, 1997–2023.

^a Rollover season occurred resulting in additional pot gear harvest.



Figure 53-1.–Diagram of a collapsible (slinky) pot and components.

- A = Pot end (composed of a closed helical spring).
- B = Tunnel opening/tunnel entrance.
- C = Biodegradable escape mechanism (bio twine).
- D = Bridle.
- E = Fine mesh tunnel entrance.
- F = Slinky/spring coil, which serves as the frame of the pot and also allows it to collapse.
- G = Escape ring (required for sablefish only; note that there are four escape rings in this diagram).
- H = Door hinge (note that there are doors on both pot ends).

Diagram courtesy of Jane Sullivan, Alaska Fisheries Science Center.

PROPOSAL 54 – 5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Jason Blondin.

<u>WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?</u> Amend Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) spring rollover criteria for pot and jig gear. If less than 25% of the jig gear GHL allocation has not been taken through March 25, the state-waters season will reopen to pot gear vessels on April 1. Harvest by pot gear vessels would be capped at 50% of the remaining jig gear GHL allocation as of March 25.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod GHL is based on 12.5% of the annual Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) Pacific cod allowable biological catch (ABC). The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod management plan allows vessels to use either pot or jig gear to harvest Pacific cod and the GHL is allocated equally between the two gear types (50% each). The jig gear fishery opens January 1, and the pot gear fishery opens seven days after the closure of the federal/parallel Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) pot gear A season.

Currently, if the department anticipates on March 25, that the jig gear GHL allocation will not be fully harvested by June 10, the state-waters season may reopen to pot gear vessels on April 1. Harvest by pot gear vessels is capped at 50% of the remaining jig gear GHL allocation as of March 25.

Further, if any state-waters GHL remains unharvested after the closure of the fall federal/parallel CGOA pot gear B season, the department may reopen the state-waters season to both pot and jig gear vessels without GHL allocations or gear restrictions to allow any remaining GHL to be harvested before the regulatory fishery closure on December 31.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? From 2014 through 2023, if in place, this proposal would have resulted in a spring GHL rollover every season. On average, during that time, commercial pot gear vessels would have been provided with the opportunity to access an additional 1.68 million pounds of jig gear GHL allocation annually (Table 54-1). However, if the board were to adopt this proposal, to what extent opening a rollover season on April 1 would result in additional pot gear effort, or full harvest of the GHL, is largely unknown. The three most likely scenarios to occur under the proposed rollover criteria are:

- Jig gear catch is below the proposed March 25 jig gear GHL harvest target of 25%. A GHL rollover occurs on April 1, pot gear vessels catch up to 50% of the remaining jig GHL as of March 25. Remaining jig gear GHL is sufficient to allow jig gear vessels to continue fishing through the end of the regulatory season (December 31). The spring rollover results in reduced foregone harvest of the state-waters GHL as intended with no loss in fishing opportunity for jig gear vessels.
- Jig gear catch is below the proposed March 25 jig gear GHL harvest target of 25%. A GHL rollover occurs on April 1, pot gear vessels catch up to 50% of the remaining jig GHL as of March 25. Jig gear vessels catch the remaining jig gear GHL resulting in full harvest of the GHL, but some lost fishing opportunity is realized for jig gear vessels due to the spring rollover that allowed pot gear catch to be deducted from the jig gear GHL.
- Jig gear catch is above the proposed March 25 jig gear GHL harvest target of 25%. No GHL rollover occurs. Jig gear vessels catch or retain access to the full jig gear GHL.

BACKGROUND: Since inception (1997) of Kodiak Area state-waters commercial Pacific cod fishery the pot gear GHL has been fully harvested in all but two seasons (2001 and 2017; Table 54-2). The jig gear GHL has been fully harvested in 10 out of 27 seasons (Table 54-3). Fall rollover provisions intended to reduce forgone state-waters harvest were established during early implementation of the fishery. However, fall/winter rollover seasons often have limited utility due to poor weather, Pacific cod availability, limited market access, or state/federal management coordination needs. Unharvested jig gear GHL was rolled over to pot vessels in the fall during seven seasons; five of those rollover seasons (1997–1999, 2002, and 2008) resulted in full harvest of the GHL. Although unharvested GHL was available, rollover seasons were precluded for an additional 7 seasons because the federal/parallel CGOA pot gear B season did not close prior to December 31 which is necessary for a state-waters fall rollover season to reopen.

The current spring GHL rollover regulation was adopted by the board in January 2020 with the intent to provide earlier pot gear access to potentially forgone jig gear GHL. Since that time, a spring rollover occurred once (2022). Three pot gear vessels harvested 534,000 (41%) of the 1.30 million pounds of jig gear GHL made available to pot vessels.

Kodiak Area Pacific cod harvest rates are higher for pot gear compared to jig gear, resulting in relatively fast-paced pot gear seasons that typically occur during February and March. From 2014 to 2023, pot gear seasons averaged 21 days in length during years when the GHL was achieved. Jig gear seasons frequently remain open most of the year, with the majority of harvest occurring from March through May. On average (2014–2023), 12% of the jig gear GHL allocation is harvested by the proposed March 25 rollover trigger date (Table 54-1).

Pacific cod annually form large spawning aggregations that generally peak in March. This schooling behavior contributes to increased catch rates during spring fisheries. After spawning, Pacific cod generally disperse for the remainder of the year. Pacific cod catch rates across all gear types and fisheries are typically highest during the spring spawning season. During years when pot gear fisheries extended into April and May, CPUE (number of cod per pot) is approximately half the CPUE observed in February and March of the same year.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

<u>COST ANALYSIS</u>: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

Table 54-1.–Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod jig gear guideline harvest level (GHL), harvest through March 25, and proposed GHL available for harvest by pot gear on April 1, by year, 1997–2019.

					Proposal 54 (25%)	Proposal 55 (10.2%)
		Jig gear	Percent of	Jig gear	Proposed GHL	Proposed GHL
	Jig gear	harvest	jig gear	GHL	available for	available for
	GHL	through	GHL harvested	remaining	harvest by pot	harvest by pot
Year	(pounds)	March 25	thru March 25	on March 25	gear on April 1	gear on April 1
1997	4,249,410	CF	<1.0%	CF	CF	CF
1998	4,057,608	37,108	0.9%	4,020,500	2,010,250	2,010,250
1999	5,860,989	22,469	0.4%	5,838,520	2,919,260	2,919,260
2000	6,000,707	183,315	3.1%	5,817,392	2,908,696	2,908,696
2001	5,325,542	30,797	0.6%	5,294,745	2,647,372	2,647,372
2002	4,365,153	15,693	0.4%	4,349,460	2,174,730	2,174,730
2003	3,995,878	345,708	8.7%	3,650,170	1,825,085	1,825,085
2004	4,932,843	2,004,061	40.6%	2,928,782	No rollover	No rollover
2005	4,563,155	2,185,647	47.9%	2,377,508	No rollover	No rollover
2006	5,218,480	303,216	5.8%	4,915,264	2,457,632	2,457,632
2007	5,218,480	53,489	1.0%	5,164,991	2,582,495	2,582,495
2008	5,222,338	202,408	3.9%	5,019,930	2,509,965	2,509,965
2009	4,343,244	634,404	14.6%	3,708,840	1,854,420	No rollover
2010	6,757,444	902,234	13.4%	5,855,210	2,927,605	No rollover
2011	7,415,248	3,996,747	53.9%	3,418,501	No rollover	No rollover
2012	7,845,701	1,449,945	18.5%	6,395,756	3,197,878	No rollover
2013	6,791,340	126,481	1.9%	6,664,859	3,332,430	3,332,430
2014	7,316,583	375,251	5.1%	6,941,332	3,470,666	3,470,666
2015	8,449,216	1,399,254	16.6%	7,049,962	3,524,981	No rollover
2016	6,794,647	1,604,675	23.6%	5,189,972	2,594,986	No rollover
2017	6,087,452	73,835	1.2%	6,013,617	3,006,809	3,006,809
2018	1,118,559	799	0.1%	1,117,760	558,880	558,880
2019	1,056,417	157,222	14.9%	899,195	449,597	No rollover
2020	757,522	189,202	25.0%	568,320	284,160	No rollover
2021	1,881,626	315,441	16.8%	1,566,185	783,093	No rollover
2022	2,721,579	154,138	5.7%	2,567,441	1,283,721	1,283,721
2023	2,043,389	418,238	20.5%	1,625,151	812,576	No rollover
1997–2023 avg.	4,829,280	660,838	13.7%	4,190,745	1,927,588	1,295,692
2014–2023 avg.	3,822,699	468,805	12.3%	3,353,894	1,676,947	832,008

Note: CF = Confidential

			GHL	Harvest	% of GHL
Year	Vessels	Landings	(pounds)	(pounds)	harvested
1997 ^a	38	243	4,249,410	5,769,129	135.8%
1998 ^a	47	310	4,057,608	6,070,139	149.6%
1999 ^a	77	471	5,860,989	8,492,710	144.9%
2000	69	481	6,000,707	5,748,334	95.8%
2001 ^a	34	236	5,325,542	3,591,049	67.4%
2002 ^a	33	212	4,365,153	7,436,013	170.3%
2003	42	149	3,995,878	4,959,262	124.1%
2004	47	161	4,932,843	5,823,605	118.1%
2005	51	162	4,563,155	3,977,835	87.2%
2006	41	169	5,218,480	4,883,637	93.6%
2007	33	182	5,218,480	5,157,212	98.8%
2008 ^a	37	341	5,222,338	8,506,792	162.9%
2009	38	138	4,343,244	4,141,054	95.3%
2010	36	173	6,757,444	7,061,573	104.5%
2011	46	190	7,415,248	8,132,657	109.7%
2012	45	196	7,845,701	7,477,802	95.3%
2013	34	242	6,791,340	6,689,382	98.5%
2014 ^a	28	233	7,316,583	9,176,488	125.4%
2015	30	236	8,449,216	8,300,600	98.2%
2016	36	184	6,794,647	6,834,008	100.6%
2017	25	177	6,087,452	3,737,195	61.4%
2018	10	35	1,118,559	1,137,175	101.7%
2019 ^a	16	60	1,056,417	1,755,259	166.2%
2020 ^a	7	32	757,522	836,213	110.4%
2021	10	53	1,881,626	1,897,975	100.9%
2022 ^a	16	71	2,721,579	3,283,698	120.7%
2023	16	48	2,043,389	2,175,067	106.4%
1997–2023 avg.	35	192	4,829,280	5,298,217	109.7%
2014–2023 avg.	19	113	3,822,699	3,913,368	102.4%

Table 54-2.–Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod pot gear effort, guideline harvest level (GHL), and harvest, by year, 1997–2023.

^a Rollover season occurred resulting in additional pot gear harvest.

			GHL	Harvest	% of GHL
Year	Vessels	Landings	(pounds)	(pounds)	harvested
1997	72	483	4,249,410	1,976,546	46.5%
1998	88	662	4,057,608	2,114,685	52.1%
1999	113	793	5,860,989	2,294,837	39.2%
2000	139	1,226	6,000,707	2,814,481	46.9%
2001	69	433	5,325,542	1,252,692	23.5%
2002	51	340	4,365,153	1,389,838	31.8%
2003 ^a	100	688	3,995,878	3,195,605	80.0%
2004 ^a	120	961	4,932,843	4,210,284	85.4%
2005	117	849	4,563,155	4,570,327	100.2%
2006	77	477	5,218,480	1,446,881	27.7%
2007	63	457	5,218,480	1,249,753	23.9%
2008	76	647	5,222,338	2,042,082	39.1%
2009	94	833	4,343,244	4,450,423	102.5%
2010	81	707	6,757,444	6,504,733	96.3%
2011	132	980	7,415,248	7,135,466	96.2%
2012	145	1,160	7,845,701	7,938,727	101.2%
2013	55	199	6,791,340	587,942	8.7%
2014	77	520	7,316,583	3,170,713	43.3%
2015	100	809	8,449,216	3,879,512	45.9%
2016	108	747	6,794,647	3,327,887	49.0%
2017	23	50	6,087,452	101,991	1.7%
2018	10	21	1,118,559	29,016	2.6%
2019	33	101	1,056,417	363,646	34.4%
2020	30	156	757,522	682,291	90.1%
2021	45	264	1,881,626	1,752,630	93.1%
2022	36	209	2,721,579	1,629,439	59.9%
2023	54	225	2,043,389	2,138,127	104.6%
1997–2023 avg.	78	555	4,829,280	2,675,946	55.4%
2014–2023 avg.	52	310	3,822,699	1,707,525	44.7%

Table 54-3.–Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod jig gear effort, guideline harvest level (GHL), and harvest, by year, 1997–2023.

Note: **Bold** indicates years when the jig gear GHL allocation was fully harvested.

^a Full jig gear GHL allocation not available for harvest due to pot gear overage.

PROPOSAL 55 – 5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Jig Association.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This mirrors Proposal 54 but uses a lower jig gear GHL harvest trigger to initiate a rollover and would likely reduce the size and frequency of spring pot gear rollovers. If less than 10.2% of the jig gear GHL allocation has not been taken through March 25, the state-waters season may reopen to pot gear vessels on April 1. Harvest by pot gear vessels would be capped at 50% of the remaining jig gear GHL allocation (as of March 25). The proposed 10.2% GHL harvest target approximates the average annual historical catch by jig gear vessels through March 25.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Refer to Proposal 54.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? From 2014 through 2023, if in place, this proposal would have resulted in a spring GHL rollover during four seasons and on average would have provided pot gear vessels access to an additional 832,000 pounds of jig gear GHL allocation annually (Table 55-1). However, to what extent opening a rollover season on April 1 would result in additional pot gear effort, or full harvest of the GHL, is largely unknown. The three outcomes most likely to occur under the proposed rollover criteria are:

- Jig gear catch is below the proposed March 25 jig gear GHL harvest target of 10.2%. A GHL rollover occurs on April 1, pot gear vessels catch up to 50% of the remaining jig GHL as of March 25. Remaining jig gear GHL is sufficient to allow jig gear vessels to continue fishing through the end of the regulatory season (December 31). The spring rollover results in reduced foregone harvest of the state-waters GHL as intended with no loss in fishing opportunity for jig gear vessels.
- Jig gear catch is below the proposed March 25 jig gear GHL harvest target of 10.2%. A GHL rollover occurs on April 1, pot gear vessels catch up to 50% of the remaining jig GHL as of March 25. Jig gear vessels catch the remaining jig gear GHL resulting in full harvest of the GHL but some lost fishing opportunity is realized for jig gear vessels due to the spring rollover that allowed pot gear catch to be deducted from the jig gear GHL.
- Jig gear catch is above the proposed March 25 jig gear GHL harvest target of 10.2%. No GHL rollover occurs. Jig gear vessels catch or retain access to the full jig gear GHL. Forgone state-waters Pacific cod harvest would occur if jig vessels are unable to harvest the remaining 89.8% of the jig gear GHL allocation.

BACKGROUND: Refer to Proposal 54.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal but **OPPOSES** some of the criteria identified to trigger a rollover. The proposed language, "the commissioner *may* reopen a state-waters season..." is subjective and requires clarification from the board specific to what criteria should be used by the department when considering allocative decisions such as GHL rollover seasons.

<u>COST ANALYSIS</u>: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

Table 55-1.–Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod jig gear guideline harvest level (GHL), harvest through March 25, and proposed GHL available for harvest by pot gear on April 1, by year, 1997–2019.

					Proposal 54 (25%)	Proposal 55 (10.2%)
		Jig gear	Percent of	Jig gear	Proposed GHL	Proposed GHL
	Jig gear	harvest	jig gear	GHL	available for	available for
	GHL	through	GHL harvested	remaining	harvest by pot	harvest by pot
Year	(pounds)	March 25	thru March 25	on March 25	gear on April 1	gear on April 1
1997	4,249,410	CF	<1.0%	CF	CF	CF
1998	4,057,608	37,108	0.9%	4,020,500	2,010,250	2,010,250
1999	5,860,989	22,469	0.4%	5,838,520	2,919,260	2,919,260
2000	6,000,707	183,315	3.1%	5,817,392	2,908,696	2,908,696
2001	5,325,542	30,797	0.6%	5,294,745	2,647,372	2,647,372
2002	4,365,153	15,693	0.4%	4,349,460	2,174,730	2,174,730
2003	3,995,878	345,708	8.7%	3,650,170	1,825,085	1,825,085
2004	4,932,843	2,004,061	40.6%	2,928,782	No rollover	No rollover
2005	4,563,155	2,185,647	47.9%	2,377,508	No rollover	No rollover
2006	5,218,480	303,216	5.8%	4,915,264	2,457,632	2,457,632
2007	5,218,480	53,489	1.0%	5,164,991	2,582,495	2,582,495
2008	5,222,338	202,408	3.9%	5,019,930	2,509,965	2,509,965
2009	4,343,244	634,404	14.6%	3,708,840	1,854,420	No rollover
2010	6,757,444	902,234	13.4%	5,855,210	2,927,605	No rollover
2011	7,415,248	3,996,747	53.9%	3,418,501	No rollover	No rollover
2012	7,845,701	1,449,945	18.5%	6,395,756	3,197,878	No rollover
2013	6,791,340	126,481	1.9%	6,664,859	3,332,430	3,332,430
2014	7,316,583	375,251	5.1%	6,941,332	3,470,666	3,470,666
2015	8,449,216	1,399,254	16.6%	7,049,962	3,524,981	No rollover
2016	6,794,647	1,604,675	23.6%	5,189,972	2,594,986	No rollover
2017	6,087,452	73,835	1.2%	6,013,617	3,006,809	3,006,809
2018	1,118,559	799	0.1%	1,117,760	558,880	558,880
2019	1,056,417	157,222	14.9%	899,195	449,597	No rollover
2020	757,522	189,202	25.0%	568,320	284,160	No rollover
2021	1,881,626	315,441	16.8%	1,566,185	783,093	No rollover
2022	2,721,579	154,138	5.7%	2,567,441	1,283,721	1,283,721
2023	2,043,389	418,238	20.5%	1,625,151	812,576	No rollover
1997-2023 avg.	4,829,280	660,838	13.7%	4,190,745	1,927,588	1,295,692
2014–2023 avg.	3,822,699	468,805	12.3%	3,353,894	1,676,947	832,008

Note: CF = Confidential

KODIAK AREA HERRING (2 PROPOSALS)

PROPOSAL 56 – 5 AAC 27.510. Fishing seasons and periods for Kodiak Area.

PROPOSED BY: Darren Platt.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would add additional hours to commercial fishing periods for sac roe herring fishing with purse seine gear on odd-numbered days from April 1 through May 7.

5 AAC 27.510 is amended to read:

(a) Unless otherwise provided for by emergency order, herring may be taken during the sac roe season from April 1 through June 30, as follows:

(1) from April 1 through May 7 fishing periods for purse seines are from <u>9:00 a.m.</u> [12:00 noon] until 9:00 p.m. on odd-numbered days, and from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon on even-numbered days if a harvestable surplus is available; from May 8 through June 30, fishing periods for purse seines are from 12:00 noon until 10:00 p.m. on odd-numbered days, and from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon on even-numbered days if a harvestable surplus is available.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> From April 1 through May 7 fishing periods for purse seines are from 12:00 noon until 9:00 p.m. on odd-numbered days, and from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon on even-numbered days if a harvestable surplus is available. From May 8 through June 30, fishing periods for purse seines are from 12:00 noon until 10:00 p.m. on odd-numbered days, and from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon on even-numbered days if a harvestable surplus is available. From May 8 through savailable. From April 2 through June 30, the fishing periods for gillnets are from 12:00 noon on even-numbered days until 12:00 noon on odd-numbered days.

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?</u> This would add three hours of fishing time for purse seine sac roe herring fishermen on odd-numbered days of the season. This could allow purse seine fishermen to catch the guideline harvest levels (GHLs) earlier and increase the pace of the fishery, closing fishing sections earlier than if the regulations were left unchanged. This would also reduce the time between purse seine openings, which the department uses to assess harvest, from 24 hours to 21 hours. Although it is not explicitly stated in the proposal, this proposal may also reduce the number of hours gillnet permit holders may fish on odd-numbered days.

BACKGROUND: The commercial herring sac roe fishery began in Kodiak in 1964. Fishing periods from 1964 through 1978, for both gear types, were 24 hours per day, seven days per week. In 1979 and 1980, the fishing periods were 48-hour openings followed by 24-hour closures. In 1981, the fishing periods were further reduced to 24-hour openings followed by 24-hour closures (noon on odd-numbered days to noon on even-numbered days), which remained in effect through 1994. In 1995, fishing periods were reduced for both gear types by emergency order to 10 hours from April 21 to May 2 to reduce harvest rates.

Since 1996, gillnet fishing periods were separated from the seine periods and were again set at 24hour openings followed by 24-hour closures (noon on even-numbered days to noon on oddnumbered days) for the duration of the season. Since 1996, gillnet fishing periods have been separated from the seine periods. From 1996 through 1999, fishing periods for purse seiners were limited to 13 hours in duration from April 15 through May 4, and beginning on May 5, fishing periods were 24 hours in duration followed by 24-hour closures for the remainder of the season. In 2000 through 2004, fishing periods in most sections were 12 hours in duration from April 15 through May 7, and from May 8 through June 30, they were 13 hours in duration with 24-hour closures between periods. In 2002 through 2004, the department used emergency order authority to reduce fishing period duration in sections that had high effort levels and a large available biomass in order to control harvests. The fishery followed this scheme until 2019 when the starting date of the season was moved to April 1 and seine- and gillnet-only sections were removed. The schedule for seine fishermen was set at noon to 9 p.m. on odd-numbered days and 9 a.m. to noon on even-numbered days for a total of 12 hours of fishing time in a 24-hour period. The schedule for gillnet fishermen was set at noon on even-numbered days to noon on odd-numbered days for a total of 24 hours of fishing time in 24-hour period. The schedule reduces potential gear conflicts by allowing 24-hour gillnet fishing periods during purse seine closures.

Overall participation in the sac roe herring fishery has been in steady decline since 2014 when 21 seine permit holders and 0 gillnet permit holders made landings. Only one gillnet permit holder has participated in in the fishery since that time, and the 20-year average (2004–2023) of active gillnet permits in the fishery is just three. However, an increasing herring biomass has led to increased seiner participation in recent years (Table 56-1).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. Allowing an earlier opening time for purse seine sac roe herring fishermen is not likely to lead to overharvest concerns since open fishing sections would still be managed on their respective GHLs. However, the department may request board direction regarding the potential loss of fishing time for gillnetters on odd-numbered days.

<u>COST ANALYSIS</u>: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Year	GHL (tons)	Total harvest (tons)	Seine harvest (tons)	Gillnet harvest (tons)	Seine % of harvest	Gillnet % of harvest	Seine permits fished	Gillnet permits fished
2004	2,850	3,167	2,894	273	91%	9%	27	11
2005	3,475	3,463	2,932	531	85%	15%	32	12
2006	3,705	2,643	2,617	а	99%	1%	21	2
2007	4,000	2,546	2,510	36	99%	1%	21	3
2008	4,290	3,099	3,086	а	100%	0%	22	1
2009	4,765	4,759	4,549	210	96%	4%	31	6
2010	6,075	5,701	5,538	163	97%	3%	36	7
2011	6,135	2,957	2,937	20	99%	1%	14	3
2012	5,355	4,260	4,252	a	100%	0%	23	1
2013	5,410	4,456	4,307	149	97%	3%	33	5
2014	5,830	2,463	2,463	0	100%	0%	21	0
2015	3,190	357	357	0	100%	0%	9	0
2016	1,670	365	365	0	100%	0%	3	0
2017	1,645	125	124	а	99%	1%	3	1
2018	1,185	226	226	0	100%	0%	3	0
2019	1,405	a	a		100%	0%	1	0
2020	3,150	4,127	4,127	0	100%	0%	9	0
2021	7,895	7,965	7,965	0	100%	0%	13	0
2022	8,075	8,913	8,913	0	100%	0%	11	0
2023	8,650	3,430	3,430	0	100%	0%	9	0
20-yr avg	4,438	3,252	3,180	71	98%	2%	17	3
10-yr avg	4,270	2,799	2,798	0	100%	0%	8	0
5-yr avg	5,835	4,890	4,890	0	100%	0%	9	0

Table 56-1.–KMA sac roe herring harvest and participation by gear type, 2004–2023.

^a Confidential.

<u>PROPOSAL 57</u> – 5 AAC 27.510. Fishing seasons and periods for Kodiak Area; 5 AAC 27.525. Seine specifications and operations for Kodiak Area; and 5 AAC 27.535. Harvest strategies for Kodiak Area.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Schactler.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would replace regulatory language in the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) commercial herring sac roe fishery by removing the term sac roe. The food and bait herring regulations would remain in effect from September 1 through February 28 with the same stipulations for the establishment of a guideline harvest level (GHL) and time and area. However, the new "herring" season would allow sac roe herring permit holders to take herring during a newly established "A season" occurring from April 1 through May 15 and a "B season" occurring from October 1 through December 31 with a shared GHL.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> Current regulations for the harvest of herring in the Kodiak Management Area allow for a sac roe fishery occurring from April 1 through June 30 and a food and bait fishery occurring from September 1 through February 28 (5 AAC 27.510). Legal gear types for the sac roe fishery are purse seines and gillnets, while legal gear types for the food and bait fishery are seines, gillnets, and trawls (5 AAC 27.515). Purse seines used in the fishery may not be more than 1,625 meshes in depth, including chafing gear, or more than 150 fathoms in length (5 AAC 27.525).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This would change the current herring sac roe fishery to be split into "A" and "B" seasons with a combined GHL. It would also set the GHL for the "B" season (fall season) at 1,000 tons, unless there is unharvested GHL available from the "A" season (spring season), which would then be added to the GHL for the "B" season unless the available biomass in the "A" season is not large enough to support an exploitation rate of at least 10%. However, if the department determines the combined GHL to be less than 2,500 tons, the GHL would be split evenly between the two seasons, thus making the GHL of the proposed "B" season 1,250 tons instead of the 1,000 tons stated in the proposal. The proposal does not include language to change the current food and bait fishery, and it is anticipated that this fishery would be conducted as usual. If a large unharvested GHL is rolled over from the "A" season into the "B" season and there is considerable interest from the fleet, the department may not have the resources to monitor the "B" season fishery on the fishing grounds at that time of year. Adoption of this proposal would also increase harvest of herring of unknown origin due to the mixing of stocks during the winter months.

BACKGROUND: Due to declining markets and prices, participation in the sac roe herring fishery has declined in the last 20 years, from a high of 43 permits fished in 2010 to a low of 3 permits fished in 2016, 2018, and 2019 (Table 57-1). Legal gear types for the sac roe fishery are purse seines and gillnets (5 AAC 27.515 (1)).

The herring food and bait season currently runs from September 1 through February 28 (5 AAC 27.510(b)). GHLs for the fishery are established by district and are based upon 10% of the GHLs established for the preceding sac roe fishery by section (5 AAC 27.535(b)). Additionally, based on unpublished data from Johnson et al., if the Kamishak Bay spawning biomass is determined to be less than 6,000 short tons, the KMA food and bait fishery in the Shelikof Strait will be closed north of the latitude of Miners Point (5 AAC 24.465(e)(4)). In 2001, the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) designated the KMA herring food and bait fishery a limited entry fishery and issued 13 interim use permits to those fishermen who made landings between 1994

and 1998. In July 2002, the CFEC made a final determination on these limited entry permits. Nine permanent limited entry permits were issued consisting of five purse seine/gillnet permits and four trawl permits. Combine fisheries have been conducted under similar conditions each season since 2002. Generally, one purse seine vessel is used to harvest herring that are then loaded onto a tender for transport. Only purse seine vessels have been used to harvest herring for the combine. Since 2004, the food and bait herring fishery has harvested just over half of its GHL allocation on average, with only two seasons where the food and bait herring were harvested its 10% allocation of the sac roe GHL and one season where no food and bait herring were harvested (Table 57-2).

There are currently 60 active CFEC sac roe herring purse seine permits, and 72 active CFEC gillnet permits. There are five active food and bait CFEC seine/gillnet, and four active trawl food and bait herring permits.

The current sac roe preseason GHLs are established for all sections that have produced consistent herring harvests in previous seasons. These GHLs reflect the status of a particular herring stock by section but are conservative in nature due to the uncertainty in assessing the biomass in the KMA. Methods used to establish the sac roe herring GHL are based on the preceding seasons aerial surveys, hydroacoustic surveys, observations of spawn, trends in age composition, and fishery performance. The current food and bait GHL is established based on 10 percent of the prior season's sac roe herring GHL with restrictions on fishing outside the bays in the Shelikof Strait due to mixing of KMA and Kamishak Bay herring stocks.

Currently, the department does not have the resources to prosecute a competitive food and bait fishery. Since 2002, food and bait fishermen have formed a combine and generally one purse seine vessel is used to harvest herring.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. This said, the department is concerned about potential for increasing harvest on multiple mixed stocks of herring present in the KMA during a food and bait fishery. Also, depending on how many new "B" season herring fishermen decide to take part in the fishery, the department would need to institute new registration and reporting requirements, as well as scheduled fishing times by EO to ensure the GHL is not exceeded. Furthermore, if too many fishermen decided to take part in the new "B" season fishery, the department may need to close the fishery due to manageability and conservation concerns.

<u>COST ANALYSIS</u>: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

There may be additional costs to the Department associated with the new registration and reporting requirements.

Year	GHL (tons)	Total harvest (tons)	Seine harvest (tons)	Gillnet harvest (tons)	Price per ton (\$)	Seine % of harvest	Gillnet % of harvest	Seine permits fished	Gillnet permits fished
2004	2,850	3,167	2,894	273	\$521	91%	9%	27	11
2005	3,475	3,463	2,932	531	\$363	85%	15%	32	12
2006	3,705	2,643	2,617	a	\$169	99%	1%	21	2
2007	4,000	2,546	2,510	36	\$240	99%	1%	21	3
2008	4,290	3,099	3,086	a	\$336	100%	0%	22	1
2009	4,765	4,759	4,549	210	\$378	96%	4%	31	6
2010	6,075	5,701	5,538	163	\$224	97%	3%	36	7
2011	6,135	2,957	2,937	20	\$212	99%	1%	14	3
2012	5,355	4,260	4,252	a	\$308	100%	0%	23	1
2013	5,410	4,456	4,307	149	\$234	97%	3%	33	5
2014	5,830	2,463	2,463	0	\$100	100%	0%	21	0
2015	3,190	357	357	0	\$111	100%	0%	9	0
2016	1,670	365	365	0	\$129	100%	0%	3	0
2017	1,645	125	124	a	\$158	99%	1%	3	1
2018	1,185	226	226	0	\$204	100%	0%	3	0
2019	1,405	a	а	0	ND	100%	0%	1	0
2020	3,150	4,127	4,127	0	\$145	100%	0%	9	0
2021	7,895	7,965	7,965	0	\$163	100%	0%	13	0
2022	8,075	8,913	8,913	0	\$158	100%	0%	11	0
2023	8,650	3,430	3,430	0	\$120	100%	0%	9	0
20-yr avg	4,438	3,252	3,180	71	\$225	98%	2%	17	3
10-yr avg	4,270	2,799	2,798	0	\$143	100%	0%	8	0
5-yr avg	5,835	4,890	4,890	0	\$146	100%	0%	9	0

Table 57-1.–KMA sac roe herring price per ton, harvest, and participation by gear type, 2004–2023.

^a Confidential.

	~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~		Food and bait	Food & bait harvest
Year	Sac roe GHL	Food & bait GHL	harvest (tons)	rate
2003–2004	2,600	260	199	8%
2004–2005	2,850	285	190	7%
2005–2006	3,475	348	167	5%
2006–2007	3,705	371	169	5%
2007–2008	4,000	400	154	4%
2008–2009	4,290	429	202	5%
2009–2010	4,765	477	263	6%
2010–2011	6,075	608	191	3%
2011–2012	6,135	614	212	3%
2012–2013	5,355	536	300	6%
2013–2014	5,410	541	291	5%
2014–2015	5,830	583	124	2%
2015–2016	3,190	319	106	3%
2016–2017	1,670	167	0	0%
2017–2018	1,645	165	77	5%
2018–2019	1,185	119	59	5%
2019–2020	1,405	141	121	9%
2020–2021	3,150	315	339	11%
2021–2022	7,895	790	685	9%
2022–2023	8,075	808	988	12%
20-yr avg	4,216	422	244	6%
10-yr avg	3,783	378	278	7%
5-yr avg	5,131	513	533	10%

Table 57-2.-KMA food and bait herring fishery GHLs, harvest, and exploitation rates, 2003–2022.

<u>COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE—GROUP 2:</u> KODIAK AREA COMMERCIAL SALMON (15 PROPOSALS)

MAINLAND DISTRICT MANAGEMENT PLAN (1 PROPOSAL)

PROPOSAL 60 – 5 AAC 18.369. Mainland District Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Darren Platt.

<u>WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?</u> This would allow weekly commercial fishing periods of up to 105 hours in the Mainland District from July 20 through August 1. Fishing period length would depend on the strength of pink and chum salmon returning to local streams.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Currently, from July 20 through August 1, fishing periods within all sections of the Mainland District (Figure 60-1) are not to exceed 57 hours. During this time period, the Big River, Hallo Bay, Inner Kukak, Dakavak Bay, Katmai, Alinchak Bay, and Cape Igvak Sections are managed for local and mixed Kodiak pink and chum salmon; the Outer Kukak Bay Section is managed for local and mixed Kodiak sockeye, pink, and chum salmon; and the Wide Bay Section is managed for pink and chum salmon returning to streams located within Wide Bay.

All sections of the Mainland District (excluding the Wide Bay and Inner Kukak Bay Sections) are managed under the *North Shelikof Strait Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* (NSSSSMP; 5 AAC 18.363), which closes seaward zones located along the Mainland District when sockeye salmon harvests exceed a harvest threshold. From Big River Section in the north to Alinchak Bay Section in the south, the North Shelikof Management Unit seaward zone closes to commercial salmon fishing when the harvest of 20,000 sockeye salmon has been exceeded. The Cape Igvak Section Management Unit seaward zone closes to commercial salmon fishing when the harvest of sockeye salmon as determined by fish ticket information.

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?</u> This would allow for more fishing time in sections of the Mainland District that the department determines are exhibiting strong returns of local pink and chum salmon. Kodiak seine fisherman may benefit with increased fishing time in years where aerial surveys can be performed and local pink and chum salmon returns are determined to be strong. Increased fishing time within the Mainland District may increase the harvest of sockeye salmon resulting in earlier closure of the Cape Igvak and North Shelikof Management Unit seaward zones. It is likely the department would continue to be able to manage these areas under the NSSSSMP.

BACKGROUND: The Mainland District of the Kodiak Management Area is covered under three separate regulatory management plans, two of which are in effect during the timeframe covered by Proposal 60. The NSSSSMP covers most sections in the Mainland District from July 6 through August 1 and limits the harvest of sockeye salmon due to concern for interception of Cook Inletbound fish. The *Mainland District Salmon Management Plan* (MDSMP), while recognizing the NSSSSMP plan, sets forth the key species and targeted stocks that are managed for in each section throughout the entire fishing season.

From July 6 through August 1, the length of weekly fishing periods for pink salmon are determined preseason based on the magnitude of the wild stock pink salmon forecast. For the waters surrounding Kodiak and Afognak Islands fishing periods are typically 57 hours per week when the forecast is weak, 81 hours per week when a moderate run is forecast, and 105 hours per week when

the forecast is for strong pink salmon returns. Adjustments in weekly fishing time and area in the waters surrounding Kodiak and Afognak Islands can occur as the actual run strength becomes apparent through the assessment of commercial harvest and escapements. Mainland District weekly fishing periods from July 6 through August 1 have traditionally opened for the maximum allowable time of 57 hours.

The Mainland District 10-year average commercial salmon harvest from July 6 through August 1 is 1,091 king, 102,068 sockeye, 7,899 coho, 174,411 pink, and 40,317 chum salmon (Table 60-1). The Mainland District 10-year average commercial salmon harvest for the period of July 20 through August 1 is 225 king, 71,968 sockeye, 6,694 coho, 152,302 pink, and 34,400 chum salmon (Table 60-2).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. This said, the department supports the ability to extend openings to help harvest excess local pink and chum salmon returns.

This proposal is not expected to affect how the department manages the seaward zone closures.

<u>COST ANALYSIS</u>: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

			Number of salmon					
Year	Permits	Landings	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1990	160	747	3,045	248,058	25,445	238,219	116,528	631,295
1991	129	417	3,525	102,855	16,355	349,040	56,992	528,767
1992	170	549	2,129	496,501	21,964	117,928	68,422	706,944
1993	109	557	5,883	293,156	11,449	523,865	33,451	867,804
1994	103	355	800	124,015	7,058	102,441	57,494	291,808
1995	63	202	224	95,783	13,240	309,264	65,050	483,561
1996	104	189	567	94,219	6,932	37,120	17,280	156,118
1997	108	267	3,340	131,595	4,380	71,060	7,089	217,464
1998	47	135	390	58,276	10,647	292,222	22,059	383,594
1999	101	494	1,958	289,213	17,777	330,930	175,631	815,509
2000	90	396	640	105,364	21,981	109,543	173,412	410,940
2001	71	317	2,292	148,335	14,560	206,178	129,821	501,186
2002	38	144	601	59,935	15,147	293,668	24,981	394,332
2003	43	90	174	46,110	2,229	55,268	37,460	141,241
2004	33	78	366	60,265	7,256	133,195	42,087	243,169
2005	39	167	409	247,918	10,875	129,490	24,611	413,303
2006	34	173	1,627	108,502	13,848	559,753	127,269	810,999
2007	47	92	655	48,955	8,699	112,654	11,899	182,862
2008	11	47	353	21,197	2,779	194,966	59,671	278,966
2009	32	192	1,832	171,345	9,526	426,491	76,817	686,011
2010	45	168	2,538	75,026	17,800	88,176	138,245	321,785
2011	31	67	583	38,903	5,373	56,409	24,729	125,997
2012	37	115	1,973	123,985	1,583	52,788	38,144	218,473
2013	45	170	6,915	143,513	11,571	199,719	62,072	423,790
2014	71	180	409	240,385	13,662	145,160	18,992	418,608
2015	32	72	174	88,641	10,940	173,844	17,367	290,966
2016	53	136	1,431	298,224	18,910	71,951	39,434	429,950
2017	44	150	764	120,170	18,728	500,638	198,542	838,842
2018	17	37	385	17,540	1,496	27,326	17,816	64,563
2019	34	90	250	89,119	8,122	478,021	54,488	630,000
2020	27	71	946	94,541	4,875	264,537	12,766	377,665
2021	19	21	21	9,794	549	22,203	6,170	38,737
2022	15	19	148	22,439	185	27,847	12,612	63,231
2023	9	15	42	20,899	1,520	32,587	24,982	80,030
Average								
2014-2023	32	79	457	100,175	7,899	174,411	40,317	323,259
2004–2023	34	103	1,091	102,068	8,415	184,888	50,436	346,897
1990-2023	59	204	1,394	127,493	10,514	198,074	58,658	396,133

Table 60-1.-Mainland District salmon harvests July 6 through August 1, 1990–2023.

			Number of salmon					
Year	Permits	Landings	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1990	119	363	652	113,254	21,013	208,841	65,324	409,084
1991	68	199	2,274	53,893	14,431	296,535	46,053	413,186
1992	155	342	1,164	387,075	20,269	76,882	46,357	531,747
1993	86	228	1,636	84,943	5,548	458,468	17,275	567,870
1994	54	115	172	33,163	3,058	53,238	29,745	119,376
1995	24	112	130	54,130	11,719	284,439	49,263	399,681
1996	98	157	491	81,166	6,534	34,133	9,306	131,630
1997	58	88	120	38,551	3,126	28,290	2,308	72,395
1998	32	92	315	45,833	9,202	283,666	18,971	357,987
1999	66	304	1,309	209,573	16,959	262,532	148,937	639,310
2000	69	150	131	24,836	9,609	77,753	109,380	221,709
2001	17	26	51	2,407	4,463	57,133	38,313	102,367
2002	24	59	75	13,663	12,119	134,058	6,965	166,880
2003	20	30	25	4,128	918	37,585	29,129	71,785
2004	19	36	110	20,975	5,863	100,417	26,079	153,444
2005	27	88	212	157,454	8,815	99,624	15,729	281,834
2006	33	127	1,103	73,138	10,427	503,143	107,212	695,023
2007	38	53	281	34,274	7,404	95,799	9,175	146,933
2008	7	31	208	5,906	2,385	168,293	41,231	218,023
2009	12	24	41	16,109	2,593	51,379	11,929	82,051
2010	24	61	788	24,017	10,587	53,985	90,861	180,238
2011	25	55	363	30,987	5,036	52,444	22,268	111,098
2012	27	52	1,012	52,624	1,246	39,406	23,032	117,320
2013	17	43	1,332	38,051	5,541	109,740	20,741	175,405
2014	42	89	275	162,410	11,530	107,205	11,489	292,909
2015	14	29	97	58,042	4,937	82,720	8,672	154,468
2016	31	65	608	232,016	16,483	58,076	29,458	336,641
2017	35	120	422	97,735	18,695	488,167	186,250	791,269
2018	12	20	119	10,004	1,188	24,020	14,324	49,655
2019	31	82	197	83,935	7,663	460,227	52,673	604,695
2020	17	40	406	59,569	4,394	244,736	7,536	316,641
2021	5	5	16	2,419	471	6,571	2,919	12,396
2022 ^a								
2023	4	9	0	10,534	1,404	25,969	21,466	59,373
Average								
2014–2023	19	46	225	71,968	6,694	152,302	34,400	265,589
2004–2023	21	52	385	58,661	6,342	139,862	35,613	240,863
1990-2023	39	97	478	68,230	7,818	149,729	39,105	265,361

Table 60-2.-Mainland District salmon harvests July 20 through August 1, 1990–2023.

^a Confidential



Figure 60-1.-Map of the Mainland District of the Kodiak Management Area.

ALITAK DISTRICT MANAGEMENT PLAN (1 PROPOSAL)

PROPOSAL 61-5 AAC 18.361. Alitak District Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would change the *Alitak District Salmon Management Plan* to allow commercial fishery openings in the Dog Salmon Flats Section of the Alitak District only after August 15 and after 3,000 coho salmon have escaped upstream of the Dog Salmon Creek weir.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> Currently, under 5 AAC 18.361(j), the Dog Salmon Flats Section shall be managed from June 1 through August 20 based on sockeye and pink salmon returns to the Frazer system. After August 21 based on coho salmon returns to the Dog Salmon River and Horse Marine systems, and openings in this section may not jeopardize achievement of minimum escapement goals for other salmon species.

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?</u> This will effect the *Alitak District Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.361) in years with very high sockeye and/or pink salmon escapement. However, in the past 20 years, the Dog Salmon Flats Section has only been open to commercial salmon fishing four times during the proposal's timeframe, with an average duration of nine days of fishing time.

BACKGROUND: The Dog Salmon Flats Section of the Alitak District surrounds the mouths of Dog Salmon Creek and Horse Marine Lagoon in the western end of Olga Bay on the south end of Kodiak Island (Figure 61-1). Set gillnet is the only legal gear type from June 1 until September 4 when purse seine and beach seine gear are also allowed. The department operates the Dog Salmon Creek weir near the mouth of Dog Salmon Creek to enumerate salmon returning to the Dog Salmon Creek/Frazer Lake system to determine commercial salmon fishing openings in the Olga Bay and Dog Salmon Flats Sections. The weir usually operates from late May until early August when either funding is depleted, or escapement objectives have been met. Coho salmon are just beginning to enter the Dog Salmon system when the weir is ending its season, resulting in low numbers being reported for coho salmon escapement. In the past 20 years, the yearly coho salmon escapement for the Dog Salmon Creek weir has averaged 191 fish, with a range from 2 to 885 coho salmon passing the weir before its end date. Similarly, coho salmon harvest from the Dog Salmon Flats averaged 97 coho salmon during years that openings occurred after August 15 (Table 61-1). Due to inadequate funding and often poor weather conditions later in the season, few aerial surveys are flown of the Dog Salmon Creek system specifically for coho salmon, which makes it difficult for the department to adequately assess the coho salmon run during the proposal's timeframe.

The department has very limited information on what the average size of the coho salmon run to the Dog Salmon Creek system is. This makes it difficult to determine if the proposed 3,000 coho salmon escapement objective is reasonable or adequate. Since the Dog Salmon Creek weir was established in 1983, the coho salmon escapement has surpassed the proposed escapement of 3,000 fish only 18 of the 41 years of operation, all of which occurred when the weir was operated until the end of August or later (Table 61-2). Current funding no longer allows for the Dog Salmon Creek weir to continue operations so late into the season, making it difficult to fully assess the strength of the coho salmon run. There is currently no established escapement goal for coho salmon in the Dog Salmon/Frazer Lake system.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. This would lead to a loss of harvest opportunity and foregone harvest of Dog Salmon Creek pink and sockeye salmon returns. This may lead to exceeding the Dog Salmon Creek pink salmon escapement goal and lower future yields.

<u>COST ANALYSIS</u>: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department.



Figure 61-1. – Map depicting the location of the Dog Salmon Flats Section of the Alitak District.

							Har	vest afte	er Aug 1	5
Year	Sockeye escapement o	Coho escapement es	Pink scapement	Date weir pulled	Openings after Aug 15	Days open	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2004	226,266	20	296,929	8/9	-	-	-	-	-	-
2005	152,959	36	30,314	8/21	-	-	-	-	-	-
2006	108,343	885	171,811	8/20	-	-	-	-	-	-
2007	139,808	30	59,032	8/22	-	-	-	-	-	-
2008	153,276	22	106,331	8/20	-	-	-	-	-	-
2009	147,798	46	26,705	8/15	-	-	-	-	-	-
2010	135,100	86	170,645	8/12	-	-	-	-	-	-
2011	180,603	115	21,343	8/22	-	-	-	-	-	-
2012	154,416	127	398,687	8/19	-	-	-	-	-	-
2013	129,369	215	28,840	8/16	-	-	-	-	-	-
2014	217,461	863	119,352	8/19	-	-	-	-	-	-
2015	235,813	2	218,054	8/7	Closed Aug 15	1	1,165	18	820	50
2016	150,469	26	125,318	8/9	-	-	-	-	-	-
2017	141,912	6	325,629	8/10	Aug 16–17	2	1,766	132	14,923	931
2018	232,526	58	250,509	8/8	Aug 8–26	18	84	67	344	33
2019	162,697	4	372,414	8/5	-	-	-	-	-	-
2020	181,384	544	399,802	8/11	Aug 12–24	13	393	171	9,521	84
2021	219,098	11	152,164	8/9	-	-	-	-	-	-
2022	137,565	714	211,213	8/30	-	-	-	-	-	-
2023	123,986	2	339,465	8/10	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-vr ave	166,542	191	191.228	8/14	Average	9	852	97	6,402	275

Table 61-1.–Dog Salmon Creek weir salmon escapement and commercial salmon fishing openings in the Dog Salmon Flats Section after August 15, 2004–2023.

Note: There were no commercial salmon fishing openings in the Dog Salmon Flats Section during the years 2004–2014, 2016, 2019, and 2021–2023.

Year	Date weir pulled	Coho salmon escapement	Year	Date weir pulled	Coho salmon escapement
1983	9/9	5,033	2004	8/9	20
1984	8/25	1,340	2005	8/21	36
1985	9/15	4,000	2006	8/20	885
1986	9/6	5,394	2007	8/22	30
1987	9/11	6,223	2008	8/20	22
1988	9/12	3,543	2009	8/15	46
1989	9/6	5,668	2010	8/12	86
1990	9/5	6,484	2011	8/22	115
1991	9/7	5,158	2012	8/19	127
1992	9/8	7,940	2013	8/16	215
1993	9/17	4,985	2014	8/19	863
1994	9/7	4,944	2015	8/7	2
1995	9/10	4,172	2016	8/9	26
1996	8/31	4,382	2017	8/10	6
1997	9/1	3,733	2018	8/8	58
1998	8/27	5,042	2019	8/5	4
1999	9/3	4,139	2020	8/11	544
2000	8/29	3,168	2021	8/9	11
2001	8/25	1,505	2022	8/3	714
2002	9/11	6,552	2023	8/10	2
2003	8/12	29	Average	9/4	4,449

Table 61-2.–Dog Salmon Creek weir pull dates and coho salmon escapement, 1983–2023.

GEAR, GILLNET SPECIFICATIONS AND OPERATIONS, AND SEINE SPECIFICATIONS AND OPERATIONS (5 PROPOSALS)

PROPOSAL 62 - 5AAC 18.330 Gear.

PROPOSED BY: Northwest Setnetters Association.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would modify commercial salmon fishing periods for set gillnet, purse seine and beach seine gear in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District. During commercial salmon fishing periods in the Central Section, set gillnet fishing will begin 48 hours before seine fishing may occur. Furthermore, seine fishing shall be closed for 48 hours after each five-day continuous fishing period in the Central Section, allowing for one 48-hour set gillnet only fishing period per week.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> Currently all Kodiak Area commercial salmon fishing periods are established by EO. In the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District, salmon may be taken by set gillnet, purse seine, and beach seine. According to the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.362), from June 1 through June 15, the Central Section is managed as a mixed stock fishery directed on early-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk, Ayakulik, and Olga Bay systems. From June 16 through July 5, fishing periods are based on early-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk System. Fishing periods from July 6 through August 15 are based on pink salmon returning to the Karluk system.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would require the department to establish periodic commercial set gillnet only fishing periods prior to seine fishing periods in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District. All fishing periods in the Central Section would initially start with a 48-hour set gillnet only fishing period prior to seine fisheries occurring. If the Central Section is open for more than a five-day fishing period, a mandatory 48-hour closure for seine fishermen would be instituted. Allowing for set gillnet only fishing periods regardless of run strength would decrease the department's ability to control or conserve Northwest Kodiak District sockeye, pink, chum, and coho salmon and Karluk Lake sockeye salmon. This would also require more terminal fishing periods in the Northwest Kodiak District as well as the Inner Karluk Section of the Southwest Kodiak District possibly jeopardizing local, sockeye, chum, and coho salmon escapement in the Northwest Kodiak District, as well as king, and coho salmon runs returning to the Karluk System.

BACKGROUND: The *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* is the achievement of longterm management strategies which were initially implemented in 1971. The intent of this management plan is to harvest salmon bound to local systems in traditional fisheries. Due to the mixing of various local salmon stocks during the inshore migration, the plan is complex but provides a predictable framework for the major sockeye, pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks from the west side of Kodiak. The plan is in effect for the entire salmon season and covers the Southwest and Northwest Kodiak Districts, as well as the Southwest Afognak Section of the Afognak District.

The management plan guides the prosecution of early- and late-run sockeye salmon commercial fisheries, including those targeting the major systems of Karluk Lake, Ayakulik River, and other minor sockeye salmon systems, as well as local pink, chum, and coho salmon fisheries. For the

Northwest Kodiak District, the Central and North Cape Sections are managed from June 1 through July 5 based on early-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk Lake.

The pink salmon fishery opens on July 6 and the length of the initial weekly fishing periods are based on the current year's (wild stock) pink salmon forecast. During the peak pink salmon harvest period, from late July to mid-August, fishing periods are adjusted to match the strength of the pink salmon run.

During the August overlap period, from approximately August 16 through August 24, the Central and North Cape Sections are opened and closed based on both Karluk Lake late-run sockeye and pink salmon returning to the major systems of the Northwest Kodiak District. From August 25 through September 5, the Central and North Cape Sections are managed based on late-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk Lake. After September 5, the fishery is managed both on late-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk Lake and coho salmon returning to major systems of the Northwest Kodiak District. This blended management has allowed for protection of both salmon present within the Northwest Kodiak District, as well as sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk Lake system.

In the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District, from 1994-2003, the set gillnet fleet on average harvested 72% and 31% of the sockeye salmon and pink salmon respectively. From 2004 to 2013 the set gillnet fleet on average harvested 75% and 37% of the sockeye salmon and pink salmon. From 2014 to 2023 the set gillnet fleet on average harvested 48% and 24% of the sockeye salmon and pink salmon (Table 62-1; 62-2).

The Karluk early-run sockeye salmon run is much weaker than in the past. The June sockeye salmon harvest numbers are down considerably due to less commercial salmon fishing time in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District. Westside pink salmon runs have been highly variable over the past decade, with large, odd years and weak even years. Recent strong westside even years have been concentrated in the purse seine only Southwest Kodiak District targeting the major pink salmon runs of Karluk, Sturgeon, and Ayakulik. The Karluk late-run sockeye salmon run is stronger than in the past, and the late run escapement goal is considerably lower than in the past. This has led to much more terminal area commercial salmon fishing time in the purse seine only Southwest Kodiak District. Finally, the average sockeye salmon weight on the Westside are the smallest on record.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal due to conservation and quality concerns. As written, this proposal would require commercial set gillnet only fishing periods, requiring more terminal fishing time in the Northwest Kodiak District as well as the Inner Karluk Section of the Southwest Kodiak District, jeopardizing local king, sockeye, pink, chum, and coho salmon escapement.

<u>COST ANALYSIS</u>: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department.

Central Section Sockeye Salmon Harvest							
			Percent	Percent			
X 7	а ·	G (C'11)	с ·	Set			
Year	Seine	Set Gillnet	Seine	Gillnet			
1994	309,087	488,665	39%	61%			
1995	236,939	721,212	25%	75%			
1996	241,785	858,553	22%	78%			
1997	216,130	619,952	26%	74%			
1998	215,546	494,984	30%	70%			
1999	433,030	1,062,497	29%	71%			
2000	252,200	696,477	27%	73%			
2001	145,363	659,126	18%	82%			
2002	205,164	581,845	26%	74%			
2003	770,889	1,285,867	37%	63%			
2004	449,699	1,006,178	31%	69%			
2005	287,153	857,872	25%	75%			
2006	286,164	571,526	33%	67%			
2007	198,565	685,946	22%	78%			
2008	76,676	285,986	21%	79%			
2009	60,627	334,190	15%	85%			
2010	78,734	214,499	27%	73%			
2011	59,521	241,362	20%	80%			
2012	150,557	394,968	28%	72%			
2013	265,406	594,095	31%	69%			
2014	362,540	639,091	36%	64%			
2015	437,123	472,340	48%	52%			
2016	263,990	374,364	41%	59%			
2017	423,595	625,614	40%	60%			
2018	329,167	282,627	54%	46%			
2019	457,317	331,494	58%	42%			
2020	234,794	177,616	57%	43%			
2021	459,915	258,492	64%	36%			
2022	334,768	229.208	59%	41%			
2023	507.145	381.831	57%	43%			
94–03 Average	302.613	746.918	28%	72%			
04–13 Average	191.310	518.662	25%	75%			
14–23 Average	381 035	377,268	52%	48%			

Table 62-1.–Number of sockeye salmon harvested by seine and set gillnet in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District, 1994–2023.
Cent	tral Section Pi	nk Salmon H	arvest			
	Percent Percen					
		Set		Set		
Year	Seine	Gillnet	Seine	Gillnet		
1994	1,759,428	1,020,837	63%	37%		
1995	10,224,330	3,632,478	74%	26%		
1996	733,175	435,308	63%	37%		
1997	4,553,560	1,206,362	79%	21%		
1998	4,331,521	2,498,154	63%	37%		
1999	2,066,486	901,654	70%	30%		
2000	2,878,508	1,052,057	73%	27%		
2001	1,460,671	1,108,997	57%	43%		
2002	4,964,439	2,014,356	71%	29%		
2003	3,053,984	1,070,578	74%	26%		
2004	5,415,333	2,159,582	71%	29%		
2005	3,364,790	1,404,662	71%	29%		
2006	12,286,582	2,889,720	81%	19%		
2007	2,514,200	2,047,133	55%	45%		
2008	1,065,290	965,571	52%	48%		
2009	1,758,587	1,197,942	59%	41%		
2010	1,098,006	893,419	55%	45%		
2011	341,788	311,580	52%	48%		
2012	3,430,170	1,775,176	66%	34%		
2013	1,812,917	857,833	68%	32%		
2014	666,191	382,503	64%	36%		
2015	6,604,668	1,240,350	84%	16%		
2016	486,007	463,885	51%	49%		
2017	7,997,761	1,763,372	82%	18%		
2018	784,542	341,938	70%	30%		
2019	9,359,675	1,102,423	89%	11%		
2020	3,143,754	1,266,459	71%	29%		
2021	3,211,242	576,480	85%	15%		
2022	2,679,665	642,571	81%	19%		
2023	3,694,000	541,000	87%	13%		
94–03 Average	3,602,610	1,494,078	69%	31%		
04–13 Average	3,308,766	1,450,262	63%	37%		
14–23 Average	3,862,751	832,098	76%	24%		

Table 62-2.–Number of pink salmon harvested by seine and set gillnet in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District, 1994–2023.

PROPOSAL 63 –5 AAC.18.331. Gillnet Specifications and Operations.

PROPOSED BY: Lacey J Berns.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would allow a set gillnet fisherman (one person) that owns two Kodiak Management Area commercial setnet fishing permits the opportunity to operate up to four set gillnets with no more than 300 fathoms of set gillnet gear in aggregate. This would require a special designation for both of the permit holder's CFEC permit numbers by including the letter "D" to signify the permits are functioning in a dual permit capacity. Additional requirements would be necessary when identifying set net gear operated in a dual permit capacity. At least one cork every 10 fathoms along the cork line would be required to contain the permit holder's plainly and legibly marked CFEC permit numbers.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the KMA a CFEC permit holder may operate no more than two set gillnets, with no more than 150 fathoms of set gillnet in the aggregate.

Two salmon set gillnet CFEC permit holders may form a joint venture and combine their gear under the following conditions: (1) a permit must be obtained from a local representative of the department before a joint venture may start operations; (2) only one permit per year will be issued for each joint venture; (3) the permit must be signed by both CFEC permit holders and each must have a copy of the permit readily available for inspection; (4) the permit may be canceled by the department upon the request of one of the joint venture operators; (5) the gear and site markers required by <u>5 AAC 39.280</u> must bear the five-digit CFEC permit serial number of both permit holders; (6) no single set gillnet may be more than 150 fathoms in length; (7) a joint venture may operate no more than three set gillnets, with no more than 300 fathoms of gillnet gear in the aggregate; and (8) both parties of the joint venture are legally responsible for the operation of all gear of the joint venture.

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?</u> This would allow permit stacking in the Kodiak salmon set gillnet fishery. Kodiak set gillnet permit holders who own two permits would be able to operate twice the amount of set net gear (300 fathoms) an individual holding a single permit may operate. This would also double the allowable number of set gillnets (four nets) that could be fished by an individual. With increased gear fished, an individual that chooses to purchase a second permit would increase their harvest of salmon by an unknown amount.

BACKGROUND: In 2006, HB 251 was passed allowing a person to own more than one CFEC permit for a given salmon fishery and gave the board the authority to allow a person, who owns more than one CFEC limited entry salmon permit, an additional fishing opportunity relative to a person who owns a single permit (AS 16.05.251(i)). In January of 2008, the board adopted a new regulation (5 AAC 18.331(j)) authorizing Kodiak set gillnet permit holders to fish two CFEC permits (permit stacking), with a sunset provision that made the provision invalid after December 31, 2010. While the regulation was adopted, 22 permit holders held two permits in 2008, 32 in 2009, and 38 in 2010.

In 2008 and 2009, stacked permit holders were only issued one permit card that could be used to imprint on a fish ticket and represent both limited entry permits. In 2010, stacked permit holders were issued two cards, either of which could be used to imprint on a fish ticket. This inconsistency in how cards were issued, along with the department not documenting the use of multiple permits on one delivery of fish, has caused the permit participation statistics to be distorted. The number

of set gillnet permits with records of deliveries declined from 157 in 2007, to 148 in 2008, and declined further to 132 in 2009, then increased to 158 in 2010 (Table 99-1). The department cannot accurately characterize the effect this regulation had on the fishery.

In 2010 the board allowed regulation 5 AAC 18.331(j) to sunset. In the time since the permit stacking regulation sunset, the number of set gillnet permits with records of deliveries has remained relatively constant (Table 63-1) and the average exvessel value per set gillnet permit has also remained relatively constant although no adjustment has been made for inflation (Table 63-2).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. The department does not believe there are biological concerns associated with permit stacking. If this proposal is adopted, the department will explore ways to more accurately document the amount of gear fished by dual set gillnet permit holders.

	Set gillnet permits			
Year	Available	Fished		
1994	190	169		
1995	189	173		
1996	189	172		
1997	188	174		
1998	188	171		
1999	188	173		
2000	188	173		
2001	188	172		
2002	188	93		
2003	188	161		
2004	188	164		
2005	188	165		
2006	188	153		
2007	188	157		
2008 ^a	188	148		
2009 ^a	188	132		
2010 ^b	188	158		
2011	188	157		
2012	188	164		
2013	188	152		
2014	188	146		
2015	188	154		
2016	188	137		
2017	188	143		
2018	188	140		
2019	188	148		
2020	188	126		
2021	188	130		
2022	187	137		
1994-2007 Avg. Pre-Stacked	188	162		
2008-2010 Avg. Stacked Permits	188	146		
2011-2022 Avg. Post-Stacked	188	145		

Figure 63-1.–Number of salmon set gillnet permits available and fished in the Kodiak Management Area, 1994-2022.

^a Stacked permit holders were given only one card to make deliveries on during these years.

^b Stacked permit holders were given two cards and could (but did not have to) deliver fish on both cards, whether they fished two sets of gear or not.



Figure 63-2.–Average Kodiak set gillnet exvessel value 1994-2022.

Note: Value averages not adjusted for inflation

PROPOSAL 64 – 5 AAC 18.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: Northwest Setnetters Association.

<u>WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?</u> This would increase the maximum commercial set gillnet hook length from 25 fathoms to 50 fathoms in the Kodiak Management Area (KMA).

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> Within the KMA, the set gillnet hook length may not exceed 25 fathoms.

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?</u> This would allow commercial set gillnet fisherman in the KMA to utilize a larger hook length. A larger hook length may result in higher catch per unit effort. This would not increase the maximum allowable aggregate length of a KMA set gillnet.

BACKGROUND: The regulations limiting set gillnet hook length to 25 fathoms in the KMA was implemented prior to 1966.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. Any increase in catch per unit effort is not likely to change how the department manages the commercial salmon set gillnet fishery.

PROPOSAL 65 – 5 AAC 18.332. Seine specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff and Lauri Bassett.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would prohibit the use of aircraft to determine the location of salmon for commercial harvest in the entire Kodiak Management Area. This would also prohibit the use of aircraft to direct commercial salmon fishing operations of beach and seine gear in the entire Kodiak Management Area.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> Currently, there are no restrictions on the use of aircraft to locate concentrations of salmon and provide the information to fisherman in all districts of the Kodiak Management Area. The use of aircraft to direct the operation of beach and purse seine gear is allowed in all districts of the Kodiak Management Area except the Mainland District where it is prohibited.

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?</u> This would eliminate the presumed efficiency advantage that some fisherman gain by employing the use of aircraft to locate concentrations of salmon in all of the Kodiak Management Area as well as fisherman that employ the use of aircraft to direct the operation of seine gear in the Afognak, Northwest Kodiak, Southwest Kodiak, Alitak Bay, Eastside Kodiak, and Northeast Kodiak Districts.

<u>BACKGROUND</u>: There is no documentation available to quantify the benefits of the use of aircraft to spot salmon and direct seine gear.

The use of aircraft to direct the operation of seine gear in the Mainland District was prohibited after the fall 1979 Kodiak Board of Fisheries meeting.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

PROPOSAL 66 – 5 AAC 18.332. Seine specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: Kodiak Seiners Association.

<u>WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?</u> This would increase the maximum commercial purse seine and hand purse seine length to 250 fathoms in the Kodiak Management Area (KMA).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Within the KMA, commercial purse seine and hand purse seine length may not be less than 100 fathoms or more than 200 fathoms in length. Additionally, one lead of not more than 100 fathoms in length may be used with each purse seine and hand purse seine. The aggregate length of lead and seine may not exceed 250 fathoms.

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?</u> This would allow commercial fisherman in the KMA to utilize a longer seine. Longer seine gear may result in higher catch per unit effort for fisherman that utilize a longer section of seine while reducing the length of their lead. The maximum allowable aggregate length of a seine and lead would not change.

<u>BACKGROUND</u>: The regulations limiting seine length to 200 fathoms in the KMA was implemented prior to 1967.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. Any increase in catch per unit effort is not likely to change how the department manages the commercial salmon seine fishery.

WESTSIDE KODIAK SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN (8 PROPOSALS)

PROPOSAL 67 – 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would change the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* to direct the department to allow commercial openings in the Inner Ayakulik Section of the Southwest Kodiak District after August 20 only after 20,000 coho salmon have escaped upstream.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> Currently, under the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* 5 AAC 18.362 (g)(2)(a) and (b), the Inner Ayakulik Section must be managed from July 16 through August 24 based on the returns of late-run sockeye salmon on odd-years and on late-run sockeye and pink salmon on even years. After approximately August 24, commercial openings are based on coho salmon returning to the Ayakulik system.

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?</u> This would limit the department's ability to control pink salmon escapement on large even-year runs, and large late-run sockeye salmon runs.

BACKGROUND: The Inner Ayakulik Section of the Southwest Kodiak District surrounds the mouth of the Ayakulik River on the Shelikof Strait and extends south to Low Cape and the Alitak District (Figure 67-1). The department has operated a salmon enumeration weir at its current location on the lower Ayakulik River near its terminus since 1970. Salmon escapement through this weir helps determine commercial salmon fishing openings in the Outer Ayakulik and Inner Ayakulik Sections of the Southwest Kodiak District. Purse seines and beach seines are the only legal gear types in these sections. Due to inadequate funding and frequently adverse weather conditions, the department is often forced to pull the Ayakulik River weir before most of the coho salmon run has passed the weir, with an average closure date of August 29 since 2004 (Table 67-1). Since the department has to pull the weir so early in the run, it is difficult to determine the exact size of the coho salmon run on the Ayakulik River system. Since 2004, the weir has counted a coho salmon run of 20,000 or more fish three times, the most recent year being 2014 when the weir was operational until September 3 (Table 67-1). Since 2004, the Inner Ayakulik Section has only been opened on four occasions in two separate years (2008 and 2020) with a harvest of less than 350 coho salmon each year (Table 67-2).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. This would lead to a loss of harvest opportunity and foregone harvest of Ayakulik River pink and sockeye salmon returns. This may lead to exceeding the Ayakulik River pink and sockeye salmon escapement goals and lower future productivity.



Figure 67-1. –Map depicting the location of the Inner Ayakulik Section of the Southwest Kodiak District.

		Escapement		
Year	Date weir pulled	Sockeye	Coho	Pink
2004	8/27	275,238	4,783	1,059,229
2005	9/5	251,906	16,584	41,597
2006	8/21	87,780	89	539,815
2007	9/14	283,042	13,814	32,048
2008	9/15	162,888	14,319	741,797
2009	9/17	315,184	36,563	27,923
2010	8/14	262,327	227	532,428
2011	9/9	261,141	17,016	20,428
2012	9/1	328,254	12,159	459,908
2013	9/2	282,164	20,594	37,105
2014	9/3	297,711	24,127	529,582
2015	8/24	326,435	1,833	66,451
2016	8/22	254,967	2,390	60,155
2017	8/24	324,858	1,219	26,001
2018	8/25	266,333	3,333	378,084
2019	8/27	279,639	5,206	27,172
2020	8/20	302,595	1,035	1,102,753
2021	8/27	384,174	4,193	23,897
2022	8/21	352,462	11	950,716
2023	8/25	318,099	859	26,839
Averages	8/29	280,860	9,018	334,196
			Even-year	635,447
			Odd-year	32,946

Table 67-1.–Ayakulik River weir salmon escapement and weir pull dates, 2004–2023.

Year	Dates opened	Hours open	Coho harvest
2008	20-Aug	12	343
	15-Sep	54	0
	Total	66	343
2020	19-Aug	54	0
	21-Aug	72	a
	Total	126	a

Table 67-2.-Inner Ayakulik Section commercial salmon fishing openings and coho salmon harvest.

^a Confidential

PROPOSAL 68 – 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve.

<u>WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?</u> This would change the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* to direct the department to only allow commercial salmon openings in the Inner Karluk Section of the Southwest Kodiak District after August 25 when 5,000 coho salmon have been counted through the Karluk River weir or surveyed in the Karluk Lagoon by August 25, after 10,000 coho salmon have been counted or surveyed by August 30, and after 15,000 coho salmon have been counted or surveyed by September 10.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> Currently, under the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* 5 AAC 18.362(e)(3) and (4), the Inner Karluk Section must be managed from approximately August 25 through September 5 based on the returns of late-run sockeye salmon to the Karluk system, and after approximately September 5, based on late-run sockeye and coho salmon returning to the Karluk system.

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?</u> This would limit the department's ability to control late-run sockeye salmon escapement during years of large returns.

BACKGROUND: The Inner Karluk Section of the Southwest Kodiak District surrounds the mouth of the Karluk River on the Shelikof Strait and extends from Pafco Point in the north to Cape Karluk to the south (Figure 68-1). The department has operated a salmon enumeration weir at its current location on the lower Karluk River near its entrance to the Karluk Lagoon since 1976. Salmon escapement through this weir helps determine commercial salmon fishing openings for much of the Westside Kodiak salmon fisheries, including the Inner Karluk Section. Purse seines and beach seines are the only legal gear types allowed in the Inner Karluk Section. However, set gillnets are allowed to commercially harvest salmon in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District (5 AAC 18.330). Coho salmon enter the Karluk River system as early as August, but escapement is slow until late August and early September when fall rains draw more salmon into the system. Commercial fishing openings in the Inner Karluk Section are often needed to help control escapement during years with large late-run sockeye escapements and even-numbered years with large pink salmon escapements (Table 68-1). The Karluk system has a large lagoon where salmon congregate for several days to weeks before passing the weir. This often forces the department to manage commercial salmon fishing openings based on the buildup in the lagoon rather than escapement numbers past the weir. Most years, the department adds a post-weir estimate to the weir count because the coho run continues after the weir has been pulled. The average date on which 5,000 coho salmon have passed the Karluk River weir is September 15, which is just 3 days before the average date the weir is pulled (Table 68-1). The average date on which 10,000 coho salmon have passed the weir is September 18, which is also the average date on which the weir is pulled (Table 68-1). The average date on which 15,000 coho have passed the weir is September 20, which is two days past the average date on which the weir is pulled (Table 68-1). Waiting for these dates to allow for commercial salmon fishing openings would limit the department's ability to control late-run sockeye salmon escapement into the system. On evennumbered years, when pink salmon escapements are large, not being able to have commercial salmon fishing openings in this timeframe would severely restrict any attempt to curb pink salmon escapement into the Karluk system.

Since 2000, the Inner Karluk Section has been open to commercial salmon fishing after August 25 in just 10 years (Table 68-2). The average coho salmon harvest during those years was 6,951 fish, while the average sockeye and pink salmon harvest averaged 86,150 and 26,598 fish, respectively (Table 68-2).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. This proposal would lead to a loss of harvest opportunity and foregone harvest of Karluk pink and sockeye salmon returns. This may lead to exceeding Karluk pink and sockeye salmon escapement goals and lower future productivity.



Figure 68-1.-Map depicting the location of the Inner Karluk Section of the Southwest Kodiak District.

	E	Escapement			Dates of	coho escap	ement
	Late-run			Date weir		10,000	15,000
Year	sockeye	Coho	Pink	pulled	5,000 fish	fish	fish
2000	448,110	13,876	1,096,916	9/27	9/21	9/22	-
2001	526,438	22,660	66,554	9/19	9/17	9/17	9/17
2002	412,081	32,251	1,694,513	9/28	9/20	9/24	9/28
2003	630,709	15,495	140,794	9/28	9/25	9/28	9/28
2004	331,162	11,186	1,522,675	10/5	9/20	9/28	-
2005	513,661	11,972	234,281	9/24	9/13	9/23	-
2006	289,732	15,225	1,019,283	9/20	9/15	9/20	9/20
2007	267,185	11,853	249,704	9/26	9/19	9/26	-
2008	164,419	16,524	624,540	9/22	9/19	9/19	9/22
2009	277,611	32,836	159,097	9/29	9/29	9/29	9/29
2010	277,558	14,778	1,324,368	9/19	9/19	9/19	-
2011	230,680	14,924	158,740	9/22	9/16	9/21	-
2012	315,880	18,091	1,049,897	9/19	9/14	9/15	9/16
2013	338,423	11,220	106,885	9/14	9/7	9/14	-
2014	559,422	3,331	585,360	9/8	-	-	-
2015	396,618	7,586	319,143	9/21	9/21	-	-
2016	324,049	11,613	363,614	9/19	9/5	9/15	-
2017	393,270	16,812	283,018	9/14	9/4	9/9	9/14
2018	434,402	14,533	2,275,207	9/4	9/4	9/4	-
2019	321,039	17,884	433,673	9/16	9/12	9/16	9/16
2020	294,552	15,365	3,141,952	9/16	9/7	9/15	9/16
2021	379,611	10,370	673,409	9/14	9/13	9/14	-
2022	328,473	4,085	1,096,640	9/12	-	-	-
2023	600,000	9,981	283,229	9/12	-	-	-
20-yr avg	351,887	13,508	795,236	9/18	9/15	9/18	9/20
Even-year avg			1,316,247	9/19	9/14	9/18	9/20
Odd-year avg			259,044	9/19	9/16	9/19	9/20

Table 68-1.–Karluk River weir salmon escapement, weir pull dates, and dates of significant coho salmon escapement, 2000–2023.

	Salmon harvest					
Year	King	Se	ockeye C	Coho	Pink	Chum
2006		1	3,665	256	0	6
2007	-		-	-	-	-
2008	-		-	-	-	-
2009	-		-	-	-	-
2010	-		-	-	-	-
2011	-		-	-	-	-
2012		11	36,130	3,650	19,849	1,087
2013		12	89,656	10,436	83,385	448
2014		6	267,590	17,106	2,320	267
2015		1	168,522	13,903	27,011	945
2016		0	31,377	4,102	893	746
2017		0	23,243	2,965	36,620	103
2018		1	60,855	8,054	682	113
2019	-		-	-	-	-
2020	-		-	-	-	-
2021		0	22,460	27,030	14,176	135
2022	-		-	-	-	-
2023		8	172,649	6,411	76,543	1,285
Average		4	87,615	9,391	26,148	514

Table 68-2.–Inner Karluk Section salmon harvest after August 25, 2006–2023.

Note: There were no commercial salmon fishing openings after August 25 for the years 2007–2011 and 2019, 2020, and 2022. Data does not include fish kept for personal use.

<u>PROPOSAL 69</u> – 5 AAC 18.320. Fishing Periods. and 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Eric Obrien.

<u>WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?</u> This would modify commercial salmon set gillnet fishing time in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District from a fishery established by Emergency Order (EO) based on local salmon escapement to a fixed weekly 105-hr set gillnet fishing period. Commercial purse seine and beach seine fishing time in the Central Section would still be established by EO based on local salmon abundance.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> Currently all Kodiak Area commercial salmon fishing periods are established by EO. In the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District, salmon may be taken by set gillnet, purse seine, and beach seine. According to the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan*, (5 AAC 18.362), from June 1 through June 15, the Central Section is managed as a mixed stock fishery directed on early-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk, Ayakulik, and Olga Bay systems, from June 16 through July 5, based on early-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system, and from July 6 through August 15, based on pink salmon returning to the Karluk system.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would require the department to establish weekly set gillnet commercial salmon fishing periods in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District until the department determines there is a conservation concern. The current management plan allows for commercial salmon fishing for all gear types established by EO to protect both Northwest Kodiak District pink salmon and Karluk Lake sockeye salmon. Allowing for set gillnet fishing periods regardless of run strength would decrease the department's ability to control or conserve Northwest Kodiak District sockeye, pink, chum, and coho salmon and Karluk Lake sockeye salmon. This would require the department to determine when to allocate salmon to the seine fleet while allowing a fishing period to the set gillnet fleet. While the proposal does allow the department to change the periods if there is a management concern, it does not provide guidance as to when the department would allow a commercial fishing period to other gear groups. This would also open the North Cape Section to gillnet gear which is currently not a legal gear type in that section under 5 AAC 18.330 Gear.

BACKGROUND: The *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* is the achievement of longterm management strategies which were initially implemented in 1971. The intent of this management plan is to harvest salmon bound to local systems in traditional fisheries. Due to the mixing of various local salmon stocks during the inshore migration, the plan is complex but provides a predictable framework for the major sockeye, pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks from the west side of Kodiak. The plan is in effect for the entire salmon season and covers the Southwest and Northwest Kodiak Districts, as well as the Southwest Afognak Section.

The management plan guides the prosecution of early- and late-run sockeye salmon commercial fisheries, including those targeting the major systems of Karluk Lake, Ayakulik River, and other minor sockeye salmon systems, as well as local pink, chum, and coho salmon fisheries. The Northwest Kodiak District, Central and North Cape Sections are managed from June 1 through July 5 based on early-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk Lake.

The pink salmon fishery opens on July 6 and the length of the initial weekly fishing periods are based on the current year's (wild stock) pink salmon forecast. During the peak pink salmon harvest period, from late July to mid-August, fishing periods are adjusted to match the strength of the pink salmon run.

During the August overlap period, from approximately August 16 through August 24, the Central and North Cape Sections are opened and closed based on both Karluk Lake late-run sockeye and pink salmon returning to the major systems of the Northwest Kodiak District. From August 25 through September 5, the Central and North Cape Sections are managed based on late-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk Lake. After September 5, the fishery is managed both on late-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk Lake and coho salmon returning to major systems of the Northwest Kodiak District. This blended management has allowed for protection of both salmon present within the Northwest Kodiak District, as well as sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk Lake system.

In the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District, from 1994-2003, the set gillnet fleet on average harvested 72% and 31% of the sockeye salmon and pink salmon. From 2004 to 2013, the set gillnet fleet on average harvested 75% and 37% of the sockeye salmon and pink salmon. From 2014 to 2023, the set gillnet fleet on average harvested 48% and 24% of the sockeye salmon and pink salmon (Table 69-1; 69-2).

The Karluk early-run sockeye salmon run is much weaker than in the past. The June sockeye salmon harvest numbers are down considerably due to less commercial salmon fishing time in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District. Westside pink salmon runs have been highly variable over the past decade, with large, odd years and weak even years. Recent strong westside even years have been concentrated in the purse seine only Southwest Kodiak District targeting the major pink salmon runs of Karluk, Sturgeon, and Ayakulik systems. The Karluk late-run sockeye salmon run is stronger than in the past, and the late run escapement goal is considerably lower than in the past. This has led to much more terminal area commercial salmon fishing time in the purse seine only Southwest Kodiak District. Finally, the average sockeye salmon weight on the Westside are the smallest on record.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal due to conservation concerns. This would require commercial set gillnet fishing periods regardless of run strength.

Central Section Sockeye Salmon Harvest				
			Percent	Percent Set
Year	Seine	Set Gillnet	Seine	Gillnet
1994	309,087	488,665	39%	61%
1995	236,939	721,212	25%	75%
1996	241,785	858,553	22%	78%
1997	216,130	619,952	26%	74%
1998	215,546	494,984	30%	70%
1999	433,030	1,062,497	29%	71%
2000	252,200	696,477	27%	73%
2001	145,363	659,126	18%	82%
2002	205,164	581,845	26%	74%
2003	770,889	1,285,867	37%	63%
2004	449,699	1,006,178	31%	69%
2005	287,153	857,872	25%	75%
2006	286,164	571,526	33%	67%
2007	198,565	685,946	22%	78%
2008	76,676	285,986	21%	79%
2009	60,627	334,190	15%	85%
2010	78,734	214,499	27%	73%
2011	59,521	241,362	20%	80%
2012	150,557	394,968	28%	72%
2013	265,406	594,095	31%	69%
2014	362,540	639,091	36%	64%
2015	437,123	472,340	48%	52%
2016	263,990	374,364	41%	59%
2017	423,595	625,614	40%	60%
2018	329,167	282,627	54%	46%
2019	457,317	331,494	58%	42%
2020	234,794	177,616	57%	43%
2021	459,915	258,492	64%	36%
2022	334,768	229,208	59%	41%
2023	507,145	381,831	57%	43%
94-03 Average	302,613	746,918	28%	72%
04-13 Average	191,310	518,662	25%	75%
14-23 Average	381,035	377,268	52%	48%

Figure 69-1.–Number of sockeye salmon harvested by seine and set gillnet in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District 1994-2023.

Central Section Pink Salmon Harvest				
			Percent	Percent
		Set		Set
Year	Seine	Gillnet	Seine	Gillnet
1994	1,759,428	1,020,837	63%	37%
1995	10,224,330	3,632,478	74%	26%
1996	733,175	435,308	63%	37%
1997	4,553,560	1,206,362	79%	21%
1998	4,331,521	2,498,154	63%	37%
1999	2,066,486	901,654	70%	30%
2000	2,878,508	1,052,057	73%	27%
2001	1,460,671	1,108,997	57%	43%
2002	4,964,439	2,014,356	71%	29%
2003	3,053,984	1,070,578	74%	26%
2004	5,415,333	2,159,582	71%	29%
2005	3,364,790	1,404,662	71%	29%
2006	12,286,582	2,889,720	81%	19%
2007	2,514,200	2,047,133	55%	45%
2008	1,065,290	965,571	52%	48%
2009	1,758,587	1,197,942	59%	41%
2010	1,098,006	893,419	55%	45%
2011	341,788	311,580	52%	48%
2012	3,430,170	1,775,176	66%	34%
2013	1,812,917	857,833	68%	32%
2014	666,191	382,503	64%	36%
2015	6,604,668	1,240,350	84%	16%
2016	486,007	463,885	51%	49%
2017	7,997,761	1,763,372	82%	18%
2018	784,542	341,938	70%	30%
2019	9,359,675	1,102,423	89%	11%
2020	3,143,754	1,266,459	71%	29%
2021	3,211,242	576,480	85%	15%
2022	2,679,665	642,571	81%	19%
2023	3,694,000	541,000	87%	13%
94-03 Average	3,602,610	1,494,078	69%	31%
04-13 Average	3,308,766	1,450,262	63%	37%
14-23 Average	3,862,751	832,098	76%	24%

Figure 69-2.–Number of pink salmon harvested by seine and set gillnet in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District 1994-2023.

<u>PROPOSAL 70</u> – 5AAC 18.320. Fishing Periods, 5 AAC 18.330. Gear, 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan, and 5 AAC 18.366. Spiridon Bay Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Northwest Setnetters Association.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would create a harvest allocation for both sockeye and pink salmon between commercial seine and set gillnet gear within the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* between June 1 and October 15. The plan would direct the department to manage the commercial salmon fishery in the Northwest Kodiak District, the Telrod Cove Special Harvest Area (SHA), as well as the Inner and Outer Karluk Sections of the Southwest Kodiak District so that set gillnet harvest in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District accounts for 50% of the sockeye salmon and 30% of the pink salmon harvested in the combined areas of Northwest Kodiak District, the Telrod Cove SHA, as well as the Inner and Outer Karluk Sections of the Southwest Kodiak District.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> According to the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan*, (5 AAC 18.362(e)) and Gear (5 AAC 18.330(b)), both the Inner and Outer Karluk Sections of the Southwest Kodiak District (Figure 70-1) are open to *seine gear only* throughout the commercial salmon season. The Inner and Outer Karluk Sections are managed based on early-run sockeye salmon, pink salmon, late-run sockeye salmon, and coho salmon returning to the Karluk system.

The Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District (Figure 70-1) is open to *both seine and set gillnet gear* throughout the commercial salmon season (5 AAC 18.330(b)). The Central Section is managed based on the Karluk River early-run sockeye salmon, Northwest Kodiak District pink salmon or Karluk pink salmon, Karluk late-run sockeye salmon (5 AAC 18.362(b)).

The Anton Larsen Bay, Sharatin Bay, Kizhuyak Bay, Terror Bay, Inner Uganik Bay, Spiridon Bay, Zachar Bay, and Uyak Bay Sections (Inner Bays) of the Northwest Kodiak District (Figure 70-1) are open to *seine gear only* throughout the commercial salmon season (5 AAC 18.330(b)). The Inner Bays are managed based local sockeye, pink, chum, and coho salmon returning to the major systems of each individual section.

The Spiridon Bay SHA (Figure 70-1) is open to *seine gear only* throughout the commercial salmon season (5 AAC 18.366). Spiridon Bay SHA is managed based on hatchery sockeye salmon returning to the Spiridon Lake system. The Spiridon Bay SHA typically opens in late June and closes in mid-August. Throughout the season common property fishing time may be restricted to meet cost recovery needs. A large portion of the sockeye salmon returning to the Spiridon Bay SHA are harvested outside the SHA in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District. Post season, the department comes up with an estimate of Spiridon Bay sockeye salmon harvested in the Northwest Kodiak District.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Not all Karluk sockeye and pink salmon travel through the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District. This often leads the department to open the commercial salmon fishery in the Inner and Outer Karluk Sections of the Southwest Kodiak District to meet escapement objectives.

The Karluk River pink salmon run is one of the largest in the Gulf of Alaska. Karluk pink salmon escapement often exceeds a million fish. During July and early August, there are scheduled weekly

pink salmon closures in the Northwest Kodiak District to attain local pink and chum salmon escapement, and large buildups of pink salmon occur at the mouth of Karluk Lagoon. If the department had to manage based on a harvest allocation, that would lead the department to prosecute one of the following options. Keep the fishery open in the Central Section and likely not meet Northwest Kodiak District pink salmon escapement in moderate to weak years, or not harvest the fish in the Inner and Outer Karluk Sections. This would lead to a large loss of harvest opportunity and a foregone harvest of Karluk pink salmon.

The ability to open the Inner and Outer Karluk Sections to commercial salmon fishing is an important management tool to control Karluk sockeye salmon escapement. Not all Karluk sockeye salmon pass through the Central Section. Managing on a harvest allocation rather than on escapement would cause the department to restrict the terminal harvest of Karluk sockeye salmon. Again, this would lead to a large loss of harvest opportunity and foregone harvest. This may lead to exceeding the Karluk sockeye and pink salmon escapement goals and lower future productivity. Even with the current harvest strategy, Karluk system routinely exceeds its sockeye and pink salmon escapement goals and objectives.

In July and August, to meet the proposed pink salmon allocation criteria, commercial fishing time during the pink and chum salmon fishery in the Northwest Kodiak District would need to be restricted to set gillnet gear only. Set gillnet gear is a much less effective gear type for controlling pink salmon escapement, and since the inner bay sections of the Northwest Kodiak District are seine only areas, to keep to the proposed harvest allocation, the inner bay sections would need to be restricted which would lead to lost opportunity for pink salmon harvest, forgone harvest, and potentially exceeding the escapement in Northwest Kodiak District pink and chum salmon systems.

In July and August, to meet the proposed sockeye salmon allocation criteria, commercial fishing time during the pink salmon fishery in the Northwest Kodiak District near the Spiridon Bay Special Harvest area would need to be restricted to set gillnet only. With the scheduled pink salmon closures in July to attain local pink and chum salmon escapement, this would likely lead to larger buildups of sockeye salmon in the Spiridon Bay SHA. Since the SHA is a seine only terminal harvest area, both the cost recovery and common property fishery would need to be restricted to meet the proposed harvest allocation criteria. This would likely lead to lost opportunity for sockeye salmon harvest, and forgone harvest. It would also make it difficult for the local aquaculture association to meet cost recovery needs and lead to excess waste of fish.

BACKGROUND: The *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* is the achievement of longterm management strategies which were initially implemented in 1971. The intent of this management plan is to harvest salmon bound to local systems in traditional fisheries. Due to the mixing of various local salmon stocks during the inshore migration, the plan is complex, but provides a predictable framework for the major sockeye, pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks from the west side of Kodiak. The plan is in effect for the entire salmon season and covers the Southwest and Northwest Kodiak Districts, as well as the Southwest Afognak Section (Figure 70-1).

The management plan guides the prosecution of early- and late-run sockeye salmon commercial fisheries, including those targeting the major systems of Karluk Lake, Ayakulik River, and other minor sockeye salmon systems, as well as local Northwest Kodiak District and Southwest Kodiak District pink, chum, and coho salmon fisheries.

For the Northwest Kodiak District, the Central and North Cape Sections are managed from June 1 through July 5 based on early-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk Lake. The pink salmon fishery opens on July 6, and the length of the initial weekly fishing periods are based on the current year's (wild stock) pink salmon forecast. During the peak pink salmon harvest period, from late July to mid-August, commercial fishing periods are adjusted to match the strength of the local pink salmon runs.

From approximately August 16 through August 24, the Central and North Cape Sections are opened and closed to commercial fishing based on both Karluk Lake late-run sockeye and pink salmon returning to the major systems of the Northwest Kodiak District. From August 25 through September 5, the Central and North Cape Sections are managed based on late-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk Lake. After September 5, the commercial fishery is managed both on late-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk Lake and coho salmon returning to major systems of the Northwest Kodiak District.

Commercial fishing time in the Inner and Outer Karluk Sections are at times managed based on separate stocks from the Northwest Kodiak District due to the proximity to the Karluk system, and often need to be open and closed differentially from the Northwest Kodiak District to control Karluk sockeye and pink salmon. This blended management has allowed for protection of both salmon present within the Northwest Kodiak District as well as sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk Lake system.

Common property fishing time in the Spiridon Bay Special Harvest Area is typically opened in mid-to late July after cost recovery activities are done in mid-August.

In the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District, from 1994-2003, the commercial set gillnet fleet on average harvested 72% and 31% of the sockeye salmon and pink salmon. From 2004 to 2013, the set gillnet fleet on average harvested 75% and 37% of the sockeye salmon and pink salmon. From 2014 to 2023, the set gillnet fleet on average harvested 48% and 24% of the sockeye salmon and pink salmon (Table 69-1; 69-2).

The Karluk early-run sockeye salmon run is much weaker than in the past. The June sockeye salmon harvest numbers are down considerably due to less commercial salmon fishing time in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District. Westside pink salmon runs have been highly variable over the past decade, with large odd years and weak even years. Recent strong westside even years have been concentrated in the purse-seine-only-Southwest-Kodiak-District targeting the major pink salmon runs of Karluk, Sturgeon, and Ayakulik systems. The Karluk late-run sockeye salmon run is stronger than in the past, and the late run escapement goal is considerably lower than in the past. This has led to much more terminal area commercial salmon fishing time in the purse seine only Southwest Kodiak District. Finally, the average sockeye salmon weight on the Westside are the smallest on record.

<u>DEPARTMENT COMMENTS</u>: The department is **<u>OPPOSED</u>** to this proposal due to conservation and quality concerns. As written, this proposal would require the department to manage based on an inseason harvest allocation, not escapement. The Westside of Kodiak is a

mixed stock fishery managed based on multiple different local sockeye, pink, chum and coho salmon stocks that return at different times but with overlapping run timing.

This proposal assumes most of the Karluk system sockeye and pink salmon travel through the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District prior to arriving in the Inner and Outer Karluk Sections, and by prosecuting a commercial salmon fishery in the Central Section based on differential fishing time for seine and set gillnet gear, that an allocation may be achieved.



Figure 70-1.-Map of the Westside Kodiak Management Plan and allowable gear types..

Central Section Sockeye Salmon Harvest				
			Percent	Percent
Year	Seine	Gillnet	Seine	Gillnet
1994	309,087	488,665	39%	61%
1995	236,939	721,212	25%	75%
1996	241,785	858,553	22%	78%
1997	216,130	619,952	26%	74%
1998	215,546	494,984	30%	70%
1999	433,030	1,062,497	29%	71%
2000	252,200	696,477	27%	73%
2001	145,363	659,126	18%	82%
2002	205,164	581,845	26%	74%
2003	770,889	1,285,867	37%	63%
2004	449,699	1,006,178	31%	69%
2005	287,153	857,872	25%	75%
2006	286,164	571,526	33%	67%
2007	198,565	685,946	22%	78%
2008	76,676	285,986	21%	79%
2009	60,627	334,190	15%	85%
2010	78,734	214,499	27%	73%
2011	59,521	241,362	20%	80%
2012	150,557	394,968	28%	72%
2013	265,406	594,095	31%	69%
2014	362,540	639,091	36%	64%
2015	437,123	472,340	48%	52%
2016	263,990	374,364	41%	59%
2017	423,595	625,614	40%	60%
2018	329,167	282,627	54%	46%
2019	457,317	331,494	58%	42%
2020	234,794	177,616	57%	43%
2021	459,915	258,492	64%	36%
2022	334,768	229,208	59%	41%
2023	507,145	381,831	57%	43%
94-03 Average	302,613	746,918	28%	72%
04-13 Average	191,310	518,662	25%	75%
14-23 Average	381,035	377,268	52%	48%

Figure 70-1.–Number of sockeye salmon harvested by seine and set gillnet in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District, 1994–2023.

Central Section Pink Salmon Harvest				
			Percent	Percent
Year	Seine	Gillnet	Seine	Gillnet
1994	1,759,428	1,020,837	63%	37%
1995	10,224,330	3,632,478	74%	26%
1996	733,175	435,308	63%	37%
1997	4,553,560	1,206,362	79%	21%
1998	4,331,521	2,498,154	63%	37%
1999	2,066,486	901,654	70%	30%
2000	2,878,508	1,052,057	73%	27%
2001	1,460,671	1,108,997	57%	43%
2002	4,964,439	2,014,356	71%	29%
2003	3,053,984	1,070,578	74%	26%
2004	5,415,333	2,159,582	71%	29%
2005	3,364,790	1,404,662	71%	29%
2006	12,286,582	2,889,720	81%	19%
2007	2,514,200	2,047,133	55%	45%
2008	1,065,290	965,571	52%	48%
2009	1,758,587	1,197,942	59%	41%
2010	1,098,006	893,419	55%	45%
2011	341,788	311,580	52%	48%
2012	3,430,170	1,775,176	66%	34%
2013	1,812,917	857,833	68%	32%
2014	666,191	382,503	64%	36%
2015	6,604,668	1,240,350	84%	16%
2016	486,007	463,885	51%	49%
2017	7,997,761	1,763,372	82%	18%
2018	784,542	341,938	70%	30%
2019	9,359,675	1,102,423	89%	11%
2020	3,143,754	1,266,459	71%	29%
2021	3,211,242	576,480	85%	15%
2022	2,679,665	642,571	81%	19%
2023	3,694,000	541,000	87%	13%
94-03 Average	3,602,610	1,494,078	69%	31%
04-13 Average	3,308,766	1,450,262	63%	37%
14-23 Average	3,862,751	832,098	76%	24%

Figure 70-2.–Number of pink salmon harvested by seine and set gillnet in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District, 1994–2023.

PROPOSAL 71 – 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Northwest Setnetters Association.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would modify the current regulation requiring the department to open the Outer Karluk Section of the Southwest Kodiak District (Figure 71-1) to commercial salmon fishing after June 16 if the Central Section of the of Northwest Kodiak District is open. The modified regulation would read "may open" instead of "shall open"

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> According to the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan*, (5 AAC 18.362) after June 16, if the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District is open to commercial salmon fishing to control early-run sockeye returning to the Karluk system, the Outer Karluk Section will also open.

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?</u> The proposed change in regulatory language would still allow the department to open the Outer Karluk Section to commercial salmon fishing to manage early-run Karluk sockeye salmon escapement, so there would be minimal change. However, since the Outer Karluk Section is adjacent to the Karluk System, opening it to commercial salmon fishing has a more significant impact on Karluk escapement. The option to keep the Outer Karluk Section closed during weak salmon runs could potentially allow for more commercial fishing time in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District in June and early July.

BACKGROUND: The *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* is the achievement of longterm management strategies which were initially implemented in 1971. The intent of this management plan is to harvest salmon bound to local systems in traditional fisheries. Due to the mixing of various local salmon stocks during the inshore migration, the plan is complex, but provides a predictable framework for the major sockeye, pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks from the west side of Kodiak. The plan is in effect for the entire salmon season and covers the Southwest and Northwest Kodiak Districts, as well as the Southwest Afognak Section.

The management plan guides the prosecution of early- and late-run sockeye salmon commercial fisheries, including those targeting the major systems of Karluk Lake, Ayakulik River, and other minor sockeye salmon systems, as well as local Northwest Kodiak District and Southwest Kodiak District pink, chum, and coho salmon fisheries.

In the Northwest Kodiak District, the Central and North Cape Sections are managed from June 1 through July 5 based on early-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk Lake. Commercial salmon fishing time in the Inner and Outer Karluk Sections are often concurrent with the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District to control early-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system.

In the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District, from 1994-2003, the commercial set gillnet fleet, on average, harvested 72% and 31% of the sockeye salmon and pink salmon. From 2004 to 2013, this set gillnet fleet on average harvested 75% and 37% of the sockeye salmon and pink salmon. From 2014 to 2023, the commercial set gillnet fleet on average harvested 48% and 24% of the sockeye salmon and pink salmon (Table 71-1; 71-2).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. This change in regulation would not decrease the department's ability to open the Outer Karluk Section to commercial salmon fishing to control early-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system.



Figure 71-1.-Map of the Southwest Kodiak District identifying commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.

95

Central Section Sockeye Salmon Harvest				
			Percent	Percent
Year	Seine	Gillnet	Seine	Gillnet
1994	309,087	488,665	39%	61%
1995	236,939	721,212	25%	75%
1996	241,785	858,553	22%	78%
1997	216,130	619,952	26%	74%
1998	215,546	494,984	30%	70%
1999	433,030	1,062,497	29%	71%
2000	252,200	696,477	27%	73%
2001	145,363	659,126	18%	82%
2002	205,164	581,845	26%	74%
2003	770,889	1,285,867	37%	63%
2004	449,699	1,006,178	31%	69%
2005	287,153	857,872	25%	75%
2006	286,164	571,526	33%	67%
2007	198,565	685,946	22%	78%
2008	76,676	285,986	21%	79%
2009	60,627	334,190	15%	85%
2010	78,734	214,499	27%	73%
2011	59,521	241,362	20%	80%
2012	150,557	394,968	28%	72%
2013	265,406	594,095	31%	69%
2014	362,540	639,091	36%	64%
2015	437,123	472,340	48%	52%
2016	263,990	374,364	41%	59%
2017	423,595	625,614	40%	60%
2018	329,167	282,627	54%	46%
2019	457,317	331,494	58%	42%
2020	234,794	177,616	57%	43%
2021	459,915	258,492	64%	36%
2022	334,768	229,208	59%	41%
2023	507,145	381,831	57%	43%
94-03 Average	302,613	746,918	28%	72%
04-13 Average	191,310	518,662	25%	75%
14-23 Average	381,035	377,268	52%	48%

Table 71-1.–Number of sockeye salmon harvested by seine and set gillnet in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District, 1994–2023.

Cen	tral Section Pir	nk Salmon H	arvest	
			Percent	Percent
Year	Seine	Gillnet	Seine	Gillnet
1994	1,759,428	1,020,837	63%	37%
1995	10,224,330	3,632,478	74%	26%
1996	733,175	435,308	63%	37%
1997	4,553,560	1,206,362	79%	21%
1998	4,331,521	2,498,154	63%	37%
1999	2,066,486	901,654	70%	30%
2000	2,878,508	1,052,057	73%	27%
2001	1,460,671	1,108,997	57%	43%
2002	4,964,439	2,014,356	71%	29%
2003	3,053,984	1,070,578	74%	26%
2004	5,415,333	2,159,582	71%	29%
2005	3,364,790	1,404,662	71%	29%
2006	12,286,582	2,889,720	81%	19%
2007	2,514,200	2,047,133	55%	45%
2008	1,065,290	965,571	52%	48%
2009	1,758,587	1,197,942	59%	41%
2010	1,098,006	893,419	55%	45%
2011	341,788	311,580	52%	48%
2012	3,430,170	1,775,176	66%	34%
2013	1,812,917	857,833	68%	32%
2014	666,191	382,503	64%	36%
2015	6,604,668	1,240,350	84%	16%
2016	486,007	463,885	51%	49%
2017	7,997,761	1,763,372	82%	18%
2018	784,542	341,938	70%	30%
2019	9,359,675	1,102,423	89%	11%
2020	3,143,754	1,266,459	71%	29%
2021	3,211,242	576,480	85%	15%
2022	2,679,665	642,571	81%	19%
2023	3,694,000	541,000	87%	13%
94-03 Average	3,602,610	1,494,078	69%	31%
04-13 Average	3,308,766	1,450,262	63%	37%
14-23 Average	3,862,751	832,098	76%	24%

Table 71-2.–Number of pink salmon harvested by seine and set gillnet in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District, 1994–2023.

<u>PROPOSAL 72</u> – 5 AAC 18.320. Fishing Periods and 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Oliver Holm.

<u>WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?</u> This would modify the commercial salmon fishing regulations in the Southwest Afognak Section of the Afognak District (Figure 72-1) to allow the department to manage the Southwest Afognak Section based on pink salmon returning to the Karluk systems.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> According to the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan*, (5 AAC 18.362), from July 5 through August 15, the Southwest Afognak Section is managed based on Southwest Afognak pink salmon and the major systems of the Northwest Kodiak District. Traditionally, pink salmon commercial salmon openings in the Southwest Afognak Section of the Afognak District have been timed equally with Northwest Kodiak District pink salmon openings.

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?</u> This would allow the department flexibility to open the Southwest Afognak Section of the Afognak District to commercial fishing based on Karluk pink salmon escapement. The regulation would still reference both pink salmon in the Southwest Afognak District and Northwest Kodiak District, therefore the department would still have the regulatory authority to keep the Southwest Afognak Section closed, if necessary.

BACKGROUND: The *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* is the achievement of longterm management strategies which were initially implemented in 1971. The intent of this management plan is to harvest salmon bound to local systems in traditional fisheries. Due to the mixing of various local salmon stocks during the inshore migration, the plan is complex, but provides a predictable framework for the major sockeye, pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks from the west side of Kodiak. The plan is in effect for the entire salmon season and covers the Southwest and Northwest Kodiak Districts, as well as the Southwest Afognak Section of the Afognak District (Figure 72-1).

The management plan guides the prosecution of early- and late-run sockeye salmon commercial fisheries, including those targeting the major systems of Karluk Lake, Ayakulik River, and other minor sockeye salmon systems, as well as local pink, chum, and coho salmon fisheries. For the Northwest Kodiak District, the Central and North Cape Sections are managed from June 1 through July 5 based on early-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk Lake.

The commercial pink salmon fishery opens on July 6, and the length of the initial weekly fishing periods are based on the current year's wild stock pink salmon forecast. During the peak pink salmon harvest period, from late July to mid-August, fishing periods are adjusted to match the strength of the pink salmon run.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. As written, the department would still have the regulatory authority to conserve Southwest Afognak Section pink salmon.



Figure 72-1.-Map of the Southwest Afognak Section of the Afognak District in relation to the Westside of Kodiak Island.

66

PROPOSAL 73 – 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Kodiak Seiners Association.

<u>WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?</u> This would direct the department to manage the Sturgeon Section of the Southwest Kodiak District during the July 16 through August 15 timeframe based on pink salmon returning to the both the Karluk and Sturgeon systems, without any reference to late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> According to the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan*, (5 AAC 18.362), from July 16 through August 24, the Sturgeon Section is managed on even years based on both late-run sockeye salmon and pink salmon returning to the Karluk system, with no reference to the Sturgeon pink salmon run.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would direct the department to manage the Sturgeon Section, from July 16 through August 15, based on pink salmon returning to both the Karluk and Sturgeon Systems. Current regulations also consider late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system. Not considering Karluk late-run sockeye on strong even year pink runs will likely result in longer pink salmon commercial openings in the Sturgeon Section to control Sturgeon and Karluk pink salmon escapement. However, more late-run sockeye salmon will also be harvested during the early portion of the late-run.

BACKGROUND: The *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* is the achievement of longterm management strategies which were initially implemented in 1971. The intent of this management plan is to harvest salmon bound to local systems in traditional fisheries. Due to the mixing of various local salmon stocks during the inshore migration, the plan is complex, but provides a predictable framework for the major sockeye, pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks from the west side of Kodiak. The plan is in effect for the entire salmon season and covers the Southwest and Northwest Kodiak Districts, as well as the Southwest Afognak Section.

The management plan guides the prosecution of early- and late-run sockeye salmon commercial fisheries, including those targeting the major systems of Karluk Lake, Ayakulik River, and other minor sockeye salmon systems, as well as local pink, chum, and coho salmon fisheries.

Prior to June 22, the Sturgeon and Halibut Bay Sections are closed to commercial fishing. After June 23, the Halibut Bay and Sturgeon Sections are managed based on early-and late-run sockeye salmon and pink salmon return to both the Ayakulik and Karluk systems. On even years, the pink salmon escapement to the Sturgeon system can exceed one million fish.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: As written, the department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. Although the department would like more flexibility to manage the Sturgeon Section based on the large even-year pink salmon runs to the Sturgeon Section, the department would also like more flexibility to manage the Sturgeon Section based on sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system.


Figure 73-1.-Map of Halibut Bay and Sturgeon Sections of the Southwest Kodiak District.

<u>PROPOSAL 74</u> – 5 AAC 18.330. Gear. and 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Johnson.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This seeks to break up the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District (Figure 74-1) into three different sections. These new sections would be the Outer Uyak Section, the Outer Uganik Section, and the Outer Kizhuyak Section (Figure 74-2). This would make the size of the new sections more like other sections in the Kodiak Management Area (KMA). While these new sections would manage early and late run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system the same as the past Central Section regulations, during the pink salmon objectives in each respective section, instead of all the pink salmon objectives for the entire Northwest Kodiak District collectively. This will also make the newly formed Outer Uyak Bay Section the only section of the Northwest Kodiak District to also be managed on pink salmon returning to the Karluk System, or local pink salmon. Separately, this proposal would also enable the department to close the North Cape Section of the Northwest Kodiak District to commercial fishing in June and early July if the local subsistence sockeye salmon systems of Afognak Lake and Buskin Lake are not meeting their respective escapement goals.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> According to the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan*, (5 AAC 18.362), the Central and North Cape Sections of the Northwest Kodiak District (Figure 74-1) from June 1 through the end of the season, are managed based on Karluk River early-run sockeye salmon, Northwest Kodiak District pink salmon or Karluk pink salmon, and Karluk late-run sockeye salmon.

The Anton Larsen Bay, Sharatin Bay, Kizhuyak Bay, Terror Bay, Inner Uganik Bay, Spiridon Bay, Zachar Bay, and Uyak Bay Sections (Inner Bays) of the Northwest Kodiak District (Figure 74-1) are open throughout the commercial salmon season. From June 1 through the end of the season, the Inner Bays are managed based on local sockeye, pink, chum, and coho salmon returning to the major systems of each individual section.

Regarding Buskin Lake sockeye salmon, the Northeast Kodiak District is closed to commercial salmon fishing prior to July 6. Regarding Afognak Lake sockeye salmon, from June 1 through July 5, the Southeast Afognak Section of the Afognak District is managed based on Afognak Lake sockeye salmon.

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?</u> Breaking up the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District into three different sections would mostly affect the prosecution of the pink salmon commercial fishery. In all other areas around the KMA, districts are currently broken up into several smaller sections that can be opened and closed to commercial salmon fishing at different times based on the local salmon abundance. However, the Central Section is managed as one large contiguous unit.

Due to the size of the Central Section, if salmon escapement for a salmon run within a specific Northwest Kodiak District is inadequate the only action the department can currently take is to leave the respective inner bay closed. Breaking up the Central Section will better allow the department to achieve local sockeye, pink, and chum salmon escapement. Furthermore, only managing the new Outer Uyak Bay Section from July 6 through August 15 based on pink salmon

returning to local Uyak Bay systems and Karluk pink salmon returning to the Karluk system will be more effective at controlling local Uyak and Karluk pink salmon escapement.

However, the Northwest Kodiak District is a mixed stock fishery. Currently, if most of the Northwest Kodiak District local pink and chum salmon stocks are achieving their escapement objectives, all commercial set gillnet sites benefit from the mixed stock nature of the fishery. This would drastically change the way fixed gear type fishermen benefit from the mixed stock nature of the fishery.

In June and early July, the North Cape Section of the Northwest Kodiak District (Figure 74-1) is managed based on early-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk System. However, the North Cape Section is geographically located between two of the Kodiak Area's major subsistence salmon runs: Buskin Lake in the Northeast Kodiak District, and Afognak Lake in the Southeast Afognak Section of the Afognak District. Both systems have had local subsistence fisheries restricted due to not achieving their respective sockeye salmon escapement goals over the past several years. The department does not have any modern stock composition data from the North Cape Section, however keeping the North Cape Section closed to commercial fishing in years when the subsistence fishery is restricted in either the Buskin or Afognak Bay systems may get more sockeye salmon to those local subsistence systems.

BACKGROUND: The *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* is the achievement of longterm management strategies which were initially implemented in 1971. The intent of this management plan is to harvest salmon bound to local systems in traditional fisheries. Due to the mixing of various local salmon stocks during the inshore migration, the plan is complex, but provides a predictable framework for the major sockeye, pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks from the west side of Kodiak. The plan is in effect for the entire salmon season and covers the Southwest and Northwest Kodiak districts, as well as the Southwest Afognak Section.

The management plan guides the prosecution of early- and late-run sockeye salmon commercial fisheries, including those targeting the major systems of Karluk Lake, Ayakulik River, and other minor sockeye salmon systems, as well as local Northwest Kodiak District and Southwest Kodiak District pink, chum, and coho salmon fisheries.

For the Northwest Kodiak District, the Central and North Cape Sections are managed from June 1 through July 5 based on early-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk Lake. The pink salmon fishery opens on July 6, and the length of the initial weekly commercial fishing periods are based on the current year's (wild stock) pink salmon forecast. During the peak pink salmon harvest period, from late July to mid-August, fishing periods are adjusted to match the strength of the local pink salmon runs.

During the August overlap period, from approximately August 16 through August 24, the Central and North Cape Sections are opened and closed to commercial fishing based on both Karluk Lake late-run sockeye and pink salmon returning to the major systems of the Northwest Kodiak District. From August 25 through September 5, the Central and North Cape Sections are managed based on late-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk Lake. After September 5, the fishery is managed both on late-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk Lake and coho salmon returning to major systems of the Northwest Kodiak District.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. That said, breaking up the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District would better enable the department to achieve local pink salmon escapement objectives.

Managing the newly created Outer Uyak Bay Section based only on local Uyak Bay and Karluk pink salmon in July and August will better allow the department to control Karluk pink salmon while allowing for commercial fishing closures to the remainder of the Northwest Kodiak District to allow for local salmon escapement. Furthermore, allowing the department to close the North Cape Section to commercial fishing in June and early July could feasibly enable local sockeye systems to achieve their escapement goals.

<u>COST ANALYSIS</u>: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department.



Figure 74-1.-Map of the current Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District.



Figure 74-2.-Map of the proposed new Sections of the Northwest Kodiak District.