

PROPOSAL 115

5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Amend fishing seasons to increase fishing time in the Ilnik Section, as follows:

(j) In the Ilnik Section,

(1) notwithstanding 5 AAC 09.320(a)(4), from June 20 through **July 31** {JULY 20},

(A) commercial salmon fishing will be permitted in the Ilnik Section

(i) southwest of the Unangashak Bluffs based on the abundance of Ilnik River sockeye salmon; **and Bear River sockeye salmon only if management actions in the Bear River and Three Hills Sections have occurred and the July 31 lower escapement goal at Bear River is not expected to be met,** and

(ii) northeast of the Unangashak Bluffs based on the abundance of Meshik River and Ilnik River sockeye salmon, combined;

(B) if the commissioner closes that portion of the Egegik District specified in 5 AAC 06.359(c) for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Ilnik Section and immediately reopen the Ilnik Section, with additional fishing restrictions that the commissioner determines necessary;

(2) from **August 1** [JULY 21] through August 15, fishing periods may be modified in the Ilnik Section based on the abundance of Bear River sockeye salmon stocks;

(3) after August 15, fishing periods may be modified in the Ilnik Section based on the abundance of

(A) coho salmon stocks in the Unangashak and Ilnik Rivers, and the Ocean River when the Ocean River flows directly into the Bering Sea; and

(B) the Bear River late-run sockeye salmon stock.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Amend the regulations to permit ADF&G to make management actions if needed in the Ilnik Section southwest of Unangashak Bluffs for Bear River sockeye salmon. Currently, Bear River sockeye salmon are not identified as a stock that is to be considered in the management of the Ilnik Section prior to July 31 and the department has made management actions in recent years. If adopted this proposal would allow management actions to be taken for Bear River sockeye salmon prior to July 31 southwest of Unangashak Bluffs in the Ilnik Section if management actions have not been effective for the early Bear River sockeye salmon run in the Bear River and Three Hills Sections, and the July 31 lower escapement goal at Bear River is not expected to be met. Currently, only Ilnik River sockeye salmon are considered in the management plan southwest of Unangashak Bluffs from June 20 to July 20. The Ilnik and Bear Rivers have been managed in the Ilnik Section by ADF&G from June 20 to July 31 in recent years and this would codify those management actions southwest of Unangashak Bluffs.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, with the CAMF Board which represents 105 members

PROPOSED BY: Concerned Area M Fishermen

(EF-F26-033)
