

PROPOSAL 139

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing periods for set gillnet gear as follows:

(h) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, the commercial salmon fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula in the South Eastern District as follows:

(1) from August 1 through August 31, fishing periods shall be based on the abundance of local sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon stocks;

(A) In the South Eastern District, on August first (1st) setnetters will open for fishing at 8:00 am, till August third (3rd) at 9:00pm. Then closed for 59 hours till 8:00am on August 6th. This schedule for setnetters open hours fishing and closed hours will continue throughout August if (1) (B) of this section is met.

(B) The season will open August 1st for the setnetters if 20 percent of South Alaska Peninsula SEG lower point of 1,750,000 pinks is met and will continue if, at end of second (2nd) opening 40 percent of lower pink SEG of 1,750,000 is met, at end of the fourth (4th) period, 80 percent of the lower point of South Peninsula SEG of 1,750,000 pinks is met.

(2) from September 1 through October 31, fishing periods shall be based on abundance of coho salmon stocks, although the department may consider the abundance of late pink and chum salmon stocks.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During August, the local pink salmon fishery doesn't execute until a minimum or mid range of the total SEG for South Peninsula pink salmon escapement is met. In latter part of August when the pink season commences, the pink salmon are schooled up in front of the steams, the traveling pink salmon on the capes are diminishing. A set netter in South Peninsula are cape fishermen and they need to have the bright pink salmon traveling on the Capes to catch them efficiently. The setnetters also can't catch the bright local chum salmon or late run sockeye salmon in the South Peninsula in August because of the late timing of commencing the August pink salmon run on the South Peninsula. In August the pink, sockeye and chum salmon are predominantly heading west in the South Eastern District of the South Peninsula. The number of setnetters fishing have dropped in numbers drastically in the South Peninsula making the catching effect reduced. As of writing this proposal, only 18 setnetters now fish the South Eastern side of the South Peninsula, that have local market with the processor. With the setnetters able to fish in August on set schedule the Fish and Game management could build a base line with the setnet fleet of the amount of pink and chum salmon traveling off the capes in the South Eastern and Shumagin Islands Districts.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes brought this proposal before the Sand Point Advisory Committee and they endorsed it.

PROPOSED BY: Edgar L Smith

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