

PROPOSAL 143

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

Modify the department's test fishery protocol found in the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* as follows:

The department shall conduct a seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section to assess the presence of immature king (Chinook) salmon. If 100 or more immature king salmon, per set, are present, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the seine fishery in an area to be determined by the department. If the seine fishery is closed in an area under this subsection, the set gillnet fishery shall **also close** in that area.

For the purposes of this subsection, "immature salmon, per set, are present" means the number of immature king salmon **observed to be under 28 inches in length from tip of snout to tip of tail, sockeye salmon observed to be under 16 inches in length from tip of snout to tip of tail, and coho and chum salmon observed to be under 18 inches in length from tip of snout to tip of tail caught in the seine.**

Simultaneously, take tissue samples for determining point of origin for each species.

In addition, conduct a June test fishery for Chinook salmon per the 2023 legislative allocation.

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

Because of the extreme Chinook (king) salmon crisis around the entire state of Alaska, and because of the need to have a better understanding of Chinook migration through a primary intercept fishery (Area M), this proposal seeks to

- (1) clarify the terms of the Post-June Shumagin Islands test fishery for immature salmon, and
- (2) establish a June Chinook salmon genetics test fishery

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) currently conducts a seine test fisheryⁱ in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Alaska Peninsula (Area M) to assess the presence of immature salmon. For the purposes of this subsection, "immature salmon, per set, are present" means the number of immature king, sockeye, coho, and chum salmon observed to be gilled in the seine web. The post-June fishery may occur from July 6 through October 31 and is guided by the results of an immature salmon test fishery and the strength of local sockeye, chum *O. keta*, pink *O. gorbuscha*, and coho salmon *O. kisutch* returns.

In addition, in 2023, \$58thousand was allocated in the FY204 Alaska budget for the purpose of conducting Chinook genetic studies in the June fishery for 2024, which never happened.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes – Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Chignik AC

PROPOSED BY: Gale K. Vick

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