

PROPOSAL 171

5 AAC 40. XXX New Regulation.

Amend Prince William Sound hatchery permits to reduce pink salmon egg take capacity, as follows:

Require changes in Prince William Sound Pink Salmon hatchery production sufficient to reduce straying into Lower Cook Inlet streams to levels specified in the Prince William Sound/Copper River Comprehensive Salmon Plan.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? High levels of straying by Prince William Sound hatchery pink salmon have been identified in Lower Cook Inlet streams (Otis et al. 2018. Observations of Pink Salmon hatchery proportions in selected Lower Cook Inlet escapements, 2016-2017. Alaska Department of Fish and Game Special Publication 18-11). PWS hatchery contributions averaged 22% in 17 LCI streams sampled in 2014-2018. Combined contributions of LCI and PWS hatchery fish averaged 34%.

High stray rates reduce wild pink salmon productivity due to low relative reproductive success of hatchery fish recently identified by the Alaska Hatchery Research Project. High stray rates violate criteria in the *Prince William Sound/Copper River Comprehensive Salmon Plan* specifying that the proportion of hatchery salmon straying into wild-stock streams must remain below 2% of the wild-stock escapement over the long term.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Not applicable

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association

(EF-F26-009)
