

PROPOSAL 50

5 AAC 06.355. Bristol Bay Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan.

Incorporate fish quality considerations into commercial salmon fishery management decisions in Bristol Bay, as follows:

Create **06.335(e): The department shall strive to manage the Bristol Bay commercial salmon fishery for the highest level of product value with a minimum of waste.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the board to add economic and quality objectives to the opening section (a) of the management plan for salmon, similar as to what is given for herring.

In 5 AAC 39.222(b) under the General Provisions we have a goal to ensure “the sustained economic health of Alaska’s fishing communities” however, in section 5 AAC 06.355 it would be helpful to state it for the Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management plan so that the quality of the harvestable surplus is taken into account because that is paramount in ensuring an economically sustainable fishery.

Practically, this could influence future regulations and management decisions such as: in the Wood River Special harvest area excess net permitted onboard a drift boat must be kept in a brailer bag (so that it can’t be set, round-hauled full of fish, and picked while a fresh set of gear is laid out)- this is in contrast to the Naknek and Kvichak special harvest areas where no such restriction applies. Surely more fish can be caught in the later example, but they are of lower quality, and therefore suppress the value of the harvested fish, which harms the ultimate marketability of the salmon and reduces the long-term sustained economic health.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I discussed this issue at length with a broad group of fishermen, industry organizations, and other industry leaders through phone conversations, and think-tank discussions spanning several months.

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(EF-F26-156)
