

PROPOSAL 58

5 AAC 06.358. Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.

Modify the trigger to open the Wood River Special Harvest Area when the total run is estimated to be over 5 million fish, as follows:

Modify the trigger to open the WRSOA to match the Wood River OEG when its used in-season.

(3) when the escapement of sockeye salmon into the Wood River exceeds 1,600,000 (1,100,000) fish and the escapement is projected to exceed 2,000,000 (1,400,000 fish);

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the department may open the Wood River Special Harvest Area (WRSOA) when the escapement of sockeye salmon into the Wood River exceeds 1,100,000 fish and the escapement is projected to exceed 1,400,000 fish. The current SEG for the Wood River Sockeye run is 700,000-1.8 million and was established in 2015.

In 2022 the BOF adopted the Nushagak King Action plan that created an OEG for the Wood River sockeye in years where it was estimated to be larger than 5 million in total run size. The in-season trigger described above was not modified to match instances where an OEG is in use.

In instances where it is estimated that the Wood River sockeye run is greater than 5 million fish, the OEG is in place with 700,000 sockeye as the lower bound,, and the upper bound is 15% of the Wood River run size above the 1.8 million fish upper bound of the SEG. So if a total run to the Wood River was estimated to be 5 million fish, the upper bound of the OEG would be 2,550,000 (SEG of 1,800,000 plus 15% of 5 million (750,000) = 2,550,000).

The trigger to open the WRSOA needs to be modified to match the OEG when it's in use.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Frank Woods

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