

PROPOSAL 64

5 AAC 06.391. Nushagak District King Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan.

Open the Wood River Special Harvest Area to drift and set gillnet gear until one of the king salmon stock of concern triggers is met, as follows:

While the Nushagak District is being managed by the King Salmon stock of concern management plan fishers be allowed to fish in the Wood River Special harvest area until one of the triggers is met.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? While the fishers are waiting for extra sockeye escapement due to the king salmon stock of concern management plan allow fishers, set net and drift net, to fish in the Wood River special harvest area.

This management plan has three triggers that if one is met the fishers can fish in the district. Trigger 1) requires 10 percent of Wood River sockeye forecast to be past counting tower, Trigger 2) requires 6 percent of Nushagak River sockeye forecast to be past Portage Creek sonar, Trigger 3) June 28 nine am.

When the Wood River reaches its 10 percent trigger the escapement goal is almost met before the fishers are allowed to fish and assuring over escapement.

Fishing during this time in the Wood River Special Harvest area would slow down the escapement rate but still allow escapement into the Wood River and allow king salmon escapement up the Nushagak River.

When the Wood River reaches it 10 percent trigger it is almost assured to meet the trigger for allowing fishing into the Wood River Special Harvest area within a day or two with one gear type.

To reach this 10 percent escapement goal takes a lot of fish, and once they start swimming into the Wood River it is very hard or impossible to slow the escapement down especially with there being a gap between the fishing district and the Wood River, a lot of fish can be in this gap. Resulting in over escapement.

2025 Wood River forecast is 8 million fish, 10 percent is 800,000 sockeye. Wood River Special Harvest Area management states once Wood River escapement reaches 1.1 million and projected to reach 1.4 million the Wood River Special Harvest area is to open to fishing to one gear type.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I wrote this proposal with the help of my family who are all Bristol Bay fishers.

PROPOSED BY: Rick Tennyson

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