

PROPOSAL 74

5 AAC 06.XXX. New Section.

Reestablish a General District Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

The prior described illegal activity can only occur if the district boundaries that are defined to reduce interception of other districts fish in season are retained after all districts have met their escapement goals for the season. I propose that after **ALL** individual districts have met their escapement goals for the season that the fishery would revert to The General District last used for commercial harvest the 2004 season. As defined in 5AAC 06.356. the General District consists of waters of the Bristol Bay Area north and east of a line from a point on Cape Constantine at 58, 26.14' N. lat., 158, 45.91' W. long. to a point at 58, 27.22' N. lat., 158, 36.21' W. long., to a point at 58, 32.30' N. lat., 158, 13.26' W. long., then following the territorial sea boundary line around Etolin Point and continuing along the territorial sea boundary line to the latitude of Cape Menshikof at 57, 28.34' N. lat., except those waters within, and those waters draining into, the regular districts described in 5 AAC 06.200.

This action would stop rewarding illegal activity and reduce the need for late season law enforcement expenditures while affording equal harvesting opportunities to the entire fleet.

Proposed verbiage:

At any time in the Bristol Bay regulated Sockeye season that ALL escapement goals have been met in all districts of Bristol Bay the General District defined in 5AAC 06.356 shall be opened for the remainder of the Sockeye season until such time that management switches to the Coho management plan.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Late season criminal activity is making fishing not economically viable for fishermen obeying the law. 2024 was a great example of a handful of closed water violators causing the entirety of a district (Egegik) to be closed to all parties. This has gone on for many years after the regulated season ends and law enforcement departs due to their schedule and budget limitations. With limited enforcement presence a small group of criminals fish continuously in closed waters causing the legal fishermen to move to less productive districts or end their seasons out of frustration causing financial hardship to their operations. It is well known Bristol Bay has issues with aggressive fishermen who push the boundary all season long and it is an ongoing struggle with law enforcement to corral the offenders. The persistent issue is that the remainder of the fleet who are law abiding permit holders are financially impacted even further with the late season fish being harvested by criminals as well due to a lack of law enforcement presence.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal is not from any official group or committee.

PROPOSED BY: Doug Morgan

(EF-F26-144)
