

## ***North Alaska Peninsula Salmon Northern District (6 proposals)***

### **PROPOSAL 113**

#### **5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons. and**

#### **5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.**

Amend fishing seasons to allow more fishing time and area for set and drift net gear in the Caribou Flats Section, as follows:

**5 AAC 09.310 (9). Caribou Flats Section: from June 20 to July 31 by emergency order if the season-ending sockeye salmon escapement goal at Nelson River is expected to be exceeded prior to August 1, fishing will be permitted with set and drift gillnet gear.**

[5 AAC 09.350 (13). CLOSED WATERS. CARIBOU FLATS: WATERS OF THE CARIBOU FLATS SECTION;]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Nelson (Sapsuk) River sockeye salmon escapement in 2024 exceeded the upper escapement goal by almost 4-fold with over 750,000 sockeye salmon escaping. This was the largest escapement ever recorded for the Nelson River. Past returns that have significantly exceeded the sockeye salmon escapement goal have caused poor future production and low returns of sockeye salmon into the Nelson River. The number of commercial salmon permits that are fishing in Nelson Lagoon has decreased substantially over the years and the effort levels are not capable of harvesting a good or strong return of sockeye salmon to the Nelson River. Allowing drift and set gillnet gear to fish by emergency order in the Caribou Flats Section when the upper escapement goal is expected to be exceeded would help control the escapement when strong runs occur.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** Yes, with the CAMF Board which represents 105 members

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen

(EF-F26-031)

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### **PROPOSAL 114**

#### **5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**

Amend the *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* to delete sunset language as follows:

**Delete paragraph (n) below as this language sunsetted in 2018 and can add confusion to the fleet.**

[(n) From June 20 through July 31, the department shall manage the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections to conserve Bear River and Nelson River sockeye salmon stocks by allowing the passage of sockeye salmon from the northeast to the southwest of the Northern District as described in this subsection. Notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 09.320, from June 20 through July 31, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, establish fishing periods for the Bear River and Three Hills Sections and that portion of the Ilnik Section between the longitude of Unangashak Bluffs and the longitude of Three Hills at 159° 49.45' W. long., during which the waters that are between the three-mile seaward boundary line, described in 5 AAC 09.301, and a line that is one and one-half miles shoreward of the three-mile seaward boundary are closed for one 24-hour period during a seven-day period. The waters located to the southwest of the open waters where a 24-hour closure has occurred will have sequential closures that allow fishing only

in the waters out to the one and one-half mile line described in this subsection for the first 24 hours of an open fishing period. The provisions of this subsection do not apply after December 31, 2018.]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In the regulations there is language from an old regulation that has not been in effect since 2018 and should be deleted. The language can add confusion to the fleet as it no longer is pertinent to the fishery. We would consider this a “house-keeping proposal” as it is just trying to remove old regulatory language that should not be included in current regulations.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** Yes, with the CAMF Board which represents 105 members

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-F26-032)

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### **PROPOSAL 115**

#### **5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**

Amend fishing seasons to increase fishing time in the Ilnik Section, as follows:

(j) In the Ilnik Section,

(1) notwithstanding 5 AAC 09.320(a)(4), from June 20 through **July 31** {JULY 20},

(A) commercial salmon fishing will be permitted in the Ilnik Section

(i) southwest of the Unangashak Bluffs based on the abundance of Ilnik River sockeye salmon; **and Bear River sockeye salmon only if management actions in the Bear River and Three Hills Sections have occurred and the July 31 lower escapement goal at Bear River is not expected to be met,** and

(ii) northeast of the Unangashak Bluffs based on the abundance of Meshik River and Ilnik River sockeye salmon, combined;

(B) if the commissioner closes that portion of the Egegik District specified in 5 AAC 06.359(c) for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Ilnik Section and immediately reopen the Ilnik Section, with additional fishing restrictions that the commissioner determines necessary;

(2) from **August 1** [JULY 21] through August 15, fishing periods may be modified in the Ilnik Section based on the abundance of Bear River sockeye salmon stocks;

(3) after August 15, fishing periods may be modified in the Ilnik Section based on the abundance of

(A) coho salmon stocks in the Unangashak and Ilnik Rivers, and the Ocean River when the Ocean River flows directly into the Bering Sea; and

(B) the Bear River late-run sockeye salmon stock.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Amend the regulations to permit ADF&G to make management actions if needed in the Ilnik Section southwest of Unangashak Bluffs for Bear River sockeye salmon. Currently, Bear River sockeye salmon are not identified as a stock that is to be considered in the management of the Ilnik Section prior to July 31 and the department has made management actions in recent years. If adopted this proposal would allow management actions to be taken for Bear River sockeye salmon prior to July 31 southwest of Unangashak Bluffs in the Ilnik Section if management actions have not been effective for the early Bear River sockeye salmon run in the Bear River and Three Hills Sections, and the

July 31 lower escapement goal at Bear River is not expected to be met. Currently, only Ilnik River sockeye salmon are considered in the management plan southwest of Unangashak Bluffs from June 20 to July 20. The Ilnik and Bear Rivers have been managed in the Ilnik Section by ADF&G from June 20 to July 31 in recent years and this would codify those management actions southwest of Unangashak Bluffs.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** Yes, with the CAMF Board which represents 105 members

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-F26-033)  
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**PROPOSAL 116**

**5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**

Amend the *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* to decrease commercial salmon fishing time and area to drift gillnet gear as follows:

(n) From June 20 through July **20** [31], the department shall manage the Bear River, Three Hills, [AND] Ilnik Sections **and Outer Port Heiden sections** to conserve [BEAR RIVER AND] Nelson River sockeye salmon stocks by allowing the passage of sockeye salmon from the northeast to the southwest of the Northern District [AS DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION]. Notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 09.320, from June 20 through July **20** [31], the commissioner shall, by emergency order, establish fishing periods for the Bear River, [AND] Three Hills, [SECTIONS AND THAT PORTION OF THE] Ilnik **and Outer Port Heiden Sections** [SECTION BETWEEN THE LONGITUDE OF UNANGASHAK BLUFFS AND THE LONGITUDE OF THREE HILLS AT 159° 49.45' W. LONG.], during which **these sections shall be** [THE WATERS THAT ARE BETWEEN THE THREE-MILE SEAWARD BOUNDARY LINE, DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 09.301, AND A LINE THAT IS ONE AND ONE-HALF MILES SHOREWARD OF THE THREE-MILE SEAWARD BOUNDARY ARE] closed **concurrently** for one **96-hour** [24-HOUR] period during a seven-day period, **however, if interim escapement objectives are being exceeded at either the Ilnik, Sandy, or Bear Rivers, the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow fishing periods in the waters from the shore out to one and one-half mile line in those sections during the closure period established under this subsection** [. THE WATERS LOCATED TO THE SOUTHWEST OF THE OPEN WATERS WHERE A 24- HOUR CLOSURE HAS OCCURRED WILL HAVE SEQUENTIAL CLOSURES THAT ALLOW FISHING ONLY IN THE WATERS OUT TO THE ONE AND ONE- HALF MILE LINE DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION FOR THE FIRST 24 HOURS OF AN OPEN FISHING PERIOD. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2018].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

No windows during 24/7 harvest periods. 24/7 harvest time between June 20th and July 20th does not allow for adequate fish to pass thru the harvest area during this critical time. River systems south of Cape Seniavin are not, or struggle, to achieve periodic escapement goals during this period each year.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.**

Nelson Lagoon AC.

This Proposal was originally submitted to the BOF for consideration in the 2022/23 BOF cycle as Prop 120, substitute language submitted by Board Member Mitchel as RC131 Alaska Peninsula

Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting. the Nelson Lagoon AC would like this Proposal including the amended language to be reconsidered.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nelson Lagoon Advisory Committee

(EF-F26-127)

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**PROPOSAL 117**

**5 AAC 09.369 Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**

Amend the *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* as follows:

Require that Northern Alaska Peninsula Coho commercial fishermen report their steelhead bycatch.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Decreasing number and size of steelhead in the Sandy River and Northern Alaska Peninsula in general over the last 10 years. The number of steelhead that are caught in the Coho commercial fishery is unknown and it would be important to know if there is a significant bycatch that may be contributing to the decline in steelhead number.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** With anglers who have been fishing the Sandy River for the last 10+ years.

**PROPOSED BY:** David Luthy

(EF-F26-101)

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**PROPOSAL 118**

**5 AAC 09.369 Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**

Amend the *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan*

Require that Northern Alaska Peninsula Coho commercial fishermen report their steelhead bycatch.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Decreasing number and size of steelhead in the Sandy River and Northern Alaska Peninsula in general over the last 10 years. The number of steelhead that are caught in the Coho commercial fishery is unknown and it would be important to know if there is a significant bycatch that may be contributing to the decline in steelhead number.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** With anglers who have been fishing the Sandy River for the last 10+ years.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jay Michael Watt

(EF-F26-103)

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