

South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Post-June Management Plan (9 proposals)

PROPOSAL 138

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing periods for set gillnet gear, as follows:

(d) (1) **For seine gear** the first fishing period will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 33 hours until 3:00p.m. the following day; **For Setnet gear the fishing period will begin 6:00 a.m. and run for 57 hours until 3:00p.m. one day after the following day** commercial fishing will then close for 63 hours for Seine **and 39 hours for Setnet** and reopen under (2) of this subsection;

(2) following the closures under (1) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and close at 6:00 p.m. the following **day for Seine; and begin at 6:00 a.m. and close at 6:00p.m. the day after the the following for Setnet gear. For Seine gear** Commercial fishing will then close for 60 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three days later; **For Setnet Gear Commercial fishing will close for 36 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. two days later. Opening to be the same days.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? For the current Management plan to ADD seven days onto the current plan for Setnet fisheries in the South Peninsula fisheries. The setnet fishery is strictly limited to one place with anchors lines and buoys to have to pickup and move with little skiffs. Our very quickly weather patterns that come through and long ways to travel for shelter. We can choose better places to fish for the difficult weather patterns.

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

PROPOSED BY: Emil Mobeck

(EF-F26-058)

PROPOSAL 139

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing periods for set gillnet gear as follows:

(h) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, the commercial salmon fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula in the South Eastern District as follows:

(1) from August 1 through August 31, fishing periods shall be based on the abundance of local sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon stocks;

(A) In the South Eastern District, on August first (1st) setnetters will open for fishing at 8:00 am, till August third (3rd) at 9:00pm. Then closed for 59 hours till 8:00am on August 6th. This schedule for setnetters open hours fishing and closed hours will continue throughout August if (1) (B) of this section is met.

(B) The season will open August 1st for the setnetters if 20 percent of South Alaska Peninsula SEG lower point of 1,750,000 pinks is met and will continue if, at end of second (2nd) opening 40 percent of lower pink SEG of 1,750,000 is met, at end of the fourth (4th) period, 80 percent of the lower point of South Peninsula SEG of 1,750,000 pinks is met.

(2) from September 1 through October 31, fishing periods shall be based on abundance of coho salmon stocks, although the department may consider the abundance of late pink and chum salmon stocks.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During August, the local pink salmon fishery doesn't execute until a minimum or mid range of the total SEG for South Peninsula pink salmon escapement is met. In latter part of August when the pink season commences, the pink salmon are schooled up in front of the steams, the traveling pink salmon on the capes are diminishing. A set netter in South Peninsula are cape fishermen and they need to have the bright pink salmon traveling on the Capes to catch them efficiently. The setnetters also can't catch the bright local chum salmon or late run sockeye salmon in the South Peninsula in August because of the late timing of commencing the August pink salmon run on the South Peninsula. In August the pink, sockeye and chum salmon are predominantly heading west in the South Eastern District of the South Peninsula. The number of setnetters fishing have dropped in numbers drastically in the South Peninsula making the catching effect reduced. As of writing this proposal, only 18 setnetters now fish the South Eastern side of the South Peninsula, that have local market with the processor. With the setnetters able to fish in August on set schedule the Fish and Game management could build a base line with the setnet fleet of the amount of pink and chum salmon traveling off the capes in the South Eastern and Shumagin Islands Districts.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes brought this proposal before the Sand Point Advisory Committee and they endorsed it.

PROPOSED BY: Edgar L Smith

(EF-F26-063)

PROPOSAL 140

5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections.

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to reduce commercial salmon fishing area and modify existing Districts and Sections in the South Alaska Peninsula, as follows:

5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections.

(d)...

(6) Outer Belkofski Bay Section: waters between Vodapoini Point and Moss Cape, including Inner and Outer Iliasik Islands, excluding the waters of the Deer Island Section and the **Inner Belkofski Bay Section;**

(7) Inner Belkofski Bay Section: all waters north of a line between Bold Cape at 55° 01.09' N. lat., 162° 14.59' W. long., and Belkofski Point at 55° 04.19' N. lat., 162° 03.08 W. long.;

(8) Dolgoi Island [VOLCANO BAY] Section: waters between Moss Cape and Arch Point, including **Volcano Bay**, Goloi, Dolgoi, and Poperechnoi Islands;

(9) General Section: all remaining waters of the Southwestern District.
(e)...

Rev. Dec. 2023

(4) **Outer** Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section: waters of the South Central District, excluding those of the West and East Pavlof Bay and Canoe Bay Sections, **and the Inner Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section**, between the longitude of McGinty Point (160° 59.00' W. long.) and the longitude of Cape Tolstoi (161° 30.00' W. long.).

(5) Inner Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section: waters of the South Central District, between the longitude of McGinty Point (160° 59.00' W. long) and the longitude of Cape Tolstoi (161° 30.00' W. long.), excluding those of the West and East Pavlof Bay and Canoe Bay Sections, north of the latitude of 55° 19.15' N lat.;

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

(f)...

(2) the [EAST AND WEST PAVLOF BAY SECTIONS OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT,] waters north of **a line between [THE LATITUDE OF] Black Point at 55° 24.48' N. lat., 161° 41.16' W. long., and Settlement Point at 55° 29.12' N. lat., 161° 29.33' W. long., of the East and west Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District;** fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks;

(g)...

(3)the **Inner** Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section of the South Central District; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local pink and chum salmon stocks;

(4)the **Inner** Belkofski Bay Section of the Southwestern District; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local pink and chum salmon stocks;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are Sections in the Area M South Peninsula salmon fishery where “terminal harvest” areas extend over 25 miles offshore. This is a tremendous amount of area that allows for substantial interception of non-local sockeye stocks when fishermen are supposed to be limited to a terminal harvest area based solely on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks. These Sections need to be divided into inner and outer areas, with the inner area representing a more realistic terminal harvest area as seen in other areas around the State.

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

PROPOSED BY: Axel S Kopun

(EF-F26-146)

PROPOSAL 141

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to enforce king salmon caps with reductions in commercial salmon fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula, as follows:

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

(i) To address conservation concerns for Gulf of Alaska Chinook salmon (king salmon) across the Gulf of Alaska, the following management measures apply in the South Alaska Peninsula Area, beginning July 1;

(1) if the harvest of king salmon exceeds 1,000 during any regulatory fishing period, the statistical area(s) identified as primarily responsible will remain closed during the subsequent regulatory fishing period.

(2) If the cumulative harvest of king salmon surpasses 5,000, the statistical area(s) primarily responsible for the harvest will close immediately and remain closed through August 10.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The lack of a king salmon conservation plan in the South Alaska Peninsula Area. The depletion of king salmon across the Gulf of Alaska is quickly becoming a crisis that threatens the very livelihood of Alaska's commercial salmon fleet. The South Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon fishery needs restrictions in place to deter the harvest of king salmon similar to the restrictions that exist in the Chignik Area.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The Chignik Advisory Committee is submitting this proposal. We used language from the Advisory Announcements issued by the Commissioner of Fish & Game detailing the need for commercial salmon fishing restrictions to be placed on Chignik and the South Alaska Peninsula salmon fisheries for the 2024 salmon season in an attempt to deter harvest of king salmon in both areas.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Advisory Committee (EF-F26-154)

PROPOSAL 142

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing time and area in the South Alaska Peninsula, as follows:

Current 5 AAC 09.365 (e) From August 1 through August 31 the commissioner MAY open by Emergency Order the fishery by specific or multiple gear types for concurrent or non-concurrent periods.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Pink and Chum salmon escapement and run strength in early August can often be difficult to assess in the South Peninsula due to inclement weather for aerial surveying and the Department's inability under the current management Plan to use the fleet effectively to judge run strength. Currently the Department must open all gear types concurrently which can lead to over harvest, allowing the Department the flexibility to use specific gear types or multiple gear types depending on section (Seine, Set or Drift gillnet) during different run scenarios. This would improve run information in times of inclement weather by allowing the area biologist the flexibility of selecting the appropriate time and area for a specific gear type or types to get run information without jeopardizing weak stocks and giving the fleet and the processors opportunity to remain active.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Area M Seiners Association with input from Fishermen of all gear types across the South Peninsula region.

PROPOSED BY: Area M Seiners Association

(EF-F26-168)

PROPOSAL 143

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Modify the department's test fishery protocol found in the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* as follows:

The department shall conduct a seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section to assess the presence of immature king (Chinook) salmon. If 100 or more immature king salmon, per set, are present, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the seine fishery in an area to be determined by the department. If the seine fishery is closed in an area under this subsection, the set gillnet fishery shall **also close** in that area.

For the purposes of this subsection, "immature salmon, per set, are present" means the number of immature king salmon **observed to be under 28 inches in length from tip of snout to tip of tail, sockeye salmon observed to be under 16 inches in length from tip of snout to tip of tail, and coho and chum salmon observed to be under 18 inches in length from tip of snout to tip of tail caught in the seine.**

Simultaneously, take tissue samples for determining point of origin for each species.

In addition, conduct a June test fishery for Chinook salmon per the 2023 legislative allocation.

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

Because of the extreme Chinook (king) salmon crisis around the entire state of Alaska, and because of the need to have a better understanding of Chinook migration through a primary intercept fishery (Area M), this proposal seeks to

- (1) clarify the terms of the Post-June Shumagin Islands test fishery for immature salmon, and
- (2) establish a June Chinook salmon genetics test fishery

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) currently conducts a seine test fisheryⁱ in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Alaska Peninsula (Area M) to assess the presence of immature salmon. For the purposes of this subsection, "immature salmon, per set, are present" means the number of immature king, sockeye, coho, and chum salmon observed to be gilled in the seine web. The post-June fishery may occur from July 6 through October 31 and is guided by the results of an immature salmon test fishery and the strength of local sockeye, chum *O. keta*, pink *O. gorbuscha*, and coho salmon *O. kisutch* returns.

In addition, in 2023, \$58thousand was allocated in the FY204 Alaska budget for the purpose of conducting Chinook genetic studies in the June fishery for 2024, which never happened.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes – Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Chignik AC

PROPOSED BY: Gale K. Vick

(EF-F26-170)

PROPOSAL 144

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing periods for set gillnet gear, as follows:

05 AAC 09.366 (h) (1) (A)

The Department reserves the right to open the fishery by Emergency Order, from August 1 - August 31, and to allow set netters an opening or openings, to test the movement of fish into areas before maximum escapement goals have been met. If and when the Department determines that the escapement goals are on track or will be on track to fulfill escapement goals, they may open to any and all gear types at their discretion.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To allow the Department to differentiate between seine and set gill net gear types to allow set net openings in August to determine run strength. Typically, during the August fishery, the Department manages based on full escapement or presumed full escapement. Meanwhile, fish are still moving into the area before finding their natal streams. It would be a benefit to set netters as well as to the Department to be able to get some time on the capes to catch bright fish while the flesh quality is still good. It would be used as a determinate of how many fish are moving in while allowing time to set netters, which is crucial to the strength of the fishery. Currently, the Department must open the fishery for all gear types concurrently.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Developed at Sand Point AC meeting with input from community members.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick Brown, Sand Point AC Chair

(EF-F26-171)

PROPOSAL 145

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing time and area, as follows:

5 AAC 09.366 (h) (1) (a)

From August 1 through August 31 the commissioner MAY open by Emergency Order the fishery by specific or multiple gear types for concurrent or non-concurrent periods.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Pink and Chum salmon escapement and run strength in early August can often be difficult to assess in the South Peninsula due to inclement weather for aerial surveying and the Departments inability under the current management Plan to use the fleet effectively to judge run strength. Currently the Department must open all gear types concurrently which can lead to over harvest, allowing the Department the flexibility to use specific gear types or multiple gear types depending on section (Seine, Set or Drift gillnet) during different run scenarios. This would improve run information in times of inclement weather by allowing the area biologist the flexibility of selecting the appropriate time and area for a specific gear type or types to get run information without jeopardizing weak stocks and giving the fleet and the processors opportunity to remain active.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Area M Seiners Association with input from Fishermen of all gear types across the South Peninsula region.

PROPOSED BY: Area M Seiners Association (EF-F26-174)

PROPOSAL 146

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Pan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing periods for set gillnet gear, as follows:

Set net fishermen only will get a 24 hour extension at the end of each fishing period in July starting on the third fishing period. Opening of each period would not change but the closure for set net fishermen would be reduce by 24 hours staring after the third period open in July.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like more fishing time in the middle of July for set net fishermen in the Shumagin Is. By the middle of July the migrating fish stocks have moved on through and we fish local stocks. Set net fishing is low impact on the stocks and would give ADF&G an idea of stock strength.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. I talked with other fisherman and with our biologist in his Kodiak office.

PROPOSED BY: Rick Eastlick (HQ-F26-012)
