

PROPOSAL 51

5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

Modify and update rainbow/steelhead trout regulations for stocked and landlocked lakes in the Kodiak Road Zone.

5 AAC 64.022 (3) (A) is amended to read:

(3) rainbow/steelhead trout, as follows:

(A) Kodiak Road Zone:

(i) except in stocked lakes as described in (ii) of this subparagraph: from January 1 - December 31 is open only for catch and release fishing; rainbow/steelhead trout may not be possessed and any rainbow/steelhead trout caught must be released immediately.[] From November 1 - April 30, only artificial lures may be used in fresh water, except for **stocked lakes as described in (ii) of this subparagraph and** landlocked lakes of [CHIGNIK LAKE] **Chiniak Lake**, Chiniak Lagoon, **Southern Lake**, and Barry Lagoon;

(ii) stocked lakes: may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag and possession limit of 10 fish, of which only one may be 20 inches or greater in length; no annual limit; for the purposes of this subparagraph, "stocked lakes" include Abercrombie (Gertrude), [AURAL] **Aurel**, [BIG], Bull, Caroline, Cicely, **Dark**, Dolgoi, [DRAGON FLY] **Dragonfly**, **Genivieve (Boy Scout)**, Heitman, Horseshoe, [JACK], Jupiter, Lee, **Lilly**, Lilly **Pond**, Long, Lupine, [MARGARET (BOY SCOUT)], Saturn, Southern, Tanignak, and Twin Lakes;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal clarifies language regarding freshwaters exempted from rainbow trout catch and release sport fishing regulations and bait restrictions for those freshwaters that have been stocked or are currently stocked. Language is also provided to fix spelling errors in stocked lakes and update the stocked lake list in which rainbow trout harvest is allowed.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(EF-F27-271)

PROPOSAL 52

5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

Modify the bag and possession limit for coho salmon outside of Chiniak Bay in the Kodiak Road Zone, as follows:

5 AAC 64.022(b)

(8) in **Chiniak Bay fresh and salt waters of the Kodiak Road Zone, inside of Cape Chiniak and the eastern point of Gibson Cove**, from September 16 – December 31, the bag and possession limit for coho salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, is one fish.

[(A) MONASHKA CREEK AND PILLAR CREEK;

(B) MISSION BEACH: ALL WATERS BETWEEN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS AT SHAHAFKA COVE;

(C) MILL BAY: ALL WATERS BETWEEN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS;

(D) MONASHKA BAY: ALL WATERS WEST OF A LINE FROM TERMINATION POINT TO MILLER POINT;

(E) MIAM, SALTERY AND SACRAMENTO DRAINAGES;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At the 2024 Kodiak Board of Fisheries meeting, the sport fishery seasonal bag limit restriction for coho salmon in the Kodiak Road Zone (KRZ) was repealed for the SALTERY, MIAM, and SACRAMENTO RIVER drainages to allow additional coho salmon opportunity. These drainages are more difficult to access as they require off-road travel, despite being within the KRZ, and therefore provide more limited opportunity for harvesting coho salmon. Although these are the most popular off-road coho salmon fisheries within the KRZ, there are a number of other coho salmon runs in drainages that require off-road travel and are more difficult to access than drainages that are directly road-accessible in the KRZ. Some of these drainages are in close proximity to SALTERY, MIAM, and SACRAMENTO RIVER drainages and there has been confusion among anglers as to the correct bag limits in the neighboring rivers. Limiting the seasonal bag limit change for coho salmon to only those drainages and KRZ salt waters within Chiniak Bay would simplify the existing KRZ coho salmon sport fishing bag limits, allow for additional harvest opportunity in drainages with more difficult access, and maintain existing harvest opportunity for the stocked coho salmon runs of Mission Beach, Mill Bay, and Monashka Bay. The proposed change would also maintain a year-round bag limit of two coho salmon per day in the PASAGSHAK RIVER drainage, which is one of the larger coho salmon runs in the KRZ and has consistently seen large coho salmon escapement in the last ten years as well as inseason bag limit increases by emergency order.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(EF-F27-268)

PROPOSAL 53

5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

Establish nonresident annual limit and recording requirement for coho salmon from streams in the Kodiak Road Zone, as follows:

Proposed Regulation Change/Addition in Bold (below section from page 24 of the Sport Fishing Regulations Summary Southwest Alaska)

CHUM, COHO, PINK, & SOCKEYE SALMON (COMBO)

- Kodiak Remote Zone: • 20 inches or longer: 5 per day, 10 in possession. • Less than 20 inches: 10 per day, 10 in possession
- Kodiak Road Zone:
 - 20 inches or longer:
 - 5 per day, 5 in possession, only 2 of which may be sockeye salmon.
 - January 1-September 15: Only 2 of which may be coho salmon.
 - September 16-December 31: Only 1 of which may be a coho salmon.
 - **Non- resident fisherman will be held to annual limit of five coho salmon in freshwaters of the Kodiak Road Zone; a harvest record is required as specified in [5 AAC 75.006](#)**
 - Less than 20 inches: 10 per day, 10 in possession.
 - See special regulations for exceptions on pages 25-26.

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

I would like to address the over utilization of coho salmon runs by non-resident (NR) fisherman in the Kodiak Island Freshwater Road Zone (KIFRZ). Year after year, NR fisherman use freshwater streams on the KIFRZ as their grocery store with seemingly little oversight by ADF&G. Liberal limits and poor management strategies have created the perfect storm to ruin yet another local fishery. An example of the above is the Buskin River. In the last 4 seasons, only this past season achieved the biological escapement goal. The weir is placed in the lower third of the river, however, you are allowed to fish above the weir during the entire season meaning fish are counted toward escapement but can be caught and removed from the river prior to spawning thus lowering the actual escapement. I have not found any information to suggest ADF&G accounts for this which leads me to believe that coho escapement is drastically overstated. An annual limit would still provide NR fisherman the opportunity to partake in the fishery and the ability to take home fish but would reduce overall fishing pressure on the small freshwater rivers which resident users depend on as a source of food. Resident's should have priority in terms of opportunity and harvest. Although there is potential for some economic benefit to be lost, my observation is non-residents continue to participate in both hunting and fishing seasons even when limits are more heavily regulated.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? No, this proposal was developed by my own observations and in talks with other local, resident sportfisherman.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph T Mauer (EF-F27-019)

PROPOSAL 54

5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

Restrict guided anglers in the Saltery River Drainage, as follows:

Saltery Cove Streams/Saltery River

Unguided anglers only on Sundays from July 1 through August 31.

No restrictions on guided or unguided anglers from Monday through Saturday during this same period.

All existing bag and possession limits would remain unchanged.

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

I would like the board to consider reducing the number of fishing guides permitted on the Saltery Cove Streams/Saltery River. Although the river supports a healthy fish population, there are a limited number of accessible fishing locations. The current number of guides operating in the area creates congestion, making it difficult for local residents to reasonably access and fish the river.

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

PROPOSED BY: Amanda Juhlin

(EF-F27-201)

PROPOSAL 55

5 AAC 64.060. Kodiak Area Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan.

Modify the saltwater king salmon limit, as follows:

5AAC 64.060. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual and size limits; and special provisions in the Kodiak Area.

(B) in salt waters: bag and possession limit of two fish, only one may have intact adipose fin; no annual limit; a harvest record is not required;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? If restrictions are needed to protect wild Alaskan king salmon stocks in saltwater sport fisheries, then additional harvest should be allowed for adipose fin clipped king salmon that are hatchery origin fish. This is a way of supplying additional food for Kodiak residents. With the cost of gas, it's more efficient to be able to keep two per person.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Support from majority of local fisherman, help with regulatory language from ADF&G staff.

PROPOSED BY: Ron Kutchik

(EF-F27-034)

PROPOSAL 56

5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

Remove specific Chiniak and Marmot Bay rockfish regulations as follows;

5 AAC 64.022(b)(11) is repealed.:

(11)**Repealed** [IN THE WATERS OF CHINIAK BAY AND MARMOT BAY, WEST OF A LINE FROM CAPE CHINIAK TO PILLAR CAPE AND EAST OF A LINE FROM HEAD POINT ON AFOGNAK ISLAND (57O 59.67' N. LAT., 152O 46.75' W. LONG.) TO DOLPHIN POINT (57O 59.15' N. LAT., 152O 43.40' W. LONG.) ON WHALE ISLAND AND FROM BIRD POINT (57O 55.30' N. LAT., 152O 47.50' W. LONG.) ON WHALE ISLAND TO INNER POINT (57O 54.05' N. LAT., 152O 47.75' W. LONG.) ON KODIAK ISLAND,

(A) THE BAG LIMIT FOR ROCKFISH IS THREE FISH PER DAY AND SIX IN POSSESSION, OF WHICH ONLY TWO FISH PER DAY AND FOUR IN POSSESSION MAY BE NONPELAGIC ROCKFISH, AND ONLY ONE FISH PER DAY AND TWO IN POSSESSION MAY BE YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH; NO SIZE LIMIT;

(B) CHARTER VESSEL OPERATORS AND CREWMEMBERS MAY NOT RETAIN ROCKFISH WHILE CLIENTS ARE ON BOARD THE VESSEL.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Special regulations for Chiniak and Marmot Bays were adopted in 2017 to attempt to stabilize the harvest of rockfish for areas in close proximity to the City of Kodiak. More recently, rockfish sport fisheries in remote areas of the Island have increased substantially and the Board of Fisheries adopted a management plan that guides management of rockfish sport fisheries in the Kodiak Area. The department has subsequently managed the fishery by Emergency Order (EO) for the last five seasons, superseding the Chiniak and Marmot Bay rockfish bag limits in each year. Additionally, sport fish management areas have since been aligned with the commercial fishery districts in the Kodiak Area and these do not align with Chiniak and Marmot Bays. Repealing the Chiniak and Marmot Bay bag and possession limits would simplify sport fishing regulations in the Kodiak Area and align regulations with current management practices. Specific management districts and areas within the Kodiak Area that are not included in future EOs specific to rockfish sport fisheries would be subject to the area-wide bag and possession limit for rockfish.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(EF-F27-270)

PROPOSAL 57

5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

Modify language describing bag and possession limits for nonpelagic rockfish, as follows;

5 AAC 64.022 (7) is amended to read:

.....

(7) rockfish: may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag limit of five fish and possession limit of 10 fish, of which only two fish per day and four in possession may be [NONPELAGIC] **demersal shelf or slope** rockfish and of which only one fish per day and two in possession may be yelloweye rockfish; no size limit;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This change would align regulations with the recent change in statewide rockfish definitions 5 AAC 75.995(22). If adopted, the department may use emergency order authority to establish differential regulations for demersal shelf or slope rockfish if restrictions are needed for conservation purposes.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(EF-F27-269)

PROPOSAL 58

5 AAC 64.070. Kodiak Area Rockfish Management Plan.

Modify the harvest levels of the Kodiak Rockfish Management Plan, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 64.070 (b) - Kodiak Area Rockfish Management Plan

Allocate the GHL between sport and commercial fisheries proportionate to historical harvest levels prior to 2014.

Set guideline harvest levels by district in the black rockfish sport fishery. Mirroring the districts used in the commercial fishery will aid managers from both departments when determining the Maximum Sustained Yield and setting the GHL by district and user group.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Black rockfish is a fully utilized species in the Kodiak Area. Commercial and sport users harvest fish from the same population and while each sector has its own management plan and departments work together to manage the resource for sustainability there is no formal agreement on how the resource is allocated between sport and commercial users.

The sport harvest continues to exceed pre-2019 harvest level reduction goals in the Westside, Afognak and Northeast Districts. These areas have seen a substantial increase in sport harvest, some exceeding 200% over the last decade. Meanwhile the combined commercial GHL for Afognak, Northeast and Westside have been reduced by 70% since 2015.

As commercial fishermen that have relied on this resource for over twenty years, worked hard to develop and nurture lucrative fresh and frozen markets, we are concerned not only for the loss of access to this fishery, but also the long term health of the resource.

As rockfish tend to stay close to one area, and do not move around like cod for instance, they are subject to localized depletion and over-harvest and there are valid concerns over long term sustainability of these populations.

Because the sport fishery is managed with a guideline harvest range of 0 - 26,000 black rockfish applied island-wide, it fails to account for focused effort, with well over 90% of the sport harvest coming from the northern end of Kodiak this is not sustainable. This area encompasses Chiniak and Marmot Bays, north to Tonki Cape and the entirety of Shuyak and Afognak Islands and is the area of greatest concern

In contrast, the Kodiak Area commercial fishery for black rockfish is divided into districts, each with its own GHL based on population estimates obtained by surveys and stock assessments. When a district reaches its GHL it is closed by emergency order. Close coordination with ADFG staff and fishermen result in a carefully managed fishery that stays within the guideline harvest level.

As there is no formal agreement on how GHLS are allocated between sport and commercial users and the commercial sector is shouldering the burden of conservation, we ask the Board to

determine and set the allocation between the two user groups to protect our commercial fishery from further reductions due to increased sport harvests. We would ask this allocation be based on historical harvests prior to 2014 when sport fish harvests started to spike.

The sport fishery could then be managed in a similar way as the commercial fishery to prevent focused effort in one area. With an allocation between sport and commercial sectors in place, management can set guideline harvest levels based on the Maximum Sustained Yield by district, allowing sport fish staff to quickly modify bag limits or close districts by emergency order when they reach the GHL.

Inseason management tools such as e-logbooks can be utilized to monitor the pace of the sport harvest to ensure district GHLs are not exceeded.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? I developed this proposal on my own based on conversations and insight from ADFG staff and other resource users. I plan on taking this to the Kodiak AC prior to the BOF meetings to discuss and refine the proposal, make necessary changes and add draft regulatory language.

PROPOSED BY: Leonard Carpenter

(EF-F27-194)

PROPOSAL 59

5 AAC 64.070. Kodiak Area Rockfish Management Plan.

Modify the rockfish limits, as follows:

Adjust rockfish limits as follows.

Proposed Limits:

Resident: The bag and possession limit for Resident anglers for rockfish is five per day, 10 in possession, of which no more than two per day may be of a single rockfish species and only one per day, two in possession may be yelloweye.

Non-Resident: The nonresident angler bag and possession limit for rockfish is three per day, six in possession, of which two per day, four in possession may be nonpelagic and only one per day, two in possession of the nonpelagic limit may be yelloweye. In addition, captain and crew of charter vessels may not retain rockfish in this area while clients are on board.

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

Currently the Kodiak Area Rockfish Management Plan (KARMP) permits the commissioner to determine rockfish limits via emergency action as seen below.

(c) If the harvest increases and it is anticipated that the upper bound of the guideline harvest range will be exceeded or has been exceeded, the commissioner may implement restrictions that may be necessary to restrict the increase of harvest in the sport fishery. When the commissioner finds that restrictions are necessary, the commissioner shall adopt one or more of the following restrictions:

- (1) implement an annual limit for nonresidents for rockfish;
- (2) reduce nonresident bag and possession limit for rockfish;
- (3) reduce the rockfish bag limit by area as specified by the department;
- (4) implement a rockfish season;
- (5) reduce the resident bag and possession limit for rockfish.

We have had emergency order reductions in the past three years that have applied to both resident and non-resident user groups. Between 2020-2023 when reductions were necessary, non-residents were restricted. Although this section of the KARMP does not note preference or order to the proposed restrictions, it is my belief that the department should continue restricting non-resident limits when needed. While the department is required to oversee opportunities for all anglers, preference should be given to residents in regards to opportunity and limits. I hear many commercial operators say that “the trip needs to be “worth” it for clients” in regard to limits of both fish and game. In my opinion, it is not the departments job to make trips “worth it” for non-residents. Those that choose to make a living off a public resource need to accept that there is some risk that the resource may be restricted at some point to their clients.

Please see proposed limits below. The only change to Resident limits would be that they are not restricted within species in terms of possession limit i.e they would be restricted to 2 black rockfish per day however they could have 10 in possession. For non-residents, the daily and possession

limit would be restricted. For non-residents, the proposed limits echo those that were applied in 2020-2023.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? No, this was developed by myself in discussion with other resident fishermen

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Mauer

(EF-F27-138)

PROPOSAL 60

5 AAC 77.XXX. New Section.

Establish a personal-use Fishery in the SALTERY River Drainage, as follows:

SALTERY Cove Streams/SALTERY River

Personal Use Fishery on Sundays from July 1 through August 31.

No permit is required, but a resident sport fishing license is required (unless the angler is an Alaska resident who is under 18), or one who holds a PID or VD.

Bag and possession limits would be the same as the sport fishing regulations.

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

I would like the board to consider reducing the number of fishing guides permitted on the SALTERY Cove Streams/SALTERY River. Although the river supports a healthy fish population, there are a limited number of accessible fishing locations. The current number of guides operating in the area creates congestion, making it difficult for local residents to reasonably access and fish the river.

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

PROPOSED BY: Amanda Juhlin

(EF-F27-202)

PROPOSAL 61

5 AAC 18.XXX. New section.

Adopt recovery targets and corresponding management measures into regulation in a for ***Karluk and Ayakulik King Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan***

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Karluk and Ayakulik king salmon were listed as stocks of management concern in 2010 and 2019 respectively and are both subject to action plans developed at the time of listing. Both stocks have now declined to critical low levels where long-term conservation is in question and substantive management measures are necessary to preserve these stocks.

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

Not applicable

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association

(EF-F27-167)

PROPOSAL 62

5 AAC 18.350 Closed waters.

Establish latitude and longitude coordinates for the commercial and subsistence closed waters markers that have traditionally been used for the Buskin River, as follows:

5 AAC 18.350(a)(4) is amended to read:

(4) Northeast Kodiak District

(E) Buskin River: All waters inside of a line running from a marker on the bluff north of the mouth of the Buskin River at approximately 57° 45.80' N. lat., 152° 28.38' W. long., to a point offshore at 57° 45.35' N. lat., 152° 28.15' W. long., to a marker located onshore south of the river mouth at approximately 57° 45.15' N. lat., 152° 28.65' W. long.

And,

5 AAC 01.525(4) is amended to read:

(4) all waters closed to commercial salmon fishing in the Barabara Cove, **Buskin River**, Chiniak Bay, Saltery Cove, Pasagshak Bay, Monashka Bay and Anton Larsen Bay as described in 5 AAC 18.350, and all waters closed to commercial salmon fishing within 100 yards of the terminus of Selief Bay Creek and north and west of a line from the tip of Last Point to the tip of River Mouth Point in Afognak Bay;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The waters near the mouth of the Buskin River have traditionally been closed to subsistence and commercial salmon fishing unless the upper bound of the sockeye or coho salmon escapement goals have been exceeded or are expected to be exceeded. These closed waters have been marked with signs and a floating buoy offshore but are not backed in regulation with latitude and longitude coordinates. At times these land-based markers and the offshore buoy have been lost to the elements resulting in confusion. Establishing latitude and longitude coordinates for closed waters will ensure that subsistence users, commercial users, ADF&G staff, and enforcement personnel are all aligned when physical markers are lost or damaged.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(EF-F27-253)

PROPOSAL 63

5 AAC 18.331 Gillnet specifications and operations

Create a new gear type interchangeable with a Kodiak set gillnet permit (SØ4K).

The language below is an exact copy of 5AAC 18.331, exchanging gillnet with seine web, and adding a fyke door and holding pen to the existing configuration of a setnet. The intent is that a set gillnet permit can be converted to a set fyke net on an annual basis.

5 AAC 18.333. Set Fyke specifications and operations. This gear type is convertible each year for a one-to-one swap of a set gillnet permit (SO4K).

(a) CFEC permit holder may operate no more than two set fyke nets with no more than 250 fathoms of seine net in the aggregate.

(b) Seine webbing no greater than 3.75 inch mesh size, or polypropylene webbing 3 millimeters or greater in diameter, may be used along the entire lead and hook.

(c) Set fyke nets must be operated in substantially a straight line, except that no more than 50 fathoms of a set seine net may be used as a hook, of any configuration.

(d) Detachable fyke net door, leading to seine net holding pen can be attached to the hook. The holding pen may not be larger than 50fa, pursed closed at the lead line.

(e) The shoreward end of a set fyke net must be attached to a point of land.

(f) Two salmon set fyke net CFEC permit holders may form a joint venture and combine their gear under the following conditions:

(1) a permit must be obtained from a local representative of the department before a joint venture may start operations;

(2) only one permit per year will be issued for each joint venture;

(3) the permit must be signed by both CFEC permit holders and each must have a copy of the permit readily available for inspection;

(4) the permit may be canceled by the department upon the request of one of the joint venture operators;

(5) the gear and site markers required by 5 AAC 39.280 must bear the five-digit CFEC permit serial number of both permit holders;

(6) a single set fyke net may not have more than 250 fathoms of seine web on the lead and hook;

(7) a joint venture may operate not more than three set fyke nets, with no more than 500 fathoms of seine net gear in the aggregate; and

(8) both parties of the joint venture are legally responsible for the operation of all gear of the joint venture.

(g) No seine web may be more than 125 meshes in depth.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5

Request the Board creates a new special harvest module, as an interchangeable gear-type to Kodiak Setnet Permits (SO4K).

This proposal addresses three issues straining the sustainability of Kodiak Setnet, and deliberately focuses on only gear type modifications, intended not to interfere or change any aspect of adjacent gear types (Kodiak Seine). Specifically, this proposals addresses:

1) Excludability, 2) Efficiency & Safety, and 3) Quality.

See RC for discussion of challenges & solution, and set fyke net diagrams.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? This proposal has been discussed with fishermen in every district of Alaska, fishing association representatives, Department leadership, elected local & state officials and representatives of the BOF. There is general agreement that Kodiak Setnet is facing more closures if something doesn't change, and general BOF allocation mechanisms are not working, so this proposal focuses on gear type modifications. There has been concern about who has authority to decide the fate of this request which may be seen as a trap. The intent is not to trap fish; the intent is implementation of a sustainable Special Harvest Module. The real intent of this proposal is to force a discussion and build a roadmap for sustainable harvest methods that address bycatch, efficiency and quality.

PROPOSED BY: Erik OBrien

(EF-F27-048)

PROPOSAL 64

5 AAC 18.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Allow more than one hook on set gillnet gear.

This proposal seeks to allow set gillnet fishermen to include up to two hooks per set. The hooks could be in any part of the net. This does not increase the total fathoms allowed.

5 AAC 18.331 Gillnet specifications and operations. (c) Set gillnets must be operated in substantially a straight line, except that no more than **100** [50] fathoms of a set gillnet may be used as **two** [A] hooks. **These hooks may be used in any part of the net and in any configuration.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The problem we are addressing is setnets continue to lose a large percentage of market share in part due to lack of ability to innovate and also because, in diatom slime events, the nets become difficult to fish at all except for in the hook, because the corners vibrate the net enough to keep the web clean. This is not a fool proof method but one that increases the likelihood of economic sustainability.

The percentage of sockeye and pink salmon harvested by Kodiak Island's Westside set gillnet fleet has declined significantly from historical averages established since 1990, with a clear and sustained downturn beginning around 2012 and continuing through the present, most substantially in the most recent five years.

The percentage of sockeye salmon harvested by Westside set gillnetters out of the total of all sockeye salmon caught by all gear groups in the Central Section has declined from a 26-year average (from 1990 to 2015) of 72% to 46% in the years 2016-2025.

The percentage of pink salmon harvested by Westside set gillnetters out of the total of all pink salmon caught by all gear groups in the Central Section has declined from a 26-year average (from 1990 to 2015) of 36% to 23% in the years 2016-2025.

In the most recent five years (2021-2025) the set gillnet fleet's percentage of the catch in the Central Section has fallen even more precipitously - to 40% for sockeye and 18% for pinks.

This loss of catch percentage by Westside set gillnetters has resulted in a significant loss of income for the set gillnet fleet. If not reversed, this trend of declining catch share and declining income may result in the demise of Kodiak's traditional Westside set gillnet fishery. Advanced opening periods of 24 hours in July and August for set gillnet fishermen in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak district can help this traditional fishery and the rural communities it supports survive.

The intent of this proposal is not to take away from other gear types

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Yes, I sent the proposal to both the Kodiak ADFG office and Kodiak Seiners Association and received their feedback.

PROPOSED BY: Tollef Monson

(EF-F27-177)

PROPOSAL 65

5 AAC 18.331. Gillnet specifications and operations

Allow up to 4 nets up to 350 fathoms in aggregate if set gillnet permit values drop below 35% of purse seine value.

Possible language could read: (a) Except as provided in (e) of this section, a CFEC permit holder may operate no more than two set gillnets with no more than 150 fathoms of set gillnet in the aggregate, except that in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District, the aggregate length may be no more than 175 fathoms. However, if the average gross per permit catch value of a Kodiak salmon set gillnet permit is less than 35% of the average gross permit catch value of a Kodiak salmon purse seine permit as published by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in the yearly salmon season summary, the following season a CFEC permit holder may operate no more than four set gillnets with no more than 300 fathoms of set gillnet in the aggregate, except that in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District, the aggregate length may be no more than 350 fathoms.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The economic sustainability of set gillnetting for salmon in the Kodiak Management Area is increasingly in question. Allowing a set gillnet permit holder to fish two set gillnet permits could improve the efficiency of the fishery and increase economic value for the permit holder. In addition, a new interpretation of delivery/ticket requirements creates hardships for Kodiak set gillnet permit holders where are older, nursing babies, taking care of kids and otherwise part of the shore support fabric of a set gillnet site but not always in the skiff when deliveries are made. The ability to have family permit holder fish two permits would, to some degree, mitigate these hardships. However, the ability of an individual to fish two Kodiak set gillnet permits would be contingent on the prior year's earnings assessments on an average per permit basis, as published in the official ADF&G year-end season summary, of the comparative average per permit value between Kodiak set gillnet permits and Kodiak seine permits and allowed only when the gross average setnet permit value is less than 35% of gross average seine value.

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

PROPOSED BY: Chris Berns

(EF-F27-139)

PROPOSAL 66

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Management Plan

From July 6 through September 5, allow for Set Gillnet only fishing periods prior the Seine fishing periods in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District.

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Management Plan

(b) The Central and North Cape Section must be managed

3) from approximately July 6 through August 15, based on pink salmon returning to the major pink salmon systems in the Northwest Kodiak District, or based on pink salmon returning to the Karluk system **and, in the Central Section, Set Gillnet fishing shall open 24 hours before seine fishing may occur and close concurrently with seine fishing, including when extensions occur;**

(4) from approximately August 16 through August 24, based on pink salmon returning to the Northwest Kodiak District and on late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system **and, in the Central Section, Set Gillnet fishing shall open 24 hours before seine fishing may occur and close concurrently with seine fishing, including when extensions occur;**

(5) from approximately August 25 through September 5, based on late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system **and, in the Central Section, Set Gillnet fishing shall open 24 hours before seine fishing may occur and close concurrently with seine fishing, including when extensions occur;** and

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal seeks to increase fishing opportunity for set gillnet permit holders in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District to remedy loss of harvest percentage.

The percentage of sockeye and pink salmon harvested by Kodiak Island's Westside set gillnet fleet has declined significantly from historical averages established since 1990, with a clear and sustained downturn beginning around 2012 and continuing through the present, most substantially in the most recent five years.

The percentage of sockeye salmon harvested by Westside set gillnetters out of the total of all sockeye salmon caught by all gear groups in the Central Section has declined from a 26-year average (from 1990 to 2015) of 72% to 46% in the years 2016-2025.

The percentage of pink salmon harvested by Westside set gillnetters out of the total of all pink salmon caught by all gear groups in the Central Section has declined from a 26-year average (from 1990 to 2015) of 36% to 23% in the years 2016-2025.

In the most recent five years (2021-2025) the set gillnet fleet's percentage of the catch in the Central Section has fallen even more precipitously - to 40% for sockeye and 18% for pinks.

This loss of catch percentage by Westside set gillnetters has resulted in a significant loss of income for the set gillnet fleet. If not reversed, this trend of declining catch share and declining income

may result in the demise of Kodiak's traditional Westside set gillnet fishery. Advanced opening periods of 24 hours in July and August for set gillnet fishermen in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak district can help this traditional fishery and the rural communities it supports survive.

The intent of this proposal is not to take away from other gear types. It is to provide 24 hours additional fishing time for the set gillnet fleet in the Central Section of the Northwest District by opening set gillnetters separately 24 hours in advance of other gear types and closing all gear types at the same time. The additional 24 hours would be added for the set gillnet fleet to the scheduled openings as set forth in the pre-season Kodiak Management Area Harvest Strategy and as established by Emergency Order through the months of July and August.

Based on the most recent 10-year average, this would add an average additional 5 days of fishing time per season for Westside set gillnetters. Because the Westside is now closed for Chinook conservation until July 6, the set gillnet fleet has lost an entire month of fishing time, with nowhere else to go to fish, unlike other gear types

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Yes, we had numerous meetings with setnetters, several meetings with ADF&G staff, and the content of this proposal was extensively discussed and passed (as an amendment to a different proposal) by the Kodiak ADF&G Advisory Committee in November of 2023.

PROPOSED BY: Northwest Setnetters Association

(EF-F27-114)

PROPOSAL 67

5 AAC 18.369. Mainland District Salmon Management Plan.

Allow for longer fishing periods in the Mainland District prior to August 1.

5 AAC 18.369. Mainland District Salmon Management Plan

Weekly fishing periods may not exceed 57 hours from July 6 **through July 19** [August 1]. **Weekly fishing periods initiated after July 19 and before August 1 are to be limited to 57 hours of initial duration but may be extended up to 72 hours in those sections exhibiting strong returns of local pink and chum salmon.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? July openings in the mainland district are limited to 57-hour weekly openings regardless of the abundance of local pink and chum stocks. The current management plan is the most restrictive in the KMA and likely in the western gulf, allowing at most 4 57-hour openings regardless of run strength. Many salmon systems in the mainland district, especially in the southern sections, often experience high volumes of salmon returns in July, however current restrictions in the management plan do not provide adequate harvest opportunities focused on these stocks. Recent management changes in the mainland district have further limited harvest opportunities to those portions of the mainland district defined by cape-to-cape boundaries in the North Shelikof Strait Sockeye management plan. While these restrictions are effective at limiting the potential harvest of non-local sockeye, they also inhibit the harvest of local stocks in the inner bays of the Mainland District resulting in substantial forgone harvest opportunities. Additionally, increasingly inclement weather in the area has made transit across the Shelikof Strait more dangerous and often untenable for smaller vessels – additional fishing time allows for more travel flexibility without sacrificing as much harvest opportunity.

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

PROPOSED BY: Kodiak Seiners Association

(EF-F27-176)

PROPOSAL 68

5 AAC 27.520 Gillnet specifications and operations for Kodiak Area.

Clarify when a herring gillnet must be removed from the water, as follows:

5 AAC 27.510(d) is amended to read:

(d) Herring gillnets may remain in the water for up to four hours after the announced closing time for any opening of three hours or less fishing time. No herring gillnets may be set or reset after a closure time. Herring gillnets may remain in the water for up to four hours after an emergency order closure if that closure is announced by the department less than three hours before the closure time. [NO HERRING GILLNET MAY REMAIN IN THE WATER PAST THE 12:00 NOON CLOSURE ON EVEN-NUMBERED DAYS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 27.510.]

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

Participation by gillnet permit holders has declined immensely in the Kodiak Area herring fishery. Removal of this language would remove a perceived barrier for gillnet permit holders and possibly entice more gillnet participation in the fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(EF-F27-255)

PROPOSAL 69

5 AAC 27.510 Fishing seasons and periods for Kodiak Area.

Allow for longer fishing periods during the Kodiak Sac Roe B and C seasons.

5 AAC 27.510

(a) 4 [fishing periods in A season are from 9am-9pm.] Fishing periods in B and C season are open 24 hours.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the herring fishing A and B season opening hours from 9am-9pm to 24 hours.

This proposal would eliminate the restrictive hours for Kodiak herring sac roe fishery in B and C season. The current time restrictions are unnecessarily restrictive and create issues with processor timelines for the product. Fishermen on the grounds are in constant communication with ADF&G, and adjusting the open hours will not result in additional fish being harvested, but it would be easier to make processor deadlines. Given the B and C season were recently created, we are learning that the restrictive hours reduce flexibility and efficiency in a low margin fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Worked with ADF&G staff and the other active fishery participants.

PROPOSED BY: Raymond May

(EF-F27-060)

PROPOSAL 70

5 AAC 27.525 Seine specifications and operations.

Allow for larger seine gear during the Kodiak Sac Roe B and C seasons.

5 AAC 27.525

(C) from July 1 through February 28, a purse seine may not exceed **200** [150] fathoms in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increasing the length limit of a purse seine net for the Kodiak herring food/bait fishery and herring sac roe B and C season regulations to 200 fathoms.

Most herring nets being used Statewide are 200 fathoms in length. This will simplify net options for the two Kodiak herring fisheries and mirror regulations in other areas of Alaska.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Worked with ADF&G staff and the other active fishery participants.

PROPOSED BY: Raymond May

(EF-F27-059)

PROPOSAL 71

5 AAC 01.520. Lawful gear and gear specifications

5 AAC 01.530. Subsistence fishing permits.

Amend legal gear and permit requirements for Kodiak Area subsistence Pacific cod fishing, as follows:

In the Kodiak Area, restrict subsistence longline gear used for taking Pacific cod to no more than 200 hooks and require a person to obtain a subsistence permit prior to retaining Pacific cod, as follows:

5 AAC 01.520. Lawful gear and gear specifications.

(g) a longline used to take Pacific cod for subsistence purposes may not have more than 100 hooks attached per person with a maximum of 200 hooks per vessel;

(h) no more than 10 groundfish pots per person may be used to take Pacific cod for subsistence purposes with a maximum of 20 groundfish pots per vessel.

5 AAC 01.530. Subsistence fishing permits. (a) A subsistence fishing permit is required for taking salmon, **Pacific cod**, trout, char, and herring for subsistence purposes.

No fish species other than Pacific cod can be retained unless consistent with current state and federal law. Halibut cannot be retained. I also ask that Pacific cod subsistence regulations be more clearly published in the current Kodiak Area subsistence booklet.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The State of Alaska is mandated to manage subsistence fishing in state waters according to AS 16.05.258 and requires the Board of Fisheries to provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence users first before providing for opportunity to other users. Subsistence fisheries are regulated through permits, gear restrictions, and area closures to ensure sustainable populations. Currently, a resident in Kodiak can subsistence fish for Pacific cod unrestricted as to amount of gear to be used, whether pots or longline gear, or the number of hooks used. Why is Pacific cod not regulated under AS 16.05.258 when it is mandated to be.

Reasons for this proposal:

- Low abundance of halibut
- Low abundance of king salmon
- Need to have ample supply of fish in freezer
- To satisfy state mandate AS 16.05.258

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Discussed with ADF&G, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and NMFS Enforcement.

PROPOSED BY: Stormy Stutes

(EF-F27-050)

PROPOSAL 72

5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Increase the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level, as follows:

5 AAC 28.467 (h)

(1) The guideline harvest level (GHL) for Pacific cod in the Kodiak is **18.5%** [12.5%] of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal central Gulf of Alaska area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase the guideline harvest level (GHL) for Pacific cod in the Kodiak area from 12.5% to 18.5%.

Kodiak Pacific cod pot fishing continues to be the first gear type to utilize their quota each season. Increasing the GHL for Kodiak pot fishermen would create more opportunity for local small boat harvesters.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Talked to ADF &G to understand the regulation and participants in the Fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Raymond May

(EF-F27-057)

PROPOSAL 73

5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific cod Management Plan

5 AAC 28.430. Lawful gear for Kodiak Area.

Restrict vessels to carrying only one type of legal groundfish gear on board while participating in the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.467(h) is amended to read as follows:

...

(h) During a state-waters season,

(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Kodiak Area is 12.5 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska Area;

(2) Pacific cod may be taken only with groundfish pots, mechanical jigging machines, and hand troll gear, as follows:

(A) except as provided in (j) of this section, no more than 60 groundfish pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for Pacific cod;

(B) no more than six mechanical jigging machines may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for Pacific cod;

(C) in addition to the requirements of 5 AAC 28.020, a vessel must be registered to fish with pot gear or with mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear (jig gear), and may not simultaneously be registered to fish with more than one gear type; a vessel's gear registration may be changed during a state-waters season to a different gear registration if the owner, or the owner's agent, submits a written request for a change in registration by mail, facsimile, or in person, to the department office in Kodiak, or other locations specified by the department, for validation, and that registration has been validated by the department;

(D) during the seven days following the opening of the state-waters season, an operator of a vessel registered to fish for Pacific cod may store or transport groundfish pots in excess of the pot limit established in (A) of this paragraph if the pots are

(i) stored in waters not more than 25 fathoms deep as described in 5 AAC 28.432(a); or

(ii) being transported on board the vessel and are not marked with identification tags.

(E) only one type of legal groundfish gear may be on board a vessel, except a vessel may have both mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear on board.

5 AAC 28.430(g) is repealed:

...

(f) In the Kodiak Area, a mechanical jigging machine used to take groundfish may not have more than

(1) six lines; and

(2) 30 hooks per line.

[(G) IN THE KODIAK AREA, A VESSEL USING MECHANICAL JIGGING MACHINES IN THE DIRECTED BLACK ROCKFISH FISHERY OR STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD FISHERY MAY HAVE NO MORE THAN 500 HOOKS, IN THE AGGREGATE, DEPLOYED IN THE WATER AND ON BOARD THE VESSEL, OF WHICH NO MORE THAN 180 HOOKS MAY BE DEPLOYED IN THE WATER AS DESCRIBED IN (F) OF THIS SECTION.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery is an open access fishery with two legal gear types: pot gear and jig gear. Vessels may not be simultaneously registered to fish with more than one gear type. Other gear types may be on board but only the gear type for which the vessel is registered may be used to harvest Pacific cod. The department and Alaska Wildlife Troopers have received long-standing reports on vessels operating illegal gear types (i.e., longline, slinky pot, etc.) during the jig gear fishery. Despite past attempts at a regulatory solution, concerns about operation of illegal gear persist.

Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod abundance has increased in recent years leading to higher participation and harvest rates in the Kodiak state-waters jig gear fishery. As the jig gear fishery has become more competitive, concerns about operation of illegal gear have reemerged. In consultation with the Alaska Wildlife Troopers, the department is putting forth this proposal to give fishery participants and the board opportunity to consider a precise and durable regulatory solution for this issue.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(EF-F27-256)

PROPOSAL 74

5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan

5 AAC 28.430. Lawful Gear for Kodiak Area.

Restrict vessels to carrying only one type of legal groundfish gear on board while participating in the Kodiak Area state-waters or parallel Pacific cod fisheries as follows:

In the Kodiak jig fishery, vessels registered to jig Pacific cod may only carry mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear. The groundfish gear restriction applies to the State water Pacific cod jig fishery and the Kodiak area parallel Pacific cod jig gear sector fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? It has been a longstanding concern for decades, amongst Kodiak area jig fisherman, that jig vessels utilizing longline reels in the Kodiak area Statewater Pacific cod jig fishery and Kodiak area Parallel Pacific cod jig fishery (in particular the “A” season) illegally harvest Pacific cod which are reported as jig caught. In more recent years, the advent of slinky pots as a viable and stealthy gear type used in conjunction with longline reels, has heightened the concern.

Compelling circumstantial evidence suggests that vessels prosecuting the Kodiak Area jig fisheries for Pacific cod have been utilizing both longline reels and slinky pots. Delivery patterns and offload volumes between vessels carrying jig gear only, versus vessels carrying longline reels and slinky pots in addition to jig gear, indicate the occurrence of illegal harvesting of Pacific cod.

Concerns were particularly pronounced during the uncharacteristically short 2025 Kodiak area jig Pacific cod season, when jig vessels carrying longline reels and slinky pots as well as jig gear, were observed offloading Pacific cod with longline snaps and hooks still attached. In addition, there was widespread reporting of suspicious behavior on the fishing grounds regarding jig vessels equipped with longline reels.

The Alaska Jig Association considers the Kodiak area Statewater/ Parallel jig fisheries for Pacific cod as entry level fisheries, and proposes on-vessel gear restrictions in order to protect harvest opportunities for both the fledgling and longstanding dedicated jig operations alike, that operate in the Kodiak area.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? The proposal was developed by jig fishermen who did extensive outreach to the jig fleet. The jig fleet also consulted with Kodiak area managers and Alaska state troopers.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Jig Association

(EF-F27-168)

PROPOSAL 75

5 AAC 39.164. Nonpelagic trawl gear restrictions and

5 AAC 39.165. Trawl gear unlawful.

Close all Kodiak Area state-waters to commercial fishing using trawl gear as follows:

5 AAC 39.164. Nonpelagic trawl gear restrictions.

(b) Nonpelagic trawl gear may not be operated in waters of Alaska as follows:

[(1) THE WATERS OF ALASKA IN THE KODIAK GROUND FISH REGISTRATION AREA DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 28.400;]

5 AAC 39.165. Trawl gear unlawful. A person may not use any type of trawl gear for any commercial fishing purposes in the following locations:

(4) [KARLUK RIVER CLOSURE:] all waters of Alaska in the Kodiak **groundfish registration** Area described in 5 AAC 28.400. [THAT ARE APPROXIMATELY THREE MILES ON EITHER SIDE OF THE MOUTH OF THE KARLUK RIVER BOUNDED ON THE NORTH BY A LINE FROM 57° 36.26' N. LAT., 154° 23.73' W. LONG., TO A POINT AT THE STATE WATERS BOUNDARY AT 57° 38.51' N. LAT., 154° 27.92' W. LONG., AND BOUNDED ON THE SOUTH BY A LINE FROM 57° 32.34' N. LAT., 154° 32.15' W. LONG., TO A POINT AT THE STATE WATERS BOUNDARY AT 57° 34.84' N. LAT., 154° 36.80' W. LONG.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is a non bottom contact assumption inside of three miles that the public believes to be true for protection of benthic habitat. Pelagic trawl can not tell if they are on the bottom or not, anecdotal testimony dose not allow for there to be accountably and the ability for enforcement to know. Without the ability to enforce no bottom contact I ask the Board of Fish to close Kodiak area State waters to trawl.

The trawl fishery on a % basis is almost taking their entire tac outside of three miles. It may be convenient to fish inside of three miles due to weather or whatever. If the intended goal of no bottom contact inside of three miles is not being met, nor can it be enforced. Close the fishery down until the objective goals can be met.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Worked with local fishermen and residents in several of the bays that have concerns from effects that have been witnessed after trawling has taken place in the head waters of three of the bays on island. This will be a robust conversation at the local AC, if this proposal moves forward. Did not work with AC prior to submitting the proposal.

For consideration:

There is a scallop fishery that takes place inside of three miles. These boats are at least 100% observed and perhaps 200%. They have strict bycatch allowances and have accountability in all their interaction with the bottom. If the Board chooses because of the accountability within the fishery they could be excluded from this action.

PROPOSED BY: Alexis Kwachka

(EF-F27-156)
