

BOARD OF FISHERIES FINDINGS ON HIDDEN FALLS MANAGEMENT PLAN

On March 17, 1989 the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted proposals under 5 AAC 33.XXX "The Hidden Falls Hatchery Terminal Harvest Management Plan". This management plan was based upon the following findings made by the Board, after hearing staff reports, advisory committee reports and public testimony in regard to the issue.

The Board found after review of the terminal harvest of hatchery fish on a region wide basis, that allocation of the chum salmon in the Hidden Falls Hatchery terminal harvest area to the purse seine fishery is consistent with the following facts and findings:

1. That the continued harvest of Hidden Falls terminal area chum salmon by purse seiners is consistent with the management guidelines for allocating pink sockeyes and chum salmon between commercial net fisheries as outlined in 5 AAC 33.363 MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR ALLOCATING SOUTHEAST ALASKA PINK, CHUM AND SOCKEYE SALMON BETWEEN COMMERCIAL NET FISHERIES.
2. Harvest of hatchery fish in the terminal fishery must be considered on a region wide basis for purposes of allocation to the various available gear types.
3. Harvest opportunity at Hidden Falls may be severely reduced in the future to provide cost recovery fish for N.S.R.A.A.
4. Opportunity for purse seine gear are severely restricted during the early season, due to the closure of the traditional Icy Strait purse seine fishery and the restrictions placed upon the Noyes Island purse seine fishery by the Pacific Salmon Treaty provisions.
5. Increased harvest opportunity to gillnet fisheries in other terminal harvest areas, where management plans provide double fishing time for gillnets and the opportunity to "go first", and the increased areas provided for gillnet harvest.
6. The board opinion is that there should be a thorough review of the historical purpose of individual hatcheries, and the comprehensive plans developed by the Regional Planning Team involved, when deliberating on re-allocation or changes in Terminal Harvest Area Management Plans for hatchery fish.

In consideration of the above stated facts the Board of Fisheries feels that at this time it is necessary to allocate the terminal harvest fishery at the Hidden Falls Hatchery to the purse seine fleet to provide equitable long term harvest sharing between commercial net fishermen in Southeast Alaska.