

**PROPOSAL 147 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**  
Repeal sequential closures in the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 is amended to delete subsection (n).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan was amended in 2013 to include a series of rolling closures of certain sections of the North Peninsula area above Port Moller. This new regulation has created problems for the drift gillnet fleet in maintaining an orderly and effective fishery. The fishery in this area is important for processors and the local economy. The premise of the rolling closure regime was ensuring adequate returns to Nelson Lagoon, but this rationale was flawed: escapements and harvests in Nelson Lagoon are healthy and the drift gillnet fishery in the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections have low harvest rates on Nelson River stocks according to the recent WASSIP study.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-C15-041)  
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**PROPOSAL 148 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**  
Allow commercial fishing for salmon with drift gillnet gear in the Ilnik Section, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 is amended to read:

To allow drift gear in the Ilnik Lagoon section from June 1 thru September 30. Openings will be Monday morning 6:00 a.m. to Thursday midnight and closures will be Friday to Monday morning at 6:00 a.m.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like to open up Ilnik Lagoon section on the north side of the Alaska Peninsula for driftnet fishing on the inside of the lagoon. The reason why is to have another area to fish when the wind is blowing gale force wind. This peninsula can also give the drift fleet more area to fish. It can also help control escapement.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian Hartman (HQ-F15-079)  
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**PROPOSAL 149 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons; 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods; 5 AAC 09.330. Gear; 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan; and 5 AAC 39.120. Registration of commercial fishing vessels.** Create a directed sockeye salmon fishery in the Cinder River Section, as follows:

5 AAC 09.310(a)(1)(B): from **June 20** [August 1] through September 30 throughout this section.  
5 AAC 09.320(a)(3): in the Cinder River Section, salmon may be taken from 6:00 a.m. Monday to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday from June 20 to July 31, and from 6:00 a.m. Thursday until 6:00 p.m. Saturday after July 31.

5 AAC 09.330(a)(1), add a new subsection as follows: ( ) from June 20 through July 31 salmon may be taken with drift gillnets only in the waters outside the lagoon into which the Cinder River drains.

5 AAC 09.369(m), add the following language: [.] , provided, that from June 20 to July 31 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 portion of the Cinder River section outside the lagoon into which the Cinder River drains.

5 AAC 39.120(d), revise the definition for Area T as follows: T Bristol Bay Area (5 AAC 06.100) and **the following portions of the Alaska Peninsula Area (5 AAC 09.200): January 1 through June 19, the portion of the Cinder River section outside the lagoon into which the Cinder River drains; January 1 through December 31, the portion of the Cinder River Section within the lagoon into which the Cinder River drains** [Cinder River] and Inner Port Heiden Section; and August 1 through December 31, that portion of the Ilnik Section within Ilnik Lagoon and all waters inside the Seal Islands [of the Alaska Peninsula Area (5 AAC 09.200(a) – (3))].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This series of regulatory changes would establish a directed sockeye salmon fishery in the Cinder River Section from June 20 through September 30. Cinder River sockeye returns have been above escapement goals nearly every year for over a decade, which represents foregone harvest opportunity for the Area M drift gillnet fleet.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-C15-042)  
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**PROPOSAL 150 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons.** Describe waters of Cinder River Lagoon open to commercial salmon fishing, as follows:

5 AAC 09.310(a)(1)(A) is amended to read:

- (a) In the Northern District, salmon may be taken as follows:
  - (1) Cinder River Section:
    - (A) from May 1 through September 30 within the lagoon into which Cinder River drains (locally known as False Ugashik or Shagong) **described by a line across the lagoon entrance from 57° 21.14' N. lat., 158° 06.82' W. long. to 57° 21.46' N. lat., 158° 04.68' W. long.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations do not describe Cinder River Lagoon, which is the only area of the Cinder River Section that can be

commercially fished for salmon prior to August 1. This proposal will define waters of Cinder River Lagoon that are currently open to commercial salmon fishing during scheduled weekly fishing periods.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-060)  
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**PROPOSAL 151 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Consider the catch of non-local salmon as a factor in management of Northern District salmon fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 is amended to read:

(b) The department shall manage the Northern District salmon fisheries on the basis of salmon abundance as determined by escapement information and catch-per-unit-effort information **taking into account the percentage of the catch which is not of the targeted river.** The department shall manage each section of the Northern District as specified in this management plan and 5 AAC 09.320.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Effectively manage the Northern Peninsula fishers areas by modifying 5 AAC 09.369.

**PROPOSED BY:** Roland Briggs (EF-C15-046)  
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**PROPOSAL 152 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** From June 20 through July 20 manage the Northern District salmon fisheries jointly with Alaska Department of Fish and Game Alaska Peninsula and Bristol Bay staff, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 is amended to read:

(1) notwithstanding 5 AAC 09.320(a)(4), from June 20 through July 20, must be managed in cooperation with East Side Bristol Bay staff.

Strike the Section (B).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** More effective manage individuals river’s stocks of fish.

Modify 5AAC 09.369.

**PROPOSED BY:** Roland Briggs (EF-C15-047)  
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**PROPOSAL 153 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Include information on the abundance of non-local salmon stocks as a factor in managing Northern District commercial salmon fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 is amended to:

(b) The department shall manage the Northern District salmon fisheries on the basis of salmon abundance as determined by escapement information and catch-per-unit-effort information **taking into account the abundance of non-Northern Peninsula in the catch area.** The department shall manage each section of the Northern District as specified in this management plan and 5 AAC 09.320.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** More effective manage rivers on the North Peninsula.

From the WASSIP study it showed that a significant portion of the Northern Peninsula catch was actually destined for non-North Peninsula rivers therefore managing by escapement and catch per unit effort could allow over exploitation of a rivers run. Managing based on catch per unit effort when it is established that a large portion of the catch is not of the targeted river puts sustainability in question.

**PROPOSED BY:** Roland Briggs (EF-C15-048)  
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**PROPOSAL 154 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Link management actions in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area commercial salmon fisheries to salmon abundance in adjacent Bristol Bay Area districts, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 is amended to read:

(a)The purpose of this management plan is to provide guidelines to the department for the management of salmon stocks in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Management Area.

Realizing data on some of the river systems are limited the manager shall use all available data to correct his catch per unit effort numbers to reflect actual catch of the targeted river system. Up to and including smaller sub districts around the targeted river mouths or lagoons in order to trigger a management action in the district.

If past studies have shown that 40% or more of the catch is of non-targeted stocks then the area shall be co-managed by managers of the areas that have 15% or more of their fish in the catch. Or if past studies of catch in that area have shown the potential harvest of a particular river to be more that 30% of the low end escapement goal of a non-targeted river the area shall be co-managed.

The starting % shall be initiated from the WASSIP study. As more data is collected and as longer timeline and better picture of the long-term catch patterns in an area are achieved the management will adjust accordingly.

(Both managers must agree on openings if the managers cannot agree the commissioner shall make the final decision after reviewing the potential damage to each system.)

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The North Peninsula Management plan needs to work in partnership with management plans in areas where there is cross harvesting of resources. There are portions of the North Pacific Management Plan that appear to be in conflict with itself. It appears the managers are directed to make management decisions to which they have insufficient data to determine, thus this could lead to overharvest of the targeted river.

**PROPOSED BY:** Roland Briggs (EF-C15-091)  
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**PROPOSAL 155 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons; 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods; 5 AAC 09.330 Gear; 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters; and 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Close the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District to commercial salmon fishing, as follows:

Close the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial fishing for sockeye salmon by amending the following:

5 AAC 09.310 Fishing Seasons.

(a) In the Northern District, salmon may be taken as follows: (2) Port Heiden Sections:

...

(B) Outer Port Heiden Section: **no open season** [FROM JUNE 20 TO JULY 31];

5 AAC 09.320.Fishing Periods.

(a) In the Northern District, salmon may be taken only during weekly fishing periods from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Thursday, unless modified by emergency order, except as follows:

(4) In the [OUTER PORT HEIDEN,] Inner Port Heiden[,] and Ilnick Sections, salmon may be taken from 6:00 a.m. Monday through 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, except...

5 AAC 09.330. Gear.

...

[(10) OUTER PORT HEIDEN SECTION: WITH DRIFT GILLNETS ONLY]

5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.

Salmon may not be taken in the following locations.

(3) Outer Port Heiden: waters of Outer Port Heiden Section

[(A) 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 BOUNDARY LINE;]

5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to....

[(1) THE OUTER PORT HEIDEN SECTION IS OPEN FROM JUNE 20 TO JULY 31 TO COMMERCIAL FISHING IN THOSE WATERS WEST OF A LINE FROM 57° 05.52' N. LAT., 158° 34.45' W. LONG. TO 57° 08.85' N. LAT., 158° 37.50' W. LONG. BASED ON THE ABUNDANCE OF MESHNIK RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON. IF THE COMMISSIONER CLOSES THE PORTION OF THE EGEGIK DISTRICT, AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 06.359 FOR THE CONSERVATION OF UGASHIK RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON STOCKS, THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, CLOSE THE OUTER PORT HEIDEN SECTION, AND IMMEDIATELY REOPEN THE OUTER PORT HEIDEN SECTION, WITH ADDITIONAL FISHING RESTRICTIONS THAT THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES NECESSARY.]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Outer Port Heiden fishery is an intercept salmon fishery primarily targeting Bristol Bay sockeye salmon stocks. The stated management objective for the Outer Port Heiden fishery, harvesting Meshnik River-bound sockeye salmon, appears to be an excuse for allowing this fishery to be prosecuted since relatively few Meshnik River sockeye salmon are harvested. Additionally, the number of salmon in excess of established SEGs has been dramatically reduced because of increases in the escapement goal range since 2006. Further, we believe that the Outer Port Heiden fishery does not effectively target Meshnik River-bound sockeye salmon. We also find that the establishment of a new and expanding Outer Port Heiden fishery is contrary to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) Mixed Stock Policy 5 AAC 39.220 (d). We seek to have the BOF close the waters of the Outer Port Heiden Section to the harvest of salmon. We also would like to encourage the BOF and ADF&G to effectively target Meshnik River-bound sockeye salmon through prosecution of an Inner Port Heiden commercial fishery.

The Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area was closed to commercial fishing for salmon from 1990 through 2006. However, prior to 1990, only one commercial harvest of sockeye salmon was recorded during the period 1962–1989. This harvest consisted of 686 sockeye salmon in 1986. Therefore, this section was effectively closed until it was open to commercial fishing in 2007. Beginning in 2007 through the 2014 fishing season, the commercial sockeye salmon harvest from the Outer Port Heiden fishery has ranged from 254,916 salmon in 2013 to 786,025 in 2010. Not surprising, this new and expanding fishery accounted for 0.0% of the North Peninsula total sockeye salmon harvest prior to 2007 but up to 41.5% (2011) since it was opened in 2007. The dramatic shift in the percent of the total North Peninsula sockeye salmon harvest in this fishery has no doubt increased the proportion and number of Bristol Bay salmon stocks in the North Peninsula salmon harvest, and particularly, those fish bound for the Ugashik River.

At the February 2007 Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island Areas BOF meeting, a proposal (Proposal 210) to limit the fishery area in the Port Heiden, Three Hills, and Ilnik Fishing sections

for sockeye salmon to within one mile of land from May 1 to June 30 was amended to open the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial fishing from June 20 to July 31. This amended proposal was passed by the BOF. Accordingly, commercial fishing in the Outer Port Heiden Section commenced in 2007. The BOF specified that the Outer Port Heiden Section was specifically opened to harvest sockeye salmon bound for the Meshik River.

Prior to 2007, the Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) range for the Meshik River was from 10,000 to 20,000 sockeye salmon. However, escapements to the Meshik River regularly exceeded 80,000 sockeye salmon. At that time, it appeared that there was a very large surplus of sockeye salmon that could be harvested. However, in 2007, ADF&G increased the Meshik River sockeye salmon SEG to 20,000 to 60,000 sockeye salmon, reducing the number of salmon that were in excess of the SEG. Further, in 2010, ADF&G again changed this goal to 25,000 to 100,000, effectively substantially reducing or eliminating the excess salmon above the SEG that was perceived in 2006.

In 2007 and 2008 the Outer Port Heiden commercial sockeye and chum salmon harvest was sampled under WASSIP. During these two years, this section accounted for 11.5% and 16.4% of the total Northern Peninsula sockeye salmon harvest. Genetic Stock Identification (GSI) analysis indicated that the vast majority of the sockeye salmon harvested in the Outer Port Heiden Section were destined to Bristol Bay, particularly the Ugashik River. Bristol Bay sockeye salmon comprised approximately 72.7% (282,061 salmon) in 2007 and 81.6% (262,543 salmon) in 2008 of the Outer Port Heiden section sockeye salmon harvest. The Ugashik River stock alone contributed approximately 43% to this harvest in both 2007 and 2008. Interestingly, North Peninsula sockeye salmon stocks contributed only 23.7% (91,991 salmon) in 2007 and 17.9% (57,591 salmon) in 2008. This means that vast majority of the sockeye salmon harvested in the Outer Port Heiden fishery, 76.3% in 2007 and 82.1% in 2008, were destined to non-North Peninsula Rivers of origin. These fish were intercepted in this fishery. More interestingly is that the harvest rate on sockeye salmon destined to the Meshik River was only 11.5% (26,140 salmon) in 2007 and 13.3% (44,872 salmon) in 2008.

Since the WASSIP sampling years, both the number and the contribution (percent) of the Outer Port Heiden fishery harvest to the Northern Peninsula total harvest has dramatically increased. The average Outer Port Heiden harvest during the WASSIP sampling years was 354,322 sockeye salmon and accounted for an average of 14.0% of the total Northern Peninsula sockeye salmon harvest. Since then, however, during the most recent 6-year period, 2009-2014, the average number of fish harvested in the Outer Port Heiden section has risen to 479,458 sockeye salmon and has accounted for an average of 34.4% of the total Northern Peninsula sockeye salmon harvest. We believe that this new fishery has expanded since inception and we also believe that there is a potential for further expansion. We also believe that most if not all of the increased harvest in this fishery is comprised of Bristol Bay-origin salmon, and most likely Ugashik River-bound sockeye salmon.

At the February 2010 BOF meeting, no substantial changes were made to the Outer Port Heiden Section fishery. However, ADF&G increased the SEG for the Meshik River sockeye salmon stock to an SEG range of 25,000 to 100,000, further decreasing the excess Meshik River sockeye salmon available for harvest.

At the February 2013 BOF meeting, the BOF recognized the primary intercept nature of this fishery and, in an attempt to shift the intercept harvest of sockeye salmon to more local North Peninsula stocks, particularly, the Meshik River sockeye salmon stock, closed the waters of the Outer Port Heiden section from a line 1.5 miles from the shore to the 3.0 mile line boundary line. This closure was to provide protection to the migrating Bristol Bay sockeye salmon stocks, which were thought to be migrating farther offshore than local North Peninsula sockeye salmon stocks.

Based on the above information, we conclude that the Outer Port Heiden fishery is an intercept salmon fishery, primarily targeting Bristol Bay sockeye salmon stocks. Accordingly, the stated management objective for the Outer Port Heiden fishery, harvesting Meshik River-bound sockeye salmon, appears to be an excuse for allowing this fishery to be prosecuted since relatively few Meshik River sockeye salmon are harvested and the number of salmon in excess of established SEGs has been dramatically reduced because of increases in the escapement goal range. We suggest that a viable alternative to prosecuting this fishery for the stated objective of harvesting Meshik River-origin salmon would be to prosecute a commercial fishery within the Inner Port Heiden section. We also find that the establishment of a new and expanding Outer Port Heiden fishery is contrary to the Alaska BOF Mixed Stock Policy 5 AAC 39.220 (d). Bristol Bay sockeye salmon stocks were fully allocated prior to the establishment of this fishery. The continued prosecution of this expanding fishery has shifted the allocation scheme of Bristol Bay sockeye salmon and particularly Ugashik River-origin sockeye salmon more toward the North Peninsula.

A GSI study conducted on the salmon present during the prosecution of the Outer Port Heiden fishery was conducted during the 2014 and will be conducted during the 2015 season. Results of this investigation will be provided to the BOF as an on-time comment prior to the February 2016 Alaska Peninsula BOF meeting. Because of the increased sockeye salmon harvest by the Outer Port Heiden along with the increased contribution of this harvest to the total North Peninsula sockeye salmon harvest, we anticipate an even higher contribution of Bristol Bay salmon to the Outer Port Heiden harvest with an even greater contribution of Ugashik River bound fish.

Who does this proposal benefit: The commercial fisherman of Bristol Bay will benefit from the acceptance of this proposal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mitch Seybert (EF-C15-079)  
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**PROPOSAL 156 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons; and 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.** Close the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District to commercial salmon fishing, as follows:

Close the Outer Port Heiden Section.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Northern Peninsula District is a mixed stock fishery that intercepts Bristol Bay salmon. At the 2007 Alaska Peninsula Board of Fish meeting the Northern Peninsula District’s opportunity to intercept Bristol Bay fish



was increased by opening the Outer Port Heiden Section. State fisheries policy is to not allow the expansion of mixed stock fisheries.

The WASSIP study shows that almost all of the fish caught in the Outer Port Heiden Section are bound for Bristol Bay and as much as 80% of those are bound for the Ugashik River. Ugashik is having trouble meeting its escapement goals in a time where the total Bristol Bay run is increasing.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kurt Johnson (EF-C15-111)

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**PROPOSAL 157 – 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods.** In the Inner and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District restrict commercial fishing for salmon to no more than four days in any seven day period, as follows:

In the Port Heiden Section of Area M’s North Peninsula commercial salmon fishery, fishing will be permitted a maximum of four days in a seven day period, to protect the escapement of the small streams in the Port Heiden Inner District, and North River Outer District and migrating stocks to Bristol Bay, and Nelson Lagoon in the month of July.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Conservation, subsistence harvest concerns, (kings, chums, sockeye).

High interception of Bristol Bay’s migrating stocks.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-092)

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**PROPOSAL 158 – 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.** Restrict commercial salmon fishing in the Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District to no more than one and one-half miles offshore, as follows:

In the Area M’s North Peninsula Commercial Salmon fishery,[Ilnik to Port Heiden] fishing will be permitted in a reduced area until total run strength to Ugashik is 2.5 million or 5 million to Egegik. Fishing will be permitted from the 18 ft high tide mark out to a GPS line 1.5 miles off shore, Starting from the Three Hills northern eastwest line go north to intersect the Port Heiden Outer Dist. southern eastwest corner line, 1.5 miles off shore.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Harvesting migrating Bristol Bay stocks in a year of less abundance when local stocks of Area M are healthy.

Harvesting Bristol Bay migrating stocks needed to sustain locally owned Bristol Bay permit numbers in the villages of Port Heiden, Ugashik, Egegik.

Harvesting migrating Bristol Bay stocks unnecessarily when it can be reduced with time and area that won't affect local harvests and escapements of Port Heiden and Illnik.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-109)

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**PROPOSAL 159 – 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.** Open waters of the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District from one and one half miles to three miles offshore to commercial salmon fishing, as follows:

5 AAC 09.350(3) is amended by deleting current subsection (A).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The board in 2013 closed the portion of the Outer Port Heiden section from one and one-half miles offshore to the three-mile seaward boundary. These closed waters should be reopened in the interest of an orderly and safe fishery. The current open area, inside one and one-half miles, includes shallow waters and obstacles (e.g., snags) that are difficult and dangerous to fish in heavy weather, particularly during night hours. The three-mile line is well defined in charting programs, and is used throughout the North Peninsula District, but the one and one-half mile line is not, potentially creating enforcement/compliance problems.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-C15-040)

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**PROPOSAL 160 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Close waters of the Bear River and Nelson Lagoon sections of the Northern District between zero to one and one-half miles offshore to commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnet gear until escapement objectives have been met, as follows:

From June 1 to August 15 sockeye season, drift gear will be restricted to no less than 1.5 to 3 miles away from shore until Bear River and Nelson River have achieved their adequate escapement.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The *sustainability* of the Bear River and Nelson River Fishery due to the mismanagement of the North Peninsula Fishery between June 1 to August 15 sockeye salmon season.

Under the current management, the Bear River and Nelson River escapement will be depleted and will no longer have a fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ray Johnson (EF-C15-110)

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**PROPOSAL 161 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**

Close waters of the Northern District between zero and one and one-half miles offshore to commercial fishing with drift gillnet gear when Bear River and/or Nelson River coho salmon escapements do not meet objectives, as follows:

From August 15 to September 30 coho salmon season drift gear will be restricted to no less than 1.5 to 3 miles away from shore until Bear River and Nelson River have achieved their adequate escapement.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The *sustainability* of the Bear River and Nelson River Fishery due to the mismanagement of the North Peninsula Fishery between August 15 to September 30 coho salmon season.

Under the current management, the Bear River and Nelson River escapement will be depleted and will no longer have a fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ray Johnson (EF-C15-113)

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**PROPOSAL 162 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**

Close waters of the Northern District between zero and one and one-half miles offshore to commercial fishing with drift gillnet gear when Bear River and/or Nelson River sockeye salmon escapements do not meet objectives, as follows:

At any time between June 1st and September 30 salmon season, should the Bear River and/or Nelson River fall short of adequate escapement, the drift fleet will revert back to the 1.5 to 3 mile "away from shore" regulation.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The *sustainability* of the Bear River and Nelson River Fishery due to the mismanagement of the North Peninsula Fishery between June 1 to September 30 salmon season.

Under the current management, the Bear River and/or Nelson River escapement will be depleted and will no longer have a fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ray Johnson (EF-C15-114)

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**PROPOSAL 163 – 5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

Between the longitude of Three Hills and the northern boundary of the Outer Port Heiden Section restrict drift and set gillnets to 29 and one-half meshes depth, as follows:

In the North Peninsula of Area M's commercial salmon fishery, from the Northern Three Hills Section east/west boundary line to the northern shore boundary line of Outer Port Heiden Section maximum mesh depth permitted will be 29 ½ mesh.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Harvesting weak stocks (king, sockeye, chum) while targeting larger systems in the Port Heiden section.

Subsistence concerns.

Intercepting high percentages of Bristol Bay migrating stocks in the Illnik and Port Heiden sections of Area M.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-098)

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**PROPOSAL 164 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Manage commercial salmon fishing in the Black Hills Section and in Moffet Lagoon in the Izembek-Moffet Bay Section based on Moffet Lagoon escapement, as follows:

The Black Hills section starting north from Moffet Point should only be opened and closed with the Moffet Lagoon section to allow local escapement in Moffet Lagoon. If any emergency orders for opening the Black Hills section are made both Black Hills and Moffet Lagoon sections should be opened for fishing. Area biologists managing both areas need to communicate and align fishery openers. In the past Moffet Lagoon section closed and Black Hill section remained open by emergency order.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The depletion of Moffet Lagoon section escapement and fishery sustainability.

**PROPOSED BY:** Herman Samuelson (HQ-F15-078)

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**PROPOSAL 165 – 5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** In the Nelson Lagoon Section allow the compliment of drift gillnet gear to be split into two 100 fathom nets that may be fished simultaneously, as follows:

In Nelson Lagoon, drift gear can be split into two 100 fathom nets, and fished separately yet simultaneously.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In Nelson Lagoon the drift gear is no more than 200 fathoms. In some places the channel in the lagoon is not wide enough to hold a 200 fathom net.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ray Johnson (EF-C15-117)

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**PROPOSAL 166 – 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters; and 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Eliminate closed waters in Caribou Flats and allow drift gillnet fishing in Caribou Flats by emergency order if Nelson Lagoon escapement goals are achieved, as follows:

5 AAC 09.350 and 5 AAC 09.369 are amended to read:

5 AAC 09.350 -- delete subsection (13)

5 AAC 09.369 Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. Revise subsection (d) to read as follows: In the Caribou Flats Section, from June 16 through August 15, the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow commercial fishing for sockeye salmon if escapement goals in Nelson Lagoon have been achieved.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Caribou Flats Section has been closed to drift gillnetting for many years, to ensure returns to Nelson Lagoon. The fishery inside the lagoon has concentrated on larger fish using larger mesh gear. This has, over time, skewed the escapement to smaller fish. Allowing drift gillnet effort in the Caribou Flats Section, once Nelson Lagoon escapements have been achieved, would likely result in the harvest of these smaller fish and help in rebalancing the size distribution of the escapement.

**PROPOSED BY:** Joe Hinton (HQ-F15-063)  
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**PROPOSAL 167 – 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods.** Open the Urelia Bay Section of the Northwestern District to regular fishing periods, as follows:

5 AAC 09.320(b)(3) is amended to read:

**(3) Urelia Bay Section from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Thursday**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Urelia Bay Section opens only by emergency order. This section in the past was open to commercial fishing, June 1<sup>st</sup> well into July on a weekly fishing period Monday thru Thursday.

**PROPOSED BY:** False Pass Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-085)  
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**PROPOSAL 168 – 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.** Reduce closed waters in Christianson Lagoon, as follows:

5 AAC 09.350(18)(A) is amended to read:

(A) Christianson Lagoon: waters of the lagoon **from a point located 250 yards upstream from the lagoon outlet channel terminus at the ocean shoreline [AND THOSE WATERS WITHIN 500 YARDS OF THE LAGOON’S EXIT CHANNEL TERMINUS AT THE OCEAN SHORELINE];**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Closed waters of Christianson Lagoon in the Uria Bay Section. This is a lagoon entrance and not a river mouth.

**PROPOSED BY:** Travis Hoblet (HQ-F15-084)  
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**PROPOSAL 169 – 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections; and 5 AAC 09.206. Use of global positioning system (GPS).** Implement global positioning satellite coordinates for all district and section boundaries in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area, as follows:

That Alaska Department of Fish and Game and/or Fish and Wildlife Protection establish a series of points that can be implemented by regulatory definition so all fishermen can be fish legally within boundaries that can be defined and navigated with modern GPS equipment.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The most offshore boundaries of the Sections of the North Peninsula fishing areas. At present there are no GPS specifications so that Area M fishermen can be confident that they are fishing legally within their Sections.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Barr (EF-C15-100)  
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**PROPOSAL 170 – 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.** Redefine the boundaries of the Outer Port Heiden Section using GPS coordinates, as follows:

5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters. Salmon may not be taken in the following locations:

...

- (3) Outer Port Heiden: waters of the outer Port Heiden Section
  - (A) **Seaward of a line of a line defined by the following GPS coordinates: N57 19.300 X W158 20.000, N57 16.400 X W158 26.500, N57 11.700 X W158 30.500, N57 03.200 X W158 40.500, N56 58.700 X W158 44.500, N56 56.500 X W158 47.200, N56 55.800 X W158 50.450** [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-LINE];

Note: The line defined by the proposed coordinates roughly follows the 1 ½ mile limit on the most current NOAA chart. This was done in an attempt to maintain the current perceived legal fishing area. The number of points could easily be reduced by straightening the line which would slightly change the current fishing area.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulatory language in 5 AAC 09.350(3) is very difficult to effectively enforce under the best of circumstances and especially difficult with aircraft patrols. The difficulty in enforcing the current regulation is differences in how the 3 mile line is drawn on NOAA charts and how that compares with 5 AAC 39.975(13) “waters of Alaska”. This is a remote fishing district and aircraft are the most used

method to patrol the area. Enforcement personnel must be able to determine if a violation is occurring and be able to take action to notify the operator. If a Trooper pilot must make passes over a vessel to determine the latitude and longitude it is fishing, and then later plot the location on a chart to determine if a violation exists, it is unlikely the trooper can address the violation in a timely manner.

Defining the Outer Point Heiden closed waters boundary with GPS coordinates would allow enforcement and fishermen to accurately determine if nets are fishing in legal waters. GPS coordinates are used to define all manner of fish and game boundaries throughout the state. GPS has been vetted extensively in the Alaska Court system and has been found to be extremely accurate. Even a very basic (cheap) GPS can accurately show a line between points and display a cross track distance from the line. GPS is practical, easy to use and defensible.

It is in the State's best interest to clearly defined, enforceable commercial fishing boundaries in order to protect the resource and to ensure appropriate allocation and management of resources. Using GPS coordinates to define the Outer Port Heiden closed waters line is a far better means of attaining these goals than the current method.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Public Safety, Alaska Wildlife Troopers (EF-C15-103)  
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**PROPOSAL 171 – 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections; and 5 AAC 09.206. Use of global positioning system (GPS).** Implement global positioning satellite coordinates for all district and section boundaries in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area, as follows:

In the North Peninsula Area M's commercial salmon fishery, all boundary lines will be defined by true enforceable GPS lines.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Lack of enforceable boundary lines on the North Peninsula. Area M existing boundary lines are not worth the time for enforcement, because location of legal waters is not defined clearly.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-094)  
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