

PROPOSAL 123 – 5 AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan. Repeal and readopt the management plan to allow for the commercial harvest of surplus pink salmon in the Upper Subdistrict with set and drift gillnet gear, as follows:

[REPEAL 5AAC 21.354. THE COOK INLET PINK SALMON PLAN IN IT’S ENTIRITY]
Develop a new plan that is simple and more effective

5AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan. (a) The purpose of this management plan is to allow for the harvest of surplus pink salmon in the Upper Subdistrict for set gillnet and drift gillnet gear. The commercial fishery set and drift will fish their regular weekly fishing periods in August. If all other salmon species are healthy and making their escapement goals the commercial fisheries will fish extra fishing periods based on pink abundance.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Repeal and replace the current Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan

The current pink management plan is unrealistic and inefficient for harvesting millions of returning pink salmon. The current plan would only harvest a small fraction of the surplus. The mesh size restrictions also prevents sufficient harvest and efficiency. The Cook Inlet pinks are some of the largest pinks in the State. The fishermen should be allowed to decide which gear size will work best and the cost of gearing up. The current plan allows for over 96% of the surplus pinks to go unharvested. That is a lot of lost meals, jobs and money to the local economies and state treasury and for no reason except allocation. The current regulation is in violation of 5AAC 39.222. Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries, State fisheries policy, Article 8 of the Constitution and the Magnuson Stevens Act all of which require sustained yield and science based management which means harvesting the surplus. It is also not being good stewards of the resource to forgo pink harvest when all other salmon species are healthy and have or will meet their escapement goals.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F16-151)
