

PROPOSAL 60 - 5 AAC 18.XXX. Karluk River Special Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan. Create a special harvest area (SHA) allowing the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association to harvest Karluk River sockeye salmon deemed excess to escapement needs, as follows:

If, based on historical escapement entry curve trends for either the early or late Karluk sockeye runs the Department determines that it is likely (confidence of reaching the goal 90% of the time) that the escapement will be within 10% of their upper end annual Karluk escapement goal for either run, an "excess escapement" recovery fishery managed by the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association shall be established. Gear would be limited to no more than one vessel and a beach seine or purse seine of no more than 100 fathoms in length. To the extent practicable, revenue from the fishery would be used for research, enhancement and/or monitoring of the Karluk River.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Biological escapement goals are scientifically established to ensure long term sustained yield for a discrete salmon stock. From time to time current management measures fail to limit escapement of sockeye into the Karluk River. Consequently, both early and/or late upper end escapement goals are exceeded -- sometimes in excess of 100,000 fish annually. Over-escapement substantially inhibits Karluk sockeye productivity. In addition, agency funding pushes the Department toward early removal of the Karluk weir. Early weir removal further inhibits accurate accounting of total seasonal sockeye escapement in the Karluk system. In fact, over-escape in Karluk and unreliable estimates of post wier escapements may be responsible for the current lower sockeye production from the Karluk river. Limiting Karluk River sockeye escapement within established escapement goals will likely result in higher sustained yields from the Karluk system over time. Optimum sustained yield is the constitutional mandate for Alaska's salmon fishery management.

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(EF-F16-053)
