

PROPOSAL 156

5 AAC 33.366. Northern Southeast seine salmon fishery management plans.

Change time period the District 12 commercial salmon purse seine fishery wild sockeye salmon harvest cap is in effect to reflect current sockeye salmon run timing, as follows:

Modify the Hawk Inlet commercial wild sockeye cap of 15,000.

Proposed language:

(1) Between Stat week 28 and Stat week 33, the department may allow the operation of purse seines in District 12 north of Point Marsden to harvest pink salmon migrating northward in Chatham Strait only as follows:

- (a) The department shall close the seine fishery in District 12 north of Point Marsden prior to Stat week 33, after 15,000 wild sockeye are taken; hatchery-produced sockeye salmon will not count against the 15,000 sockeye harvest limit; during the openings the department will use aerial flyovers, on-the-ground sampling and interviews to estimate the sockeye salmon harvest north of Point Marsden.
- (b) All incidental wild sockeye salmon harvested in District 11-A Amalga SHA common property seine fishery will be counted against the cap of 15,000 sockeye salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The original Hawk Inlet shoreline sockeye cap was instituted in 1989, almost 30 years ago; the goal was to conserve northern migrating wild sockeye salmon. While the causes of climate change continue to be debated, the science of climate change and its effects are undeniable. The data shows later, more condensed sockeye run timing migrating through northern southeast Alaska. Therefore, the dates of the Hawk Inlet shoreline sockeye cap should be shifted to continue to conserve the northern southeast Alaska sockeye stocks of: Chilkoot, Chilkat, Berners Bay, Taku, Speel, and Crescent. Failure to do so ignores climate change and the shift in wild sockeye salmon run timings that have occurred in northern southeast Alaska since 1989.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (USAG)

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