

PROPOSAL 159

5 AAC 33.XXX. New Section.

Prohibit the use of all aircraft used to locate salmon or direct commercial fishing operations during open commercial salmon fishing periods in the Southeastern Alaska Area, as follows:

Use of [UNMANNED] aircraft unlawful.

In the Southeastern Alaska Area, during an open commercial salmon fishing period, a person may not use an [UNMANNED] aircraft to locate salmon for the commercial taking of salmon or to direct commercial fishing operations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Ban the use of all aircraft as “spotter planes” during the commercial salmon fishing period.

Currently aircraft is being used to evade law enforcement and spot fish in closed areas, such as creeks and estuaries. The aircraft then communicates the location of salmon in closed areas to vessels. The vessels then dispatch personal watercraft (jetskis) to herd the fish from closed areas into open areas, where they are illegally harvested. This would make the regulation for Southeast align more closely with other salmon fisheries, such as Prince William Sound Area.

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