

PROPOSAL 168

5 AAC 33.350. Closed waters.

Close certain waters of Districts 12 and 14 to commercial salmon fishing with purse seine gear, as follows:

(m) District 12:

...

(16) waters in sub-districts 112-14 and 112-16 would be closed to seine fishing

...

(o) District 14:

...

(10) waters in sub-districts 114-25 and 114-27 would be closed to seine fishing

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal asks the department to close seine fishing in the Icy Straits and Northern Chatham Strait areas for conservation of Chinook salmon. This area is known to be a travel corridor for both juvenile and adult Chinook stocks from many river systems. During 2017 and most likely continuing, restrictions have been placed on subsistence, commercial and sport fisheries in areas to the north of the Icy Straits and Northern Chatham Straits while no restrictions have been placed on commercial seine fisheries in this area to help conserve Chinook stocks. Chinook salmon returns to the Chilkat and Taku Rivers have missed escapement goals multiple times over the last decade and conservation measures like this are necessary to allow Chinook salmon to rebound from many years of low returns. It is in the best interest of all that we help Chinook stocks now so that we can have a healthy fishery in the future that can be enjoyed by everyone.

PROPOSED BY: Ryan Cook

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