

PROPOSAL 47

5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan.

Include the value of all enhanced salmon produced in the Prince William Sound Area in the *Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan*, as follows:

Remove the language under [(J) IN THIS SECTION, “ENHANCED SALMON STOCKS” MEANS SALMON PRODUCED BY THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AQUACULTURE CORPORATION].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 24.370 Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan. The plan should include the value of all enhanced salmon produced in the Prince William Sound (PWS) region. The value of enhanced salmon production from Valdez Fisheries Development Association’s (VFDA) Solomon Gulch Hatchery is not included in the management plan. The construction of the Solomon Gulch Hatchery is financed by funds from the State of Alaska and continues to use state financing. The original hatchery operation permit included chum production intended for the drift gillnet fleet which never was accomplished.

5 AAC 33.364 *Southeastern Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan* includes the value of all enhanced salmon produced in the Southeastern Alaska region. Both 5 AAC 24.370 and 5 AAC 33.364 stated goals are to provide a fair and reasonable allocation of the harvest of enhanced salmon among the commercial fisheries.

How can there be a fair and reasonable enhanced salmon allocation when a large percentage of the enhanced salmon resource is not included in the plan? What is the difference between a hatchery built by the State of Alaska, Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) or VFDA? They all used public funds for their construction and startup operations. Both PWSAC and VFDA continue to use public funds for improvements and increased production. But VFDA increases in production only benefit one commercial fishery. Why is the PWS seine fleet allowed exclusive benefit to VFDA’s publicly financed enhanced salmon production? The best solution is to include the value of Solomon Gulch Hatchery production into 5 AAC 24.370.

If all of the enhanced salmon value produced in PWS is not included in the PWS Enhanced Salmon Allocation Plan, then seine fishery will continue to receive a disproportionate and increasing share of the enhanced salmon value.

This proposal does not propose to reallocate VFDA enhanced salmon to the other commercial users, but to only include the value of all enhanced salmon into the regional plan so all PWS common property fisheries can benefit from the value of VFDA enhanced salmon production.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Bowen (HQ-F17-031)
