

PROPOSAL 48

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

Allow commercial fishing for salmon in the Armin F. Koernig Hatchery Terminal and Special Harvest Areas prior to July 18, as follows:

I propose the regulation should be changed to say "**except in the AFK THA and SHA**" in the SW district, the district is closed to salmon fishing before July 18.

The harvest of AFK chums has occurred from 1999 through 2016 at AFK inside the THA and SHA

The current fishery targeting AFK chums begins approx June 1 each year inside the THA and SHA at the AFK hatchery and continues until the pink returns are large enough to begin cost recovery which is usually in the last week of July.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? According to the PWS Management and Allocation Plan (2) South Western District: (A) "The district is closed to salmon fishing before July 18".

At the AFK hatchery, PWSAC has been releasing chum salmon fry since 1997 for the seine fleet to target. This fishery takes place inside the THA and SHA. The purpose of the chum program was to provide the seine fleet with some species diversity and early fishing opportunity. The restriction of not fishing before July 18 in the SW district was overlooked during the permitting process. In the last few years a few folks have pointed out the restriction to ADF&G and complained the chum fishery was out of regulation.

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