

PROPOSAL 174

5 AAC 06.100. Description of area.; 5 AAC 06.200. Fishing districts and sections.; 5 AAC 06.358. Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.; 5 AAC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.; and 5 AAC 06.373 Alagnak River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.

Clarify that sockeye salmon special harvest areas (SHA) in Bristol Bay are within the Bristol Bay Area as defined in 5AAC 06.100, that SHAs are within fishing districts and sections defined in 5AAC 06.200, and clarify board intent regarding set gillnet specifications and operations within the SHA management plans, as follows:

5 AAC 06.100; 5 AAC 06.200; 5 AAC 06.358; 5 AAC 06.360, and 5 AAC 06.373 are amended to read:

5 AAC 06.100. Description of Area. The Bristol Bay Area includes all waters of Alaska in Bristol Bay, **including drainages**, east of a line from Cape Newenham at 58° 38.88' N. lat., 162° 10.51' W. long. to Cape Menshikof at 57° 28.34' N. lat., 157° 55.84' W. long.

5 AAC 06.200. Fishing districts and sections. (a) Nushagak District: all waters of Nushagak Bay, **including drainages**, north of a line from a point at Nichols Hills at 58° 33.77' N. lat., 158° 46.57' W. long. to Etolin Point at 58° 39.37' N. lat., 158° 19.31' W. long.

(b) Naknek-Kvichak District: all waters of Kvichak Bay, **including drainages**, north and east of a line from 58° 43.73' N. lat., 157° 42.71' W. long. to 58° 36.77' N. lat., 157° 15.82' W. long.

5 AAC 06.358. Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.

(f) placeholder for additional regulatory language specifying what parts of 06.331 apply.

5 AAC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.

(i) placeholder for additional regulatory language specifying what parts of 06.331 apply.

5 AAC 06.373 Alagnak River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.

(h) placeholder for additional regulatory language specifying what parts of 06.331 apply.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the 2018 Bristol Bay commercial salmon fishery, the Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area (NRSHA) was opened by emergency order for the first time since 2007. As fishermen, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and Fish and Game prepared for the first fishing period, several regulatory questions

arose. Initially, the questions related to specifications and operation of set gillnets in NRSHA and other special harvest areas (SHAs) in Bristol Bay. The questions included but were not limited to: Can one CFEC permit holder operate a set gillnet seaward or off shore from another CFEC permit holder. Also, which set gillnet anchoring device regulations apply to SHAs, and, must a set gillnet be set on an area of beach that at mean low tide is connected by exposed land?

Answers to the specifications and operations questions depend in part on whether the SHAs are within commercial fishing districts and sections. It is currently unclear whether the SHAs are within the area, districts or sections. Currently, 5 AAC 06.100 and 5 AAC 06.200 define the Bristol Bay areas and districts for commercial fisheries. These definitions do not include drainages of Bristol Bay, and therefore do not include the SHAs in the Naknek, Alagnak and Wood rivers. By adding drainages to the area descriptions, making it clear that SHAs are within adjacent commercial districts and sections, and defining in the specific management plans which specifications and operations regulations apply to the SHAs, clear direction would be provided for commercial fishing operations.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries

(BGP)
