

PROPOSAL 36

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

Repeal conditions that must be met prior to allowing commercial fishing for salmon in the Alagnak River Special Harvest Area, as follows:

5 AAC 06.373 is amended to read:

(a) The goal of this management plan is to allow the harvest of surplus Alagnak River sockeye salmon stocks in the Alagnak River Special Harvest Area **while conserving Kvichak River sockeye salmon.**

...

(c) Salmon may be taken in the ARSHA under this section only during fishing periods established by emergency order. [THE COMMISSIONER MAY OPEN, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, THE ARSHA ONLY AFTER THE ALAGNAK RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON SUSTAINABLE ESCAPEMENT GOAL HAS BEEN MET AND IF THE ALAGNAK RIVER KING SALMON SUSTAINABLE ESCAPEMENT GOAL WAS MET IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.]

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The *Alagnak River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan* (plan) was originally adopted in 2005 to provide opportunity to harvest surplus Alagnak River sockeye salmon while conserving Kvichak River sockeye salmon. The plan as currently written allows for fishing periods in the Alagnak River Special Harvest Area (ARSHA) concurrently with fishing periods in the Naknek-Kvichak District if the Alagnak River sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal has been met and the Alagnak River king salmon sustainable escapement goal was met in the previous year. The Alagnak River king salmon sustainable escapement goal is based on post season aerial survey counts. The department has determined this method of escapement monitoring, on this river, does not provide reliable escapement estimates and is recommending discontinuing the king salmon escapement goal. The department does not have a viable method to assess king salmon escapements in the Alagnak River and therefore is unable to meet one of the conditions necessary to allow commercial fishing in ARSHA.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-017)
