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)

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PROPOSAL 37

5 AAC 06.364. Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan, and 5 AAC 06.355. Bristol Bay Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan.

Manage the Naknek and Kvichak sections independent of each other based on the harvestable surplus within each section and establish section-specific harvest allocation criteria so that 84% of each section's harvest is allocated to the drift gillnet fleet and 16% of the section's harvest is allocated to the set gillnet fleet, as follows:

Manage the Naknek and Kvichak Section independent of each other based on the harvestable surplus within each section. Additionally, establish a section-specific harvest allocation criteria so that 84% of each section's harvest is allocated to the drift gillnet fleet and 16% of the section's harvest is allocated to the set gillnet fleet.

5 AAC 06.364. Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to establish the allocation of sockeye salmon between the commercial set and drift gillnet fisheries within **each section, the Naknek Section and the Kvichak Section, of** the Naknek-Kvichak District and to establish management measures for the department to achieve the **gear-specific** allocation **within each section**.

(b) Consistent with 5 AAC 06.355 and other applicable provisions of this chapter, the department shall manage the **Naknek and Kvichak Sections** [NAKNEK-KVICHAK DISTRICT] set and drift gillnet fisheries the during the fishing periods specified in 5 AAC 06.320(c)(1) to achieve biological escapement goals into the Kvichak and Naknek River systems and to distribute the **drainage-specific** harvestable surplus of sockeye salmon to the **respective section** drift and set gillnet fisheries as follows:

(1) **Naknek Section** [DRIFT GILLNET – 84 PERCENT]

(A) drift gillnet fishery – 84 percent of the harvestable surplus in the Naknek Section; and

(B) set net fishery—16 percent of the harvestable surplus in the Naknek Section; and

(2) **Kvichak Section** [DRIFT GILLNET – 84 PERCENT]

(A) drift gillnet fishery – 84 percent of the harvestable surplus in the Kvichak Section; and

(B) set net fishery—16 percent of the harvestable surplus in the Kvichak Section; [SET GILLNET – 16 PERCENT AS FOLLOWS; SET GILLNET - 16 PERCENT AS FOLLOWS:

(A) KVICHAK SECTION SET GILLNET FISHERY –EIGHT PERCENT; AND

(B) NAKNEK SECTION SET GILLNET FISHERY – EIGHT PERCENT;]

5 AAC 06.355. Bristol Bay Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan

(b) It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries (board) that Bristol Bay sockeye salmon be harvested in the traditional harvest locations and that historical sockeye salmon catches be allocated between drift and set gillnet fisheries by district **or section**. To achieve this allocation, the department shall manage, to the extent practicable, the commercial sockeye salmon fisheries to achieve the

allocation percentages established in 5 AAC 06.364 (Naknek-Kvichak District), 5 AAC 06.365 (Egegik District), 5 AAC 06.366 (Ugashik District), and 5 AAC 06.367 (Nushagak District).
What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We believe that changes in the Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan are warranted to assure, or set, appropriate harvest allocations for the separate drift fleets within the Naknek and Kvichak Sections. Because the drift gillnet fishery allocation is managed on a district-wide basis, we believe that there are some harvest allocation problems between the section-specific drift gillnet fleet. We believe that each drift gillnet fishery, in each section, should be allocated either:

a) a set proportion of the district-wide harvestable surplus; or
b) a set proportion of the harvestable surplus within each section.

Note that the set gillnet fleet is allocated a set percentage, 16%, of the district harvest, with 8% of that allocation distributed to each set net gillnet fleet in each section. The drift allocation is based on the district harvest with no distribution specified by section.

We recommend managing each section independently b), based on the harvestable surplus within each section.

Currently, the Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan apportions the 84% of the total District harvest to the drift gillnet fleet and 16% of the total District harvest to the set gillnet fleet. The plan then distributes the set gillnet allocation evenly between the two sections, or 8% to each section. Note, however, that there is no section distribution plan for the District drift gillnet harvest allocation. This means that one section could harvest a much higher percentage of the total drift gillnet allocation than the other, while the set gillnet harvest allocation is divided equally. Under this plan an extreme management scenario would allow the entire drift gillnet allocation to be taken, in one section, say the Naknek Section, with no drift gillnet harvest and only 8% of the set net harvest allocation coming from the other section, the Kvichak Section. This is not fair to the drifters in the Kvichak Section. Because the productivity of the Naknek and Kvichak Rivers may vary, the majority of the harvest within the Kvichak Section may come from the set gillnet fleet when runs are low. The drift gillnet fleet would be disenfranchised from the Kvichak Section fishery.

We believe that a much fairer scheme would be to manage each section independently, based on the harvestable surplus of sockeye salmon within each section. We believe that the total harvest in each section should be distributed between the gear types at an 84% drift and 16% set gillnet allocation. We propose that the allocation strategy in each section be the same, with the drift fleet allocated 84% of the harvestable surplus with each section and the set gillnet fleet allocated 16% in each section. In this way, each section shall be managed for the specific drainage escapement targets with the surplus fish in each section going to each gear type under the allocation of 84% drift and 16% set gillnet. Even when there is a small surplus or a large surplus in each section, the allocation criteria would still apply to each section.

PROPOSED BY: Mark Angasan (HQ-F18-050)
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