

PROPOSAL 63

5 AAC 18.360. Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 18.363. North Shelikof Strait Sockeye Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 18.369. Mainland District Salmon Management Plan.

Create “seaward” and “shoreward” zones in the Kodiak Management Area and amend management plans to restrict the commercial seine fishery June 1–July 25 based on those zones, as follows:

Amend the current North Shelikof Management Plan 5 AAC 18.363, Mainland District Salmon Plan 5 AAC 18.369, and the Cape Igvak Salmon Plan 5 AAC 18.360. Current management plans do not give enough protection to non-local Chinook stocks

Currently in regulation there is a non-retention of King (Chinook) salmon, over 28” in length, in the KMA (Kodiak Management Area) salmon seine fishery.

Per the Pacific Salmon Commission Joint Technical Committee Report (report TCCHINOOK (97)-1) the mortality of catch and release of Chinook salmon in seine gear is accepted to be 72%. In the 3 years prior to 2014 when the non-retention rules of Chinooks over 28” went into effect, the KMA harvest of Chinook salmon was 60,720 fish. The following 3 years the harvest was 19,740 fish 28” or less, under the non-retention rule. During the latter 3 years there were also several windows of no retention. This was enacted because of concerns for the Karluk and Ayakolik systems not meeting their respective escapement goals. In looking at any of the recent Chinook data one should keep in mind comparisons to previous year’s harvest are somewhat deceiving in that when the AMR’s speak to xxxx fish was below the 10-year average, non-retention mortality must be added to the harvest number total. If retention was allowed more fish certainly would have been enumerated.

If one were to assume that the Chinook catch rates remained similar the 3 years following the non-retention of Chinook rule over 28”, it would look like this.

Seasons	KMA seine Chinook harvest total
2011-2013	60,720 fish under full retention
2014-2016	<u>19,740 fish with retention of 28” and less only</u>
	40,980 fish released
	÷ 3 years
	13,660 total fish per year released
	X 72% the scientifically accepted mortality rate
	9,835 total number of Chinook catch and release

mortalities per year in the KMA salmon seine fishery, with the first interaction with seine gear. This number must be added to reported harvest numbers when calculating the total resource extraction.

Per the 2014-2016 AMR’s (KMA annual management reports) 2 of the 3 years, the mainland district is noted as having a greater proportion of the Chinook harvest, particularly in June and July. Also included in the 2016 AMR was a table of the streams known to have salmon by specie

present in them. The mainland has no streams with Chinook present in them (documented use by anadromous fish Johnson and Litchfield 2016).

A fish is harvested fish whether it goes over the dock or over the rail to the bottom, while not being enumerated.

Understanding the Chinooks harvested in the mainland district of the KMA are not returning to any streams on the mainland, per the above table. Previous genetic work done on Chinooks in the KMA indicate their origin to be British Columbia, West coast stocks, Southeast Alaska/Northeast Gulf of Alaska, Cook Inlet, then Kodiak in that order. In both the commercial and sport fisheries, the annual harvest of Kodiak-origin Chinook salmon, in the KMA was below 5% of the total harvest (Chinook salmon in the Westward Region, 2014-2016 Shedd et al 2016). The Chinook population has been spiraling down in the Pacific region, California to the Yukon River. From the endangered southern resident killer whales of Puget Sound on the west coast, that depend on these fish for food, to the regions in Alaska where cultural, sport, and commercial fisheries are regulated based on these returning salmon. I find myself wondering if this is a wise practice.

Two things come to my mind, first and foremost is the waste of the Chinook resource. Secondly, not being able to quantify these wasteful discards. One solution would be to institute full retention of Chinook salmon in the mainland district. With this we would be able to quantify and find the origin of these Chinook with genetics. Unfortunately, I'm somewhat concerned this would promote a scenario similar to the Chum chucking that was said to once go on in some western areas of Alaska. This would most likely multiply the waste of the Chinook resource.

Currently, at the time of this draft (March 2019), most systems that produce Chinook salmon in Cook Inlet are under harvest restrictions, some 3 to 4 months before a Chinook angler in the Cook Inlet drainage wets a line with the intention to harvest a Chinook. Major restrictions have been announced on the opportunity to have a successful fishing experience, from the Mat-Su area to the Anchor River. These various origin Chinook need an opportunity to find their natal streams.

When considering the information in this proposal and the KMA AMR's (annual management reports) from the last six (6) years. I believe it's past due, to have the KMA seine fishery share in the burden of conservation of the various Chinook stocks in the KMA. Especially considering that other fisheries have and continue to do so.

Amend the North Shelikof Management Plan (NSSSSMP; 5 AAC 18.363) and the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 18.360). Then blend it into the Mainland District Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 18.369) as follows.

During the time period June 1 – July 25 the mainland district will be allowed a maximum of (2) two (12) twelve-hour fishing periods per week. In the area commonly known as the “seaward zones”, of the mainland district (Cape Douglas to the Kilokak Rocks). All additional fishing time will only be in the “shoreward zones” as described in the current North Shelikof Strait Sockeye Management Plan with a blend of the coordinates of the Kodiak Management Area Herring Areas on the Mainland side, of the Shelikof Strait. Most

of these coordinates are currently in regulation. These coordinates will define the outer boundary of the “shoreward zones”

Cape Douglas 58°51.10’ N Lat. 153°15.10’ W. Long. to a point east of the Swikshak River at 58° 37.97’ N. lat., 153° 35.55’ W. long., 153° 58.90’W. long., to Cape Chiniak at 58° 30.96’ N. lat., 153° 54.50’ W. long., to Cape Nukshak at 58° 23.50’ N. lat., 153° 58.90’ W. long., to Cape Ugyak at 58° 16.55’ N. lat., 154° 06.15’ W. long., to Cape Gull at 58° 13.04’ N. lat., 154° 08.60’ W. long., to Cape Kuliak at 58° 08.10’ N. lat., 154° 12.30’ W. long., to Cape Atushagvik at 58° 05.00’ N. lat., 154° 18.90’ W. long., to Cape Ilktugitak at 58° 01.17’ N. lat., 154° 35.00’ W. long., to the southern entrance of Dakavak Bay at 58° 01.00’ N. lat., 154° 43.60’ W. long., to Cape Kubugakli., to Cape Kekurnoi., to a point approximately 2 miles south of Cape Aklek., to Cape Unalishagvak., to Cape Igvak 57° 26.04’ N. lat., 156° 01.43’ W. long., to the easternmost tip of Terrace Island at 156° 15.00’ N lat., to Cape Kayakliut 57° 17.63’ N. lat., 156° 18.98’ W. long.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) Chinook Seine catch and release of fish 28” and over. The various agencies are unable to quantify the released Chinooks or their origin. The current KMA management plans don’t give enough protection to non-local Chinook salmon stocks.

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