

PROPOSAL 64

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 28–July 25 based on those zones, as follows:

Amend the current Salmon Management Plan North Shelikof Management Plan 5 AAC 18.363, Mainland District Salmon Management Plan 5 AAC 18.369, and the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan 5 AAC 18.360. To address some of the incorrect assumptions revealed by the recently released (2016) sockeye genetic study.

In the middle stratum (6/28-7/25) of the study, in the Igvak section of the mainland, the sockeye harvest was assumed to be of Chignik origin. Genetic samples taken from this area and time period revealed 54% Cook Inlet sockeye in 2015, and 93.2% Cook Inlet sockeye in 2016. Sampling in this area did not take place the first year (2014) of the genetic sockeye study. Other areas in the KMA also were shown to have considerable interactions with Cook Inlet stocks. Several versions of North Shelikof Strait Sockeye Management Plan in the past had tried to address the Cook Inlet stock issue (Barrett 1989 also Barrett and Swanton 1991, 1992) (Vining 1996). Also swimming with the Cook Inlet drainage sockeyes are some other Cook Inlet stocks (Chinooks, Coho, Chums, and Pinks). Of which some are in stock of concern status.

The anadromous stream chart found in the 2016 KMA AMR reflects 7 streams known to once have sockeye present in them, of the 7 streams; an area biologist shared with me that only 2 of them make it to minor stream production status.

In 2015 and 2016 when all 6 sampling areas in the KMA completed sampling across all three sampling strata. The results were as follows 36.6%, 626,476 Sockeyes in 2015, and 29.6%, 384,089 Sockeyes in 2016 were attributed to Cook Inlet (per 2014-2016 sockeye genetic sampling effort in the KMA) One has to also understand the sampled KMA represents less than one half (1/2) of the available fishing area in the KMA.

This is an excerpt from the genetic report summary of non-local sockeye in the KMA. The vast majority of nonlocal sockeye harvest in this study was attributed to the Cook Inlet Reporting group. While nonlocal sockeye salmon harvest occurred in all sampling areas, it was most prominent in Ayakulik-Halibut Bay, Alitak, and Igvak sampling areas. (Fishery Manuscript Series No. 16-10) Considering the information in the last 8 years of the KMA AMR’s (annual management reports), and the Genetic Stock Composition of the Commercial Harvest of Sockeye Salmon in Kodiak Management Area, 2014-2016(Fishery Manuscript Series No. 16-10). With this information I believe it’s time to have the KMA seine fishery share in the burden of conversation of Cook Inlet salmon stocks. Limiting fishing time and area is certainly easier and less costly than monitoring harvest caps on the grounds as currently done under the North Shelikof Management Plan 5 AAC.18.363.

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 6/28-7/25 (similar to the middle stratum of the genetic study) 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? A recent genetic study exposed some incorrect assumptions on Sockeye stock composition in the Kodiak Management Area. Current management plans do not give enough protection to nonlocal salmon stocks.

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