

PROPOSAL 65

5 AAC 18.360. Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 18.369. Mainland District Salmon Management Plan.

Close the Katmai, Alinchak, and Cape Igvak Sections to commercial salmon fishing June 28–July 25, as follows:

The Mainland District sections of Katmai, Alinchak, and Cape Igvak are closed to salmon fishing June 28 through July 25.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Restrict the harvest of Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) sockeye salmon in the Kodiak Mainland District west of the Dakavak Bay Section when UCI stocks are known to be present, June 28-July 25.

Recent genetic data definitely shows that the Kodiak salmon fishery intercepts UCI sockeye salmon at a relatively high degree (Shedd et al ADF&G 2016). While Kodiak has many major local sockeye stocks, natural and hatchery supported, it is reasonable that Kodiak be required to reel back its 'bycatch' on UCI sockeye salmon at least in its nonterminal fisheries. There is no basis for Kodiak to have an UCI fishery harvest entitlement, and while it is recognized that most salmon fisheries support a bycatch of non-local fish, as a component of terminal stock management, in the Kodiak Mainland District sections of Katmai, Alinchak, and Cape Igvak there are no local sockeye stocks and yet substantial numbers of UCI sockeye salmon are harvested unnecessarily. To offset some of Kodiak's bycatch of UCI sockeye in terminal stock fisheries, Kodiak's Mainland District west of the Dakavak Bay Section should be closed to salmon fishing between June 28th and July 25th, where again there are no local Kodiak sockeye runs, in a known UCI sockeye-migration corridor.

To illustrate the degree of UCI sockeye salmon interception in the Kodiak Mainland District west of the Dakavak Section, in 2016 in the Cape Igvak fishery alone, 165,214 UCI sockeye salmon were harvested in the period June 28 through July 25, amounting to 93% of the total catch (Shedd et al ADF&G 2016). Only 1,498 Kodiak-bound sockeye were harvested during that period, and all were Kodiak Island and Afognak Island-bound stocks.

While reining in non-local stock interception on Kodiak's westside more than possibly restricting offshore fishing (1.5-3 miles) may be too limiting for providing local-stock harvest opportunity and not exceeding escapement requirements not so is the case in the Kodiak Mainland District's sections of Katmai, Alinchak, and Cape Igvak where repeatedly, there are no local Kodiak sockeye runs and genetic data indicate an overwhelming migration of UCI sockeye salmon, June 28-July 25 (Shedd et. al. ADF&G 2016).

The proposed limit to salmon fishing in the Katmai, Alinchak, and Cape Igvak sections of the Mainland District June 28 through July 25 is in align with 5 AAC 39.222 Policy for Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries. Kodiak does not have an inherent entitlement or need culturally or economically to substantially harvest sockeye salmon destined to UCI or should not be required to share in the burden of conservation in fully recruited fisheries outside of the Kodiak Management Area including where stocks of concern and major intra-area allocation issues exist.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association

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