

## **PROPOSAL 70**

### **5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* to include returns of pink salmon to the Karluk River, as follows:

(a) The goal of the *Westside Kodiak Management Plan* is to achieve escapement and harvest objectives of sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk, Ayakulik, and other Westside minor sockeye salmon systems, and of pink, chum, and coho salmon returning to systems in the Southwest Afognak, Central, North Cape, Anton Larsen Bay, Sheratin Bay, Kizhuyak Bay, Terror Bay, Inner Uganik Bay, Spiridon Bay, Zachar Bay, Uyak Bay, Outer Karluk, Inner Karluk, Sturgeon Bay, Halibut Bay, Outer Ayakulik, and Inner Ayakulik Sections. It is the intent of the board that salmon bound to these systems be harvested to the extent possible by the traditional fisheries located in all 17 sections. The department shall manage the Northwest Kodiak and the Southwest Kodiak Districts and the Southwest Afognak Section in accordance with the guidelines set out in this plan.

(b) The Central and North Cape Sections must be managed

(1) from June 1 through approximately June 15, as a mixed-stock fishery directed on early-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk, Ayakulik, and Olga Bay systems; the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, at least two commercial test fishing periods of 33 hours in length;

(2) from approximately June 16 through July 5, based on early-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system;

(3) from approximately July 6 through August 15, based on pink salmon returning to the major pink salmon systems in the Northwest Kodiak District;

Change (3) to read, (3) from approximately July 6 through August 15, based on pink salmon returning to the major pink salmon systems in the Northwest Kodiak District, **or based on pink salmon returning to the Karluk system;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In many years, especially even years, the Central and North Cape sections of the Northwest Kodiak District harvest a substantial number of pink salmon that are bound for the Karluk River, which is just a few miles south of the management area. However, current fishery managers do not interpret the regulations to include Karluk River pinks in their management of the North and Central Cape sections from July 6 through August 15. According to the original authors of the regulations, including Larry Malloy, the intent of the regulations at the time of writing was for Karluk River pink escapement to be considered in the management of the North and Central Cape Sections.

In 2018, the Karluk River pink escapement was 2,275,207 while the escapement goal is 800,000 – 1,600,000 pink salmon. The North and Central Cape sections experienced significant closures during the July 6 – August 15 time period because managers at ADF&G could not consider Karluk pink escapement even though a large proportion of the fish moving through the area were likely Karluk bound. The new regulatory wording would give fishery managers the flexibility to prioritize pink salmon stocks most in need of management action to achieve escapement objectives.

**PROPOSED BY:** Northwest Setnetters Association

(EF-F19-069)

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