

Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan (9 proposals)

PROPOSAL 69

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* to include even-year returns of pink salmon to the Karluk River in management of the Central and North Cape Sections, as follows:

(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 line 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 on even-year cycles based on pink salmon returning to the Karluk system;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2018 the Karluk river pink escapement was 2,275,207 fish counted through the weir (solid numbers). ADF&G escapement goals for Karluk even year pinks are a range of 800,00 - 1.6 million.

A million pinks + or - is the range the dept tries to get on even year Karluk run escapement. In 2018 1,275,207 pinks went up the river beyond needed escapement, a foregone harvest cost of approximately \$1,785,290 to the commercial pink fleet. This is not a one off problem over time, 2002 1.6 mil, 1990 3.5 mil, 1984 1.7 mil 1982 2.3 mil, 1980 2.3 mil pink escapement with the attached foregone harvest. There are many years that the Karluk even year escapement exceeds 1 million.

The problem is Karluk pinks migrating through the northwest Kodiak district cannot be taken into account by ADF&G managers as the regulations are worded now for July 6-August 15 general pink season.

The Central & North Cape sections historically harvest Karluk bound pinks the regulation (line 3) has no mention of Karluk even run pinks although there is a historical Karluk pink harvest in these sections.

The crux of the problem is weak pink returns to some of the NW Kodiak streams shackle the department by regulation to not open up the Central & North Cape to harvest the Karluk pinks as they migrate through these section to the Karluk.

The NW Kodiak district regulations in every other time period has mention of Karluk as the Karluk regulations have the Central section of NW Kodiak mentioned.

The addition of the wording will give the managers the flexibility to react to the Karluk even cycle pink return which can be levels of magnitude above streams in the NW Kodiak district on some even years to prevent over escapement and forgone lost revenue to all involved.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Berns (EF-F19-004)

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)

PROPOSAL 71

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* to close the Anton Larsen Bay, Sharatin Bay, Kizhuyak Bay, Terror Bay, Inner Uganik Bay, Spiridon Bay, Zachar Bay, and Uyak Bay Sections until escapement objectives are projected to be achieved, as follows:

(c) The Anton Larsen Bay, Sharatin Bay, Kizhuyak Bay, Terror Bay, Inner Uganik Bay, Spiridon Bay, Zachar Bay, and Uyak Bay Sections must be managed

(1) from June 1 through approximately June 15, based on local sockeye or early-run chum salmon returning to the major systems in each section; the commissioner **may open, by emergency order, fishing periods in each Section only if the department determines that the desired escapement objectives will be achieved;**

(2) from approximately June 16 through July 5, based on local sockeye or early-run chum salmon returning to the major systems in each section; **the commissioner may open, by emergency order, fishing periods in each Section only if the department determines that the desired escapement objectives will be achieved;**

(3) from approximately July 6 through July 31, based on local sockeye, pink, or early-run chum salmon returning to the major systems in each section; **the commissioner may open, by emergency order, fishing periods in each Section only if the department determines that the desired escapement objectives will be achieved;**

(4) from approximately August 1 through August 24, based on local pink or late-run chum salmon returning to the major systems in each section; **the commissioner may open, by emergency order, fishing periods in each Section only if the department determines that the desired escapement objectives will be achieved;**

(5) from approximately August 25 through September 5, based on local pink, late-run chum, or coho salmon returning to the major salmon systems in each section; **the commissioner may open, by emergency order, fishing periods in each Section only if the department determines that the desired escapement objectives will be achieved;**

and

(6) after approximately September 5, based on coho salmon returning to the major coho salmon systems in each section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We believe that each of the Inner Bays should remain closed until it is clear that their individual escapement objectives will

be achieved. These areas exist as separate, unique sections intended specifically to preserve individual stocks.

PROPOSED BY: Northwest Setnetters Association (EF-F19-070)

PROPOSAL 72

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

Limit the Inner Ayakulik Section commercial salmon fishery to openings of not more than six consecutive hours June 10–July 15, as follows:

No inner Ayakulik commercial salmon fishery shall last more than 6 consecutive hours from June 10th to July 15th

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to address the issue of king salmon bycatch during commercial salmon fishing at the mouth of the Ayakulik River where sockeye is the target species. The only current management tactics used for reducing king salmon bycatch while sockeye seining is non-retention. This is not a solution. These fish, highly susceptible to stress as a larger salmon, though not retained, as mandated by nonretention law, are manhandled under a load of sockeye on any given set made by a seiner and most likely not able to survive to spawn, or they are discretely brought home as homepack, courtesy of social media like facebook and instagram. King salmon have no legitimate chance of making their upstream migration to spawn when an inner Ayakulik commercial salmon fishery lasts for 6+ hours or extended until further notice at the height of the run. This is a once thriving population is reduced to the brink of extinction, stamped with stock of concern status. Fish and Game has done little or nothing to help these fish. If any given commercial opener on the inner Ayakulik were to be fished in this proposed timeframe it would have the desired effect as "Mopup fishery" targeting excess sockeye, with little ramifications for the overall strength the king salmon run.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve (EF-F19-101)

PROPOSAL 73

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

Establish a closure in the Inner Ayakulik Section of at least 24 hours between commercial salmon fishing periods, as follows:

Any inner Ayakulik commercial salmon fishery shall from June 10th to July 15th have a mandatory stand down period of not less than 24 hours between commercial openers.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to address the issue of king salmon bycatch during commercial salmon fishing at the mouth of the Ayakulik river where sockeye is the target species. The only current management tactics used for reducing king salmon bycatch while sockeye seining is non-retention. This is not a solution. If a stand down period between commercial openers existed it would act as a pulse fishery, allowing for most king salmon and Biological Escapement Goal sockeye to move uninhibited for half the time, while

allowing commercial salmon seiners the opportunity to "mop up" excess sockeye as they built up in between openers, thus defeating the perpetuated fear of over escapement. King Salmon migrate in smaller more drawn out patterns to the Ayakulik than sockeye do, where they trickle in over a period of time. Whereas sockeye, because they number in the hundreds of thousands trickle and surge and everything in between. The King salmon on this drainage most often come surging in fast, not lingering in the ocean out front. The sockeye will mill around for any period time, sometimes for days on end.

The pulse style fishery would not have a gauntlet of death for kings at all times but only theoretically for half the time at most, theoretically doubling their chance to spawn and not affecting sockeye commercial harvest in any negative manner. King salmon have no legitimate chance of making their upstream migration to spawn when an inner Ayakulik commercial salmon fishery lasts for more than 24 hours or extended until further notice at the height of the run. The whole mouth of the river is blocked off by a salmon seine net during these times allowing for nothing to come upstream. That includes all sockeye deemed in excess of BEG and every king salmon. There is no discrimination here. One seiner can act in a brutalitarian manner here putting an effective strangle hold on the whole system. This king salmon stock is a once thriving population is reduced to the brink of extinction, stamped with stock of concern status. Fish and Game has done little or nothing to help these fish. If any given commercial opener on the inner Ayakulik were to be fished in this proposed manner it would have the desired effect as a "Mopup fishery" targeting excess sockeye, with little ramifications for the overall strength of the king salmon run.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve (EF-F19-103)

PROPOSAL 74

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

Close waters within 500 yards of the terminus of the Ayakulik River to commercial salmon fishing June 10–July 15, as follows:

No commercial salmon fishing within 500 yard radius of terminus of Ayakulik River from June 10 to July 15th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to address the issue of King salmon bycatch during commercial salmon fisheries on the inner Ayakulik district.

Currently the only King salmon conservation measures in effect on the fishing grounds on the inner Ayakulik district is "non retention" of any king salmon over 28 inches. Currently there are no commercial fishing markers of any kind in the immediate vicinity of the Ayakulik stream terminus. This is unique in a bad way to the Ayakulik River in the Kodiak management area. It promotes a lackadaisical and take no account for our actions style of salmon management by staff. It allows for a single seiner to effectively block off the whole mouth of the river at any given stage of the tide to catch ALL salmon, not just sockeye, the main target species. It also allows staff to conveniently allow a single emergency order power to govern all management actions for salmon

stocks on the inner Ayakulik. There are no check mates here, like commercial fishery markers or closed areas, nothing. Just a complete and utter free and structureless management regime.

Because there is no buffer zone of any kind, king salmon stand very little chance of making it upriver to spawn. This particular salmon stock is already in dire straits with stock of concern status and no visible effort to aid their cause. Fish and Game needs to be accountable for their actions and make an effort to address all salmon stocks in the archipelago, not just the most economically viable one, sockeye, at the expense of all others. If any given commercial opener on the inner Ayakulik were to be fished with a 500 yard radius buffer zone it would not lessen the desired effect of a "Mopup fishery" targeting excess sockeye, while giving king salmon somewhat of a chance to make it upriver and spawn, lessening the rate at which they are going extinct.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve (EF-F19-111)

PROPOSAL 75

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

Post seasonal regulatory markers 500 yards from the terminus of the Ayakulik River, as follows:

The Inner Ayakulik section shall have mandatory commercial salmon fishing regulatory markers set at 500 yards distance north and south of the stream terminus for the purpose of salmon management on the Inner Ayakulik Section. Predetermined GPS coordinates will be set preseason by ADF&G

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to address the issue of King Salmon bycatch during sockeye commercial salmon seine fisheries on the Inner Ayakulik district. This is a stock of concern, going extinct. Currently on the fishing grounds conservation measures for king salmon call for non retention of kings 28 inches and longer. That is the only conservation measure in effect.

There used to be stationary commercial salmon regulatory markers at the Ayakulik stream terminus through the end of 2011. They have ceased to exist since then. The markers were at predetermined 500 yards from stream terminus GPS coordinates on shore and set preseason and left for the duration of the season. The offshore buffer zone as part of that 500 yard buffer zone was a box or a triangle. The offshore part was mostly self-policing by fisherman. These markers were used as a successful visual and electronic salmon management tool on the Ayakulik inner section.

This allowed king salmon a chance to have somewhat of a safety corridor to travel during sockeye openers when the buffer zone was in effect.

Mandatory markers at 500 yards radius from stream terminus must be put back in as a tool of salmon management on the inner Ayakulik.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve (EF-F19-115)

PROPOSAL 76

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

Open the Outer Karluk and Central Sections concurrent with when the Inner Karluk Section is opened by emergency order, as follows:

5 AAC 18.362 Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan

(e) The Inner and Outer Karluk Sections must be managed

(1) From June 1 through July 15, based on early-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system; the commissioner may open, by emergency order, fishing periods in the Inner Karluk Section, **concurrent with the Outer Karluk and Central Sections**, only if the Department determines that the midpoint of the early-run escapement goal range will be achieved;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The proposed language would modify a BOF change made in 2017 as a result of Proposal 60. Proposal 60, as written, was an attempt to prevent over escapement in the Karluk River by conducting a cost recovery fishery. Proceeds could have been used by KRAA for the benefit of all Kodiak salmon permit holders. Since designation of a Special Harvest Area is not legally possible on a wild salmon run, the proposal was modified, at the end of the meeting, with language supplied by ADFG, not the author or stakeholders.

Although the final language in 2017 provided ADFG with greater ability to manage the fishery and slow or prevent over escapement on the Karluk early sockeye run, the benefit of this regulation change went to the seine fleet only. This language change is a housekeeping measure to ensure that all gear types can benefit from large escapements of Karluk bound sockeye and provides clear language for management and stakeholders.

PROPOSED BY: Susan Payne

(EF-F19-112)

PROPOSAL 77

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

Close waters within 500 yards of the terminus of the Ayakulik River to commercial salmon fishing September 1–October 31, as follows:

Inner Ayakulik section closed to commercial salmon fishing within 500 yards radius of stream terminus (as determined by ADF&G preseason markers and corresponding GPS coordinates) of Ayakulik River September 1st to October 31st.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to address the issue of steelhead bycatch and potential coho over harvest on the Inner Ayakulik Section during commercial salmon fishing season. There is currently no management policy for steelhead bycatch or coho management on the Ayakulik River. During times of low water especially around the first week of September, there can be a huge buildup of coho in saltwater in the immediate vicinity of the Ayakulik stream terminus. A seiner at the opportune time could easily catch a vast majority of the coho escapement in short order. A buffer zone would greatly facilitate inriver escapement for

future strong coho runs, lessen steelhead bycatch of which very little is known, and still allow a salmon seiner to fish unimpeded. I believe there are not near enough conservation-minded measures in effect. With Kodiak Salmon management in particular, the other anadromous fish species that are not economically viable as sockeye should have equal value ecologically, and for the overall health of each individual salmon system island wide.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve

(EF-F19-117)
