

Fishing Districts, Closed Waters, Seasons and Seine Specifications (8 proposals)

PROPOSAL 29

21.200. Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections.

Move the outer boundary line of the Rocky Bay subdistrict further from shore, as follows:

5 AAC 21.200 (g) (4) Rocky Bay Subdistrict.

5 AAC 21.200. Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections.

(g) (4) Rocky Bay Subdistrict: all waters north of a line from

59° 14.05'N. lat., 151° 26.70'W. long., to

59° 13.70'N. lat., 151° 26.70'W. long., to

59° 13.00'N. lat., 151° 24.00'W. long., to

59° 12.77'N. lat., 151° 19.30'W. long.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The outer boundary line of Rocky Bay subdistrict is too close to shore. The fish school up near the boundary line and are often outside of the boundary in the middle of the bay. Moving the line to the proposed coordinates will move it less than 1 mile from its current location. This will allow these fish to be harvested during open periods.

Nobody will be harmed by accepting this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Cook Inlet Seiners Association

(EF-F19-055)

PROPOSAL 30

5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.

Allow the Kamishak Bay District commercial salmon fishery to be opened prior to June 1 by emergency order, as follows:

5 AAC 21.310(b)(5).

(5) Kamishak Bay District: from June 1 until closed by emergency order; **or earlier by emergency order**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently 5 AAC 21.310 Fishing Seasons (b) (5) Kamishak Bay District: from June 1 until closed by emergency order. There are significant sockeye returns in the Kamishak District (Mikfit Lake) that begin in late May and peak in mid-June. Allowing managers flexibility to open the Kamishak District salmon season earlier than June 1 by emergency order may improve harvest of this resource.

PROPOSED BY: Cook Inlet Seiners Association

(EF-F19-072)

PROPOSAL 31

5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters.

Allow commercial fishing along the beach outside of Ursus Cove Lagoon, as follows:

5 AAC 21.350 (d) (5) waters of Ursus Cove west of **153°46.35'W** [A LINE FROM 59° 32.43'N. LAT., 153°46.06"W TO 59° 31.20'N. LAT., 153°45.74"W]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The closed fishing area in regulation should be moved to allow commercial fishing on the beach outside of Ursus Cove Lagoon. Seining along the bluffs is not possible due to reefs and rocks. This beach is a clean place to set a seine. Moving this line will allow fishing on the outside beach but not inside the lagoon. Historically there had been a regulatory marker on the spit near the entrance to the lagoon and fishing was allowed along the beach. Sometime in the 1990's the regulatory marker was moved to the bluff at the end of the beach and fishing along the beach was no longer allowed. Since this regulatory marker movement there has not been a significant harvest of chums from Ursus Cove Subdistrict.

Allowing fishing along this beach could increase the harvest potential for this system and help prevent over escapement. This will allow an easier and safer place to fish in Ursus Cove subdistrict.

PROPOSED BY: Cook Inlet Seiners Association (EF-F19-090)

PROPOSAL 32

5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters.

Repeal closed waters in China Poot Bay, as follows:

5 AAC 21.350(d)(2) [REPEALED]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The existing China Poot closure provides protection for a small run of pink salmon destined for China Poot Creek which is a pink salmon index stream. CIAA stocks sockeye fry in Leisure Lake which generates a sport, personal use and commercial fishery during the month of July in China Poot Lagoon and stream. The closure area effectively eliminates the best area for CIAA cost recovery and commercial harvesting. The current closure forces the commercial fleet and cost recovery boats to operate in conflict with sport snaggers and dipnetters near the creek mouth. As a result, CIAA has failed year after year to achieve the cost recovery goal to support this program. ADFG should manage the area by emergency order to minimize conflicts yet still allow CIAA to achieve its cost recovery goal. The elimination of this closure will make this possible.

PROPOSED BY: Cook Inlet Seiners Association (HQ-F19-003)

PROPOSAL 33

5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters.

Close the area within a one-mile radius of the end of the Homer Spit to commercial salmon fishing, as follows:

5 AAC 21.350 Closed waters.(a) Commercial purse seining shall not be permitted in

any of the waters listed in this section.

(d) Southern District

(9) waters within one nautical mile of Coal Point at 59 36.00'N latitude, 151 24.50'W longitude.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would amend waters closed to commercial salmon fishing in the Southern District of the Cook Inlet Area to include an area within a one-mile radius from the end of the Homer Spit (Coal Point).

The reasons are twofold; improve management of our recreational sport fisheries and increase boater safety. Because of the high value of Chinook Salmon, it's been observed in recent years that commercial purse seiners are targeting Chinook Salmon in close proximity to the terminus of the Homer Spit nearby the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon (aka The Fishing Hole). The lagoon is a very popular recreational sport fishery for both locals and visitors alike. Chinook Salmon return mid-May to early July followed by a run of Silvers mid-July to mid-September.

Closing a one-mile radius around the end of Homer Spit to commercial purse seining would prevent the intentional interception of hatchery Chinook and Silver salmon. The second reason is safety. Floating purse seine nets in close proximity of the busy Homer Harbor entrance present a clear hazard to navigation.

PROPOSED BY: Cook Inlet Recreational Fishermen/Todd Jacobson (HQ-F19-025)

PROPOSAL 34

5 AAC 21.332. Seine specifications and operation.

Reduce the maximum length of seine gear in the Cook Inlet Area to 150 fathoms, as follows:

SOLUTION:

5 AAC 21.332 Seine specifications and operations (a) Purse seines, hand seines, hand purse seines, and beach seines may not be less than 90 fathoms in length and 100 meshes in depth, nor more than [250] **150** fathoms in length and 325 meshes in depth.

5 AAC 21.369. Lower Cook Inlet Seine Fishery Management Plan

When the Board of Fisheries authorized the use of power purse seines in the Cook Inlet salmon fishery, the board was concerned that the more efficient gear might allow the fleet to increase its harvest of Upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks. The department shall manage the seine fleet so that its efforts are directed on Lower Cook Inlet salmon stocks. The board recognizes that some incidental catch of Upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks will occur while the seine fishery is managed for Lower Cook Inlet salmon stocks.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? ISSUE:

Length of Cook Inlet Seine Nets intercepting and increasing harvest of Upper Cook Inlet Sockeye as 5 AAC 21.369 anticipated. 250 fathoms is too long they closes off entire bays.

PROPOSED BY: Kristi McLean

(EF-F19-109)

PROPOSAL 35

5 AAC 21.332. Seine specifications and operations.

Increase the maximum purse seine gear depth in the Cook Inlet Area from 325 to 335 meshes deep, as follows:

- (a) Purse seines, hand purse seines, and beach seines may not be less than 90 fathoms in length and 100 meshes in depth or more than 250 fathoms in length and [325]_335 meshes in depth. Detachable or loose leads are not permitted.
- (b) A seine vessel may tow another seine vessel as long as each vessel has no more than one legal limit of gear on board.
- (c) A purse seine vessel is considered to have ceased fishing when both ends of the seine are fast to the vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase depth of a legal purse seine from 325 meshes deep to 335 meshes deep to allow for a 5 meshdeep border strip along the corkline and ribline.

Salmon seine specifications for LCI need to be updated so modern and efficient seine construction techniques can be used by net builders.

Modern Purse seines are typically hung with a piece of 5 mesh deep border strip along the corkline and ribline. If a seine is hung with commonly available materials it is faster and more cost effective to construct. Common strip depths are 25, 50, 100, and 200 mesh deep strips. This proposal would allow 5 mesh border strips to be used without altering a commonly available depth strip. Border strips also provide a means to quickly and effectively repair a seine in the event of a tear in the seine body web by insulating the corkline and ribline hangings from damage. PWS seine regulations have been updated to allow these border strips

PROPOSED BY: Cook Inlet Seiners Association

(EF-F19-113)

PROPOSAL 36

5 AAC 21.xxx. New section.

Prohibit the retention of king salmon over 28” in length in the commercial purse seine fishery in the Southern District, as follows:

Closing the Southern District to retention of Chinook salmon over 28” in length by commercial purse seine permit holders,

5 AAC 21.392 Landing of king salmon

- a. Unless otherwise specified, king salmon over 28” in length may not be retained by purse seine permit holders in the Southern District. King salmon which are taken must be returned to the water without injury.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would prohibit the retention and sale of king salmon over 28” in length by commercial purse seiner permit holders fishing within the Southern District Reasons include:

- (1) To prevent commercial purse seiners from targeting King Salmon and the intentional interception of returning hatchery and feeder kings in Kachemak Bay;
- (2) To insure King Salmon stocks within Kachemak Bay are managed and available for recreational fisherman;
- (3) Due to the high value of King Salmon, it has been observed in recent years that multiple commercial purse seiners are targeting King Salmon within Kachemak Bay. Fish tickets and mandatory reporting do not necessarily reflect the accuracy of the landings.
- (4) We know the vast majority of King Salmon within Kachemak Bay originate from hatchery stocks. The hatcheries are funded with sportfish dollars acquired from Dingell-Johnson Act funds, sale of sportfish licenses, etc. These salmon were paid for by recreational fishermen for the purpose of being harvested by recreational fishermen. Many areas throughout the State of Alaska, Kachemak Bay being one exception, prohibit the retention and sale of King Salmon by commercial purse seiners. Note the following regulations:
 - a. 5 AAC 21.376
 - b. 5 AAC 18.395
 - c. Kodiak Commercial Salmon Fishery Announcement #01 For Emergency Order #4-FS-K-01-18 stating ‘Kodiak Area (including the Mainland District) beginning noon Saturday, June 9, until further notice, Chinook (king) salmon 28 inches or greater in length may not be retained by purse seine gear in the commercial fishery and must be returned to the water unharmed.’
 - d. Southeast Alaska purse seine and drift gillnet fisheries chinook salmon management restrictions: Summary of intended management actions for commercial net fisheries in 2018, which states ‘Other than within Terminal Harvest Areas that have returns of hatchery produced Chinook salmon, the purse seine fishery will be prohibited from retaining Chinook salmon over 28" in length for the 2018 season.’

PROPOSED BY: Cook Inlet Recreational Fishermen/Todd Jacobson (HQ-F19-026)
