

**PROPOSAL 104**

**5 AAC 33.3XX. New Section.**

Create a management plan for hatchery returns to Burnett Inlet, as follows:

**5 AAC 33.3XX. Burnett Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.**

**(a) This management plan distributes the harvest of hatchery produced chum salmon in the Burnett Inlet Terminal Harvest Area between the purse seine, troll and drift gillnet fleets.**

**(b) The department, in consultation with the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA), shall manage the Burnett Inlet Terminal Harvest Area from June 01 through November 10 for troll, purse seine and drift gillnet gear to provide for the harvest of hatchery- produced chum salmon, unless closed earlier by emergency order. The Burnett Inlet Terminal Harvest Area, for the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association Burnett Inlet Hatchery, consisting of all waters of Burnett Inlet, Etolin Island, north of 56° 04.65' N. lat. and south of 56° 10.38' N. lat.**

**(c) A drift gillnet operated in the terminal harvest area may not exceed 200 fathoms in length.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA), is a non-profit regional salmon enhancement association headquartered in Ketchikan, Alaska. SSRAA owns and operates the Burnett Inlet Hatchery (BIH), situated on Etolin Island. BIH is a broodstock collection site for summer and fall chum, which are also released at BIH after incubation, hatching and rearing to release size. The adult chums return to BIH through numerous common property fishery corridors, notably in Districts 6 and 8, and enter Burnett Inlet starting in mid to late June. These chums are well segregated from natural stocks when they are in the terminal area. Although SSRAA requires taking a portion of these returning chums for broodstock and cost recovery, common property fishers in the terminal area should be allowed to catch the remaining fish. This practice allows for an efficient fishery and full utilization of the resource. Establishing a Terminal Harvest Area (THA) in regulation for this situation is the industry standard best practice method, and with progeny from increased release sizes returning in 2021, a newly-established THA will meet the needs of fishers as well as SSRAA. In cooperation with the Department's area management biologists, SSRAA will manage the THA for all user groups in accordance with direction from the SSRAA Board of Directors, applicable regulations, and Emergency Order authority. The SSRAA Board is made up of 21 members from the seine, gillnet and troll gear groups an addition to representatives of regional municipalities, chambers of commerce, fish processors, native corporations, sportfishing interests, subsistence users, and members-at-large. If there is not a THA established, SSRAA would be required to harvest the terminal fish, creating logistical difficulties and possibly leading to excessive cost recovery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (EF-F20-071)

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