

PROPOSAL 105

5 AAC 33.3XX. New Section.

Create a management plan for hatchery returns to Port Saint Nicholas, as follows:

PORT SAINT NICHOLAS TERMINAL HARVEST AREA SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

(a) This management plan distributes the harvest of hatchery produced king salmon in the Port Saint Nicholas 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 Port Saint Nicholas Terminal Harvest Area from May 1 through July 31 for troll, purse seine and drift gillnet gear to provide for the harvest of hatchery - produced king salmon, unless closed earlier by emergency order. The Port Saint Nicholas Terminal Harvest area, consisting of all waters of Port Saint Nicholas east of the longitude of Point Miraballes at 133° 05.23' W. long., and west of the longitude at 132° 59.50' W. long., located at the mouth of the Port Saint Nicholas head stream.

(c) The THA is expanded, only for troll gear, to the waters of Port Saint Nicholas and Bucareli Bay north and east of a line from Cape Suspiro at 55°27.48' N lat, 133°08.54' W long, to the northernmost tip of Toti Island at 55°24.90' N lat, 133°07.34' W long, to Point Miraballes at 55°25.86' N lat, 133°05.20' W long.

(d) 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 operates the Port Saint Nicholas (PSN) Hatchery near the City of Craig on Prince of Wales Island. PSN chinook salmon eggs are taken at Whitman Lake Hatchery and incubated and reared at Port Saint Nicholas Hatchery, releasing them after a brief period of saltwater imprinting and grow-out at a net pen site in Port Saint Nicholas. The adult chinook are caught in winter and spring fisheries throughout the region, and mature adults return to PSN through fisheries in Districts 3 and 4 and enter PSN starting in May. These salmon are well segregated from natural stocks when they are in the terminal area. Common property fishers in the terminal area are expected to catch a majority of these fish, and SSRAA will clean up the rest as cost recovery. 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 in future years, a newly-established THA will be in place to meet the needs of common property 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 harvest a larger

number of terminal fish, creating logistical difficulties and possibly leading to excessive cost recovery.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (EF-F20-116)
