

PROPOSAL 48

5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan.

Amend *Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan* to provide management guidance for reducing Eshamy District harvest of salmon stocks bound for other districts, as follows:

Add the words; (4) the Eshamy District gillnet Fisheries shall be managed with fishing periods opened and closed by emergency order based on the surplus of wild and enhanced salmon stocks returning to the district, **and reduce the harvest of stocks bound for other districts**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Gillnet group harvest large numbers of salmon in the Eshamy District, both wild and enhanced, bound for other areas, in conjunction with the enhanced Sockeye fishery prior to July 21. The intercepted enhanced fish are Pink salmon bound for the Valdez hatchery which is not part of the PWS Enhanced Salmon Allocation Plan and Chum salmon bound for the AFK hatchery which is an exclusive Seine fishery. Port Chalmers Chums and Ester Chums are also intercepted in the Eshamy District prior to July 21 and they can be, at times, exclusive Seine fish. The Eshamy District has no wild chum systems and little or no Pink salmon systems yet every year there are large numbers of both species intercepted in the Eshamy District prior to July 21. The majority of these wild Chum and Pink salmon, based on index stream escapement numbers are likely bound for the Northwest and Northern Districts, exclusive Seine areas.

This interception occurs at a time Seine fishery managers are looking for adequate escapement necessary to commence fishing opportunity for the Seine fleet.

PROPOSED BY: Northwest and Alaska Seine Association

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