

PROPOSAL 143

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to close the set gillnet fishery in response to department immature salmon assessment, as follows:

(i) The department shall conduct a seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section to assess the presence of immature salmon. If 100 or more immature salmon, per set, are present, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the seine fishery in an area to be determined by the department. If the seine fishery is closed in an area under this subsection, the set gillnet fishery shall **also close** [Remain open] in that area. For the purposes of this subsection, "immature salmon, per set, are present" means the number of immature king, sockeye, coho, and chum salmon observed to be **caught** [GILLED] in the seine **set** [WEB].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the immature test fisheries, many immature Chinook, immature Sockeye and immature Chum salmon are caught but not necessarily gilled in the net. They aren't presently enumerated as immatures and should be accounted and considered for conservation purposes.

Also, recent changes in allowable gillnet mesh size now allow for smaller meshes that are not protective. 5 1/4" or greater was the standard to allow passage for immature fish through the area and should be the only allowable gillnet gear when closures are implemented for the presence of immatures.

PROPOSED BY: Ben Allen

(EF-F22-071)
