

PROPOSAL 53

5 AAC 06.XXX. New section.

Reestablish a General District Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

Annually, when all escapement goals have been reached in the Nushagak, Kvichak, Naknek, Egegik, and Ugashik districts, and the 24 Hour Transfer Period has been waived in all districts (excluding the super exclusive Togiak district): The boundaries should be extended at the time to the year 2004 'XYZ district' boundary lines or an alternative such as the following:

A late season Western Boundary Line extending from the South Western Johnston Hill boundary marker to the Egegik North Western corner boundary marker. This same Western Boundary Line will follow the course of the Egegik West line in it's entirety and extend the South Western Corner of the Egegik District in a straight line to the North Western boundary marker in the Ugashik District. The Walrus boundary in Ugashik would be built in at the discretion of the department (ADFG) to accommodate the safe passage of Walrus in their haul out.

Existing outer Naknek, Egegik, and Ugashik boundary lines would be amended to open up the waters south of the Naknek South Line to the waters of the Ugashik North Line to commercial fishing when escapement goals have been met and enforcement has withdrawn from the fishery. Proposed boundary change (Late Season Boundary):

58' 43.73' N LAT
157' 42.71' W LONG

TO

58' 38.50' N LAT
157' 22.23' W LONG

TO

58' 19.10' N LAT
157' 36.65' W LONG

TO

58' 11.00' N LAT
157' 38.10' W LONG

TO

57' 43.54' N LAT
157' 43.80' W LONG

TO

57' 28.34' N LAT
157' 55.84' W LONG

Additionally, proposal can be approved on a trial basis or with a sunset clause.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Alaska State Troopers cease to police the Bristol Bay gill net fishery on or around July 15th every season. This leaves the fishery with largely un-monitored boundaries aside from an increasingly rare aerial patrol. Many fishermen feel forced to quit and go home due to the lawless state caused by the lack of trooper skiffs and their absence. ADFG extends fishing time to a wide-open schedule as long as escapement goals have been met almost concurrently with the withdrawal of the State Troopers. The annual Fall fishing schedule ensues shortly thereafter.

The BOF has an opportunity to take the line fishing focus away from the Bristol Bay East side fishery, but It has to take an approach that differs from the 'pre-season XYZ district' failures which occurred nearly twenty years ago. My proposal offers a simple solution to the troubles of late season fishing by removing the congestion of line fishing in its entirety. This proposal complements the withdrawal of enforcement, and the immediate need for a more logical and less congested and stressful fishery.

PROPOSED BY: David Vardy

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