

PROPOSAL 77

5 AAC 04.362. Guideline harvest range for Port Clarence District.

Establish an optimal escapement goal of 7,000-12,000 sockeye salmon for the Salmon Lake drainage within the Port Clarence District, as follows:

This is a fertilized lake with the most complete salmon enumeration and out migration data of the return in the AYK Region. This regulation should convert to a management plan, perhaps with an OEG of 7,000 -12,000 sockeye salmon, assuming continued fertilization. Because the weir is well above the commercial district and there are chum salmon present there, the subsistence fishery will be the primary harvest mechanism. Managers could use the escapement counts to project final escapement, and thereby make determinations to liberalize or restrict harvest as appropriate.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? New analysis of the carrying capacity of the rearing habitat, Salmon Lake, has determined optimal sockeye salmon escapements for Salmon Lake Drainage should be in the 7,000 to 12,000 range with a point estimate of 10,000. Return per spawner falls below 1:1 above 12,000. The current regulation sets the upper limit at 30,000 salmon, well above the recent analysis.

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(EF-F22-047)
