

*Norton Sound Commercial Fisheries (2 proposals)*

**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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Charlie Lean (EF-F22-047)

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**PROPOSAL 78**

**5 AAC 27.910. Fishing seasons and periods for Bering Sea-Kotzebue Area.**

**Modify the start and end dates of the herring sac-ro, and food and bait fishing seasons, as follows:**

5 AAC 27.910 (b)(1)-(2) and (4) are amended to read:

...

(b) In the Norton Sound District, herring may be taken only as follows:

(1) from May 15 through **November 15** [JUNE 30 (SAC-ROE SEASON)] and only during periods established by emergency order;

(2) in Subdistricts 1 - 6, from **May 15** [JULY 1] through November 15 (**sac-roe or** food and bait season);

(3) repealed 5/11/85;

(4) in Subdistrict 7, from **May 15** [JUNE 15] through November 15 (**sac-roe or** food and bait season):

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal would modify the date in regulation when a herring food and bait fishery can occur in Norton Sound. After 2013 there has been no buyer interest in a Norton Sound sac roe herring fishery. By regulation that

fishery can occur from May 15 through June 30. Beginning in 2014 the department has opened the herring fishery continuously during the sac roe season and a local buyer has purchased an average of 50 tons a year to sell as bait. This proposal would align in regulation with what has been occurring since 2014 in the herring fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F22-055)

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