

South Alaska Peninsula Post-June Salmon Management Plan (5 proposals)

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)

PROPOSAL 144

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

Amend the *Post-June Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to allow for fishing periods starting August 1 in the Southeastern and South Central Districts, as follows:

After July 31, if the department's preseason South Alaska Peninsula total pink run forecast is above 3 million fish, the department may give two 36-hour openers per week starting August 1 in the Southeastern and South Central Districts. The department would still have inseason emergency order authority and discretion to adjust fishing time and area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The South Peninsula pink salmon fisheries are an important economic piece of the overall fishing activity in the region. In 2021, the total pink salmon harvest was 16.9 million fish and roughly \$15.3 million dollars in exvessel value. With additional information for department managers and improved regulatory structure, there is room to maximize opportunity in this fishery.

The department assesses the pink salmon index runs for South Alaska Peninsula with aerial surveys and catch information. Due to inclement weather conditions in August, the department often is unable to conduct consistent aerial stream surveys to assess local pink salmon escapement

goals on the South Alaska Peninsula. The department could use a consistent fishery in early August to ascertain the strength of local pink and chum runs.

The department publishes a South Alaska Peninsula pre-season pink run forecast with an 80% confidence that the actual run will fall within their preseason forecast. If the board were to authorize a consistent early August fishery based on the preseason forecast, the harvest data could better inform managers of the inseason run strength when aerial surveys are not possible.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Manos (EF-F22-081)

PROPOSAL 145

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 increase commercial salmon fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula, as follows:

(d) Notwithstanding (c)(1) of this section, from July 6 through July 31, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, fishing periods as follows:

(1) the first fishing period will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 33 hours until 3:00 p.m. the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 63 hours and reopen under (2) of this subsection;

(2) following the closure under (1) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and close at **10:00 p.m.** [6:00 P.M.] the following day; commercial fishing will then close for **54 hours** [60 HOURS] and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three days later.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Recent closures in June and July due to immature salmon numbers and/or declines in salmon runs in the surrounding areas have limited fishing time for the Alaska Peninsula fleet. Increasing July fishing opportunity by four hours per opening would provide stability to the fleet and region without the risk of harming local and migratory runs. Adjust the Post-June Salmon Management plan as follows: Starting July 10th, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and close at 10:00 p.m. the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 56 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three days later. This regulation change would increase July openings after the 10th by four hours, from 36 hours, to 40 hours, whilst still providing adequate closures between openings of 56 hours.

PROPOSED BY: Julian Manos (EF-F22-087)

PROPOSAL 146

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

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing periods, as follows:

Change the current management plan after the 10th of July so each open period would be extended 24 hours and the time between each period is reduced by 24 hours until the end of July.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The post June management plan in the Shumagin Islands is too restrictive after the 10th of July in terms of fishing time. Run timing of fish have shifted to earlier in the season than when the current plan was adopted. Both the Chignik's first run of fish is over and the Bristol Bay fish have passed through this area. Loss of income to our community is devastating.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Eastlick (HQ-F22-005)

PROPOSAL 147

5 AAC 09-366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing periods for set gillnet gear, as follows:

Setnet fishermen starting July 10 to the end of the season. Setnet fishermen will fish from Monday at 6 a.m. to Friday midnight, from Scotch Cap to Kupreanof Pt.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? More time for setnet fishermen. We are a slower fishery in volume. Bristol Bay are by us.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Hartman (HQ-F22-011)
