

PROPOSAL 61

5 AAC 18.361. Alitak District Salmon Management Plan

Restrict commercial salmon fishing in the Inner Dog Salmon Flats Section as follows:

There will be no commercial salmon fishing on the Dog Salmon Flats after August 15th until 3,000 Coho have been counted upstream of the Lower Dog Salmon Weir.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Coho bycatch on the Dog Salmon River and Olga Bay is the issue I would like to address. On high abundance pink salmon years set gillnetting on the Dog Salmon Flats in lower Olga Bay is allowed for Targeting Pink Salmon. It is brutally efficient. It is a small bottleneck and choke point. Coho run here too and are crucial to the Dog Salmon River ecosystem for subsistence, sport fishing, as well as feeding many bears and other wildlife late in the year. Nature is cyclical and OVERESCAPEMENT is a complete myth. There are natural highs and lows and Nature should be allowed to run its course. This does not happen when a single net can control the fate of all anadromous life forms in a small river like the Dog Salmon. Because it is a small system, it is highly susceptible to overharvest, especially when the Coho runs mirrors much of the Pink Salmon run here. On a good year, Dog Salmon might have 200,000 pinks and maybe 3,000 silvers at best. The Coho are not given a chance because they come in earlier with many of the pinks. I would like to see no Commercial salmon fishing on the Dog Salmon Flats section after August 15th, until 3,000 Coho have been counted through the Dog Salmon weir or verified in existence up river by Aerial Survey.

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(EF-F23-032)
