

PROPOSAL 69

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* to implement commercial salmon fishing periods for set gillnet permit holders to increase harvest opportunity as follows:

The solution is to provide a minimum number of fishing days to the Kodiak set gillnet fleet without compromising sustainable management objectives. The Department can actively extend or close planned openers to protect escapement. This proposal only applies to the set gillnet gear, all other gear types remain status quo.

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The Central and North Cape Sections must be managed.

From June 1 until August 15, the set gillnet fishery will open for 105 hours and close for 63 hours per week. From August 16 through the end of the season, the set gillnet fishery will open for 102 hours and close for 66 hours per week.

The Commissioner may supersede the weekly set gillnet schedule with emergency general openers and closures to achieve the management plan.

Note: existing regulations remain unchanged other than numbering, (1) becomes (3), (2) becomes (4) and so on.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal increases set gillnet fishing days without changing other gear types. The setnet fleet has lost a relative proportion of the salmon harvest in the Westside Management Plan. Increasing the number of fishing days is the most effective mechanism to maintain the historical harvest volume of set gillnet gear without interfering with adjacent gear types. This proposal allows the BOF to adhere to a management plan that increases the opportunity and number of fishing days for the Kodiak set gillnet fleet, with abundance-based flexibility to increase or decrease planned fishing days as determined by the Department.

PROPOSED BY: Erik OBrien

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