

PROPOSAL 70

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

Modify the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* to establish an allocation between gear groups as follows:

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan

(a) The goal of the Westside Kodiak Management Plan is to achieve escapement and harvest objectives of sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk, Ayakulik, and other Westside minor sockeye salmon systems, and of pink, chum, and coho salmon returning to systems in the Southwest Afognak, Central, North Cape, Anton Larsen Bay, Sharatin Bay, Kizhuyak Bay, Terror Bay, Inner Uganik Bay, Spiridon Bay, Zachar Bay, Uyak Bay, Outer Karluk, Inner Karluk, Sturgeon Bay, Halibut Bay, Outer Ayakulik, and Inner Ayakulik Sections. It is the intent of the board that salmon bound to these systems be harvested to the extent possible by the traditional fisheries located in all 17 sections **and to establish the allocation of sockeye and pink salmon between the commercial set gillnet and combined purse seine and beach seine fisheries within the Northwest Kodiak District including Telrod Cove SHA, and the Inner and Outer Karluk sections of the Southwest Kodiak District, and to establish management measures for ADF&G to achieve the allocation objectives as described in (b) of this management plan.** The department shall manage the Northwest Kodiak and the Southwest Kodiak Districts and the Southwest Afognak Section in accordance with the guidelines set out in this plan.

(b) Consistent with 5AAC 18.362 ADF&G shall manage the Northwest Kodiak District and the Inner and Outer Karluk sections of the Southwest Kodiak District set gillnet and combined purse seine and beach seine fisheries during the fishing periods specified in 5AAC 18.362 to achieve biological escapement goals into the various systems in the Kodiak Management Area and to distribute the harvestable surplus of sockeye and pink salmon in the Northwest Kodiak District including Telrod Cove SHA, and the Inner and Outer Karluk sections of the Southwest Kodiak District, to the set gillnet and combined purse seine and beach seine fisheries as follows:

(1) set gillnet 50% of sockeye salmon caught in the Northwest Kodiak District including Telrod Cove SHA, and the Inner and Outer Karluk sections of the Southwest Kodiak District

(2) combined purse seine and beach seine 50% of sockeye salmon caught in the Northwest Kodiak District including Telrod Cove SHA, and the Inner and Outer Karluk sections of the Southwest Kodiak District

(3) set gillnet 30% of pink salmon caught in the Northwest Kodiak District including Telrod Cove SHA, and the Inner and Outer Karluk sections of the Southwest Kodiak District

(4) combined purse seine and beach seine 70% of pink salmon caught in the Northwest Kodiak District including Telrod Cove SHA, and the Inner and Outer Karluk sections of the Southwest Kodiak District

(c) For the purpose of calculating the set gillnet and combined purse seine and beach seine allocations specified in (b) of this section, the accounting period is June 1 to October 15

(d) To achieve the allocations specified in (b) of this section, consistent with the management principles of 5AAC 13.362 and other provisions of this chapter, the Commissioner may establish, by emergency order, set gillnet and combined purse seine and beach seine open fishing periods and these periods may be established at different times to obtain the set gillnet and combined purse seine and beach seine sockeye and pink salmon allocations specified in (b) of this section or at other times consistent with 5AAC 13.662

(Note: Language in sections (b) through (g) in the existing management plan 5AAC 18.362 would remain unchanged except that they would be re-lettered to consistently accommodate and follow the newly added sections described above. Existing section (b) would become section **(e)**, section (c) would become section **(f)**, section (d) would become **(g)**, section (e) would become **(h)**, section (f) would become **(i)** and section (g) would become **(j)**.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The percentage of the sockeye and pink salmon poundage caught annually by Kodiak Island's Westside set gillnet fleet has declined significantly since 1990.

By regulation, Kodiak's Westside set gillnetters may only fish in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District. The Central Section is not a terminal area; but salmon returning to the inner bays of the Northwest Kodiak District, to the common property fishery of the Telrod Cove SHA, and to the Inner and Outer Karluk sections of the Southwest Kodiak District, travel through it. All of these are managed by the 1990 Westside Management Plan and all have been historically targeted by set gillnetters. However, because set gillnets are fixed gear and are prohibited by statute from fishing in these terminal areas, set gillnet fishermen have only one opportunity to catch these fish. With these facts in mind, any changes to the Westside Management Plan which attempt to allocate an historically equitable percentage of salmon to Westside set gillnetters must include an equitable percentage of the salmon swimming to these terminal areas.

The percentage of sockeye salmon harvested by Westside set gillnetters out of the total of all sockeye salmon caught by all gear groups in the Northwest Kodiak District, Telrod SHA and Inner and Outer Karluk Sections of the Southwest District has declined from a 23-year average (1990-2012) of 50% to a 34% average in the years 2013-2022.

The percentage of pink salmon harvested by Westside set gillnetters out of the total of all pink salmon caught by all gear groups in the Northwest Kodiak District, Telrod SHA and Inner and Outer Karluk Sections of the Southwest Kodiak District has declined from a 23-year average (1990-2012) of 30% to 19% in the years 2013-2022.

In the most recent five years (2017-2022) the set gillnet fleet's percentage of the catch in these areas has fallen even more precipitously - to 29% for sockeye and 14% for pinks.

This loss of catch percentage by Westside set gillnetters since 1990 has resulted in a significant loss of income for the set gillnet fleet. If not reversed, this trend of declining catch share and declining income may result in the demise of Kodiak's Westside set gillnet fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Northwest Setnetters Association (HQ-F23-076)
