

PROPOSAL 73

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

Modify the Westside Kodiak salmon Management Plan to increase fishing opportunity as follows:

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...

(f) The Sturgeon and Halibut Bay Sections must be managed

(1) from June 1 through approximately June 22, as mixed-stock fisheries directed on early-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk, Ayakulik, and Olga Bay systems; the department shall not open any commercial fishing periods during this time;

(2) from approximately June 23 through July 15, based on early-run sockeye salmon returning to the Ayakulik and Karluk systems, except that the Sturgeon Section must also be managed with consideration for early-run chum salmon returning to the Sturgeon system;

(3) from approximately July 16 through August **15** [24],

(A) in the Sturgeon Section

(i) on odd-year cycles, based on late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system;

(ii) on even-year cycles, **from approximately July 16 through August 15,** based on [LATE-RUN SOCKEYE AND ON] pink salmon returning to the Karluk **and Sturgeon River** systems;

(B) in the Halibut Bay Section

(i) on odd-year cycles, from approximately July 16 through July 31 on late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Ayakulik system, and from approximately August 1 through August 24 on late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system;

(ii) on even-year cycles, from approximately July 16 through July 31 on late-run sockeye salmon and pink salmon returning to the Ayakulik system, and from approximately August 1 through August 15 [24] on late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system and on pink salmon returning to the Ayakulik system;

(4) **from approximately August 16 through August 24,**

(A) In the Sturgeon section

(i)on odd-year cycles based on late run sockeye returning to the Karluk system;

(ii) On even-year cycles based on late run sockeye returning to the Karluk system and pink salmon returning the Sturgeon and Karluk sytems;

(B) In the Halibut Bay section

(i)on odd-year cycles based on late run sockeye returning to the Karluk system;

(ii) On even-year cycles based on late run sockeye returning to the Karluk system and pink salmon returning the Ayakulik sytem;

(5) [4] from approximately August 25 through September 5, based on late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system; and

(6)[5] after approximately September 5, based on late-run sockeye salmon and coho salmon returning to the Karluk system.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under the current language in the management plan, the Sturgeon Section of the Westside Management Plan of Kodiak Island is managed in early years on Karluk pink salmon and late run sockeye salmon with no provisions for management of the Sturgeon River which has seen large returns in the past 2 even years. (2020, 2022) The proposed language would allow the Department of Fish and Game to effectively manage the Sturgeon Section for both Karluk and Sturgeon pink salmon so that during years of abundance those stocks can be fully utilized, while at the same time providing protections on even years where one or both stocks could be weak.

PROPOSED BY: Kodiak Seiners Association

(HQ-F23-106)
