

KODIAK PROPOSAL INDEX

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Kodiak Archipelago Sport Fishing (8 proposals)

PROPOSAL 44

5 AAC 64.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.

Prohibit multiple hooks in Kodiak Island fresh waters as follows:

In all freshwaters of Kodiak Island only a single hook may be used for sportfishing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Fish mortality in Kodiak Island freshwaters and catch and release is the issue I would like to address. Most of Kodiak Island is remote. Catch and release is a major way of fishing. I want to see a ban on treble hook use in all freshwaters of Kodiak Island because it is hard on fish and promotes higher mortality. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has been stagnant on this issue for ever. I want that changed for the sake of all salmon and trout populations on Kodiak Island. All lure companies now offer a single hook option for their lures. Flies are single hook anyway. It should be a universal theme in the name of conservation and ethical sportfishing.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve

(EF-F23-027)

PROPOSAL 45

5 AAC 64.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish.

Prohibit bait and multiple hooks in Kodiak Island fresh waters as follows:

In all fresh waters of Kodiak Island only single hook artificial flies or lures may be used for sportfishing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Bait use in freshwaters of Kodiak Island sportfishing is what I would like to address. The only major use of bait is for Coho in the fall. Lots of Dolly Varden and Rainbow Trout and Steelhead are caught with bait too. There is a high mortality on target and non target species. Because Coho are very aggressive, bait is not needed. It is not conducive to catch and release either because the fish will take bait so deep they bleed out and die.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve

(EF-F23-028)

PROPOSAL 46

5 AAC 64.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.

Allow snagging as a legal method for sockeye salmon in Kodiak Island freshwaters as follows:

Sockeye salmon may be legally harvested while hooked anywhere in the body in Kodiak Island freshwaters.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Snagged or foul hooked Sockeye and mortality rates is what I would like to address. There is a huge problem here. Sockeye don't bite very well, so they are flossed, lined in the corner of the jaw with any fly or bare hook

and lead weight. It takes real skill to line fish legally fair hooked in the mouth. Most folks are terrible at it. They snag fish everywhere in the body except the mouth. I have seen a person snag 20 sockeye to get 2 legal ones. The snagged ones are grossly abused, snagged in the belly ALOT, YARDED IN AND ROLLED AND STOMPED AROUND AND KICKED BACK INTO THE WATER. Many don't make it to spawn with a gut wound from a hook. It is a major negative balance of molesting fish to try and legally harvest a bag limit. I firmly believe less fish would die and more would spawn and people would also harvest more all at the same time, if a sockeye could be legally harvested hooked anywhere in the body. People would catch their limit, get in and get out. Everyone wins.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve

(EF-F23-029)

PROPOSAL 47

5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area and 5 AAC 64.051. Waters closed to sport fishing in the Kodiak Area.

Repeal areas closed to snagging and sport fishing in the Kodiak Area as follows:

5 AAC 64.022(b)(6)(C) is repealed:

[(C) MONASHKA BAY: ALL WATERS WEST OF A LINE FROM TERMINATION POINT TO MILLER POINT FROM MAY 1 – JULY 5] **Repealed;**

5 AAC 64.051(2) is repealed:

[(2) FROM JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, THE EAST BANK OF MONASHKA CREEK BETWEEN THE MONASHKA HIGHWAY BRIDGE AND ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 100 YARDS DOWNSTREAM] **Repealed;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Monashka Creek drainage was previously used as a brood source for the Kodiak Road Zone (KRZ) king salmon stocking project. Regulations pertaining to snagging and closed waters in the creek were originally implemented to protect king salmon returning to Monashka Bay and Monashka Creek for use in broodstock collection while still allowing some opportunity for harvest of king salmon in the creek. However, due to poor returns in Monashka Creek, alternate brood sources and stocking locations have been utilized since 2016. In addition, Monashka Creek has more recently been stocked with coho salmon and has become one of the most popular sport fishing locations in the KRZ due to ease of access and relatively large returns. In 2020, regulations were revised to reduce closed waters in Monashka Creek to accommodate crowding issues and allow for greater access to coho salmon in the creek and further simplifying Monashka Bay and Creek sport fishing regulations will similarly benefit anglers. Current regulations protecting king salmon in Monashka Bay and Monashka Creek are no longer relevant since alternate brood sources are now utilized and the bank closure is not relevant to the primary fishery in the drainage targeting coho salmon. This proposal will simplify existing regulations for Monashka Bay, clarify regulations for Monashka Creek, and allow for greater access to coho salmon.

PROPOSAL 48

5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

Modify the bag and possession limit for coho salmon in the Miam, Sacramento, and Saltery drainages as follows:

5 AAC 64.022(b) is amended to read:

...

(b)(8) in the Kodiak Road Zone, from September 16 – December 31, the bag and possession limit for coho salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, is one fish, except that in the following [STOCKED] waters the bag and possession limit for coho salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, is two fish:

- (A) Monashka Creek and Pillar Creek;
- (B) Mission Beach: all waters between ADF&G regulatory markers at Shahafka Cove;
- (C) Mill Bay: all waters between ADF&G regulatory markers;
- (D) Monashka Bay: all waters west of a line from Termination Point to Miller Point;
- (E) Miam, Sacramento, and Saltery drainages.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations for Kodiak Road Zone (KRZ) coho salmon runs were established in 1996. Regulations were revised in 2017 to conserve coho salmon while maintaining sport fishing opportunity, since many of these drainages have small runs and relatively high angler effort. Thirteen of the major KRZ drainages with coho salmon populations are easily accessible by highway vehicle. Three more drainages, Miam, Sacramento, and Saltery, require backcountry travel and are accessed primarily via all-terrain vehicle. Additional trip planning and preparation is necessary to access the Sacramento River because beach travel is only achievable with low tides. Due to the remoteness of the Miam, Sacramento, and Saltery drainages, sport fishing effort directed at coho salmon is low. Angler harvest is generally concentrated at the major road accessible drainages, particularly once the bag limit is reduced to one fish after September 15. Removing the seasonal bag limit change within these drainages will increase coho salmon angling opportunities for the duration of the sport fishery. Due to access limitations and abundant coho salmon sport fishing opportunity in other, less remote KRZ drainages, this proposal will not create significant conservation concerns.

PROPOSAL 49

5 AAC 64.060. Kodiak Area Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan.

Modify the Kodiak Area Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan as follows:

Status quo regulation:

- (4) the bag and possession limit for king salmon is two fish, with no size limit;
- (5) the annual limit and harvest record specified in 5 AAC 64.022 does not apply.

Proposed Change:

(4) the bag and possession limit for king salmon is two fish, with no size limit **except for May 15-July 31 when bag and possession limit for king salmon is one fish, with no size limit;**

(5) **For summer fisheries (April 1-August 31):**

20 inches or longer: There is a combined annual catch limit of 5 King salmon 20 inches or longer. A king salmon of 20 inches or longer that is removed from salt water must be retained and becomes a part of the bag limit for of the person who originally hooked the fish. You must not remove a King salmon of 20 inches or longer from the water before releasing it.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kodiak salt water king salmon FMP currently has daily-bag (2) and annual limits (NA) in the unguided and guided-recreational sector that are not in alignment with the Lower Cook Inlet’s King salmon FMP. Further the Kodiak salt water king salmon GHLL was exceeded in 2021 under status quo regulations. The daily-bag and annual limits should be adjusted to keep the fishery within its GHLL.

Lower Cook Inlet unguided and guided-recreational fisheries both have restricted limits for the 2023 season based on low expected returns of king salmon in the Upper Cook Inlet. East-side Cook Inlet set net fisheries are set to be closed for the 2023 season based on expected low king salmon returns. The burden of conservation for Upper Cook Inlet king salmon should be equitable in unguided and guided-recreational fisheries which have similar genetic mixing to protect the stock and to return it to a state where all effected fisheries may maintain access and viability.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Charter Association (EF-F23-129)

PROPOSAL 50

5 AAC 64.070. Kodiak Area Rockfish Management Plan and 5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

Modify provisions of the management plan for rockfish in the Kodiak Area as follows:

5 AAC 64.070 is amended to read:

...

(a) The purpose of the management plan under this section is to meet the Board of Fisheries’ goal of stabilizing the sport harvest of black rockfish in the waters of the Kodiak Area particularly in the areas of Chiniak and Marmot bays. Black rockfish will be managed for harvest levels within the established guideline harvest range until a time when survey abundance estimates suggest an increase in harvest is appropriate. **Management will also attempt to prevent unintentional overharvest of other rockfish species.** In recognition that commercial and sport users harvest the

same populations of black rockfish, a management plan is also in place for commercial fisheries to maintain harvest within the guideline harvest range specified in 5 AAC 28.466(h).

(b) In the Kodiak Area rockfish sport fishery:

(1) the guideline harvest range is 0 – 26,000 black rockfish;

(2) the sport harvest will be estimated annually by the department using saltwater guide logbooks, statewide harvest survey data, and dockside sampling data;

[(3) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR ROCKFISH IS FIVE FISH, ONLY TWO OF WHICH MAY BE NONPELAGIC AND ONLY ONE OF WHICH MAY BE A YELLOWEYE, EXCEPT THAT, IN THE WATERS OF CHINIAK BAY AND MARMOT BAY, WEST OF A LINE FROM CAPE CHINIAK AT 57° 37.10' N. LAT., 152° 09.28' W. LONG., TO PILLAR CAPE AT 58° 08.91' N. LAT., 152° 06.78' W. LONG., AND EAST OF A LINE FROM HEAD POINT ON AFOGNAK ISLAND AT 57° 59.67' N. LAT., 152° 46.75' W. LONG., TO DOLPHIN POINT AT 57° 59.15' N. LAT., 152° 43.40' W. LONG., ON WHALE ISLAND AND FROM BIRD POINT AT 57° 55.30' N. LAT., 152° 47.50' W. LONG., ON WHALE ISLAND TO INNER POINT ON KODIAK ISLAND AT 57° 54.05' N. LAT., 152° 47.75' W. LONG.,

(A) THE BAG LIMIT FOR ROCKFISH IS THREE FISH PER DAY AND SIX IN POSSESSION, OF WHICH ONLY TWO FISH PER DAY AND FOUR IN POSSESSION MAY BE NONPELAGIC ROCKFISH, AND ONLY ONE FISH PER DAY AND TWO IN POSSESSION MAY BE YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH; NO SIZE LIMIT;

(B) CHARTER VESSEL OPERATORS AND CREWMEMBERS MAY NOT RETAIN ROCKFISH WHILE CLIENTS ARE ON BOARD THE VESSEL.]

(c) If the harvest increases and it is anticipated that the upper bound of the guideline harvest range will be exceeded or has been exceeded, the commissioner may implement restrictions that may be necessary to restrict the increase of harvest in the sport fishery. When the commissioner finds that restrictions are necessary, the commissioner shall adopt one or more of the following restrictions:

(1) implement an annual limit for nonresidents for rockfish;

(2) reduce nonresident bag and possession limit for rockfish;

(3) reduce the rockfish bag limit by area as specified by the department;

(4) implement a rockfish season;

(5) reduce the resident bag and possession limit for rockfish.

5 AAC 64.022(b) is amended to read:

(11) in the waters of Chiniak Bay and Marmot Bay, west of a line from Cape Chiniak at 57° 37.10' N. lat., 152° 9.28' W. long., to Pillar Cape at 58° 8.91' N. lat., 152° 6.78' W. long., and east of a line from Head Point on Afognak Island at 57° 59.67' N. lat., 152° 46.75' W. long., to Dolphin Point at 57° 59.15' N. lat., 152° 43.40' W. long., on Whale Island and from Bird Point at 57° 55.30' N. lat., 152° 47.50' W. long., on Whale Island to Inner Point at 57° 54.05' N. lat., 152° 47.75' W. long., on Kodiak Island

(A) the bag limit for rockfish is three fish per day and six in possession, of which only two fish per day and four in possession may be nonpelagic rockfish, and only one fish per day and two in possession may be yelloweye rockfish; no size limit;

(B) charter vessel operators and crewmembers may not retain rockfish while clients are on board the vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kodiak Area Rockfish Management Plan was adopted at the 2020 Kodiak Area board meeting. This proposal would add or modify some of the text and the provisions of the management plan to accommodate new information available since its adoption in 2020. This proposal would also correct an inconsistency in the text of the management plan discovered since it was adopted. The bag and possession limits for rockfish listed were incorrectly as equal for the Kodiak Area when in fact the possession limit is double the bag limit. This is in conflict with areawide rockfish bag limits previously established but is also unnecessarily duplicated in the management plan and should be removed. Modification of the stated purpose of the management plan would reflect new information available since the adoption of the plan in 2020. The department has issued EOs restricting nonresident harvest of rockfish on the eastside of Kodiak and Afognak islands to attempt to curb growth in the sport harvest in particular areas of concern to keep the sport harvest within the guideline harvest range as well as at sustainable levels. Additionally, a method was developed of tracking harvest of rockfish inseason to allow for timely estimation of harvest in both guided and unguided fisheries as well as by rockfish species and species assemblage since formal estimates often take a year or more to finalize after the fishery has occurred. This proposal would add language to recognize the potential to affect other rockfish species through management actions directed at black rockfish taken in accordance with this plan. Recognition that other species may be impacted by management actions directed at black rockfish would allow the department more flexibility to curb additional growth in the sport fishery for black rockfish while still maintaining angler opportunity for other rockfish species and preventing incidental overharvest of these populations.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F23-015)

PROPOSAL 51

5 AAC 64.XXX. New Section.

Prohibit commercial transporters from sport or subsistence shellfish fishing while transporting clients as follows:

No commercial transport vessel may conduct saltwater sportfishing or subsistence crab fishing while in the act of transporting nature viewers or hunters on Kodiak Island or its near shore waters.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Abuse of saltwater sportfishing and subsistence fishing with no mandatory logbook reporting while conducting other commercial transporting activities on Kodiak Island is what I would like to address. There are many transport vessels on Kodiak Island conducting commercial activities not directly related to sportfishing like wildlife viewing and hunting. These boats ransack our rockfish, lingcod, halibut and tanner crab, king crab and Dungeness crab, and king salmon stocks in near shore waters of Kodiak Island. There is no logbook requirement, NOTHING. WE CANNOT EVEN FIND CRAB OR ROCKFISH AND OTHERS species for local sport and subsistence use any place because these boats take so much, unreported too. Especially in the Olga Bay, Uyak and Uganik Bay areas, especially in the fall. It is a huge problem I want solved.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve

(EF-F23-026)

Kodiak Area Commercial Groundfish (4 proposals)

PROPOSAL 52

5 AAC 28.406. Kodiak Area registration; 5 AAC 28.410. Fishing seasons for Kodiak Area; 5 AAC 28.430. Lawful gear for Kodiak Area; 5 AAC 28.432. Groundfish pot storage requirements for Kodiak Area; and 5 AAC 28.4XX. New section.

Establish new Kodiak Area commercial sablefish fishery as follows:

Allocate half of 1 percent from the central gulf sablefish IFQ TAC to Kodiak state waters. Open the fishery on September 1st. And adopt the Aleutian Island sablefish state water management regulations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Open a sablefish fishery in Kodiak state waters for pot, hook and line and jig. During the fall September Pacific cod fishery there is good amount of sablefish inside 3 miles. Currently there is no directed fishery, fisherman have to discard the sablefish which results in some dead loss. It will be a good opportunity for new entry younger generation fisherman to participate who don't own any IFQ sablefish.

PROPOSED BY: Dia Kuzmin

(EF-F23-006)

PROPOSAL 53

5 AAC 28.430. Lawful gear for Kodiak Area; 5 AAC 28.432. Groundfish pot storage requirements for Kodiak Area; and 5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific cod management plan.

Allow groundfish pots to be longlined in the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery as follows:

Allow to longline slinky pots for Pacific cod during the state water Pacific cod pot season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow to longline slinky pots for Pacific cod during the state water Pacific cod pot season. In PWS recently adopted new regulations to allow longline slinky pots for Pacific cod during the state water Pacific cod season. Which I participated and fishing with slinky pots was awesome. It gives more opportunity for smaller vessels to participate in the pot state water Pacific cod season.

PROPOSED BY: Dia Kuzmin

(EF-F23-130)

PROPOSAL 54

5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Amend state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level rollover criteria for pot and jig gear as follows:

5 AAC 28.467(f)(1) is amended to read:

...

(f) If during a state-waters season

(1) **less than 25 percent of** [THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES THAT] the mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear guideline harvest level allocation **has been** [WILL NOT BE] taken **through March 25** [BY JUNE 10], the commissioner **shall** [MAY] reopen a state-waters season at 12:00 noon on April 1 and allow 50 percent of the remaining jig gear allocation, as of March 25, to be harvested by vessels using **pot** [ALL LEGAL] gear. **The state-waters season for vessels using pot gear reopened under this section will close when 50 percent of the remaining jig gear allocation, as of March 25, has been taken by vessels using pot gear or August 28, whichever occurs first;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Better clarification to reopen to other gear types to insure GHM is met.

PROPOSED BY: Jason Blondin

(HQ-F23-060)

PROPOSAL 55

5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Amend state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level rollover criteria for pot and jig gear as follows:

The Alaska Jig Association recommends striking the language from the Fishery Management Plan for the Kodiak Area State Managed Pacific Cod fishery GHM rollover provisions and replacing it with the following draft regulatory language in **bold**:

5 AAC 28.467(f)(1) is amended to read:

(f) If during a state-wares season

(1) **less than 10.2 percent of** [THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES THAT] the mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear guideline harvest level allocation **has been** [WILL NOT BE] taken **through March 25** [BY JUNE 10], the commissioner may reopen a state-waters season at 12:00 noon on April 1 and allow 50 percent of the remaining jig gear allocation, as of March 25, to be harvested by vessels using **pot or jig** [ALL LEGAL] gear. **The state-waters season for vessels using pot gear reopened under this section will close when 50 percent of the remaining jig gear allocation, as of March 25, has been taken by vessels using pot gear or August 28, whichever occurs first;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The proposed language change to the Fishery Management Plan for the Kodiak Area State Managed Pacific Cod fishery seeks to provide the following improvements:

- Increased clarification in the rollover provisions from jig to pot gear to benefit all stakeholders participating in the fishery and Kodiak area managers regulating the fishery;

- Improvements to planning fishing activity based on harvest data;
- Improvements to management decisions regarding rollover provisions with fishing data to inform the decision;
- 10.2% represents the 10-year average (2013 -2022) harvested by the jig sector by March 25th;
- This number provides an accurate proxy for managers to estimate the complete harvest of the jig allocation by jig vessels by June 10.
- Small jig boat effort has always increased after the pot fishing fleet has harvested its allocation.
- The jig fleet is seeking a workable solution which continues to provide this critical entry level opportunity;
- The jig sector GHJ provides affordable entry-level opportunity for new and young fishermen as well as those seeking more diversified access.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Jig Association (HQ-F23-040)

Kodiak Area Commercial Herring (2 proposals)

PROPOSAL 56

5 AAC 27.510. Fishing seasons and periods for Kodiak Area.

Modify the fishing season and periods for the Kodiak Management Area to increase commercial herring fishing opportunity as follows:

5 AAC 27.510. Fishing seasons and periods for Kodiak Area.

(1) [FROM APRIL 1 THROUGH MAY 7] fishing periods for purse seines are from **9:00 a.m.** [12:00 NOON] until **9:00** [9:00] p.m. [ON ODD-NUMBERED DAYS, AND FROM 9:00 A.M. UNTIL 12:00 NOON ON EVEN-NUMBERED DAYS IF A HARVESTABLE SURPLUS IS AVAILABLE; FROM MAY 8 THROUGH JUNE 30, FISHING PERIODS FOR PURSE SEINES ARE FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL 10:00 P.M. ON ODD-NUMBERED DAYS, AND FROM 9:00 A.M. UNTIL 12:00 NOON ON EVEN-NUMBERED DAYS IF A HARVESTABLE SURPLUS IS AVAILABLE];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Operating hours for herring are an awkward artifact of the past. A gillnet fishery in all practicality no longer exists, and coordination between processors, harvesters, and the department is much improved from when the current regulatory structure was implemented. Extending daily fishing periods would facilitate a more orderly fishery providing fishermen with more time to focus harvest on higher quality fish. The fishery would still be managed based on harvest volumes and biomass and would not increase exploitation rates.

PROPOSED BY: Darren Platt (HQ-F23-059)

PROPOSAL 57

5 AAC 27.510. Fishing seasons and periods for Kodiak Area; 5 AAC 27.525. Seine specifications and operations for Kodiak Area and 5 AAC 27.535. Harvest strategies for Kodiak Area.

Modify herring purse seine gear, fishing season and periods, and herring sac roe harvest strategy to increase commercial herring harvest as follows:

5 AAC 27.510 (a) Unless otherwise provided for by emergency order, herring may be take during the **herring** [sac roe] season from **April 1 through Dec 31** [April 1 through June 30] as follows: **A season, April 1 through May 15. B Season, October 1 through December 31.**

5 AAC 27.525 c) From **October 1 through December 31** [August 1 through February 28], a purse seine may not be more than 1,625 meshes in depth, including meshes used as chafing gear, or more than 150 fathoms in length.

5AAC 27.535 **f) B season shall begin October 1 with a GHIL of 1,000 tons, unless the department assess the combined Kodiak Herring Season GHIL to be less than 2,500 tons, in which case, A and B season will be evenly split.**

g) Any unharvested GHIL from the A season shall be rolled into the B season. Unless the department determines the available biomass assessed in the A season is not large enough to support an exploitation of at least 10%.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As the sac roe market continues to decline and the need to diversify and bring new value to the herring fishery, management must be modified to allow harvest to take place when the herring are past their spawning phase, and into the high fat stage of life. New Product made from herring, be it canned, pickled, or smoked requires higher fat and better nutrition profiles. This can only be realized after the herring have been feeding for 5 or 6 months past spawning.

Kodiak is unique in Alaska, having the right size herring (+200 grams) and the geographical access during the fall and early winter where this nutritional profile is a at its peak. The 2022 study of North Sea herring will best advise the needs, uses, and market placement of the Kodiak fall herring in this proposal. <https://www.alaskaseafood.org/resource/alaska-herring-market-recovery-project-report-2022/>

Most of the allowable herring harvest in Alaska will once again go unharvested in 2023 due to the falling market for 'roe herring' that has been the case for many years now. To change the options and direction for unmarketable Alaska herring, management must change to being allowing access to these needed food grade herring.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Schactler (HQ-F23-110)

Kodiak Area Subsistence (1 proposal)

PROPOSAL 58

5 AAC 01.525. Waters closed to subsistence fishing.

Establish waters closed to subsistence fishing for salmon outside the mouths of Danger and Cold creeks as follows:

From a marker at 58 degrees 12.4 minutes North to the eastern island and from a marker at approximately 58 degrees 34.4 minutes North to the western island.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Subsistence fishing too close to Danger and Cold creeks in Kazakof Bay on Afognak Island. The concern is for over harvest of silver salmon on these two drainages. There are no existing closed waters in the nearby saltwaters surrounding these creeks.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Christofferson

(EF-F23-007)

Statewide Hatchery (1 proposal)

PROPOSAL 59

5 AAC 40.820. Basic Management Plans .

Amend Basic Management Plans as follows:

Reduce hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 production as promised in 2000.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is an over-production of hatchery pink salmon that threatens wild Alaska stocks.

In 1996 Elfin Cove Advisory Committee put in a proposal to restrict hatchery production according to the original intent of rehabilitating wild salmon runs. They wanted a substantial reduction in current hatchery production. The hatchery managers complained the Board did not have the authority to set their production. After a thorough examination (approximately one year), the Attorney General ruled the Board does have the authority to regulate the number of eggs taken for production. The Board deferred the proposal and formed a hatchery committee to gather information. This committee was comprised of Board members Dan Coffey, Virgil Umphenour and Grant Miller. It took three years, a full Board cycle, with meetings in every region of the state, to complete the report.

The proposal was scheduled for the January- February 2000, a super meeting of Bristol Bay, AYK and Area M. The hatchery management met with the Governor and proffered that if the Board would not take up the proposal they would reduce their production by 25%. The Board meeting lasted 26 days, 10-16 hours a day, accepting the promise from the hatchery managers in the interest of time.

The marine productivity is currently in a very low cycle. The wild salmon are starving, many small systems are extirpated. Most of AYK stocks are not meeting escapement goals and have very little or no harvest of Chinook, chum and coho salmon. Hundreds of science papers indicate over production of hatchery pink salmon as a potential cause of declines in run strength and size for Alaska wild salmon stocks.

The purpose of this proposal is strictly conservation, to hold the hatcheries to their 2000 promise. The Board should require a substantial reduction in hatchery production so wild fish don't have to compete with hatchery fish for food.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F23-152)

Mainland District Management Plan (1 proposal)

PROPOSAL 60

5 AAC 18.369. Mainland District Salmon Management Plan.

Modify the *Mainland District Salmon Management Plan* to increase fishing opportunity as follows:

5 AAC 18.369. Mainland District Salmon Management Plan

Weekly fishing periods may not exceed 57 hours from July 6 **through July 19** [August 1]. **Weekly fishing periods initiated after July 19 are to be limited to 57 hours of initial duration but may be extended up to 48 hours in those sections exhibiting strong returns of local pink and chum salmon.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? July openings in the mainland district are limited to 57-hour weekly openings regardless of the abundance of local pink and chum stocks. Many salmon systems in the mainland district, especially in the southern sections, often experience high volumes of salmon returns in the latter half of July, however current restrictions in the management plan do not provide adequate harvest opportunities focused on these stocks. Recent management changes in the mainland district have further limited harvest opportunities to those portions of the mainland district defined by cape-to-cape boundaries that further inhibit the harvest of local stocks in the area when sockeye are present, resulting in substantial forgone harvest opportunities. Additionally, increasingly inclement weather in the area has made transit across the Shelikof Strait more dangerous and often untenable for smaller vessels. When local stocks are abundant, and with the same sockeye protections in place the department should provide additional harvest focused on these stocks in order to achieve the department's goal of achieving optimal yield. Allowing but not requiring extendable fishing periods in those sections of the mainland district where local salmon abundance is sufficient to warrant additional fishing time while maintaining the outer area closures that are triggered by sockeye harvests would better enable the department to achieve harvest and escapement objectives. Extensions may also allow for fishermen to opt for safer transit opportunities without sacrificing substantial fishing time.

PROPOSED BY: Darren Platt (HQ-F23-086)

Alitak District Management Plan (1 proposal)

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.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve

(EF-F23-032)

Gear, Gillnet Specifications and Operations, and Seine Specifications and Operations (5 proposals)

PROPOSAL 62

5 AAC 18.330. Gear.

Increase commercial salmon fishing opportunity for set gillnet permit holders as follows:

5 AAC 18.330. Gear

...

(b) In the Northwest Kodiak District, salmon may be taken only by purse seines and beach seines, except that in the Central Section, salmon may also be taken by set gillnets. **In the Central Section, set gillnet fishing shall open 48 hours before seine fishing may occur. Seine fishing may only occur during combined set gillnet, beach seine, and purse seine fishing periods. In the Central Section, during continuous combined set gillnet and seine fishing periods, seine fishing shall be closed for 48 hours after each 5-day continuous combined fishing period, allowing one 48-hour set gillnet only fishing period per week.**

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.

Advanced opening periods for set gillnet fishermen in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District can help set gillnetters regain an equitable harvest percentage.

PROPOSED BY: Northwest Setnetters Association (HQ-F23-075)

PROPOSAL 63

5 AAC 18.331. Gillnet Specifications and Operations

Allow permit stacking in the set gillnet salmon fishery as follows:

To amend:

5 AAC. Alaska Admin. Code 18.331 Gillnet Specifications and Operations

A CFEC permit holder who holds two Kodiak setnet permits may operate no more than 4 set gillnets with no more than 300 fathoms of set gill net gear in the aggregate. No single set gillnet be more than 150 fathoms in length. Both of the permit holder's five digit CFEC permit serial numbers, followed by the letter "D" to identify the gillnet as a dual permit set gillnet must be located on the identification buoy and the site markers required by 5 AAC. 39.280. At least one cork every 10 fathoms along the cork line must be plainly and legibly marked with CFEC permit numbers of the CFEC permit holder. All identifiers must be displayed in a manner that are plainly visible and unobscured and have permanent symbols in color that contrasts with the background.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kodiak salmon setnet fishery is in trouble. Our average ex vessel value has significantly diminished, leaving operations

marginal. From 2001 to 2021 it ranged from a low of \$29,000 to a high of \$71,435. Our average earnings have not exceeded \$71,000 for 34 years, since 1989.

Despite two decades of healthy runs on the entire island, setnetters are no longer solvent, with an average ex vessel value of \$46,000. On the other hand, the mobile gear type's average earnings have skyrocketed from \$100,000 to \$350,000. The Kodiak salmon fishery is robust, yet environmental issues have plagued our gear type with month-long algae blooms, and macrocystis clogging nets. Smaller salmon are returning, going through the smallest, feasible web we can fish.

Kodiak setnet operations are typically a family affair. Children can hold a permit as young as 10. Many of us are dependent on our income and must continue salmon fishing. We are aging, and are "the graying of the fleet" Operation expenses are hard to meet.

Price declines, the inability to hire experienced crew, and having children leave, make our livelihoods marginal at best. When children leave for more lucrative employment, it results in "stranded equity," a useless permit and gear. Crewmembers aren't interested in Kodiak.

There has been very little change to the limited entry program since the 1970s. Yet, in response to the salmon industry's economic disaster declared in 2002, the legislature passed the law that allowed 2 (salmon) permits in one name. In 2008, the BOF passed new wording (5 AAC. 18331) that one owner of (2) SO4K permits could fish 2 permits of gear. For 3 years, up to 38 setnetters took advantage of the new regulation. It ended in 2010 for unknown reasons.

Based on these facts, we could return to sustainable income and protect our assets If you approve this proposal., as many of us have spent our entire working lives in this fishery.

In 2002, the BOF took action for Bristol Bay salmon fishermen when their fishery collapsed, allowing one vessel to fish 2 permits. We believe you should reinstate the language in the AAC Alaska Admin. Code 18.331 that was approved in 2008--solely for SO4K setnet permits. It allowed one CFEC salmon setnet permit owner to fish two sets of gear. This would alleviate economic hardship and uncertainty in our fishery-allowing us to utilize the potential value of a useless permit. and gear.

Further details will be available at the 2024 meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Lacey Berns

(EF-F23-050)

PROPOSAL 64

5 AAC 18.331. Gillnet Specifications and Operations.

Modify gillnet specification and operations to increase the allowable size of the hook as follows:

5 AAC 18.331. Gillnet Specifications and Operations

...

(c) Set Gillnets must be operated substantially in a straight line, except that no more than

50 [25] fathoms of a set gillnet may be used as a hook. A hook may be used in any configuration.

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.

A larger hook will increase set gillnet efficiency, thereby helping the set gillnet fleet achieve a more equitable harvest percentage.

PROPOSED BY: Northwest Setnetters Association (HQ-F23-078)

PROPOSAL 65

5 AAC 18.XXX. New Section.

Prohibit the use of aircraft to locate salmon for the commercial taking of salmon or to direct commercial salmon fishing operations in the Kodiak Management Area as follows:

We recommend that the following regulation be placed in the Kodiak Area Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations at the end of Article 3 Salmon Fishery section.

5 AAC 18.XXX. Use of aircraft unlawful A person may not use or employ an aircraft to locate salmon for the commercial taking of salmon or to direct commercial fishing operations in the Kodiak Area.

If the above proposal passes, we recommend that (f) found in **5 AAC 18.332. Seine specifications and operations** be removed from regulations.

[(f) IN THE MAINLAND DISTRICT, IT IS UNLAWFUL TO TAKE SALMON WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF AN AIRCRAFT DIRECTING THE OPERATION OF THE SEINE GEAR.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like the board to address the use of aircraft in the Kodiak Area. Currently there is aircraft restriction language in the regulations for the Mainland District only of the Kodiak Area. The remaining districts of the Kodiak Area should be addressed.

The use of aircraft to locate salmon benefits a small portion of the Kodiak Area salmon fleet and diminishes opportunity for other members of the fleet.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff and Lauri Bassett (EF-F23-110)

PROPOSAL 66

5 AAC 18.332. Seine specifications and operations.

Increase purse seine length in the Kodiak Management Area as follows:

AAC 18.332. Seine specifications and operations.

- (a) No purse seine or hand purse seine may be less than 100 fathoms or more than **250** [200] fathoms in length. No seine may be less than 100 meshes or more than 325 meshes in depth. At least 50 fathoms of a seine must be 150 meshes in depth.
- (b) One lead no more than 100 fathoms in length may be used with each purse seine or hand purse seine. The aggregate length of seine and lead may not exceed 250 fathoms. Leads must be removed from the water within two hours after a season or fishing period closure. Each lead must have at each end a buoy, cork, or float plainly and legibly marked with the operator's five-digit CFEC permit serial number.
- (c) Beach seines no less than 100 fathoms nor more than 225 fathoms in length may be used.
- (d) Beach seines may not be less than 100 meshes in depth.
- (e) When an anchor is used during the operation of a purse seine, hand purse seine, or beach seine, only the shoreward end of the seine or lead may be anchored; the seine shall be attached to the licensed vessel, and the vessel may not be anchored, except that, in the operation of a beach seine, an additional anchor, used to anchor the vessel to a beach, may be used only while retrieving the beach seine.
- (f) In the Mainland District, it is unlawful to take salmon with the assistance of an aircraft directing the operation of the seine gear.
- (g) Seine mesh size may not be more than seven inches.
- (h) A ring, strap, purse, or tow line may be attached to the corkline, ribline, or leadline of a beach seine. Hydraulic power may be used to set, retrieve, or purse a beach seine. A beach seine must

be set from, and hauled to, a beach, or to a vessel anchored to a beach. One end of a beach seine must remain on a beach above the water surface at all times during the set.

(i) A beach seine has ceased fishing when all of the leadline is out of the water.

(j) Overlapping panels of net web may not be used in seine leads.

(k) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 39.240, a CFEC purse seine salmon permit holder may use a registered salmon seine fishing vessel, when it has seine gear on board, to tow another registered salmon seine fishing vessel with seine gear on board if the permit holder for the vessel being towed is on board one of the vessels.

(l) A purse seine is considered to have ceased fishing as specified in 5 AAC 39.260(c).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations were written during a time when leads were detachable, and common practice was to leave a lead anchored and to make sets off the end of the lead. This style of fishing has completely ceased to exist in the Kodiak Management Area, as every net is now utilizing a sown-in lead. The proposed language would align seine nets used in the Kodiak management area with other areas in the State such as Prince William Sound. The previous requirement for 7 inch lead web stemmed from concerns that these leads could be fished from skiffs as a separate net in order to rob creeks, however with the current fishing practice of sown-in leads, this concern is nullified.

PROPOSED BY: Kodiak Seiners Association

(HQ-F23-084)

Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan (8 proposals)

PROPOSAL 67

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

Restrict commercial salmon fishing in the Inner Ayakulik Section as follows:

No commercial salmon fishing may take place on the inner Ayakulik section after August 20th until 20,000 Coho have escaped upriver.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial Coho overharvest by set gillnet and seine in Southwest Kodiak is what I would like to address. There is no management plan for adequate Coho escapement in late August and September on the Karluk and Ayakulik Rivers. Salmon seiners generally fish wide open here after mid August at Ayakulik and mid September at Karluk. These fish are vital for subsistence use, as a sportfishing resource, and as a food source for bears and other wildlife late in the year. During low water episodes a boat blocking off a river mouth can easily catch a large portion of a coho run when they are schooled heavy. They incredibly vulnerable and susceptible to overharvest. I want a Coho management plan that promotes healthy natural escapement numbers of fish before commercial fisherman can fish wide open blocking of a whole river mouth.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve

(EF-F23-030)

PROPOSAL 68

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

Restrict commercial salmon fishing in the Inner Karluk Section as follows:

There will be no commercial salmon fishing on the Inner Karluk Section after August 25th until 5,000 Coho have been counted through the weir or surveyed in Karluk Lagoon by August 25th, 10,000 by August 30th, and 15,000 by September 10th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial Coho overharvest by set gillnet and seine in Southwest Kodiak is what I would like to address. There is no management plan for adequate Coho escapement in late August and September on the Karluk River. Salmon seiners generally fish wide open here after mid September. These fish are vital for subsistence use, as a sportfishing resource and as a food source for bears and other wildlife late in the year. During low water episodes a boat blocking off a river mouth can easily catch a large portion of a Coho run when they are schooled heavy. They are incredibly vulnerable and susceptible to overharvest, especially in the vicinity of Karluk Lagoon and the Inner Karluk Section. I want a Coho management plan that promotes a healthy natural escapement of fish before commercial fisherman can fish wide open on the inner Karluk Section or block off the Karluk River/Lagoon mouth.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve

(EF-F23-031)

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.

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

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

(EF-F23-058)

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)

PROPOSAL 71

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

Modify the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* to allow the department more flexibility for fishing periods in the Outer Karluk Section as follows:

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan

...

(e) The Inner and Outer Karluk Sections must be managed

- (1) From June 1 through July 15, based on early-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk System; the commissioner may open, by emergency order, fishing periods in the Inner Karluk Section only if the department determines that the midpoint of the early-run escapement goal range will be achieved; in the Outer Karluk Section, from June 16 through approximately July 15, the commissioner **may** [SHALL] open fishing periods to occur at the same time as open fishing periods in the Central Section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under the Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan, early season management of the Central Section of the Northwest District and the Inner and Outer Karluk sections of the Southwest District is driven primarily by escapements of early-run Karluk sockeye, which occur mainly in June and early July.

The Westside Management Plan states that openings in the Outer Karluk Section of the Southwest District shall occur when the Central Section is open between June 16 and July 15. The word "shall," has created a situation where the Outer Karluk Section is open whenever the Central Section is open. However, since the Outer Karluk Section is a near terminus area, with fish

concentrating near the mouth of the Karluk River, opening the Outer Karluk at the same time as the Central Section, which is further north and farther away from the Karluk River, can create a conservation concern during weak returns.

If the Outer Karluk Section is not required to be open during Central Section openings, managers could keep the Outer Karluk closed until escapement goals are met, thereby decreasing the risk of overharvesting during weak returns while increasing the chances for Central Section openings. This would create greater fishing opportunities for both the set gillnet and seine fleets in the Central Section, including smaller seine boats, which sometimes can't fish the exposed Outer Karluk Section due to weather.

Additionally, given the close proximity of the Outer Karluk Section to the Karluk River, a higher concentration of Karluk bound chinook salmon can be expected to be caught in the Outer Karluk Section than in the Central Section. Allowing the Outer Karluk Section to remain closed while the Central Section is open could increase the odds of reaching minimum escapements goals for Karluk River chinook salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Northwest Setnetters Association (HQ-F23-077)

PROPOSAL 72

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

Modify the Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan to increase fishing opportunity in the Southwest Afognak Section as follows:

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

...

(d) The Southwest Afognak Section must be managed

...

(3) From approximately July 6 through August 15, based on pink salmon returning to the major pink salmon systems in the SW Afognak Section and the NW Kodiak District, **or based on pink salmon returning to the Karluk system**; from July 6 through July 25...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to add language to the SW Afognak pink salmon management to bring it in line with the change in the NW Kodiak's central section and North Cape section made in the last Kodiak BOF cycle. SW Afognak pink salmon openings had been the same as Central section and North Cape section openings. The change "or based on pink salmon returning to the Karluk system" should be added to the SW Afognak section pink salmon management to bring it in line again.

PROPOSED BY: Oliver Holm (HQ-F23-094)

PROPOSAL 73

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

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

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan

...

(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 systems;

(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 Avakulik system;

(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)

PROPOSAL 74

5 AAC 18.200; 5 AAC 330; 5 AAC 362. Description of fishing districts and sections, Gear, and *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* to increase fishing opportunity

Modify fishing districts and sections, gear, and *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* to increase fishing opportunity as follows:

5 AAC 18.200. Description of fishing districts and sections

(9)(i) Outer Kizhuyak Bay Section[CENTRAL SECTION]: all waters of the Northwest Kodiak District bounded by a line from Termination Point (57° 51.37' N. lat., 152° 24.15' W. long.), to South Point (57° 53.00' N. lat., 152° 22.00' W. long.), to Ouzinkie Point (57° 54.80' N. lat., 152° 31.27' W. long.), to Shakmanof Point (57° 55.50' N. lat., 152° 35.36' W. long.), to a point at 57° 54.20' N. lat. on the east shore of Kizhuyak Bay; north of 57° 52.25' N. lat. in Anton Larsen Bay; north of 57° 51.07' N. lat. in Sharatin Bay; north of 57° 50.00' N. lat., and south of the latitude of Inner Point (57° 54.05' N. lat.) in Kizhuyak Bay;

(ii) Outer Uganik Section: all waters of the Northwest Kodiak District west of a line from Inner Point (57° 54.05' N. lat., 152° 47.75' W. long.) to Bird Point (57° 55.30' N. lat., 152° 47.50' W. long.); south of a line from Occident Point (57° 57.42' N. lat., 152° 51.75' W. long.) to Last Timber Point (57° 58.60' N. lat., 152° 59.05' W. long.); south of the latitude of Raspberry Cape (58° 03.58' N. lat.); north of 57° 50.00' N. lat., and west of 153° 12.60' W. long. in Terror Bay and Uganik Bay passages; north of the line from Rock Point at 57° 46.47' N. lat., 153° 29.30' W. long., to 57° 46.27' N. lat., 153° 32.90' W. long., in the South and East Arms of Uganik Bay; **North of the latitude of Cape Ugat (57°52.279'N); and by midstream Shelikof Strait.**

(iii) Outer Uyak Bay Section: all waters of the Northwest Kodiak District south of latitude of Cape Ugat (57°52.279'N); west of 153°46.33' W. long. in Spiridon Bay; west of a line from Carlsen Point (57° 34.70' N. lat., 153°50.15' W. long.) to 57° 35.60' N. lat., 153° 49.10' W. long., in Zachar Bay; all waters of Inner Uyak Bay north of the latitude of the southernmost tip of Amook Island (57° 25.72' N. lat.) to the west shore, and north of the latitude of the northernmost tip of Amook Island (57° 33.16' N. lat.) to the east shore; north of the latitude of Rocky Point (57° 39.78' N. lat.); and by midstream Shelikof Strait;

5 AAC 18.330. Gear

(b) In the Northwest Kodiak District, salmon may be taken only by purse seines and beach seines, except that in the **Outer Kizhuyak Bay, Outer Uganik, and Outer Uyak Bay Sections** [CENTRAL SECTION], salmon may also be taken by set gillnets.

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, **Outer Uyak Bay, Outer Uganik, Outer Kizhuyak Bay** [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. 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)(i) The [Central and] North Cape Sections must be managed

(1) from June 1 through approximately June 15, as a mixed-stock fishery directed on early-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk, Ayakulik, [AND] Olga Bay, **and Buskin and Litnik** systems; the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, at least two commercial test fishing periods of 33 hours in length;

(2) from approximately June 16 through July 5, based on early-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk, **Buskin and Litnik** systems;

- (3) from approximately July 6 through August 15, based on pink salmon returning to the major pink salmon systems in the Northwest Kodiak District[, OR BASED ON PINK SALMON RETURNING TO THE KARLUK SYSTEM];
- (4) from approximately August 16 through August 24, based on pink salmon returning to the Northwest Kodiak District and on late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system;
- (5) from approximately August 25 through September 5, based on late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system; and
- (6) after approximately September 5, based on late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system and coho salmon returning to the Northwest Kodiak District

(ii) The Outer Kizhuyak Bay section must be managed

- (1) from June 1 through approximately June 15, as a mixed-stock fishery directed on early-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk, Ayakulik, and Olga Bay, systems; the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, at least two commercial test fishing periods of 33 hours in length;
- (2) from approximately June 16 through July 5, based on early-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system;
- (3) from approximately July 6 through August 15, based on pink salmon returning to the major pink salmon systems in the **Kizhuyak Bay, Outer Kizhuyak Bay, Anton Larson Bay, and Sharatin Bay Sections of the Northwest Kodiak** [NORTHWEST KODIAK DISTRICT, OR BASED ON PINK SALMON RETURNING TO THE KARLUK SYSTEM];
- (4) from approximately August 16 through August 24, based on pink salmon returning to the **Kizhuyak Bay, Outer Kizhuyak Bay, Anton Larson Bay, and Sharatin Bay Sections of the Northwest Kodiak** [Northwest Kodiak District] and on late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system;
- (5) from approximately August 25 through September 5, based on late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system; and
- (6) after approximately September 5, based on late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system and coho salmon returning to the Northwest Kodiak District

(iii) The Outer Uganik Bay Section must be managed

- (1) from June 1 through approximately June 15, as a mixed-stock fishery directed on early-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk, Ayakulik, and Olga Bay, systems, **or sockeye returning to the Uganik system**; the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, at least two commercial test fishing periods of 33 hours in length;
- (2) from approximately June 16 through July 5, based on early-run sockeye salmon returning to the **Uganik and** Karluk system;
- (3) from approximately July 6 through August 15, based on pink **and chum** salmon returning to the major [PINK] salmon systems in **Uganik and Terror Bays** [NORTHWEST KODIAK DISTRICT, OR BASED ON PINK SALMON RETURNING TO THE KARLUK SYSTEM];
- (4) from approximately August 16 through August 24, based on pink salmon returning to the **Uganik and Terror Bay Systems** [Northwest Kodiak District] and on late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system;
- (5) from approximately August 25 through September 5, based on late-run sockeye

salmon returning to the Karluk system; and (6) after approximately September 5, based on late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system and coho salmon returning to the Northwest Kodiak District

(iv) The Outer Uyak Bay Section must be managed

- (1) from June 1 through approximately June 15, as a mixed-stock fishery directed on early-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk, Ayakulik, and Olga Bay systems; the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, at least two commercial test fishing periods of 33 hours in length;
- (2) from approximately June 16 through July 5, based on early-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system;
- (3) from approximately July 6 through August 15, based on pink salmon returning to the salmon systems in the **Uyak, Spiridon, and Zachar bays, and pink salmon returning to the Little River System** [NORTHWEST KODIAK DISTRICT], or based on pink salmon returning to the Karluk system;
- (4) from approximately August 16 through August 24, based on pink salmon returning to the **major salmon systems of the Uyak, Spiridon and Zachar Bays, and pink salmon returning to the Little River System** [NORTHWEST KODIAK DISTRICT] and on late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system;
- (5) from approximately August 25 through September 5, based on late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system; and
- (6) after approximately September 5, based on late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system and coho salmon returning to the Northwest Kodiak District.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Northwest Kodiak district is a critically important area for the seine and setnet fleet. It includes some the largest bays on the island, many of the largest salmon systems, and two remote communities that are economically dependent on the salmon industry.

Since 2008 many pink salmon systems in the Northwest Kodiak district have chronically failed to produce at prior historical levels of production. While systems in other districts have been able to rebound from the pink salmon run failure of 2016, the Northwest Kodiak district still lags far behind in salmon production levels. Terror, Uganik, and the greater Uyak bays once provided consistently prolific runs, especially on even-years, but now produce relatively smaller numbers of pink salmon. The Central section of the Northwest district encompasses all of these bays and is by far largest section in the Kodiak Management Area (KMA), stretching from the northeast corner of the island all the way westward to Rocky Point, encompassing dozens of large and uncorrelated salmon systems. This section is managed as a single block based on local salmon stocks as well as sockeye and pink salmon returning to the Karluk River in the Southwest Kodiak district.

Managing such a large area as a single block forces managers to open areas with weak stocks in order to provide harvest opportunities on stronger stocks elsewhere in the section. This management tactic does not provide the refined conservation approach utilized elsewhere in the KMA where sections are divided into smaller areas with more closely correlated salmon systems. Additionally, the Central section is also currently managed on even years based pink returns to the

Karluk system in addition to local stocks despite no indication that Karluk bound pinks migrate through much of this area. This proposal applies a more conservative approach to managing the area while still providing an equitable conservation burden divided between gear types, and ensuring that historical access rights remain intact.

Additionally, June management of the North Cape section does not properly account for local sockeye abundance in the Buskin and Litnik systems, both of which are critically important systems for subsistence users. No commercial fishing is permitted in June in the Northeast Kodiak district in order to provide ample subsistence opportunity to Kodiak locals. However recent restrictions on subsistence harvests in the Buskin River warrant the implementation of measures to provide the department with additional tools to protect these fish from commercial harvest while subsistence restrictions are in place. Additionally, while Afognak Bay is also often closed to commercial harvest for most if not all of the salmon season, Litnik sockeye are still likely incidentally caught in the North Cape section, and the department should have more ability to close this section when subsistence restrictions are in place.

The central section should be divided into three smaller sections similar in size to other sections in the KMA. These new sections will be managed independently based on salmon returning to streams within those areas. The adoption of this proposal will allow management to better conserve weaker stocks in individual sections while providing ample harvest opportunities on those sections with more abundant stocks. Additionally, the Outer Uyak bay section will be managed based on the abundance of local pink salmon or the abundance of pink salmon headed to the Karluk system. The three distinct sections will be the Outer Uyak Bay section, the Outer Uganik section, and the Outer Kizhuyak bay section. The sections are to be defined below along with the updated management plan.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Johnson

(HQ-F23-052)
