

PROPOSAL 76

5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan.

Amend the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan to increase access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict by drift gillnet permit holders, as follows:

(h) If the drift gillnet or purse seine gear group harvest value of enhanced salmon is **50** [45] percent or less of the previous five-year average exvessel value comparison of the common property enhanced salmon stocks harvested, as calculated by the department under (c) of this section, then in the year following this calculation the fishery shall be managed as follows:

- (1) if the drift gillnet gear group harvest value is **50** [45] percent or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the drift gillnet gear group shall have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 through July 30, during fishing periods established by emergency order; and
- (2) if the purse seine gear group harvest value is **50** [45] percent or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the purse seine gear group shall have exclusive access to the **Port Chalmers Subdistrict** [ESTHER SUBDISTRICT] to harvest enhanced salmon returns [FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH JULY 20, DURING FISHING PERIODS ESTABLISHED BY EMERGENCY ORDER]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Prince William Sound Enhancement Allocation plan is flawed. Currently it has a 5-year rolling average that is supposed to balance the percentages between the commercial fleets. This plan is ineffective in ensuring a 50/50 split between the Seine and Drift fleet. Since the inception of the plan in 2005 just on Prince William Sound Aquaculture (PWSAC) fish the drift fleet is behind the seine fleet by \$68,000,000. This data was derived from ADFG via the COAR report values of PWSAC enhanced salmon. The plan has been in effect nearly 20 years without any updating or review to see it is working as intended. The drift fleet being behind \$68,000,000 shows that is currently flawed. My proposal would substitute the language in part (h) of the regulation known as the “allocation trigger” to allow the drift fleet additional access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict. Currently the drift fleet only has access to this district if we fall below 45 percent on the 5-year rolling average. Allowing the drift fleet access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict when they fall below 50 percent would alleviate some of this disparity.

Additionally, this substitute language would eliminate the possibility of the seine fleet having access to the Esther Subdistrict for Prince William Sound Aquaculture chums. The possibility that the seine fleet has access to harvest Esther chums via this enhancement plan is not conforming to the intent of parity, especially when the drift fleet is behind by such an exorbitant amount.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have worked with a few other drift gillnetters in drafting this regulation change.

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