

PROPOSAL 77

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

Include salmon produced by Valdez Fishery Development Association in the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan, as follows:

Remove the language in 5 AAC 24.370. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND MANAGEMENT AND SALMON ENHANCEMENT ALLOCATION PLAN. Under

[(J) IN THIS SECTION, “ENHANCED SALMON STOCKS” MEANS SALMON PRODUCED BY THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AQUACULTURE CORPORATION”]

Or add the language to 5 AAC 24.370. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND MANAGEMENT AND SALMON ENHANCEMENT ALLOCATION PLAN. Under

5 AAC 24.370. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND **AQUACULTURE CORPORATION** MANAGEMENT AND SALMON ENHANCEMENT ALLOCATION PLAN.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This regional plan does not include the value of all enhanced salmon produced in the Copper River/Prince William Sound region (Area E). The value of enhanced salmon production from the private non-profit corporation Valdez Fisheries Development Association's (VDFA) Solomon Gulch Hatchery is not included in the regional allocation management plan. The construction of the Solomon Gulch Hatchery was financed by funds from the State of Alaska, and it continues to use state financing. The original Solomon Gulch hatchery operational permit included chum production intended to benefit the drift gillnet fleet which was never accomplished.

5 AAC 33.364. Southeastern Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan includes the value of all enhanced salmon produced in the Southeastern Alaska region (Area A) that includes two regional hatchery associations and all independent private non-profit hatchery operators involving 17 hatchery facilities.

5 AAC 24.370. and 5 AAC 33.364. stated goals are to provide a fair and reasonable allocation of the harvest of enhanced salmon among the commercial fisheries.

State of Alaska regional enhanced salmon allocation plans should be based on the same criteria for all regions of the state. Which would include all enhanced salmon produced and all the user groups in the region as the starting point.

If 5 AAC 24.370. is the regional (Area E) enhanced salmon allocation plan then the plan should address and include all enhanced salmon produced in the region. If the BOF determines that a commercial user group deserves or is entitled to more enhanced salmon than the recognized historic average, then the percentage triggers can be adjusted to reflect that.

There cannot be a fair and reasonable enhanced salmon allocation plan when a large percentage of the enhanced salmon resource produced in Area E is not included in the regional plan. There is no

difference between a hatchery built by the State of Alaska, PWSAC, VFDA and the 17 hatchery facilities located in SE Alaska. They all used public funds for their construction and startup operations and their purpose is to enhance regional fisheries for the benefit of all users. Both PWSAC and VFDA continue to use public funds for improvements and increase production. But VFDA use of public funds and increases in production only benefits one commercial user group.

If all the enhanced salmon value produced in the Prince William Sound region is not recognized and included in the Prince William Sound Enhanced Salmon Allocation Plan, then the enhanced salmon value will not be complete, accurate and accounted for. Since 2006 when the current allocation plan was adopted to 2021, VFDA has produced 233 million pink and 550 thousand coho salmon with a value of over 245 million dollars.

The current management plan has been in effect for 19 years. A review of the plan with stakeholder involvement to see if the plan can be updated and improved to meet its purpose and goals which states **“is to provide a fair and reasonable allocation of the harvest of enhanced salmon among the drift gillnet, seine, and set gillnet commercial fisheries, and to reduce conflicts between these user groups. It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries (board) to allocate enhanced salmon stocks in the Prince William Sound Area to maintain the long-term historic balance between competing commercial users that has existed since statehood, while acknowledging developments in the fisheries that have occurred since this plan went into effect in 1991”**.

After 19 years it’s time to acknowledge the developments in the fisheries that have occurred since this plan went into effect in 2006.

This proposal does not propose to reallocate VFDA produced enhanced salmon to other commercial salmon user groups, but to only include the value of all enhanced salmon in the regional plan so that the plan is complete, inclusive and everyone will know the total value of all PWS enhanced salmon. And possibly all PWS commercial common property salmon fisheries can receive a benefit from the value of VFDA enhanced salmon production.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Bowen (EF-F24-078)
