

ENHANCEMENT AND TERMINAL HARVEST AREAS (9 proposals)

PROPOSAL 156

5 AAC 33.364 Southeastern Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan.

Reduce Southeast Alaska hatchery permitted pink and chum salmon egg take level by 25%, as follows:

The solution is very simple. Reduce the permitted egg take of pink and chum salmon of each applicable Southeast hatchery for pink and chum salmon by 25%.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 25% reduction of current permitting levels of pink and chum hatchery egg takes in the applicable Southeast hatcheries.

There is significant evidence that there is an ocean carrying capacity that is exacerbated by the proliferation of Alaskan and Asian hatchery releases into the North Pacific. This is particularly important to Chinook salmon as stocks have declined dramatically all over Alaska. Chinook decline is so critical that the Yukon River may lose discrete stocks. An emergency Agreement between Canada and Alaska was signed April 1, 2024, to impose a drastic Chinook harvest moratorium of at least seven years. Sadly, the situation with Chinook on the Yukon River is now becoming a statewide problem; the Nushagak, the Kenai and many other Alaskan rivers have conservation plans in action because of declines. Emergency Orders to close Chinook sports fishing entirely in many of Alaska's most iconic river systems have already been implemented. While hatcheries are not the only factor in salmon decline, they are among the top five, including climate change, bycatch, intercept, disease, hatcheries.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries has limited authority to provide injunctive relief on this issue but to the extent that they can reduce hatchery egg take permitting levels, this is the only venue open to public proposals.

For several years, different groups have been submitting proposals for hatchery egg take reduction. All those proposals have been refused on the basis of lack of conclusive evidence that there is a correlative relationship to detrimental impacts of hatchery production in wild stocks through competition for forage food and straying.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, which directs information to the Board of Fish, has been consistently reluctant to consider peer-reviewed research outside of the Department and to even evaluate their own internal research that indicates hatchery production can have an effect on the health of wild salmon stocks. The "iterative" process that the Department assures the public is watchdogging hatcheries is an inter-dependent process with hatcheries and therefore is not seen as sufficiently separated from hatchery production to apply significant oversight. This is an extraordinarily frustrating situation to many who depend on wild salmon stocks and are outside of the hatchery management systems.

CONCLUSIONS: The goal of Alaska's PNP hatchery system is economic, not conservation. In a 2011 international report *Shifting the Balance: Towards Sustainable Salmon Populations and Fisheries of the Future*, renown Canadian scientists Dr. Richard Beamish and Dr. Donald Noakes

noted: “While Alaska’s large ocean-ranching program may have contributed to the observed increase in catch, there remain many unanswered questions about potential negative impacts on wild fish and deleterious effects on other Alaskan salmon fisheries (Hilborn and Eggers 2000; Clark et al. 2006; Knapp et al. 2007). As with most if not all large-scale hatchery programs, there is a lack of information to critically evaluate the program either with respect to its stated production objectives or other criteria (i.e., ecosystem interactions, etc.), and more research is clearly needed in that respect.”

In addition to on-going research on hatchery impacts, we also need an independent venue to review all the latest peer-reviewed science and to have an on-going dialogue on application of what we can have consensus on. The Board of Fish Hatchery Committee would be a good start as long as it is not an orchestrated situation. Prior to the next Southeast Board of Fish meeting, I will be working with many others to gather many supporting documents.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Reduction of hatchery egg take (and thus releases) has long been the goal of the Fairbanks Advisory Committee as it has researched the negative impacts of hatcheries for years. This includes conversations with some of the top salmon scientists in Alaska, Canada and the Pacific Northwest, as well as conversations with stakeholders in AYK river systems.

PROPOSED BY: Virgil Umphenour (HQ-F24-131)

PROPOSAL 157

5 AAC 33.3XX. New Section.

Establish a terminal harvest area and associated management plan for harvesting hatchery produced salmon at Burnett Inlet.

5AAC 33.3XX. New Section

Create a management plan for hatchery returns to Burnett Inlet, as follows:

5AAC 33.3XX. Burnett Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

- (a) **This management plan distributes the harvest of hatchery produced chum salmon in the Burnett Inlet Terminal Harvest Area (THA) between the purse seine, troll and drift gillnet fleets.**
- (b) **The department, in consultation with the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA), shall manage the Burnett Inlet Terminal Harvest Area from June 01 through November 10 for troll, purse seine and drift gillnet gear to provide for the harvest of hatchery- produced chum salmon, unless closed earlier by emergency order.**
- (c) **The Burnett Inlet THA, consists of water of Burnett Inlet north of 56.04.65’ N. lat.**
- (d) **A drift gillnet operated in the THA may not exceed 200 fathoms in length**
 - (1) **The maximum mesh size is six inches.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) is a non-profit regional salmon enhancement association headquartered in Ketchikan, Alaska. SSRAA owns and operates the Burnett Inlet Hatchery (BIH), situated on Etolin Island. BIH is a broodstock collection site for summer and fall chum, which are also released at BIH. The adult chums return to BIH through numerous common property fishery corridors, notably in Districts 6 and 8, and enter Burnett Inlet in mid to late June. These chum are well segregated from natural stocks when they are in the terminal area with the exception of pink salmon in Navy Creek. Although SSRAA typically takes all chum salmon returning to Burnett Inlet for broodstock and cost recovery, there are years when there are chum salmon in excess to broodstock and cost recovery needs. Establishing a THA in regulation for this situation allows for common property fisheries to harvest excess fish.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The proposal was reviewed and edited by the ADF&G SE Salmon/Herring Fisheries Management Coordinator and Regional Area Management Biologist.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA)(HQ-F24-044)

PROPOSAL 158

5 AAC 33.374 District 12: Hidden Falls Hatchery Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan. and 5 AAC 40.042. Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association Special Harves Areas.

Modify boundaries of the Hidden Falls terminal harvest area (THA) for chum, king and coho salmon and the Hidden Falls special harvest area (SHA) for chum and king salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 33.374(a) is amended to read:

(a) The Hidden Falls Terminal Harvest Area for chum, king, and coho salmon consists of the waters of District 12 [WITHIN TWO NAUTICAL MILES OF THE BARANOF ISLAND SHORELINE] south of the latitude of South Point at 57° 16.28' N. lat., north of 57° 06.76[83]' N. lat., and west of a line from a point offshore at 57° 16.28' N. lat., 134° 48.00' W. long., to a point offshore at 57° 06.76' N. lat., 134° 43.00' W. long., excluding the waters of Kelp Bay.

5 AAC 40.042(a)(5)(A) is amended to read:

(A) for chum and king salmon: the waters of District 12 [WITHIN TWO NAUTICAL MILES OF THE BARANOF ISLAND SHORELINE] south of the latitude of South Point at 57° 16.28' N. lat., north of 57° 06.76[83]' N. lat., and west of a line from a point offshore at 57° 16.28' N. lat., 134° 48.00' W. long., to a point offshore at 57° 06.76' N. lat., 134° 43.00' W. long., excluding the waters of Kelp Bay, will be open for harvest by the hatchery permit holder from 12:01 a.m. June 1 until 11:59 p.m. August 15;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This seeks to modify the boundaries of the Hidden Falls THA and SHA currently in regulation to be the same as what is currently implemented annually through emergency order. The overall area of the THA/SHA would not significantly change.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-156)

PROPOSAL 159

5 AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan

Modify the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

- (a) This management plan distributes the harvest of Crystal Lake Hatchery king and coho salmon returns to the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows in Section 6-A south of 56°46' N. lat. and north and east of the northern tip of Woewodski Island at 56° 36' N. lat., 132° 59' W. long and the fresh waters of Blind Slough upstream [OF A LINE BETWEEN BLIND POINT AND ANCHOR POINT] among fisheries while protecting hatchery broodstock.
- (b) **Creates a Blind Slough sport area between a line between Blind Point and Anchor Point upstream to a line at 132°53'28"W 56°37'58"N to 132°53'38"W 56°37'58"N**
- (c) **Creates a closed area in the freshwater upstream from a line 132°53'28"W 56°37'58"N to 132°53'38"W 56°37'58"N upstream to a line 132°49'24"W 56°36'52"N to 132°49'24"W 56°36'49"N from June 1 – July 15.**
- (d) The harvest of Crystal Lake Hatchery king salmon in the terminal harvest area will be distributed between the sport and commercial fisheries as follows when the projected adult return of king salmon to the terminal harvest is
 - (1) below 1,000 fish, sport and commercial salmon fisheries in the terminal harvest area will be closed **to king salmon fishing** from June 1st through July 31st;
 - (2) At least 1,000, but less than 2,000 fish, the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows to sport fishing for king salmon with a **resident** daily bag and possession limit of **one** king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] **any length, and a nonresidents daily bag and possession limit one king salmon any length** from June 1 through July 15 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be closed. **Blind Slough sport fishery will be open to residents only, with a daily bag and possession limit of one king salmon any length from June 1 to July 15;**
 - (3) at least 2,000 but less than **3,000** fish the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows to sport fishing for king salmon, with a **resident** daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] **any** length and a nonresidents daily bag and possession limit **one** king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] **any** length from June 1 through July 15 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be closed **Blind Slough sport fishery will be open with a resident daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon any length**

and a nonresident daily bag and possession limit of one king salmon any length from June 1 to July 15;

(4) at least 3,000 but less than 4,000 fish the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows to sport fishing for king salmon, with a resident daily bag and possession limit of three king salmon any length. Nonresidents daily bag and possession limit two king salmon any length from June 1 through July 31 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be closed. Blind Slough sport fishery will be open with a resident daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon any length and a nonresident daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon any length from June 1 to July 15;

(5) more than 4,000 fish the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal harvest area to sport fishing for king salmon, with a resident daily bag and possession limit of four king salmon and a nonresidents daily bag and possession limit three king salmon any length from [DURING WHICH TIME A DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT MAY BE MORE THAN TWO KING SALMON 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND MORE THAN TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] June 1 through July 31 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be open to harvest 50% of the projected return over 4,000 fish. Blind Slough sport fishery will be open with a resident daily bag and possession limit of four king salmon any length and a nonresident daily bag and possession limit of three king salmon any length from June 1 to July 15.

(e) Regional Alaska Fish & Game managers shall have authority to close fishing during periods of drought and warm water conditions to reduce stress on king salmon holding in the slough prior to reaching the hatchery. Daily closure authority will also be allowed for the hatchery to collect broodstock in the lower Blind Slough

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) is proposing amendments to the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough king salmon management plan. The goal of these amendments is to:

- ensure the full collection of broodstock for the hatchery, which has not been met in 10 of the last 20 years under this plan.
- distribute harvest opportunities across multiple user groups, while recognizing that this fishery is a critical resource to local Alaskan residents and provides economic benefits to the community.

The previous plan written in 1997 is in desperate need of updating to the current times. Several new factors have emerged in recent years that are jeopardizing the full collection of broodstock and disproportionately affecting certain user groups over others. These factors include:

- an increase in nonresident users. Fishing lodges and boat rentals have increased significantly and nonresident anglers greatly outnumber residents fishing this resource.

- the current plan allows the same nonresident take in lower fish return years while eliminating the freshwater Blind Slough fishing area. This puts the burden on local Alaskan residents that do not have access to a boat, especially the youth, elderly, and less advantaged.
- warmer weather patterns and warming waters of the Blind Slough. Summertime water temperatures are at the top extent for king salmon survival causing die off events before the adults can return to the hatchery.

Amendments to the plan include:

- Closing a portion of the Blind Slough area (the portion of Blind slough above the Forest Service boardwalk “lagoon” to the hatchery). This area should be considered a refuge for king salmon to spawn. The vast majority of legally caught kings are below the “lagoon” where king salmon rest in deeper pools and can escape with the changing tides. Above the lagoon they are exposed and more susceptible to the stresses of warm water. Fishing in these areas where fish hold and wait for desirable water conditions causes stress on king salmon staging their way up to the hatchery.
- removing size restrictions and shortening the length of the season. Implementing this is intended to reduce the number of kings caught and released, which will reduce stress, mortality, and increase egg quality.
- Shortening the season in fresh water to reduce pressure on king salmon when they are most vulnerable.
- Reducing the overall bag and possession limits while allowing for residents an opportunity to harvest king salmon where the current management plan does not allow.

Note: This amendment is not intended to prohibit opportunities for disabled individuals to fish for king salmon where the Blind Slough Rapids trail accesses fresh water at the point 132°53'29"W 56°37'57"N.

Note: These amendments work in conjunction with amendments to 5AAC 47.023 to ensure the protection of broodstock to the Crystal Lake Hatchery

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, SSRAA worked with members of the Petersburg Advisory Committee to develop this plan. The provisions in 5AAC 47.023 were not known prior to the AC meeting, and a proposal had not been developed to address this new information, so the Petersburg proposal extended the open time period in order to not revert to the provisions in 5AAC 47.023. SSRAA only supports the July 15 dates in this proposal if amendments to 5AAC 47.023 are also adopted by the BOF.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA)(HQ-F24-122)

PROPOSAL 160

5 AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Modify the *Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

5 AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

(e) This management plan distributes the harvest of Crystal Lake Hatchery king and coho salmon returns to the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows in Section 6-A south of 56°46' N. lat. and north and east of the northern tip of Woewodski Island at 56° 36' N. lat., 132° 59' W. long and the fresh waters of Blind Slough upstream [OF A LINE BETWEEN BLIND POINT AND ANCHOR POINT] among fisheries while protecting hatchery broodstock.

(f) **Creates a Blind Slough sport area between a line between Blind Point and Anchor Point upstream to a line at 132°53'28"W 56°37'58"N to 132°53'38"W 56°37'58"N**

(g) **Creates a closed area in the freshwater upstream from a line 132°53'28"W 56°37'58"N to 132°53'38"W 56°37'58"N upstream to a line 132°49'24"W 56°36'52"N to 132°49'24"W 56°36'49"N from June 1 – August 15.**

(h) The harvest of Crystal Lake Hatchery king salmon in the terminal harvest area will be distributed between the sport and commercial fisheries as follows when the projected adult return of king salmon to the terminal harvest is

(2) below 1,000 fish, sport and commercial salmon fisheries in the terminal harvest area will be closed **to king salmon fishing** from June 1st through [July 31st] **August 15th**;

(2) At least 1,000, but less than 2,000 fish, the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows to sport fishing for king salmon with a **resident** daily bag and possession limit of **one** king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] **any** length, **and a nonresidents daily bag and possession limit one king salmon any length** from June 1 through July 31 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be closed. **Blind Slough sport fishery will be open to residents only, with a daily bag and possession limit of one king salmon any length from June 1 to August 15;**

(3) at least 2,000 but less than **3,000** fish the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows to sport fishing for king salmon, with a **resident** daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] **any** length and a nonresidents daily bag and possession limit **one** king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] **any** length from June 1 through July 31 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be closed **Blind Slough sport fishery will be open with a resident daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon any length and a nonresident daily bag and possession limit of one king salmon any length from June 1 to August 15;**

(4) **at least 3,000 but less than 4,000 fish the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal waters of Wrangell Narrows to sport fishing for king salmon,**

with a resident daily bag and possession limit of three king salmon any length. Nonresidents daily bag and possession limit two king salmon any length from June 1 through July 31 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be closed. Blind Slough sport fishery will be open with a resident daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon any length and a nonresident daily bag and possession limit of two king salmon any length;

(5) more than 4,000 fish the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the season for the terminal harvest area to sport fishing for king salmon, **with a resident daily bag and possession limit of four king salmon and a nonresidents daily bag and possession limit three king salmon any length** from [DURING WHICH TIME A DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT MAY BE MORE THAN TWO KING SALMON 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH AND MORE THAN TWO KING SALMON LESS THAN 28 INCHES] June 1 through July 31 during which time the terminal harvest area commercial salmon area fishery in Wrangell Narrows will be open to harvest 50% of the projected return over 4,000 fish. **Blind Slough sport fishery will be open with a resident daily bag and possession limit of four king salmon any length and a nonresident daily bag and possession limit of three king salmon any length;**

(e) **Regional Alaska Fish & Game managers shall have authority to close fishing during periods of drought and warm water conditions to reduce stress on king salmon holding in the slough prior to reaching the hatchery. Daily closure authority will also be allowed for the hatchery to collect broodstock in the lower Blind Slough.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Petersburg Advisory Committee is proposing amendments to the Wrangell Narrows- Blind Slough king salmon management plan. The goal of these amendments is to:

- ensure the full collection of broodstock for the hatchery,
- distribute harvest opportunities across multiple user groups, while recognizing that this fishery is a critical resource to local Alaskan residents and provides economic benefits to the community.

The previous plan written in 1997 is in desperate need of updating to the current times. Several new factors have emerged in recent years that are jeopardizing the full collection of broodstock and disproportionally effecting certain user groups over others. These factors include:

- an increase in nonresident users. Fishing lodges and boat rentals have increased significantly and nonresident anglers greatly outnumber residents fishing this resource.
- the current plan allows the same nonresident take in lower fish return years while eliminating the freshwater Blind Slough fishing area. This puts the burden on local Alaskan residents that do not have access to a boat, especially the youth, elderly, and less advantaged.
- warmer weather patterns and warming waters of the Blind Slough. Summertime water temperatures are at the top extent for king salmon survival causing die off events before the adults can return to the hatchery.

Amendments to the plan include:

- Closing a portion of the Blind Slough area (the portion of Blind slough above the Forest Service boardwalk “lagoon” to the hatchery). This area should be considered a refuge for king salmon prior to spawning. The vast majority of legally caught kings are below the “lagoon” where king salmon rest in deeper pools and can escape with the changing tides. Above the lagoon they are exposed and more susceptible to the stresses of warm water. Fishing in these areas where fish hold and wait for desirable water conditions causes stress on king salmon staging their way up to the hatchery.
- removing size restrictions and shortening the length of the season. Implementing this is intended to reduce the number of kings caught and released, which will reduce unnecessary stress.
- Reducing the overall bag and possession limits while allowing for residents an opportunity to harvest king salmon where the current management plan does not allow.

Note: This amendment is not intended to prohibit opportunities for disabled individuals to fish for king salmon where the Blind Slough Rapids trail accesses fresh water at the point 132°53'29"W 56°37'57"N

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Petersburg AC in coordination with members of the public, SSRAA and ADFG department staff.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-080)

PROPOSAL 161

5 AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Reduce the sport fish bag limit for king salmon in the Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area, as follows:

I would like to recommend lowering the possession & daily limit of King Salmon in Blind Slough Terminal harvest area.

- 1) Resident daily limit is 2 fish over 28” and 2 fish under 28” for a total season of 6 fish in possession.
- 2) Non-resident daily limit is 1 fish over 28” and 1 fish under 28” for a total of 3 fish for the season in possession.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Blind Slough terminal harvest area, Petersburg, AK area. Retention of King Salmon.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Only from my personal household.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Dreisbach, Charlene Dreisbach (HQ-F24-133)

PROPOSAL 162

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means, for fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Reduce king salmon sport fish bag limits outside of the time when the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Management Plan is in effect, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 47.023

(h) (1) (C) king salmon may be taken from January 1- **May 31** [December 31]; bag and possession limits, as follows:

- (i) [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH,] bag and possession limit of two fish
- (ii) [LESS THAN 28 INCHES IN LENGTH, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF TWO FISH;]

(D) a king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH] harvested by a nonresident counts toward the annual harvest limit established under 5AAC 47.055

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The ability to take 4 king salmon in the Blind Slough area after July 31st each year has contributed to Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture (SSRAA) not obtaining the necessary broodstock for all its programs in 10 of the last 20 years. Additionally, having a bag limit of (2) fish over 28 inches and (2) under 28 inches creates a catch and release scenario which is detrimental to egg viability and survival of especially female salmon. Recent returns to the hatchery have been disproportionately males.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. SSRAA worked with the Petersburg Advisory Committee to amend 5AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan. It was during their meeting to adopt a proposal for submission that we were advised of this special provisions regulation that would revert into effect as soon as the THA management plan ended. The Petersburg AC had not advertised for this to be on the agenda, and as a result, they had to amend the desired closure dates we had agreed upon as the only course of action they could take by the proposal deadline

PROPOSED BY: Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA)(HQ-F24-121)

PROPOSAL 163

5 AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Nonresident annual limits for king salmon will apply in the Blind Slough terminal harvest area, as follows:

King salmon caught in the Blind Slough THA should be counted towards a non-residents annual bag limit. The new regulation shall read:

5ACC 33.381

(b)

(5) King salmon harvested in the Bind Slough THA shall count towards a non-residents annual King salmon bag limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Crystal Lake Hatchery is repeatedly failing to meet its King Salmon Broodstock goals in recent years. This has coincided with the massive growth in the non-resident unguided sport fish industry. There are now four fishing lodges at the mouth of Blind Slough with over 50 unguided skiffs for non-residents. Current regulations allow non-residents to keep an unlimited amount of King salmon during their stay as the Blind slough THA is excluded from annual bag limit regulations. This is a finite resource that has become over exploited. This has resulted in fishery closures and less fish available for resident sport fishermen and broodstock collection.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I discussed this proposal with several of my local AC members and they encouraged me to submit it.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Kittams (EF-F24-082)

PROPOSAL 164
5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Modify king salmon bag and possession limits in the terminal harvest area near Juneau, as follows:

Make the non-resident king salmon limit in the Terminal Harvest Area effectively half of the resident limit.

"When the resident king salmon daily limit in the Juneau THA greater than 2, the non-resident daily limit shall be 2. When the resident king salmon daily limit in the Juneau THA is 2, the non-resident daily limit shall be 1. When the resident king salmon daily limit in the Juneau THA less than 2, the non-resident daily limit shall be 0."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Non-resident king salmon limits in the Juneau Terminal Harvest Areas. King Salmon resources across Alaska continue to face severe shortages with restricted harvest opportunities for Alaska residents. The visitor industry continues to experience significant growth, which increases non-resident impact on king salmon resources. Hatchery kings are the only viable harvest opportunity for many Juneau residents and applying bag limits equally to non-residents while also exempting non-resident annual harvest limits puts residents at a distinct disadvantage.

Non-residents hire professional guides who have the best equipment and fish every day to develop heightened knowledge of fish movement and feeding, so the chances of limiting out are higher. There are a limited number of hatchery kings returning each year and Alaska residents should have the primary opportunity to harvest them. If the charter fleet in the Juneau area were to invest in creating a significantly increased hatchery king salmon harvest opportunity, that could justify a more favorable allocation for them and their non-resident clients.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Submitted via Territorial Sportsmen Inc

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsmen Inc

(EF-F24-103)
