

***SOUTHEAST AREA AND YAKUTAT AREA SUBSISTENCE,
PERSONAL USE, AND SPORT SALMON AND OTHER NON-
GROUND FISH FINFISH (21 proposals)***

Southeast Subsistence Salmon

PROPOSAL 135

5 AAC 01.720. Lawful Gear and Gear Specifications, 5 AAC 01.760. Redoubt Bay and Lake Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Only allow for the use of seine gear in the Redoubt Bay subsistence fishery when the escapement is projected to be greater than 40,000 sockeye salmon.

5 AAC 01.720. Lawful gear and gear specifications

Fish may be taken by gear listed in 5 AAC 01.010(a) except as may be restricted under the terms of a subsistence fishing permit and except as follows:

(1) in District 13, Redoubt Bay, gillnet [OR SEINE] gear may not be used to take salmon in any waters of the bay closed to commercial salmon fishing;

Section 5 AAC 01.760 - Redoubt Bay and Lake Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management Plan

(5) in addition to the provisions of (4) of this subsection, when the projected total escapement level of sockeye salmon is greater than 40,000 fish, the commissioner may

(A) open portions of Redoubt Bay to a commercial fishery on sockeye salmon returning to Redoubt Lake;

(B) issue community subsistence permits under the provisions of (e) of this section.

(C) allow the subsistence use of seine gear in the waters of Redoubt Bay north (seaward) of a line approximately 100 yards from the base of the falls as marked by ADF&G regulatory markers;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal is to allow the use of seine gear for subsistence fishing in Redoubt Bay when the projected escapement of sockeye salmon is over 40,000 fish. Currently, seine gear can only be used in the outer bay, where fish are too spread out for it to be effective. Recent escapements have consistently exceeded the escapement goal range of 7,000 – 25,000 fish; and have been over 40,000 fish for the last seven years. The most recent record escapement of 153,000 fish has led to concerns about reduced productivity from overescapement. Currently, the majority of sockeye are taken using dipnets at the base of the falls, where the limited space does not provide enough fishing power for an effective and efficient harvest. While there may be concerns with gear conflicts, the use of seine gear in years with large returns would actually reduce conflicts by providing for a more effective means to quickly harvest sockeye, reducing the time spent fishing. The proposed regulation would bar seines from the area near the falls to prevent direct conflict with dipnetters.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The proposal was developed in a Regional Advisory Council meeting at the request of a member from the Sitka area.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory Council

(HQ-F24-015)

PROPOSAL 136

5 AAC 01.745. Subsistence bag and possession Limits; Annual Limits.

Increase sockeye salmon possession and annual limits at Basket Bay.

5 AAC 01.745. Subsistence bag and possession limits; annual limits

(h) In the Juneau Management Area, in waters open to subsistence salmon fishing under a household subsistence salmon fishing permit, the possession and annual limits for salmon per household are as follows:

- (A) District 12: in the following waters, the following possession and annual limits apply:
 - (i) Basket Bay: the possession limit is **20** [15] sockeye salmon, with an annual limit of **40** [30] sockeye salmon;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Basket Bay (Kook Lake) is an important source of sockeye for subsistence users from Angoon, Hoonah, and other nearby communities. The current possession and annual limits for sockeye at Basket Bay are 15 fish possession / 30 fish annual, which is lower than most other systems of similar size in the area. A stock assessment program operated between 2005-2007 and 2010-2017 showed that escapement to Kook Lake was stable at higher subsistence harvest levels than have been seen in recent years. The current harvest limits, especially the 15 fish possession limit, make it necessary for subsistence users to make several trips across Chatham Strait to meet their sockeye needs. The proposed harvest limit increase would allow users to meet their sockeye needs more efficiently with less risk and use of gas, time, and effort.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The proposal was developed by the Council following public testimony requesting an increase in the harvest limits at Basket Bay

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (HQ-F24-014)

PROPOSAL 137

5 AAC 01.745. Subsistence bag and possession limits; annual limits.

Increase the possession limit of sockeye salmon for Basket Bay from 15 to 30 sockeye salmon.

Modify sockeye possession limits for Basket Bay as follows;

- (h)(1)(A)(i) Basket Bay: the possession limit is 30 sockeye salmon, with an annual limit of 30 sockeye salmon;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The remoteness of the area combined with high fuel prices and rough weather in Northern Chatham Strait make it difficult for subsistence harvesters to access Basket Bay. Low possession limits force users to make multiple trips to meet their subsistence sockeye harvesting needs. Increasing the possession limit from 15 to 30 sockeye allows subsistence users of the Hoonah, Tenakee, and Angoon communities opportunity to harvest their limit in fewer trips, without increasing overall harvest of the Basket Bay stock.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Hoonah Indian Association - Environmental Department in coordination with staff from the USDA Forest Service, Juneau Ranger District

PROPOSED BY: Hoonah Indian Association (EF-F24-010)

Southeast Sport Salmon and Trout

PROPOSAL 138

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

Prohibit snagging in the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge, as follows:

Solution: Within the boundaries of the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge, snagging is prohibited. Fish caught elsewhere than the mouth (snagged) must be released immediately. The use non tradition gear including lead weighted and/or lead wrapped treble hooks is prohibited. Regional freshwater regulations apply, except bait is legal year-round.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Problem: A portion of the chinook and silver salmon returning to the McCauley fish hatchery enter the Gastineau Channel/Mendenhall Refuge from the northeast end and use the high tide cycle to cross the Refuge to return to the hatchery. During the low tide cycle, the waters within the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge drain and flow like a stream or river. During the low portion of the tide, the salmon tend to concentrate in pools just the same as if they are in a stream or river. This creates a superb shore-based sport angling opportunity for people using traditional sport fishing and flyfishing gear. Anglers using non-traditional methods (snagging) often disrespect and interfere with anglers using traditional means creating an unpleasant and unsporting fishing atmosphere.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I brought it up to the Juneau Advisory Committee for discussion and endorsement which passed for endorsement. I've submitted a refined version which I will bring up at the fall committee meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Cole (HQ-F24-111)

PROPOSAL 139

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.

Prohibit snagging within Don D. Statter harbor, as follows:

For the safety of our patrons, I ask that the board consider prohibiting snagging on and around CBJ Docks and Harbors property within Statter Harbor. Please see proposal below:

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.

(d) In the Juneau vicinity: in the waters that are adjacent to the Juneau City and Borough road system to a distance one-quarter mile offshore:

(1) rainbow and cutthroat trout, in combination, must be no less than 14 inches and no greater than 22 inches in length;

(2) the bag and possession limit for Dolly Varden is two fish;

(3) in the waters of Auke Bay, east of a line from Waydelich (Wadleigh) Creek to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one-quarter mile south of the mouth of Auke Creek,

(A) sport fishing for sockeye salmon is closed;

(B) Dolly Varden may be taken only from June 1 - March 31;

(C) snagging or attempting to snag is prohibited within a 200-yard radius seaward of ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 200 feet downstream of the Auke Creek weir; a fish hooked anywhere other than the mouth must be released immediately back into the water;

(D) snagging or attempting to snag is prohibited on the docks, launch ramps, shoreline property, and on the water within Don D. Statter Harbor;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations allow snagging in Auke Bay except for a small area around Auke Creek. In 2021 Juneau Docks and Harbors extended the Statter Harbor floats to accommodate whale watching vessels and tourism in Auke Bay into an area commonly used by locals for snagging King salmon in a terminal fishery. Fisherman casting heavy snagging hooks from the shore towards the docks has created a safety concern for CBJ Harbors, patrons, vessels, and the 220,000 tourists who used the area in 2023. There have been several incidents where a vessel or person has been hit by a snagging hook since the construction of these docks. We have posted "no snagging" signs in the area, but the practice continues because we have no way to enforce the rule. We in no way want to prohibit fishing in general in the area, just the method of snagging.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I did not

PROPOSED BY: CBJ Docks and Harbors

(EF-F24-007)

PROPOSAL 140

5 AAC 47.XXX. New section

Sport fishing may only be conducted with a single barbless circle hook between April 1 and June 14, as follows:

Sport Fishing : For ALL areas outside hatchery THA zones - 1 (one) Circle-Barbless-Hook per line, between April 1st through June 14th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To immediately STOP the use of traditional "open-tip", "straight-shank", or "J" style hooks for ALL Sport Fishing between the dates of April 1st through June 14th. Instead, the use of 1 (one) "Circle-Barbless-hook" per line should be required between April 1st through June 14th for insuring the CRUCIAL survival of our Chinook Stocks of Concern. The damaging, unsafe, detrimental, and injurious, effects to Chinook Salmon in ALL "Catch and Release" practices of Sport Fishing continues to devastate Chinook within our Stocks of Concern. This new law will greatly reduce the HIGH accidental death

numbers amongst Southeast Transboundary Chinook Stocks of Concern. This new law will NOT stop Catch and Release "Photo Op" Sport Fishing, it will only EHANCE the SAFTEY of Catch and Release Sport Fishing practices in ALL Southeast Transboundary areas between April 1st through June 14th.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. This proposal was discussed amongst resident sport fishers in Ketchikan, AK. It has been agreed that this proposal will greatly help solve the accidental death brought upon our Transboundary Chinook Stocks, particularly during the "Clover Pass" catch and release fishery in Ketchikan, Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Cody Cowan (EF-F24-056)

PROPOSAL 141

5 AAC 47.XXX. New section.

Prohibit the use of bait in sport fisheries between April 1 through June 14, as follows:

Sport Fishing: Baited hooks are NOT permitted outside hatchery THA Zones between April 1st through June 14th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The use of "baited" hooks should Not be permitted for Salmon targeted Sport Fishing between the dates of April 1st through June 14th. The use of baited hooks during ALL catch and release Sport Fisheries cause catastrophic harm to Chinook. Salmon "swallow" baited hooks deeper, causing severe damage to their organs, greatly lessening their chance for survival. In order to help achieve the best survival rate for ALL Stocks of Concern, we must STOP the use of baited hooks during ALL catch and release Sport Fisheries "outside of hatchery THA zones" between April 1st through June 14th.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. This proposal was discussed and agreed on by resident sport fishers in Ketchikan, Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Cody Cowan (EF-F24-057)

PROPOSAL 142

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

Open Ketchikan Creek to sport fishing year-round and establish bag and possession limits for king salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023(i)(6) is amended to read:

...

- (6) in Ketchikan Creek, excluding City Park Ponds,
 - (A) only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;
 - (B) sport fishing is allowed **year round** [ONLY FROM SEPTEMBER 15 - MAY 31];

- (C) the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon,
 - (i) 16 inches or greater in length, is two fish in combination;
 - (ii) less than 16 inches in length, is 10 fish in combination;
- (D) repealed 7/1/2015;
- (E) **the bag and possession limit for king salmon is,**
 - (i) two fish any size;**
 - (ii) a king salmon taken by a nonresident will not count toward the nonresident annual limit as established by 5 AAC 47.055;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A seasonal sport fishing closure from June – September has been in regulation since 1986 to allow for broodstock collection that previously occurred at Deer Mountain Hatchery (DMH). In 2013, the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) assumed ownership of the hatchery. King salmon are produced at DMH, though broodstock collection for SSRAA’s king salmon program occurs at Whitman Lake Hatchery. This regulation change would eliminate the need for the department to issue an annual emergency order to open the creek to sport fishing and set limits for king salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-176)

PROPOSAL 143

5 AAC 47.022. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Increase the bag and possession limit for trout in Southeast Alaska, as follows:

Change the general provisions for seasons and bag possession, annual and size limits for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska area.

Rainbow and cutthroat trout, in combination, bag and possession limit of 4 fish; no annual limit. Must be no less than 11 inches and no greater than 22 inches in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The cutthroat trout/rainbow trout (trout) of Prince of Wales Island (PoW) are not targeted species. There are many lightly fished/unfished watersheds on PoW that hold large numbers of these species and in some drainages, they are causing significant predation to the Sockeye salmon, specifically the Klawock lake drainage. The farmed salmon net pens located in the Klawock Lake attract hungry trout daily when the uneaten fish pellets fall through the net and are eaten by the trout. These large aggressive trout impact the Sockeye and other salmon that spawn in the tributaries and cause significant predation to the salmon eggs, fry and smolt. Many locals have discussed the need to liberalize the bag/size limits not just in the Klawock River/Lake drainage but island wide.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. This proposal was developed in the Klawock AC.

PROPOSED BY: Klawock AC (EF-F24-059)

PROPOSAL 144

5 AAC 47.022 General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Increase harvest opportunity for trout in Southeast Alaska, as follows:

Change the general provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual and size limits for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska area.

Rainbow and cutthroat trout, in combination, bag and possession limit of 4 fish; no annual limit. Must be no less than 11 inches and no greater than 22 inches in length. Min of 11" & Max of 22".

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The cutthroat trout/rainbow trout (trout) of Prince of Wales Is.(PoW) are not targeted species. There are many lightly fished/unfished watersheds on PoW that hold large numbers of these species and in some drainages, they are causing significant predation to different salmon species. Many locals have discussed the need to liberalize the bag/size limits on PoW and Southeast Alaska wide.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The Klawock AC.

PROPOSED BY: Klawock AC

(EF-F24-089)

PROPOSAL 145

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

Increase harvest opportunity for trout in Klawock Lake drainage, as follows:

Create a special use freshwater regulation for the Klawock Lake drainage on Prince of Wales Island.

Klawock Lake:

Only unbaited, artificial lures or flies may be used year round. The use of bait is prohibited. Rainbow and cutthroat trout, in combination, bag and possession limit of 4 fish; no annual limit. Must be more than 11 inches and no greater than 22 inches in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The cutthroat trout/rainbow trout (trout) of Prince of Wales Island (PoW) are not targeted species. There are many lightly fished/unfished watersheds on PoW that hold large numbers of these species and in some drainages, they are causing significant predation to the Sockeye salmon, specifically the Klawock Lake drainage. The farmed salmon net pens located in the Klawock Lake attract hungry trout daily when the uneaten fish pellets fall through the net and are eaten by the trout. The trout also ram the net and knock the coho fry out of the net and eat them. These large aggressive trout impact the Sockeye and other salmon that spawn in the tributaries and cause significant predation to the salmon eggs and juvenile salmon. Many locals have discussed the need to liberalize the bag/size limits in the Klawock Lake drainage for food security reasons as well as reducing the predation on the coveted Sockeye salmon.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The Klawock AC.

PROPOSED BY: Klawock AC

(EF-F24-088)

PROPOSAL 146

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

Increase the bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout in 108 Creek drainage, as follows:

Change the current special use freshwater regulation for 108 Creek drainage on Prince of Wales Island.

108 Creek Drainage-Including Twin Island Lake and Cavern Lake.

Only unbaited, artificial lures or flies may be used year round. The use of bait is prohibited. Steelhead: catch and release fishing only, all steelhead caught must be released immediately. Rainbow and cutthroat trout, in combination, bag and possession limit of 4 fish; no annual limit. Must be less than 11 inches and no greater than 22 inches in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would include the entire 108 Creek system including Twin Island Lake and Cavern Lake at the headwaters. Cutthroat trout/rainbow trout (trout) are present year round and abundant in this drainage. They are smaller fish, mostly under 15 inches in length. Increasing the harvest level in this lightly used fishery would be beneficial to locals and other anglers. Trout fishing is a great way to introduce young/new anglers to fishing and is a good opportunity for families to get out and spend time outdoors. Increasing the bag limit helps food security, offsets the rising cost of fuel/groceries and is easier to justify spending the day fishing.

Currently, there is a freshwater special regulation for the 108 Creek steelhead run. This would add a line for trout and its new bag limit. It would also clarify/include the Twin Island and Cavern Lakes into the system since 107 Creek runs through those lakes.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The residents of Whale Pass in conjunction with the East PoW AC developed this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: East POW AC

(EF-F24-032)

PROPOSAL 147

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

Increase the bag and possession limit for rainbow and cutthroat trout and prohibit the use of bait in Neck Lake, as follows:

Create a special use freshwater regulation for the Neck Lake drainage on Prince of Wales Island.

Only unbaited, artificial lures or flies may be used year round. The use of bait is prohibited. Rainbow and cutthroat trout, in combination, bag and possession limit of 4 fish; no annual limit. Must be less than 11 inches and no greater than 22 inches in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would include the entire Neck Lake system and its tributaries on Prince of Wales Island. Cutthroat trout/rainbow trout (trout) are present year round and abundant in this drainage. They are smaller fish, mostly under 15 inches in length. Increasing the harvest level in this lightly used fishery would be beneficial to locals and other anglers. Trout fishing is a great way to introduce young/new anglers to fishing and is a good opportunity for families to get out and spend time outdoors. Increasing the bag limit helps food security, offsets the rising cost of fuel/groceries and is easier to justify spending the day fishing.

This would create a new special use freshwater regulation since it currently falls under the general freshwater regs.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The residents of Whale Pass in conjunction with the East PoW AC developed this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: East POW AC

(EF-F24-033)

PROPOSAL 148

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

Modify Eagle Lake cutthroat trout bag and possession and size limit, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023(h)(6) is amended to read:

...

(h) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity:

(6) **repealed** / / [IN EAGLE LAKE,

(A) ONLY UNBAITED, ARTIFICIAL LURES MAY BE USED;

(B) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR CUTTHROAT TROUT IS ONE FISH, WHICH MUST BE 25 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eagle Lake is currently identified as a trophy lake for cutthroat trout and has a bag and possession limit of one fish, which must be 25 inches or greater in length. In 2023, the department assessed the cutthroat trout population in Eagle Lake and found an abundant population although after sampling more than 1,100 individual fish, no cutthroat over 25 inches was found. The current regulations are unnecessarily conservative and additional harvest opportunity could be provided. By rescinding this special provision, the regional bag and possession limit of two fish (rainbow and cutthroat trout in combination) and 11 inch minimum and 22 inch maximum size limit will now apply in Eagle Lake. These management provisions are consistent with 5 AAC 75.220 *Statewide management standards for wild trout*.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-178)

PROPOSAL 149

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

Prohibit the use of bait and establish a catch-and-release fishery with single barbless hooks in Petersen Creek, as follows:

Year-round catch and release, single-barbless hook, artificial lure regulations for trout on Petersen Creek will help protect genetic diversity necessary to rebuild steelhead stocks in this popular road system fishery.

We considered catch and release regulations for rainbow trout alone, but this adds a layer of regulatory complexity, and requires anglers to be able to quickly differentiate between cutthroat and rainbow trout.

We also considered total catch and release regulations for Petersen Creek, as coho fishing has also been closed by emergency order in recent years, but the dolly varden and pink salmon numbers do not warrant a move to such a move.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The popular Juneau road-system steelhead fishery on Petersen Creek has been closed by Emergency Order each season since 2019. As an ADFG index stream, we have reliable data on run size; recent snorkel surveys have shown that run sizes are depressed below long-term averages. As the April 1, 2024 Emergency Order (No. 1-SH-E-06-24) notes:

"overall production of steelhead in Peterson Creek has declined in recent years. For the last 9 years (2015–2023), snorkel survey index counts conducted each spring have been below the 1997–2014 average of 28 fish (equivalent to 116 fish), when steelhead abundance in the creek appeared to be relatively stable. In 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 the snorkel survey counts were 6, 3, 11, 24, 18, and 27 fish, respectively. Continued low escapements require this closure to conserve the Peterson Creek steelhead stock."

There are only a handful of opportunities for steelhead anglers on the Juneau Road system, so revitalizing this run is of high importance. Studies across the range of steelhead and rainbow trout have shown contribution of resident rainbows to steelhead population genetics (McPhee et al). State agencies across the Pacific Northwest have begun to reconcile the management strategy of rainbow trout to reflect the importance of resident rainbow trout in steelhead recovery (Marshall, NMFS). Limiting the Peterson Creek fishery to year-round catch and release, single barbless hook and an artificial lure regulations will provide recreational opportunity with minimal impact on the resident rainbow population which could be critical for the continued recovery of its steelhead component. In other words, conservative regulations will ensure that rainbow trout populations remain robust to bolster steelhead production, while also protecting smolt and rearing juvenile steelhead.

References:

NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service). 2019. ESA Recovery Plan for the Puget Sound Steelhead Distinct Population Segment (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). National Marine Fisheries Service. Seattle, WA.

Marshall, A.R., Small, M., Foley, S., 2006. Genetic relationships among anadromous and resident *Oncorhynchus mykiss* in Cedar River, Washington: Implications for steelhead recovery planning, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, WA. Final report to Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee and Seattle Public Utilities.

McPhee, M.V., Utter, F., Stanford, J.A., Kuzishchin, K.V., Savvaitova, K.A., Pavlov, D.S., Allendorf, F.W. 2007. Population structure and partial anadromy in *Oncorhynchus mykiss* from

Kamchatka: relevance for conservation strategies around the Pacific Rim. Ecology of Freshwater Fish 16, 539-547.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was approved and vetted by the Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee at our April 8, 2024 meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee (EF-F24-110)

Yakutat Area

PROPOSAL 150

5 AAC 01.660. Fishing season and periods.

Change the weekly subsistence fishing periods in the Yakutat Area from 6:00 a.m. to 12:01 a.m. start time and 6:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. end time.

5 AAC 01.660

Subsistence and Personal Use Salmon Fishing Permit Conditions in Yakutat, AK

Unless extended by emergency order, from the beginning of the commercial salmon set net season through the end of the commercial salmon net season, the weekly subsistence fishing period is from 12:01 am Friday to 11:59 pm Saturday.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the Subsistence and Personal Use Salmon Fishing Permit Conditions for the Yakutat area allow fishing from 6am Friday to 6pm Saturday, beginning with commercial salmon net openers through the end of the commercial salmon net season. During public comment sessions held in Yakutat, tribal members and residents expressed they do not have enough fishing opportunity to harvest adequate fish for the year with the current subsistence openings. We propose extending these times to allow fishing from 12:01am Friday to 11:59pm Saturday. The Situk River has over escaped sockeye ten of the last fifteen years, and providing more opportunity for subsistence fishing should be priority over other fisheries to manage for this over escapement.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was written by the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (YTT) Fisheries Committee and approved by the YTT Tribal Council. The Yakutat Advisory Committee has not reached quorum to hold meetings.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (EF-F24-084)

PROPOSAL 151

5 AAC 47.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

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

Modify the nonresident annual limit for king salmon in the freshwaters of the Yakutat management area and the Situk River, as follows:

5 AAC 47.022(c)(1)(C) is amended to read:

...

[THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH, BY EMERGENCY ORDER,] the nonresident annual limit **is two** [FOR] **king salmon, 20** [28] inches or greater in length, [AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 47.055] **and does not count toward the nonresident annual harvest limit established under 5 AAC 47.055**; a harvest record is required for a nonresident as specified in 5 AAC 75.006;

5 AAC 47.023(b)(6)(A) is amended to read:

...

repealed / / ; [A KING SALMON 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH TAKEN BY A NONRESIDENT WILL NOT COUNT TOWARD THAT NONRESIDENT'S ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT ESTABLISHED UNDER 5 AAC 47.055;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The nonresident annual limit for king salmon in the fresh waters of the Yakutat Area currently mirrors those established by the provisions of 5 AAC 47.055 *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* which directs the management of Southeast Alaska king salmon sport fishery in marine waters. Under this management plan, nonresident annual limits are established according to the allocation of king salmon to the sport fishery under the terms of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and may not be appropriate management measures for king salmon runs in the Yakutat Area freshwaters. The freshwater harvest of king salmon in the Yakutat Area occurring on non-transboundary rivers is not subject to the terms of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Establishing a nonresident annual limit of two king salmon, 20 inches or greater, provides a consistent management regime while continuing to limit the harvest potential for nonresident anglers on these relatively small king salmon systems. This would not impact the department's ability to use emergency order authority to restrict the sport fishery for conservation purposes.

This would remove the special provision for the Situk River which currently directs the department not to apply the nonresident annual limit established under 5 AAC 47.055 to the Situk River. Due to the small run size and large proportion of nonresident anglers on the Situk River, applying a nonresident annual limit allows for a controlled harvest opportunity. This would apply the nonresident annual limit of 2 king salmon over 20 inches to the Situk River unless otherwise called for under 5 AAC 30.365 *Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Management Plan*.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-173)

PROPOSAL 152

5 AAC 30.365. Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Amend the *Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* to reflect recent management strategies, as follows:

5 AAC 30.365 is amended to read:

(a) The purpose of the management plan in this section is to provide for the biological escapement goal requirements of spawning king salmon to the Situk-Ahrnklin River systems. This

management plan provides guidelines to the department in an effort to preclude allocation conflicts between the various user groups of the king salmon resource. Action points and associated ranges within the plan are intended to be based on the current king salmon escapement goal ranges for the Situk River system.

(b) The biological escapement goal for the Situk River king salmon is 730 three ocean age and older fish, with a range of 450 - 1,050 fish.

(c) The department shall manage the commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries as follows:

(1) **until at least 450 three ocean age or older king salmon have passed the Situk River weir located approximately 2 miles upstream of the mouth** [IF THE PROJECTED ESCAPEMENT IS LESS THAN 350 THREE OCEAN AGE AND OLDER FISH, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL CLOSE, BY EMERGENCY ORDER,] the king salmon **fisheries are to be managed as follows:**

(A) **the sport fishery for king salmon in the Situk River shall be closed;**

(B) **retention of king salmon in the** subsistence, personal use, and commercial set gillnet fisheries in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River **shall be prohibited;** and

(C) **the** commercial troll fishery **shall be closed** in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the [SEAWARD LIMIT OF THE] three-nautical-mile **limit of the** territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59° 30.49' N. lat., 139° 46.58' W. long. [(OCEAN CAPE)] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 28.44' N. lat., 139° 51.68' W. long.** [59° 28.65' N. lat., 139° 51.17' W. long.] and on the south by a line extending seaward from **59° 21.07' N. lat., 139° 19.73' W. long.,** [59° 20.30' N. LAT., 139° 16.50' W. LONG.] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 19.08' N. lat., 139° 24.98' W. long.** [59° 18.25' N. lat., 139° 21.94' W. LONG.];

(D) **weekly fishing periods in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River set gillnet fisheries may be restricted;**

(2) **when at least 450 three ocean age or older king salmon have passed the Situk River weir located approximately 2 miles upstream of the mouth** [IF THE PROJECTED ESCAPEMENT IS 350 - 450 THREE OCEAN AGE OR OLDER FISH THE COMMISSIONER] **the king salmon fisheries are to be managed as follows:**

(A) **the subsistence fishery will have priority over sport and commercial fisheries and may open for retention of king salmon prior to the sport and commercial fisheries;**[SHALL, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, CLOSE THE SPORT FISHERY FOR KING SALMON IN THE SITUK RIVER; AND]

(B) **retention of king salmon in the commercial set gillnet fisheries in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River may be allowed;** [MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES:]

(i) **repealed / /** [ESTABLISH A NONRETENTION KING SALMON SEASON IN THE SITUK-AHRNKLIN INLET AND LOST RIVER SET GILLNET FISHERIES;]

(C)[(II) CLOSE] the commercial salmon troll fishery **may open** in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the [SEAWARD LIMIT OF THE] three-nautical-mile **limit of the** territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59° 30.49' N. lat., 139° 46.58' W. long. [(OCEAN CAPE)] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 28.44' N. lat., 139° 51.68' W. long.** [59° 28.65' N. lat., 139° 51.17' W. long.] and on the south by a line extending seaward from **59° 21.07' N. lat., 139° 19.73' W. long.** [59° 20.30'

N. LAT., 139° 16.50' W. LONG.] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 19.08' N. lat., 139° 24.98' W. long.** [59° 18.25' N. LAT., 139° 21.94' W. LONG.; **and**

(iii) **repealed / /** RESTRICT THE WEEKLY FISHING PERIODS IN THE SITUK-AHRNKLIN INLET AND LOST RIVER SET GILLNET FISHERIES]; **and**

(D) the sport fishery for king salmon in the Situk River may open downstream of the weir located at approximately river mile 2;

(3) when at least 730 three ocean or older king salmon have passed the Situk River weir located approximately 2 miles upstream of the mouth the king salmon fisheries are to be managed as follows: [IF THE PROJECTED ESCAPEMENT IS 451 - 730 THREE OCEAN AGE OR OLDER FISH], the commissioner shall, [BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES]:

(A) **allow retention of king salmon in the subsistence fishery;** [ESTABLISH A NONRETENTION KING SALMON SEASON IN THE SITUK-AHRNKLIN INLET AND LOST RIVER SET GILLNET FISHERIES:]

(B) the commercial salmon troll fishery **will open** in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the [SEAWARD LIMIT OF THE] three-nautical-mile **limit of the** territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59° 30.49' N. lat., 139° 46.58' W. long. [(OCEAN CAPE)] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 28.44' N. lat., 139° 51.68' W. long.** [59° 28.65' N. lat., 139° 51.17' W. long.] and on the south by a line extending seaward from **59° 21.07' N. lat., 139° 19.73' W. long.** [59° 20.30' N. LAT., 139° 16.50' W. LONG.] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 19.08' N. lat., 139° 24.98' W. long.** [59° 18.25' N. LAT., 139° 21.94' W. LONG.;

(C) **manage the commercial set gillnet fisheries in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River based solely on the sockeye salmon run strength, while allowing for the retention of king salmon; and** [RESTRICT THE WEEKLY FISHING PERIODS IN THE SITUK-AHRNKLIN INLET AND LOST RIVER SET GILLNET FISHERIES; AND]

(D) **open the sport fishery for king salmon in the Situk River in the section of river located downstream of the weir located at approximately river mile 2;** RESTRICT THE SPORT HARVEST OF KING SALMON IN THE SITUK RIVER BY IMPLEMENTING ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

(I) CLOSE PORTIONS OF THE SITUK RIVER TO SPORT FISHING FOR KING SALMON;

(II) ESTABLISH A CATCH AND RELEASE SPORT FISHERY ONLY FOR KING SALMON 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH];

(4) **repealed / /** [IF THE PROJECTED ESCAPEMENT IS GREATER THAN 730 THREE OCEAN AGE AND OLDER FISH BUT LESS THAN 1,050 FISH, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL,

(A) MANAGE THE COMMERCIAL SET GILLNET FISHERIES IN THE SITUK-AHRNKLIN INLET AND LOST RIVER BASED ON THE SOCKEYE SALMON RUN STRENGTH;

(B) MANAGE THE COMMERCIAL SALMON TROLL FISHERY AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 29.100 IN THE WATERS OF ALASKA BOUNDED ON THE WEST BY THE SEAWARD LIMIT OF THE THREE-NAUTICAL-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND ON THE NORTH BY A LINE EXTENDING SEAWARD FROM 59° 30.49' N. LAT., 139° 46.58' W. LONG. (OCEAN CAPE) AND INTERSECTING THE THREE-NAUTICAL-

MILE LIMIT AT 59° 28.65' N. LAT., 139° 51.17' W. LONG. AND ON THE SOUTH BY A LINE EXTENDING SEAWARD FROM 59° 20.30' N. LAT., 139° 16.50' W. LONG. AND INTERSECTING THE THREE-NAUTICAL-MILE LIMIT AT 59° 18.25' N. LAT., 139° 21.94' W. LONG.];

(5) [IF THE PROJECTED ESCAPEMENT IS GREATER THAN 1,050 THREE OCEAN AGE AND OLDER FISH] **when 1,050 three ocean or older king salmon have passed the Situk River weir located approximately 2 miles upstream of the mouth**, the department shall manage the commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries as necessary to harvest large king salmon in excess of the biological escapement goal range; to achieve this goal the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement one or more of the following management measures:

(A) liberalize seasons, areas, and method and means in the Situk River under 5 AAC 75.003(2)(A);

(B) increase the **sport fish** bag, [AND] possession, **and/or annual** limits for king salmon **20** [28] inches or greater in length [TO THREE FISH PER DAY AND SIX IN POSSESSION WITH NO ANNUAL LIMIT];

(C) repealed 7/13/2012;

(D) manage the commercial set gillnet fisheries in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River based on the sockeye salmon run strength;

(E) in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River set gillnet fisheries, allow the use of one additional gillnet that is no more than 20 fathoms in length and no more than 45 meshes in depth, with a mesh size of no less than seven and one-half inches, for the directed taking of king salmon during periods when sockeye salmon may or may not be retained.

5 AAC 47.023 (b)(6)(A) is amended to read:

(A) **sport fishing for king salmon is closed unless specified by 5 AAC 30.365** [A KING SALMON 28 inches or GREATER IN LENGTH TAKEN BY A NONRESIDENT WILL NOT COUNT TOWARD THAT NONRESIDENT'S ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT ESTABLISHED UNDER 5 AAC 47.055];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This would revise the *Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* by establishing management actions based on the number of king salmon that pass the Situk River weir rather than the projected escapement. In recent years, the department has been more conservative in the early season than the management plan calls for, given the period of low productivity observed for king salmon across Southeast Alaska. This has included being more conservative in the management of the subsistence and commercial gillnet fisheries and using emergency order authority to proactively close the sport fishery for king salmon to ensure the biological escapement goal is met. This would more closely align the management plan with the management actions the department has implemented in recent years. The Situk River king salmon run is relatively small in numbers and fish often pass the weir in pulses. This can create a highly variable projected escapement as the basis of management actions. Basing management actions on the number of king salmon that pass the weir is a more reliable management approach that will better align harvest opportunity with abundance of king salmon returning to the Situk.

This would also update the southern boundary of the Situk River troll fishery closure area to provide consistency with 2018 BOF action taken on 5 AAC 29.100, which addressed a change in

the location of the terminus of the river mouth. Due to an oversight, similar changes to 5 AAC 30.365 were not addressed at that time. The proposed change to 5 AAC 30.365 is consistent with annual changes made by the department under emergency order authority and also includes updates for the location of coordinates along the three-nautical-mile limit line.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-174)

PROPOSAL 153

5 AAC 30.365. Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Close a portion of the Situk River to sport fishing until the escapement goal for king salmon is met, as follows:

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

In the Situk River – within 50 yards of the 9-Mile Bridge on Forest Highway 10, sport fishing is closed June 1 – August 15 unless the upper end of the escapement goal of 1050 is met for chinook.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Chinook salmon in the Situk River have struggled to reach minimum escapement since 2008, with eight of the past sixteen years being below minimum. To address conservation concerns, we propose closing a popular chinook holding hole, which consequently receives high sport fishing pressure. 9-mile Bridge is an easy vehicle access fishing site that receives high fishing pressure and chinook interactions. We considered closing this location year-round, but we prefer the least restrictive action to focus this effort on chinook conservation.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was written by the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (YTT) Fisheries Committee and approved by the YTT Tribal Council. The Yakutat Advisory Committee has not reached quorum to hold meetings.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (EF-F24-083)

PROPOSAL 154

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

Close sport fishing in a portion of the Situk River between April 15 and May 15, as follows:

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

(B) from ADF&G regulatory markers located at the West Fork of the Situk confluence to ADF&G regulatory markers located at the outlet of Situk Lake, sport fishing is allowed only from May 16 - April 14

Alternative option:

From ADF&G regulatory markers located at the top end of the island 1.5 miles above 9-Mile Bridge to ADF&G regulatory markers located at the outlet of Situk Lake, sport fishing is allowed only from May 16 - April 14

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Steelhead in the Situk River have experienced poor returns in the last three years. To address this conservation concern, we propose expanding closures to alleviate fishing pressure on spawning grounds. Education and signage bringing awareness to redds has not been a successful tool on the Situk River. Although steelhead spawn throughout the Situk River, above 9-Mile Bridge receives heavy foot traffic that often hike in river, which impacts redds. We propose expanding the current steelhead closure downstream to the West Fork of the Situk, specifically at 59.590685, -139.492510 and to the outlet of Situk Lake, at 59.631606, -139.410053.

Alternative option: Close at 59.597200, -139.479092 to the outlet of Situk Lake at 59.631606, -139.410053.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was written by the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (YTT) Fisheries Committee and approved by the YTT Tribal Council. The Yakutat Advisory Committee has not reached quorum to meet.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (EF-F24-085)

PROPOSAL 155

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

Increase the sport fish bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in the fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023(b)(8) is amended to read:

...

[IN THE LOST RIVER AND AHRNKLIN RIVER AND ALL DRAINAGES FLOWING INTO OR BETWEEN THE LOST RIVER AND AHRNKLIN RIVER, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS FOR SOCKEYE SALMON IS A BAG LIMIT OF THREE FISH AND A POSSESSION LIMIT OF SIX FISH.] **repealed / / ;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2009, the Board of Fisheries reduced the bag and possession limit of sockeye salmon in fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary from six per day, twelve in possession, to three per day, six in possession. In the 15 years since 2009, the Situk River has exceeded the upper end of its escapement goal (30,000 – 70,000) in 10 of those years. In 9 of the 10 years the escapement goal was exceeded, emergency order authority was used to increase the bag and possession limit to six fish per day, twelve in possession on an average date of July 11 when approximately 54% of the run has passed the Situk River weir. Increasing the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary would aid the department in managing the sockeye salmon to within levels of the escapement goal range of 30,000 – 70,000 by starting the season at a higher harvest rate.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-175)
