

PROPOSAL 189

5 AAC 96.6XX. New Section.

Adopt a Policy on Traditional Knowledge into regulation, as follows:

This regulatory language is in addition to 2024-305-FB: Alaska Board of Fisheries Policy on Traditional Knowledge

Chapter 96 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 AAC 96.6XX. Board of Fisheries policy on traditional knowledge. (a) The Alaska Board of Fisheries recognizes local knowledge and traditional knowledge as an important aspect of best available science. As such, access to these knowledge systems should be an important part of informing Board decisions through their close proximity and intimate, often long-standing, relationships with fish resources, the environment, and the ecological systems that are critical to fishery sustainability. These relationships may exceed direct references to the natural world to include values associated with an entire world view, such as reciprocity, respect, and relationality. The Board endeavors to incorporate traditional knowledge by seeking and inviting traditional knowledge holders recognized and nominated by their community, tribe, or by an organization whose interests encompass the conservation, protection, restoration, or enhancement of fishery resources, to share their experiences, values, alternative and/or independent observations and data collections directly with the Board.

(b) For the purpose of this section, “Traditional Knowledge” means knowledge, or a way of knowing, that is unique to a given culture or society, and, often through language, encompasses a worldview that defines specific relationships between humans and nonhuman attributes of the world. As knowledge that derives from both personal and the cumulative experiences of one’s forbearers, it is grounded in generational knowledge but also subject to change and refinement. Traditional Knowledge is characterized by a long time scale, is usually local in scale, and often provides a counterpoint to more broad-based, scientifically produced knowledge. This sharing of information may not be limited to in-person testimony but may include consideration of alternative forms of audio or visual media at the discretion of the chair. The Board will provide the opportunity to sign-up prior to Board meetings to provide traditional knowledge relevant to the proposals and subject matter under consideration at that meeting. The time allowance is ten minutes. The Board defines Traditional Knowledge differently than Local Knowledge. The Board’s decision-making has long incorporated local knowledge holders and experts primarily through the department’s local advisory committees, oral and written public comments, and the Board’s committee processes.

(c) For the purpose of this section, “Local Knowledge” means knowledge, or a way of knowing, developed from the observations and experiences of people living, working, harvesting, and processing fish or game in specific places, and local knowledge holders may or may not be Indigenous Peoples. Local Knowledge can evolve over time, but it is inherently the product of knowledge based on personal or shared experience. Local knowledge holders can be local people residing in communities with area and community specific insights to share. One important distinction of local knowledge from traditional knowledge is that one does not necessarily need

years of experience to hold local knowledge about an ecosystem, fishery, or species of fish. The term ‘local knowledge holder’ is used in reference to any, and all, people that hold information relevant to a particular fishery for example, residents, fishermen,, while a ‘local knowledge expert’ is more specific and acknowledges that an individual may hold above-average knowledge about a topic that is deep in breadth and scope. A ‘local knowledge expert’ may also be recognized by their peers as such.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This is a board-generated proposal.

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

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries (HQ-F26-BGP1)

PROPOSAL 190

5 AAC 05.XXX. New Section.

Adopt a Yukon River King Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan into regulation, as follows:

5 AAC Chapter 05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 AAC 05.XXX Yukon River King Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan. (a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide management tools and guidelines to the department for the management of Yukon River salmon fisheries consistent with AS 16.05.258, 5 AAC 39.220, 5 AAC 39.222, the Pacific Salmon Treaty and the 7-year agreement. While Yukon River king salmon are listed as a stock of management concern, this plan is intended to ensure the sustained yield of king salmon stocks large enough to meet sustainable escapement goals, while allowing for harvest opportunity in the subsistence, sport and commercial fisheries.

(1) in addition to management measures specified in 5 AAC 05.360, and opportunity provided in 5 AAC 93.212; the subsistence fishery management measures could be relaxed in specific tributaries within Alaska if updated stock composition and run assessment data indicates areas where specific restrictions are no longer needed to ensure the established escapement goals will be met.

(2) a fish wheel operated under this subsection must be operated as specified in 5 AAC 05.362(j)(1) – (2).

(b) The provisions of this management plan will remain in effect while Yukon River king salmon are listed as a stock of management concern. The department may recommend removal of this designation at the first Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Board of Fisheries meeting when the following conditions exist:

(1) the majority of the lower bounds of the established BEG and SEG ranges are met or exceeded in five consecutive years and is expected to be met in the future years;

(2) if annual yields or harvestable surpluses are below the historical range, the department may recommend changing the stock of concern designation to a stock of yield concern.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

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

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries

(HQ-F26-BGP2)

PROPOSAL 191

5 AAC 05.XXX. New Section.

Adopt Yukon River Fall Chum Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan into regulation, as follows:

5 AAC Chapter 05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 AAC 05.XXX Yukon River Fall Chum Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan.

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide the department with tools and guidelines for managing Yukon River salmon fisheries consistent with AS 16.05.258, 5 AAC 39.220, 5 AAC 39.222 and the Pacific Salmon Treaty. While Yukon River fall chum salmon are designated as a stock of management concern, this plan is intended to ensure run sizes at levels sufficient to meet established escapement goals, while also allowing for harvest opportunities in subsistence, sport, and commercial fisheries, consistent with AS 16.05.258.

(b) When Yukon fall chum salmon are designated as a stock of management concern, the department shall implement the Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 01.249) from July 13 through December 31.

(c) Commercial fisheries in the Yukon River drainage shall be prohibited from July 13 through December 31 when the projected run size is less than 550,000 fall chum salmon as specified in 5 AAC 01.249(5).

(d) Sport fishing for Yukon Chum will be restricted in the Yukon River drainage until subsistence opportunities are provided.

(e) Personal use fisheries will be managed in accordance with 5AAC 77.171-174 if subsistence opportunities are provided.

(f) Should the department identify that a harvestable surplus is expected to exist in excess of 300,000 fall chum salmon, subsistence fishing opportunities shall be provided consistent with precautionary management principles of 5 AAC 39.222, to achieve the drainage wide or tributary-specific escapement goals.

(g) In addition to management measures specified in 5 AAC 01.249, and opportunity provided in 5 AAC 93.212; the subsistence fishery management measures could be relaxed in specific tributaries within Alaska if updated stock composition and run assessment data indicates areas where specific restrictions are no longer needed to ensure the established escapement goals will be met.

(h) A fish wheel may be used; a fish wheel operated under this subsection must be constructed in a manner that includes

(1) basket sides and bottoms consisting of soft mesh material similar to or made of seine web; and

(2) an adjustable or fixed slide or chute that

(A) consists of a smooth bottom and closed cell foam lined sides; and

(B) returns fall chum salmon immediately to the water;

(3) the permit holder shall be present at and attend the fish wheel at all times while the fish wheel is in operation.

(i) The provisions of this management plan will remain in effect as long as Yukon River fall chum salmon are designated as a stock of management concern. The department may recommend removal of this designation at the first Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Board of Fisheries meeting when the following conditions exist:

(1) the lower bound of the drainagewide sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 300,000-600,000 fall chum salmon has been achieved or exceeded in each of the five consecutive years; and is projected to be met in future years;

(2) if annual yields or harvestable surpluses are below the historical range, the department may recommend changing the stock of concern designation to a stock of yield concern.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This is a board-generated proposal.

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

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries

(HQ-F26-BGP3)

PROPOSAL 192

5 AAC 21.382. Kenai River Late-run King Salmon Stock of Concern Plan.

Replace commercial set gillnet opportunity in the Kenai River Late-run King Salmon Stock of Concern Plan with a newly established set beach seine gear type, as follows

5 AAC 21.382(g) is amended to read:

(g) In the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District set gillnet commercial fishery,

(1) from June 20 through July 31, when the preseason forecast of king salmon 75 cm mid eye to tail fork and longer is greater than 14,250 fish, including harvest and forecast error, the Upper Subdistrict fishery may open to S04H CFEC permits as follows:

(A) allow for the use set beach seine, as defined in 5 AAC 39.105(6), as an alternative gear type for holders of a SO4H CFEC permits;

(B) one set beach seine may be used per a commercial set gillnet shore fishery lease site;

(C) the maximum legal limit for a set beach seine is 70 fathoms in length, 110 mesh depth including border and chaffing strips, and three and one-half inch mesh size throughout; notwithstanding, 5 AAC 21.332 set beach seines shall have no minimum length, depth or mesh size requirements;

(D) fishing with a set beach seine must occur from shore or waterline with one end anchored on shore and the outside end must be set and retrieved back to the shore or waterline using a running line;

(E) fishing with a set beach seine from shore or waterline must occur at the location of a shore fishery tract identified in the recorded plat for that AS 38.05.082 lease, or City of Kenai Lease or historically fished locations; nothing in this subsection affects or changes the terms or conditions of AS 38.05.082 lease or City of Kenai leases and its lessee;

(F) openings will occur for two 12-hour periods per week, established by emergency order;

(G) retention of king and coho salmon is prohibited, except that a king or coho salmon that is mortally wounded or caught as defined in (j) in a set beach seine is subject to stipulations in (i) and (j) of this plan;

(H) the number of any king or coho salmon that are released must be recorded on a ADF&G fish ticket under disposition code for live release;

(1) a commercial dip net may not be operated within 600 ft of any part of a commercial set beach seine and no part of a commercial set beach seine may be operated within 600 ft of any part of another commercial set beach seine;

[FROM JUNE 20 THROUGH JUNE 30, WHEN THE PRESEASON FORECAST OF KING SALMON 75 CM MID EYE TO TAIL FORK AND LONGER IS GREATER THAN 14,250 FISH, INCLUDING HARVEST AND FORECAST ERROR, THE UPPER SUBDISTRICT SET GILLNET FISHERY MAY BE OPENED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) EACH SETNET PERMIT HOLDER MAY USE UP TO ONE SET GILLNET THAT IS NOT MORE THAN 35 FATHOMS IN LENGTH AND 29 MESHES IN DEPTH;

(B) IS OPEN FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO EIGHT-HOUR PERIODS;

(C) WITH A 48-HOUR CONTINUOUS CLOSURE PER WEEK, BEGINNING BETWEEN 7:00 P.M. THURSDAY AND 7:00 A.M. FRIDAY;

(D) FISHERY OPENINGS WILL BE BASED UPON SELDOVIA DISTRICT TIDE TABLES BY SECTION AS FOLLOWS:

(I) NINILCHIK RIVER MOUTH TO KASILOF RIVER MOUTH (STAT AREAS 244-21, 244-22), THREE HOURS LATER THAN THE SELDOVIA DISTRICT LOW TIDE;

(II) KASILOF RIVER MOUTH TO KENAI RIVER MOUTH (STAT AREA 244-31), FOUR HOURS LATER THAN THE SELDOVIA DISTRICT LOW TIDE;

(III) OPENING TIMES WILL BE BASED ON NOAA CERTIFIED TIDE TABLES;

(2) FROM JULY 15 THROUGH JULY 27, WHEN THE INSEASON PROJECTION OF KING SALMON 75 CM MID EYE TO TAIL FORK AND LONGER IS GREATER THAN 14,250 FISH, INCLUDING HARVEST AND PROJECTION ERROR, THE UPPER SUBDISTRICT SET GILLNET FISHERY MAY BE OPENED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) EACH SETNET PERMIT HOLDER MAY USE UP TO ONE SET GILLNET THAT IS NOT MORE THAN 35 FATHOMS IN LENGTH AND 29 MESHES IN DEPTH;

(B) IS OPEN FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO EIGHT-HOUR PERIODS;

(C) WITH A 48-HOUR CONTINUOUS CLOSURE PER WEEK, BEGINNING BETWEEN 7:00 P.M. THURSDAY AND 7:00 A.M. FRIDAY;

(D) FISHERY OPENINGS WILL BE BASED UPON SELDOVIA DISTRICT TIDE TABLES BY SECTION AS FOLLOWS:

(I) NINILCHIK RIVER MOUTH TO KASILOF RIVER MOUTH (STAT AREAS 244-21, 244-22), THREE HOURS LATER THAN THE SELDOVIA DISTRICT LOW TIDE;

(II) KASILOF RIVER MOUTH TO KENAI RIVER MOUTH (STAT AREAS 244-31, 244-32), FOUR HOURS LATER THAN THE SELDOVIA DISTRICT LOW TIDE;

(III) KENAI RIVER MOUTH TO BOULDER POINT (STAT AREAS 244-41, 244-42), FIVE HOURS LATER THAN THE SELDOVIA DISTRICT LOW TIDE;

(IV) OPENING TIMES WILL BE BASED ON NOAA CERTIFIED TIDE TABLES;

(3) FROM JULY 28 THROUGH AUGUST 15, WHEN THE INSEASON PROJECTION OF KING SALMON 75 CM MID EYE TO TAIL FORK AND LONGER IS GREATER THAN 14,250 FISH, ACCOUNTING FOR ANTICIPATED HARVEST, PROJECTION ERROR AND INSEASON RUN STRENGTH, THE UPPER SUBDISTRICT SET GILLNET FISHERY MAY BE OPENED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) EACH SETNET PERMIT HOLDER MAY USE UP TO ONE SET GILLNET THAT IS NOT MORE THAN 35 FATHOMS IN LENGTH AND 29 MESHES IN DEPTH;

(B) IS OPEN FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO EIGHT-HOUR PERIODS;

(C) WITH A 48-HOUR CONTINUOUS CLOSURE PER WEEK, BEGINNING BETWEEN 7:00 P.M. THURSDAY AND 7:00 A.M. FRIDAY;

(D) FISHERY OPENINGS WILL BE BASED UPON SELDOVIA DISTRICT TIDE TABLES BY SECTION AS FOLLOWS:

(I) NINILCHIK RIVER MOUTH TO KASILOF RIVER MOUTH (STAT AREAS 244-21, 244-22), THREE HOURS LATER THAN THE SELDOVIA DISTRICT LOW TIDE;

(II) KASILOF RIVER MOUTH TO KENAI RIVER MOUTH (STAT AREAS 244-31, 244-32), FOUR HOURS LATER THAN THE SELDOVIA DISTRICT LOW TIDE;

(III) KENAI RIVER MOUTH TO BOULDER POINT (STAT AREAS 244-41, 244-42), FIVE HOURS LATER THAN THE SELDOVIA DISTRICT LOW TIDE;

(IV) OPENING TIMES WILL BE BASED ON NOAA CERTIFIED TIDE TABLES;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This is a board-generated proposal.

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

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries (HQ-F26-BGP4)
