

Submitted by ADF&G at the request of Board member Ruffner
March 10, 2019

Substitute language for Proposal 182

5 AAC 06.368. NUSHAGAK RIVER COHO SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN. (a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide guidelines to ensure an adequate spawning escapement of coho salmon into the Nushagak River system. It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries (board) that Nushagak coho salmon be harvested by the fisheries that have historically harvested them. The plan in this section provides management guidelines to the department in an effort to preclude allocation conflicts between various users of this resource. The department shall manage coho salmon stocks in a conservative manner consistent with sustained yield principles and the subsistence priority.

(b) The department shall manage the commercial fishery in the Nushagak District to achieve an inriver run goal of 70,000-130,000 coho salmon present in the Nushagak River upstream from the department sonar counter located near the village of Portage Creek by August 25. The inriver goal provides for

(1) the department's biological escapement goal of 60,000-120,000 coho salmon upstream from the sonar counter by August 25;

(2) a reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvest of coho salmon; and

(3) a daily bag and possession limit of five coho salmon[, AND A GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL OF 2,000 FISH] in the sport fishery; [THE SPORT FISH GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL OF 2,000 FISH DOES NOT APPLY IF THE TOTAL INRIVER COHO SALMON RETURN IS PROJECTED TO BE GREATER THAN 120,000 FISH BY AUGUST 25;] the department shall manage the sport fishery to ensure that the biological escapement goal of 60,000-120,000 coho salmon is achieved.

(c) If the total inriver coho salmon return in the Nushagak River is projected by the department to be less than [120,000] **100,000 fish** but at least 70,000 fish by August 25, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the directed coho salmon commercial fishery in the Nushagak District by August 1; and

(1) repealed 4/16/2016;

(2) the commissioner may restrict, by emergency order **as specified in 5AAC 75.003(1)**, the coho salmon sport fishery in the Nushagak River drainage **to maintain the total inriver coho salmon projection in the Nushagak River above 70,000 fish** upstream from the department sonar counter located near the village of Portage Creek [SO THAT THE HARVEST DOES NOT EXCEED 2,000 COHO SALMON BY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

(A) REDUCE THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT;

(B) PROHIBIT THE USE OF BAIT;

(C) RESTRICT FISHING TIMES AND AREAS;

(D) RESTRICT TERMINAL TACKLE TO SINGLE HOOK ARTIFICIAL LURES; AND

(E) ALLOW CATCH AND RELEASE FISHING ONLY;]

(3) [IT IS THE INTENT OF THE BOARD THAT THE LOWER THE PROJECTED INRIVER COHO SALMON RETURN IS, THE MORE RESTRICTIVE THAT MANAGEMENT MEASURES WILL BE IN THE SPORT AND COMMERCIAL FISHERIES UNDER THIS SECTION.] **repealed** __/__/__.

(d) If the total inriver coho salmon return in the Nushagak River is projected by the department to be less than 70,000 **fish** and the number of spawners is projected to be more than 60,000 fish on August 25, the department shall:

(1) close the directed commercial fishery **in the Nushagak District** no later than August 1;

(2) close the coho salmon sport fishery in the Nushagak River drainage; and

(3) [RESTRICT THE COHO SALMON SUBSISTENCE FISHERY IN THE NUSHAGAK RIVER DRAINAGE BY ESTABLISHING PERIODS BY EMERGENCY ORDER, DURING WHICH:

(A) COHO SALMON MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM 9:00 A.M. MONDAY TO 9:00 A.M. TUESDAY, FROM 9:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY TO 9:00 A.M. THURSDAY, AND FROM 9:00 A.M. FRIDAY TO 9:00 A.M. SATURDAY; AND

(B) SET GILLNETS MAY NOT BE MORE THAN 10 FATHOMS IN LENGTH.] **repealed** __/__/__.

(e) If the number of coho salmon spawners in the Nushagak River is projected by the department to be less than 60,000 **fish** by August 25, the department shall close the subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries.