

## **PROPOSAL 69**

### **5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* to include even-year returns of pink salmon to the Karluk River in management of the Central and North Cape Sections, as follows:

- (b) The Central and North Cape Sections must be managed
- (1) from June 1 through approximately June 15, as a mixed-stock fishery directed on early-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk, Ayakulik, and Olga Bay systems; the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, at least two commercial test fishing periods of 33 hours in length;
  - (2) from approximately June 16 through July 5, based on early-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system;
  - (3) from approximately July 6 through August 15, based on pink salmon returning to the major pink salmon systems in the Northwest Kodiak District;

Change line 3 to read

- (3) from approximately July 6 through August 15, based on pink salmon returning to the major pink salmon systems in the Northwest Kodiak District, **or on even-year cycles based on pink salmon returning to the Karluk system;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 2018 the Karluk river pink escapement was 2,275,207 fish counted through the weir (solid numbers). ADF&G escapement goals for Karluk even year pinks are a range of 800,00 - 1.6 million.

A million pinks + or - is the range the dept tries to get on even year Karluk run escapement. In 2018 1,275,207 pinks went up the river beyond needed escapement, a foregone harvest cost of approximately \$1,785,290 to the commercial pink fleet. This is not a one off problem over time, 2002 1.6 mil, 1990 3.5 mil, 1984 1.7 mil 1982 2.3 mil, 1980 2.3 mil pink escapement with the attached foregone harvest. There are many years that the Karluk even year escapement exceeds 1 million.

The problem is Karluk pinks migrating through the northwest Kodiak district cannot be taken into account by ADF&G managers as the regulations are worded now for July 6-August 15 general pink season.

The Central & North Cape sections historically harvest Karluk bound pinks the regulation (line 3) has no mention of Karluk even run pinks although there is a historical Karluk pink harvest in these sections.

The crux of the problem is weak pink returns to some of the NW Kodiak streams shackle the department by regulation to not open up the Central & North Cape to harvest the Karluk pinks as they migrate through theses section to the Karluk.

The NW Kodiak district regulations in every other time period has mention of Karluk as the Karluk regulations have the Central section of NW Kodiak mentioned.

The addition of the wording will give the managers the flexibility to react to the Karluk even cycle pink return which can be levels of magnitude above streams in the NW Kodiak district on some even years to prevent over escapement and forgone lost revenue to all involved.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chris Berns

(EF-F19-004)

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