

PROPOSAL 77

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

Close waters within 500 yards of the terminus of the Ayakulik River to commercial salmon fishing September 1–October 31, as follows:

Inner Ayakulik section closed to commercial salmon fishing within 500 yards radius of stream terminus (as determined by ADF&G preseason markers and corresponding GPS coordinates) of Ayakulik River September 1st to October 31st.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to address the issue of steelhead bycatch and potential coho over harvest on the Inner Ayakulik Section during commercial salmon fishing season. There is currently no management policy for steelhead bycatch or coho management on the Ayakulik River. During times of low water especially around the first week of September, there can be a huge buildup of coho in saltwater in the immediate vicinity of the Ayakulik stream terminus. A seiner at the opportune time could easily catch a vast majority of the coho escapement in short order. A buffer zone would greatly facilitate inriver escapement for future strong coho runs, lessen steelhead bycatch of which very little is known, and still allow a salmon seiner to fish unimpeded. I believe there are not near enough conservation-minded measures in effect. With Kodiak Salmon management in particular, the other anadromous fish species that are not economically viable as sockeye should have equal value ecologically, and for the overall health of each individual salmon system island wide.

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