

Northern Region Salmon Fisheries (5 proposals)

PROPOSAL 63

5 AAC 18.360. Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 18.363. North Shelikof Strait Sockeye Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 18.369. Mainland District Salmon Management Plan.

Create “seaward” and “shoreward” zones in the Kodiak Management Area and amend management plans to restrict the commercial seine fishery June 1–July 25 based on those zones, as follows:

Amend the current North Shelikof Management Plan 5 AAC 18.363, Mainland District Salmon Plan 5 AAC 18.369, and the Cape Igvak Salmon Plan 5 AAC 18.360. Current management plans do not give enough protection to non-local Chinook stocks

Currently in regulation there is a non-retention of King (Chinook) salmon, over 28” in length, in the KMA (Kodiak Management Area) salmon seine fishery.

Per the Pacific Salmon Commission Joint Technical Committee Report (report TCCHINOOK (97)-1) the mortality of catch and release of Chinook salmon in seine gear is accepted to be 72%. In the 3 years prior to 2014 when the non-retention rules of Chinooks over 28” went into effect, the KMA harvest of Chinook salmon was 60,720 fish. The following 3 years the harvest was 19,740 fish 28” or less, under the non-retention rule. During the latter 3 years there were also several windows of no retention. This was enacted because of concerns for the Karluk and Ayakolik systems not meeting their respective escapement goals. In looking at any of the recent Chinook data one should keep in mind comparisons to previous year’s harvest are somewhat deceiving in that when the AMR’s speak to xxxx fish was below the 10-year average, non-retention mortality must be added to the harvest number total. If retention was allowed more fish certainly would have been enumerated.

If one were to assume that the Chinook catch rates remained similar the 3 years following the non-retention of Chinook rule over 28”, it would look like this.

Seasons	KMA seine Chinook harvest total
2011-2013	60,720 fish under full retention
2014-2016	<u>19,740 fish with retention of 28” and less only</u>
	40,980 fish released
	<u>÷ 3 years</u>
	13,660 total fish per year released
	<u>X 72%</u> the scientifically accepted mortality rate
	9,835 total number of Chinook catch and release

mortalities per year in the KMA salmon seine fishery, with the first interaction with seine gear. This number must be added to reported harvest numbers when calculating the total resource extraction.

Per the 2014-2016 AMR’s (KMA annual management reports) 2 of the 3 years, the mainland district is noted as having a greater proportion of the Chinook harvest, particularly in June and

July. Also included in the 2016 AMR was a table of the streams known to have salmon by species present in them. The mainland has no streams with Chinook present in them (documented use by anadromous fish Johnson and Litchfield 2016).

A fish is harvested whether it goes over the dock or over the rail to the bottom, while not being enumerated.

Understanding the Chinooks harvested in the mainland district of the KMA are not returning to any streams on the mainland, per the above table. Previous genetic work done on Chinooks in the KMA indicate their origin to be British Columbia, West coast stocks, Southeast Alaska/Northeast Gulf of Alaska, Cook Inlet, then Kodiak in that order. In both the commercial and sport fisheries, the annual harvest of Kodiak-origin Chinook salmon, in the KMA was below 5% of the total harvest (Chinook salmon in the Westward Region, 2014-2016 Shedd et al 2016). The Chinook population has been spiraling down in the Pacific region, California to the Yukon River. From the endangered southern resident killer whales of Puget Sound on the west coast, that depend on these fish for food, to the regions in Alaska where cultural, sport, and commercial fisheries are regulated based on these returning salmon. I find myself wondering if this is a wise practice.

Two things come to my mind, first and foremost is the waste of the Chinook resource. Secondly, not being able to quantify these wasteful discards. One solution would be to institute full retention of Chinook salmon in the mainland district. With this we would be able to quantify and find the origin of these Chinook with genetics. Unfortunately, I'm somewhat concerned this would promote a scenario similar to the Chum chucking that was said to once go on in some western areas of Alaska. This would most likely multiply the waste of the Chinook resource.

Currently, at the time of this draft (March 2019), most systems that produce Chinook salmon in Cook Inlet are under harvest restrictions, some 3 to 4 months before a Chinook angler in the Cook Inlet drainage wets a line with the intention to harvest a Chinook. Major restrictions have been announced on the opportunity to have a successful fishing experience, from the Mat-Su area to the Anchor River. These various origin Chinook need an opportunity to find their natal streams.

When considering the information in this proposal and the KMA AMR's (annual management reports) from the last six (6) years. I believe it's past due, to have the KMA seine fishery share in the burden of conservation of the various Chinook stocks in the KMA. Especially considering that other fisheries have and continue to do so.

Amend the North Shelikof Management Plan (NSSSSMP; 5 AAC 18.363) and the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 18.360). Then blend it into the Mainland District Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 18.369) as follows.

During the time period June 1 – July 25 the mainland district will be allowed a maximum of (2) two (12) twelve-hour fishing periods per week. In the area commonly known as the “seaward zones”, of the mainland district (Cape Douglas to the Kilokak Rocks). All additional fishing time will only be in the “shoreward zones” as described in the current North Shelikof Strait Sockeye Management Plan with a blend of the coordinates of the Kodiak Management Area Herring Areas on the Mainland side, of the Shelikof Strait. Most

of these coordinates are currently in regulation. These coordinates will define the outer boundary of the “shoreward zones”

Cape Douglas 58°51.10’ N Lat. 153°15.10’ W. Long. to a point east of the Swikshak River at 58° 37.97’ N. lat., 153° 35.55’ W. long., 153° 58.90’ W. long., to Cape Chiniak at 58° 30.96’ N. lat., 153° 54.50’ W. long., to Cape Nukshak at 58° 23.50’ N. lat., 153° 58.90’ W. long., to Cape Ugyak at 58° 16.55’ N. lat., 154° 06.15’ W. long., to Cape Gull at 58° 13.04’ N. lat., 154° 08.60’ W. long., to Cape Kuliak at 58° 08.10’ N. lat., 154° 12.30’ W. long., to Cape Atushagvik at 58° 05.00’ N. lat., 154° 18.90’ W. long., to Cape Ilktugitak at 58° 01.17’ N. lat., 154° 35.00’ W. long., to the southern entrance of Dakavak Bay at 58° 01.00’ N. lat., 154° 43.60’ W. long., to Cape Kubugakli., to Cape Kekurnoi., to a point approximately 2 miles south of Cape Aklek., to Cape Unalishagvak., to Cape Igvak 57° 26.04’ N. lat., 156° 01.43’ W. long., to the easternmost tip of Terrace Island at 156° 15.00’ N lat., to Cape Kayakliut 57° 17.63’ N. lat., 156° 18.98’ W. long.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) Chinook Seine catch and release of fish 28” and over. The various agencies are unable to quantify the released Chinooks or their origin. The current KMA management plans don’t give enough protection to non-local Chinook salmon stocks.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Anderson (HQ-F19-028)

PROPOSAL 64

5 AAC 18.360. Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 18.363. North Shelikof Strait Sockeye Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 18.369. Mainland District Salmon Management Plan.

Create “seaward” and “shoreward” zones in the Kodiak Management Area and amend management plans to restrict the commercial seine fishery June 28–July 25 based on those zones, as follows:

Amend the current Salmon Management Plan North Shelikof Management Plan 5 AAC 18.363, Mainland District Salmon Management Plan 5 AAC 18.369, and the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan 5 AAC 18.360. To address some of the incorrect assumptions revealed by the recently released (2016) sockeye genetic study.

In the middle stratum (6/28-7/25) of the study, in the Igvak section of the mainland, the sockeye harvest was assumed to be of Chignik origin. Genetic samples taken from this area and time period revealed 54% Cook Inlet sockeye in 2015, and 93.2% Cook Inlet sockeye in 2016. Sampling in this area did not take place the first year (2014) of the genetic sockeye study. Other areas in the KMA also were shown to have considerable interactions with Cook Inlet stocks. Several versions of North Shelikof Strait Sockeye Management Plan in the past had tried to address the Cook Inlet stock issue (Barrett 1989 also Barrett and Swanton 1991, 1992) (Vining 1996). Also swimming with the Cook Inlet drainage sockeyes are some other Cook Inlet stocks (Chinooks, Coho, Chums, and Pinks). Of which some are in stock of concern status.

The anadromous stream chart found in the 2016 KMA AMR reflects 7 streams known to once have sockeye present in them, of the 7 streams; an area biologist shared with me that only 2 of them make it to minor stream production status.

In 2015 and 2016 when all 6 sampling areas in the KMA completed sampling across all three sampling strata. The results were as follows 36.6%, 626,476 Sockeyes in 2015, and 29.6%, 384,089 Sockeyes in 2016 were attributed to Cook Inlet (per 2014-2016 sockeye genetic sampling effort in the KMA) One has to also understand the sampled KMA represents less than one half (1/2) of the available fishing area in the KMA.

This is an excerpt from the genetic report summary of non-local sockeye in the KMA. The vast majority of nonlocal sockeye harvest in this study was attributed to the Cook Inlet Reporting group. While nonlocal sockeye salmon harvest occurred in all sampling areas, it was most prominent in Ayakulik-Halibut Bay, Alitak, and Igvak sampling areas. (Fishery Manuscript Series No. 16-10) Considering the information in the last 8 years of the KMA AMR's (annual management reports), and the Genetic Stock Composition of the Commercial Harvest of Sockeye Salmon in Kodiak Management Area, 2014-2016(Fishery Manuscript Series No. 16-10). With this information I believe it's time to have the KMA seine fishery share in the burden of conversation of Cook Inlet salmon stocks. Limiting fishing time and area is certainly easier and less costly than monitoring harvest caps on the grounds as currently done under the North Shelikof Management Plan 5 AAC 18.363.

Amend the North Shelikof Management Plan (NSSSSMP; 5 AAC 18.363) and the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 18.360). Then blend it into the Mainland District Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 18.369) as follows.

During the time period 6/28-7/25 (similar to the middle stratum of the genetic study) the mainland district will be allowed a maximum of (2) two (12) twelve hour fishing periods per week. In the area commonly known as the “seaward zones”, of the mainland district (Cape Douglas to the Kilokak Rocks). All additional fishing time will only be in the “shoreward zones” as described in the current North Shelikof Strait Sockeye Management Plan with a blend of the coordinates of the Kodiak Management Area Herring Areas on the Mainland side, of the Shelikof Strait. Most of these coordinates are currently in regulation. These coordinates will define the outer boundary of the “shoreward zones”

Cape Douglas 58°51.10' N Lat. 153°15.10' W. Long. to a point east of the Swikshak River at 58° 37.97' N. lat., 153° 35.55' W. long., 153° 58.90' W. long., to Cape Chiniak at 58° 30.96' N. lat., 153° 54.50' W. long., to Cape Nukshak at 58° 23.50' N. lat., 153° 58.90' W. long., to Cape Ugyak at 58° 16.55' N. lat., 154° 06.15' W. long., to Cape Gull at 58° 13.04' N. lat., 154° 08.60' W. long., to Cape Kuliak at 58° 08.10' N. lat., 154° 12.30' W. long., to Cape Atushagvik at 58° 05.00' N. lat., 154° 18.90' W. long., to Cape Ilktugitak at 58° 01.17' N. lat., 154° 35.00' W. long., to the southern entrance of Dakavak Bay at 58° 01.00' N. lat., 154° 43.60' W. long., to Cape Kubugakli., to Cape Kekurnoi., to a point approximately 2 miles south of Cape Aklek., to Cape Unalishagvak., to Cape Igvak 57° 26.04' N. lat., 156° 01.43' W. long., to the easternmost tip of Terrace Island at 156° 15.00' N lat., to Cape Kayakliut 57° 17.63' N. lat., 156° 18.98' W. long.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A recent genetic study exposed some incorrect assumptions on Sockeye stock composition in the Kodiak Management Area. Current management plans do not give enough protection to nonlocal salmon stocks.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Anderson

(HQ-F19-029)

PROPOSAL 65

5 AAC 18.360. Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 18.369. Mainland District Salmon Management Plan.

Close the Katmai, Alinchak, and Cape Igvak Sections to commercial salmon fishing June 28–July 25, as follows:

The Mainland District sections of Katmai, Alinchak, and Cape Igvak are closed to salmon fishing June 28 through July 25.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Restrict the harvest of Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) sockeye salmon in the Kodiak Mainland District west of the Dakavak Bay Section when UCI stocks are known to be present, June 28-July 25.

Recent genetic data definitely shows that the Kodiak salmon fishery intercepts UCI sockeye salmon at a relatively high degree (Shedd et al ADF&G 2016). While Kodiak has many major local sockeye stocks, natural and hatchery supported, it is reasonable that Kodiak be required to reel back its ‘bycatch’ on UCI sockeye salmon at least in its nonterminal fisheries. There is no basis for Kodiak to have an UCI fishery harvest entitlement, and while it is recognized that most salmon fisheries support a bycatch of non-local fish, as a component of terminal stock management, in the Kodiak Mainland District sections of Katmai, Alinchak, and Cape Igvak there are no local sockeye stocks and yet substantial numbers of UCI sockeye salmon are harvested unnecessarily. To offset some of Kodiak’s bycatch of UCI sockeye in terminal stock fisheries, Kodiak’s Mainland District west of the Dakavak Bay Section should be closed to salmon fishing between June 28th and July 25th ,where again there are no local Kodiak sockeye runs, in a known UCI sockeye-migration corridor.

To illustrate the degree of UCI sockeye salmon interception in the Kodiak Mainland District west of the Dakavak Section, in 2016 in the Cape Igvak fishery alone, 165,214 UCI sockeye salmon were harvested in the period June 28 through July 25, amounting to 93% of the total catch (Shedd et al ADF&G 2016). Only 1,498 Kodiak-bound sockeye were harvested during that period, and all were Kodiak Island and Afognak Island-bound stocks.

While reining in non-local stock interception on Kodiak’s westside more than possibly restricting offshore fishing (1.5-3 miles) may be too limiting for providing local-stock harvest opportunity and not exceeding escapement requirements not so is the case in the Kodiak Mainland District’s sections of Katmai, Alinchak, and Cape Igvak where repeatedly, there are no local Kodiak sockeye runs and genetic data indicate an overwhelming migration of UCI sockeye salmon, June 28-July 25 (Shedd et. al. ADF&G 2016).

The proposed limit to salmon fishing in the Katmai, Alinchak, and Cape Igvak sections of the Mainland District June 28 through July 25 is in align with 5 AAC 39.222 Policy for Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries. Kodiak does not have an inherent entitlement or need culturally or economically to substantially harvest sockeye salmon destined to UCI or should not be required to share in the burden of conservation in fully recruited fisheries outside of the Kodiak Management Area including where stocks of concern and major intra-area allocation issues exist.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (HQ-F19-079)

**This proposal will be heard at the LCI, Kodiak, and UCI meetings, and deliberated at the UCI meeting.*

PROPOSAL 37

5 AAC 18.XXX. New section.

Create a king salmon management plan with paired restrictions in Kodiak and Cook Inlet commercial fisheries, as follows:

Solution:

During low king salmon abundance Kodiak commercial fisheries in and Cook Inlet will be managed under a single comprehensive king salmon conservation plan which functions to conserve kings in both locations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We need paired king salmon retention restrictions for Cook Inlet and Kodiak island commercial fisheries. Cook Inlet is experiencing or projected to experience king salmon retention restrictions. The ADF&G is currently attempting to manage Cook Inlet king salmon as if they are not the same kings migrating past Kodiak Island. This mismanagement has resulted in Kodiak area commercial fisheries retaining kings while Cook Inlet fisheries are not able to retain kings. This is illogical fisheries management with Cook Inlet attempting to preserve what Kodiak is slaughtering. When Cook Inlet kings are less abundant Kodiak and Cook Inlet commercial fisheries should be jointly managed to conserve kings. Currently Kodiak commercial gill nets activate within the first week of June while Cook Inlet fisheries are closed to king retention during low king abundance. These fisheries should be jointly managed to conserve kings during low king abundance.

PROPOSED BY: Donald Johnson (EF-F19-013)

PROPOSAL 66

5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.

Create a Kodiak Area Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

This proposal addresses the harvests of Cook Inlet and other non-local salmon stocks in the Kodiak Area. If this proposal is adopted, it will create a new Kodiak Area Management (umbrella) Plan.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The solution we propose is to modify the existing management plans to minimize harvest of Cook Inlet and other non-local salmon stocks. This proposal is to apply to the Seine Fishery. The new salmon umbrella management plan includes the following concepts:

1. 5 AAC 18. New Kodiak Area Salmon Management Plan.

(a) Provides the department long-term direction in the management of non-local salmon stocks and local salmon stocks. Divisions within the department must receive long-term direction in order to accomplish their mission and plan management, research, administrative and other programs. Kodiak and Cook Inlet stakeholders should be informed of the long-term management objectives of the Board of Fisheries (board) for the management development and conservation of both Kodiak, Cook Inlet and other non-local stocks (adopted from 5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan).

(b) The purpose of this new Kodiak Area Salmon Management Plan is to allow traditional fisheries to be conducted on Kodiak Area salmon stocks, while minimizing directed harvest of Cook Inlet and other non-local salmon stocks. The board recognized that some incidental harvest of other stocks has and will occur in this area while the seine fishery is managed for local Kodiak Area salmon stocks. The board intends, however, to prevent a repetition of the nontraditional harvest pattern which occurred during 1988, and many years since.

(c) This new umbrella plan will cover the last week of June and four weeks in July. Week will remain as currently defined in 5 AAC 21.359 (i) For the purposes of this section, “week” means a calendar week, a period of time beginning at 12:00:01 a.m. Sunday and ending at 12:00 midnight the following Saturday. Seasonal limit is defined as the total for these weekly periods, not the entire Kodiak Management Area salmon season. For example: The weeks would have been outlined as below:

2017

Week 1: June 25 thru July 1

Week 2: July 2 thru July 8

Week 3: July 9 thru July 15

Week 4: July 16 thru July 22

Week 5: July 23 thru July 29

2018

Week 1: June 24 thru June 30

Week 2: July 1 thru July 7

Week 3: July 8 thru July 14

Week 4: July 15 thru July 21

Week 5: July 22 thru July 28

2019

Week 1: June 23 thru June 29

Week 2: June 30 thru July 6

Week 3: July 7 thru July 13

Week 4: July 14 thru July 20

Week 5: July 21 thru July 27

(d) The following weekly and seasonal harvest/catch limits for sockeye salmon will apply:

District/Management Plan Weekly Seasonally Week #

5 AAC 18.360 Cape Igvak Not addressed in this proposal

5 AAC 18.361 Alitak District 5,000 20,000 1 – 4 (New)

5 AAC 18.362 Westside Kodiak 12,500 50,000 1 – 4 (New)

5 AAC 18.363 North Shelikof Strait

- 5 AAC 18.363 (b) Afognak/Shuyak/Mainland 3,750 15,000 2 – 5 (Current)

- 5 AAC 18.363 (c) SW Afognak 12,500 50,000 2 – 5 (Current)

5 AAC 18.364 Crescent Lake Coho Not addressed in this proposal

5 AAC 18.365 Eastside Afognak Not addressed in this proposal

5 AAC 18.366 Spiridon Bay Sockeye Not addressed in this proposal

5 AAC 18.367 Eastside Kodiak 5,000 20,000 1 – 5 (New)

5 AAC 18.368 North Afognak/Shuyak Island – Included in North Shelikof Plan

5 AAC 18.369 Mainland District – Included in North Shelikof Plan

5 AAC 18.375 Foul Bay Terminal Harvest Area Not addressed in this proposal

5 AAC 18.376 Waterfall Bay Terminal Harvest Area Not addressed in this proposal

5 AAC 18.377 Settler Cove Terminal Harvest Area Not addressed in this proposal

5 AAC 18.378 Malina Creek Terminal Harvest Area Not addressed in this proposal

Special Note: This umbrella plan does not specifically address 5 AAC 18.360 Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan or the special harvest area or cost recovery areas.

(e) It is intended that when the weekly harvest/catch limit is projected, or actually achieved, salmon fishing will stop for the remainder of the week or be restricted inside bays and headlands.

(f) The fishery will remain open during normal fishing periods until the harvest meets, or is projected to meet, the weekly harvest/catch limit. When the weekly harvest/catch limit is met, the department shall restrict the fishery by Emergency Order to .5 nm inside a headland to headland line or to a terminal harvest area (to be defined).

(g) It is intended that the weekly harvest/catch limits of salmon harvested will apply to the seasonal catch limit. For example: Area XX has a 5,000 weekly harvest/catch limit and the actual harvest/catch is 10,000 (10,000 - 5,000 = 5,000) so the additional 5,000 in surplus harvest will be applied towards the seasonal harvest limit.

(h) It is intended that no weekly fishing time will be initiated or given when there is less than 15% of the seasonal harvest/catch limits are remaining. All fishing will be inside bays or headland lines. For example: Area XX has 4 weekly harvest/catch limits of 5,000 and a 20,000 seasonal harvest/catch limit. At the end of Week 3, if the total harvest has been 17,500, then in Week 4, there will be no fishing time allowed outside of bays or headland lines.

Special Note: The concern is that in Week 4 or 5, both the weekly and seasonal harvest/catch limits will be greatly exceeded with no accountability to the biological and ecological detriment of Cook Inlet and other non-local salmon stocks.

Special Note: 5 AAC 18.364(b)(3) North Shelikof Strait Area. When the harvest exceeds 15,000 sockeye salmon, the department shall restrict the fishery by emergency order to waters

of...However, in this area, there have been harvests in excess of 100,000 sockeye salmon. In the future, the sockeye salmon harvest needs to comply with the 15,000 fish limit.

Current management practices are not using the best science or management practices to develop escapement goals, management plans or brood tables for Kodiak, Cook Inlet or other areas when as much as 30% of the harvestable surplus remains unaccounted for or unassigned to a particular salmon stock(s).

- The burden of conservation (stocks of concern) with this new Kodiak Area Salmon Management Plan will be accurately or fairly applied.
- The Sustainable Salmon Policy implementation of the sharing of the conservation burden will be followed.

Clearly, the Board, in December 1989, intended to minimize the harvests of Upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks. It was only recently, as the result of genetic testing and analysis, that the real magnitude of the harvest of Cook Inlet and other non-local salmon stocks in the Kodiak Management Area became known.

The issue of Kodiak harvesting hundreds of thousands of Cook Inlet and other non-local stocks will continue, all leading to increased conflicts, inappropriate biological assessments (escapement goals), economic stress, perhaps inappropriate management plans and inappropriate use of Emergency Order authority.

The Kodiak harvesting of Cook Inlet and other non-local stocks was recognized by ADF&G and the board as a problem in 1988. The board held an out-of-cycle meeting in December of 1989 in Kodiak to specifically address the Kodiak harvests of Cook Inlet salmon. At that time, ADF&G and the board had limited experience and information as to the extent, magnitude, location and timing of the harvest of these Cook Inlet salmon stocks. Now, years later, with the aid of genetics, we - know much more about the timing, locations, extent and magnitude of the harvests of the Cook Inlet origin salmon stocks. This proposal is a first opportunity to look at the harvests of Cook Inlet stocks in the Kodiak Management Area.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association

(HQ-F19-078)
