

PROPOSAL 109

5 AAC 40.0XX. New section.

Establish a hatchery special harvest area in Carroll Inlet, as follows:

5 AAC 40.0XX. Carroll Inlet Special Harvest Area.

CARROLL INLET SPECIAL HARVEST AREA

(a) There is established a Carroll Inlet Special Harvest Area for the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association harvest of chinook salmon returns to the Carroll Inlet release site, consisting of the waters of Carroll Inlet north of the latitude of Nigelius Point at 55° 33.50' N. lat., 131° 21.14' W. long.

(b) A hatchery permit holder harvesting salmon within the special harvest area is exempt from the provisions of 5 AAC 33.310. The open fishing season within the Carroll Inlet Special Harvest Area for the hatchery permit holder is from June 01 through July 15 during fishing periods established by emergency order.

(c) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 33.330, legal gear for the hatchery permit holder in the special harvest area is purse seine, beach seine, gillnet, and troll gear.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA), is a non-profit regional salmon enhancement association headquartered in Ketchikan, Alaska. SSRAA operates Whitman Lake Hatchery which releases chinook salmon at a net pen site in Carroll Inlet (CI). CI chinook salmon eggs are taken, incubated and reared at the Whitman Lake Hatchery. Saltwater grow-out and imprinting CI chinook smolts is done at the Carroll Inlet net pen site. The adult chinook are caught in winter and spring fisheries throughout the region, and mature adults return to CI through fisheries in District 1 particularly, entering CI starting in late May. These salmon are temporally segregated from Carroll River summer chum when they are in the terminal area. Common property fishers in and near the terminal area are expected to catch a majority of these fish prior to when the THA closes on July 1, and SSRAA will clean up the rest as cost recovery. SSRAA proposes that cost recovery in the SHA be allowed past when the Carroll Inlet THA closes on July 1 to allow a thorough clean-up of these fish - particularly in the area of the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project tailrace pool, which is a freshwater source attractant for these chinooks. This narrow window of time from July 1 to July 15 will allow SSRAA additional opportunity to fully harvest all the returning chinook in a cost recovery clean-up, which is a permit condition and best management practice.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (EF-F20-109)
