

## **PROPOSAL 124**

### **5 AAC 33.366. Northern Southeast seine salmon fishery management plan.**

Establish additional guidelines for the department to manage the District 12 purse seine fishery north of Point Marsden, as follows:

5 AAC 33.366. Northern Southeast seine salmon fishery management plan. (a) during the month of July, the department may allow the operation of purse seines in District 12 north of Point Marsden to harvest pink salmon migrating northward in Chatham Strait only as follows:

(1) the department may open only those portions of the area in which a harvestable abundance of pink salmon is observed; open areas and times must consider conservation concerns for all species in the area;

**(2) the department shall close the seine fishery in District 12 north of Point Marsden during July after 15,000 wild sockeye salmon are taken, as described in this paragraph; during the openings, the department will use aerial flyovers, on the ground sampling, interviews, and fish tickets to estimate the sockeye salmon harvest north of Point Marsden in District 12; hatchery-produced sockeye salmon will not count against the 15,000 sockeye salmon harvest limit; the wild sockeye salmon that will count against the 15000 sockeye salmon limit under this paragraph is as follows.**

**(A) all wild sockeye salmon harvested by seine vessels that the department identifies as fishing north of Point Marsden in District 12 during any July fishing period when other areas are open concurrently.**

(b) Salmon may be taken during emergency order openings for chum salmon in Excursion Inlet only in waters of Section 14-C north of the latitude of the northern tip of the Porpoise Islands. The commissioner may open the area by emergency order only after consideration of concerns for chum and coho salmon conservation.

(c) The department may allow the operation of purse seines in District 12 south of Point Marsden. Before opening fishing areas and times under this subsection, the department must consider conservation concerns for all salmon species in the area, and

(1) the portion of District 12 within two miles of the Admiralty Island shoreline south of the latitude of Point Hepburn at 57° 56.21' N. lat. and north of the latitude of Fishery Point at 57° 47.36' N. lat. may not open before July 17;

(2) the portion of District 12 within two miles of the Admiralty Island shoreline south of the latitude of Fishery Point at 57° 47.36' N. lat. and north of the latitude of Parker Point at 57° 36.73' N. lat. may not open before July 21.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** During the 2018 SE Finfish meeting, an agreement was made between the seines and gillnets on a seine generated proposal to move the wild sockeye cap ending date to July 22 from its original date of through the month of July. The regulation was to sunset after three years. As a result of poor wording in the regulation, the wild 15,000 sockeye cap will also sunset out of regulation. This was not the intent of the agreement, as our gear group would never have signed on. The 15,000 sockeye cap is a long standing regulation that recognizes the highly mixed stocked aspects of this particular area. We feel that the 15,000 cap is an important management tool, particularly in high abundance pink years, to allow passage of sockeye bound for both PSC systems and Alaska systems that the gillnet fleet is managed for.

**PROPOSED BY:** United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters

(HQ-F20-122)

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