

PROPOSAL 43

5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound management and salmon enhancement allocation plan.

Repeal the definition of enhanced salmon stocks, as follows:

Remove the language in 5 AAC 24.370. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND MANAGEMENT AND SALMON ENHANCEMENT ALLOCATION PLAN. Under

[(J) IN THIS SECTION, “ENHANCED SALMON STOCKS” MEANS SALMON PRODUCED BY THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AQUACULTURE CORPORATION”]

The management plan has been in effect for 15 years. A BOF committee to a review the plan with stakeholder involvement to see if the plan can be improved in trying to meet its purpose "to provide a fair and reasonable allocation of the harvest of enhanced salmon among the drift gillnet, seine, and set gillnet commercial fisheries, and to reduce conflicts between these user groups. It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries (board) to allocate enhanced salmon stocks in the Prince William Sound Area to maintain the long-term historic balance between competing commercial users that has existed since statehood, while acknowledging developments in the fisheries that have occurred since this plan went into effect in 1991". Any proposed changes would go through the BOF process at the 2023 BOF meeting.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound management and salmon enhancement allocation plan. The plan should include the value of all the enhanced salmon produced in the Copper River/Prince William Sound region (Area E). The value of enhanced salmon production from Valdez Fisheries Development Association's Solomon Gulch Hatchery is not included in the allocation management plan. The construction of the Solomon Gulch Hatchery is financed by funds from the State of Alaska and continues to use state financing. The original hatchery operation permit included chum production intended for the drift gillnet fleet which never was accomplished.

5 AAC 33.364. Southeastern Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan includes the value of all enhanced salmon produced in the Southeastern Alaska region from two regional hatchery associations and multiple non-profit corporations involving over 15 different hatcheries.

Both 5 AAC 24.370. and 5 AAC 33.364. stated goals are to provide a fair and reasonable allocation of the harvest of enhanced salmon among the commercial fisheries.

State of Alaska enhanced salmon allocations should be based on the same criteria for all areas. Which should include all enhanced salmon as the starting point.

There cannot be a fair and reasonable enhanced salmon allocation when a large percentage of the enhanced salmon resource is not included the plan. What is the difference between a hatchery built by the State of Alaska, PWSAC, VFDA and the 15 plus hatcheries located in SE Alaska? They all used public funds for their construction and startup operations. Both PWSAC and VFDA continue to use public funds for improvements and increase production. But VFDA use of public funds and increases in production only benefits one commercial fishery.

If all enhanced salmon value produced in Prince William Sound is not included in the Prince William Sound Enhanced Salmon Allocation Plan, then the seine fishery will continue to receive a disproportionate and increasing share of the enhanced salmon value.

This proposal does not propose to reallocate VFDA enhanced salmon to other commercial salmon user groups, but to only include the value of all enhanced salmon into the regional plan so all PWS common property fisheries can benefit from the value of VFDA enhanced salmon production.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Bowen

(EF-F20-048)
