

## **PROPOSAL 133**

**5 AAC 29.090. Management of the spring salmon troll fisheries; 5 AAC 29.095. District 8 King Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 29.097. District 11 King Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 33.368. District 8 King Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 33.384. Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan; and 5 AAC 33.XXX. New Section (District 11 King Salmon Management Plan).**

Base duration of commercial salmon troll and drift gillnet gear spring openings on preseason king salmon abundance projections, as follows:

### **Commercial Proposal**

#### **Troll Fishery**

If preseason chinook projection is:

- A. In upper 1/3 of escapement range, spring troll areas in districts 9, 12, and 14 will be open concurrently to a maximum of four (4) days per week.
- B. In middle 1/3 of escapement range, spring troll areas in district 9, 12, and 14 will be open concurrently to a maximum of two (2) days per week.
- C. In lower 1/3 of escapement range, spring troll areas in districts 9, 12, and 14 will be closed April 15-June 30.

#### **Gillnet Fishery**

If preseason chinook projection is:

- A. In upper 1/3 of escapement range, there will be no targeted king openings. Normal areas open for sockeye on normal starting date.
- B. In middle 1/3 of escapement range, there will be no targeted king openings. Reduced open areas adjacent to river mouths, mesh restrictions in effect, sockeye openings to occur on normal dates.
- C. In lower 1/3 of escapement range, there will be no targeted king openings. Major areas closed to protect king salmon, mesh restrictions in effect, no king retention, sockeye openings may be delayed, night closures through June 30th.

#### **Notes:**

This proposal would affect only waters of Southeast Alaska inside the surf line from April 15 to June 30. It would apply only when preseason projections of run strength fall within or below established escapement range goals. It would not apply if projections came in above established escapement range goals.

Should in-season indicators of abundance (CPUE in fisheries, Juneau sport catch, tag recoveries, fish wheel data) show projected run strength failing to materialize, the Department will take immediate action to reduce harvest opportunity in all fisheries and move more kings into the escapement.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has excellent data available on king salmon life histories, harvest, spawning, and distribution. Existing management strategy has failed to put adequate annual escapements into

the Taku and Chilkat rivers. Both stocks are currently at all-time lows and future projections of returns are at an all-time low. The Chilkat run has been below minimum escapement four of the last five years and the Taku has been below minimum two of the last four years. 2006 was the last year the Taku received an escapement above the escapement range and for the last decade, all harvest has come directly out of the escapements. Years of fishing on escapement is to a large degree why these stocks are at all-time lows.

The goal of this proposal is to put adequate, annual escapements of king salmon into the Taku and Chilkat rivers.

**PROPOSED BY:** Michael R. Bethers

(HQ-F17-053)

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