

PROPOSAL 167

5 AAC 33.350. Closed waters.

Close waters beyond one half mile from shore in Districts 12 and 14 to commercial fishing for salmon with purse seine gear, as follows:

(m) District 12:

...

(16) waters beyond ½ mile of the shoreline in sub-districts 112-14 and 112-16 during any seine openings

...

(o) District 14:

...

(10) waters beyond ½ mile of the shoreline in sub-districts 114-25 and 114-27 during any seine openings

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would address the need to allow for the harvest of pink salmon in the Icy Straits and northern Chatham Straits areas while allowing for the passage of other stocks through the fishing area. The Icy Straits and Northern Chatham Straights areas are known to be an area containing many mixed stocks that are traveling to river systems such as the Taku, Chilkat and Chilkoot. Only allowing seine fisheries to be persecuted within ½ mile of the shoreline would allow for the department to direct the fishing effort toward the targeted species, pink salmon, while other stocks can pass through this area where stock composition can be hard to determine. This change would be particularly helpful in years when a system such as the Chilkat is tracking below the escapement goal for a species, like sockeye, but there is large return of pink salmon needing to be harvested.

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