

Submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at the request of Board Members Payton and Ruffner

January 22, 2018

Amendments to Alaska Board of Fisheries recommendations on Unuk, Chilkat, and King Salmon rivers king salmon action plans described in RC266.

Guiding principles in implementing these action plans

Notwithstanding auxiliary preseason information, elements of these king salmon action plans and selection of the various inseason management measures will be formulated based upon preseason run forecasts for the Chilkat, Unuk, Taku, Stikine, Situk rivers and will be evaluated relative to the established escapement goals for these king salmon stocks. Further changes to management measures will be based on inseason run assessment information as it becomes available **and be balanced with requirements and provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and allowable harvests.**

Chilkat and King Salmon rivers

Purse seine and drift gillnet fisheries

Option B with modification

Specific Action to Implement the Objective:

- Using emergency order authority, reduce the open area in northern Chilkat Inlet during the first 5 weeks of the season by implementing and exceeding conservation measures of the *Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* by closing the area north of Eldred Rock Lighthouse.
- Using emergency order authority, impose 6-inch maximum mesh restriction in first through third weeks of the season in Section 15-A (**Proposal 171**).
- Using emergency order authority, close western half of Section 15-A in first through fifth week of the season in Section 15-A.
- Using emergency order authority, impose night closures between 10:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. in first through fourth week of the season in Section 15-A and Section 15-C.
- Using emergency order authority, impose 6-inch maximum mesh restriction in first and second weeks of the season in Section 15-C (**Proposal 171**).
- Using emergency order authority, limit time and area open to 2 days/week in the “postage stamp” area only in **the** first [AND SECOND] week of the season in Section 15-C.
- [USING EMERGENCY ORDER AUTHORITY, OPEN ONLY] **By regulation,** the

inside area of Boat Harbor THA (west of marker) **is open 7** days/week in first through fourth week of the season.

- Using emergency order authority, open outside of Boat Harbor THA only 2 days/week [WITHIN 1 MILE OF WESTERN SHORELINE FOR] **during** first and second weeks of the season.
- [USING EMERGENCY ORDER AUTHORITY LIMIT TIME AND AREA OPEN TO 2 DAYS/WEEK IN THE AREA SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF VANDERBILT REEF IN THE SECOND WEEK OF THE SEASON IN SECTION OF 15-C.]
- Using emergency order authority, impose 6-inch maximum mesh restriction in first and second week in outside area of Boat Harbor THA (**Proposal 171**).
- Using emergency order authority, impose non-retention of king salmon over 28 inches in regional purse seine fisheries (requires adoption of **non-retention provisions attached**).
- Using emergency order authority, reduce area open in Taku Inlet for the first 5 weeks of the District 11 drift gillnet fishery; close Taku Inlet north and west of a line from Point Greely to Cove Point for first week and north of Point Greely, Cooper Point or Jaw Point for second through fifth week of the season.
- Using emergency order authority, do not open Section 11-C to drift gillnetting.
- Using emergency order authority, impose night closures between 10:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. in Subdistrict 111-31, and Section 11-C if open.
- Using emergency order, impose 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction for the first 3 weeks of the District 11 drift gillnet fishery (**Proposal 171**).

Troll Fishery

Option A

Specific Action to Implement the Objective:

- Using emergency order authority, **may** close regionwide spring troll fishery from May 29 to June 14.

Unuk River

Troll fishery

Option B with modification

Specific Action to Implement the Objective:

Summer Troll:

- The first retention period for king salmon during the general summer troll fishery [WILL BE DELAYED BY A WEEK BY EMERGENCY ORDER, AND] will open July 1 [8] to target 70% of the remaining troll king salmon annual allocation, minus the number of treaty king salmon harvested in winter and spring troll fisheries.

Substitute language to provide the department the authority prohibit retention of king salmon of king salmon greater than 28 inches in length in the commercial salmon purse seine fishery:

5 AAC 33.392. Size limits and landing of king salmon.

...

(b) A CFEC purse seine salmon permit holder may take but may not sell king salmon [BETWEEN THE SIZES OF GREATER THAN 21 INCHES FROM THE TIP OF THE SNOUT TO TIP OF TAIL (IN ITS NATURAL AND OPEN POSITION) AND] less than the legal length size limit specified in (a) of this section. King salmon taken in the purse seine fishery that are less than the legal size limit will not be counted against the king harvest quota;

(g) Notwithstanding (a), if the department determines that it is necessary for the conservation of king salmon or to meet obligations of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the purse seine salmon fishery and immediately reopen the fishery during king salmon equal to or greater in length than the limits set forth in (a) of this section that are taken incidentally in the purse seine salmon fishery must be returned to the water unharmed;

(h) A person may not mutilate or otherwise disfigure king salmon in any manner that prevents determining the size limits set out in this section.