

PROPOSAL 107

5 AAC 33.3XX. New Section.

Create a management plan for hatchery returns to Port Asumcion, as follows:

PORT ASUMCION TERMINAL HARVEST AREA SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

a) This management plan provides for the terminal area common property harvest of hatchery-produced chum and coho salmon in the Port Asumcion Terminal Harvest Area and distributes the harvest between the seine, gillnet, and troll fleets.

b) The department in consultation with Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA), shall manage the waters of Port Asumcion north and west of a line from Point Cosinas at 55°21.80' N. lat., 133°30.64' W. long., to a point west of Point Maria located at 55°22.04' N. lat, 133°30.26' W. long.

c) Openings will be by emergency order once SSRAA cost recovery for the site has been secured.

d) Salmon may be taken by purse seine, gillnet, and troll gear from June 15 to October 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA), is a non-profit regional salmon enhancement association headquartered in Ketchikan, Alaska. SSRAA operates the Port Asumcion (PA) net pen site on Baker Island, which releases both summer chum and fall coho. PA summer chum salmon eggs are currently incubated at both Burnett Inlet Hatchery and Port St. Nicholas Hatchery; for future years, this production will be centralized and directed towards Port St. Nicholas Hatchery. The fall coho are all transported to PA from the coho program at the Klawock River Hatchery. Both chum and coho salmon are transported to PA for a brief period of grow-out and saltwater imprinting. SSRAA expects the adult chums and coho to return to PA through fisheries in Districts 3 and 4 and enter PA starting in mid-June. Coho will return to the terminal area starting in late July and continuing through September. Both species of salmon will be well segregated from natural stocks when they are in the terminal area. SSRAA will take all possible terminal chums and coho for cost recovery, but in the possible years of excess returns, common property fishers in the terminal area should be allowed to catch the remaining fish. This practice allows for an efficient fishery and full utilization of the resource. Establishing a Terminal Harvest Area (THA) in regulation for this situation is the industry standard best practice method, and with progeny from increased release sizes returning in 2021, a newly-established THA will be in place to meet the needs of fishers as well as SSRAA. In cooperation with the Department's area management biologists, SSRAA will manage the THA for all user groups in accordance with direction from the SSRAA Board of Directors, applicable regulations, and Emergency Order authority. The SSRAA Board is made up of 21 members from the seine, gillnet and troll gear groups an addition to representatives of regional municipalities, chambers of commerce, fish processors, native corporations, sportfishing interests, subsistence users, and members-at-large. If there is not a THA established, SSRAA would be required to harvest the terminal fish, creating logistical difficulties and possibly leading to excessive cost recovery.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (EF-F20-115)
