

Enhancement and Special Harvest Areas

PROPOSAL 96

5 AAC 33.369. District 1: Herring Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Expand waters of Herring Bay Terminal Harvest Area open to commercial troll fishing, as follows:

The waters of Carroll Inlet north of the latitude of the southern tip of California Head should be included in the Herring Bay Troll Terminal Harvest Area. Trollers have no access to SSRAA chinook released in Carroll Inlet after July 1.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The commercial troll fleet should have parity with the sport fishers. The *Herring Bay Sportfish Terminal Harvest Area* in 5 AAC 33.369 (d) defines a more liberal area than my request. The logical and honorable action for the Board of Fish and the Department would be to have one set of boundaries for both harvest groups and modify the area by EO when necessary.

This action is needed because when 5 AAC 33.369 was adopted, SSRAA had no chinook salmon returning to Carroll Inlet.

Commercial trollers will have restricted opportunity for the ability to harvest hatchery produced chinook: No harvest equals no value towards correcting the allocation imbalance.

PROPOSED BY: Charlie Piercy (HQ-F20-011)

PROPOSAL 97

5 AAC 33.383. District 7: Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Establish waters closed to commercial purse seine and drift gillnet gear but open to commercial troll gear in the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area when spring troll areas in District 6 and 8 are closed, as follows:

5 AAC 33.383. District 7: Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

(b) The commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, fishing seasons and periods to manage the common property fisheries to harvest excess salmon returning to the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area. The Terminal Harvest Area will be opened and closed under this subsection to the harvest of salmon as follows: Closed waters within the THA include:

(1) June 1 through June 30, the waters of the Anita Bay THA North and East of a line from 56°12.90' N. latitude, 132°24.51' W. longitude to 56°12.75' N. latitude, 132°23.50' W. longitude will be closed to the harvest of salmon by commercial seine and drift gillnet gear;

(b) The closure to commercial seine and drift gillnet gear sited in (1) above will be removed as soon as the troll spring fishery areas of Steamer Point (106-30): and Chichagof Pass (108-10) are reopened.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Since the Stock of Concern conservation plans for the Unuk, Chilkat and King Salmon river have been instated, the trollers have lost several spring fishery areas for the purpose of harvesting Alaska hatchery fish. In addition to these plans, the Stikine and Taku river Chinook runs are in dire straits and these same plans protect these runs as well.

Consequently, the troll spring fishery areas surrounding Anita bay have been closed with no reopening of those areas in the foreseeable future. This means the trollers have lost the main contributor to their access to the SSRAA Chinook released in Anita Bay. The only area left is the Anita Bay terminal area itself.

In the past when proposals of this nature were submitted, the Board of Fisheries response was for the proposer to ask the hatchery association for a change before they would take action. In 2018, following that prodigal, a letter was sent to SSRAA asking for an exclusive zone in the Terminal Area of Anita Bay in which the trollers could fish without net interference. That request was granted to a small extent. In 2019 the same zone specified in this proposal was troll only from June 1, to June 12. It was appreciated and considered a step in the right direction. However, hatchery Chinook for the Anita Bay release site are just starting to show up on June 12 and peak about June 30th. So basically, the politics of the SSRAA board would only allow the trollers this exclusive zone when the fish were not there in force. It was a gift on paper, but in reality, far short of what it should have been.

Having attempted the past Board of Fisheries prodigal in these matters and been dissatisfied, the only recourse is to come to this Board for help and suggest they exercise:

5 AAC 33.364.

(a) If the value of the harvest of enhanced salmon stocks by a gear group listed in (a) of this section is outside of its allocation percentage for three consecutive years, the board will, in its discretion, adjust fisheries within special harvest areas to bring the gear group within its allocation percentage. With the SEAK Chinook runs in poor health and these spring fishery areas for trollers remaining closed, the allocation deficit of the trollers is only going to get worse. The Board of Fisheries needs to adopt proposals like this one to curb that decline.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Merritt

(HQ-F20-114)

PROPOSAL 98

5 AAC 33.383. District 7: Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Change the ratio of drift gillnet to purse seine openings from 2:1 to 1:2 in the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area, as follows:

Section (3) (d) (3) [EXCEPT AS SPECIFIED IN (4) AND (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION,] in establishing emergency order season openings for the purse seine and drift gillnet fisheries, the department shall rotate openings between these gear groups and shall provide for a time ratio for gillnet openings to seine openings of **one** [TWO] to **two** [ONE].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Section (3) (d) (3) and (4) of the regulation pertain to specific fishing years that will sunset. The proposed changes are necessary to address the Enhanced Salmon Allocation Plan 5 AAC 33.364. There no longer is a section (3) (d) (5).

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Seiners Association

(HQ-F20-101)

**Note: lead-in language was revised 9/15/2020.*

PROPOSAL 99

5 AAC 33.387. District 9: Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan.

Establish a gear rotation between purse seine and troll gear in the Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest area, as follows:

(d) The management plan allows for the harvest of hatchery-produced chum salmon by the purse seine, gillnet, and troll fisheries when there are excess fish not being harvested by the hatchery operator. The gear and rotation, if any, shall be **seine fleet- Sunday and Thursday; troll fleet- all other days.** [DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE HATCHERY OPERATOR.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan 5 AAC 33.364, sets allocation ranges for each gear. This action is viewed as working toward achieving those specified ranges.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Seiners Association

(HQ-F20-104)

PROPOSAL 100

5 AAC 33.387. District 9: Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan.

Remove drift gillnet gear from allowed gear to participate in the Southeast Cove THA common property fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 33.387 (d) The management plan allows for the harvest of hatchery-produced chum salmon by the purse seine[, GILLNET,] and troll fisheries when there are excess fish not being harvested by the hatchery operator. The gear and rotations, if any, shall be determined by the commissioner, by emergency order, in consultation with the hatchery operator.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to exclude the commercial gillnet fishery from the Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest area. The gillnet user group has been above the allocative range specified in the Southeastern Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan [5 AAC 33.364] for every period since the 2000-2004 five-year increment.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Native Inter-Tribal Association of Seiners (HQ-F20-008)

PROPOSAL 101

5 AAC 33.375. District 13: Silver Bay (Medvejie Creek Hatchery) Salmon Management Plan. Modify management plan to further consider potential effect of hatchery-produced salmon on wild-stock salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 33.375. District 13: Silver Bay (Medvejie Creek Hatchery) Salmon Management Plan
The commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, salmon fishing seasons and periods in waters of Silver Bay east of a line from Entry Point Light at 57° 01.58' N. lat., 135° 14.58' W. long., to Silver Point at 57° 00.82' N. lat., 135° 18.10' W. long., to ensure **fish stocks in the state shall be managed consistent with sustained yield of wild fish stocks,[1] to ensure management to achieve** chum salmon broodstock escapement to the Medvejie Creek Hatchery **shall be consistent with sustained yield of wild fish stocks[2]** and to allow for the common property fisheries to harvest excess salmon, including king salmon by troll gear before July 31

(a) Medvejie Creek Hatchery has legislative responsibility to incorporate the following PNP Hatchery Act mandated obligations:

(1) hatchery programs shall be operated without adversely affecting natural stocks of fish in the state[4]

(2) hatchery programs shall be operated under a policy of management which allows reasonable segregation of returning hatchery-reared salmon from naturally occurring stocks;[5]

(3) Hatchery program remote release sites shall be located in an area where a reasonable segregation from natural stocks occurs [6]

(4)hatchery operations and specifications must be consistent with the comprehensive regional salmon plan approved under AS 16.10.375[7]

(5) SE CSP's concern for wild stocks is triggered when hatchery salmon straying rates exceed 2%. Any higher rates must be validated to not jeopardize wild populations by the department,[8]

(6) the department and board shall define and validate straying proportions "based on the best available scientific information" to sustain productivity, without adversely affecting, or jeopardizing sustained yield of wild naturally occurring salmon[9],[10]

(7) validated proportions of benign hatchery salmon straying are defined as chinook xxx%; sockeye xxx%; coho xxx%; chum xxx%, pink xxx%;

(8) Until the the department and board have a policy of management that justifies and validates this reasonable segregation, of straying proportions without jeopardizing wild stock sustained yield,[1] the CSP and genetics policy 2% rule will be adhered to within wild naturally occurring streams[11]

(9) when proportions of hatchery salmon straying exceed validated percentages, jeopardizing sustained yield of wild fish stocks, production shall be ramped down the following spring, from each Remote Release Site, hatchery or THA source incrementally until adverse affects cease[12],[13]

[1] AS 16.05.730 (a) Management of Wild and enhanced Stocks of Fish

[2] AS 16.05.730 (b) Management of Wild and enhanced Stocks of Fish

[3] AS 16.05.730 Management of Wild and Enhanced Stocks of Fish.

[4] PNP Hatchery Act legislative intent

[5] PNP Hatchery Act legislative intent

[6] AS 16.10.420. (10) Conditions of a Hatchery Permit

[7] AS 16.10.480 (f) Contracts for the Operation of State Hatcheries

[8] 5 AAC 39.222 Policy For The Management Of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (c)(1) (B),(D); (2)(D); (3)(B),(F)

[9] 5AAC 39.222 Policy For The Management Of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (c)(1) (B),(D), (2)(D); (3)(B),(F)

[10] PNP Hatchery Act legislative intent

[11] 5AAC 39.222 Policy For The Management Of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (c)(1) (B),(D); (2)(D); (3)(B)(F)

[12] Intent of PNP Hatchery Act

[13] Article VIII Section 3 and 4. Natural Resources, Common Use; Sustained Yield. Alaska Constitution

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue is unreasonable temporal integration of artificially propagated late run hatchery stock chums, being tolerated to breed with early run spawning wild natural chum populations and dig up their redds in West Crawfish NE Arm, Whale Bay and surrounding anadromous waters. This remaining pristine quadrant of SEAK is getting hammered by stray hatchery fish. This area is a wilderness area.

West Crawfish wild summer chum salmon is 1 of 9 escapement indicator stocks used by the department for escapement. How reliable is this escapement now? This system accounts for an average 24% of the total Northern Southeast subregion index making it the areas second largest natural wild chum run. It is a significant stock. It is the public trust.

With the Relative Reproductive Success RRS found to be so low in hatchery pinks, chinook, coho and sockeye we can only hope and pray this affliction of reduced productivity and fitness in hatchery chums is not the same...as the damage is tolerated to continue in sustained yield of wild salmon.

This West Crawfish wild summer run timing chum population was sampled as part of the Alaska Hatchery Straying Research Program (AHRP) prior to 2015 and found very few hatchery fish straying into the system, below 2% making it genetically relatively pristine.

But not any more...

As stated by ADFG staff, Otolith sampling performed at peak run timing in late August to early September, became bloated with stray fall run timing hatchery chums documented at 80.5% in 2018 and 53% in 2019 contaminating this wild “naturally occurring” salmon. This is unacceptable.

Temporal separation does not exist in West Crawfish NE ARM. Staff written comments submitted as RC 2 in the October 2019 work session made this lack of temporal separation perfectly clear: “The peak of the wild summer chum run is probably late August to early September” documented when high proportions of straying occurred. “The latest chum salmon survey data for the West Crawfish NE Head Index stream is September 7, 2006, and included 400 chum salmon at the mouth, 100 in the intertidal, 2780 live in the creek, and 5400 carcasses.”

“In most other late August survey counts, live chum, still outnumber dead more often than not “ However, these accurate submitted comments were overridden when Board members’ questions were given inaccurate verbal answers at the work session that stated: "...we spoke to temporal separation between these runs... There's a 3 to 4...about 3 weeks difference in peak run timing in the stock in West Crawfish and the stock used for this return... "there aren't the wild stocks in there because they've already perished or ah ah moved on...." Already perished and moved on???

Having three thousand live wild fish in the river with hundreds still down at the mouth when these hatchery strays flood in on top of them by the thousands is about as far from temporal separation as you can get. And the wild redds will be dug up and replaced with hatchery maladapted genetics. This is flat wrong. When a board member asked "Is there a defined acceptable or unacceptable rate of straying under the hatchery permit?"

The answer was: "pause, yeh, There is not. um,... stray proportions or stray rates are um... stock and species specific and..., there is a tremendous amount of work out there trying to figure those things out but um a lot of it depends on what stock you're using."

How is the board going to be able to comprehensively deliberate when faulty obscure flip flopping answers are given to critically important questions? This is very distressing as a member of the public to witness this diversion from truth to the regulatory body of the State of Alaska.

Since these straying episodes confound the Alaska Hatchery Research Program results seriously negatively skewing them. How is this going to be reconciled? Will genetic sampling be taken to see what damage has or is occurring?

Crawfish received a band aid approach by amending Section 5 AAC 29.112 - Management of chum salmon troll fishery to intercept these hatchery fish before they get to the spawning grounds. This does not address jeopardizing natural stocks and masks catching wild fish in the mixed stock fisheries as they migrate into these wild systems. It also does not address the undermining of ADFG determination that when bullied at RPT meetings to move into full production ADFG required the understanding that the program would ramp down if problems were discovered. So...Problems were discovered, nothing is ramped down and this determination was ignored.

The issue is there is no Policy of Management, that comprehensively addresses a defined acceptable or unacceptable rate of straying under the hatchery permit as Board Member Van Dort wisely asked for, without consulting comprehensive salmon plans and with RPT meetings dominated by industry without any biological basis it is no wonder that the poorly selected remote release site was allowed in Crawfish Inlet.

There appears to be a grave disregard for the ADFG determination and this discrepancy needs repair by PARS coming to the BOF to amend by regulation as the Statutes designed. Please fix the straying disaster we have in Alaska by creating the mandated Policy of Management that addresses reasonable segregation and temporal separation keeping hatchery fish away from wild fish spawning in their habitats.

PROPOSED BY: Pioneer Alaskan Fisheries Inc. (EF-F20-143)

PROPOSAL 102

5 AAC 33.376. District 13: Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Change the ratio of drift gillnet to purse seine openings from 2:1 to 1:2 in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area, as follows:

(1) (B) [EXCEPT AS SPECIFIED IN (C) AND (D) OF THIS PARAGRAPH,] the time ratio for gillnet to seine openings is **one** [TWO] to **two** [ONE]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Section (1) (B), (C), and (D) of the regulation pertain to specific fishing years that will sunset. The proposed changes are necessary to address the Enhanced Salmon Allocation Plan 5 AAC 33.364.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (HQ-F20-102)
**Note: lead-in language was revised 9/15/2020.*

PROPOSAL 103

5 AAC 33.363. Management guidelines for allocating Southeast Alaska pink, chum, and sockeye salmon between commercial net fisheries.

Modify net gear allocation guidelines to further consider potential effect of hatchery-produced salmon on wild-stock salmon and wild-stock salmon management, as follows:

5 AAC 33.363. Management guidelines for allocating.

(a) Present management of state-financed hatchery and enhanced stocks represents the collective biological, social, **statutory**[1] and economic factors which have been applied over time and have resulted in current regulations.

(b) Similarly, present management of wild stocks represents the collective biological, social, **statutory** and economic factors which have been applied over time and have resulted in current regulations.

(c) As a general matter, the harvest of fish stocks **in the state shall be managed consistent with sustained yield of wild fish stocks.**,^[2] and will be managed primarily for the benefit of the user groups within the district to which those stocks are bound. The board recognizes that biological, social, **statutory**, and economic factors and the current regulatory structure may result in the need to harvest such stocks outside the district for which they are bound.

(f) As a general proposition and **under statutory law**, private nonprofit hatchery stocks supported by fishermen assessments will be managed to

(1) maximize harvest in the common property fisheries consistent with wild stock conservation concerns and the facility's management plan; and

(2) give primary emphasis to the facility's plan for allocation within the common property fisheries within the special harvest area **and shall incorporate the following PNP Hatchery Act mandated obligations:**

(1) fish stocks in the state shall be managed consistent with sustained yield of wild fish stocks^[3]

(2) hatchery programs shall be operated without adversely affecting natural stocks of fish in the state^[4]

(3) hatchery programs shall be operated under a policy of management which allows reasonable segregation of returning hatchery-reared salmon from naturally occurring stocks;^[5]

(4) Hatchery program remote release sites shall be located in an area where a reasonable segregation from natural stocks occurs ^[6]

(5) hatchery operations and specifications must be consistent with the comprehensive regional salmon plan approved under AS 16.10.375^[7]

(6) SE CSP's concern for wild stocks is triggered when hatchery salmon straying rates exceed 2%. Any higher rates must be validated to not jeopardize wild populations by the department,^[8]

(7) the department and board shall define and validate hatchery straying proportions "based on the best available scientific information" to sustain productivity, without adversely affecting, or jeopardizing sustained yield of wild naturally occurring salmon^[9] ^[10]

(8) validated proportions of benign hatchery salmon straying are defined as chinook xxx%; sockeye xxx%; coho xxx%; chum xxx%, pink xxx%;

(9) Until the department and board have a policy of management that justifies and validates this reasonable segregation, of straying proportions without jeopardizing wild stock sustained yield,^[1] the CSP and genetics policy 2% trigger rule will be adhered to within wild naturally occurring streams^[11] ^[12] ^[13]

(10) when proportions of hatchery salmon straying exceed validated percentages, jeopardizing sustained yield of wild fish stocks, hatchery production shall be ramped down the following spring, from each Remote Release Site, hatchery or THA source incrementally until adverse affects cease^[14],^[15]

[1] 5AAC 39.222 Policy For The Management Of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (c)(3)(F)

[2] AS 16.05.730 (a) Management of Wild and enhanced Stocks of Fish

[3] AS 16.05.730 Management of Wild and Enhanced Stocks of Fish.

[4] PNP Hatchery Act legislative intent

[5] PNP Hatchery Act legislative intent

[6] AS 16.10.420. (10) Conditions of a Hatchery Permit

- [7] AS 16.10.480 (f) Contracts for the Operation of State Hatcheries
- [8] 5 AAC 39.222 Policy For The Management Of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (c)(1) (B),(D); (2)(D); (3)(B),(F)
- [9] 5AAC 39.222 Policy For The Management Of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (c)(1) (B),(D), (2)(D); (3)(B),(F)
- [10] PNP Hatchery Act legislative intent
- [11] 5AAC 39.222 Policy For The Management Of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (c)(1) (B),(D); (2)(D); (3)(B)(F)
- [12] SE CSP Phase III
- [13] Genetics Policy
- [14] Intent of PNP Hatchery Act
- [15] Article VIII Section3 and 4. Natural Resources, Common Use; Sustained Yield. Alaska Constitution

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Presently hatchery operations are not in compliance with mandates.

“Effective fishery management outcomes should be consistent with regulations, regulations should be consistent with statutes, implementation can effectively carry out the purpose... of objectives, strategies, guiding principles, and policies established in harvest management plans. 5 AAC 39.222 (c)(3)(F) Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy Sustainable Fisheries

Elevate statutory and constitutional intent into regulatory management and allocation plan to ensure directives remain engaged as intended to protect the public trust. Clarify, elevate and illuminate the intent of the SEAK Comprehensive Salmon Plan and the intent of the PNP Hatchery Act statutory mandate obligations granted to recipients in exchange for the privilege to operate within the public trust and to avoid confusion and misinterpretation from not understanding these significant responsibilities.

PROPOSED BY: Pioneer Alaskan Fisheries Inc. (EF-F20-107)

PROPOSAL 104

5 AAC 33.3XX. New Section.

Create a management plan for hatchery returns to Burnett Inlet, as follows:

5 AAC 33.3XX. Burnett Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

(a) This management plan distributes the harvest of hatchery produced chum salmon in the Burnett Inlet Terminal Harvest Area between the purse seine, troll and drift gillnet fleets.

(b) The department, in consultation with the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA), shall manage the Burnett Inlet Terminal Harvest Area from June 01 through November 10 for troll, purse seine and drift gillnet gear to provide for the harvest of hatchery- produced chum salmon, unless closed earlier by emergency order. The Burnett Inlet Terminal Harvest Area, for the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association

Burnett Inlet Hatchery, consisting of all waters of Burnett Inlet, Etolin Island, north of 56° 04.65' N. lat. and south of 56° 10.38' N. lat.

(c) A drift gillnet operated in the terminal harvest area may not exceed 200 fathoms in length.

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 owns and operates the Burnett Inlet Hatchery (BIH), situated on Etolin Island. BIH is a broodstock collection site for summer and fall chum, which are also released at BIH after incubation, hatching and rearing to release size. The adult chums return to BIH through numerous common property fishery corridors, notably in Districts 6 and 8, and enter Burnett Inlet starting in mid to late June. These chums are well segregated from natural stocks when they are in the terminal area. Although SSRAA requires taking a portion of these returning chums for broodstock and cost recovery, 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 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-F20-071)

PROPOSAL 105

5 AAC 33.3XX. New Section.

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

PORT SAINT NICHOLAS TERMINAL HARVEST AREA SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

(a) This management plan distributes the harvest of hatchery produced king salmon in the Port Saint Nicholas Terminal Harvest Area between the purse seine, troll and drift gillnet fleets.

(b) The department, in consultation with the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA), shall manage the Port Saint Nicholas Terminal Harvest Area from May 1 through July 31 for troll, purse seine and drift gillnet gear to provide for the harvest of hatchery - produced king salmon, unless closed earlier by emergency order. The Port Saint Nicholas Terminal Harvest area, consisting of all waters of Port Saint Nicholas east of the longitude of Point Miraballes at 133° 05.23' W. long., and west of the longitude at 132° 59.50' W. long., located at the mouth of the Port Saint Nicholas head stream.

(c) The THA is expanded, only for troll gear, to the waters of Port Saint Nicholas and Bucareli Bay north and east of a line from Cape Suspiro at 55°27.48' N lat, 133°08.54' W long, to the northernmost tip of Toti Island at 55°24.90' N lat, 133°07.34' W long, to Point Miraballes at 55°25.86' N lat, 133°05.20' W long.

(d) A drift gillnet operated in the terminal harvest area may not exceed 200 fathoms in length.

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 Saint Nicholas (PSN) Hatchery near the City of Craig on Prince of Wales Island. PSN chinook salmon eggs are taken at Whitman Lake Hatchery and incubated and reared at Port Saint Nicholas Hatchery, releasing them after a brief period of saltwater imprinting and grow-out at a net pen site in Port Saint Nicholas. The adult chinook are caught in winter and spring fisheries throughout the region, and mature adults return to PSN through fisheries in Districts 3 and 4 and enter PSN starting in May. These salmon are well segregated from natural stocks when they are in the terminal area. Common property fishers in the terminal area are expected to catch a majority of these fish, and SSRAA will clean up the rest as cost recovery. 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 in future years, a newly-established THA will be in place to meet the needs of common property 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 harvest a larger number of terminal fish, creating logistical difficulties and possibly leading to excessive cost recovery.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (EF-F20-116)

PROPOSAL 106

5 AAC 40.053. District 3: Port Saint Nicholas Special Harvest Area.

Modify boundaries of the Port Saint Nicholas Special Harvest Area and allow use of drift gillnet gear for cost recovery operations, as follows:

5 AAC 40.053 (a) is amended to read:

There is established the Port Saint Nicholas Special Harvest area, consisting of all waters of Port Saint Nicholas east of [133° 02.92' W. LONG]. **the longitude of Point Miraballes at 133° 05.23' W. long.**, and west of the longitude at 132° 59.50' W. long., located at the mouth of the Port Saint Nicholas head stream.

And

5 AAC 40.053 (c) is amended to read:

Notwithstanding 5 AAC 33.330, legal gear for the hatchery permit holder in the special harvest area are purse seine, beach seine, dip net, **and gillnet.**

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 Saint Nicholas (PSN) Hatchery which releases chinook salmon at a net pen site in Port Saint Nicholas. PSN chinook salmon eggs are incubated and reared at Port St. Nicholas Hatchery. Saltwater grow-out and imprinting these chinook smolts is done at the PSN net pen site. The adult chinook are caught in winter and spring fisheries throughout the region, and mature adults return to PSN through fisheries in Districts 3 and 4 and enter PSN starting in May. These salmon are well segregated from natural stocks when they are in the terminal area. Common property fishers in and near the terminal area are expected to catch a majority of these fish, and SSRAA will clean up the rest as cost recovery. SSRAA proposes that the SHA is enlarged to accommodate the potential for expanded cost recovery fishing for incrementally larger releases of chinook salmon when compared to the previous PSN operator, POWHA (Prince of Wales Hatchery Association). This proposed SHA line will also mirror the newly-proposed net fishery THA line for PSN which is being heard this Board cycle. Finally, adding gillnet as a legal gear type will allow SSRAA an additional tool to fully harvest all the returning chinook in a cost recovery clean-up, which is a permit condition and best management practice.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (EF-F20-114)

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)

PROPOSAL 108

5 AAC 40.XXX. New section.

Create a special harvest area for Port Asumcion, as follows:

5 AAC 40.XXX. District 3: Port Asumcion Special Harvest Area Management Plan. (a)

There is established the Port Asumcion Special Harvest Area for the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association harvest of enhanced salmon returns to the Port Asumcion release site, consisting of those 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.

(b) A hatchery permit holder harvesting salmon within the special harvest area is exempt from the provisions of 5 AAC 33.310. The open fishing season within the Port Asumcion Special Harvest Area for the hatchery permit holder is from June 15 through October 30.

(c) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 33.330, legal gear for the hatchery permit holder in the special harvest area is purse seine, beach seine, and gillnet.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, a special harvest area for hatchery produced salmon is established by the department by emergency order. The Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) began releasing chum and coho

salmon in Port Asumcion in 2017. The first coho salmon returns were realized in 2019 and the first returns of chum salmon will begin in 2020. SSRAA intends to use the Port Asumcion Special Harvest Area primarily for cost recovery to provide revenue for annual operating expenses. The department issued an emergency order in 2019 for SSRAA to prosecute cost recovery in Port Asumcion.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-149)

PROPOSAL 109

5 AAC 40.0XX. New section.

Establish a hatchery special harvest area in Carroll Inlet, as follows:

5 AAC 40.0XX. Carroll Inlet Special Harvest Area.

CARROLL INLET SPECIAL HARVEST AREA

(a) There is established a Carroll Inlet Special Harvest Area for the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association harvest of chinook salmon returns to the Carroll Inlet release site, consisting of the waters of Carroll Inlet north of the latitude of Nigelius Point at 55° 33.50' N. lat., 131° 21.14' W. long.

(b) A hatchery permit holder harvesting salmon within the special harvest area is exempt from the provisions of 5 AAC 33.310. The open fishing season within the Carroll Inlet Special Harvest Area for the hatchery permit holder is from June 01 through July 15 during fishing periods established by emergency order.

(c) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 33.330, legal gear for the hatchery permit holder in the special harvest area is purse seine, beach seine, gillnet, and troll gear.

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 Whitman Lake Hatchery which releases chinook salmon at a net pen site in Carroll Inlet (CI). CI chinook salmon eggs are taken, incubated and reared at the Whitman Lake Hatchery. Saltwater grow-out and imprinting CI chinook smolts is done at the Carroll Inlet net pen site. The adult chinook are caught in winter and spring fisheries throughout the region, and mature adults return to CI through fisheries in District 1 particularly, entering CI starting in late May. These salmon are temporally segregated from Carroll River summer chum when they are in the terminal area. Common property fishers in and near the terminal area are expected to catch a majority of these fish prior to when the THA closes on July 1, and SSRAA will clean up the rest as cost recovery. SSRAA proposes that cost recovery in the SHA be allowed past when the Carroll Inlet THA closes on July 1 to allow a thorough clean-up of these fish - particularly in the area of the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project tailrace pool, which is a freshwater source attractant for these chinooks. This narrow window of time from July 1 to July 15 will allow SSRAA additional opportunity to fully harvest all the returning chinook in a cost recovery clean-up, which is a permit condition and best management practice.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (EF-F20-109)
