

PROPOSAL 80

5 AAC 29.060. Allocation of king salmon in the Southeastern Alaska -Yakutat Area.

Amend regulation to address payback provisions when the State of Alaska king salmon fisheries exceed Alaska’s annual king salmon all-gear harvest ceiling, as follows:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? King salmon management in Southeast Alaska (SEAK) is complex and involves regulatory processes in both international and domestic venues. At the international level, an all-gear harvest ceiling for SEAK king salmon fisheries is established annually, under provisions of the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST). The SEAK king salmon annual all-gear harvest ceiling is then allocated between user groups according to regulation (5 AAC 29.060).

In August 2018, the Pacific Salmon Commission reached agreement to renew various fishery arrangements under the PST for the years 2019 to 2028. One significant change under the new PST is the requirement for Alaska to deduct any SEAK king salmon all-gear harvest ceiling overages in a particular year from the following year’s all-gear harvest ceiling. Under existing regulation, the reduced all-gear harvest ceiling would then be allocated according to regulation, regardless of which fishery or fisheries caused the overage. Under current regulation the annual all-gear harvest ceiling is allocated to each fishery as follows:

1. Purse seine fishery: 4.3% percent of the annual all-gear harvest ceiling;
2. Drift gillnet fishery: 2.9% of the annual all-gear harvest ceiling;
3. Set gillnet fishery: 1,000 king salmon;
4. Troll fishery: 80%, after the net fishery allocations are subtracted from the annual all-gear harvest ceiling;
5. Sport fishery: 20%, after the net fishery allocations are subtracted from the all-gear annual harvest ceiling.

This proposal provides the board an opportunity to discuss whether harvest ceiling overages should be assigned to the fishery or fisheries that exceeded annual allocation.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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