

**PROPOSAL 104**

**5 AAC 65.051. Waters closed to sport fishing in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.**

Repeal the closed water provisions for salmon fishing in Swanson Lagoon within the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area, as follows:

5 AAC 65.051(5) is repealed:

The following waters are closed to sport fishing in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Island Area:

- (5) **Repealed.** [SWANSON LAGOON AND ITS TRIBUTARIES ARE CLOSED  
(A) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 31, TO SPORT FISHING FOR SALMON;  
(B) FROM AUGUST 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, TO SPORT FISHING FOR SOCKEYE SALMON.]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations aimed at conserving Swanson Lagoon sockeye salmon are ineffective due to environmental conditions that annually impede salmon migration. In addition, there is very little, if any, sport fishing effort in this location that might affect sockeye salmon populations. The current regulations were instituted because of the Stock of Concern designation during the 2011 Board of Fisheries meeting. More recently, the Stock of Concern designation, sockeye salmon escapement goal, and corresponding commercial fisheries management measures in the Stock of Concern action plan were rescinded due to recognition that environmental conditions in this drainage preclude effective management of this stock. The Swanson Lagoon drainage is annually impaired by a berm that builds up at the mouth of the lagoon by local wind and wave action. The berm opens occasionally and allows fish passage; however, timing of the creation of a channel does not always coincide with timing of sockeye salmon migration. This occurs frequently enough to render regulations regarding the sport fishery ineffective in achievement of escapement goals when compared with naturally occurring phenomenon such as the sand berm at the mouth of the lagoon. Sport fishing harvest and effort estimates are unavailable through the Statewide Harvest Survey due to low response rates for this area and no reports of anglers fishing this area have been received by the department. This is likely due to the extremely remote location of this drainage. If these regulations are repealed, background bag and possession limits for the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area will remain in place: these are a bag limit of five sockeye salmon and 10 in possession. Given the isolated nature of the drainage there would likely be little or even no harvest of Swanson Lagoon sockeye salmon if these regulations were repealed.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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