

PROPOSAL 50

5 AAC 06.XXX. New Section.

Reestablish a General District Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide for additional harvest opportunities in coordination with other management and allocation plans, maximize quality and harvest, and to provide management guidelines to the department for a commercial salmon fishery in the General District.

(c) **When escapement goals are met** [JUNE 1 THROUGH JUNE 30], **the General District will open to the Bristol Bay area.** [COMMISSIONER MAY OPEN AND CLOSE, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, THE GENERAL DISTRICT OR PORTIONS OF THE GENERAL DISTRICT AS NECESSARY TO HARVEST UP TO 20 PERCENT OF THE PRESEASON SOCKEYE SALMON FORECAST FOR THE BRISTOL BAY AREA.]

Open the General District when escapement goals are met.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reintroduce the repealed 5 AAC 06.356 General District Salmon Management Plan.

By not reintroducing the repealed 5 AAC 06.356 General District Salmon Management Plan, it is very difficult for small fishermen to make a profit if they only fish in one small area of the Bristol Bay District. Most of the fishermen who get "tickets" from fishing past the borderline are only following where the fish are, which is past the borderline, not inside of the Bristol Bay Fishing District. The handful of small fishermen left are only trying to "make-ends-meet" from self-marketing their fish, because all the canaries are closed and the fish in the Bristol Bay District are all dispersed throughout the district, which makes it even more difficult to make a profit.

When the General District finally opens to the Bristol Bay area, it allows the small profiting/self-marketing fishermen to make a little more profit than they already are from fishing in the Bristol Bay area.

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