

## **PROPOSAL 51**

### **5 AAC 06.XXX. New section.**

Reestablish a General District Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

Whenever the Eastside districts, Naknek, Alagnek, Kvichak, Egegik, Ugashik, have reached or surpassed the upper boundary of escapement goals, an Eastside "general district" shall take effect. The Northwestern boundary line shall be from a point at 58°41'50"N lat 157°47'51"W long extending due east 3 miles. The Southern boundary line shall extend due west 3 miles from the point 57°28'34"N lat 157°55'84"W long. All inner district boundary lines shall remain in effect. All fish buying operations shall take place inside Naknek/Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik districts. Duration and specific fishing times will be determined by ADF&G biologists and announced accordingly.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I propose the board adopts a regulation that when all eastside rivers, Naknek, Alagnek, Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik have reached or surpassed the upper boundary of escapement, as per ADF&G pre season requirements, deeming the eastside systems a COMPLETE SUCCESS. When this occurs, regardless of the date, whether July 14 or August 7 (examples) an announcement be made stating the Eastside OUTER district boundary lines are no longer in effect. (General district) A new boundary line extending 3 miles east of a point 58°41'50"N lat 157°47'51"W long, thus designating an eastside/westside district line. As well as, the existing southern point of Ugashik district, 57°28'34"N lat 157°55'84"W long also on an east west axis line extending 3 miles out, designating the southern boundary line of eastside district. All inner district boundary lines remain in place.

Tenders/companies would then be restricted to buying fish INSIDE eastside river outer boundary lines (kvichak, egegik, ugashik) ensuring that fish tax, as well as catch data remains in appropriate districts. Fisherman, with today's fuel prices, will not go too far from their market.

Why? because at a certain point in the season, usually around July 18-22, fish and game enforcement is dramatically reduced, probably a budget issue, but results in extreme line violations taking place in all 3 eastside districts. This results in a two class system, those that are ok with committing offenses day after day for the reward it brings, and those that do not feel comfortable risking their boats, livelihoods or theirs and their crews freedom for getting those extra thousands of lbs. There are quite a large group of bristol bay fisherman that have other income sources which enable them to risk boat, gear, a night in jail, lawyers, buying their boat back, and all other costs associated with getting a ticket a MILE outside the district. That is not a misprint, boats are routinely fishing up to a mile OVER the line every season as of 2016, after enforcement is mostly gone.

This is an easily implemented solution to a serious issue. On larger runs, most of the aforementioned systems exceed their escapement goals so implementing this solution will in no way harm the biology of the fishery, on smaller runs the fish seem to dry up dramatically in late July which makes this an unused regulation. But the most important aspect of this proposal is that it LEVELS THE FIELD of opportunity for all drift fisherman, does not affect set net fisherman, (probably help them) and costs the state NOTHING. win-win-win for all parties. Thank you for consideration.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ken Dunsmore

(EF-F22-019)

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