

PROPOSAL 135

5 AAC 01.720. Lawful Gear and Gear Specifications, 5 AAC 01.760. Redoubt Bay and Lake Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Only allow for the use of seine gear in the Redoubt Bay subsistence fishery when the escapement is projected to be greater than 40,000 sockeye salmon.

5 AAC 01.720. Lawful gear and gear specifications

Fish may be taken by gear listed in 5 AAC 01.010(a) except as may be restricted under the terms of a subsistence fishing permit and except as follows:

(1) in District 13, Redoubt Bay, gillnet [OR SEINE] gear may not be used to take salmon in any waters of the bay closed to commercial salmon fishing;

Section 5 AAC 01.760 - Redoubt Bay and Lake Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management Plan

(5) in addition to the provisions of (4) of this subsection, when the projected total escapement level of sockeye salmon is greater than 40,000 fish, the commissioner may

(A) open portions of Redoubt Bay to a commercial fishery on sockeye salmon returning to Redoubt Lake;

(B) issue community subsistence permits under the provisions of (e) of this section.

(C) allow the subsistence use of seine gear in the waters of Redoubt Bay north (seaward) of a line approximately 100 yards from the base of the falls as marked by ADF&G regulatory markers;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal is to allow the use of seine gear for subsistence fishing in Redoubt Bay when the projected escapement of sockeye salmon is over 40,000 fish. Currently, seine gear can only be used in the outer bay, where fish are too spread out for it to be effective. Recent escapements have consistently exceeded the escapement goal range of 7,000 – 25,000 fish; and have been over 40,000 fish for the last seven years. The most recent record escapement of 153,000 fish has led to concerns about reduced productivity from overescapement. Currently, the majority of sockeye are taken using dipnets at the base of the falls, where the limited space does not provide enough fishing power for an effective and efficient harvest. While there may be concerns with gear conflicts, the use of seine gear in years with large returns would actually reduce conflicts by providing for a more effective means to quickly harvest sockeye, reducing the time spent fishing. The proposed regulation would bar seines from the area near the falls to prevent direct conflict with dipnetters.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The proposal was developed in a Regional Advisory Council meeting at the request of a member from the Sitka area.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory Council

(HQ-F24-015)
