

PROPOSAL 79

5 AAC 24.367 Main Bay Salmon Hatchery Harvest Management Plan.; 5 AAC 55.023 Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.; and 5 AAC 01.610. Fishing Seasons.

Close Main Bay to all fishing during hatchery cost recovery operations, as follows:

5 AAC 24.367 Main Bay Salmon Hatchery Harvest Management Plan (NEW SUBSECTION (H)) No Common Property salmon fishing shall occur in the Main Bay Alternating Gear Zone (AGZ), Special Harvest Area (SHA), or Terminal Harvest Area (THA) from the time Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation commences cost recovery operations until they cease efforts in the Main Bay Hatchery for the year.

If this language were to be adopted, it would alleviate the issue PWSAC has with completing its cost recovery goal in a timely and efficient manner.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is a rampant increase of boating traffic into Main Bay in the months of June and July interfering with cost recovery efforts. This is just the start of an immense issue at hand where Prince William Sound Aquaculture (PWSAC) is not able to meet their cost recovery goals effectively or efficiently, due to multiple vessels being in the way of the seiner trying to harvest these sockeye salmon. This is leading to a long delay in meeting cost recovery goals for PWSAC and directly affects quality with time degradation for much of the sockeye salmon due to the delay in harvesting these sockeye salmon. It is prudent for PWSAC to operate in an efficient and expedient manner while achieving their cost recovery goals. This will allow more opportunity to all user groups for the foreseeable future. We further request that the State make the necessary corresponding subsistence, personal use, and sport fishery regulatory changes to be consistent with the requested change to commercial fishery regulations.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by a committee of members of the CDFU Board of Directors, Prince William Sound Setnet Association, and the Native Village of Eyak Department of the Environment and Natural Resources staff where it was recommended by the Native Village of Eyak Resource Advisory Council and unanimously approved by Tribal Council

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Eyak (HQ-F24-098)
