

**PROPOSAL 82**

**5 AAC 55.005. Description of the Prince William Sound Area.**

Modify the Prince William Sound management area marine waters into two units, as follows:

5 AAC 55.005 Description of the Prince William Sound Area. The Prince William Sound Area consists of all waters of the Gulf of Alaska and its drainages, west of the longitude of Cape Suckling (144° W. long.), and east of the longitude of Cape Fairfield (148° 50.25' W. long.), excluding the Copper River drainage upstream of a line crossing the Copper River between the south bank of the confluence of Haley Creek and the south bank of the confluence of Canyon Creek in Wood Canyon.

- (a) **Inside PWS waters defined as: all waters north of a line drawn from Cape Puget to the southwest tip of Montague Island at Cape Clear; a line drawn from the Northeast tip of Montague Island at Zaikof to the southwest tip of Hinchinbrook Island at Cape Hinchinbrook; and the southeast tip of Hinchinbrook Island at Point Bentinck to Point Whitshed.**
- (b) **Outside PWS waters defined as: all waters south of the lines drawn and identified for inside PWS waters.**

I am open to exactly where these lines should be drawn. These area definitions can be better defined by the Department based on the specific locations they use to define inside and outside waters in their assessment work.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 55.005** Currently reads *“The Prince William Sound Area consists of all waters of the Gulf of Alaska and its drainages, west of the longitude of Cape Suckling (144° W. long.), and east of the longitude of Cape Fairfield (148° 50.25' W. long.), excluding the Copper River drainage upstream of a line crossing the Copper River between the south bank of the confluence of Haley Creek and the south bank of the confluence of Canyon Creek in Wood Canyon.”*

The area is so vast that regulatory and management requirements are ineffective for tangible management. Prince William Sound should have regulatory defined Inside waters and Outside waters. The state has already utilized inside and outside delineation for rockfish observations/study. My thoughts are to utilize the following description to coincide with the rockfish observation/study boundaries. This will allow more effective management of PWS inside waters and relaxed management of PWS outside waters. In other words, I believe it to be necessary to further regulate PWS inside rockfish regulations however PWS outside waters have far less effort and populations are stronger outside therefore bag and possession limits could be higher without causing further damage to the inside waters. I believe rockfish surveys and data conducted by ADFG reflect this.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** Consulted ADFG for information.

**PROPOSED BY:** Raymond Nix

(HQ-F24-084)

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