

PROPOSAL 67

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

Restrict commercial salmon fishing in the Inner Ayakulik Section as follows:

No commercial salmon fishing may take place on the inner Ayakulik section after August 20th until 20,000 Coho have escaped upriver.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial Coho overharvest by set gillnet and seine in Southwest Kodiak is what I would like to address. There is no management plan for adequate Coho escapement in late August and September on the Karluk and Ayakulik Rivers. Salmon seiners generally fish wide open here after mid August at Ayakulik and mid September at Karluk. These fish are vital for subsistence use, as a sportfishing resource, and as a food source for bears and other wildlife late in the year. During low water episodes a boat blocking off a river mouth can easily catch a large portion of a coho run when they are schooled heavy. They are incredibly vulnerable and susceptible to overharvest. I want a Coho management plan that promotes healthy natural escapement numbers of fish before commercial fisherman can fish wide open blocking of a whole river mouth.

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(EF-F23-030)
