

PROPOSAL 68

5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

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

There will be no commercial salmon fishing on the Inner Karluk Section after August 25th until 5,000 Coho have been counted through the weir or surveyed in Karluk Lagoon by August 25th, 10,000 by August 30th, and 15,000 by September 10th.

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 River. Salmon seiners generally fish wide open here after mid September. 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, especially in the vicinity of Karluk Lagoon and the Inner Karluk Section. I want a Coho management plan that promotes a healthy natural escapement of fish before commercial fisherman can fish wide open on the inner Karluk Section or block off the Karluk River/Lagoon mouth.

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