

RC: Proposal 134: Proposed language for the Big River Management Plan

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BIG RIVER SOCKEYE MANAGEMENT PLAN in BOLD

5AAC 21.367. Big River Sockeye Management Plan (a) The purpose of the management plan is to authorize a harvest of Big River sockeye salmon by set gillnets in a portion of the Kustatan and Kalgin Island Subdistricts.

(b) Salmon may be taken in the waters of the Kustatan Subdistrict along the mainland shore from the terminus of the Kustatan River, southwest to the southern boundary of the subdistrict, and in the Kalgin Island Subdistrict along the western shore from Light Point (60' 29.00" lat. 151' 50.50 long.) to the Kalgin Island Light on the southern end of Kalgin Island at 60" 20.80 N long. , 152' 05.09" W long. **and including the South End of Kalgin Island south of 60' 22.50" N lat.**

(c) The open fishing season is from June 21 to June 24, except if June 1 falls within a closed weekly fishing period, the season will open the next following open period.

~~(d) Fishing period are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.~~ **Fishing periods are from 7 AM through 7 PM, two openings a week, (Choose Monday, Thursday or Wednesday, Saturday)**

(e) Salmon may be taken by set gillnets as follows:

(1) A set gillnet may not exceed 35 fathoms in length nor 5 ½ inches in size

(2) No CEFC permit holder may operate more than one set gillnet at a time; **stacked permits may not be fished in this fishery**

(3) No set gillnet may operate within 1800 feet of another set gillnet

~~(4) Repealed (No set gillnet may extend more than 35 fathoms seaward of the mainland beach at the lowest tide of the current day)~~

(5) Repealed 4/7/93

(f) Commercial fishing salmon fishing is prohibited as follows, and no other closed water provision applies

(1) within one statute mile of the terminus, at mean high tide, of the Kustatan River and of the Drift River, and within one statute mile of the Big River

(2) within 500 yards of the terminus , at mean high tide, of Montana Bill Creek and Bachatna Creek (also known as Johnson slew);

(3) in accordance with AAC 39.290

(g) The commissioner shall close by emergency order, the fishery when the harvest of King salmon ~~reaches 1000 fish~~ exceeds 500 fish.

Alternative: A CEFC permit holder who has harvested 12 king salmon while fishing under the Big River Management Plan will pull their net from the water and shall not continue to fish until after June 24.

Alternative: A CEFC permit holder who has harvested 5 kings that are over 25" in length under the Big River Management Plan shall pull their net from the water and shall not continue to fish until after June 24.

(h) The commissioner may depart from this management plan under this section as provided by 5 AAC 1.363(e)

Effects of changes:

- 1) Commercial fishing period would be reduced from three days a week to two days a week.
- 2) Additional area of the Kalgin Island Subdistrict would be included in the fishery.
- 3) A more equitable distribution of the fishery resource would be accomplished by including 3 people who are traditionally part of the Kalgin Island community.
- 4) Fewer king salmon would be harvested.
- 5) The requirement that a set gillnet be partially dry at the lowest low tide of the day is repealed.
- 6) Stacked permits would be excluded from the fishery