

PROPOSAL 58 – 5 AAC 18.361. Alitak District Salmon Management Plan. Limit escapement of jack sockeye salmon into Frazer Lake to no more than 15 percent of total Frazer Lake sockeye salmon escapement, as follows:

A plan should be in place which would effectively guarantee that the jacks comprise nothing greater than 15% of the total escapement into Frazer Lake. This percentage would more closely resemble several systems in the surrounding areas, where jack components of 2% to 5% are the norm. A system could be devised to trap and cull any excess jacks to be used as added nutrients into the lake should an overage occur. Results will be documented in the Kodiak Management Area Commercial Salmon Annual Report. The program will continue for 4 years until 2019 when a full evaluation will take place.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the last 14 years, the Alitak Bay District has seen almost doubling of jacks escaping into Frazer Lake. This has contributed to weak returns of mature male and female sockeye salmon. The harvestable surplus for setnetters during this same time period has gone down 70% when compared to the previous 14 years. Since jacks have a tendency to make more jacks and have a much greater ability to fertilize eggs than previously thought, this development is likely playing a significant part in the overall weakness of a harvestable surplus, making it difficult to reach maximum sustainable yield. If this is not addressed we will likely continue to see big swings in the jack population and difficulties reaching lower end escapement goals. Other considered options would be to do nothing. This is not desirable as there is potential for long term harm to the run.

PROPOSED BY: Brad Underwood

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