

PROPOSAL 108

5 AAC 40.XXX. New section.

Create a special harvest area for Port Asumcion, as follows:

5 AAC 40.XXX. District 3: Port Asumcion Special Harvest Area Management Plan. (a) There is established the Port Asumcion Special Harvest Area for the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association harvest of enhanced salmon returns to the Port Asumcion release site, consisting of those waters of Port Asumcion north and west of a line from Point Cosinas at 55°21.80' N. lat., 133°30.64' W. long., to a point west of Point Maria located at 55°22.04' N. lat., 133°30.26' W. long.

(b) A hatchery permit holder harvesting salmon within the special harvest area is exempt from the provisions of 5 AAC 33.310. The open fishing season within the Port Asumcion Special Harvest Area for the hatchery permit holder is from June 15 through October 30.

(c) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 33.330, legal gear for the hatchery permit holder in the special harvest area is purse seine, beach seine, and gillnet.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, a special harvest area for hatchery produced salmon is established by the department by emergency order. The Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) began releasing chum and coho salmon in Port Asumcion in 2017. The first coho salmon returns were realized in 2019 and the first returns of chum salmon will begin in 2020. SSRAA intends to use the Port Asumcion Special Harvest Area primarily for cost recovery to provide revenue for annual operating expenses. The department issued an emergency order in 2019 for SSRAA to prosecute cost recovery in Port Asumcion.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F20-149)
