

(a) .... A **UCI** CFEC set gillnet permit holder [MAY NOT] **may** fish in more than one registration area during a registration year.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** As the ESSN continues to experience year after year of shutdowns for king salmon abundance it makes it increasingly difficult to make a living. Kenai is my home and I love to fish here with my family. Unfortunately, I am not able to count on income from being an eastside setnetter.

Guides can take people fishing for sockeye on the Kenai or can go to Seward for Coho or Ninilchik for Halibut. I am stuck with no alternative based on the registration rule. I made the sacrifice to purchase a permit for a different area, but I must gamble on what area has the best opportunity for me to catch fish and produce an income for my family. I'd like to see the rule amended to allow me to register and participate in multiple areas as I see fit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Norman

(EF-F23-123)

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### **PROPOSAL 43**

#### **5 AAC 40.820. Basic Management Plans.**

Amend Basic Management Plans as follows (*This proposal will be heard and public testimony will be taken at both the LCI and UCI meetings and deliberated at the UCI meeting*):

Amend the *Cook Inlet Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan* to specify hatchery pink salmon production, as follows:

Reduce hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 production as promised in 2000.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There is an over-production of hatchery pink salmon that threatens wild Alaska stocks.

In 1996 Elfin Cove Advisory Committee put in a proposal to restrict hatchery production according to the original intent of rehabilitating wild salmon runs. They wanted a substantial reduction in current hatchery production. The hatchery managers complained the Board did not have the authority to set their production. After a thorough examination (approximately one year), the Attorney General ruled the Board does have the authority to regulate the number of eggs taken for production. The Board deferred the proposal and formed a hatchery committee to gather information. This committee was comprised of Board members Dan Coffey, Virgil Umphenour and Grant Miller. It took three years, a full Board cycle, with meetings in every region of the state, to complete the report.

The proposal was scheduled for the January- February 2000, a super meeting of Bristol Bay, AYK and Area M. The hatchery management met with the Governor and proffered that if the Board would not take up the proposal they would reduce their production by 25%. The Board meeting lasted 26 days, 10-16 hours a day, accepting the promise from the hatchery managers in the interest of time.

The marine productivity is currently in a very low cycle. The wild salmon are starving, many small systems are extirpated. Most of AYK/ Cook Inlet stocks are not meeting escapement goals and have very little or no harvest of Chinook, chum and coho salmon.

The purpose of this proposal is strictly conservation, to hold the hatcheries to their 2000 promise. The Board should require a substantial reduction in production so the wild fish don't have to compete, as noted by hundreds of science papers, with hatchery fish for food.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F23-151)  
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***Pink Salmon Management Plan (2 proposals)***

**PROPOSAL 144**

**5 AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the *Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan* as follows:

**Regulation as currently written:**

5 AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to allow for the harvest of surplus pink

salmon in the Upper Subdistrict for set gillnet and drift gillnet gear. Notwithstanding 5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(C)(iii), from August 11 through August 15, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open a commercial pink salmon fishery in an even-numbered year for up to two regular 12-hour fishing periods if the commissioner determines that the sockeye salmon escapement goals in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers are being achieved and coho salmon run strength is sufficient to withstand additional harvest.

(b) The first pink salmon commercial fishing period will occur only if, during the regular fishing periods from August 6 through August 10, the daily harvest of pink salmon in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery exceeds 25,000 fish or the cumulative harvest is 50,000 or more pink salmon. The second pink salmon commercial fishing period will occur only if 25,000 or more pink salmon and no more than 2,500 coho salmon are harvested in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery during the first pink salmon commercial fishing period.

(c) During a pink salmon commercial fishing period opened under this section, a

set gillnet may not have a mesh size greater than four and three-quarters inches; and

(2) drift gillnet may not have a mesh size greater than four and three-quarters inches, and fishing with drift gillnet gear will only be opened in the areas defined in 5 AAC 21.200(b)(2)(B).

**Proposed regulation wording**

5 AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan